International Migration and Development in Asia and the Pacific: Key Issues and Recommendations for Action

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UNITED NATIONS

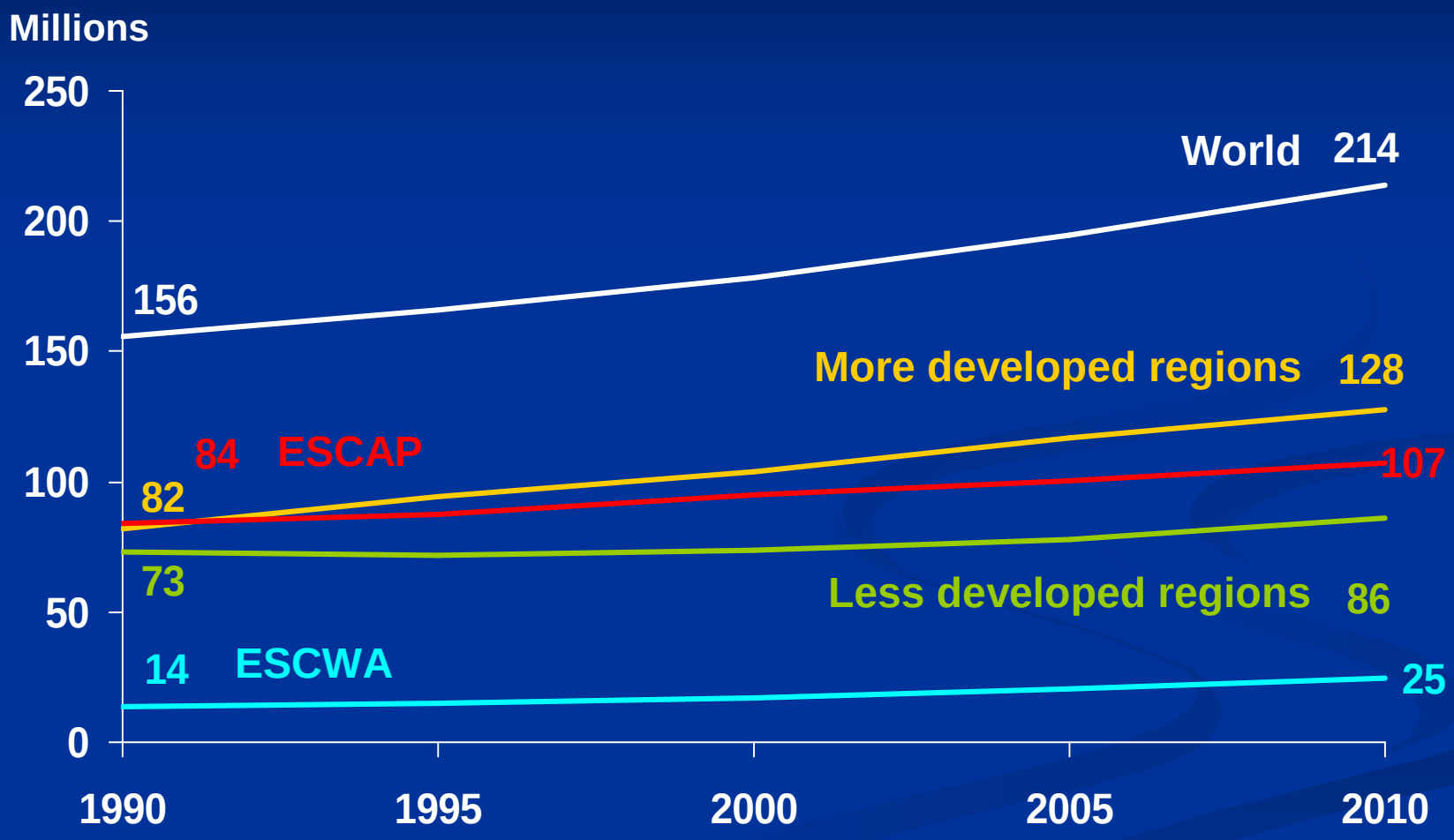
Workshop on "Strengthening dialogue between ESCWA and ESCAP countries on international migration and development"
Beirut, Lebanon, 28-30 June 2011

Outline

- Migration levels and trends
- Migration on the agenda of the United Nations
- Capacity-development
- Recommendations

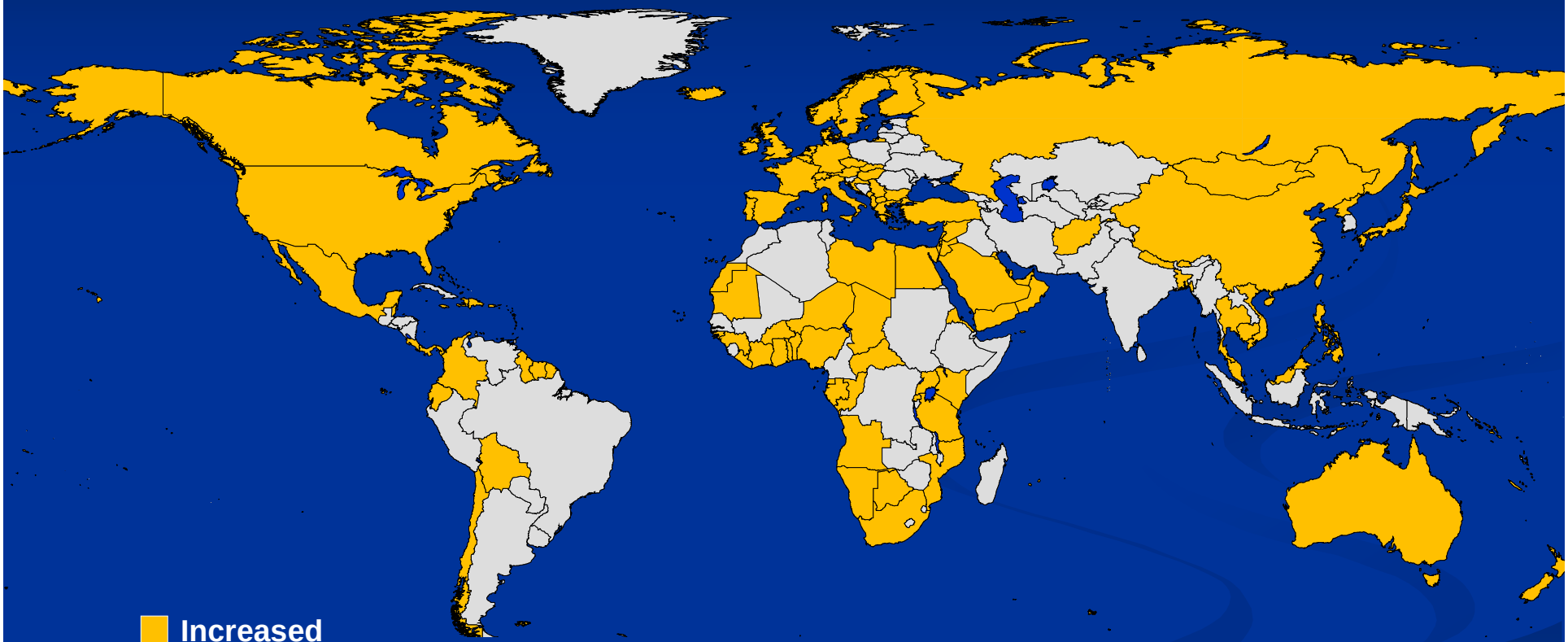
Source: United Nations, Population Division/DESA, 2011

The number of international migrants in the world increased between 1990 and 2010



Source: United Nations, Population Division/DESA, 2011

Two-thirds of countries recorded an increase in the number of international migrants from 1990 to 2010



Source: United Nations, Population Division/DESA, 2011

The number of international migrants in Asia increased between 1990 and 2010

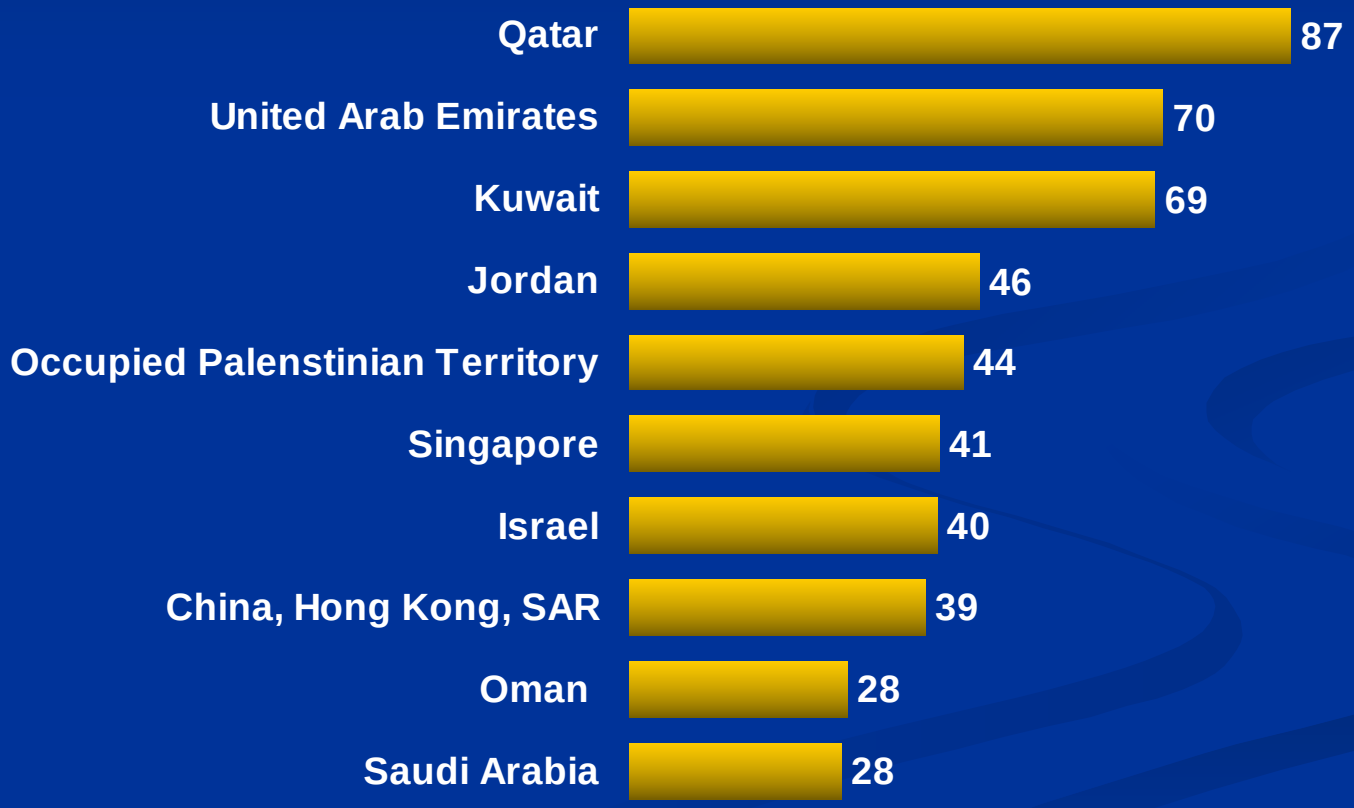
	Number of migrants (thousands)		Increment (thousand)	Average annual growth
	1990	2010	1990-2010	1990-2010
ASIA	**50,876**	**61,324**	**10,448**	**0.9**
Central Asia	6,628	4,970	1,658	-1.4
Eastern Asia	4,484	6,485	2,002	1.8
South-Eastern Asia	**3,060**	**6,715**	**3,654**	**3.9**
Southern Asia	20,196	14,304	-5,892	-1.7
Western Asia	**16,508**	**28,850**	**12,342**	**2.8**
OCEANIA	**4,365**	**6,015**	**1,650**	**1.6**
Australia/New Zealand	4,105	5,674	1,569	1.6
Melanesia	91	111	19	1.0
Micronesia	111	151	40	1.5
Polynesia	58	79	21	1.5
Northern Africa	2,278	2,010	-268	-0.6

Source: United Nations, Population Division/DESA, 2011

International migrants account for a large share of the total population in some Asian countries

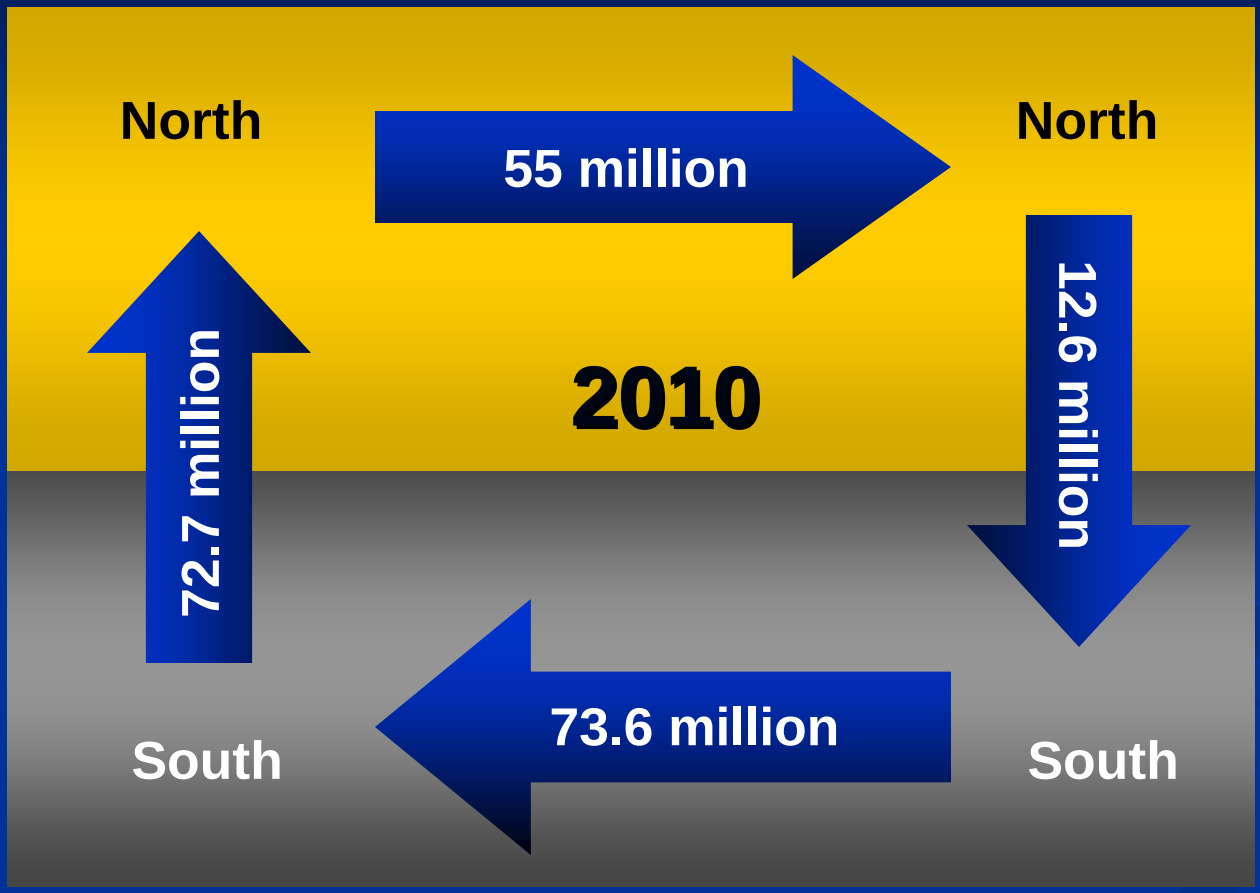
International migrants as a percentage of the total population, 2010

(among those countries with at least one million inhabitants in 2010)



Source: United Nations, Population Division/DESA, 2011

South-South migration is as common …

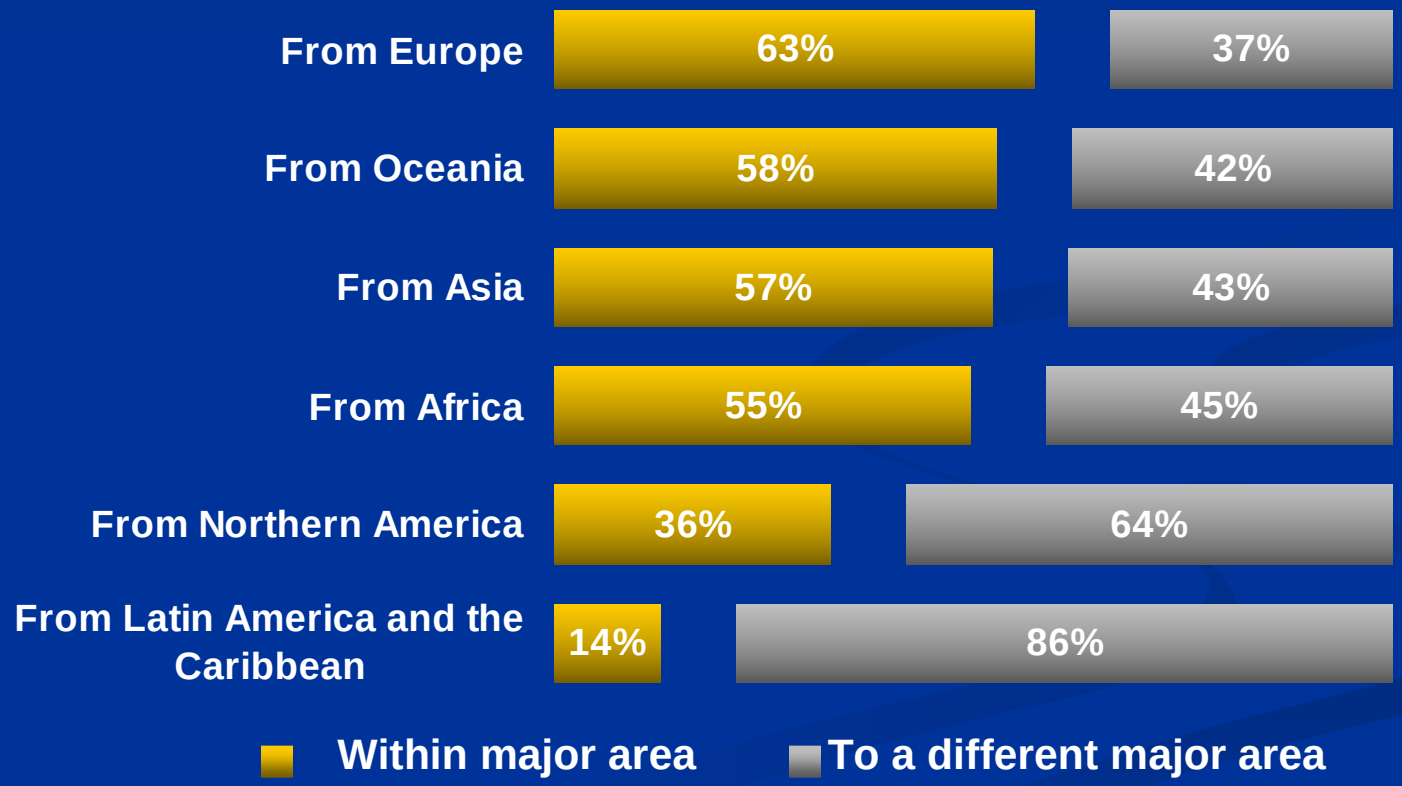


…as South-North migration (based on migrant stock data)

Source: United Nations, Population Division/DESA, 2011

Most international migration occurs within major areas rather than between major areas

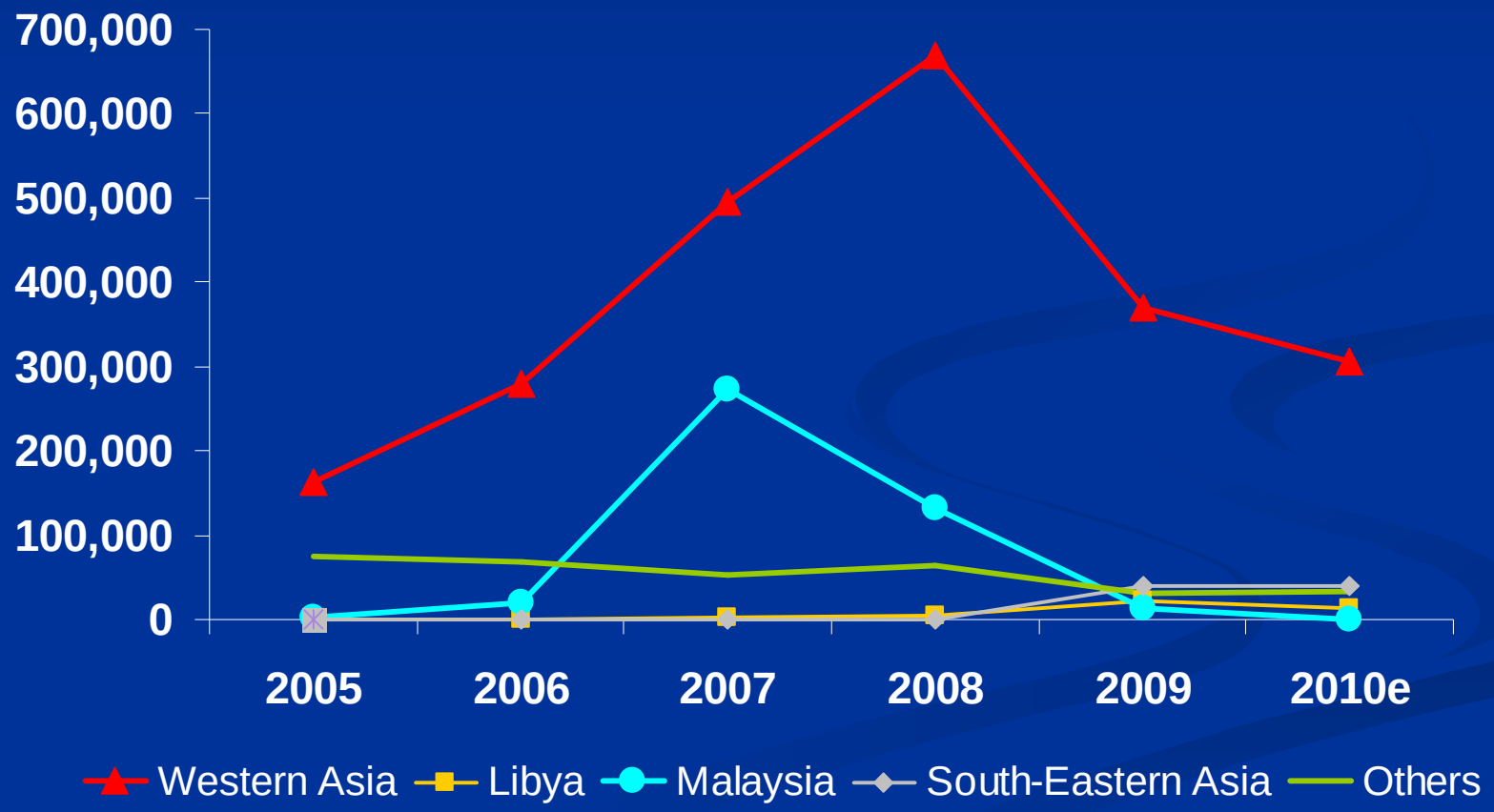
Migrant stock by major area of origin and major area of destination, 2010 *(per cent)*



Source: United Nations, Population Division/DESA, 2011

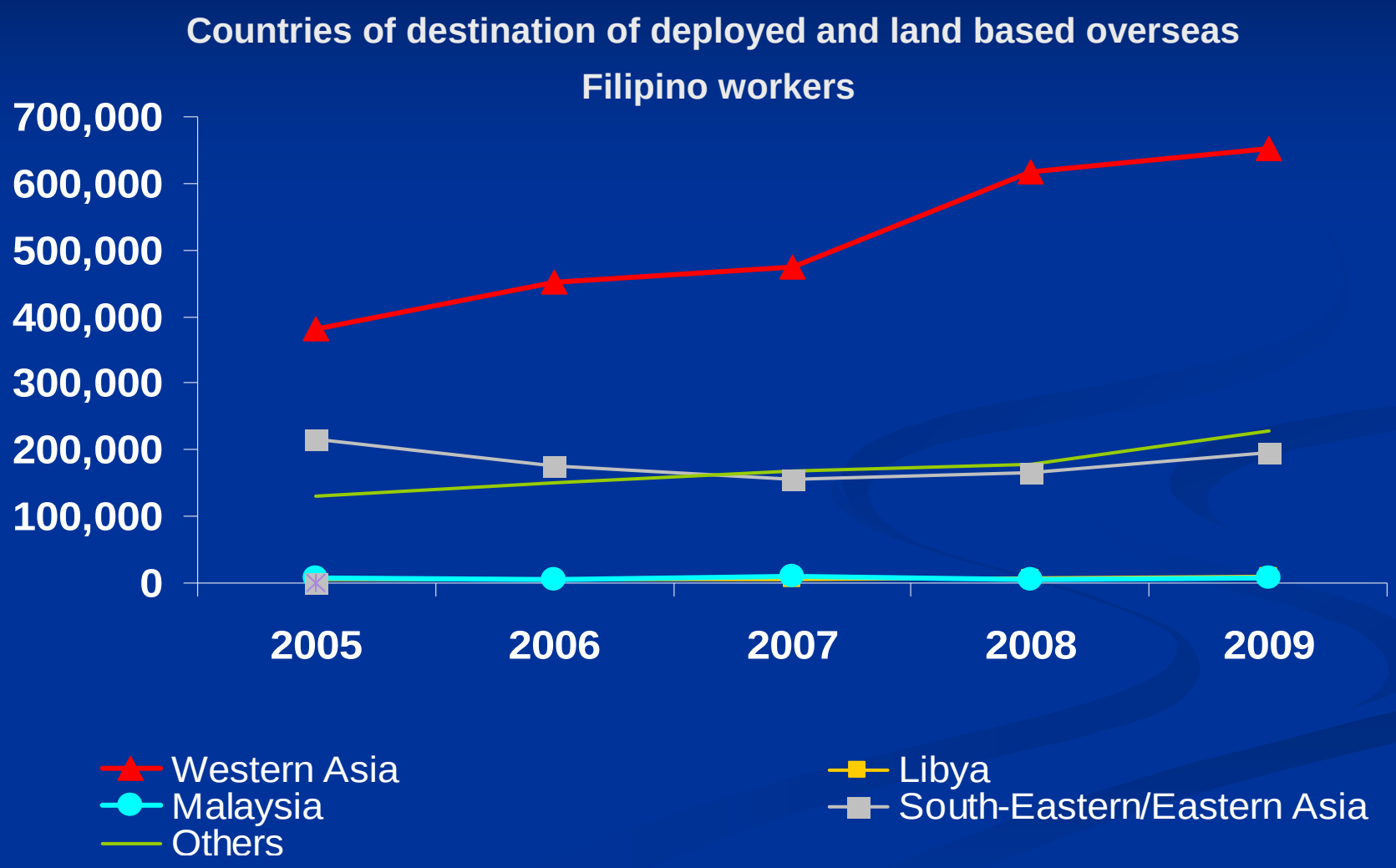
Workers from Bangladesh migrate primarily to Western Asia

Countries of destination of overseas employed workers from Bangladesh



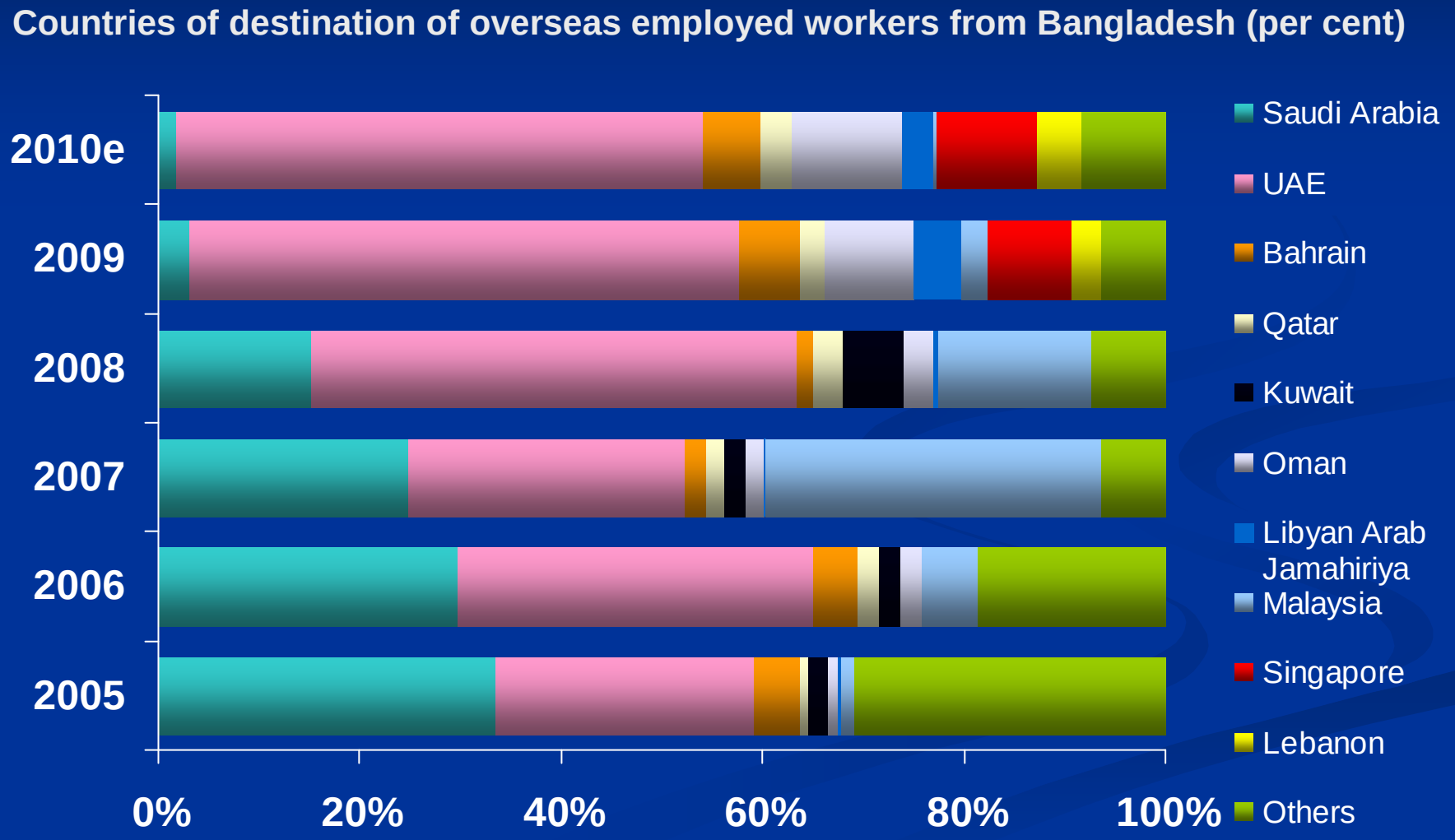
Source: Bangladesh, Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training, June 2011

Workers from the Philippines migrate primarily Western Asia



Source: Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, June 2011

Countries of destination of workers from Bangladesh



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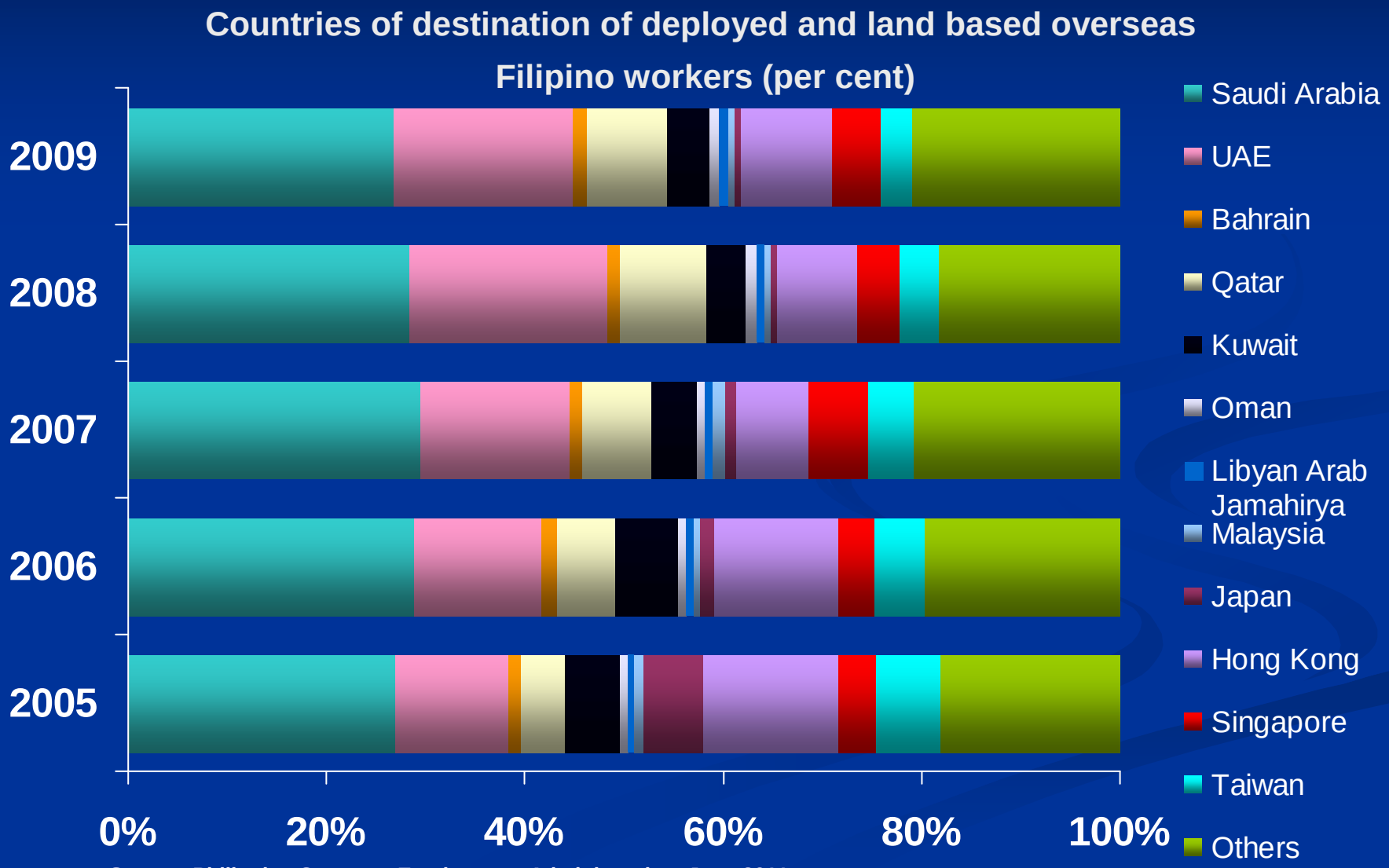
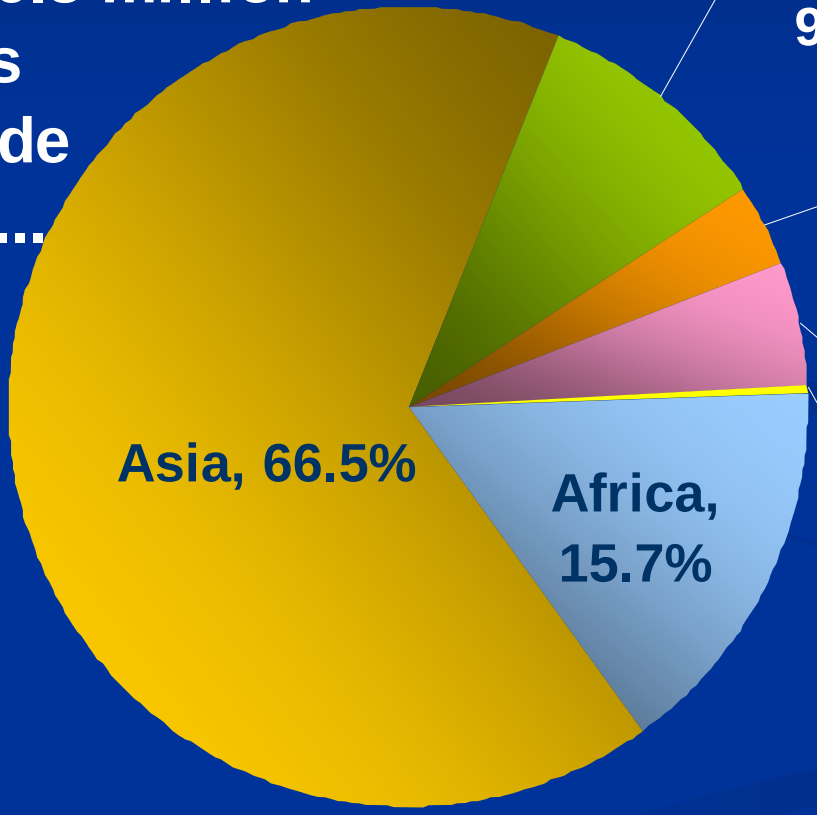
Countries of destination of workers from the Philippines



Source: Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, June 2011

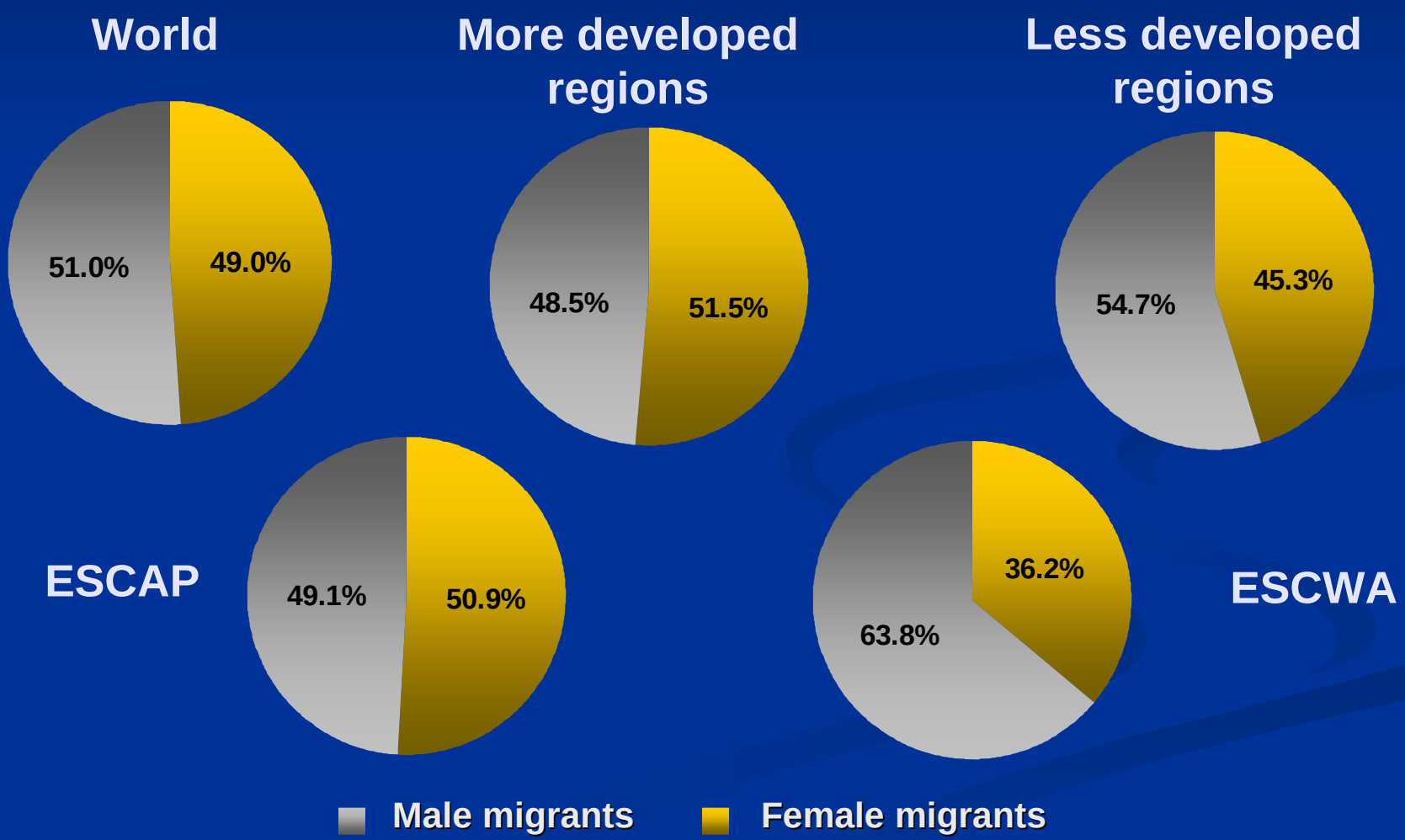
Asia hosts the largest number of refugees in the world, 2010

Of the 16.3 million refugees worldwide in 2010 ...



Source: United Nations, Population Division/DESA, 2011

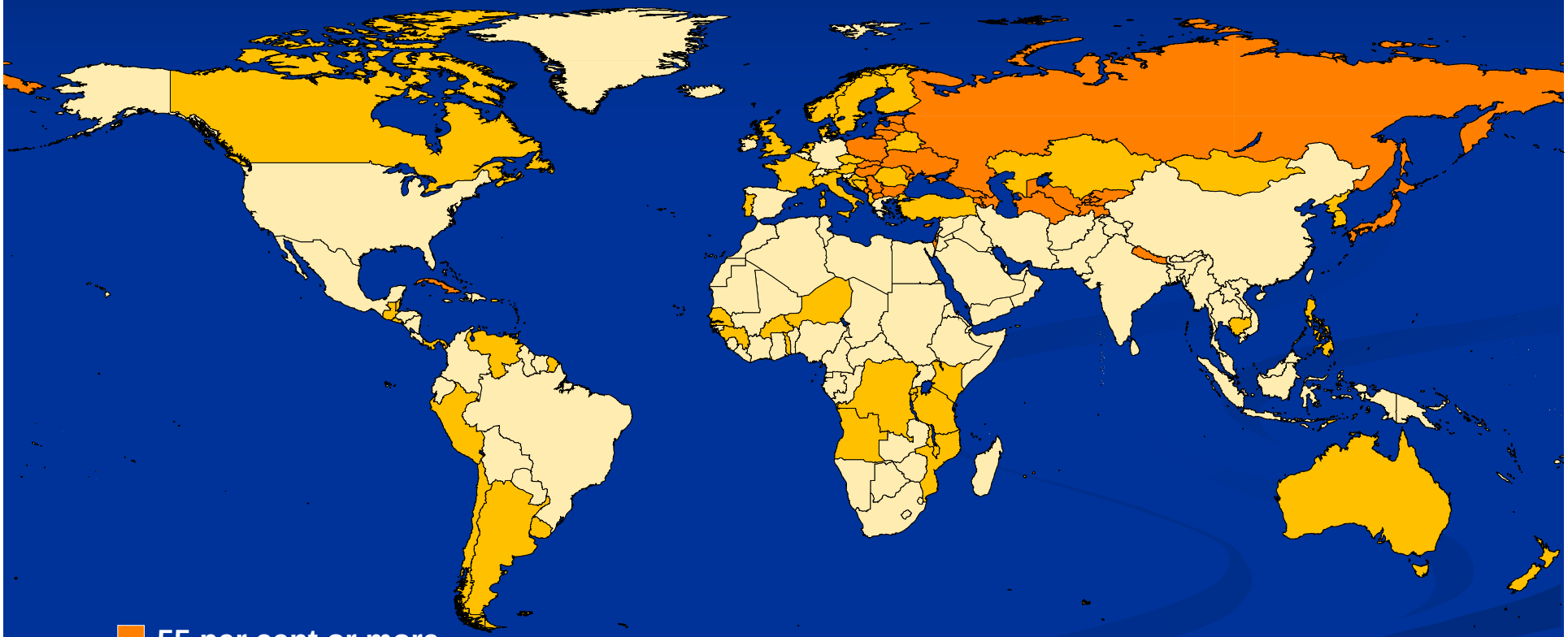
In 2010, about half of all international migrants in the world were female



Source: United Nations, Population Division/DESA, 2011

Women account for less than half of all international migrants in many countries in Asia

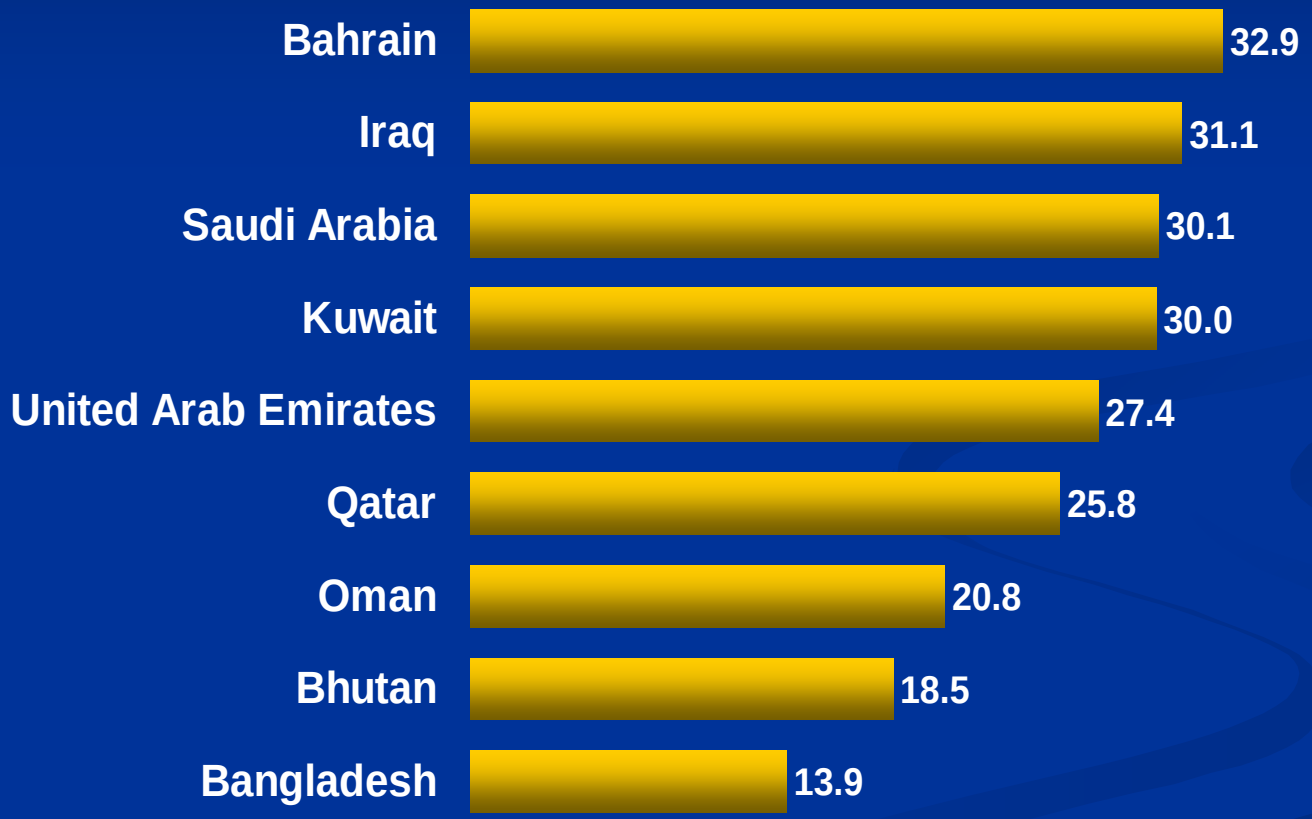
Female migrants as a percentage of the international migrant stock, 2010



Source: United Nations, Population Division/DESA, 2011

For example, in these Asian countries, women account for less than 33 per cent of all international migrants

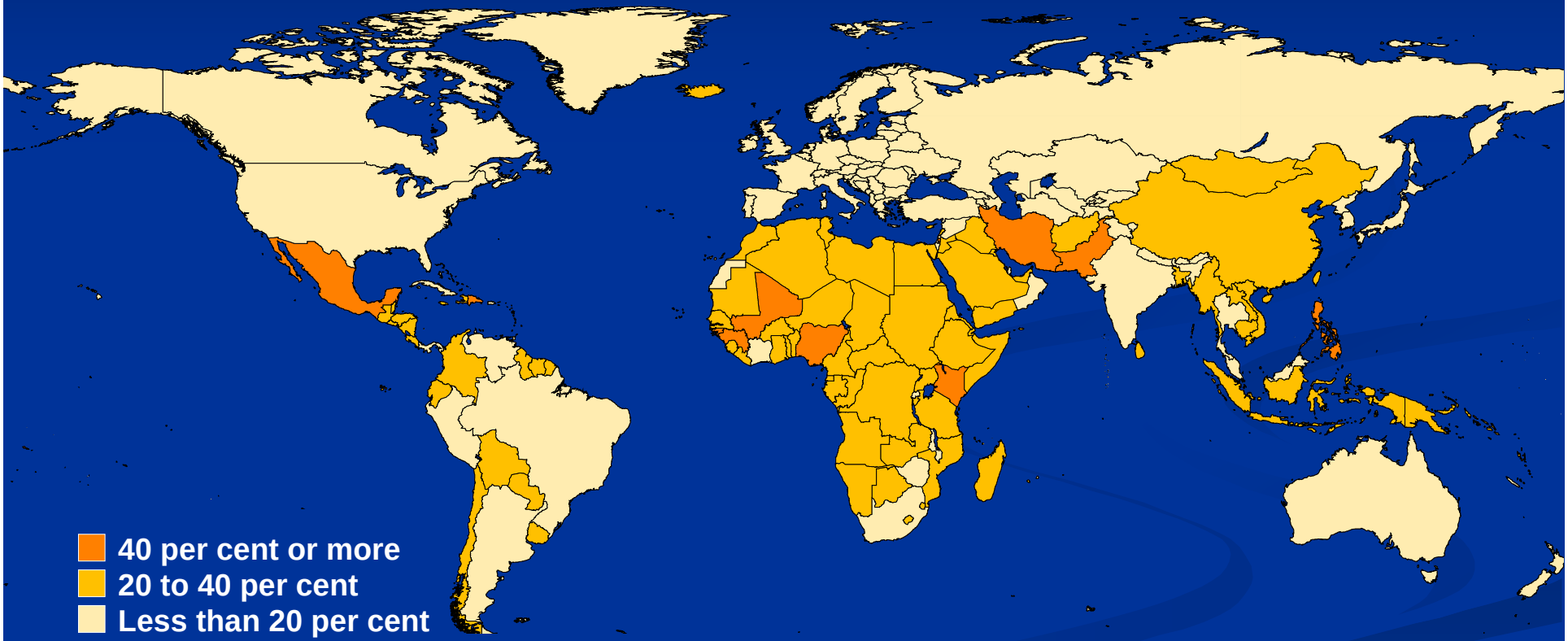
Female migrants as a percentage of the international migrant stock, 2010



Source: United Nations, Population Division/DESA, 2011

International migrants in Africa and Asia are relatively young …

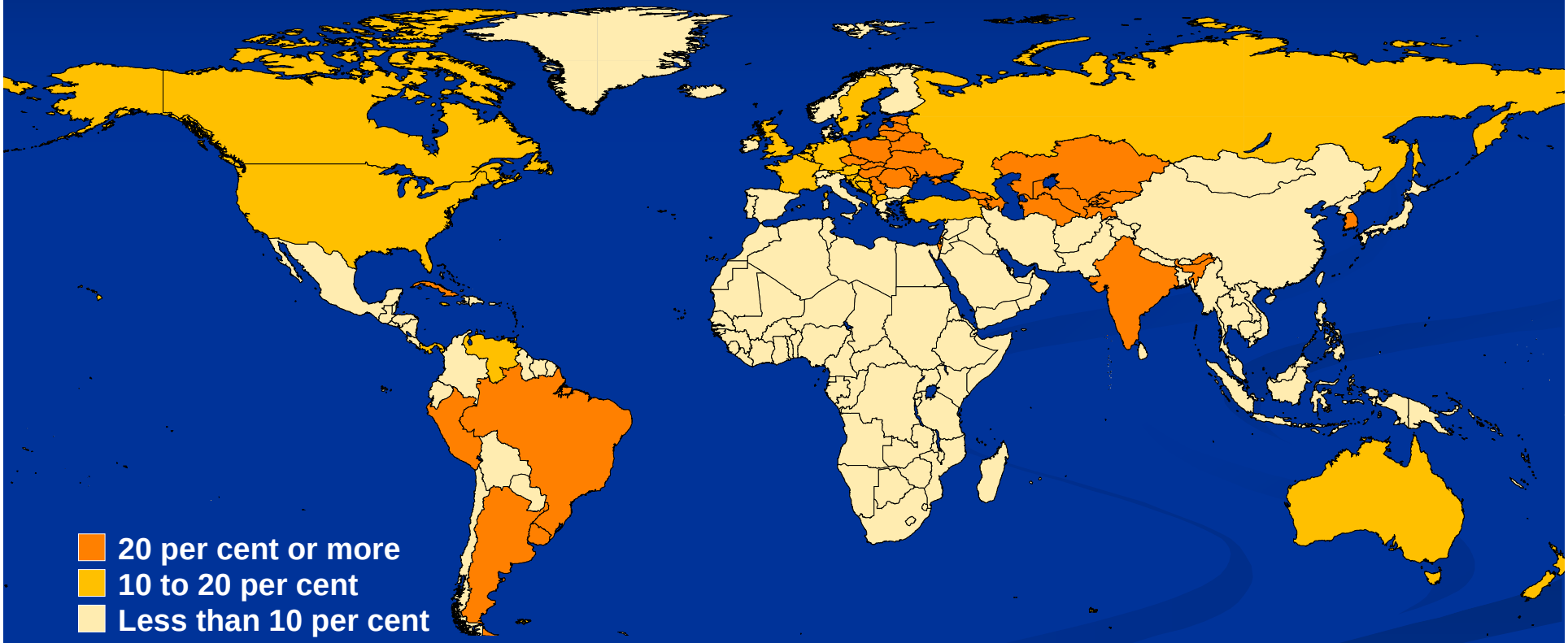
Percentage of migrant stock under age 20, 2010



Source: United Nations, Population Division/DESA, 2011

… while they are older in Latin America and Europe

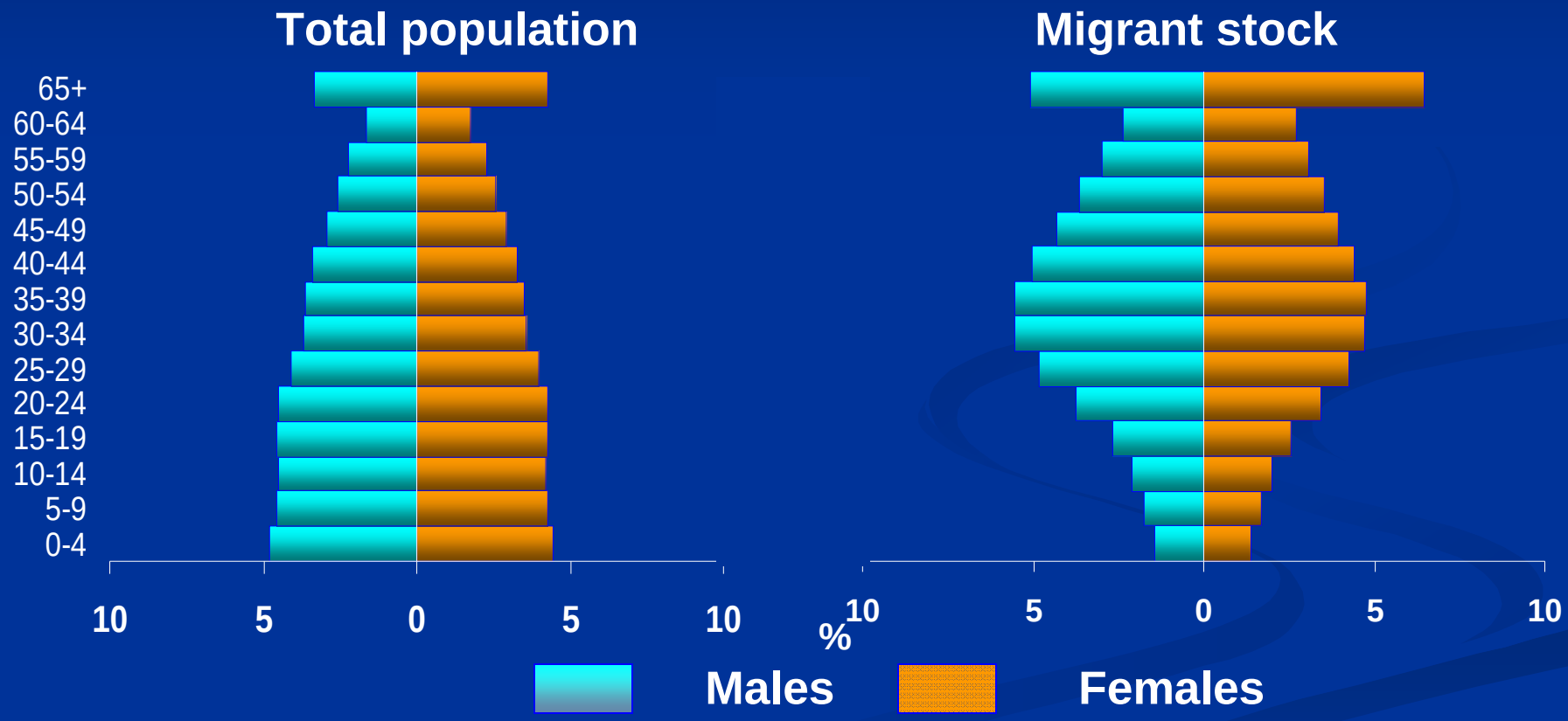
Percentage of migrant stock age 65 or over, 2010



Source: United Nations, Population Division/DESA, 2011

The young are underrepresented among all international migrants in the world

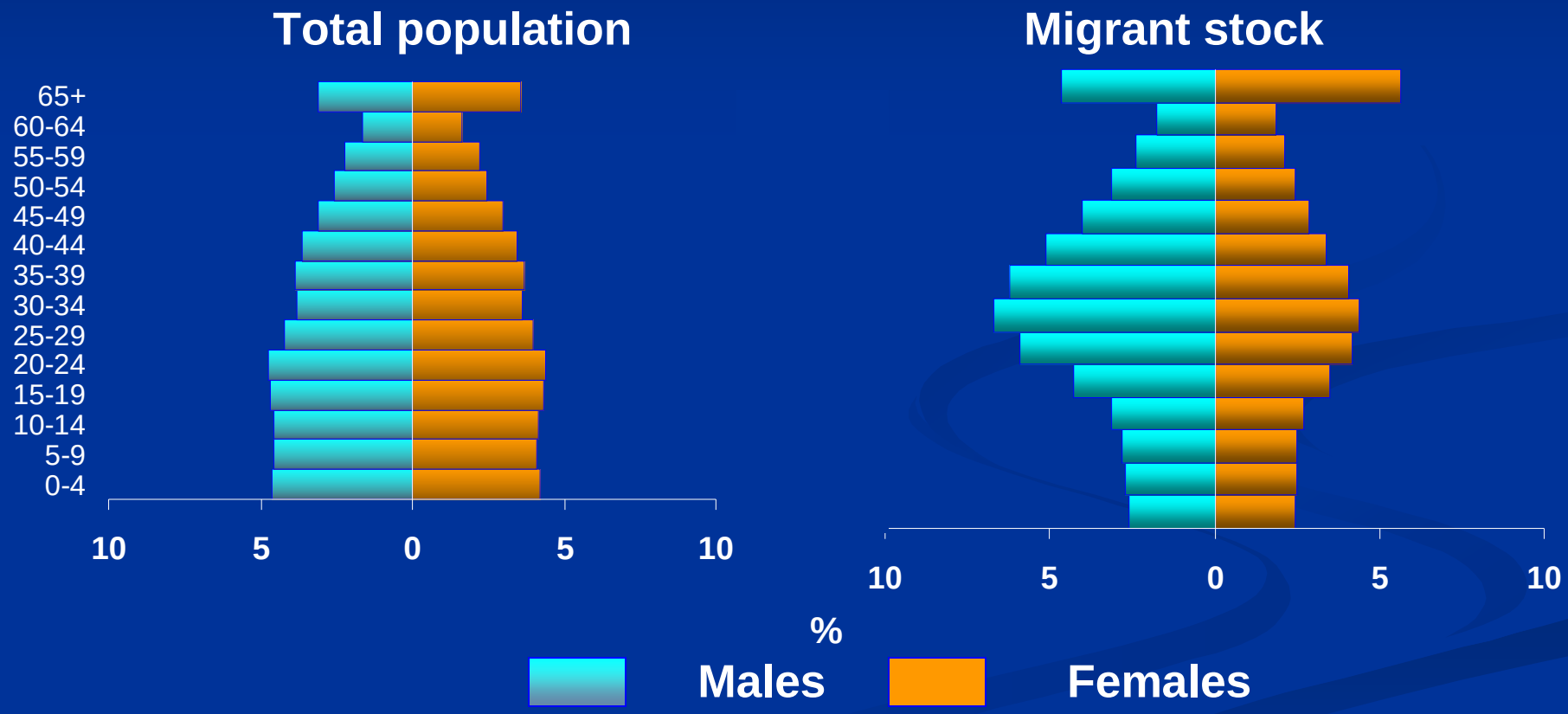
Males and females as a percentage of the total population and the international migrant stock, 2010



Source: United Nations, Population Division/DESA, 2011

The male working-age population is overrepresented among international migrants in Asia

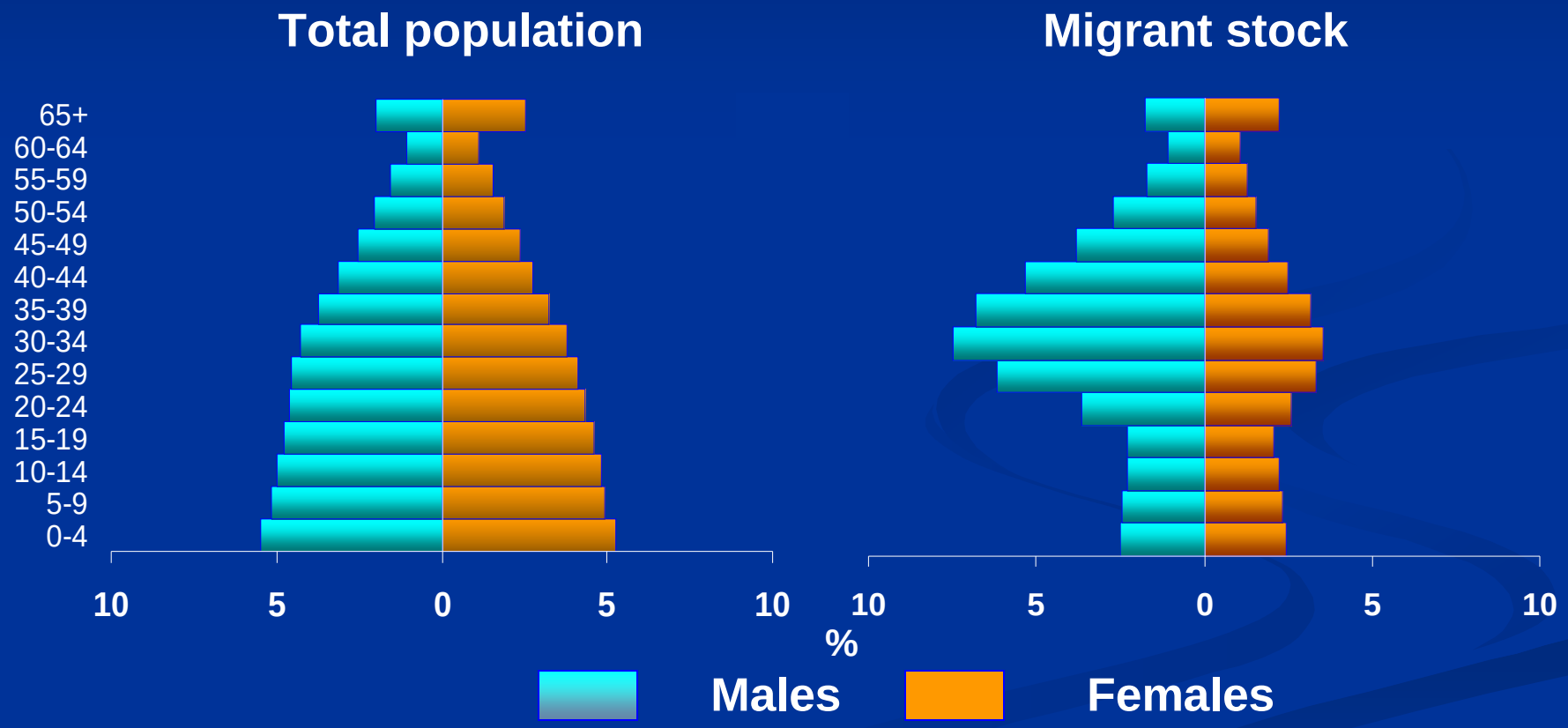
Males and females as a percentage of the total population and the international migrant stock, 2010



Source: United Nations, Population Division/DESA, 2011

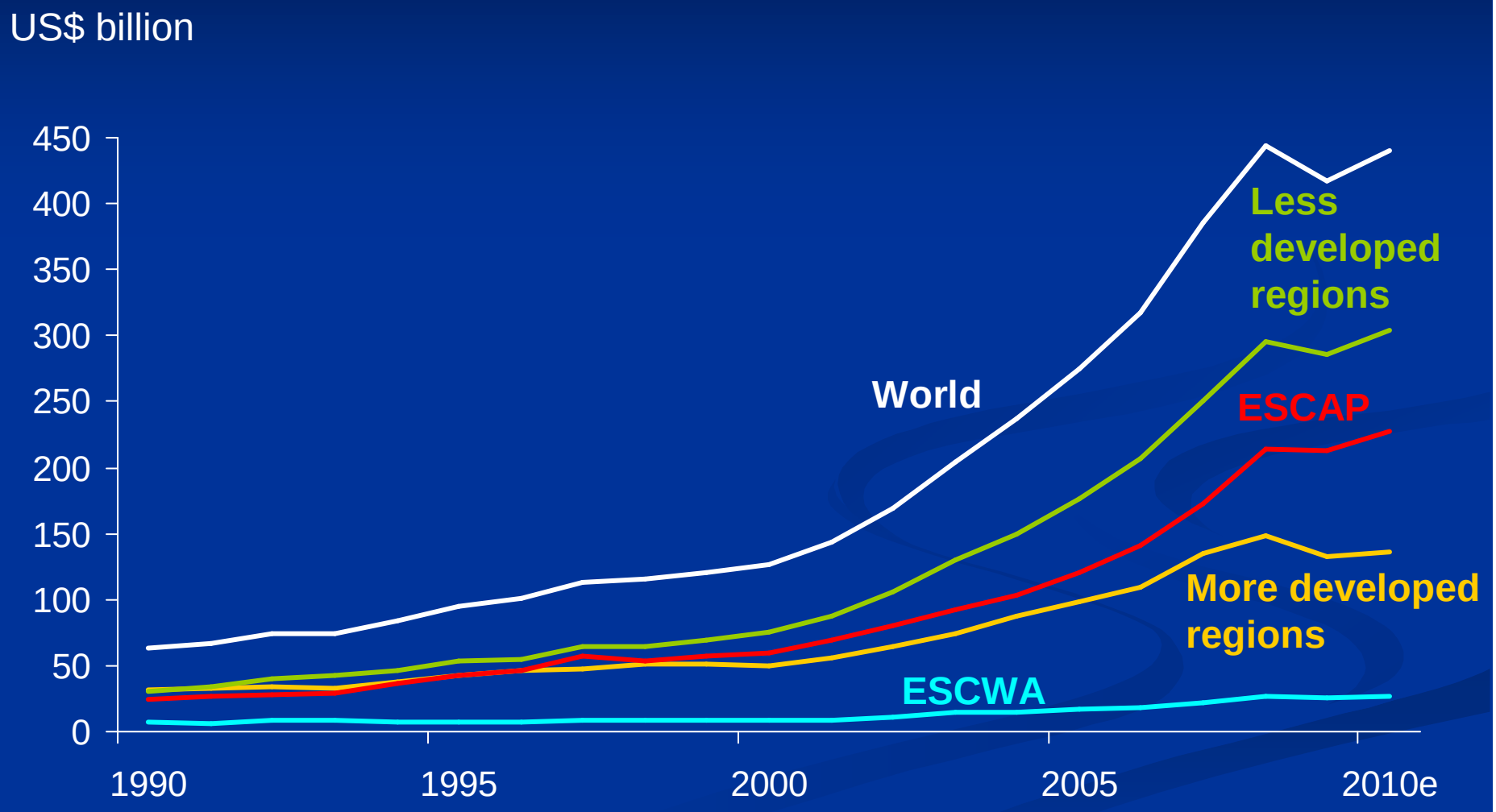
The male working-age population is overrepresented among international migrants in Western Asia

Males and females as a percentage of the total population and the international migrant stock, 2010



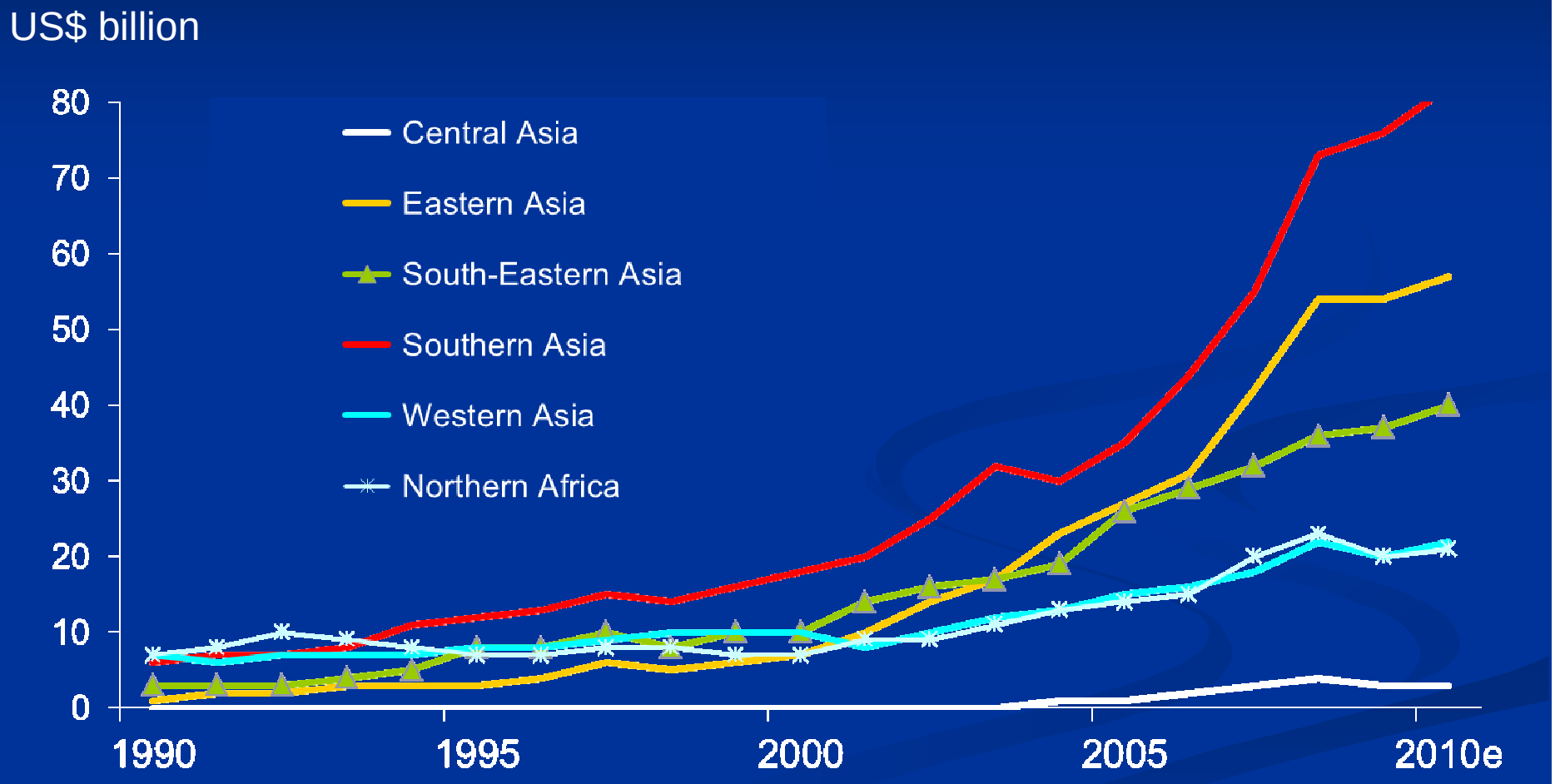
Source: United Nations, Population Division/DESA, 2011

In 2009, some US$ 417 billion were remitted worldwide



Source: The World Bank, 2011

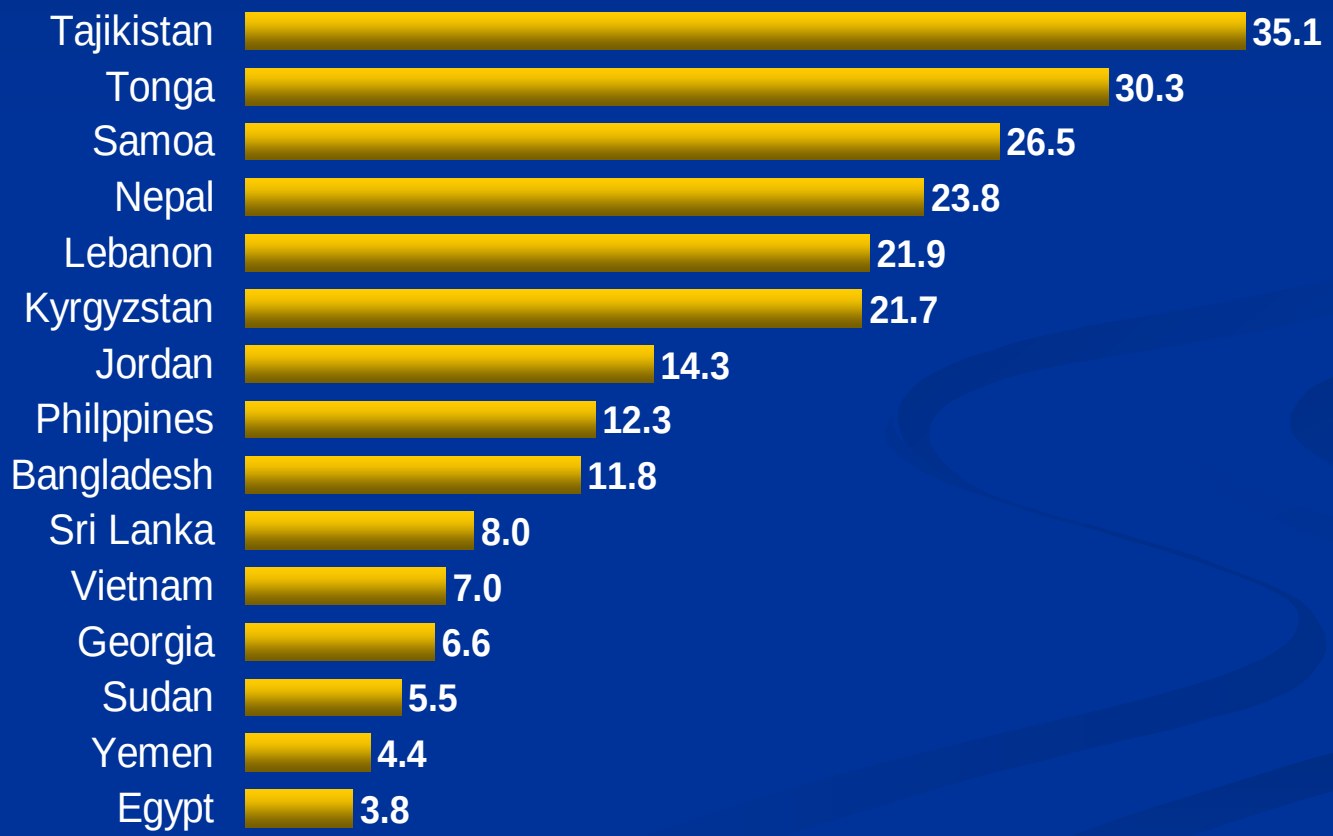
Within Asia, Southern and Eastern Asia benefit the most from remittances



Source: The World Bank, 2011

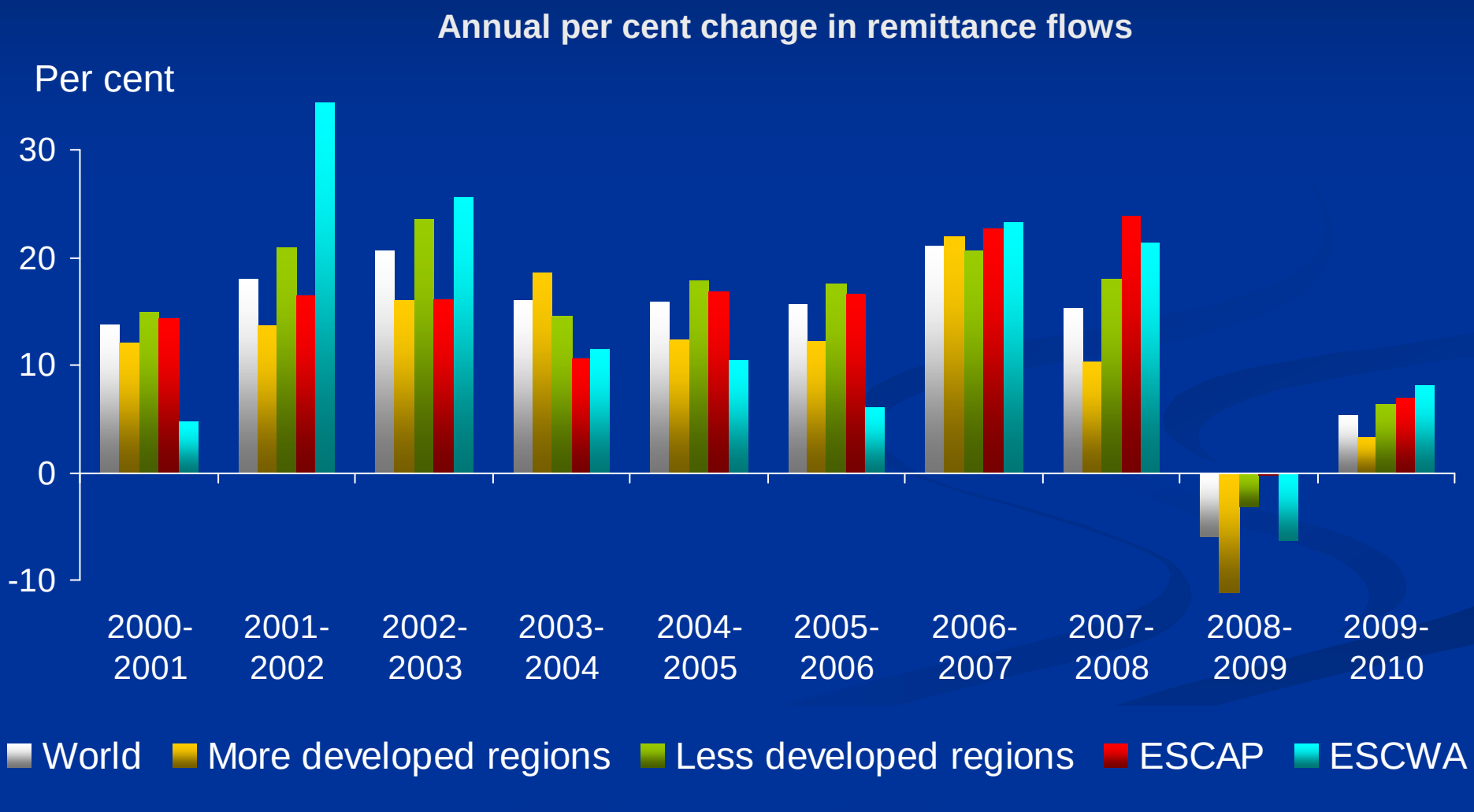
In many Asian countries remittances account for a significant share of GDP

Countries in Asia where remittance inflows account for a large share of GDP, 2009 *(per cent)*



Source: World Bank, 2011

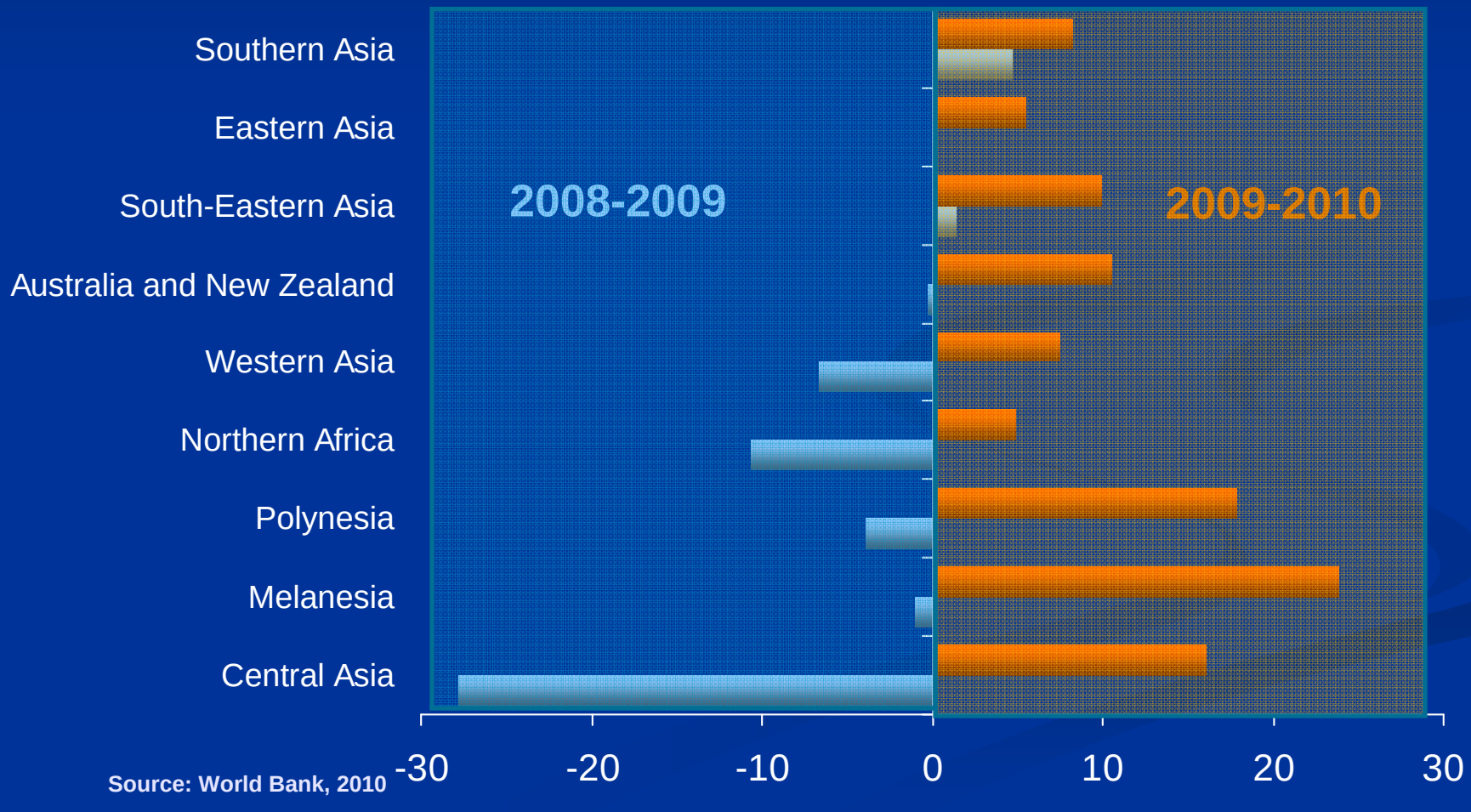
After many years of growth, remittances declined during the economic crisis, but have since been recovering



Source: The World Bank, 2011

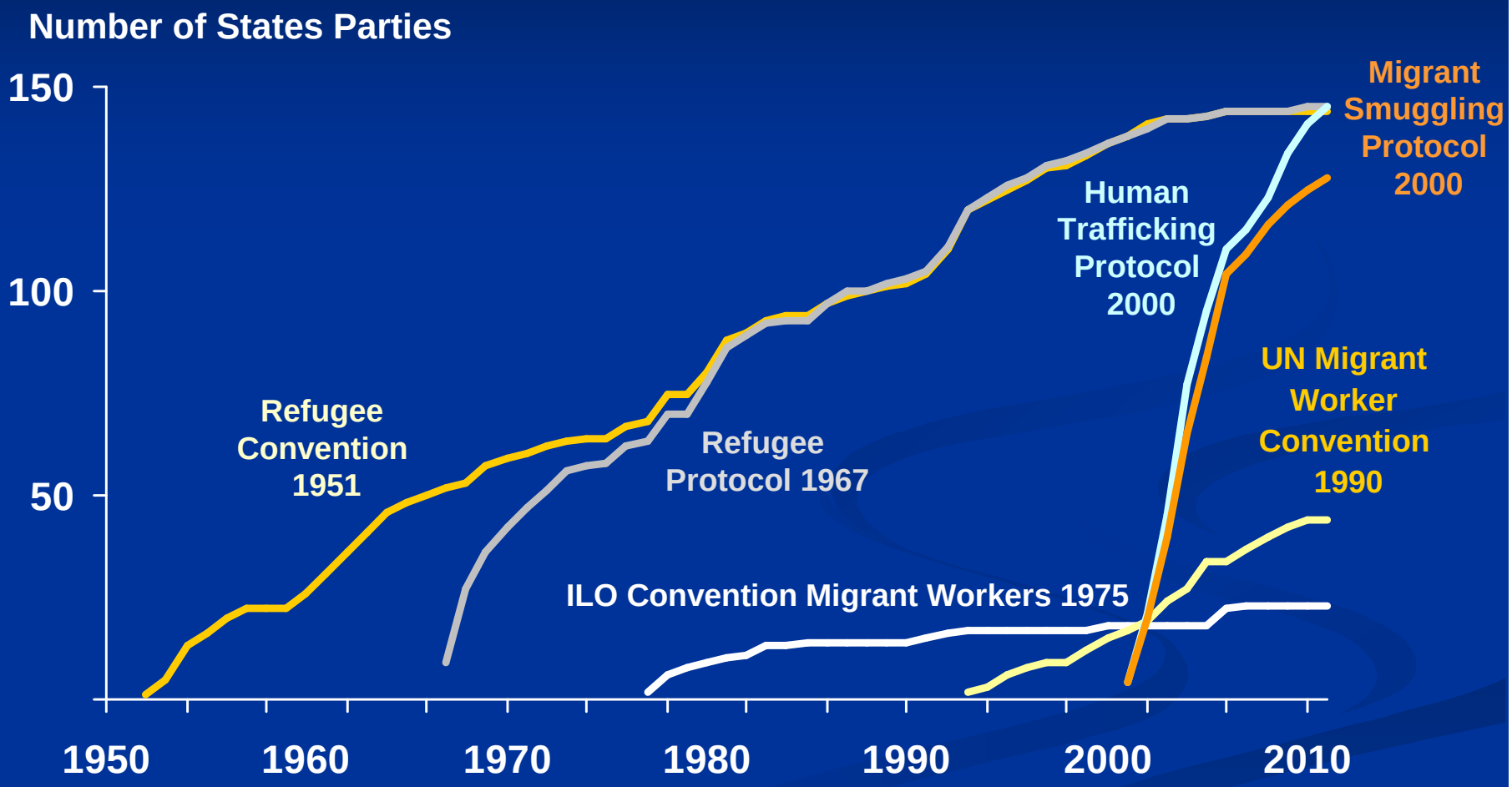
In 2009-2010 remittance flows to all regions in Asia have been recovering

Per cent change in remittance flows (2008-2009 versus 2009-2010)



Source: World Bank, 2010

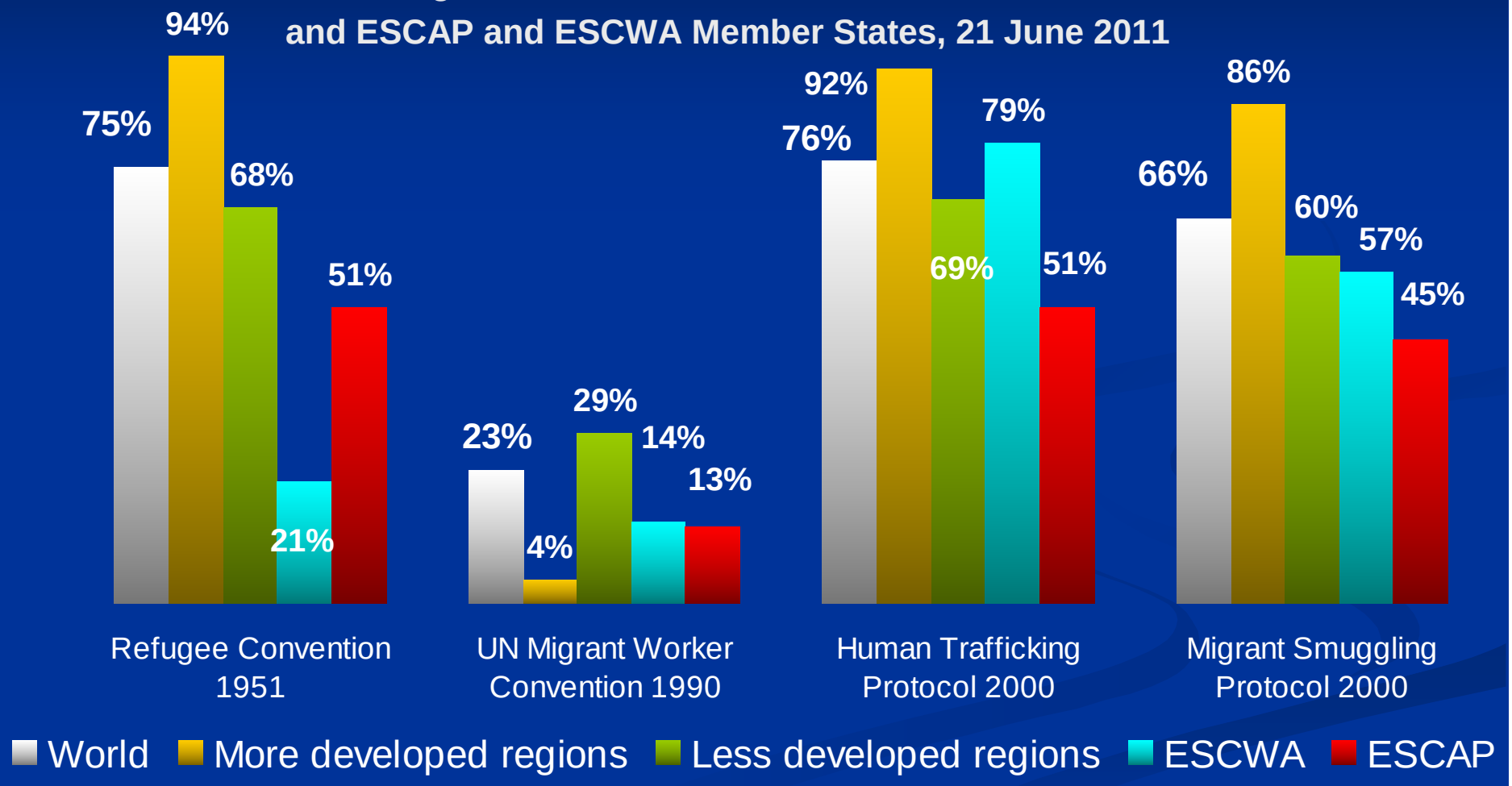
Ratification of relevant international instruments continues, yet remains uneven between instruments



Source: United Nations, 2011

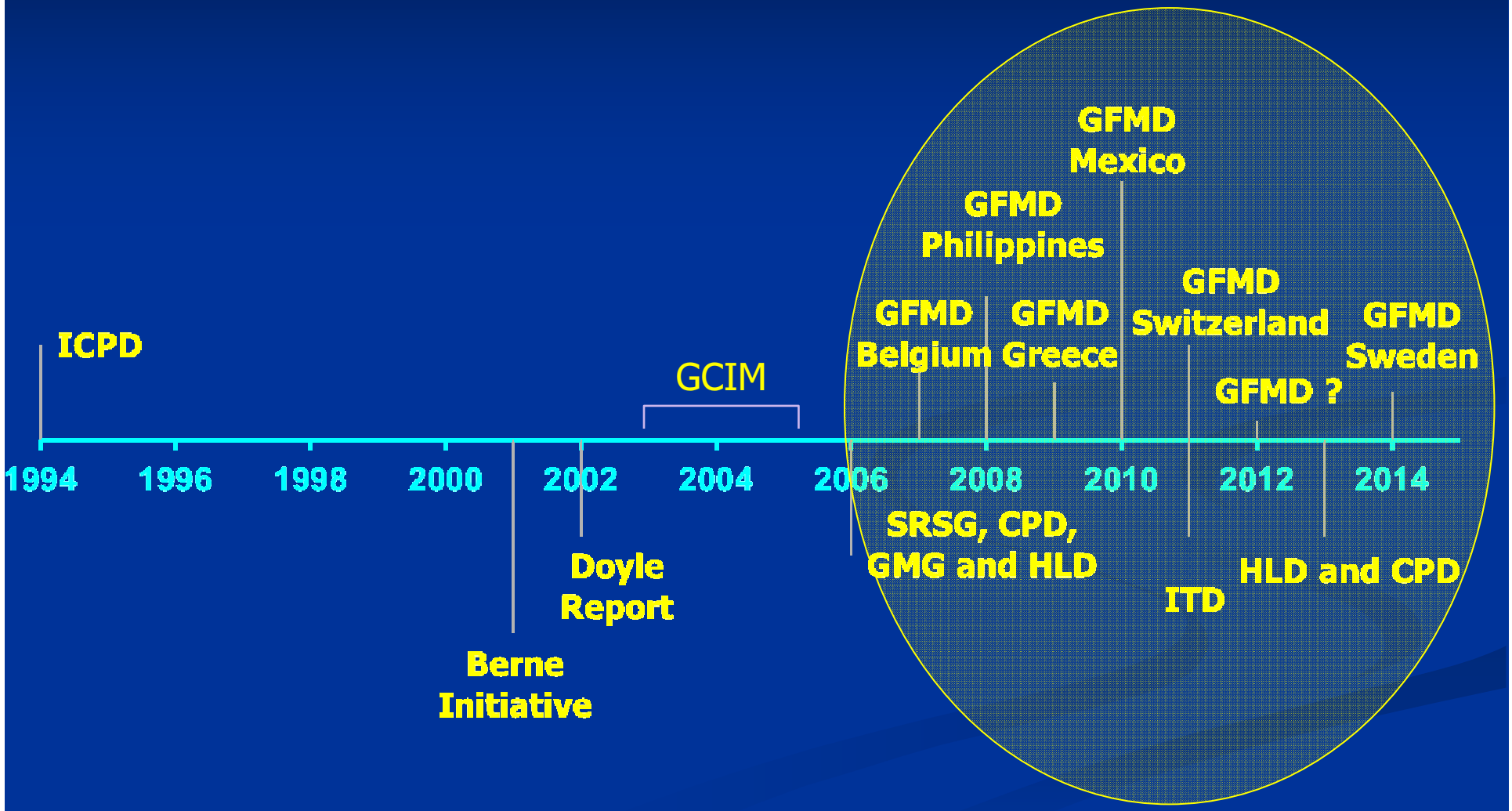
Ratification of relevant international instruments also varies by region

Percentage share of United Nations State Members and ESCAP and ESCWA Member States, 21 June 2011



Source: United Nations, 2011

Migration-related activities and events at the international level over time



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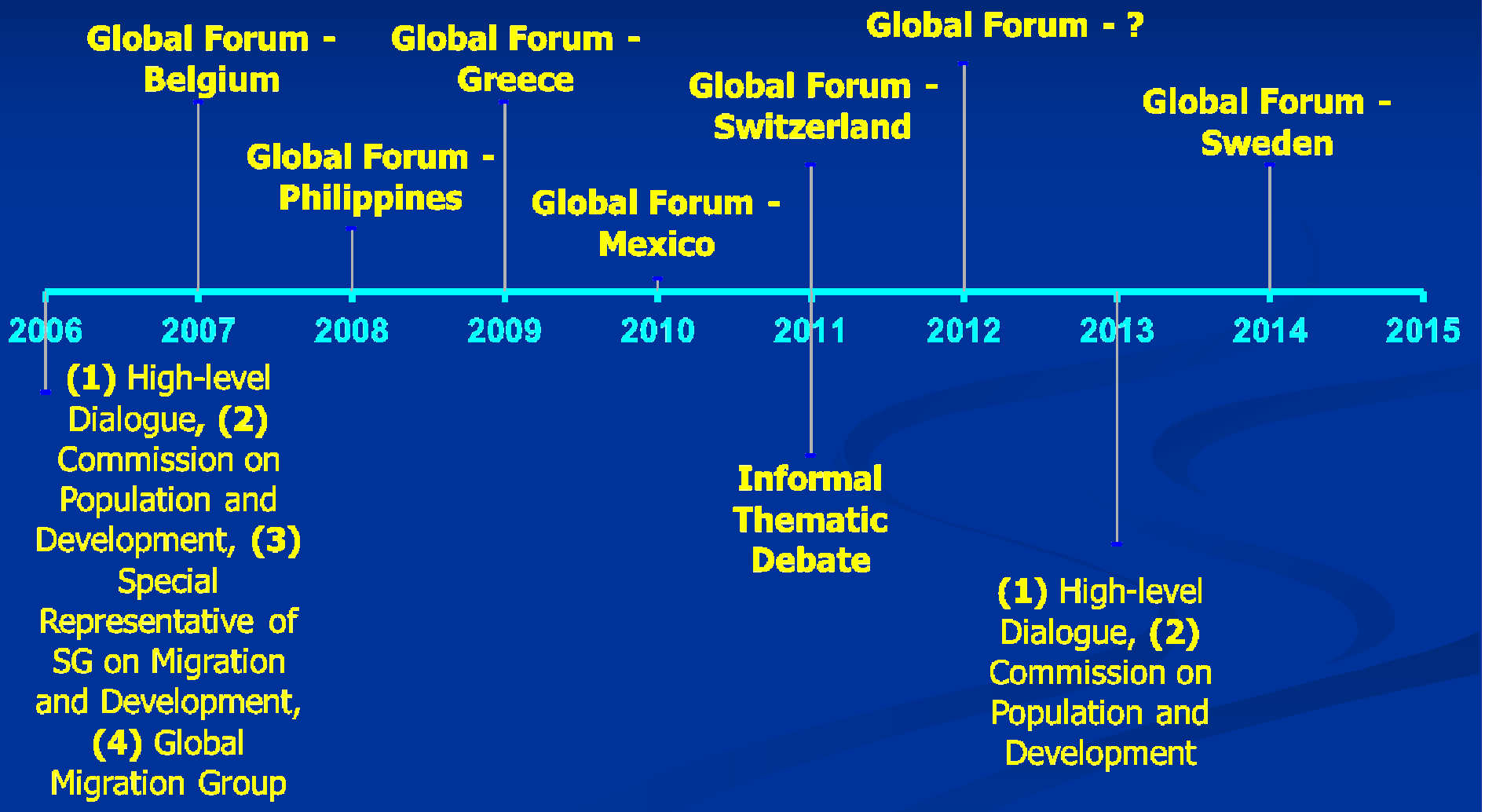


Source: United Nations, Population Division/DESA, 2011

Informal Thematic Debate on International Migration and Development 19 May 2011

Convened by the GA (A/RES/63/225)

Panel 1: The contribution of migrants to development

International migration contributes to development. But in order to reap the full benefits of migration the following are needed:

- **Better policies and programmes to:**
  - Reduce transaction costs of remittances
  - Promote return and circular migration
  - Promote migrant entrepreneurship
  - Protect the rights of all migrants
  - Facilitate the integration of migrants into host societies
- **A sound evidence base**

Source: United Nations, 2011

Informal Thematic Debate on International Migration and Development 19 May 2011

Panel 2: Improving international cooperation on migration and development

Optimisation of migrant contributions requires cooperation at all levels

- **At the bilateral and regional levels progress has been made in strengthening cooperation**
- **The GFMD has successfully promoted dialogue, but it is still a fragile process, with insufficient support from Member States**
- **The GMG has an important role to play in fostering better coordination and supporting the activities of Member States (for example, collaboration between UNHCR and IOM to evacuate foreign workers from Libya)**

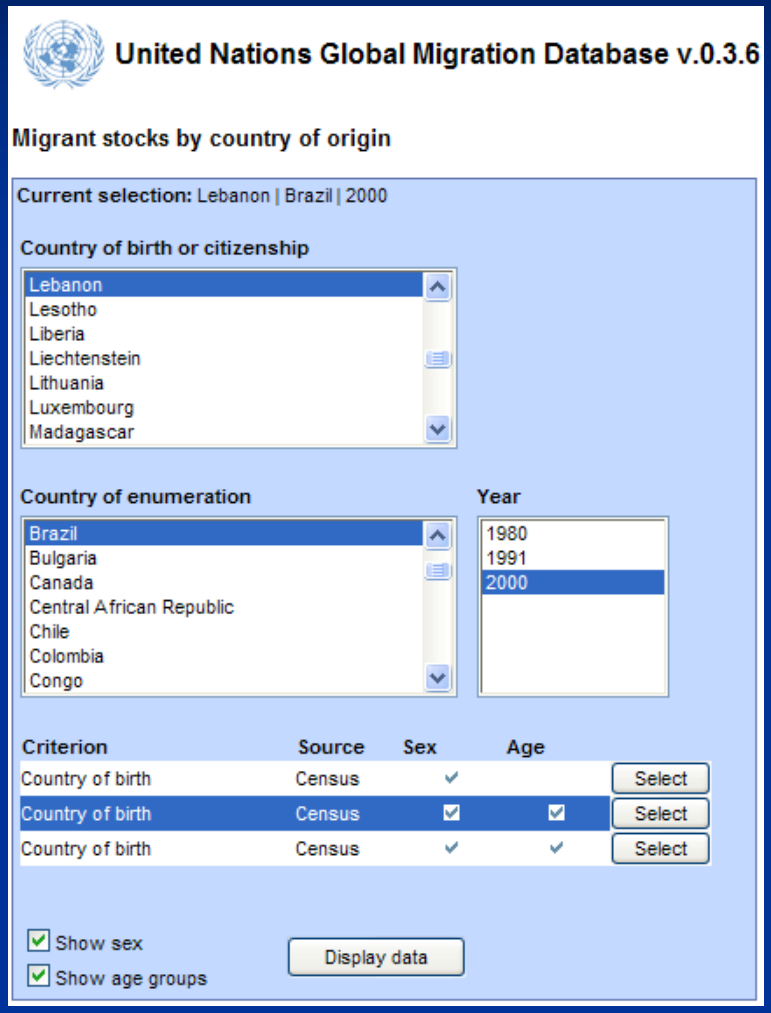
Source: United Nations, 2011

The five steps to improve migration data in the long term, with existing institutions and at low cost are …

- **Ask** basic census questions – country of birth, citizenship, previous residence by age and sex – and tabulate and disseminate the answers
- **Make** better use of existing administrative data sources
- **Compile** existing data from surveys
- **Provide** access to micro data
- **Build** capacity to collect and disseminate data

Source: Centre for Global Development, 2009; based on the Report of the Commission on International Development Research and Policy

Global Migration Database



- Repository of international migrant stock data by country of birth, citizenship, sex and age
- >230 countries/territories since 1960s
- Censuses, registers, surveys
- > 2.7 million records
- >600 subscribers
- UNSD, UNICEF, UNDP-SU/SSC, WB

www.unmigration.org

Source: United Nations, Population Division/DESA, 2011

Asia is lagging behind regarding data on the total international migrant stock

Coverage based on migrant stock (per cent)

Major area	1985-1994	1995-2004	2005-2014
Africa	62	69	22
Asia	**74**	**87**	**42**
Europe	96	99	85
Latin America and the Caribbean	85	95	9
Northern America	100	100	100
Oceania	**100**	**100**	**95**
World	**86**	**93**	**68**

Source: United Nations, Population Division/DESA, 2011

Asia is lagging behind regarding data on the total international migrant stock by age

Coverage based on migrant stock (per cent)

Major area	1985-1994	1995-2004	2005-2014
Africa	53	50	8
Asia	**41**	**59**	**37**
Europe	53	99	69
Latin America and the Caribbean	85	89	9
Northern America	100	100	100
Oceania	**98**	**99**	**79**
World	**59**	**85**	**67**

Source: United Nations, Population Division/DESA, 2011

Conclusion and Recommendation

International migration is a critical issue of our time, today, possibly, more so than ever

Evidence

Engagement

Cooperation

Capacity-building

Thank you!

www.unmigration.org
www.unpopulation.org