



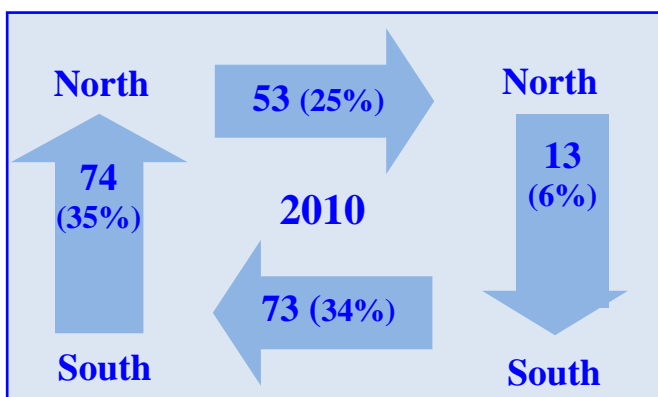
Migrants by origin and destination: The role of South-South migration¹

1. South-South migration is almost as common as South-North migration

- In 2010, about 73 million international migrants who were born in the South were residing in the South.² This number was slightly smaller than the number of international migrants originating in the South and living in the North (74 million). The number of international migrants from the North who also resided in the North stood at 53 million, whereas international migrants from the North living in South numbered 13 million (figure 1).

- In 2010, about one-third (34%) of the global migrant stock both originated in and was living in the South. Another one-third (35%) of the global migrant stock was born in the South, but resided in the North. Further, one-quarter of all international migrants in the world were born and were living in the North. The percentage of international migrants who were born in the North and living in the South was limited to six per cent (figure 1).

Figure 1: International migrant stock by origin and destination, 2010 (millions and percentages)

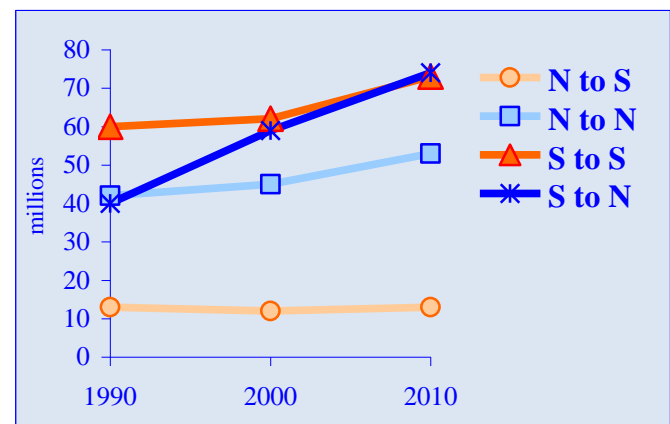


2. South-North migration has been the main driver of global migration

- From 1990 to 2010, the migrant stock born in the South and residing in the North increased by

85 per cent, more than twice as fast as the global migrant stock (38%). The migrant stock originating from the South and living in the North increased by 34 million, from 40 million in 1990 to 74 million in 2010 (+85%). The second largest increase (13 million) was recorded by South-South migrants (22%), followed by North-North migrants (11 million or 26%). Between 1990 and 2010, North-South migration stagnated at around 13 million, however (figure 2).

Figure 2: International migrant stock by origin and destination, 1990-2010



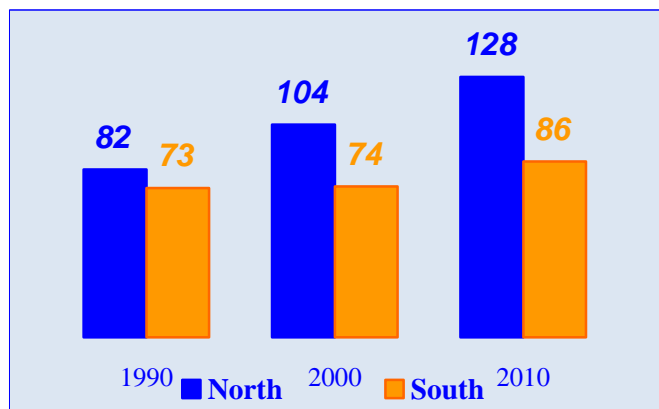
- In 2010, South-North migrants outnumbered South-South migrants for the first time. In 1990, international migrants who were both born and residing in the South (60 million) outnumbered international migrants born in the South and residing in the North (40 million) by 50 per cent. By 2010, this picture had reversed with South-North migrants (74 million) outnumbering South-South migrants (73 million) (figure 2).

3. Since 1990, the migrant stock in the North has increased three times as fast as the migrant stock in the South

- By 2010, almost 60 per cent of all international migrants in the world were living in the North,

compared to 53 per cent in 1990. In the North, the number of international migrants increased by 46 million (56 per cent) between 1990 and 2010. In the South, the migrant stock increased by 13 million (18%) (figure 3).

Figure 3: International migrant stock in the North and the South, 1990-2010 (millions)



- **The increase in the migrant stock in the North from 1990 to 2010 was largely fuelled by migrants from the South.** Between 1990 and 2010, the migrant stock in the North increased by 45 million persons, 34 million of whom (76%) were born in the South. The remaining 11 million international migrants were born in the North (24%).
- **Between 1990 and 2010, the increase in the migrant stock in the South was entirely fuelled by migrants from the South.** In the past 20 years, the foreign-born population in the less developed regions increased by 13 million (18 per cent), all of whom originated in the South.

4. While significant migration takes place within the world's five major areas ...

- **Most international migrants born in Europe (63%), Oceania (57%), Asia (56%) and Africa (53%) are living within the major area of their birth.** In 2010, 37 million of the 59 million international migrants born in Europe (63%) were residing in Europe. Similarly, the majority of migrants in Africa, Asia and Oceania were residing within the major area of their birth (table 1).
- **Conversely, most international migrants born in Latin America and the Caribbean (72%) reside in North America.** Latin America and the Caribbean is the major area with the lowest intra-regional migration: only 14 per cent of all international migrants born in this major area are residing here (table 1).
- **A large majority of international migrants residing in Africa (81%), Asia (75%) and Latin America and the Caribbean (60%) were born in their major area of residence.** In 2010, 16 out of the 19 million international migrants residing in Africa were born in Africa (81%). In Asia, the corresponding percentage was 75 per cent, followed by Latin America and the Caribbean (60%) and Europe (53%). The percentage of migrants residing in Oceania and North America who were born in their region of residence was very small, 15 and 3 per cent respectively (table 1).
- **Asia is the second largest region of origin for migrants residing in Europe (19 million), North America (14 million), Oceania (2 million) and Africa (1 million).** Europe is the second largest region of origin for migrants residing in Asia (8 million) and Latin America and the Caribbean (1.5 million) (table 1).

Table 1: International migrant stock by major area of origin and destination, 2010 (millions)³

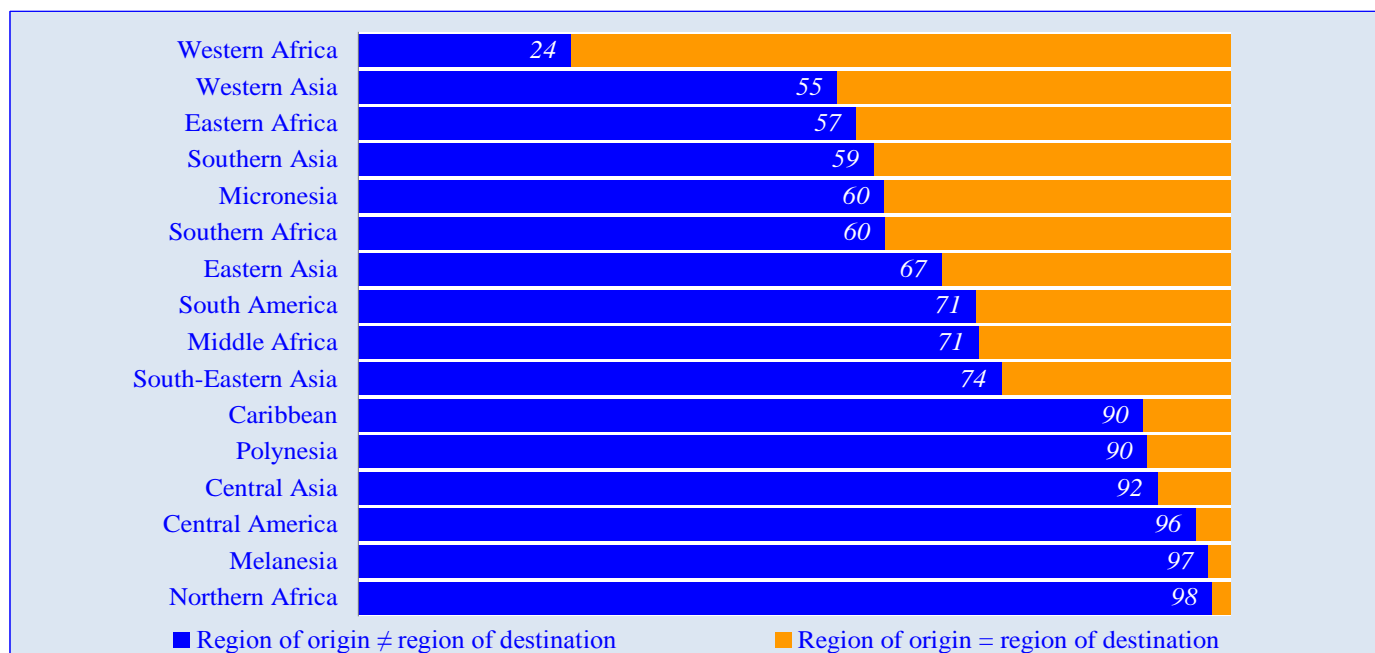
| | | Destination | | | | | | Total | Per cent origin |
|----------------------|-----------|-------------|------|--------|-----|---------------|---------|-------|-----------------|
| | | Africa | Asia | Europe | LAC | North America | Oceania | | |
| Origin | Africa | 15.5 | 4.0 | 7.7 | 0.0 | 1.7 | 0.4 | 29.2 | 53 |
| | Asia | 1.0 | 46.1 | 19.0 | 0.3 | 14.2 | 2.0 | 82.6 | 56 |
| | Europe | 0.8 | 7.8 | 37.3 | 1.5 | 9.0 | 2.4 | 58.7 | 63 |
| | LAC | 0.0 | 0.6 | 3.9 | 4.6 | 23.5 | 0.1 | 32.8 | 14 |
| | North Am. | 0.1 | 0.5 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 1.4 | 0.2 | 4.1 | 34 |
| | Oceania | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 0.9 | 1.6 | 57 |
| | Various | 1.8 | 2.1 | 0.9 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 5.1 | |
| Total | | 19.3 | 61.3 | 69.9 | 7.7 | 50.0 | 6.0 | 214.2 | |
| Per cent destination | | 81 | 75 | 53 | 60 | 3 | 15 | | |

5. ... the majority of migrants, born in the South, resides outside their immediate region of birth

- **In 2010, most international migrants born in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean and Oceania resided outside their region of birth.** More than 90 per cent of all international migrants born in the Caribbean, Polynesia, Central Asia, Central America, Melanesia and Northern Africa lived

outside their region of origin. In contrast, less than 60 per cent of all international migrants born in Southern Asia, Eastern Asia and Western Asia lived outside their region of origin. Western Africa is the only region in the global South where the majority of international migrants (76%) is residing within their region of birth (figure 4).

Figure 4: Percentage of international migrants living outside their region of birth, 2010



6. Southern and Western Asia are host to some of the largest “bilateral” migrant stocks in the South

- **In 2010, international migrants from Bangladesh residing in India constituted the single largest “bilateral stock” of international migrants residing in the South (3.2 million).** Citizens from Afghanistan residing in Pakistan (2.4 million) and the Islamic Republic of Iran (2 million), many of whom are refugees, constitute other significant “bilateral” stocks of international migrants in Asia. Another significant “migration corridor” is the one between Southern Asia and the oil producing countries of Western Asia: some 1.4 million international migrants from India are residing in Saudi Arabia.

7. The United States hosts some of the largest “bilateral” migrant stocks in the global North

- **The world’s largest international migration “corridor” is the one between the United States and Mexico.** In 2010, the United States hosted some of the world’s largest stocks of international migrants, includ-

ing from Mexico (12.2 million), mainland China (2.0 million), the Philippines (1.9 million) and India (1.6 million).

8. Germany hosts the largest “bilateral” migrant stock from the South residing in Europe

- **Germany is host to the largest “bilateral” migrant stock in Europe.** In 2010, about 2.8 million international migrants from Turkey were residing in Germany.

9. While the majority of the world’s refugees is hosted by countries in the South ...

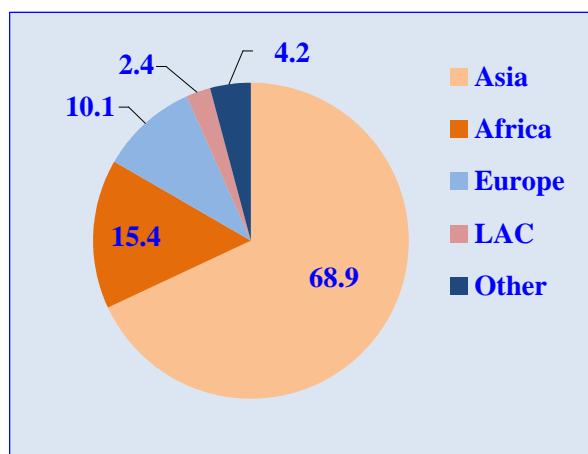
- **Nine of every ten refugees in the world are hosted by developing countries.** In 2010, the global refugee population was estimated at 15.6 million.⁴ Some 13.5 million refugees, or 87 per cent, were hosted by countries in the global South. Asia hosted the largest number of refugees (10.7 million), followed by Africa (2.4 million), Europe (1.6 million), Northern America (0.4 million), Latin America and

the Caribbean (0.4 million) and Oceania (34,000) (figure 5).

10. ... they generally constitute a small fraction of the total migrant stock

• **In 2010, refugees constituted some seven per cent of the global migrant stock.** In 2010, Asia hosted 61.3 million international migrants, 10.7 million of whom were refugees (17.5%). In Africa, the refugee stock was estimated at 2.4 million persons in 2010, 12.5 per cent of all international migrants residing on the continent (19.3 million). In Latin America and the Caribbean, refugees, including persons in refugee-like situations, constituted some five per cent of the migrant stock residing in the region (7.7 million).

Figure 5: Percentage of refugees by major area, 2010³



NOTES

¹ The estimates of the migrant stock by origin and destination were prepared by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, with financial support from the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) and the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and in collaboration with the World Bank. The data presented here refer to the international migrant stock defined as a mid-year estimate of the number of people living in a country or area other than the one in which they were born or, in the absence of such data, the number of people of foreign citizenship. Most statistics used to estimate the international migrant stock were obtained from population censuses, population registers and nationally representative household surveys. Data sources for the migrant stock estimates include United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2009). *Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2008 Revision* (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2008) and United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (forthcoming). *Trends in International Migrant Stock: Migrants by Origin and Destination* (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2012).

² The term “North” refers to the more developed regions or developed countries and the term “South” refers to the less developed regions or developing countries. The more developed regions include Europe and Northern America plus Australia, New Zealand and Japan. These terms are used for statistical convenience and do not necessarily express a judgment about the stage reached by a particular country or area in the development process.

³ In table 1 and figure 5, “LAC” stands for “Latin America and the Caribbean”.

⁴ Sources: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (2011) *Global Trends 2010* (Geneva) and United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).