Migration in the 21st Century: Breaking the Myths

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What do we know about MIGRATION?

Main types of migration

1

FORCED MIGRATION OR DISPLACEMENT

Migration out of necessity

Key drivers: Conflict, persecution, disasters, climate change, food insecurity, poverty, etc.

2

ECONOMIC MIGRATION

Migration out of choice

Key drivers: Economic opportunities, income inequality and employment gaps, lack of education, healthcare or social security, population growth, existence of established networks for migration, etc.

Note: Other types of migration include irregular migration, environmental migration, return migration, etc.

Global migration has been on the rise since 1990

Total number of international migrants and refugees (1990-2019)

266 (2018)

271.6 (2019 mid-year)

248.9

220.8

191.6

173.6

161.3

more than 780M
Internal migrants and IDPs

300

250

200

150

100

50

0

1995   2000   2005   2010   2015   2019
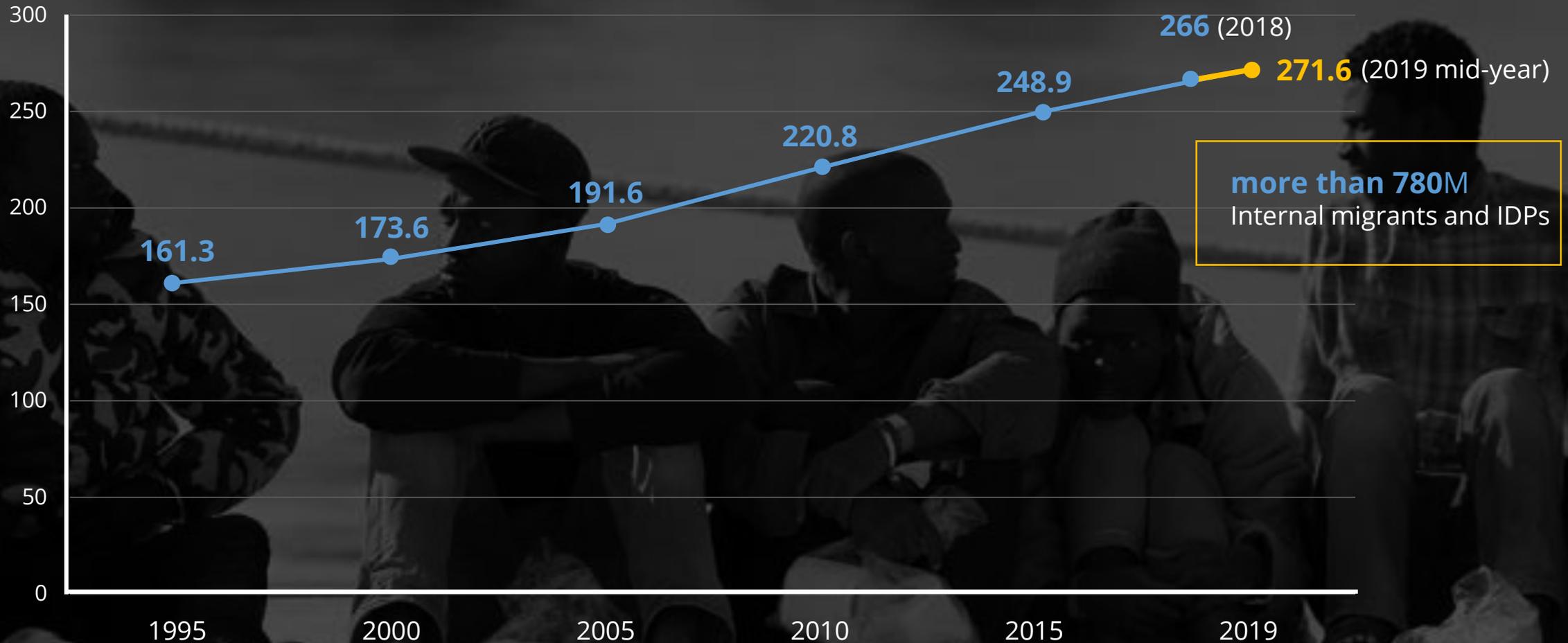
Of the 266 million international migrants in 2018, 10% were refugees

26M **(10%)**

REFUGEES*

266M

Total international migrants, 2018

240M **(90%)**

OTHER MIGRANTS

- Migrant workers
- Irregular migrants
- Temporary and circular migrants

*This does not include other forcibly displaced people, such as internally displaced persons (IDPs) and asylum seekers

Source: World Bank, 2019. Leveraging Economic Migration for Development: A Briefing for the World Bank Board.

The share of immigrants in high-income member countries of the OECD saw a greater increase than those in the global population from 2000-2018

Share of immigrants in the global population vs high-income member countries in the OECD (%), 2018

Percent (%)

Legend:
- Share of migrants in the global population
- Share of migrants in high-income member counties

Values shown:
- 2000: 2.8% (orange), 8.8% (blue)
- 2018: 3.5% (orange), 12.6% (blue)
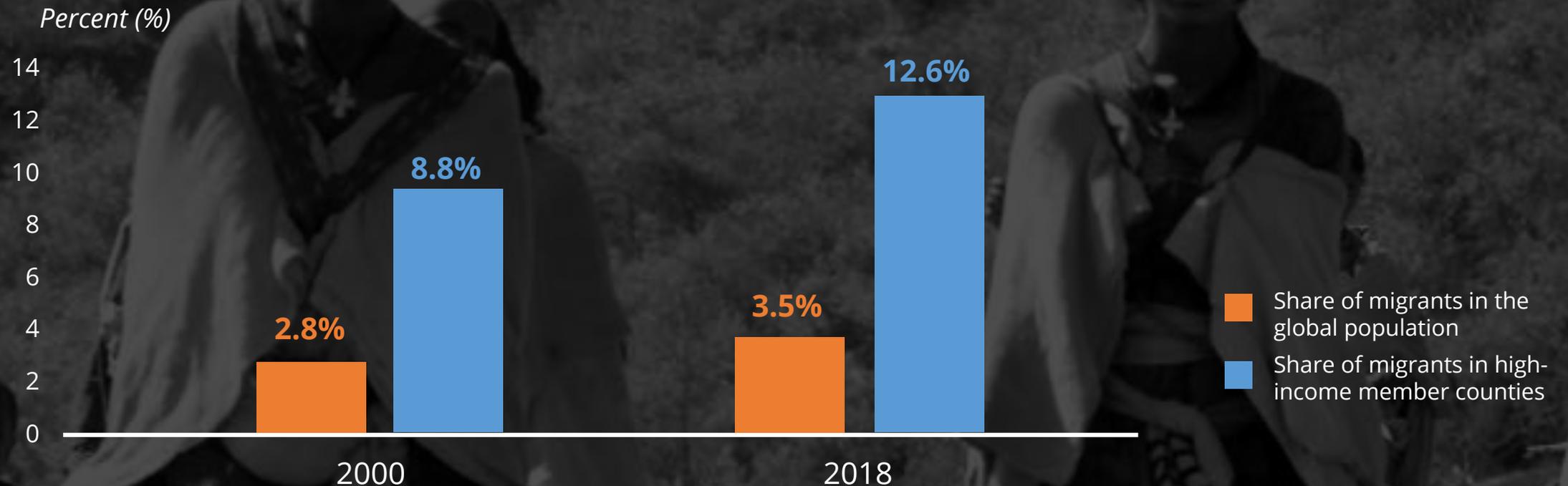
While this increase was smaller relative to that observed in many high-income countries outside the OECD, it has led to widespread concerns in many host countries about possible large and sudden influx of migrants.

The total number of forcibly displaced people amounted to 70.8 million in 2018

70.8 million   forcibly displaced people worldwide

Unit: million

0   10   20   30   40   50   60   70   80
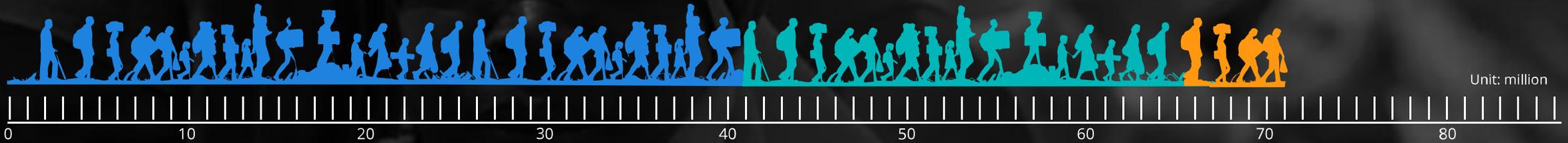
Internally Displaced People

41.3 million

Refugees

25.9 million

Asylum-seekers

3.5 million

1 person
every 2 seconds

is forcibly displaced
as a result of conflict,
violence or persecution

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

Close to 80% of the 41.3 million are displaced in only **11 countries:**

Syria
6.1 M

Colombia
5.7 M

Democratic Republic of the Congo
3.1 M

Somalia
2.6 M

Afghanistan
2.6 M

Yemen
2.3 M

Nigeria
2.2 M

Main drivers

Armed conflict and violence

Human rights violations

Sudden-onset disasters

Slow-onset disasters

New displacements (2018)

Conflict
10.8M

Natural disasters
17.2M
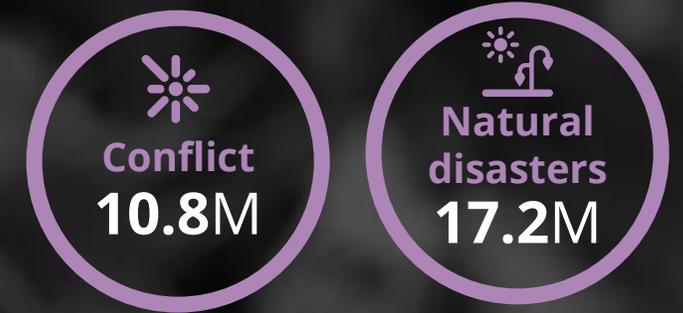
At least **17 million** children under the age of 18 were living in internal displacement around the world at the end of 2018

More than **5 million** were under the age of five.

Source: Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, 2018.

Refugees

Around 80% of refugees live in countries neighbouring their countries of origin

80%

**Over half of refugees in 2018 are under the age of 18**

many of whom are crossing borders unaccompanied or separated from their families.
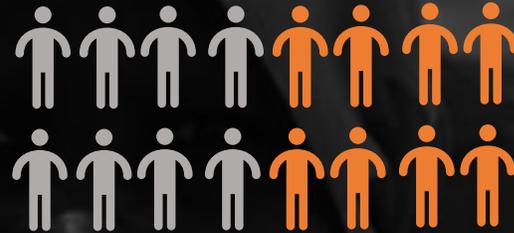
Top refugee-hosting countries

0.5   1   1.5   2   2.5   3   3.5   4

Germany
1.1m

Sudan
1.1m

Uganda
1.2m

Pakistan
1.4m

Turkey
3.7m
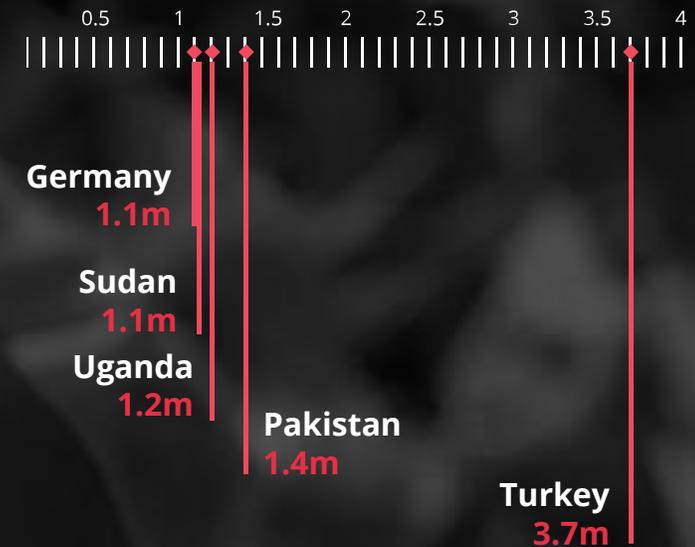
57% of UNHCR refugees came from three countries

**6.7M**
Syria

2.7M
Afghanistan

2.3M
South Sudan

78% of all refugees were in situations lasting for **more than five years**

(a sharp rise from 66 per cent in 2018)

Source: UNHCR, 2018.

The share of migrants from developing countries going to other developing countries was larger than the share going to the "North"

North-North (16%)

North-South (4%)

South-Other High-Income (14%)

South-South (34%)

South-North (32%)

Composition of international migrants and refugees, 2018
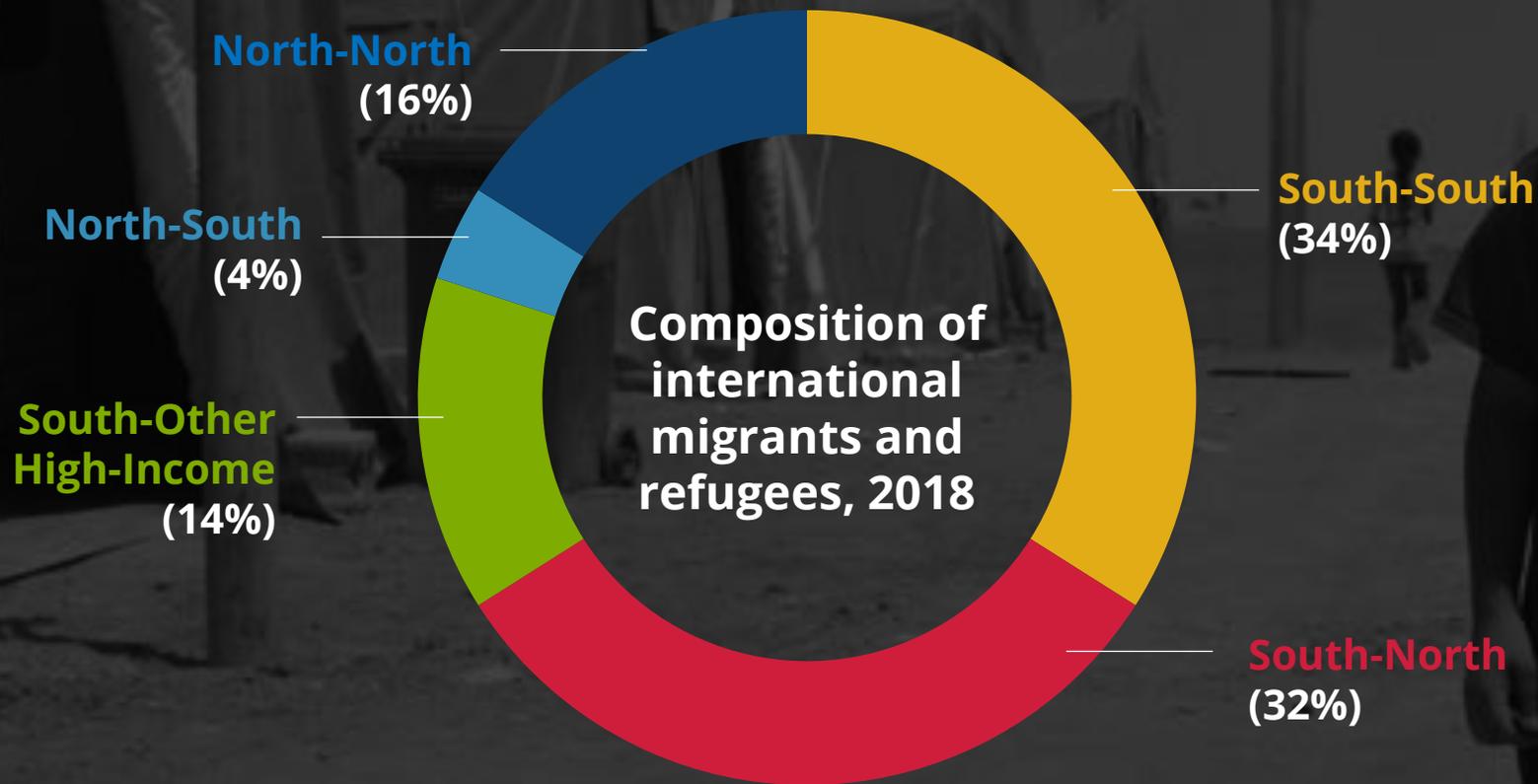
Note: South = Low- and middle-income countries, North = high-income OECD countries

Source: World Bank, 2019. Leveraging Economic Migration for Development: A Briefing for the World Bank Board.

Over two-thirds of international migration in Sub-Saharan Africa and 58 percent in Europe and Central Asia is intra-regional

International migrants and refugees within and across regions and income groups, 2018

Millions, by destination
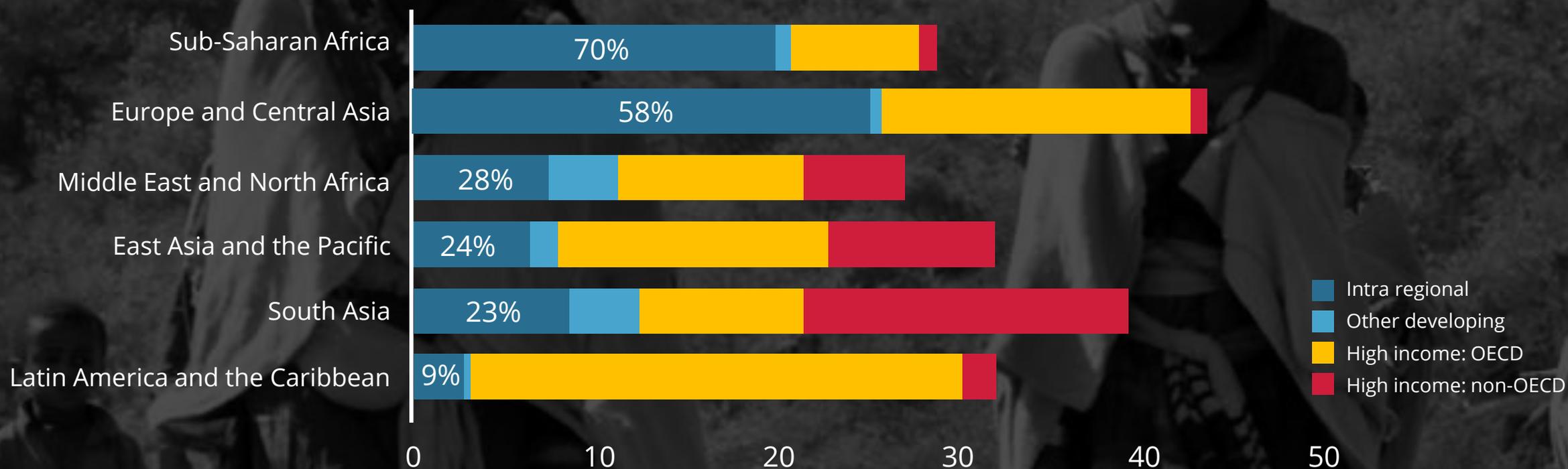
Region	Intra regional	Other developing	High income: OECD	High income: non-OECD
Sub-Saharan Africa	70%			
Europe and Central Asia	58%			
Middle East and North Africa	28%			
East Asia and the Pacific	24%			
South Asia	23%			
Latin America and the Caribbean	9%			

Legend:
- Intra regional
- Other developing
- High income: OECD
- High income: non-OECD

0 10 20 30 40 50

Why do people move
from their countries of origin?

Migration flows are expected to increase in coming years, driven mainly by income gaps, inequality, demographic imbalances, and climate change

MAIN DRIVERS

INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT GAPS

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INEQUALITY

DEMOGAPHIC IMBALANCES

CLIMATE CHANGE

OTHER PUSH AND PULL FACTORS

SOCIAL EXCLUSION AND DISCRIMINATION

CORRUPTION

LACK OF EDUCATION, HEALTHCARE AND SOCIAL SECURITY

MARRIAGE OPPORTUNITIES

DIASPORA NETWORKS

During 2013–17, the average income in the high-income OECD countries was USD 43,083, compared with USD 795 in the low-income countries — a ratio of 54:1

Average income in high-income OECD countries vs low-income countries, 2013-2017

USD

45,000
40,000
35,000
30,000
25,000
20,000
15,000
10,000
5,000
0

USD 43,083

USD 795

High-income
OECD countries

Low-income
countries

Ratio = 54:1
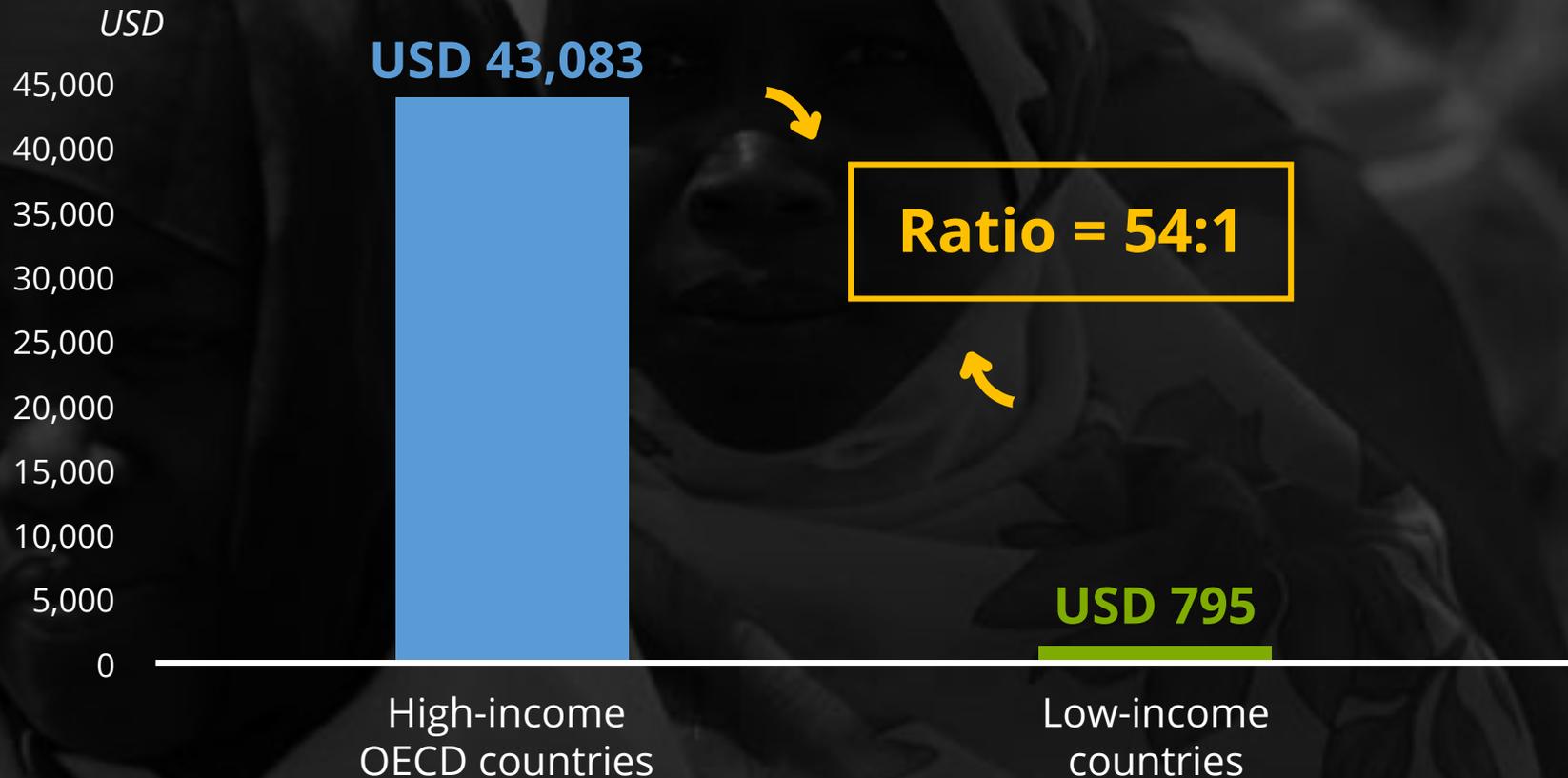
At current growth rates,
it would take

135 years

to close the income gaps

According to current population trajectories, by 2030....

In high-income countries..

For every young person

=

There will be three seniors (65+)

(15-24 years)

In Germany, Italy and Japan

In developing nations...

The ratio of old to young will be:

1:9 in Uganda

1:7 in Nigeria

1:2 in India and Mexico

Projected increase of working-age populations in the world's LMICs

= 552 million by 2030

Consequences

- large labor-market imbalances
- mounting fiscal pressures as tax bases narrow
- costs of care for the elderly rises
- hardening attitudes toward migration

- Growing pools of young people
- Need to generate sufficient jobs to reach their targets for poverty reduction and growth
- Increase migration pressures, esp. from South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa
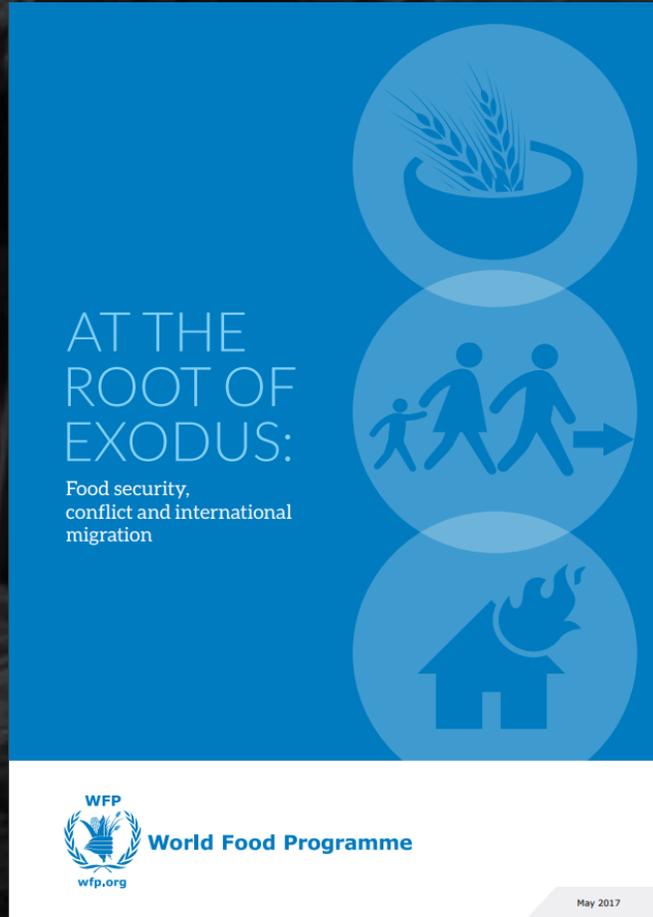
In 2017, WFP conducted a migration study **"At the Root of Exodus"** to explore the nexus of conflict, migration and food security.

The study concluded that **food insecurity is a critical 'push' factor** driving international migration, along with economic opportunities, income inequality, population growth and the existence of established networks for migration.

"High levels of food insecurity lead to higher levels of migration across borders."

Syrian Asylum Applications **in Europe**
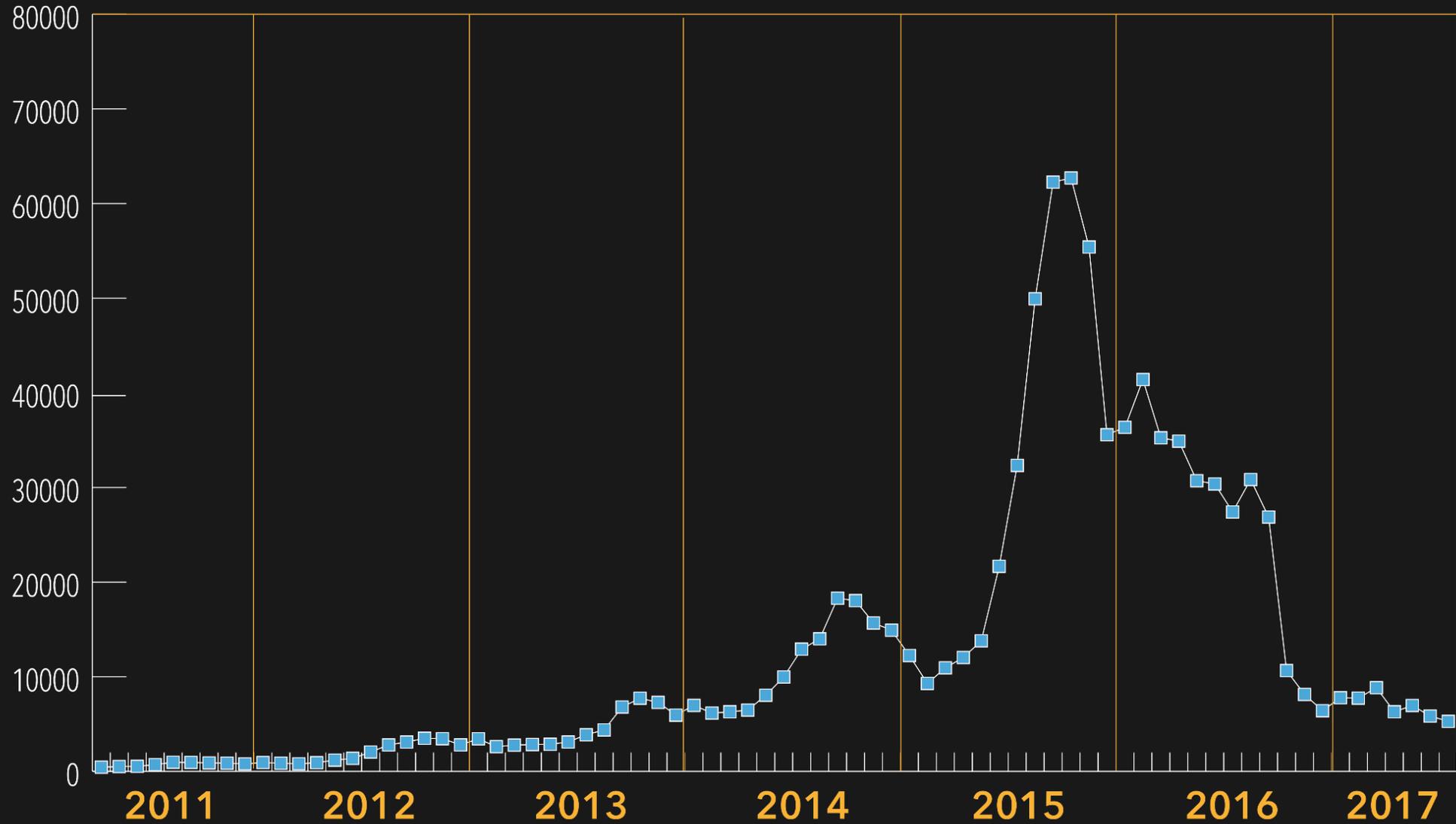
Global drivers of migration

Out-migration is substantially influenced by:

HIGH LEVELS OF UNDERNOURISHMENT	DOMESTIC ECONOMIC GROWTH	PREVIOUS LEVELS OF MIGRATION
Improved undernourishment reduces out-migration by 0.2 percent	Better opportunities within countries of origin offset migration	Presence of diaspora in the recipient country and/or network effects

Global drivers of refugees

For each
1% rise in hunger

an extra 200 out of 10,000
people will flee their country

For each
additional year of conflict

an extra 40 out of 10,000
people will flee their country

Key findings

- Countries with the highest level of food insecurity, coupled with armed conflict, have the highest outward migration of refugees. Additionally, when coupled with poverty, food insecurity increases the likelihood and intensity of armed conflicts.

- Food security, conflict and international migration are issues, which cut across the entire humanitarian-development-peacebuilding nexus with far-reaching implications for policy-makers and the wider international community.

- People leave their countries after multiple internal displacements due to conflict, disrupted livelihoods and food insecurity.

- When migration is conflict-driven, families often travel together.

- Onward migration is driven by a desire for stability triggered by economic factors and food security.

- The use of new technology and social media has revolutionized information flows amongst refugees.

Monitoring the needs
of displaced populations

Migration Pulse initiated in 2018 to monitor hunger, migration and displacement

THE MIGRATION
PULSE

Giving a voice to the displaced
by using advanced digital technologies
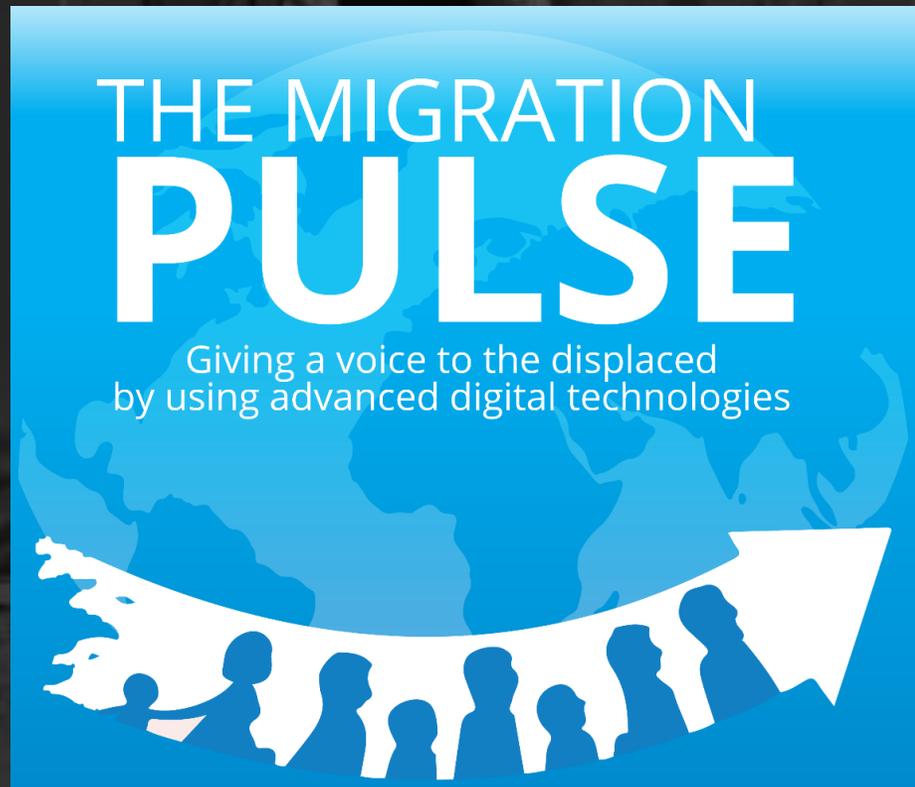
- ✓ Covers **international migrants and refugees, IDPs, host communities, residents and returnees**

- ✓ **Multiple countries**

- ✓ **High-frequency** and **near-real time** data collection

- ✓ Enables **gender- and age- specific** analysis

Data collected: Drivers of displacement, intentions to stay or move, people's livelihoods and needs, food security, and challenges

Innovative assessment tool: Web surveys

57% globally are connected to the internet
(9% increase from 2018-2019)

People on the move are connected: mobile technology is a lifeline for the displaced

Benefits/opportunities:

- **Allows accessing** subgroups that are often "invisible"

- Reach **younger population** groups

- **Faster and cheaper**

- Reduced **environmental footprint**

- **Safe space** for people to respond

- **Partnership** with IOM and others

Migration Pulse coverage: 10 countries

Colombia, Ecuador and Peru
Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Iran, Libya and Nigeria

Cross-border migrants

Host communities

IDPs

Returnees

Residents
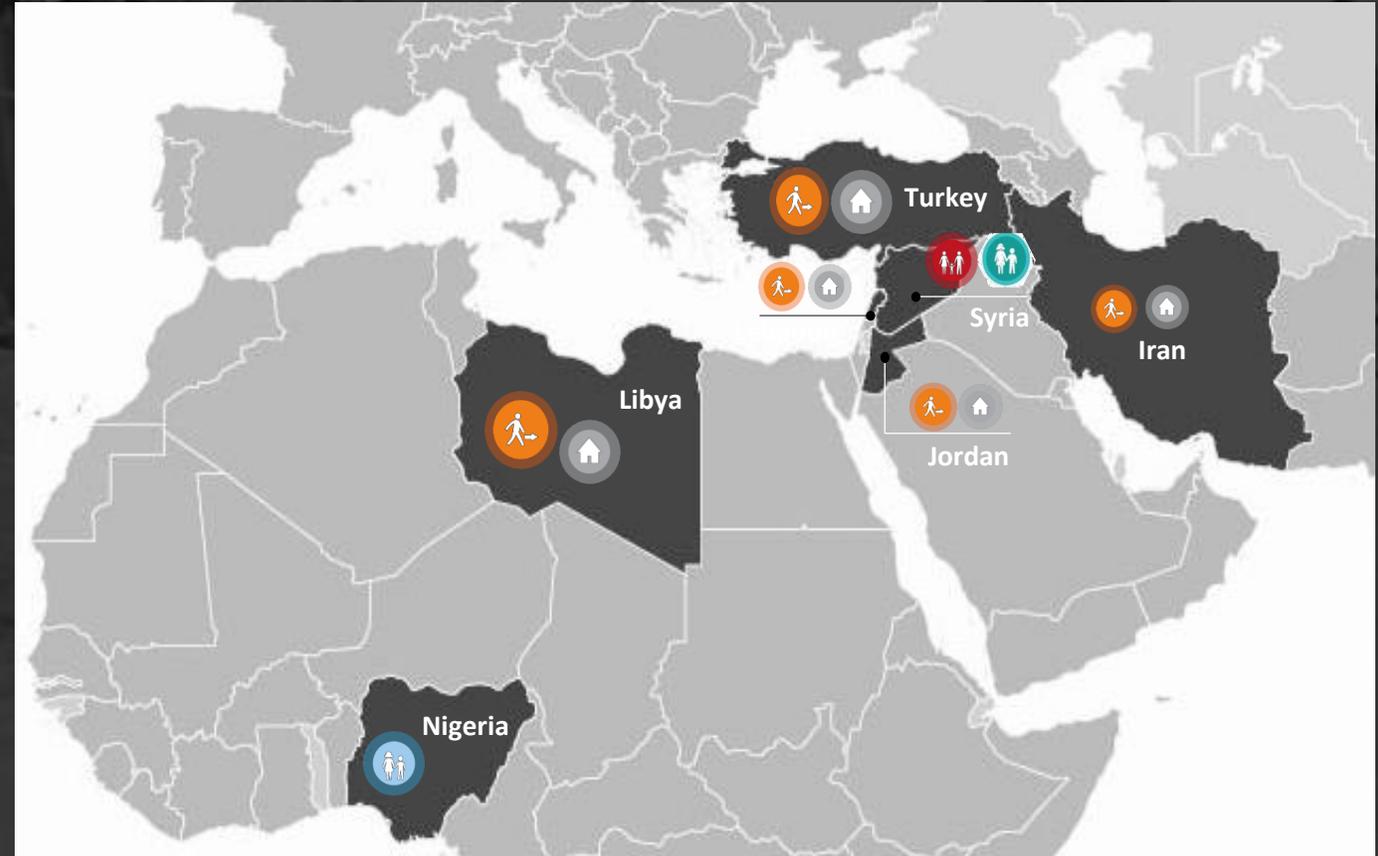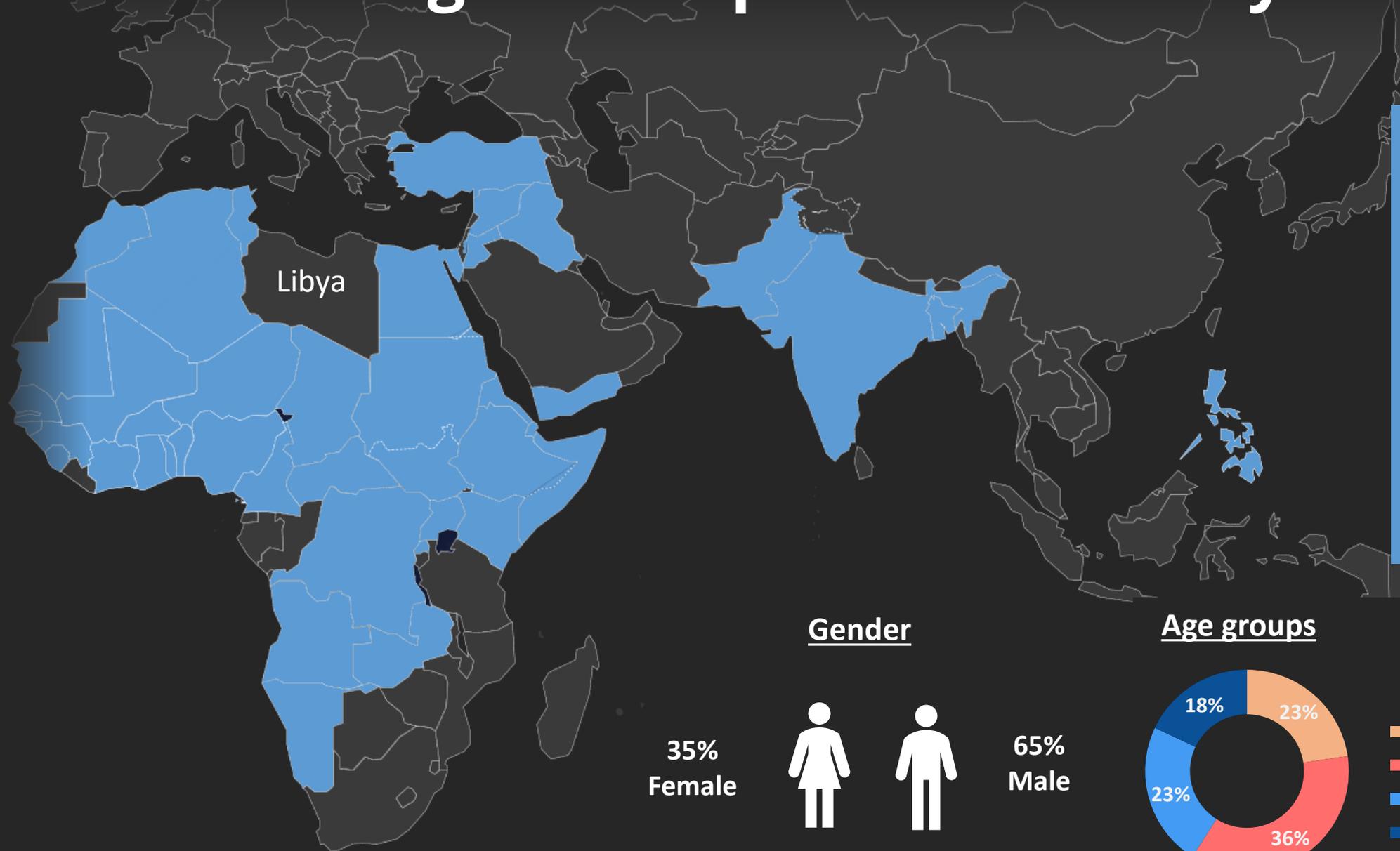
Key findings of the joint IOM-WFP study in Libya

Drivers of migration
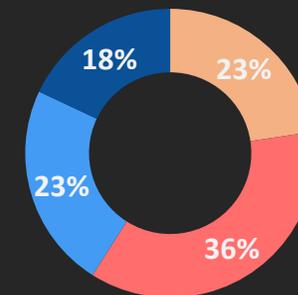
59%
LEFT OUT OF CHOICE

Top drivers

- Search for better income opportunities
- Education

41%
NO CHOICE BUT TO LEAVE

Top drivers

- Poverty
- Conflict/insecurity
- Inability to meet food needs

Key findings of the joint IOM-WFP study in Libya

Food security status

52% of migrants respondents in Libya were **concerned about where their next meal would come from**

30% **Compromised their food consumption**

57% **Are adopting coping strategies** due to lack of food or means to buy food

Remittances

2/3 of migrants sending remittances back home

Main use of remittances reported by migrants:

19% Food needs of family left behind

17% Paying of debts

14% Education

IOM • OIM   WFP

# What we can do to address the root causes of migration

The richest 30 countries in the world spend *far more* money on assisting refugees and asylum seekers in their own countries than humanitarian aid

Components of DAC countries' net ODA (2000-2018)

Internal spending on refugees and asylum seekers

People assisted (2016):
3.8 million

Humanitarian aid

People assisted (2016):
164 million

Legend:
- Net debt relief grants
- In-donor refugee costs
- Humanitarian aid
- Multilateral ODA
- Bilateral development projects, programmes and technical cooperation

Y-axis: Constant 2017 USD billion (0–160)

X-axis: 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018(p)

Data labels: 16.4B (2016); 10.1B (2018); 14.6B (2016); 14.8B (2018)

Remittance flows to LMICs are expected to reach USD 550 billion in 2019—more than three times total development aid. They are likely to overtake foreign direct investment to developing countries.

US$ billions

Remittance flows to low- and middle-income countries, official development assistance and private capital flows, 1990-2018

FDI

Remittances

Portfolio debt and equity flows

ODA
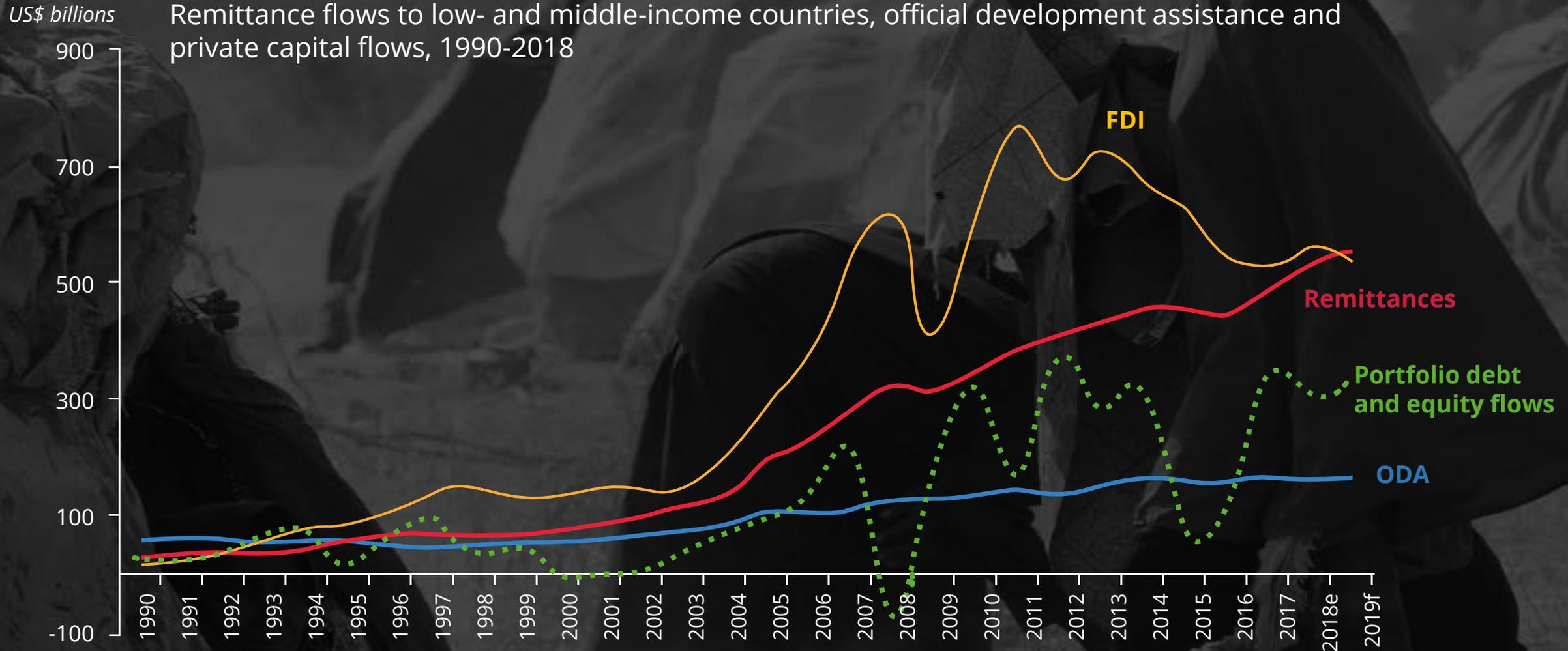
Sources: World Bank staff estimates; World Development Indicators; International Monetary Fund's *Balance of Payment Statistics.*
Note: The figure for 2018 is an estimate and for 2019 is a forecast. FDI = foreign direct investment; ODA = official development assistance.

Recommendations- Short-term

Countries of origin

- **Adequate humanitarian support** must be provided to people who are internally displaced within their own countries, with particular attention on children.

- Invest more in **strengthening livelihoods and food security** in countries of origin to reduce push factors compelling migrants to leave their countries out of destitution.

Host countries

- Support **host communities** as they become more vulnerable over time

- Enhance **joint planning and investments for dignified returns** (for those who wish to return)

Source: WFP.

Recommendations: Mid- and Long-term

Continue monitoring the needs of vulnerable migrants over time to inform more targeted and effective response.

Advocate for more uniform policies and approaches for those involved in responses to international migration

Seek political solutions to conflicts so people can rebuild their lives and livelihoods

Better inter-agency planning and investments for dignified returns (for those who wish to return)

Source: WFP.

Thank you

WFP World Food Programme

WFP reached 86.7M people in 2018: 37% were refugees, IDPs or returnees

3.4M (5%)
RETURNEES

13.1M (15%)
IDPs

14.7M (17%)
REFUGEES

37% increase from 2017

86.7 million people assisted in 2018

53.7M (63%)
RESIDENTS

Source: WFP Annual Performance Report, 2018

IOM • OIM   WFP