

THE DEMOGRAPHIC CRISIS AND GLOBAL MIGRATION – SELECTED ISSUES

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ABSTRACT: Currently the world is undergoing a serious demographic shift, characterised by slowing population growth in developed countries. However, the population in certain less-developed regions of the world is still increasing. According to UN data, as of 2015, (*World... 2015*), 244 million people (or 3.3% of the global population) lived outside their country of birth. While most of these migrants travel abroad looking for better economic and social conditions, there are also those forced to move by political crises, revolutions and war. Such migration is being experienced currently in Europe, a continent which is thus going through both a *demographic crisis* related to the low fertility rate and population ageing, and a *migration crisis*.

Global migrations link up inseparably with demographic transformation processes taking place globally and resulting in the changing tempo of population growth. *Attracting and discouraging* migration factors are changing at the same time, as is the scale and range of global migration, and with these also the global consequences. The focus of work addressed in this paper is on global population, the demographic transformation and the role of global migrations, as well as the range and scale of international migration, and selected aspects of global migrations including participation in the global labour market, the scale of monetary transfers (remittances) and the place of global migration in the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (*Transforming... 2015*) and the Europe of two crises (Domeny 2016).

KEY WORDS: demographic crisis, international migration, demographic transition, attracting and discouraging migration factors, global labour market, monetary transfer, remittances, displacement caused by disasters, UN 2030 Agenda.

INTRODUCTION

The beginning of the 21st century was a period of technological advance and innovation, but also great changes of a demographic, social, economic and political nature. In the recently published World Bank report titled “The Global Monitoring Report 2015/2016 – Development Goals in an Era of Demographic Change”, Jim Yong Kim, the President of the World Bank, said¹: “*The current era of demographic change could prove to be an engine of economic growth, if the right policies were in place to facilitate migration*” ... “*If countries with ageing populations can create a path for refugees and migrants to participate in the economy, everyone benefits*”... “*Most of the evidence suggests that migrants will work hard and contribute more in taxes than they consume in social services.*”

Currently the world is undergoing a serious demographic shift, which is characterised by slowing population growth in developed countries. However, the population in certain less-developed regions of the world is still increasing. Well-developed countries in most cases have a low fertility rate, ageing population and unfavorable age structure. Developing countries have a young age structure, such that migrations between them can help with adaptation to uneven demographic change.

According to UN data, as of 2015 (*World... 2015*) there were 244 million people (or 3.3% of the global population) living outside their country of birth. While most of these migrants travel abroad looking for better economic and social conditions, there are also of course some who are forced to migrate by political crises, revolutions and war. Migration of the latter sort is currently being experienced in Europe, where the massive influx of immigrants and refugees is resulting in rising xenophobia and calls for borders to be closed. We can thus say that Europe – as a continent – is currently experiencing 2 crises, i.e. a *demographic crisis* related to the low fertility rate and population ageing, and a *migration crisis*.

Global migrations link up inseparably with demographic transformation processes currently taking place around the world, and resulting in a changing of tempo where population growth is concerned. At the same time, the *attracting and discouraging* migration factors are changing as well. The scale and range of global migration is also changing, and with them the global consequences.

In the light of the above, the work carried out for this report has focused on global population, demographic transformation and the role of global migrations, the range and scale of international migration, and selected aspects of global migrations as participation on the global labour market, the scale of monetary transfers, the place of global migration on the UN 2030 Agenda (*Transforming... 2015*) and the Europe of two crises (Domeny 2016).

Alongside low fertility and population ageing, global migrations have come to be seen as among the most important and influential demographic processes taking place in the world now. Thinking about the demographic crisis entails the consideration of

¹ Compare: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/global-monitoring-report>

a low fertility phenomenon, which, along with the growing average life expectancy, is associated with population decrease and depopulation in certain countries and regions (where population growth is very low, close to zero, or negative). This is accompanied by population ageing and a disturbance in intergenerational relations. Then, to be set against that, there is the intensity and range of international migrations, on an unprecedented scale and sometimes uncontrolled, as can be exemplified readily by the Europe of the so-called *migration crisis* over the last few years.

GLOBAL POPULATION DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSFORMATION AND INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

The Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat has published the 2015 Revision of WORLD POPULATION PROSPECTS (*World... 2015*). This new demographic prognosis for the world population presents the projected population for the period 2015–2100. Synthetic results for it are as presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Population (in millions) of the world and major areas, 2015, 2030, 2050 and 2100, according to the medium-variant projection

Major areas	Population (millions)				Relation in per cent (+ increase, – decrease)	
	2015	2030	2050	2100	2100/2050	2100/2015
World	7 349	8 501	9 725	11 213	132 (+ 32%)	153 (+ 53%)
Africa	1 186	1 679	2 478	4 387	208 (+ 108%)	370 (+ 270%)
Asia	4 393	4 923	5 267	4 889	120 (+ 20%)	111 (+ 11%)
Europe	738	734	707	646	96 (– 4%)	88 (– 12%)
Latin America and the Caribbean	634	721	784	721	124 (+ 24%)	114 (+ 14%)
Northern America	358	396	433	500	121 (+ 21%)	140 (+ 40%)
Oceania	39	47	57	71	146 (+ 46%)	182 (+ 82%)

Source: *World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision*, 2015, New York: United Nations.

According to the 2015 Revision (*World... 2015*), the world population in the middle of 2015 reached 7.3 billion. In 2015 the most populated continent was Asia, with 60% of the global population. The second most populated continent is Africa, with 16%, followed on 10% by Europe, with 9% in Latin America and the Caribbean, and finally the remaining 5% in Northern America and Oceania. The world population is projected to increase by more than one billion people within the next 15 years, reaching 8.5 billion in 2030; and to increase further to 9.7 billion in 2050 and 11.2 billion by 2100.

The dynamic characterising the changes varies markedly between major areas of the world. The last two columns in Table 1 include change indicators (simple indexes)

for the years 2050/2015 and 2100/2015. From them we may conclude that the African population will show the most marked upward trend in the years 2015–2100. The population of Africa between 2015 and 2100 will grow by 3200 million (270%), and this growth will constitute over 80% of the global total. Further regions in which the populations are set to rise are North America (by 40%) and Oceania (by 82%), but these regions have very much lower overall populations at present. In the shorter term, i.e. 2015–2050, the two continents forecast to experience very rapid growth are Asia (by 120%) and Africa (by 108%).

According to the UN 2015 forecasts (*World... 2015*) both of the abovementioned sub-periods will witness a decline in the population of Europe – the only continent that will experience an absolute decrease of population and a reduced contribution to the global population.

The above figures obviously reflect accepted assumptions as regards fertility rates, mortality and migration. When it comes to the changes in fertility rates and mortality, indicators change in line with what demographers call the demographic transition. The scale of these changes over the years 1950–2100 are as presented in Figure 1.

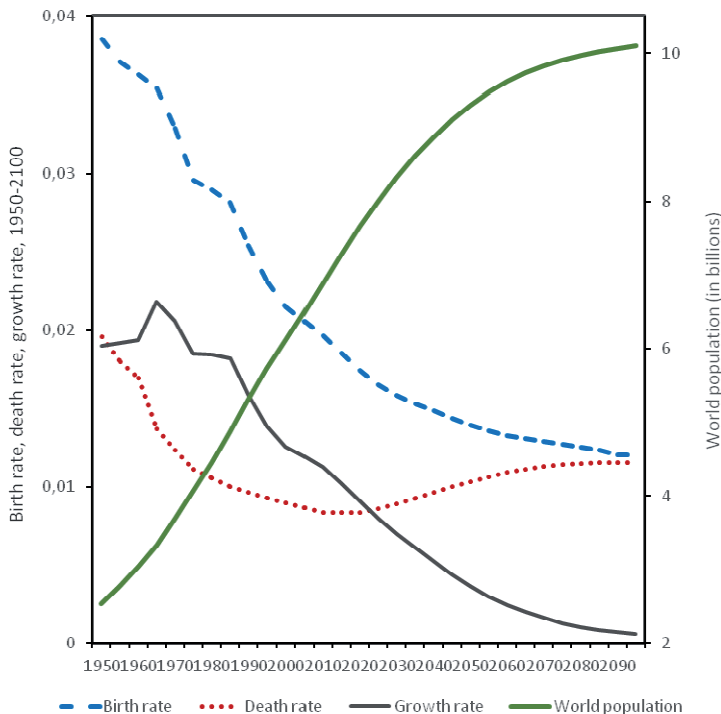


Figure 1. Demographic transition and growth rate – world population – years 1950–2100

Source: original United Nations data as of 2011 for picture available from Prof. Frans Willekens, scientific data files.

Changes in birth rate (which has been falling gradually since the 1950s) and death rate have resulted in a decline in the growth rate of the world population since 1970s. At the same time, as we see in the UN forecast – 2015 revision (*World... 2015*), population growth varies from region to region, with the effect that there are variable dynamics for the absolute numbers of people in various regions of the world. The traditional model for the demographic transition takes into consideration the relationship between fertility and mortality. However, in demographic publications and other sources, migration has also been included into the demographic transition process (compare among others: Coleman 2006, Willekens 2014, Domeny 2016, Fargues 2011, Lee and Reher 2011, van de Kaa 2008, Frątczak 2013).

P. Fargues (2011, 2013) explores the relationship between the demographic transition and international migration in line with the perspectives from many different disciplines. His framework on the interaction between international migration and the demographic transition consists of two parts (Fargues 2011, p. 591–592). *“Part I. focuses on the impact of international migration, on demographic transition in the developing world, and, more precisely, on birth control and the transition from high to low fertility rates amongst migrants in host countries and non-migrants in source countries. It argues that, because migrants remit ideas to their home countries and because most recent migration has been from high to low birth -rate countries, international migration has contributed to spreading values and practices that produce low birth rates in origin countries. International migration has, therefore, led to a smaller world population than the one that would have been observed in a zero migration scenario. Part II is a first attempt to look at the symmetrical influence of demographic change on international migration. It shows that declining birth rates in origin countries are generating a new migrant profile. While international migrants of earlier times started to build a family before migrating, new migrants typically leave no spouses or children in the home country, as a result of relatively unchanged age patterns of migration while marriage takes place later in the life cycle and fewer children are procreated. Final conclusion suggest that this fundamental change may produce a critical shift in the economy of migration.”*

The global demographic transformation which includes the three abovementioned processes (fertility, mortality and migration) is a common phenomenon. The changes in these processes take place in particular reality, and are therefore linked to social and economic processes, technology and innovation, as well as cultural changes. These in turn influence the individuals who make the decision to change (or not to change) their lives for the better. According to F. Willekens (2014, p. 1), the human desire to lead a long and fulfilling life is the main driving factor behind demographic change, and its scope depends on: a) diffusion processes that govern the transmission of values, preferences, norms and practices and b) inertia in a population due to its composition.

Evidence shows that the development of global population will be a varied process. The most dynamic growth will be seen in less-developed countries of Africa and Asia.

Human beings' desire to change their lives for the better will always exist, so the world can expect great waves of migrants coming from these countries in the future.

THE RANGE AND SCALE OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

According to the UN data 2016 data (*International... 2016*), international migration is a global phenomenon of growing scope, complexity and impact. Migration is both a cause and effect of broader development processes and an intrinsic feature of our ever-globalizing world. While no substitute for development, migration can be a positive force underpinning the latter when supported by the right set of policies. The rise in global mobility, the growing complexity of migratory patterns and its impact on countries, migrants, families and communities have all contributed to international migration becoming a priority for the international community². Today, about 250 million people are living outside their countries of origin. They have left their homes (countries) for a variety of reasons, including conflict, natural disasters or environmental degradation, political persecution, poverty, discrimination and lack of access to basic services and the search for new opportunities, particularly in terms of work or education. In migration studies, the answers to questions regarding the reasons for migration make reference to push and pull factors (where the former induce movement out of a present location and the latter movement into a new location). The list of individual factors is long, but the **push-pull** typology identifies economic, environmental, cultural and political groups thereof. Most people in the world migrate because for economic reasons, but cultural, political and environmental factors also induce the phenomenon, albeit not as frequently. Environmental factors pull people towards physically attractive regions, while pushing them from hazardous ones. Attractive regions are ones with a warm climate, as well as mountainous and coastal regions. Too much or too little water, and natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes, volcanic activity and other environmental risks are reasons for changing one's location. Figure 2 presents the data on the dynamics of international migration changes and the scale of migration.

The number of international migrants and refugees more than doubled in the years 1970–2015, increasing by 220%. In absolute terms, this means an increase in numbers of almost 172 million. Particularly rapid growth has been observable since 1990, when the number of refugees was highest – at 27.4 million. Migrants constitute 3.3% of the global population, but their distribution varies from region to region. According to the UN – *Population Facts* No. 4/2015 (*Trends... 2015*) nearly two-thirds of all international migrants live in Europe (76 million) or Asia (75 million). Northern America hosts

² See: <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/theme/international-migration/>

The United Nations defines a migrant as 'an individual who has resided in a foreign country for more than one year irrespective of the causes, voluntary or involuntary, and the means, regular or irregular, used to migrate'. This definition formally encompasses refugees, asylum-seekers and economic migrants. More information about the definition is given in Footnote 1.

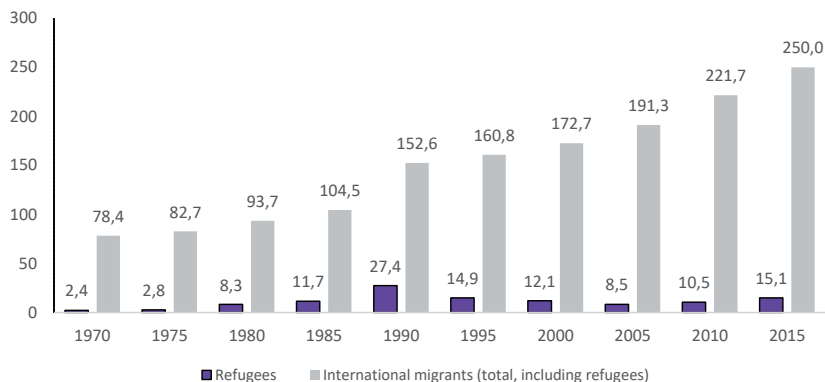


Figure 2. Global Stock of Refugees and International Migrants (in millions)

Source: Figure 1, Migration and Development Brief 2016 Migration and Remittances.

Recent Developments and Outlook. World Bank Group. KNOMAD, April 2016. p. 1.

<http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/661301460400427908/MigrationandDevelopmentBrief26.pdf>

the third-largest number of international migrants (54 million), followed by Africa (21 million), Latin America and the Caribbean (9 million) and Oceania (8 million). The demographic characteristics of migrants are described as follows:

- Women are active participants in migration, accounting for 48% of the global international stock in 2015, although the share varies according by major region. The lowest proportion is the 42% noted in Asia, while the highest are the 52.4 and 51.2% noted in Europe and Northern America respectively. The higher percentage of women among migrants in Europe and Northern America reflects the participation in migration of older women, and it is common demographic knowledge that women have a longer life expectancy;
- When it comes to migrants' ages, the median age of a foreign-born person worldwide was 39 years as of 2015. This means that it is mostly young people who take part in international migrations. The youngest international migrants, of median age 29, are those living in Africa, as followed by Asia (35 years) and Latin America and the Caribbean (36 years). Older migrants are in Northern America, Europe and Oceania, where median ages range between 42 and 44 years;
- Most international migrants are people of working age. In 2015, 72% of the global number of international migrants were aged between 20 and 64, with this translating to 177 million people in absolute terms.

To be borne in mind in a troubled world with many conflicts is the number of instances of forced migration. According to data from the Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC- IOM), *Global Migration Trends Factsheet*, (*Global...* 2015, pp. 8, 9), at the end of 2014, 59.5 million individuals worldwide had been forcibly displaced by persecution, conflict, generalised violence or human rights violations. Basic information about: **Refugees, conflict-induced international displacement – Asylum-seekers** is included in Box 1.

BOX 1.

Refugees, conflict-induced international displacement – Asylum-seekers

By mid-2015, the world was hosting 15.1 million refugees (under UNHCR mandate). Over three and a half years, the global refugee population grew by 45%, largely due to civil conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic. In the first half of 2015, some 5 million persons were newly displaced, according to UNHCR: 4.2 million within their own countries, and over 800,000 across international borders. Turkey and Pakistan are the main refugee-hosting countries globally (in absolute terms), with, respectively, 1.84 and 1.51 million refugees registered in the countries by June 2015. These countries are followed by Lebanon (1.2 million), the Islamic Republic of Iran (982,000) and Ethiopia (702,500).

People who were internally displaced due to conflict and violence were estimated at 38 million by the end of 2014. This represents a 15% increase on 2013 figures, and includes 11 million people newly displaced in 2014 alone. Five countries accounted for 60% of the total number of newly displaced worldwide in 2014, i.e. Iraq, South Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Democratic Republic of The Congo and Nigeria. More recent figures for internal conflict- and violence-induced displacement are based on assistance extended by international organizations, namely the IOM and UNHCR, and are descriptive only, in nature. By mid-2015, UNHCR registered over 34 million cases of internal displacement globally. IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix system, a tool tracking displacement in countries affected by conflicts or natural disasters, tracked over 9 million people caught in conflict and natural disasters across 24 countries, between 2014 and mid-2015.

The number of asylum-seekers has grown steadily over the last four years and is at a record high. Asylum claims globally (pending cases) reached almost 1 million in the first half of 2015, compared with 558,000 in the same period of 2014. On the basis of statistics for the first semester of 2015, Germany exceeded the Russian Federation and became the largest single recipient of first-time individual asylum claims globally, with 161,975 new requests; and the number had grown to 441,800 by the end of 2015. The country was followed by the Russian Federation, with 100,000 asylum applications in the same period (98% lodged by Ukrainians), and the United States, which received some 78,200 asylum claims.

The EU-28 as a whole received over 1.2 million new asylum claims in 2015, more than double the number in 2014 (almost 563,000). As mentioned, most of these claims were made in Germany, followed by Hungary (174,425), Sweden (156,120), Austria (85,500), Italy (83,240) and France (70,565).

Source: *Global Migration Trends*, Factsheet, 2015, GMDAC, IMO, 2015 pp. 8 & 9.

It is difficult not to mention the scale of the disasters inducing international displacement. According to *Global Estimates 2015 "People displaced by disasters"* (Internal... 2015, p. 8), the global data do not extend to displacement related to drought and gradual processes of environmental degradation, and nor do they reflect the complexity and diversity of people's individual situations or how they evolve over time³. The scale of global displacement by disasters in the years 2008–2014 is as presented in Figure 3.

³ The 2015 report draws on information from a wide range of sources, including governments, UN and international organisations, NGOs and the media, with a view to providing up-to-date statistics on the incidence of displacement caused by disasters associated with geophysical and weather-related hazards, such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, floods and storms.

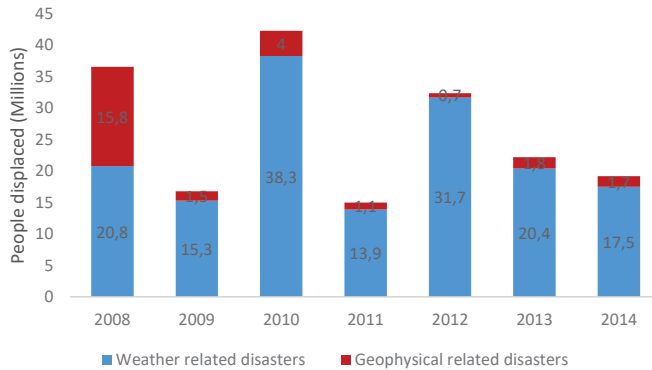


Figure 3. The global scale of displacement caused by disasters in the period 2008–2014

Note: Differences in totals are due to rounding of figures to the nearest decimal point.

Source: IDMC data as of 1 June 2015.

The synthetic results of modelling and analysis of global displacement trends for 1970–2014 combine with the data in the period 2008–2014 presented in the report quoted (Internal... 2015, p. 8, 9) to show information as follows:

- More than 19.3 million people were displaced by disasters in 100 countries in 2014; while, since 2008, an average of 26.4 million people have been displaced by disasters each year – equivalent to one person every second. 17.5 million people were displaced by disasters brought on by weather-related hazards in 2014, and 1.7 million by geophysical hazards;
- An average of 22.5 million people have been displaced each year by climate or weather-related disasters in the last seven years – equivalent to 62 000 people every day. The largest increases in displacement are related to weather and climate-related hazards, and floods in particular. Climate change, in tandem with people’s increasing exposure and vulnerability, is expected to magnify this trend, as extreme weather events become more frequent and intense in the coming decades;
- Historical models applied to the displacement trend in the period 1970–2014 suggest that, even after adjusting for population growth, the likelihood of being displaced by a disaster today is 60% higher than it was four decades ago. 1998 was a peak year for displacement, correlating as it does with the strongest iteration of El Niño on record. Extreme weather events associated with it included Hurricane Mitch, which devastated several countries in Central America;
- Displacement has geographical distribution and is the most major event. While Asia is home to 60% of the world’s population, it accounted for 87% of the people displaced by disasters worldwide in 2014. 16.7 million people were forced to flee their homes in the region. Europe experienced double its average level of displacement for the past seven years in 2014, with 190 000 people displaced, most of them by flooding in the Balkans. In absolute terms, displacement in Africa was at only one-third of the average level in 2014, though many African countries experienced high levels relative

to their population size. Developing countries are consistently the worst affected, with almost 175 million people displaced since 2008, or 95% of global total. The figure for 2014 was 17.4 million, or 91% of the global total.

SELECTED ASPECTS OF GLOBAL MIGRATION

International migration is a phenomenon so multidimensional that the discussion of every aspect of it proves impossible. Here, therefore, consideration will be confined to the economic activity of migrants, remittances and the place of migration in The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (*Transforming... 2015*).

Globalisation processes are resulting in greater mobility of the work force. In many regions of the world, especially where the fertility rate is low and there is shortage of people of working age as the population ageing process progresses, there is a demand for the foreign workers who even make the sustained economic development of a number of countries possible at all. This means that economic migrants are a group displaying a high growth dynamic. A special International Labour Organization (ILO) report of global estimates on migrant workers – special focus on migration of domestic workers (*ILO... 2015*), includes estimates for migrant domestic workers based on figures from 2013. The results of these assessments can be summarised as follows:

- Within the 2013 total of 232 million migrants worldwide, there are 150.3 million migrant workers. Of these, 11.5 million are migrant domestic workers⁴. Among the migrant workers, 83.7 million (55.7%) are men, while 66.6 million (44.3%) are women. Migrants constitute about 3.9% of the total global population aged 15 and over, while working migrants constitute as much as 4.4% off the working population globally;
- There are visible differences in labour-force participation rates among migrants and non-migrants, especially gender-wise. A higher labour-force participation rate – of 72.7% – characterises migrants, as compared with non-migrants, for whom the figure is 63.9%. While the indicators for men are similar, the corresponding indicators for women assume values of 67% in the case of migrant women, and 50.8% for non-migrant women;
- The vast majority of migrant workers are in high-income countries; of the global total of 150.3 million migrant workers, an estimated 112.3 million (74.7%) were in countries classified as high-income, while 17.5 million (11.7%) were in upper-middle income countries and 16.9 million (11.3%) were in lower-middle income countries. The smallest number of migrant workers was in low-income countries, with the absolute figure being 3.5 million and the share 2.4%;
- ILO estimates reveal migrants concentrated in certain economic sectors, albeit with notable gender differences. As of 2103, the bulk of migrant workers in the

⁴ The term “migrant worker” refers to all international migrants who are currently employed or are unemployed and seeking employment in their present country of residence.

world were engaged in services, with 106.8 million out of a total of 150.3 million equating to 71.1%. Industry, including manufacturing and construction, accounted for 26.7 million (17.8%) and agriculture for 16.7 million (11.1%).

The labour activity of migrants is sufficient in scale for migration to be seen increasingly as a contributor to development. Migrations thus make an important contribution to the economic prosperity of host countries, while also being associated with the flow of financial, social and human capital and technology back to the origin countries, which in turn experience boosted economic development. Families and local economies gain support, and areas of deep poverty may even experience relief. Remittances – sums sent from migrants to their families back home – may prove to be the main source of capital for developing countries, improve the quality and conditions of life of families left behind and often paying for the education of the migrants' children. What is more, financial transfers in this area are characterised by high growth dynamics. Relevant data are presented in Table 2.

According to the World Bank's Migration and Remittances Factbook 2016 (*Migration... 2016*), remittances sent home by international migrants from developing countries are estimated at the level of \$432 billion in 2015, with a lowered growth rate at a level of 0.4%. However the prognoses for the years 2016–2018 are optimistic, assuming growth rates of between 3.8 and 4.1%.

The most major transfers of remittances were (and according to prognoses will be) sent to the East Asia and Pacific Region – 72% of the total in 2010, and 74% in 2018. The second-placed region in this respect comprises Latin America and the Caribbean, in which the share of such transfers globally was estimated at 11% as of 2015. The third region is the Middle East and North Africa, though this accounted for just 9% of the 2015 total globally.

International migration was not referred to in the UN Millennium Development Goals, though the subject of migration (in this context international migration) was examined at all the World Population Conferences. The Programme of Action, adopted at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), provides the most comprehensive negotiated text on international migration to date⁵. Starting in 2006, the international community has been taking action to integrate international migration into the global agency of development. These actions have proved successful, to the extent that the adopted 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development sees migration integrated into the sustainable development goals and targets⁶. According to the 2030 *Agenda (Transforming... 2015)*, goals include:

- respect for the human rights of all migrants, regardless of their migration status,
- account taken of the vulnerabilities of migrants, refugees and internally-displaced persons,

⁵ Compare: Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994 (United Nations Publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

⁶ See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>

- recognition of the contribution to global sustainable development made by migration,
- efforts to address forced displacement and humanitarian crises,
- the promotion of international cooperation,
- strengthening of the resilience of host communities,
- support for citizens' rights to return to their country of origin.

Table 2. Estimates (e) and Projections (f) for Remittance Flows to Developing Countries

	2010	2013	2014	2015e	2016f	2017f	2018f
	(\$ billions)						
Developing countries	331.7	416.6	429.9	431.6	447.9	465.7	484.7
East Asia and Pacific	94.1	113.4	121.8	127.0	131.0	135.5	140.3
Europe and Central Asia	31.4	47.7	43.4	34.6	36.3	38.3	40.3
Latin America and Caribbean	55.7	61.1	63.6	66.7	69.3	71.9	74.6
Middle-East and North Africa	38.9	48.8	50.8	50.3	51.6	53	54.5
South Asia	82.0	110.8	115.5	117.9	123.3	129.3	135.8
Sub-Saharan Africa	29.7	34.7	34.8	35.2	36.4	37.7	39.1
World	460.5	573.0	592.0	581.6	603.2	626.4	651.3
Memo: Developing countries (2010–2015 classification)*	343.0	432.6	447.2	446.7	463.8	482.4	502.4
	(Growth rate, percent)						
Developing countries	11.4	4.9	3.2	0.4	3.8	4	4.1
East Asia and Pacific	20	6.8	7.4	4.2	3.2	3.4	3.6
Europe and Central Asia	5.5	18.4	−9	−20.3	5.1	5.4	5.2
Latin America and Caribbean	2.6	2.3	4	4.8	3.9	3.8	3.8
Middle-East and North Africa	17.9	0.8	4	−0.9	2.6	2.7	2.8
South Asia	9.4	2.6	4.3	2	4.6	4.9	5.1
Sub-Saharan Africa	8.3	1.1	0.2	1	3.4	3.7	3.7
World	8.4	5.3	3.3	−1.7	3.7	3.8	4

Note: Balance of Payments data have undergone major revisions for past years for certain countries. In particular, the historical data on remittances for 2010, 2013 and 2014 have been revised upwards in many countries.

* This group includes countries classified as “developing countries” at any time during 2010–2015. Nine upper-middle-income countries in 2010 are classified as high-income countries in 2015, and therefore, are no longer considered developing countries. These countries are Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Chile, Lithuania, Russian Federation, Seychelles, St. Kitts and Nevis, Uruguay, and Venezuela. The group also includes Hungary, which was classified as upper-middle-income in 2013 and 2014, and Latvia, which was in the same category in 2011 and 2012.

Source: Table 1. p. 6. Migration and Development Brief 2016, <http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/661301460400427908/MigrationandDevelopmentBrief26.pdf>

2015 was thus a year in which the global community underscored the important contribution to sustainable development that migrants make. With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, world leaders vowed to protect the labour rights of migrant workers, to combat the transnational networks via which human trafficking takes place, and to promote well-regulated migration and mobility. By addressing root causes, the 2030 *Agenda* also seeks to tackle the developmental, governance-related and human-rights challenges that are driving people to flee their homes in the first place. We may only hope that the goals will be achieved successfully by the international community.

FINAL CONCLUSIONS

The world today finds itself in a situation that may be described as “A WORLD ON THE MOVE”, and migration processes may be regarded as a constant. Equally, the data on situation to date show clearly that the majority of migrants from the years 2000–2015 moved to highly developed countries (Fig. 4).

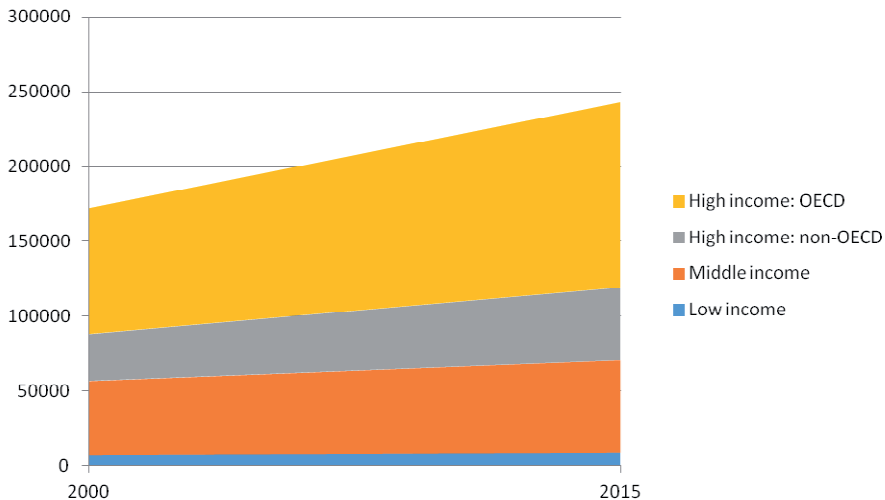


Figure 4. Number of international migrants by income group of country or area of destination, 2000 and 2015 (in millions)

Source: http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/publications/migrationreport/docs/MigrationReport2015_Highlights.pdf

In 2015, 71% of international migrants worldwide (i.e. 173 million) lived in high-income countries. Of these, 124 million were being hosted by high-income OECD countries, with 49 million living in other high-income non-OECD countries. In contrast, 71 million migrants, i.e. 29%, were living in middle- or low-income countries. The majority of the world’s migrants can thus be said to live in high-income countries, which have absorbed most of the recent growth in the global population of international migrants.

Any question posed as regards the future of migration would make reference to projection in line with the two scenarios presented in Figure 5.

Two scenarios were used to forecast international migration. The first assumes a rate of growth in the phenomenon in the years 2015–2050 at the same level as in 1990–2000 (1.13), with the result that migration projected for 2050 is at a level around 400 million. The second scenario assumes growth as in the years 2000–2010 (a rate of 1.28), which results in migration reaching a level just above 650 million by 2050. The difference between the two forecasts is marked, at around 250 million people, which incidentally equals the starting point international migration finds itself at in 2015. Given perceived changes in the scale and scope of migration, especially over the last 10 years, it is the second scenario that seems far more plausible. It is certainly reasonable to expect growth in global international migration over the next few years, with the potential migration regions being those expected to experience the most dynamic population growth in the decades to come, i.e. Africa and Asia.

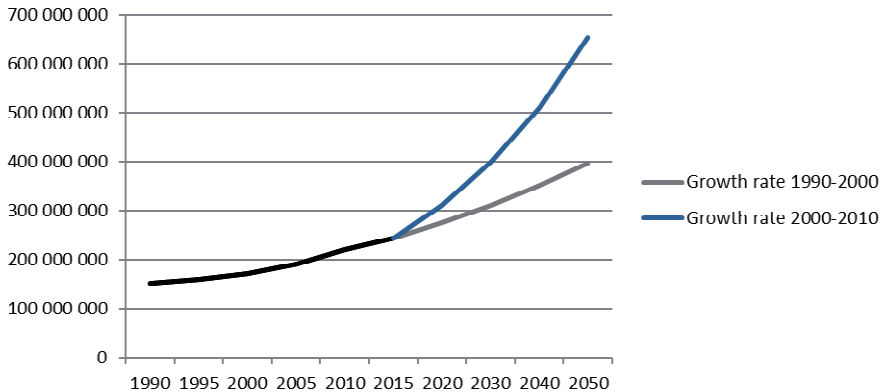


Figure 5. A growing pool of migrant in 1990–2050 projections (in millions)

Source: <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/data/estimates2/estimates15.shtml>

Migration (and especially uncontrolled migration) can obviously give rise to serious problems resembling those being experienced in Europe today. Europe, affected by low fertility and the population ageing crisis, is experiencing a huge wave of migration, which is to a large extent uncontrolled (*Niekontrolowane...* 2015). Currently we have a Europe of twin demographic and migration crises, as were rightly identified by P. Demeny (2016) as *Two demographic crises: the visible and the unrecognized*. The migration crisis in Europe is not of course local, but rather one of an international, global nature. Demeny (2016, p. 111, 112) comments on Europe's two crises thus:

By most reasonable definitions of the term, the European Union is experiencing a demographic crisis rooted in a shortage of births relative to deaths. In the great majority of the EU's 28 member countries, fertility is far below the level that would

be necessary for the reproduction of the population over time. If it were maintained in the coming decades at such a low level, population size in the affected countries would be cut by more than half in the short span of two generations – roughly 60 years. This drastically reduced population would have an age distribution inconsistent with economic sustainability.

In contrast, another demographic crisis that confronts the EU is only too visible and palpable: the crisis of immigration. Like the situation of far-below-replacement fertility, it would call for policy responses that are effective and based on broad public consensus. But despite immigration's dramatic visibility and effects, the responses to it thus far have been confused and ineffective.

Recent experiences show that the number of international migrants worldwide has grown faster than the world's population. The rapid growth ensures that the share of migrants in the total population was 3.3% in 2015, as compared with 2.8% in 2000. Given its large scale, international migration contributes significantly to population growth in many parts of the world, and reverses negative growth in some countries or areas. Moreover, migration can mitigate a long-term trend towards population ageing, as is also made clear by the situation in some parts of Europe.

According to the report *The Global Estimates: People displaced by disasters 2015*, as drawn up by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) of the Norwegian Refugee Council – NRC (Internal... 2015): as of 2014, 19.3 million people were displaced by disasters for which “mother nature was not to blame”, given that – for example – the likelihood of being displaced by disaster today is 60% higher than it was four decades ago. Disaster displacement is on the rise, and as policy leaders worldwide advance towards the adoption of a post-2015 global agenda, the time to address that has never been better⁷.

The global system of migration has changed over the last few decades with regard to both origins and destinations, as well as level and type. Regions and countries that were once mostly origins for migration now become destinations therefor, and *vice versa*. A striking example is Europe, which has changed in recent decades from being a major area of emigration (mostly to America and Australia) to a major region for immigration. Nowadays, the problem of mass immigration to Europe from Asia, Africa and other region in the world, is not a regional migration crisis affecting Europe, but a worldwide phenomenon.

In our times international migration is displaying ever-greater dynamics in every region of the world, and there is every evidence that this trend will continue. Migrants, as well as refugees, pose a challenge to many individuals and societies in their countries of destination, because the numbers if the former can be sufficient to disturb the cultural, social and economic space in the said countries. It can sometimes even happen that immigrants question the existing system of norms, values and traditions, thereby

⁷ <http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/20150713-global-estimates-2015-en.pdf> and <http://reliefweb.int/report/world/global-estimates-2015-people-displaced-disasters>

generating various major problems, as the last two years in Europe make clear. There can thus be no doubt that communities receiving large numbers of migrants face new challenges.

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Footnote 1. Definition of Refugees, IDPs and Migrants

Refugees are those fleeing conflict, violence or persecution across an international border. Asylum seekers are those still in the process of having their refugee status determined.

Internally-displaced persons (IDPs) are people who have been forced to move due to conflict, violence or persecution, but who have not crossed international borders.

Migrants: Migration is also driven by economic reasons, family reunification, or other reasons not included in the legal definition of a refugee. Data on migrants are mostly taken from national census reports. In practice, most countries define migrants as “foreign-born,” but some countries define migrants as citizens of other countries.

Irregular migrants or undocumented migrants are those who have entered, or are living in, a country without a proper visa, or in violation of laws governing the entry and exit of foreigners. According to the UNHCR and the IDMC, by the end of 2014, there were 19.5 million refugees (including 5.1 million Palestinian refugees), and 38.2 million IDPs. Based on data compiled by the United Nations and newly available data for certain countries, the World Bank’s Migration and Remittances Factbook 2016 estimates that the stock of international migrants had surpassed 250 million by 2015.

Asylum-seeker: An asylum-seeker is ‘A person who seeks safety from persecution or serious harm in a country other than his or her own and awaits a decision on the application for refugee status under relevant international and national instruments. In the case of a negative decision, the person must leave the country and may be expelled, as may any non-national in an irregular or unlawful situation, unless permission to stay is provided on humanitarian or other related grounds.

Source: Box 1. p. 2. Migration and Development Brief 2016, <http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/661301460400427908/MigrationandDevelopmentBrief26.pdf> and <http://www.iom.int/key-migration-terms>.