

SEEKING A NEW LIFE

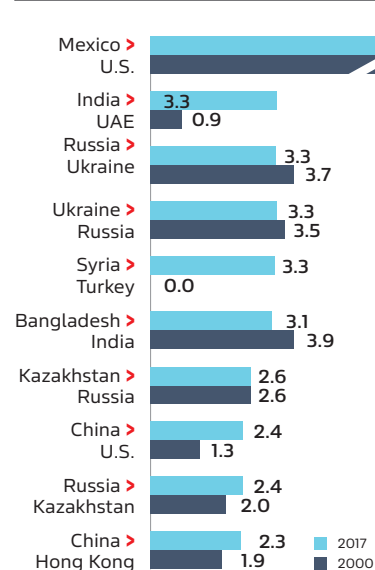
The number of migrants worldwide has been increasing, as has the number of refugees and displaced people. **By Ramesh Chakrapani**



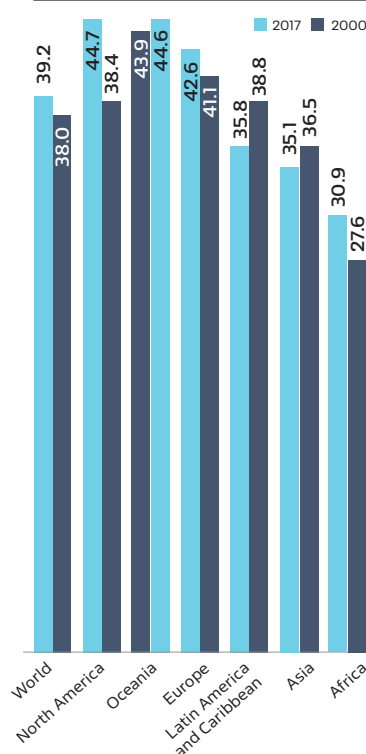
68.5
million forcibly
displaced
worldwide

Rohingya refugees cross into the mainland after arriving in Bangladesh.

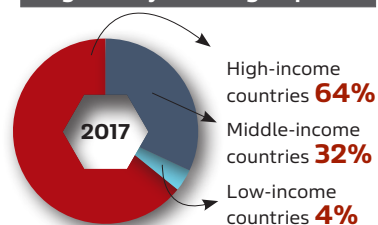
Largest country-to-country migrations Top 10



Migrants' median age



Migrants by income group



The number of international migrants worldwide has continued to grow in recent years, touching 258 million in 2017, up from 220 million in 2010 and 173 million in 2000, according to the United Nations International Migration Report 2017.

Nearly two-thirds of all international migrants lived in Asia (80 million) or Europe (78 million), while North America hosted 58 million, followed by Africa (25 million). The largest number of international migrants (50 million) resided in the United States. Saudi Arabia, Germany and Russia hosted around 12 million each, followed by the United Kingdom (nearly 9 million).

In 2016, the total number of refugees and asylum seekers in the world was estimated at 25.9 million. Turkey hosted the largest refugee population worldwide, with 3.1 million refugees and asylum seekers, followed by Jordan (2.9 million), Palestine (2.2 million), Lebanon (1.6 million) and Pakistan (1.4 million), according to the report.

In 2017, India was the largest country of origin of international migrants (17 million), followed by Mexico (13 million).

In another report, released in June, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said that the population of forcibly displaced people worldwide increased in 2017 by 2.9 million to touch 68.5 million. They were forcibly displaced as a result of persecution, conflict or generalised violence.

TRENDS AT A GLANCE

68.5
million
NEWLY
DISPLACED

An estimated 16.2 million people were newly displaced in 2017. This included 11.8 million individuals displaced within the borders of their own countries and 4.4 million newly displaced refugees and new asylum-seekers.



Lebanon continued to host the largest number of refugees relative to its national population, where 1 in 6 people was a refugee under the responsibility of UNHCR. Jordan (1 in 14) and Turkey (1 in 23) ranked second and third, respectively. When Palestine refugees under UNRWA's mandate are included, the figures rise to 1 in 4 for Lebanon and 1 in 3 for Jordan.

44,400
new displacements
EVERY DAY

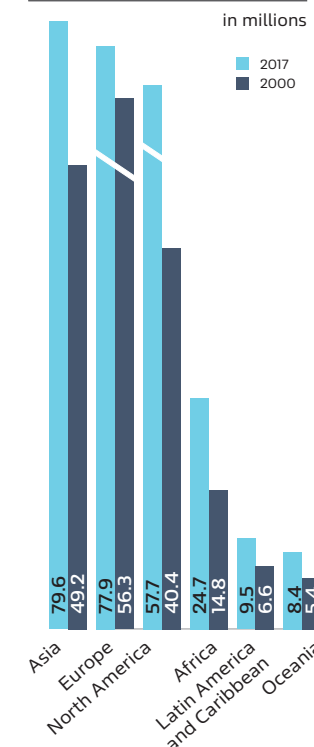
The number of new displacements was equivalent to an average of 44,400 people being forced to flee their homes every day in 2017.

By the end of 2017, about 3.1 million people were awaiting a decision on their application for asylum, about half in developing regions.

3.1
million
ASYLUM SEEKERS

SOURCE: UNHCR REPORT

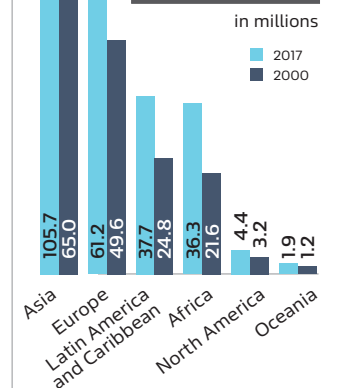
Migrants by destination



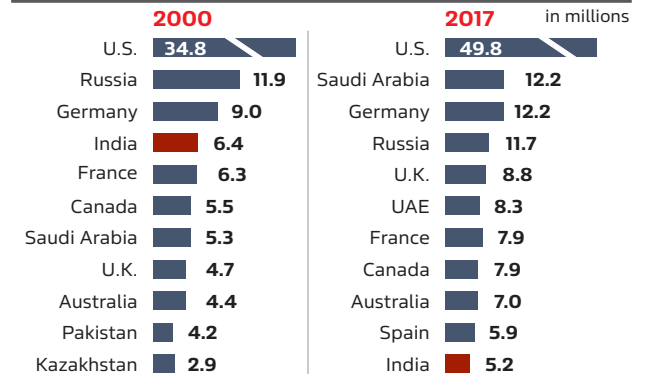
Female migrants by destination (%)



Migrants by region of origin



Countries home to largest number of migrants



Migrants by country of origin

