Migrants, Refugees, and Societies
An academic advisory panel, with 21 members – economics, social sciences, law – including a Nobel laureate.

A high-level advisory panel, with ministerial-level members representing all regions, heads of UNHCR, IOM, and ILO, and leading civil society figures.

The team has extensively consulted with a series of countries—including origin, destination, and refugee-hosting countries across all regions—and met with policymakers, private sector individuals and executives, and civil society organizations on the ground.
184 million migrants and refugees
2.3 percent of the world population

Many countries—at all income levels—are both origin and destination at the same time.

The United Kingdom
Türkiye
Nigeria
Italy’s population is aging and declining.

In Mexico, the demographic transition is well under way and is expected to accelerate.

Nigeria will remain young well through the middle of the century.
CLIMATE: RISKS AND THE NEED FOR URGENT ACTION

- Temperature rise
- Sea level rise
- Precipitation
- Extreme events

Temperature rise leads to:
- Declines in income
- Threats to habitability

Declines in income lead to:
- Increase of existing pressures

Increase of existing pressures leads to:
- Domestic movements
- Cross-border movements

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THE MATCH AND MOTIVE MATRIX
ECONOMICS: MIGRANTS’ MATCH

Labor contribution is larger than integration costs

Benefits exceed costs

Labor contribution is smaller than integration costs

Costs exceed benefits

Stronger match

MATCH

Weaker match
COMBINING MATCH AND MOTIVE

Maximize gains for all

Reduce need for movements, absorb, or return humanely

Ensure sustainability, share costs

Many economic migrants
Distressed migrants, mainly irregular
Refugees with skills in demand at destination
Many refugees

MATCH

MOTIVE

Opportunity at destination
Fear at origin

Stronger match
Weaker match
Benefits exceed costs
Costs exceed benefits

Choice whether to accept
Obligation to host
WHEN THE MATCH IS STRONG

**AT ORIGIN:**
Facilitate remittances and knowledge transfers, build skills and mitigate brain drain, protect nationals while abroad

**AT DESTINATION:**
Provide rights and access to labor market for migrants, facilitate inclusion, attract skills in demand, support affected nationals

MATCH

- Stronger match
- Weaker match

Many economic migrants

Maximize gains for all

Refugees with skills in demand at destination

Maximize gains for all

- Distressed migrants, mainly irregular
  - Reduce need for movements, absorb, or return humanely

- Many refugees
  - Ensure sustainability, share costs

Opportunity at destination

MOTIVE

Fear at origin

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WHEN THE MATCH IS WEAKER BUT MIGRANTS ARE DRIVEN BY FEAR

MATCH

Stronger match

Weaker match

Many economic migrants

Maximize gains for all

Refugees with skills in demand at destination

Maximize gains for all

Distressed migrants, mainly irregular

Reduce need for movements, absorb, or return humanely

Many refugees

Ensure sustainability, share costs

Opportunity at destination

MOTIVE

Fear at origin

AT DESTINATION:
Facilitate internal mobility, allow refugees to work, include them in national systems
WHEN THE MATCH IS WEAKER AND MIGRANTS ARE NOT DRIVEN BY FEAR

- **AT ORIGIN:** Strengthen skills and resilience to shocks through development
- **AT DESTINATION:** Shift incentives through legal pathways for people with skills in demand
- **MATCH:**
  - Stronger match
  - Weaker match
- **MOTIVE:**
  - Opportunity at destination
  - Fear at origin
- **AT DESTINATION:** Extend complementary modes of protection

Many economic migrants
Many refugees
Refugees with skills in demand at destination
Distressed migrants, mainly irregular
MAKING POLICY DIFFERENTLY

Working together

Bilateral cooperation:
- Bilateral labor agreements
- Global Skills Partnerships

Multilateral cooperation:
- Responsibility-sharing for refugees
- Norms setting

Financing instruments
- To support non-citizens
- To provide a medium-term perspective
- To incentivize cross-border cooperation

Inclusive decision-making
- Low- and middle-income countries
- Private sector, civil society, workers’ organizations, local authorities, and other stakeholders
- Migrants and refugees
KEY MESSAGES
Migration is necessary for countries at all levels of income

When migrants’ match is strong, the gains are large
- Destination countries should not let social and cultural controversies overshadow the economic gains from migration
- Most migrants benefit greatly from their move—and even more so when they have rights at destination
- Origin countries should actively manage migration for its development benefits

When migrants’ match is weak, costs need to be shared—and reduced—multilaterally
- Refugee situations should be managed as medium-term development challenges, and not just as humanitarian emergencies
- Distressed migration needs to be reduced, while respecting people’s dignity

Making migration work better requires doing things differently
- Stronger international cooperation is essential: bilateral to enhance migrants’ match, multilateral to respond to movements driven by fear
- To make change happen, underrepresented voices must be heard, including developing countries’
Data is necessary for understanding migration and policy levers for stronger match:
- Magnitude of migration and its determinants
- Impacts for migrants, origin and destination societies

Data is particularly scarce in low- and middle-income countries
- Migration is a rare phenomenon
- Limited applicability of findings in high-income country setting
- Comparability between data sources (administrative data, surveys, population censuses/registers, )

Data collection in fragile context presents increased challenges
- Accessibility/Safety concerns
- Exclusion of minorities and vulnerable populations (refugees, irregular migrants)

Looking ahead
- Harmonization
- Innovation
- Accessibility and privacy