

# Migration Trends, Patterns and Drivers



المنظمة الدولية للهجرة  
وكالة الأمم المتحدة للهجرة

International Organization for Migration  
The UN Migration Agency

**Kristina Mejo, Regional Liaison and Policy Officer, IOM RO Cairo**  
**Capacity Building Workshop by the Working Group on International Migration in**  
**the Arab Region**  
**16 - 17<sup>th</sup> July 2018, Cairo, Egypt**

## Number of International Migrants: 258 million

- Accounts for 3.4% of the world's population
- Grown by 49% since 2000
- Surpassed the global population rate of 23%

By 2050, estimated to be 405 million

- South-South migration constitutes 38% of total migrant stock
- South-North migration constitutes 34% of total migrant stock
- 740 million migrants within countries: 3 times more than international migrants
- 68.5 million are forcibly displaced
- 84% of forced displaced hosted by developing regions

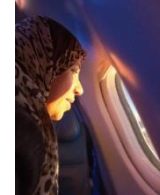
# Setting the Scene: Global Migration Context

- Large majority of international migrants in the world are migrant workers
- Female migrants constitute 48% of international migrant stock globally and 33% in the Arab region
- In 2015, almost 1 in 3 first-time asylum applicants in the EU were minors
- Over 5,000 migrants worldwide are estimated to have died or gone missing in 2016
- In 2017 there were 3,116 deaths on the Mediterranean routes
- In 2015, voluntary returns of migrants from EU countries was for the first time higher than the number of forced returns (81,681 against 72,473)



# Migration in the Arab Region

- The Arab region hosts roughly 14% of the global migrant stock
- From 1990 to 2015 size of migrant population increased by 150%, growing from 15 million to 35 million
- Northern Africa is home to 2.2 million migrants
- Saudi Arabia has remained the largest host country for migrants
- UAE migrant population rose by 500% between 1990 and 2015
- Egypt has the largest number of people living abroad, followed by Morocco, Sudan and Algeria
- The main countries of origin of migrants in the Arab region is: India, Palestine, Syria, Bangladesh, Pakistan, other Arab countries



# Migration in the Arab Region: Labour

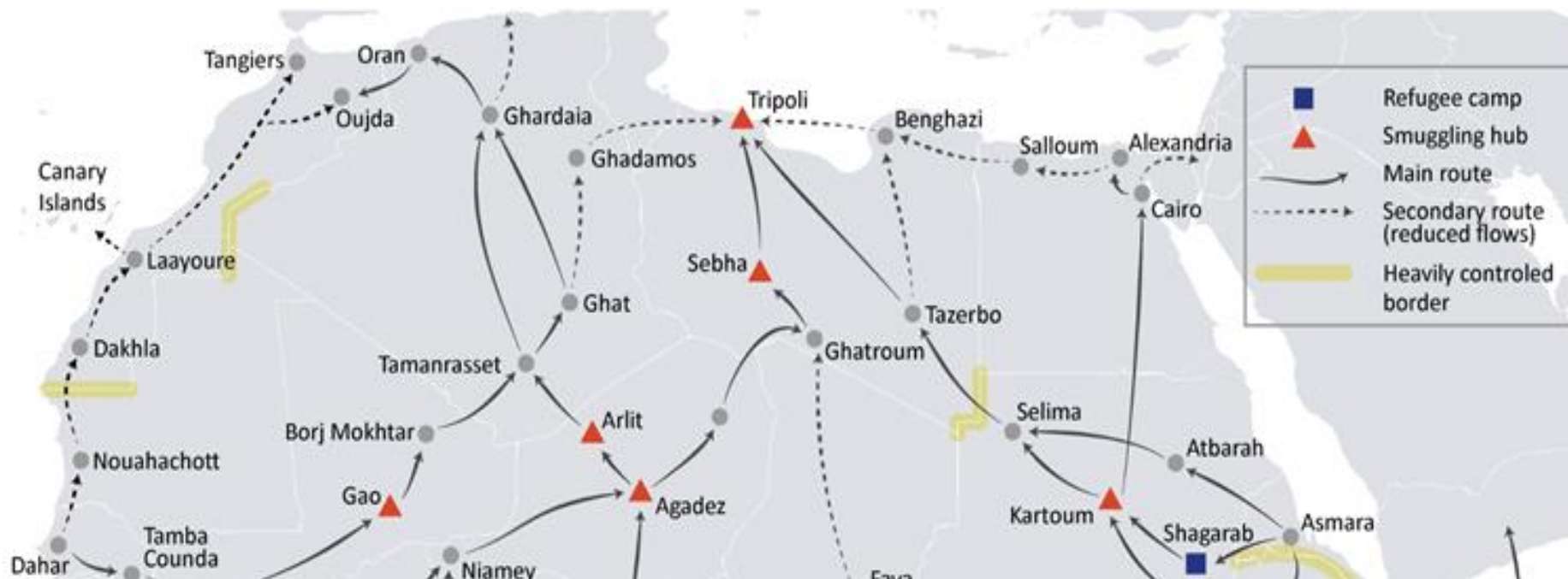
- Around 12% of world's labour migrants are in the Arab region
- GCC countries: migrant workers comprise 67% of all workers
  - Attracts many workers from Maghreb, sub-Saharan Africa and Asia
- North Africa also a destination for labor migrants from MENA, Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia.
- Sending of remittances plays major role in economy of the region, from sub-region to sub-region
  - E.g. migration from Egypt to UAE and KSA
- In 2016, the Arab region received \$49 billion in remittances- Egypt \$20.4 billion and Morocco \$6.7 billion
- There have been improvements in labour laws in the region: steps towards reforming Kafala system; unified employment contracts; including migrant workers in domestic labour laws

# Migration in the Arab Region: Displacement

- The Arab region hosts 19 million displaced persons, with 3 million refugees
- Additionally, 5.2 Palestinian refugees
- Syria and Iraq are among the ten worst affected countries for displacement in the world
- End of 2017, there were 13.8 million Internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the region: 6.8 million in Syria alone
- Sudan has 3.3 million IDPs, a further 250,000 are estimated to be displaced in Libya
- Sudan and Egypt host around 671,000 refugees
- Arab region hosts refugees and those forcibly displaced, with several countries acting as major donors of humanitarian assistance

# Trends: North Africa as a Departure Point

- North Africa is one of the main transit and origin points for Mixed migratory movements to Europe
  - 530,000 arrived in Europe from North African coast (2014- September 2017)
- Tunisia is a growing transit point on the Central Mediterranean Route
  - In 2018, departures from Libya and Tunisia accounted for 74.4% of arrivals to Europe





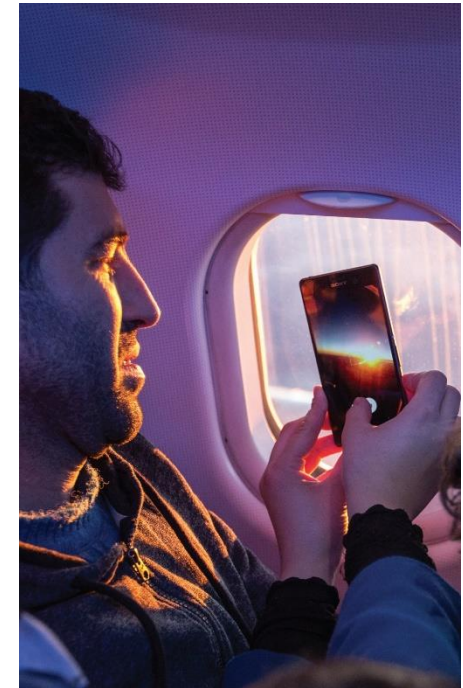
# Trends: Central and Western Mediterranean Routes





# Drivers: Push factors

- Civil unrest, violence and war
  - Persecuted groups and those from countries experiencing war and violence
- Personal mistreatment
  - Experience of torture, detention, rape, among others
  - Based on status, gender or affiliation to a certain group
- Economic reasons
  - Low standard of education in home country
  - High unemployment rates/lack of infrastructure
- Climate Change
  - Lack of access to water, less arable farming land, drought
  - Accounts for much rural – urban migration

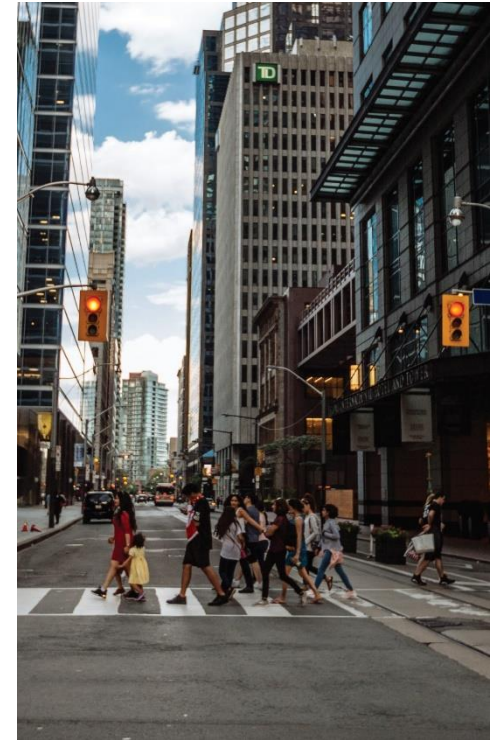


# Drivers: Pull factors

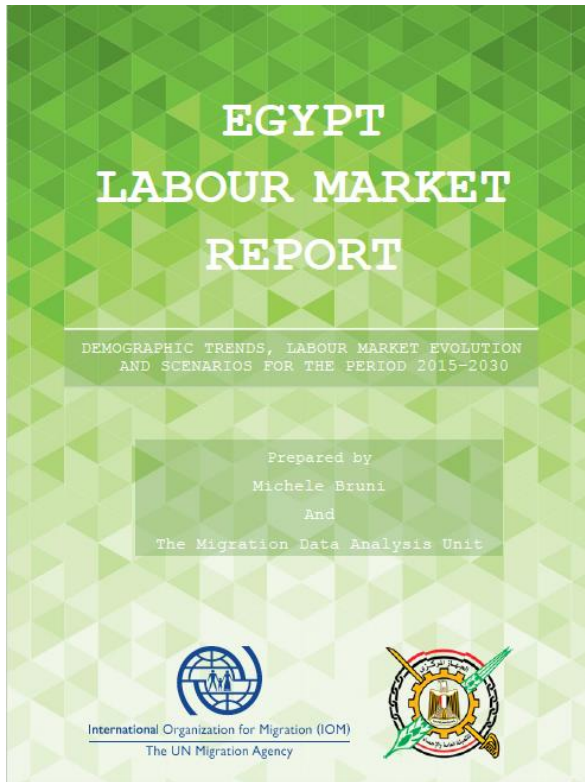
- Family
  - To reunite with family in other countries
- Safety and security
  - Some countries offer a safer and more secure life, away from economic precariousness, violence or both
- To seek better opportunities for employment, education and other services
  - Education, healthcare, job market, services
- Increased quality of life
  - For the migrant and for those back home, who remittances are sent to
- For youth factors may also include:
  - Peer pressure
  - Family reunification, if an unaccompanied minor or youth

# Patterns: Rural – Urban Migration

- More than half of the world's population lives in urban areas
- Uneven development: rural poverty and urban prosperity
- Urbanization is increasing to such an extent that its effects may force a re-thinking of governance, including migration governance
- Cities need to make use of national policy, and also city administrations, local institutions and private sector
- Need whole-of-society approach, national and local level
- Specific issues to cities in global south, including in the Arab Region, need to be understood and addressed
- Nexus between planning, urban planning and migration requires more attention- participation of migrant/minority groups



# Example from the Region: Egypt and Labour Migration



- Egypt has largest number of diaspora
- Nearly all migrants living abroad are male 98%
- Most cite economic factors as reason to migrate
- 97% of Egyptian male migrants are employed
- 95% in Arab countries
  
- Recent Egypt Labour Market report by CAPMAS and IOM:
- The migration of workers in Egypt is not just international but also rural-urban within Egypt.
- The report stated that this was an increasing trend that needed more focus
- Rural-urban migration poses particular challenges to women

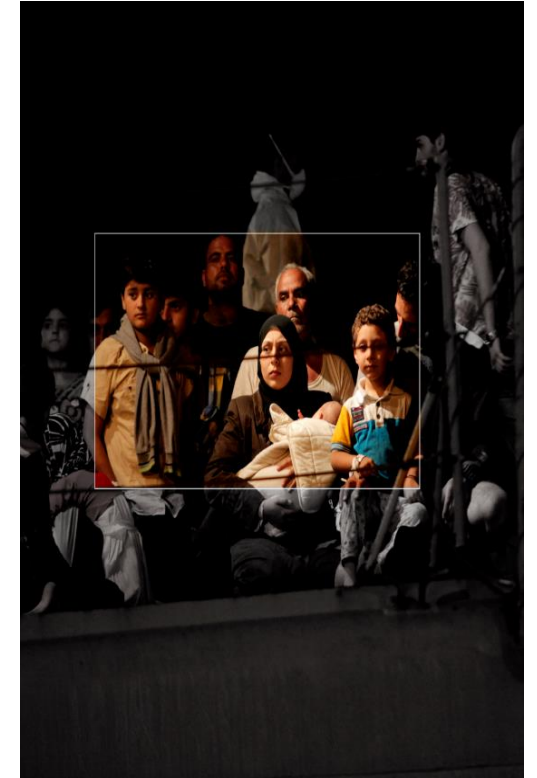
# Patterns: Climate Induced Migration

- MENA is one of the most water-scarce regions in the world
- 18 out of 22 Arab states fall below the renewable water resources annual threshold (1,000m<sup>3</sup> per capita)
- 13 states fall below the absolute water scarcity threshold (500m<sup>3</sup> per capita)
- World Bank: Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, Morocco and Syria will experience increased water stress from climate change
- 108 million were severely food insecure in 2016, up from 80 million in 2015
- Movements from farming land to cities adds further strains on urban areas, which may also experience lack of water due to poor infrastructure and uncontrolled growth



# Trend: Mixed Migration

- Mixed migration includes the irregular nature of and the multiplicity of factors driving movements
- ‘Complex population movements including refugees, asylum seekers, economic migrants and other migrants’
- Unaccompanied minors, smuggled persons, victims of trafficking and stranded migrants, can also be included
- Migrants and refugees increasingly use the same routes and means of transportation
- Take the same risks and encounter the same dangers/vulnerabilities





# Example from the Region: Libya

## Libya as transit:

- Libya continues to be a key transit point for those passing through to the Central Mediterranean Route, for sub-Saharan Africans and those from MENA region
- IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) survey found of those who viewed Libya as a transit country, 14% preferred Italy as a destination, 10% France, 3% Germany and 6% other countries
- Due to smuggling, trafficking and the risks associated with sea crossings, the route to, through and out of Libya is particularly dangerous

## Libya as destination:

- Country is also a hub for migrants as a destination of migration
- Recent IOM DTM data identified 350,000 migrants in Libya, from Niger, Egypt and Chad, and also Sudan and Nigeria
- 93% left home due to economic reasons; mostly male - 90%
- 61% stated Libya to be their intended destination, these were mostly from Nigeria, Egypt, Sudan and Chad

# Example from the Region: Yemen

- Yemen is a key transit country for migrants from the Horn of Africa aiming to reach Saudi Arabia and GCC countries
- 2016: record number of over 117,000 migrants and asylum seekers estimated to have entered Yemen, mainly from Ethiopia and Somalia
- Roughly 25% of IOM assisted migrants in Yemen are unaccompanied children
- Route is heavily involved with human smuggling and trafficking
- During 2017, IOM was able to track 87,000 migrants in the country through Displacement Tracking teams, and provide humanitarian assistance to more than 33,000 migrants.



# Global Compact on Migration

- Non legally-binding cooperative framework
- An historic opportunity for the international community to:
  - Move away from reactive approaches to migration governance
  - Identify concrete measures so that **migration is by choice, not necessity**
  - Encourage beneficial action for both migrants and states alike
    - e.g. increased access to regular migration channels, family reunification, cooperation on return
    - stronger measures to counter racisms & xenophobia and counter trafficking and smuggling;
- The GCM is determined by states through a multi-stakeholder, state-led process
- Six thematic sessions held in Geneva, New York and Vienna
- Two multistakeholder hearings chaired by President of the General Assembly
- Five regional consultations held by UN Regional Economic Commissions with IOM technical and policy support
- Seven regional civil society consultations, convened with IOM assistance
- 52 national multistakeholder consultations across the globe, with IOM technical and policy support.

# Final Draft

- Negotiations have now finished: February – July 2018
- Now have the last published draft- **‘Final Draft’**
- Each draft places individuals and respect for human rights at center
- Recognizes the inputs of Member States and stakeholders
- 23 broad objectives
- Objective 23 proposed by Africa Group:
  - The purpose of this newly added objective is to relate closely the GCM to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) particularly on SDG 17’s global partnership as well as cooperation on migration.



# Follow-Up Process

- A global compact should include a robust follow-up and review mechanism, on national, regional, and global levels
- Follow-up and review should be state-led and be built around three elements:
  - Regular **Review of progress** in implementing GCM commitments using bench marking to identify achievements, barriers and priorities for action
  - **Capacity building** measures in line with identified priorities
  - On going **broad based dialogue** to continue forging consensus on outstanding issues and to address emerging challenges
- Member State driven process
- IOM is ready and willing to play an important role in follow-up and review
- Announcement of an **UN Migration Network**: IOM will serve as the coordinator and secretariat of the Network

# Migration in 2018



## 2018:

- IOM is co-chairing the Global Migration Group, together with FAO
- Brings together 22 heads of UN agencies
- The theme for 2018 is: **Inclusive and innovative partnerships for effective global governance of migration**



# Summary

- Migration in the Arab region is vast, complex and encompasses many factors
- Mixed-migration is evident, with large numbers of IDPs, refugees, labour migrants and other forms of migration evident in most countries
- There is a need for **cooperation on a regional level** in order to work together on the future of migration in the region
- Discussion needs to encompass the nuances of migration, focusing on the **positive elements** of migration, such as development, labour and remittances, and working together to **address the risks and vulnerabilities** associated with irregular migration
- **Evidence-based research** is needed for formation of reliable and effective policy

