

Global migration patterns – migration pressure increasing towards developing countries



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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 community. International migrant stock has been 232 million in 2013, and it represents 3.2 percent of the global population. The number has been growing in the long run since the figure for 2000 has been 175 million, and 154 million in 1990. Refugees constitute an important share of the total number of international migrants. According to UNHCR the global number of refugees was 11.7 million in 2013.

When looking migration flows by major world regions in 2013, about 80 percent of international migrants born in the North (i.e. so-called developed regions/countries: Europe, Northern America plus Australia, New Zealand and Japan) were residing in the North, while only half of all international migrants born in the South (i.e. so-called developing regions: rest of the world) had remained in the South. Interesting feature is that while a majority of international migrants originate in developing countries they have been settling in recent years in almost equal number in developed and developing regions. In the North, international migrants have constituted almost 11 percent of the total population in 2013 compared to less than 2 percent in developing regions. It is important to notice, however, that of 232 million international migrants in 2013 nearly 59 percent lived in the developed regions, while developing regions hosted rest of the world's total.

Europe and Asia host nearly two-thirds of all international migrants worldwide in 2013: Europe remains the most popular destination region with 72 million international migrants compared to 71 million in Asia. Asia, however, has seen the larg-

est increase of international migrants since 2000, adding 20 million migrants up to 2013. This growth has been mainly fuelled by the increasing demand for foreign labour in the oil-producing countries of Western Asia and in the South-Eastern Asian countries with rapidly growing economies, such as Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand.

In 2013, Asians represented the largest diaspora group residing outside their major area of birth. They accounted for about 19 million foreign-born living in Europe, 16 million in Northern America and 3 million in Oceania. Migrants born in Latin America and the Caribbean represented the second largest diaspora group with the majority living in North America (26 million).

Over 51 percent of all international migrants in the world were living in ten countries in 2013. The United States has gained the largest number of international migrants during 1990–2013: nearly 23 million, equal to 1 million additional migrants per annum. The Russian Federation has hosted the second largest number of migrants (11 million), followed by Germany (10 million), Saudi Arabia (9 million) and the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom (8 million each).

Sources:

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