

Migration Trends and Patterns in the Arab Region

Regional Consultation on International Migration in the Arab Region

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International migration: a reality affecting millions of people moving to Arab countries ...



35 million migrants, which make up 8.5% of the population in the region. 18 million are labour migrants.



Migrants from Asia account for over 50% of the migrant stock, while 37% come from other Arab countries.



Top three countries of destination are Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and Jordan



11.6 million female migrants, 33% of migrant stock.



Youth make up an estimated 12% of migrant stock.

... and from Arab countries



Over 25 million migrants originate in the region. >50% remain in the region



Origin of migrants:
The Mashreq: 57% ; The Maghreb: 21 %
Arab LDCs: 20% ; GCC: 2%.



Top destination countries: Jordan, France,
and Saudi Arabia.



Arab region hosts more than 16 million
internally displaced persons and over 8
million refugees'

Three main patterns of migration in the Arab region: Labor, forced and mixed migration

1

Labor Migration

The movement of persons from one state to another for the purpose of employment.



2

Forced Migration

Population movements from and to the Arab region largely as a result of people fleeing conflict, occupation, or acute climate conditions.



3

Mixed Migration

Complex population movements including refugees and displaced people, asylum-seekers, migrant workers and others mostly in irregular situations.



Migration to the GCC sub-region



25.4 million migrants in 2015, 48% of the sub-region's population.



Most migrants come from Asia.
India: 8.2 million ; Bangladesh: 2.8 million ;
Pakistan: 2.8 million.



Top Destination Countries: Saudi Arabia (10.2 million) , United Arab Emirates (8.1 million).



38% of migrants are female.



Labour migrants comprise 67% of all workers.

Migration From the GCC sub-region



700,000 migrants, which account for 2.6% of the population.



Saudi Arabia is the largest country of origin, followed by Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.



45% migrated within the Arab region, 23% to North America, and 16% to Europe.



Largest number of outbound students from the Arab region were from Saudi Arabia (2013).

Migration to the Mashreq sub-region



Over 7 million migrants in 2015, twice as many as in 1990.



Top Origin Countries: Over 82% of migrants come from Palestine (3 million), Syria (2.3 million), and Iraq (400,000).



Top Destination Countries: Jordan and Lebanon.



Female migrants make up 50% of migrant stock.



The sub-region hosted over 2.3 million refugees (UNHCR, 2016).

Migration from the Mashreq sub-region



14.8 million migrants from the sub-region in 2015



Top Origin Countries: Syria, Palestine and Egypt.



Most migrants remain in the sub-region, mainly in Jordan, Lebanon, and Saudi Arabia.



Largest share of female migrants come from Palestine.



The Syrian conflict has resulted in over 5 million refugees.

Migration to the Maghreb sub-region



Over 1 million migrants in 2015, 1.3% of the total population.



Top Origin Countries: 71% of migrants from the region, mainly from the State of Palestine, Somalia and Iraq.



Libya hosted the largest number of migrants (12.3%). Algeria is the second largest receiving country.



Female migrants make up 35% of migrant stock.



Key transit point for crossing the Central Mediterranean to Europe.

Migration from the Maghreb sub-region



Over 5 million migrants from the subregion in 2015.



Top Origin Countries: Morocco (3 million), Algeria, (1.7 million)



Top destination countries: France 51% , Spain 14%, and Italy 11%.



Female migrants make up 48% of migrant stock (2015).



Key transit point for migrants from sub-Saharan Africa.

Migration to LDCs



1.1 million migrants in 2015, which account for 1.3% of the population.



Top Origin Countries: 36% of migrants came from other Arab countries, mainly from Somalia, Eritrea, South Sudan, and Ethiopia.



Djibouti had the highest proportion of migrants: 13% of the total population in 2015.



The proportion of female migrants is around 48%.



Yemen is a key transit country for migrants from the Horn of Africa to the GCC countries.

Migration From LDCs



Over 9 million migrants in 2016, 35% of all migrants from the Arab region.



Top Origin Countries: Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen (represent 95% of migrants from the LDCs).



Main countries of destination: Saudi Arabia, followed by South Sudan and Kenya.



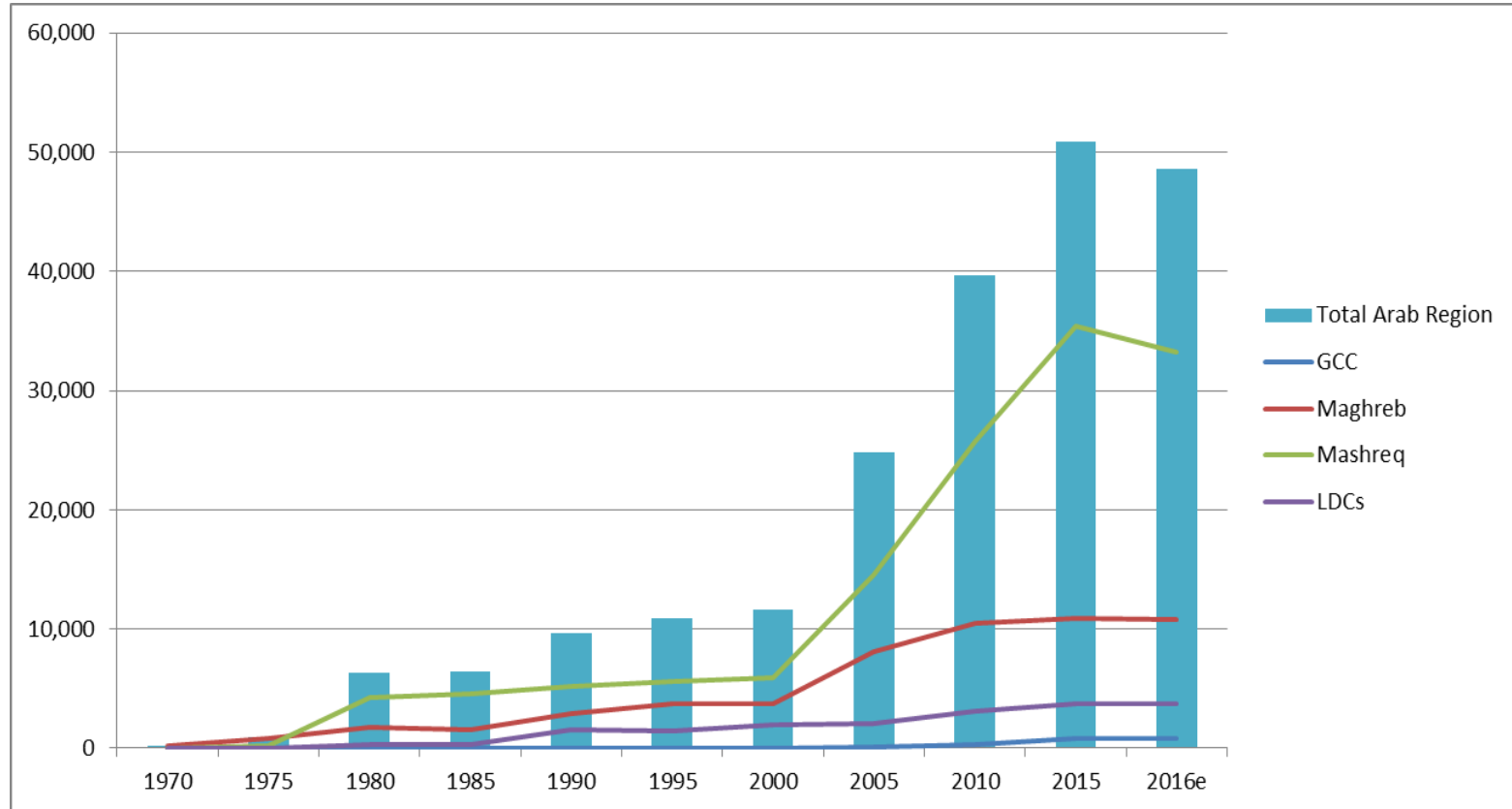
In 2015, 48% of the migrants in the Arab LDCs were female.



The number of migrants from LDCs increased by 141% between 2010 and 2016.

Remittance flows to the Arab region

Remittance inflows to the Arab region by sub-region, 1970 – 2016e (USD millions)



Data sources:

- *World Population Prospects, 2015 revision, Population Division, UN DESA*
- *Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Global Trends 2016*
- *World Bank annual remittance data, April 2017 update*



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Thank you