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# The Global Migration Picture

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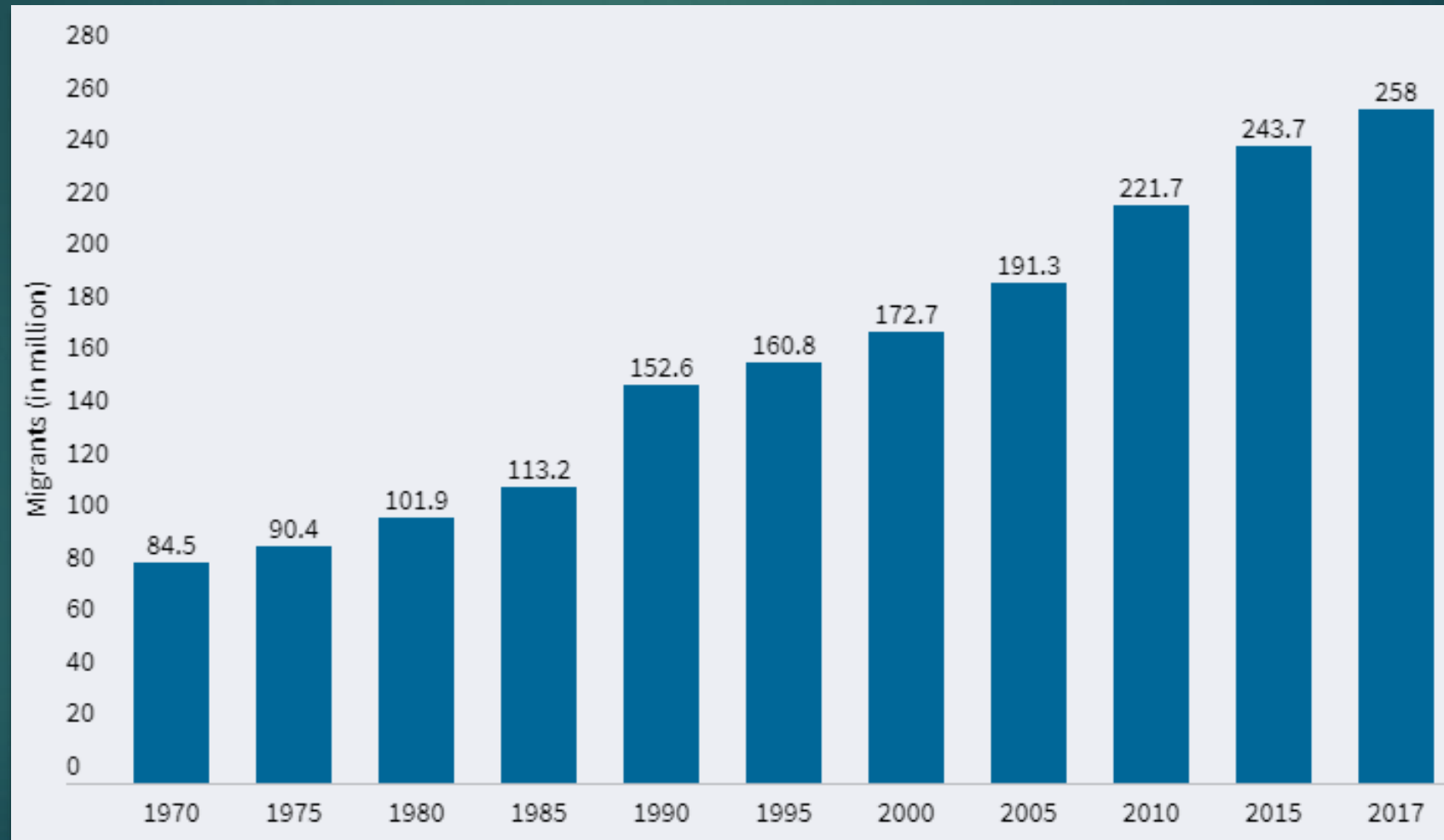


AN INTRODUCTION

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# The context:

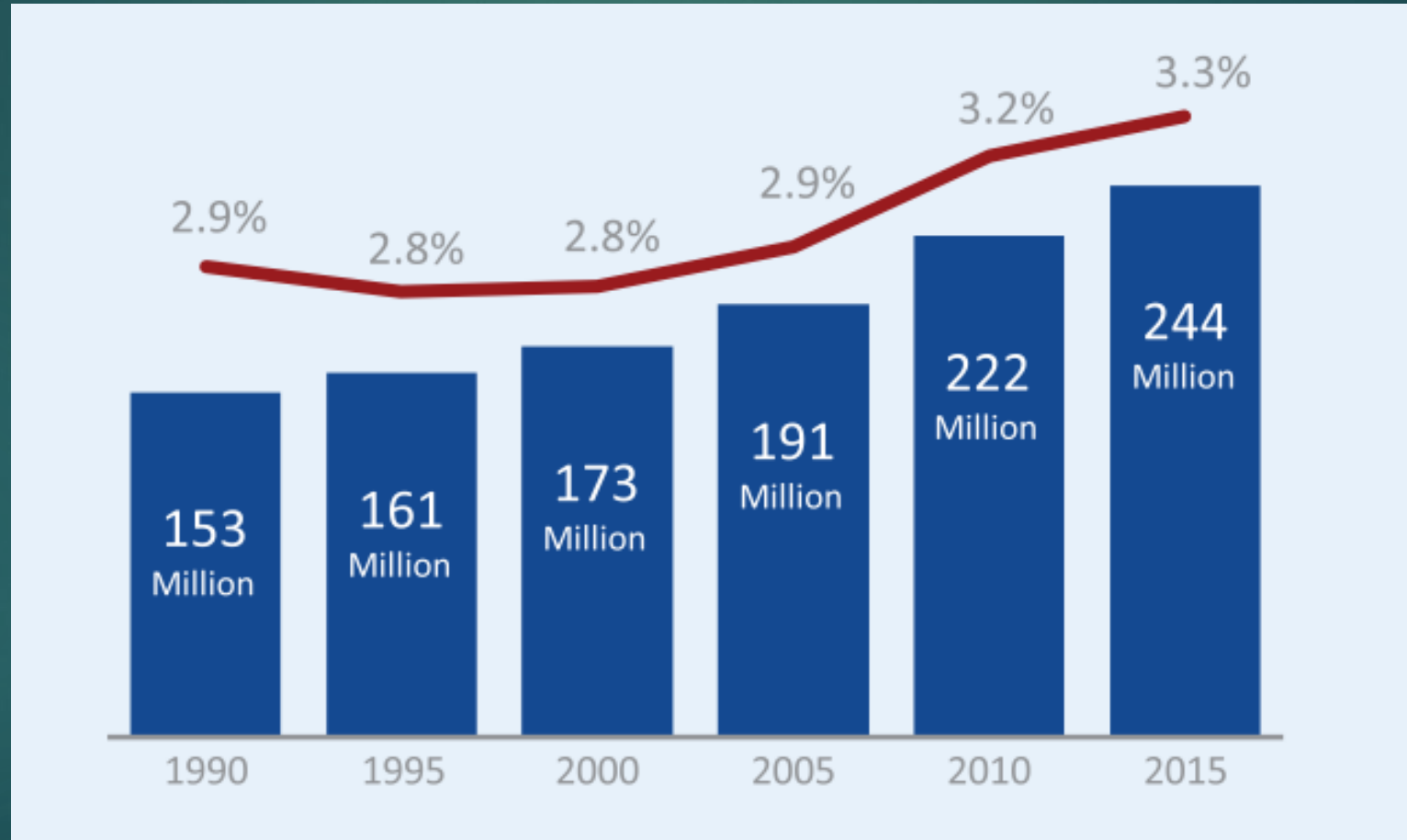
Number of international migrants in the world increased almost 50% from 2000 to 2017



Source: IOM World Migration Report, 2018

# The context:

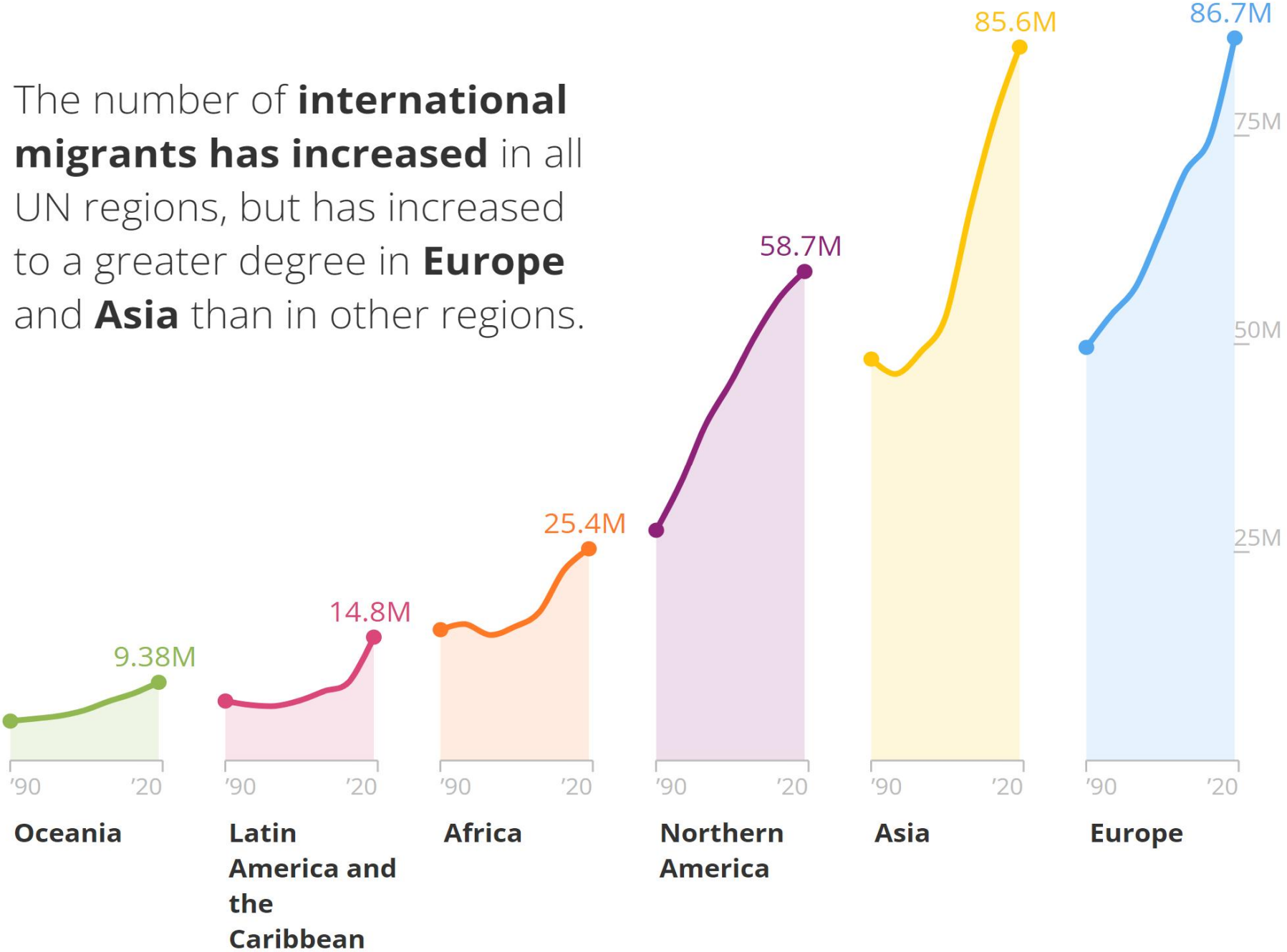
International migrant population globally has increased in size but remained relatively stable as a proportion of the world's population



\*Now at 3.6%

Source: IOM World Migration Report, 2018

The number of **international migrants has increased** in all UN regions, but has increased to a greater degree in **Europe** and **Asia** than in other regions.



Source: IOM World Migration Report, 2024



## International migrants<sup>a</sup>

# 281 million

**international migrants** globally in 2020, or 3.6 per cent of the world's population

<b>Females<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>135 million</b>	<b>international female migrants</b> globally in 2020, or 3.5 per cent of the world's female population
<b>Males<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>146 million</b>	<b>international male migrants</b> globally in 2020, or 3.7 per cent of the world's male population
<b>Children<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>28 million</b>	<b>international child migrants</b> globally in 2020, or 1.4 per cent of the world's child population
<b>Labour migrants<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>169 million</b>	<b>migrant workers</b> globally in 2019
<b>Missing migrants<sup>c</sup></b>	Around <b>8,500</b>	<b>dead and missing</b> globally in 2023

Source: IOM  
World Migration  
Report, 2024



Displaced  
persons<sup>e,f</sup>

**117** million

**people were living in displacement** globally at the end of 2022 (includes refugees, asylum-seekers, IDPs and others)

Refugees <sup>e</sup>	<b>35.3 million</b>	refugees globally in 2022
Asylum-seekers <sup>e</sup>	<b>5.4 million</b>	asylum-seekers globally in 2022
Others in need of international protection <sup>e</sup>	<b>5.2 million</b>	others displaced globally in 2022, mainly Venezuelans (not including those who were refugees or asylum-seekers)
Internally displaced persons (IDPs) <sup>f</sup>	<b>71.2 million</b>	IDPs globally in 2022: 61.5 million due to conflict and violence; 8.7 million due to disasters

Source:  
IOM World  
Migration  
Report, 2024

Table 1. Key facts and figures from *World Migration Reports 2000 and 2024*

	2000 report	2024 report
Estimated number of international migrants	150 million	281 million
Estimated proportion of world population who are migrants	2.8%	3.6%
Estimated proportion of female international migrants	47.5%	48.0%
Estimated proportion of international migrants who are children	16.0%	10.1%
Region with the highest proportion of international migrants	Oceania	Oceania
Country with the highest proportion of international migrants	United Arab Emirates	United Arab Emirates
Number of migrant workers	–	169 million
Global international remittances (USD)	128 billion	831 billion
Number of refugees	14 million	35.4 million
Number of internally displaced persons	21 million	71.4 million

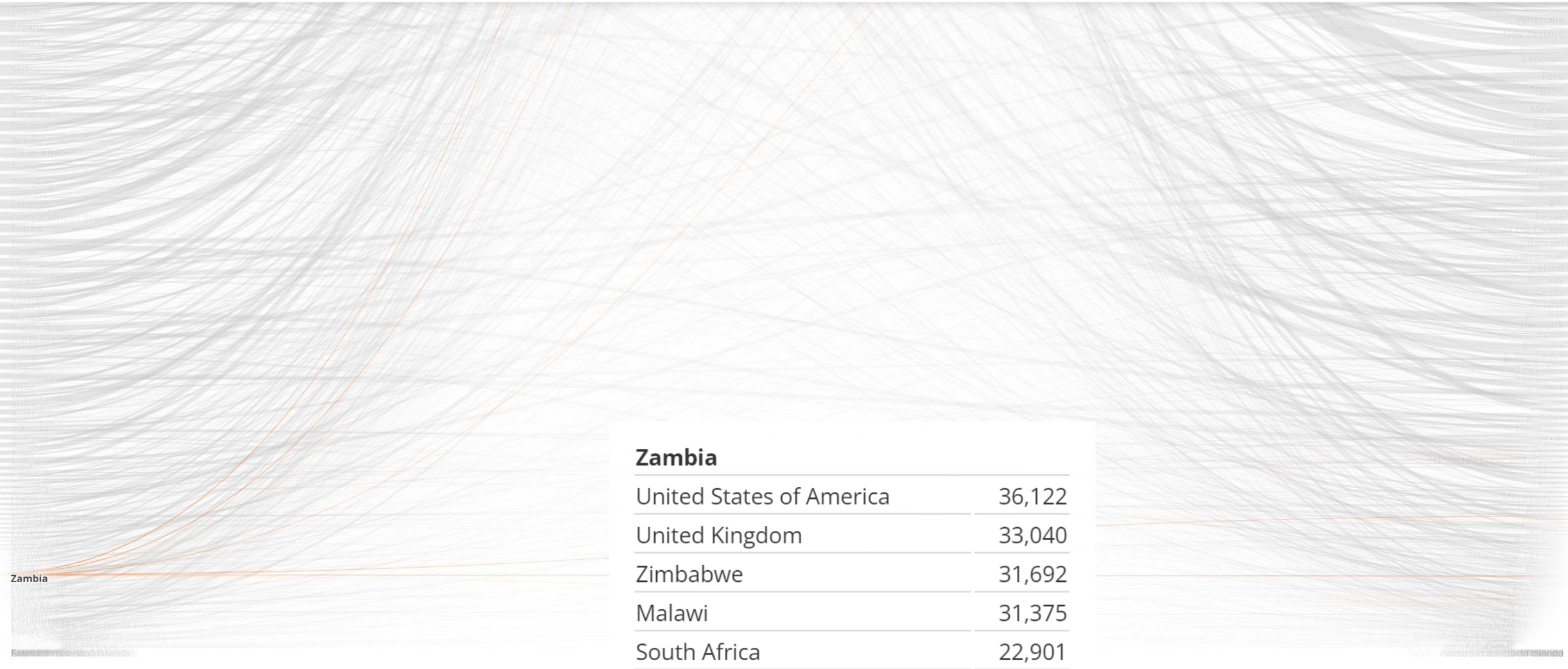
Source: IOM World Migration Report, 2024

# IOM Migration Corridor Visualization Tool



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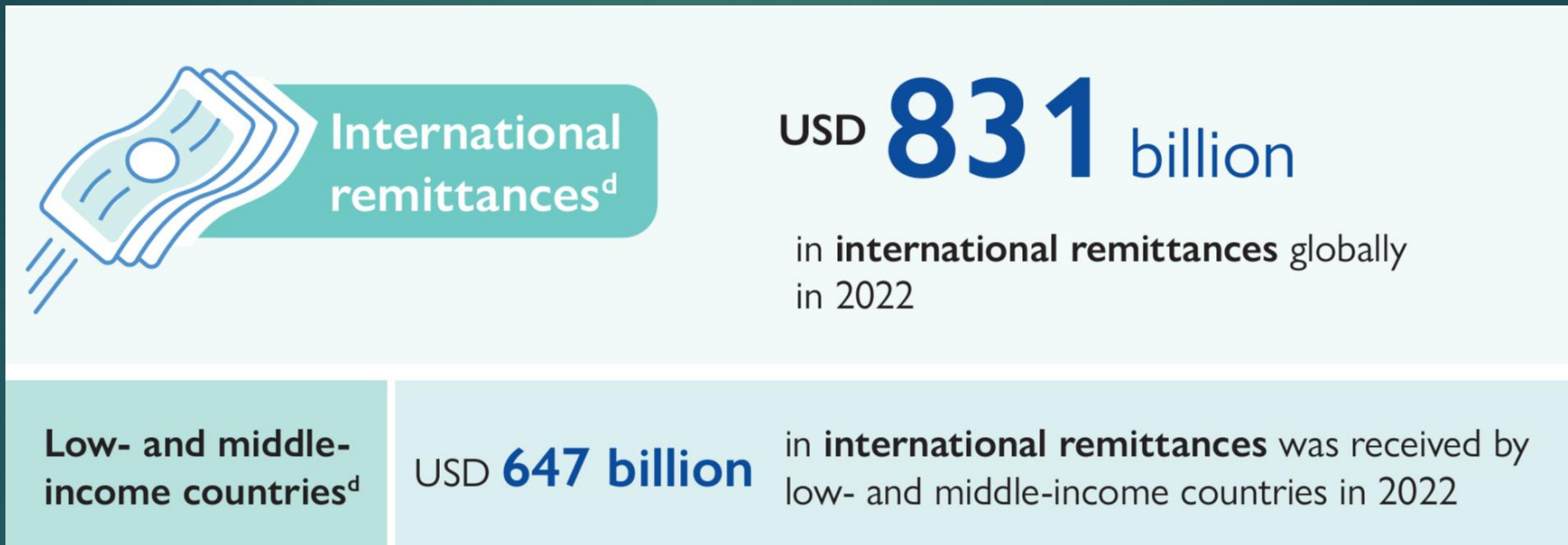
[One in 30](#) [Gender gap](#) [Remittances](#) [Predictive indicators](#) [Growth by region](#) [Corridors](#)



Numbers of Zambian nationals residing in foreign countries in 2020



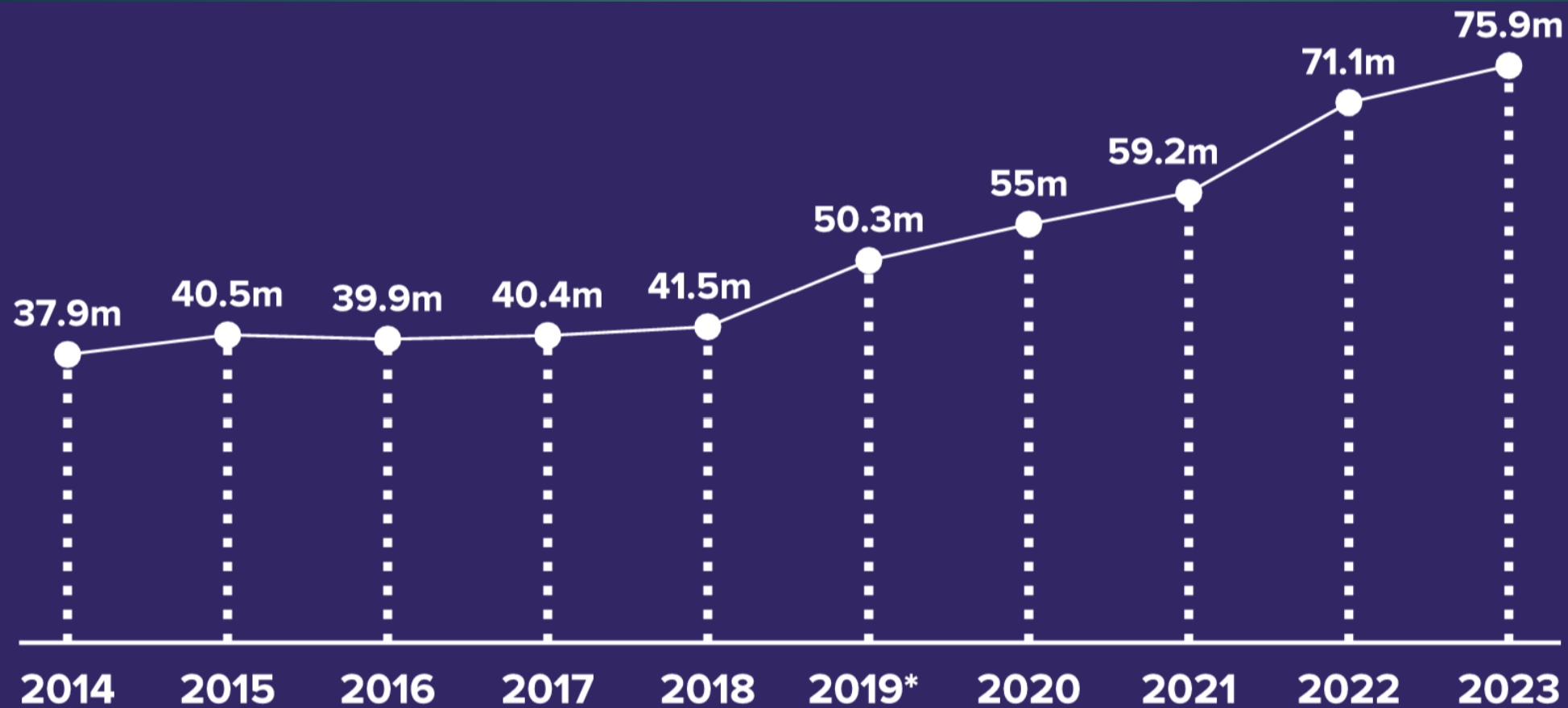
# Remittances: Migration Supports Development



Source: IOM World Migration Report, 2024

**Migrants who send funds home are providing more funds for development than foreign aid and foreign direct investment combined!**

# Internal Displacement



Total number of IDPs in millions

*\*First year disaster data is available*

IDPs constitute “invisible majority” of the world’s displaced people

(75.9M people at end of 2023)

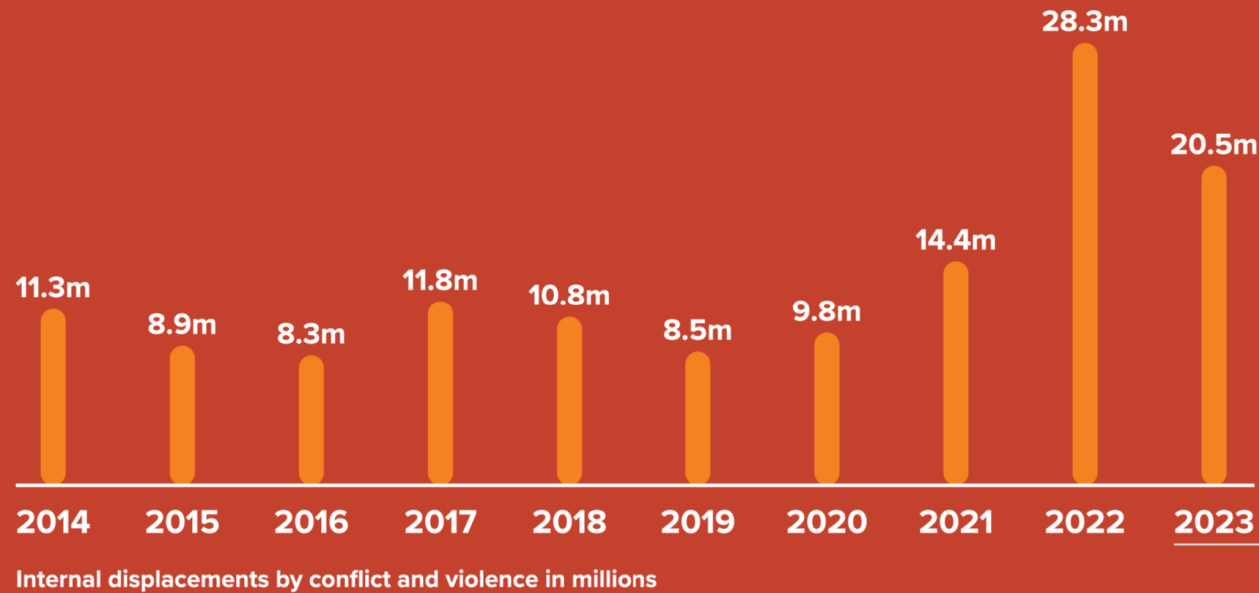
# Internal Displacement

Challenges to advocacy for IDPs in international fora:

- ▶ Responsibility for well-being of IDPs belongs to nation in which people are displaced
- ▶ Governments often unable or unwilling to respond to large internal displacements
- ▶ Governments may invoke principle of national sovereignty to reject outside interference
- ▶ Data collection on IDP numbers incomplete due to lack of standard procedure for recording internal movements
- ▶ Lack of data → Lack of attention → Lack of assistance

# New internal displacements in 2023

## by conflict:



## by disaster:



Source: IDMC, 2023 GRID Report

**Averages:** 13.3M displacements due to conflict  
23.8M displacements due to environmental disaster

# World Bank Report:

Some scientists are predicting that  
the effects of **climate change** will force  
more than **216 million people**  
across **six continents**  
to be **on the move** within their countries  
**by 2050.**

# Internal displacement in Sub-Saharan Africa: 2023



**34.8m**

Internally displaced people (IDPs) 

**32.5m**

IDPs by conflict and violence

**2.3m**

IDPs by disasters

**19.5m**

Internal displacements (movements) 

**13.5m**

Internal displacements by conflict and violence

**6m**

Internal displacements by disasters

**Sub-Saharan Africa**, which hosts 46 per cent of the world's IDPs, was again the region most affected by internal displacement in 2023. Conflict and disasters overlapped in many countries, forcing people to flee again and/or prolonging their displacement.

# Most migration...

- ▶ Occurs through safe, orderly, and regular channels
- ▶ Is never discussed in news reports
- ▶ Is largely shaped by national-level migration policies in their countries of transit and destination
- ▶ Does not create a humanitarian crisis

# Migration Pathway Trends



- ▶ Where, how, when and with whom people migrate often depends on options available
- ▶ Over the past 25 years:
  - ▶ regular pathways for migrants from developing countries have narrowed considerably
  - ▶ regular pathways for those from developed countries have expanded
- ▶ Irregular migration – including asylum pathway – is increasingly the only option available



# Benefits of Migration

- ▶ Tends to provide development benefits to both communities of origin and destination
- ▶ Offers a skills and labour-supply boost destination countries experiencing population declines and labour sectors experiencing worker shortages
- ▶ Raises labour demand in places where work opportunities are too scarce
- ▶ Facilitates a powerful infusion of funds into low-income communities via remittances
- ▶ Can be an effective strategy for adaptation to changes in the environment