

Inclusive Development For Migrants In The Arab Region

Prepared for the UN Regional Seminar Series on the Contribution of Development to the Enjoyment of Human Rights, 8-9 November, Beirut, Lebanon

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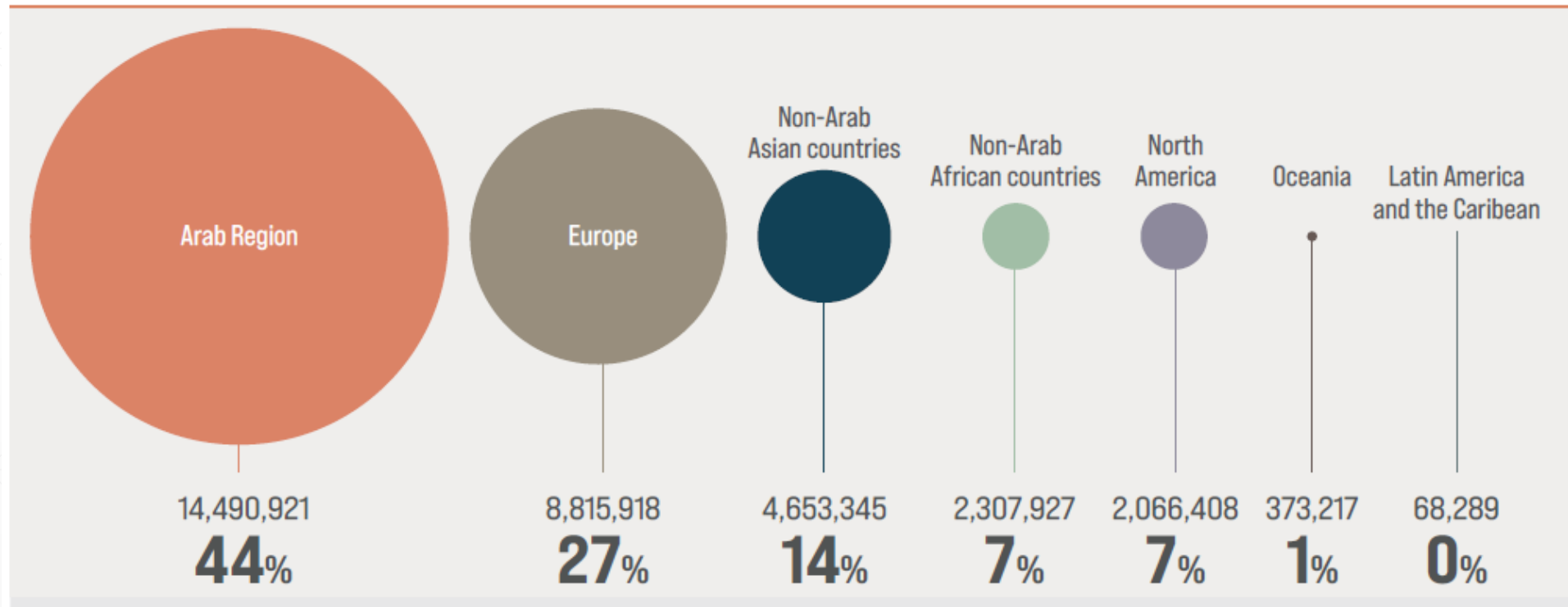
Content

- Migrants and refugees in the Arab region
 - Current human development approaches to migrants and refugees: Deficient and Fragmented
 - Development as a human right for migrants in the region
 - “Building forward better” for all of us, and all of them, across borders
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Migrants and refugees in the Arab region

- Arab countries hosted 41.4 million international migrants and refugees in 2020, and were the origin of 32.8 million, 44 per cent of whom stayed in the region.

Figure 20. Regions of destination for migrants and refugees from Arab countries, 2020

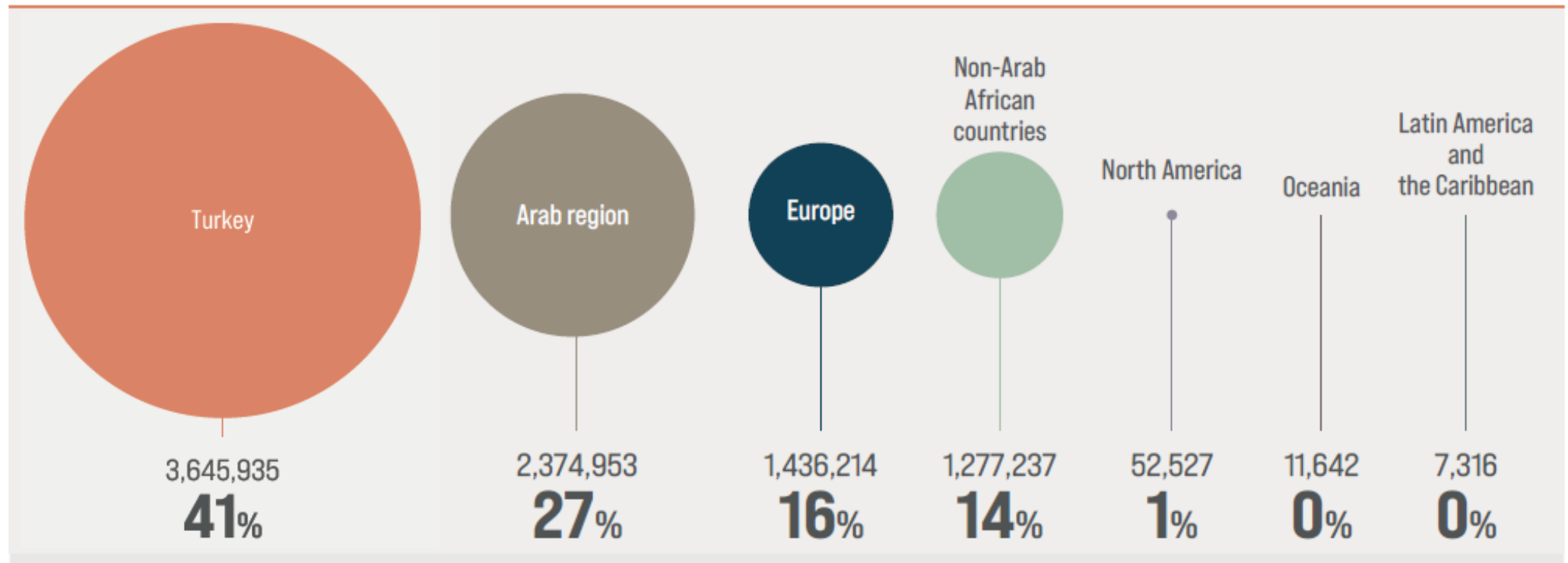


Source: Situation Report on International Migration 2021, Building forward better for migrants and refugees in the Arab region

Migrants and refugees in the Arab region

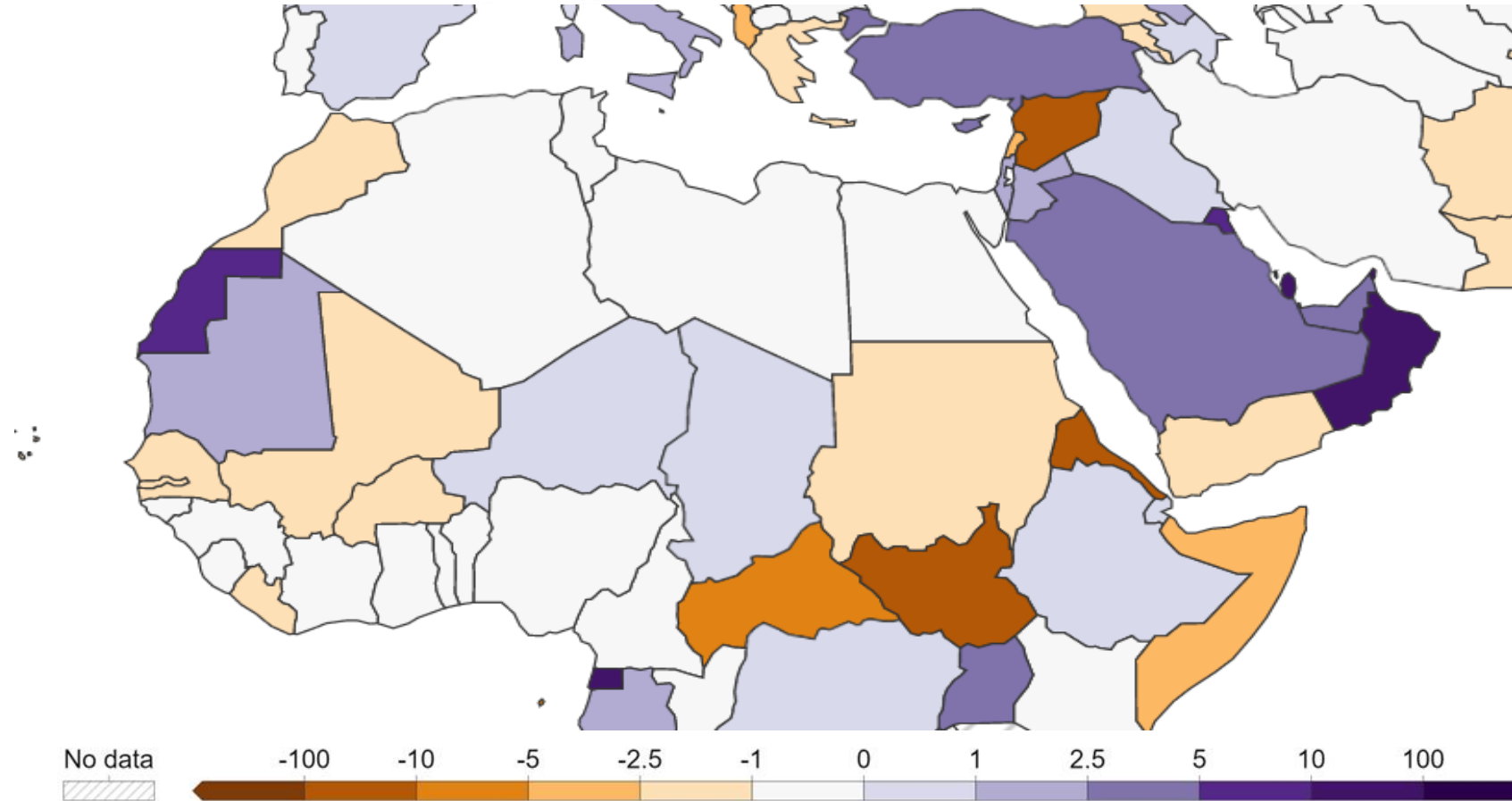
- Arab countries were the origin of nearly 8.9 million refugees registered with UNHCR in 2020, three quarters of whom were staying in Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan.

Figure 23. Regions of destination of refugees from Arab countries, 2020



Net migration rate, 2020

Net migration rate is the number of immigrants (people moving into a given country) minus the number of emigrants (people moving out of the country) in the previous five years, divided by the person-years lived by the population of the receiving country over that period. It is expressed as average annual net number of migrants per 1,000 population.



Current human development approaches to migrants and refugees: Deficient and Fragmented

- Labor migration evaluated solely through the lens of “push and pull” economic factors.
 - Forced migration viewed in the narrow lens of humanitarian crisis and assistance, with not enough focus on human rights and right of return.
 - Pragmatic and siloed analysis of factors inducing large population movements (climate crisis, conflicts,...), falling into nationalistic and regional geopolitics.
 - Focus on economic returns to migration (e.g. remittances) yields a simplistic and narrow account of the full effects and benefits of population movements.
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Development as a human right for migrants in the region

- The international and regional development agenda would need to recognize development as a core human right for migrants, in the Arab region and elsewhere.
 - Migrants have agency in their own lives, in the countries they leave and in the countries they migrate to. Recognizing this agency would fundamentally alter the human development strategies targeting migrants.
 - In the Arab region the size and complexity of inter-regional migration patterns puts into question the prevailing development paradigm:
 - Can the region keep on ignoring on-going conflicts and not respect the right of return for refugees?
 - Can the region survive on economic polarization and labor exploitation, which ultimately sustain and increase conflicts?
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“Building forward better” for all of us, and all of them, across borders

- In a globalized and interconnected world migrants cannot be reduced to cash sending machines or a “problem” that needs to be dealt with.
 - International development strategies need to uphold the core mission of human development, “Development As Freedom”, and freedom applies entirely to migrants.
 - Freedom means that: People should not be forced to leave their homes, but if they do leave their rights and choice needs to be respected.
 - Migrants’ human rights should be acknowledged and be placed at the core of all development work.
 - If national governments prioritize issues within their borders, international development work should not be confined to the same constraints.
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Thank you

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