Mixed Migration Centre

Quarterly Mixed Migration Update:
Asia

This Quarterly Mixed Migration Update (QMMU) covers Southern and Southeast Asia. Depending on the quarterly trends and migration-related updates, more attention may be given to any of the countries over the rest.

The QMMUs offer a quarterly update on new trends and dynamics related to mixed migration and relevant policy developments in the region. These updates are based on a compilation of a wide range of secondary (data) sources, brought together within a regional framework and applying a mixed migration analytical lens. Similar QMMUs are available for all MMC regions.

The Mixed Migration Centre is a global network consisting of six regional hubs and a central unit in Geneva engaged in data collection, research, analysis and policy development on mixed migration. For more information on the MMC, the QMMUs from other regions and contact details of regional MMC teams, visit mixedmigration.org and follow us at @Mixed_Migration

MMC's understanding of mixed migration

"Mixed migration" refers to cross-border movements of people, including refugees fleeing persecution and conflict, victims of trafficking, and people seeking better lives and opportunities. Motivated to move by a multiplicity of factors, people in mixed flows have a range of legal statuses as well as a variety of vulnerabilities. Although entitled to protection under international human rights law, they are exposed to multiple rights violations along their journey. Those in mixed migration flows travel along similar routes, using similar means of travel - often travelling irregularly, and wholly, or partially, assisted by migrant smugglers.

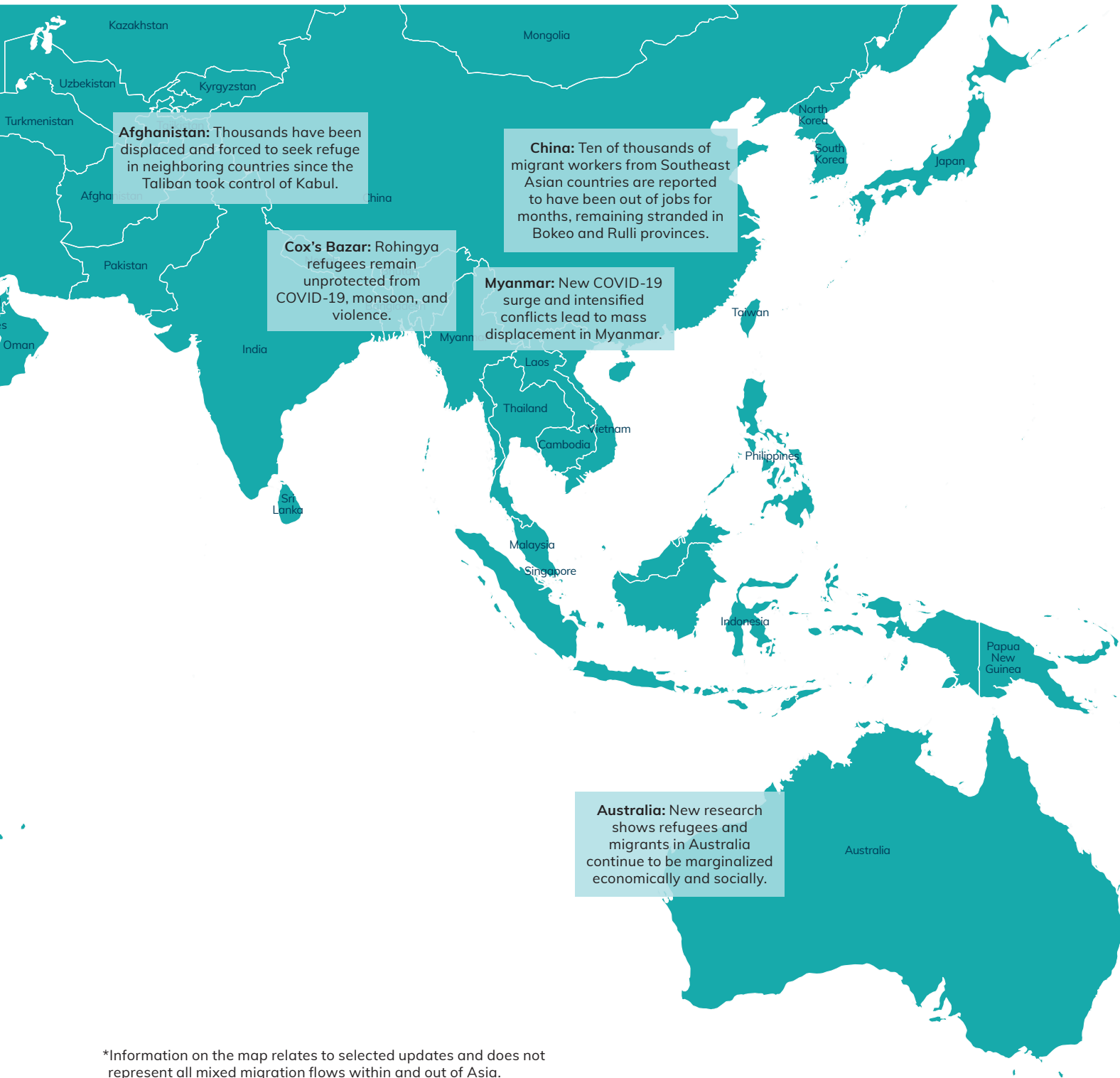**Front cover photo credit:**
Haroon Honari (2018)

Quarterly Mixed Migration Update:
Asia

Quarter 3 - 2021

Key Updates

- **Taliban takeover casts further shadow on humanitarian crises and increases the risks of irregular migration for Afghans:** Since the Taliban took control of Afghanistan's capital city of Kabul, thousands of Afghans have been displaced and forced to seek refuge in neighboring provinces and across borders in nearby countries as political instability has mounted.

- **Continued challenges prevent the full inclusion of refugees and migrants in COVID-19 responses across Asia and the Pacific:** Despite being disproportionately affected by the pandemic and its secondary economic impacts, many migrant workers have faced discriminatory obstacles in receiving treatment and assistance from host governments.

- **Isolation, poor conditions and lack of access to services force many Rohingya refugees to risk deadly onward journeys from Bhasan Char:** This quarter saw the tragic deaths of at least 11 Rohingya refugees attempting to flee the remote island of Bhasan Char. Movement restrictions and a lack of livelihood opportunities were reported as the main drivers for the journeys.

- **Eight years of Australia's offshore asylum processing:** Since 2013, more than 3,000 asylum seekers who sought to reach Australia by boat have been forcibly transferred to offshore processing camps in Papua New Guinea and Nauru. Years of living in substandard conditions with reported inhumane treatment and medical neglect have caused immeasurable suffering for the already vulnerable group.

- **70 years of the Refugee Convention, however challenges lie ahead:** While the convention is needed more than ever, there are rising concerns over increasing attempts by some governments to disregard the Convention's principles. Across Asia pushbacks, arrest and detention of refugees and people seeking asylum have been recorded at record levels.

- **Climate change could force 216 million people to migrate within their countries by 2050:** Asia and the Pacific are among one of the most highly exposed regions to Climate Change. A new report from the World Bank has predicted there will be 49 million internal migrants in East Asia and the Pacific and 40 million internal migrants in South Asia by 2050.

Regional Overview*

Afghanistan: Thousands have been displaced and forced to seek refuge in neighboring countries since the Taliban took control of Kabul.

China: Ten of thousands of migrant workers from Southeast Asian countries are reported to have been out of jobs for months, remaining stranded in Bokeo and Rulli provinces.

Cox's Bazar: Rohingya refugees remain unprotected from COVID-19, monsoon, and violence.

Myanmar: New COVID-19 surge and intensified conflicts lead to mass displacement in Myanmar.

Australia: New research shows refugees and migrants in Australia continue to be marginalized economically and socially.

*Information on the map relates to selected updates and does not represent all mixed migration flows within and out of Asia.

Mixed Migration Regional Updates

Afghanistan: Taliban takeover casts further shadow on the country's humanitarian crises and increases the risks of irregular migration

On 15 August, the Taliban took control of Afghanistan's capital city of Kabul, after nearly 20 years of US-led intervention. Within days, thousands of Afghans were displaced and forced to seek refuge in neighboring provinces and across borders in nearby countries as political instability mounted.

While initial responses from the international community to the events unfolding in August saw the evacuation of thousands of at-risk Afghans by air, more medium to longer-term policy responses have included the increasing securitization of borders to prevent predicted onward movements from Afghanistan. Both Iran and Pakistan, for instance, have deported Afghans crossing irregularly, without visas, into their territory, a continuation of their policy of deporting hundreds of thousands of Afghans in recent years.

Increasing securitization and a lack of regular pathways has led to increased reliance on smugglers, new routes, increased costs, and escalating protection risks for Afghans refugees, migrants and asylum seekers. More details will be presented in the Thematic Section "*The impact of the Afghanistan crisis on migration: Increasingly securitized borders will only make migration riskier and more dangerous*" of this QMMU.

Continued challenges towards the better inclusion of refugees and migrants in COVID-19 responses across Asia and the Pacific

On 19 July, the ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights called for governments to take more inclusive measures to protect people against COVID-19, regardless of their migration status. The statement came amid record numbers of COVID-19 infections across Southeast Asian countries, particularly in Thailand and Malaysia, two main migration hubs in the region. Despite being disproportionately affected by the pandemic and its secondary economic impacts, many migrants workers have faced discriminatory obstacles in receiving treatment and assistance from host governments. In Malaysia, for instance, since June, the police continued launching a crackdown to round up people without documentation, in the name of public health. The fear of arrest and deportation has made migrants and refugees wary of coming forward for the COVID-19 vaccine and to seek treatment.

Similarly, a survey by the International Federation of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Global Migration Lab showed that refugees and migrants continued to face major obstacles to getting immunized. For example, in Australia, while migrants are normally included in vaccination programs, 90% of the survey respondents reported limited information on where and how to get the vaccine. In Australia and across the globe, other barriers reported through the research include a lack of required documentation in order to access the vaccination and fears of arrest, detention, and deportation if they were to seek support.

COVID-19 related border closures leave tens of thousands of Southeast Asian migrant workers stranded and destitute in China

As the deadly surge of COVID-19 continues to sweep across Southeast Asia, a sub-region with low vaccination rates, governments have strictly closed borders in order to contain transmissions. As a result, migrant workers unable to return home have remained stranded in host countries with limited livelihood opportunities or support.

In China, up to 5,000 migrant workers, mainly from Myanmar and Lao PDR, were employed in the Special Economic Zone of Bokeo province, which lies along the shared borders of Thailand, Lao PDR, Myanmar and China. Since Bokeo became a COVID-19 hotspot, economic decline has driven most migrant workers out of their jobs over the past few months. Movement restrictions aimed at preventing the spread of the virus has also meant that migrants cannot leave the area to return home or find jobs elsewhere. The situation is particularly difficult for Myanmar migrant workers who, even when borders open, may be reluctant to return to their country which continues to be ravaged by political instability. Apart from Bokeo, an estimated 60,000 Myanmar workers are stranded in the southwestern Chinese border town of Ruili, reportedly with no way to earn income to survive, nor opportunity to return home or relocate to a new location.

Job losses among migrant workers also continue to take a toll on the economies of migrant-sending countries across Southeast Asia. Lao PDR, for instance, is reported to be drowning in debt with more than USD 400 million of loans in 2021 that cannot be paid due to crippled cash flows. The amount of remittances sent home to Lao PDR has reduced substantially due to major job losses and declining income for migrant workers remaining in destination countries. In addition, the country has had to accommodate and reintegrate more than 140,000 migrants who returned as of July 2021 from neighboring countries.

Cox's Bazar: Rohingya refugees remain unprotected from COVID-19, monsoon, and violence

This quarter saw continued protection risks facing Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar. Despite early preparation and warnings before the monsoon season, including strengthening infrastructure and preparation for medical emergencies, heavy rainfall started in late July, leading to flash flooding, waterlogging, and landslides across the camp areas. The late July floods claimed the lives of 11 Rohingya refugees, including four children. Over 4,000 shelters were washed away by the devastating floods, and at least 20,000 Rohingya refugees lost their income and possessions. Many others were injured due to the disaster, with women, children, older people, and persons with disabilities facing the greatest risks.

Simultaneously, the number of Rohingya refugees with COVID-19 has been on the rise in the congested camps. By 26 September, 3,084 COVID-19 cases were confirmed in the camps, leading to the deaths of 32 Rohingya refugees. With the shortages of vaccines, mainly due to India's halt of vaccine exports, it was not until 11 August that Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar begun to receive their first COVID-19 vaccine shots. The government of Bangladesh and aid agencies are expected to vaccinate 65,000 Rohingya refugees in the first round of the vaccination campaign.

This quarter also saw continued reports of violent clashes between militant groups and criminal gangs, spreading a climate of fear in the camps. Community leaders and Rohingya women are reportedly harassed

and attacked for being outspoken about women's rights. On 29 September, Mohib Ullah, a prominent Rohingya community leader, was killed by gunmen in one of the refugee camps. The tragic death of the Rohingya figurehead continues to raise grave concerns about the levels of violence and exploitation faced by Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar.

The unstable security situation, coupled with a lack of livelihood opportunities and routine climate disasters, has led to an increasing number of Rohingya refugees attempting to escape Cox's Bazar this quarter. A report in August showed that over the period of one month, 437 Rohingya refugees had been detained for attempting to flee the camps, reportedly to seek employment outside. Meanwhile, on 30 August, 14 Rohingya refugees were arrested in Katmandu, Nepal for irregular entry. Those refugees are reported to cross the land border to Nepal from the refugee camps in Bangladesh with the help of smugglers.

Bhasan Char: Isolation, poor conditions and lack of access to services force many to embark on deadly onward journeys from the island

This quarter saw the tragic deaths of at least 11 Rohingya refugees attempting to flee the remote island of Bhasan Char by boat where nearly 20,000 Rohingya are currently held. Around 40 Rohingya refugees, including women and children, were in a fishing boat when it capsized in the Bay of Bengal due to bad weather on 14 August. Rights groups reported movement restrictions and a lack of livelihood opportunities in Bhasan Char as the main drivers for these movements.

The forced resettlement of Rohingya refugees from Cox's Bazar to Bhasan Char has reportedly taken a toll on many people's mental and physical health. According to Reuters, the island is driving people "crazy" as Rohingya refugees remain isolated and separated from their relatives, as well as face risk of arrests if they try to escape. Meanwhile, the poor planning of the relocations, without proper determination of the safety and protection needs of Rohingya refugees, has contributed to a medical crisis on Bhasan Char. By early July, more than 5,000 Rohingya refugees on the island were reported to suffer from a diarrhea outbreak. At least three children have died, according to news reports. While the island remains free of COVID-19 so far, if it were to reach Bhasan Char, Rohingya refugees would be highly vulnerable to its effects without proper access to medical support.

New COVID-19 surge and intensified conflicts leads to mass displacement of civilians in Myanmar

On 14 July, the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar called for urgent international engagement to address the brewing "perfect storm" for a COVID-19 disaster in Myanmar. The call for action came against the backdrop of multiple crises facing the country since the military seizure of power on 1 February, including the ongoing political turmoil, crackdowns on healthcare workers and a weakening economy with damaging implications for the lives and livelihoods of Myanmar people. In Mindat, a centre of resistance in Chin state, as many as 50,000 people are reported to be in dire humanitarian need since the military cut all supply routes for food and basic needs. In the Rakhine state, more than 100,000 Rohingya people who have been confined to camps for nearly a decade were requesting to return home to

find work, shelter, and food amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The military, however, have [ignored](#) the request and at the same time [blocked news reporters](#) from covering the COVID-19 situation in the IDP camp.

Meanwhile, ongoing conflict across the country has also forced tens of thousands of Myanmar people to leave their homes. According to the UNHCR, an [estimated 208,000 people](#) have been internally displaced within Myanmar since 1 February. Additionally, an estimated [22,000 Myanmar people](#) have fled to neighboring countries over the same period, mainly to [India](#) and [Thailand](#). However, despite reaching relative safety, Myanmar people who seek asylum in neighboring countries are often met with hostility and criminalization due to their lack of documentation. In India where at least [16,000 Myanmar nationals](#) have crossed through the four bordering states of Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh, the authorities have detained many and [threatened to deport](#) migrants and asylum seekers if they do not hold valid travel documents. Meanwhile, the Thai government has vowed to [identify and arrest](#) those without documentation fleeing political persecution and economic hardship in Myanmar to Thailand. The announcement has led to the detention of [at least 20 Myanmar people](#) in Thailand within this quarter alone.

Eight years of Australia's offshore asylum processing: a blueprint for externalization policies worldwide?

July 19 marked the [eighth anniversary](#) of Australia's offshore processing regime, a mechanism that has impaired thousands of refugees and people seeking international protection. Since 2013, [more than 3,000](#) asylum seekers who sought to reach Australia by boat have been forcibly transferred to offshore processing camps in Papua New Guinea (PNG) and Nauru. Years of living in substandard conditions in these centers, with reported [inhumane treatment and medical neglect](#), have caused immeasurable suffering for the already vulnerable group.

As of today, of those who were sent to Australia's offshore centers, just over 1,000 have been resettled in third countries. Around 1,000 are in Australia, and some 125 men remain in Papua New Guinea and [108 people](#) are still held on Nauru. Many are reported to have '[given up on living](#)' after years of immigration detention and limbo, while others remain in overcrowded conditions and susceptible to COVID-19 infections. Australia's offshore processing not only undermines the rights of those seeking safety and protection, but is also costly, with an estimated [AUD 8.3 million](#) being spent by the Australian government between 2014 and 2020.

Disregarding the UNHCR's call for governments worldwide to [refrain from externalization policies](#) and the detention of refugees and asylum seekers, on 24 September, Australian Home Affairs signed [a new agreement](#) with Nauru to continue its offshore processing mechanism indefinitely. This move further reflects the rise in externalization policy and practice worldwide. In Europe, on 3 June, Denmark [passed legislation](#) allowing the transfer of asylum seekers to third countries outside the Union while their cases are reviewed. Other EU countries also plan to [build detention camps](#) across Central Asia in response to the potential increase of Afghan asylum seekers, while the UK is also considering a similar approach.

Reports show the continued economic and social marginalization of refugees and migrants in Australia

New research conducted this quarter shows that refugees and migrants in Australia continue to face economic and social marginalization. In September, new research led by Monash University and the University of Melbourne found there had been increased discrimination towards refugees and migrants during COVID-19 as Australian employers were opting for an "Australian first" policy as the labor market became more competitive. COVID-19 has further marginalized refugees and migrants, many of whom already face educational disadvantages and weak bargaining power in the labor market. The report came amid concerns over the overrepresentation of migrants and refugees among the homeless population in Australia. According to the country's census, the proportion of the homeless population among those who arrived in Australia in the previous five years is three times higher than the general population, highlighting their economic and social disadvantages.

Meanwhile, refugee and migrant women in Australia are particularly vulnerable. Research by Charles Darwin University, for instance, found that female refugees are more at risk of experiencing complex mental and physical health problems throughout their resettlement journeys than their male counterparts. At the same time, a third of refugee and migrant women living in Australia are reported to have experienced domestic and gender-based violence, with those on temporary visas reporting much higher levels of abuse, in many cases also related to their migration status.

Climate change could force 216 million people to migrate within their countries by 2050

A new report from the World Bank found that climate change, an increasingly potent driver of migration, could force 216 million people across six world regions to move within their countries by 2050. Asia and the Pacific are among the most highly exposed regions to the effects of climate change, with a predicted 49 million internal migrants in East Asia and the Pacific and 40 million internal migrants in South Asia in the same period.

The report came out amid concerns over a sharp rise in climate change-related disasters and their impacts on human displacement and migration. On 1 September, the World Meteorological Organization published a report emphasizing the five-fold increase in natural disasters over the past 50 years, with a disproportionate impact on poorer countries. Asia accounts for nearly one third of global natural disasters, mostly associated with floods and storms, and for nearly half of all deaths and one-third of associated economic losses.

Indeed, this quarter saw the continued severe impacts of natural disasters on displacement across Asia and the Pacific. Since July, floods, cyclones, and heavy rain have affected various countries in the region, including China, Japan, Indonesia, Nepal and Bangladesh. In late July, the tropical cyclone IN-FA swept through the Philippines, displacing nearly 40,00 people. At the same time, heavy rainfall in the Kayin, Mon and Rakhine states of Myanmar resulted in nearly 50,000 people in need of evacuation, affecting a population that has already suffered from numerous conflicts, violence, and the pandemic.

70 years of the Refugee Convention: with more challenges ahead

The 28th of July marked the [70th anniversary](#) of the 1951 Refugee Convention. Despite the emergence of contemporary and unprecedented [challenges and emergencies](#), such as the global COVID-19 pandemic, the convention remains more [needed than ever](#).

Nevertheless, there are rising concerns over increased attempts by some governments across Asia to [disregard the Convention's principles](#), from pushbacks at land and sea borders, as in the case of Iran, Turkey, and Greece, to arrests and detention of refugees and people seeking asylum for an indefinite period of time, as in Malaysia and Australia. Moreover, the increasingly pronounced impacts of climate change on human mobility, especially in areas such as the Pacific islands, require an expansion of [the definition of refugee](#) within the Convention as well as the protection responsibilities of states.

On the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the Refugee Convention, UNHCR in partnership with Civil Society called for strengthened [international cooperation](#) to uphold the key principles of refugee protection and continued resourcing to ensure durable solutions for refugees.

Thematic Focus:
The impact of the Afghanistan crisis on migration: Increasingly securitized borders will only make migration riskier and more dangerous

The rapid fall of Kabul to the Taliban in mid-August took many by surprise, casting further shadow on the future of a country already at breaking point. Since the beginning of the year, hundreds of thousands of Afghans have been displaced and forced to seek refuge in neighboring provinces and across borders in nearby countries as political instability has mounted.

However, the full impacts of the current situation on migration and displacement are yet to be seen. While many Afghans who are in search of safety, security and a better future would like to leave the country, unprecedented large-scale movements from Afghanistan are yet to eventuate and many Afghans remain in a situation of involuntary immobility. This is a result of the closure of land borders, increasingly securitized responses from neighboring countries, increased Taliban checkpoints, as well as already limited regular migration pathways, now even less available due to the closure of most consular services in Afghanistan and the challenges of acquiring or renewing passports.

Fears of large-scale movements has fueled anti-refugee and anti-migrant rhetoric, as well as increased the securitization of borders

As concerns about the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan rise, neighboring countries in the region and the EU have adopted drastic and preventive measures in fear of a repeat of the so-called 2015-2016 "refugee crisis". Pakistani officials have repeatedly warned that the country does not have capacity to host more Afghans within its territory. Iran has also vowed to 'immediately repatriate refugees' once conditions improve, and in the first week of September alone, deported 33,893 undocumented Afghans. Other countries in the region, including Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, have also signaled they would push back against any attempts to cross the border without permission.

While Turkey has sped up the construction of a concrete modular wall and smart tower on its eastern border to prevent the irregular crossing of Afghans from Iran, securitization of borders and pushbacks is also increasingly common in Europe. Along with increasing its sea patrols, Greece has also built a 40-km long wall on its border with Turkey and opened its first refugee holding camp on Samos Island. As a result, only 604 Afghans have arrived in Greece since January this year. Along the Balkan Route, Croatian police were alleged to have robbed and pushed back about 60 Afghan asylum seekers to Bosnia between 16 and 29 August. Poland too has sealed off its 418-km border and unlawfully pushed back Afghans into Belarus,

disregarding international refugee law and leaving all in precarious situations with no access to food, clean water, shelter or medicine, which has so far led to the deaths of four people.

Increased reliance on smugglers, new routes, increased costs, and escalating protection risks

As the already limited regular pathways to leave the country for Afghans have narrowed further, the majority of those who seek to leave in the coming months may have no choice but to consider embarking on irregular journeys with the assistance of smugglers. The growing demand for smuggling services has led to a significant increase in the costs of journeys from Afghanistan for different destinations. For example, MMC's 4Mi enumerators report that the cost of journeys from Zaranj, Afghanistan, to Tehran, Iran have increased from USD 250 in Q1 2020 to USD 320 in August 2021. Similarly, the cost for a Turkish visa obtained through an intermediary has also increased from USD 2500 in Q1 2020 to USD 5500 in July 2021.

At the same time, as irregular journeys get riskier and more costly, there is an emergence of new routes as migrants and refugees must navigate increasingly policed and militarized borders, as well as the closure of land crossings and cessation of consular services across the country. In terms of protection risks experienced en route, there have been growing reports in the media of pushbacks at the borders of neighboring countries, and further afield in the EU, as a result of increasing securitization. There have also been reports of large crowds gathering at the borders with Pakistan and in some cases, stampedes of people trying to flee resulting in tragic fatalities. Reports in neighboring border towns, such as Quetta, Pakistan, have also included increasing extortion of Afghans as opportunists look to take advantage of those in desperate situations.

What will the future hold for Afghan displacement and migration?

Although the current situation has not yet led to large scale movements of Afghans across the region, let alone into Europe, UN officials estimate that half a million Afghans could flee the country by the end of the year alone. In anticipation of potential onward movements of Afghans, neighboring governments and those in the EU brace themselves for a crisis. Through the release of the EU Action Plan responding to the events in Afghanistan, it is clear that the EU's approach is primarily to keep Afghans within the region or at least away from European borders, with an additional 3 billion Euros allocated (on top of the already allocated 6 billion) under the EU Facility for Refugees to support refugees in Turkey and Turkey's migration management capacity.

While closed borders, pushbacks, increasing protection risks and the inflated costs of journeys may deter Afghans from reaching the EU and exercise their right to claim asylum in the short-term, durable solutions are desperately needed for the millions already displaced and those newly so, across the region. Regional neighbors of Afghanistan have already been hosting many Afghans for more than four decades, whilst simultaneously struggling with their own economic and political challenges. Without ensuring access to public services, education, employment, and documentation for displaced Afghans across the region, their safety and future prosperity are severely limited and the need for onward movements to countries including those within the EU will only increase.

Strong commitments from various actors are desperately needed, including solidarity in action between the de facto government of Afghanistan, regional governments, the EU, and other Western states in order to facilitate safe passage for people whose only lifeline is migration. This includes providing regular, effective, and accessible migration and asylum pathways. Donor and host countries alike must also ramp up efforts to protect the rights of displaced Afghans throughout the region and beyond, sharing responsibility in order to adequately address the escalating needs. This includes, among other things, recalling commitments made under the Global Compact on Refugees and its guiding principles to ensure that Afghans seeking refuge can do so safely and host countries are supported accordingly.

Highlighted New Research and Reports

Asia & The Pacific Regional Population Trends Analysis - Forced Displacement 2020

UNHCR | July 2021

Asia and the Pacific hosts 11 per cent of the total persons of concern to UNHCR, 19 per cent of the world's refugee population and 55 per cent of the world's stateless population. Globally, Pakistan and Bangladesh are among the 10 countries with the largest refugee/asylum-seeker populations while Afghanistan and Myanmar are the third and fifth country of origin of refugees and asylum-seekers. The report provides a summary overview of population statistics of the Asia and the Pacific region in 2020 from UNHCR's Annual Statistical Report and includes trends and analysis of the major population groups, three leading focus countries and the two major displacement situations in the region.

Forced Migration Review: Public health and WASH

Refugee Studies Centre | August 2021

The first feature of the issue focuses on the pandemic and covers a broad range of topics, from practical improvements to WASH services in camp settings, to community engagement around health issues in displacement crises. The second feature focuses on non-signatory States and the international refugee regime, with authors examining the implications for protection when States are not signatories to the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (and/or its 1967 Protocol). In particular, authors explore the role of UNHCR, civil society and legal actors in facilitating access to protection in States such as Bangladesh, Hong Kong, Thailand, Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon.

## Asia–Pacific Migration Data Report 2020

IOM | August 2021

In a time of unprecedented social and economic changes, the Migration Data Report 2020 of the Asia–Pacific Regional Data Hub presents the latest evidence on the complex and multifaceted migration dynamics in Asia and the Pacific. The report analyses how COVID-19 altered the regional migration landscape in 2020 and identifies lessons learned and future goals to strengthen migration data collection. The report serves as a tool to monitor progress towards the fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration as well as the Migration Governance Indicators and offers evidence-based recommendations to overcome challenges concerning data availability, comprehensiveness and comparability.
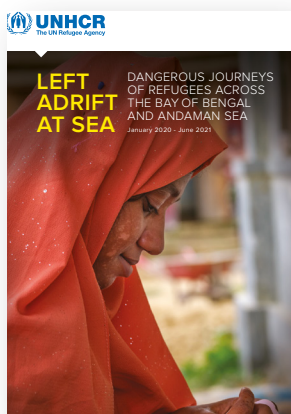
Left Adrift at Sea: Dangerous Journeys of Refugees Across the Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea

UNHCR | August 2021

This report sets out the developing trends in movements of refugees in the Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea, and the clear need for more comprehensive solutions. Equally critically, however, it gives voice to the thousands of refugees who have risked their lives in desperation – to reunite with family, to access education, to support themselves through gainful employment. The report makes clear and actionable recommendations on how to avoid further tragedies. These include bolstering search and rescue efforts at sea, stopping the deadly practice of pushbacks, and working towards a regional mechanism for predictable and equitable disembarkation.
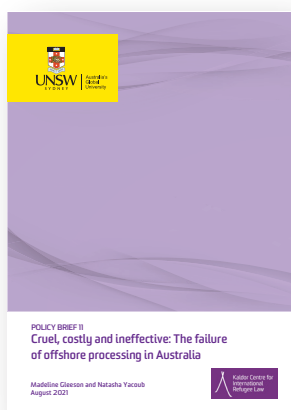
Cruel, costly and ineffective: The failure of offshore processing in Australia

UNSW | August 2021

Placing gender at the center of its humanitarian and development responses, CARE undertook new research in Afghanistan, Ecuador, and Turkey between April and May 2021 to better understand how COVID-19 is impacting the health and protection of women and girls on the move. The three countries represent different types of forced displacement across multiple regions: internally displaced persons and refugee returnees in Afghanistan; more recent migrants and refugees due to the Venezuelan crisis in Ecuador; and longer-term Syrian refugees living under temporary international protection in Turkey.
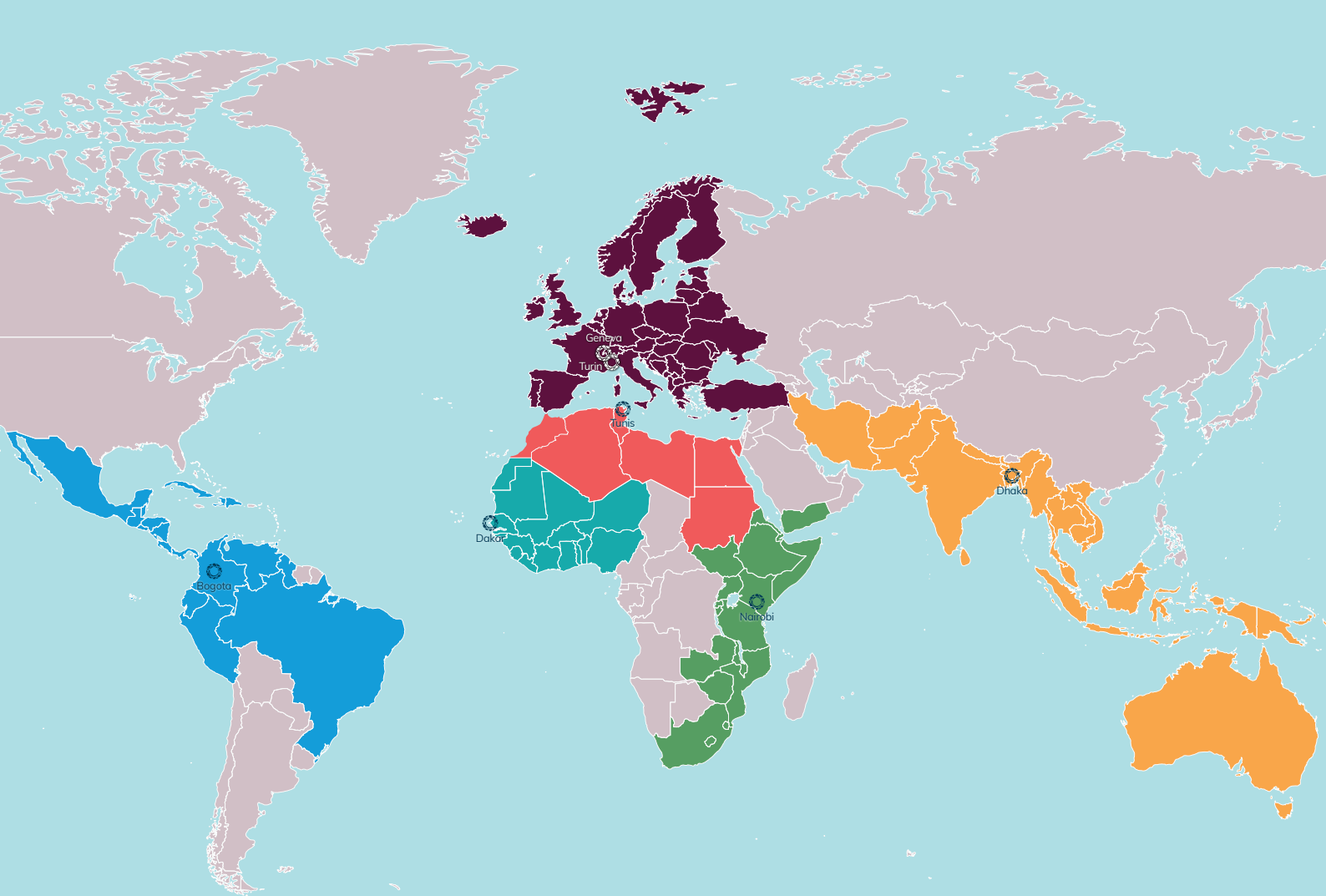
The MMC is a global network consisting of six regional hubs and a central unit in Geneva engaged in data collection, research, analysis and policy development on mixed migration. The MMC is a leading source for independent and high-quality data, research, analysis and expertise on mixed migration. The MMC aims to increase understanding of mixed migration, to positively impact global and regional migration policies, to inform evidence-based protection responses for people on the move and to stimulate forward thinking in public and policy debates on mixed migration. The MMC's overarching focus is on human rights and protection for all people on the move.

The MMC is part of and governed by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC). Global and regional MMC teams are based in Geneva, Turin, Dakar, Nairobi, Tunis, Bogota and Dhaka.

For more information visit:
mixedmigration.org and follow us at @Mixed_Migration