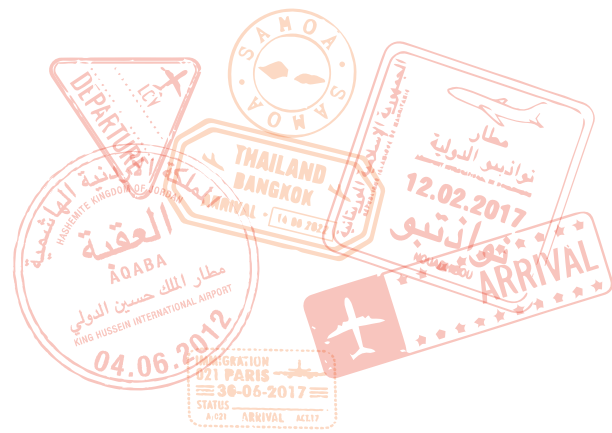


# 2

## The numbers

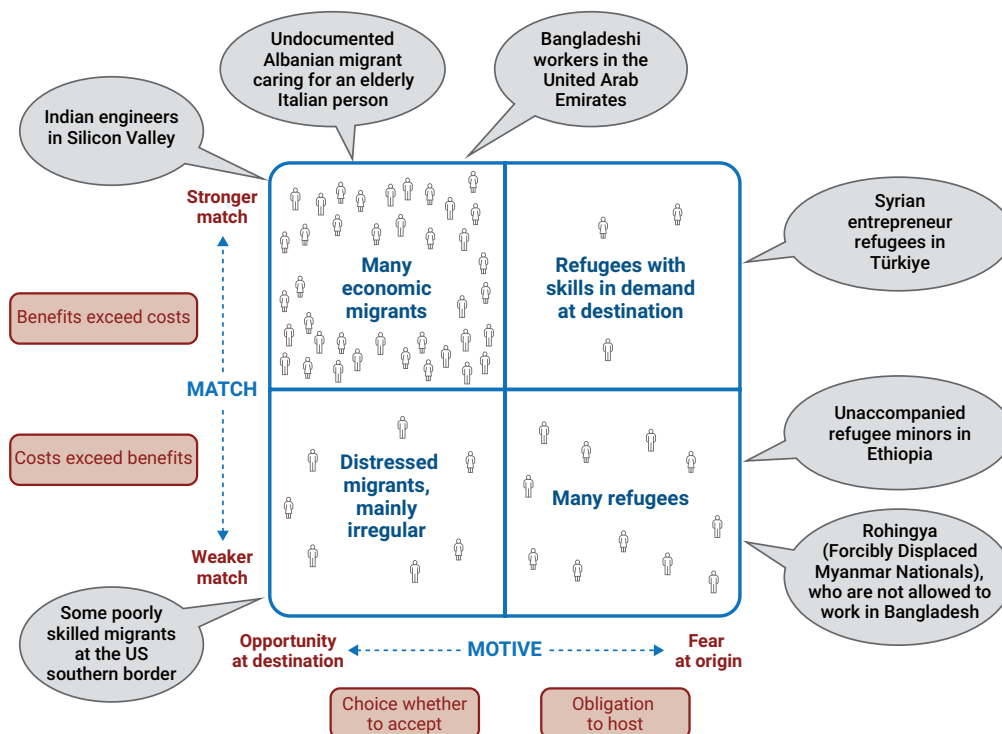
### Understanding who moves, where to, and why



#### Key messages

- Migration is a mechanism used by people in responding to long-term global imbalances, such as differences in welfare, and in adapting to shocks, such as conflicts.
- Some 184 million people live outside of their country of nationality, about 20 percent of whom are refugees. Patterns of movement differ based on migrants’ motives (figure 2.1).
- Migrants and refugees live in countries in all income groups—43 percent in low- and middle-income countries; 40 percent in high-income member countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); and 17 percent in member countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).
- There is no simple dichotomy between migrants’ countries of origin and countries of destination. Many countries at all levels of income are both, at the same time.

**Figure 2.1** Patterns of movements reflect distinct matches and motives



Source: WDR 2023 team.

Note: Match refers to the degree to which a migrant’s skills and related attributes meet the demand in the destination country. Motive refers to the circumstances under which a person moves—whether in search of opportunity or because of a “well-founded fear” of persecution, armed conflict, or violence in their origin country.