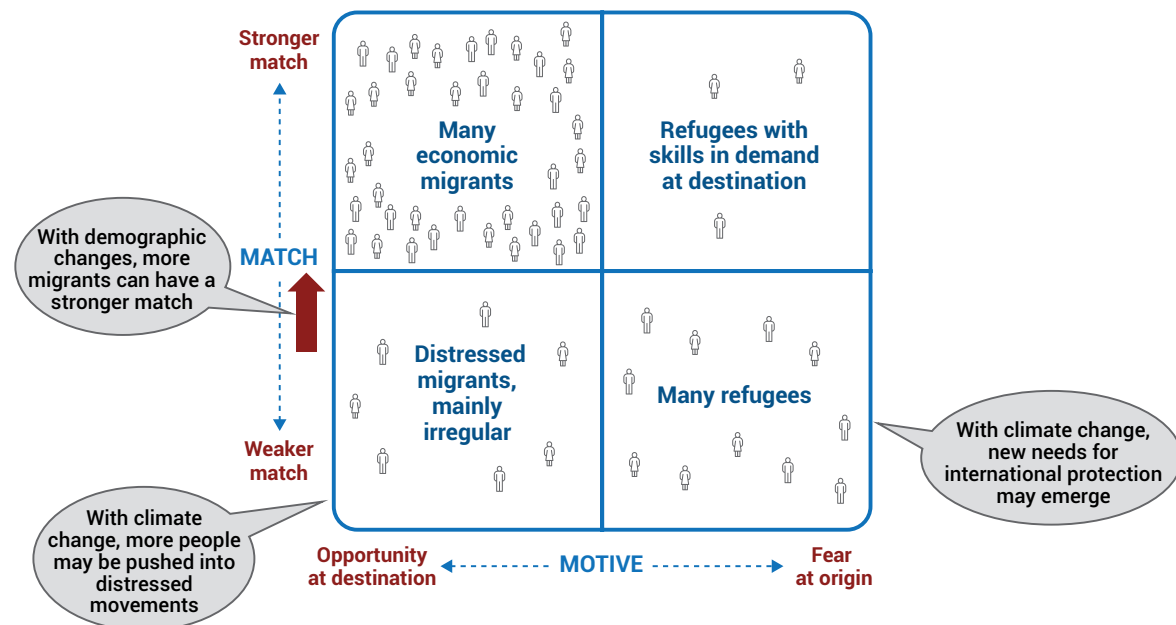# 3
The outlook
Changing patterns, needs, and risks

Key messages

- Spurred by two unprecedented forces—rapid demographic transitions and climate change—cross-border movements are becoming both inevitable and necessary for migrants and economies at all levels of income. They will influence where many migrants stand in the Match and Motive Matrix (figure 3.1).

- The populations of high-income and many middle-income countries are aging quickly, while the populations of low-income countries are expected to continue to grow. This trend is creating large mismatches between labor supply and demand across the world. Whether countries allow migration to help reduce some of these mismatches will largely determine economic and social trajectories at all income levels.

- Climate change is compounding other drivers of mobility. So far, most movements induced by climate impacts have been within countries. But climate change has the potential to increase distressed cross-border movements, and the global community urgently needs to limit global warming and support country-level adaptation policies.

Figure 3.1 Demographics and climate change are transforming migration patterns

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.