



# Reflecting on migrants' contributions in an era of increasing disruption and disinformation

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*P2P Metropolis preconference*

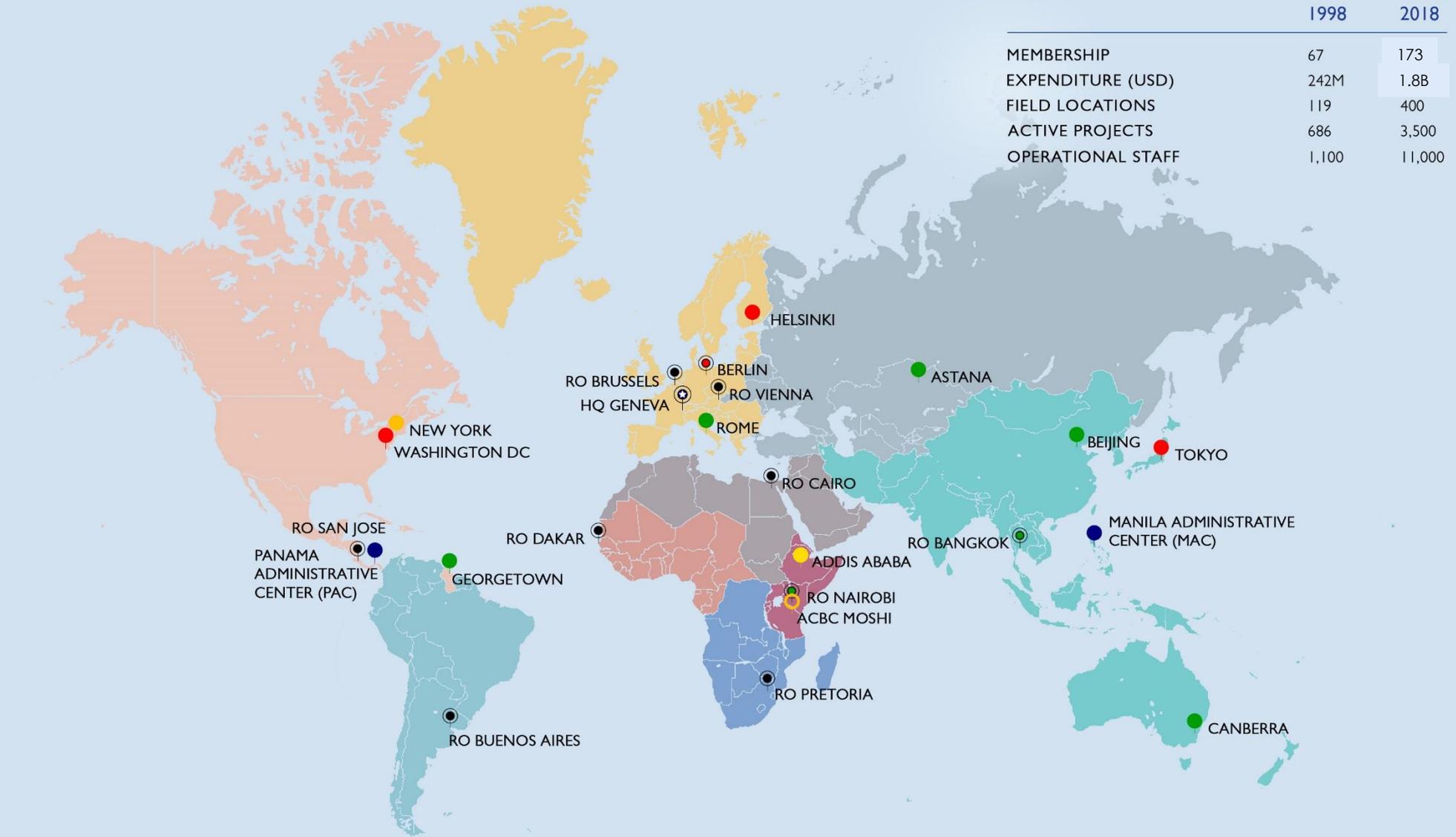
*24 June 2019*

# Presentation outline

1. IOM context
2. Migrants' contributions – destination and origin
3. Disinformation impacts

*Disclaimer: Views expressed are the presenter's and do not necessarily reflect those of IOM*



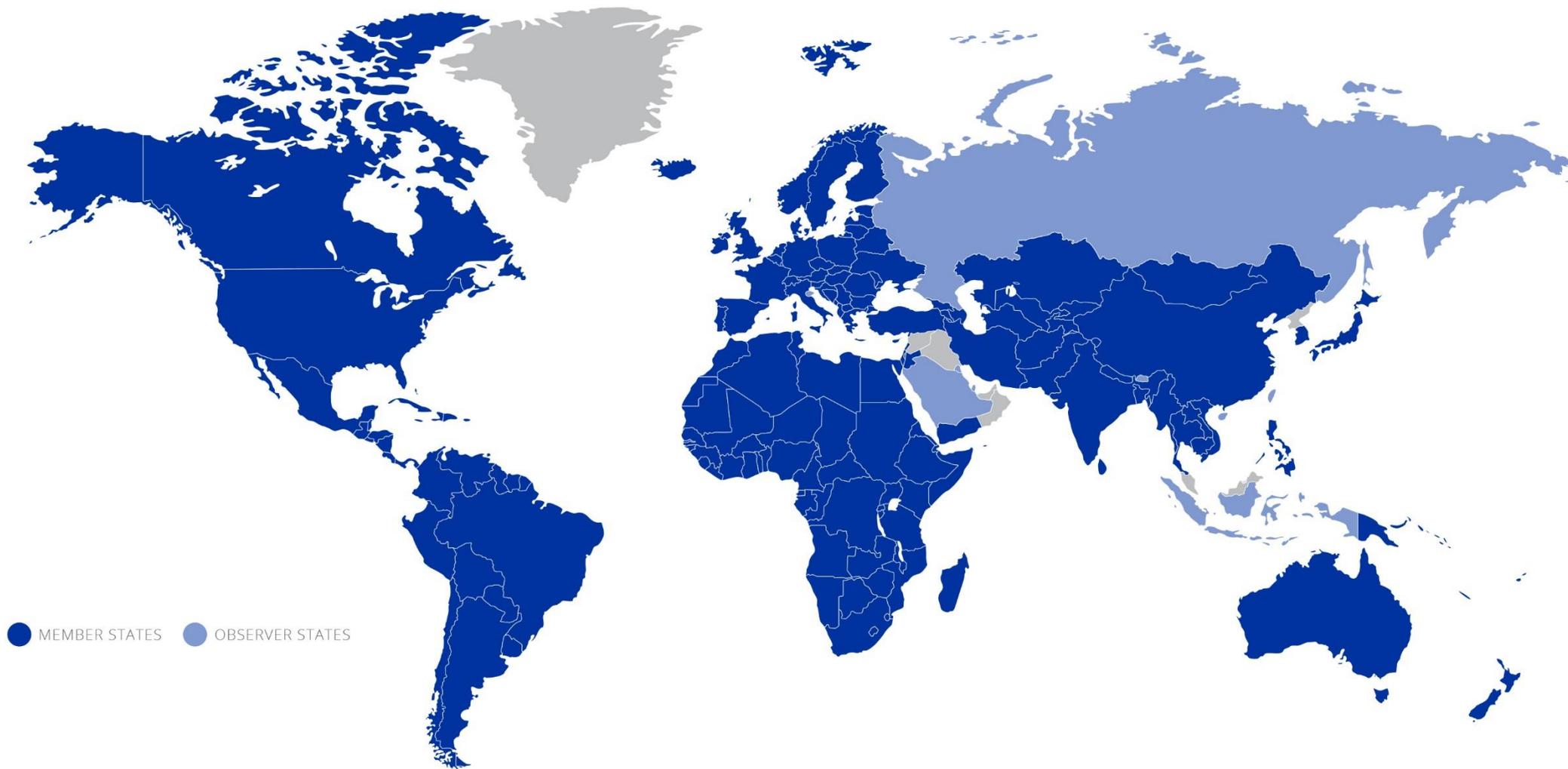


	1998	2018
MEMBERSHIP	67	173
EXPENDITURE (USD)	242M	1.8B
FIELD LOCATIONS	119	400
ACTIVE PROJECTS	686	3,500
OPERATIONAL STAFF	1,100	11,000

- REGIONAL OFFICE
- COUNTRY OFFICE WITH COORDINATING FUNCTIONS
- COUNTRY OFFICE WITH RESOURCE MOBILIZATION FUNCTIONS
- SPECIAL LIAISON OFFICE
- AFRICAN CAPACITY BUILDING CENTRE
- ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER
- GLOBAL MIGRATION DATA ANALYSIS CENTRE

# MEMBER STATES

From 67 in 1998 to 173 Member States as of March 2019  
(with a further 8 as Observer States)



# Displacement and migration

Increasing disjuncture between contemporary forms of migration and the normative and legal frameworks that underpin protection regimes

- Migration patterns and processes have changed
- People with varying motivations and status often move together
- People can shift between categories or fit into more than one category
- Agency of refugees has increased

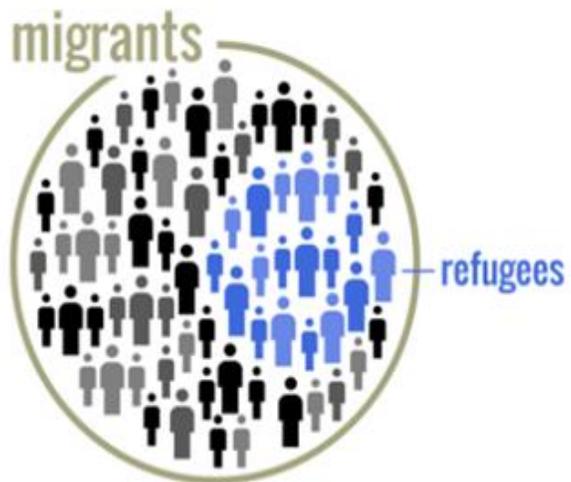
Sources: Crawley and Skleparis, 2017; Collyer and de Haas 2012.



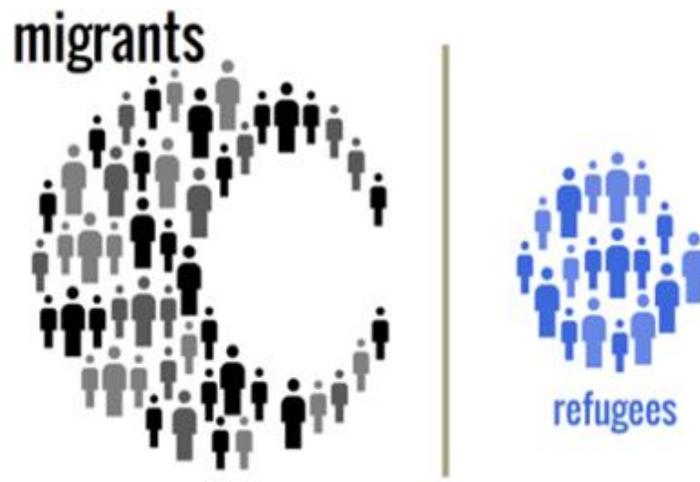
Photo: Muse Mohammed (IOM)

# Refugees or migrants?

Inclusivist definition of migrants



Residualist definition of migrants



Source: Carling, 2019.

# Why do we need a balanced discussion on migrants' contributions?

- Prominence of migration at national and international levels
- Polarization of public debates on migration
  - Rigorous and evidence-based analyses have diminished
- Increased disruption and disinformation influencing public debates and government policies on migration and migrants
- Migrants' contributions are often overlooked
  - Important to revisit migrants' contributions, while acknowledging the challenges that migration brings

Sources: GCIM, 2005; IOM, 2000; McAuliffe and Ruhs, 2017.

# Next *World Migration Report*

‘Reflecting on migrants’ contributions in an era of increasing disruption and disinformation’ chapter in the forthcoming WMR 2020

- Authors: Dr Marie McAuliffe, Mr Adrian Kitimbo and Prof Binod Khadria
- Thematic chapter providing ‘state-of-the-art’ on the topic
- Other thematic chapters on:
  - Migrants in countries in crises
  - Environmental migration
  - Children and unsafe migration
  - Health and migration
  - Global governance

Focus tends to be on ‘challenges’ that migration can present because this is what policy and practice aims to ‘fix’

Sources: GCIM, 2005; IOM, 2000; McAuliffe and Ruhs, 2017.

# What do we mean by contributions?

- Giving something: money, time, ideas, labour, material goods— in order to achieve something with other people
- Part of broader interactions and engagement with individuals, groups and institutions in society
- Can be **sociocultural, civic-political** or **economic**
- Ability to contribute depends on policy settings and rights afforded to migrants

Sources: Baldwin-Edwards, 2008; Kanko and Teller, 2014; Shah, 2009; Cambridge Dictionary, 2019; Goldin, 2018.

# Sociocultural contributions

- Food and culinary traditions

  - Helps foster integration

  - Increases food diversity

  - Opportunities for social bonding

- Sport

  - Most evident in professional sport

  - Helps promote positive narratives on migrants  
(the Salah effect)

  - Helps with integration efforts (Australia, for example)



Photo: Muse Mohammed (IOM)

Sources: Pilcher, 2017; Oussedik, 2012, 55; Lal, 2006, pp.113-119; Atkinson, 2015; CMY, 2019.

# Sociocultural contributions

- Music
  - Migrants are often over-represented in entertainment sectors
  - Contribute fresh ideas through music
  - Superdiversity
- Social remittances - new ideas, values & practices
  - Helps to change gender norms in countries of origin
  - Positively contribute to the empowerment of women and girls
  - Social remittances are not always positive

Kasinitz and Martiniello, 2019, pp. 858; Levitt, 1998; Levitt and Lamba-Nieves, 2010; Lafleur and Duchesne, 2017; Grabowska and Engbersen, 2016.

# Civic-political contributions

- Engagement in governance and politics at all levels of government
- Volunteer work
- Migrants, including refugees, as agents of change in peacebuilding and reconstruction processes
- Diaspora engagement in political processes
- Bring back political ideologies (positive and negative) to countries of origin

Bradley, Milner and Peruniak, 2019; Jacobsen, Young and Osman, 2008; Milner, 2011.

# Factors that enable/constrain migrants' civic-political contributions

<i>Global level</i>	<i>National level (origin and destination)</i>	<i>Local level (external and intragroup)</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Transportation and communication technology</li> <li>- International laws and treaties on human rights</li> <li>- International power politics, pressures, and conflicts involving immigrants' home country/region</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Geographic proximity between origin and destination</li> <li>- Structure and dynamics of the economy</li> <li>- State-national model of civic-political integration</li> <li>- Civic culture / practice of inclusion-exclusion (multiculturalism)</li> <li>- State of nation-building process</li> <li>- Immigration/emigration policies and citizenship</li> <li>- State-to-State bilateral relationship</li> <li>- Patriarchal/egalitarian gender relations in private and public spheres</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Structure and dynamics of the economy</li> <li>- Civic culture / practice of inclusion-exclusion (multiculturalism)</li> <li>- Extent of residential segregation</li> <li>- Intergroup relations</li> <li>- Proportion of foreign-born</li> <li>- Immigrant/ethnic group size and residential concentration</li> <li>- Sojourn/diaspora mentality</li> <li>- Immigrant/ethnic group sense of civic entitlement</li> <li>- Internal organisation and leadership</li> </ul>

Source: Adapted from Morawska, 2018.

# Economic contributions: countries of origin

- Migrants' remittances
- Positive influence on human capital stocks
- Diaspora bonds
- Investing and starting new businesses
- Reduces information barriers and enhances trade between origin and destination countries
- Brain drain and brain waste remain concerns

de Haas, 2005; Mohieldin and Ratha, 2019; OECD/ILO, 2018; Beaton, Catão and Koczan, 2018.



Photo: IOM

# Estimated total remittances to global top 10 receiving countries, 2004 to 2018

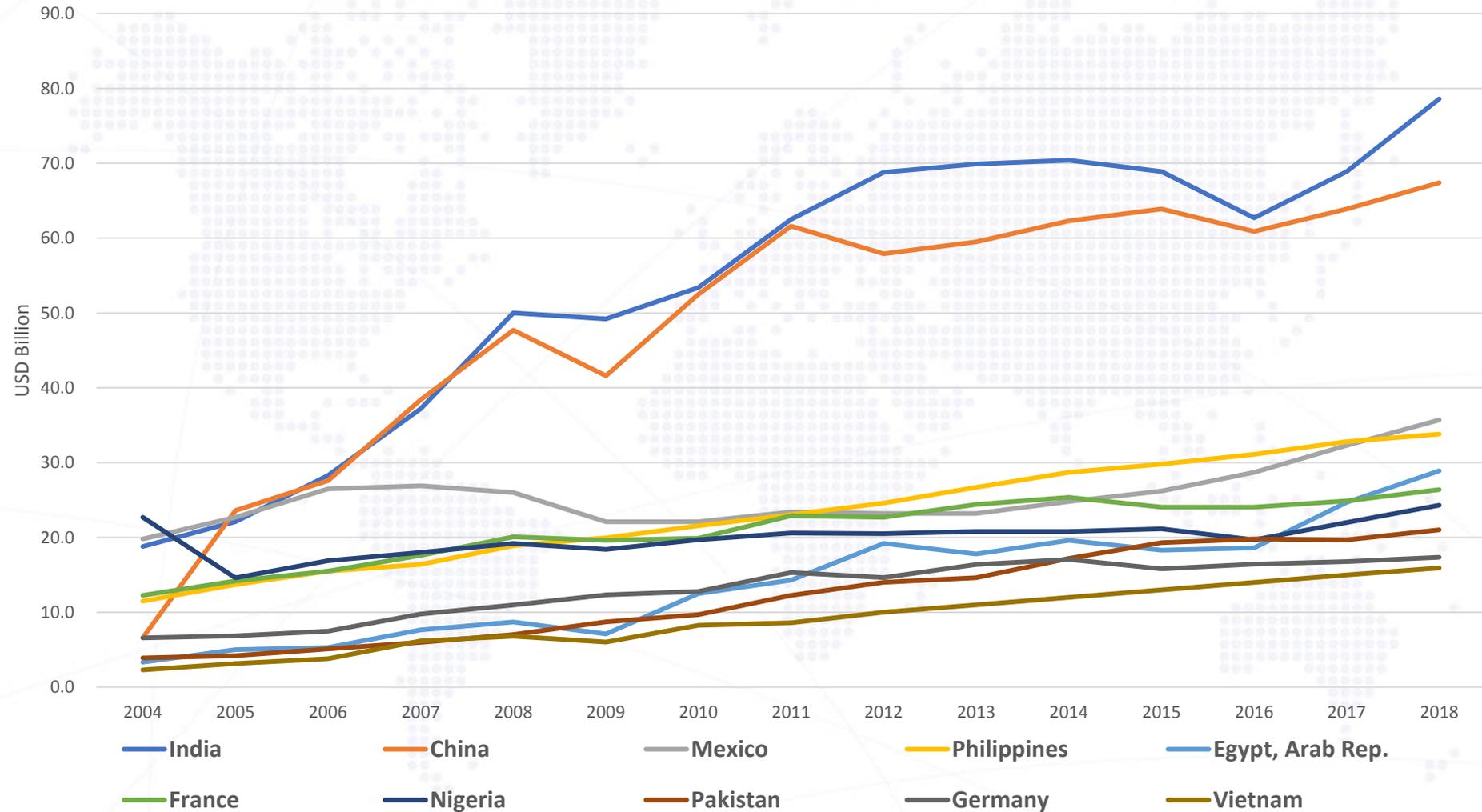




Photo: Alex Sergeev

## Economic contributions: destination countries

- Help to address labour shortages
- Offset some of the challenges associated with shrinking populations
- Contribute to global economic growth
  - Added \$6.7 trillion to global GDP, or \$3 trillion more than if they had not migrated (MGI, 2016)
- Drivers of entrepreneurship and innovation
  - Migrants comprise nearly 30% of all entrepreneurs in the United States

Sources: Goldin, Pitt, Nabarro and Boyle, 2018; Khadria, 2012; Ruhs, 2013; The Kauffman Index, 2016; Barone and Mocetii, 2011.

# New impediments to the recognition of migrants' contributions

- Transformation in transnational connectivity has changed the way public debates occur
  - Ability to self publish through social media
  - Use of social media to distort narratives on migration
  - Shifts in traditional media
- Immigration is increasingly become a political tool by parties
  - Anti-immigration has become a central theme in political messaging
  - Use of social media by far-right groups to alter public debates AND political decisions
  - 2015-16 flows of migrants (including refugees) to and through Europe
  - Lead up to the adoption of the Global Compact for Migration

Suiter and Cullotty, 2019; McAuliffe and Weeks, 2015; Grande, Schwarzbözl and Fatke, 2018; Abou-Chadi and Krause, 2018;; Mudde, 2019.

Thank you