

# Gender and migration data: Global overview

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# Introduction

- Gender differentials appear in many stages of the migration process
- Gender-specific studies of migration increasingly discuss the feminisation of migration
- During irregular migration and asylum-seeking situations, there is a pressing need for better protection and inequalities against gender-based violence and exploitation during migration transitions and settlements
- Calls for a better understanding of the migration experiences of women, men and other gender groups

# Introduction

- Challenging for the origin and destination societies to identify and address systematic gender inequalities related to migration without related data
  - SDG and GCM calls for gender-specific migration data
- Focus on two particular aspects of gender and international migration data.
  - Inventory of sex-specific migration **data collections** currently available.
  - Utilise some collections to illustrate the global patterns and trends in sex-specific migration.
- Concentrate on sex, as used by migration data publishers
  - Generally designated as male or female.
  - Hennebry, KC, & Williams (2021) provide an excellent guide to the availability and issues in gender-related migration data.

# Data Inventory

- Range of migration statistics published by National Statistics Organisations (NSOs) with sex-specific breakdowns.
  - Migrant populations (stocks) and migrant arrivals and departures (flows)
- Range of detail in migration statistics
  - Totals: Immigrants, total inflow and/or total outflows
  - Bilateral: Country of birth, origin and/or destination
- Existing data inventories, data explorers and publication lists (without sex focus)
  - Knowledge Base of KCMD
  - Migration Research Hub of IMISCOE
  - Migration Data Portal of IOM GMDAC
  - Displacement Tracking Matrix of IOM
  - World Migration Reports of IOM
  - Prominstat database
  - REMINDER data inventory
  - QuantMig data inventory

# Data Inventory

Inventory by data types with descriptions of the regularity of updates from each publisher

- Total migrant stocks by sex
- Total migration flows by sex
- Bilateral migrant stocks by sex (extract right)
- Bilateral migration flows by sex

	Publisher	Data sources	Measure	Time periods	Destination countries and territories	Origin countries and territories
Trends in International Migration Statistics	UN DESA	Populations censuses, registers and surveys	Foreign born population	1990 to 2020 in five-year intervals	231	232
Bilateral Migration Database	World Bank	Populations censuses, registers and surveys	Foreign born population	1960 to 2000 in ten-year intervals.	231	232
Database on Immigrants in OECD Countries (DIOC)	OECD	Censuses	Foreign born population	2000/01 to 2015/16 in five- year intervals	41	236
Database on Immigrants in OECD and non OECD Countries (DIOC-E)	OECD	Censuses	Foreign born population	2000/01 and 2010/11	127	244
Population by place of birth (migr_pop3ctb)	Eurostat	Populations censuses, registers and surveys	Foreign born population	1998-2019	29	242
Population by citizenship (migr_pop1ctz)	Eurostat	Populations censuses, registers and surveys	Foreign citizens	1998-2019	34	225
Investigación de la Migración Internacional en Latinoamérica (IMILA)	UN CELADE	Population census	Foreign born population	1990, 2000 and 2010 census rounds	19	98

# Data Inventory

- Migrant stock data collections tend to contain more comprehensive sex-disaggregated data, whereas some migration flow data collections tend to be limited in geographic or temporal scopes.
- Sex-specific data tend to be more widely available for migrant populations and migration flow totals in comparison to more detailed bilateral data.
- Data sets of global migrant stocks are reliant on data from censuses many years ago for many countries.
  - More recent data estimated. Lack of data to validate estimates against.
- Migration flow data are scarcer.
  - Available data are not always comparable due to the range of definitions used.

# Global Patterns and Trends in Sex-specific Migration

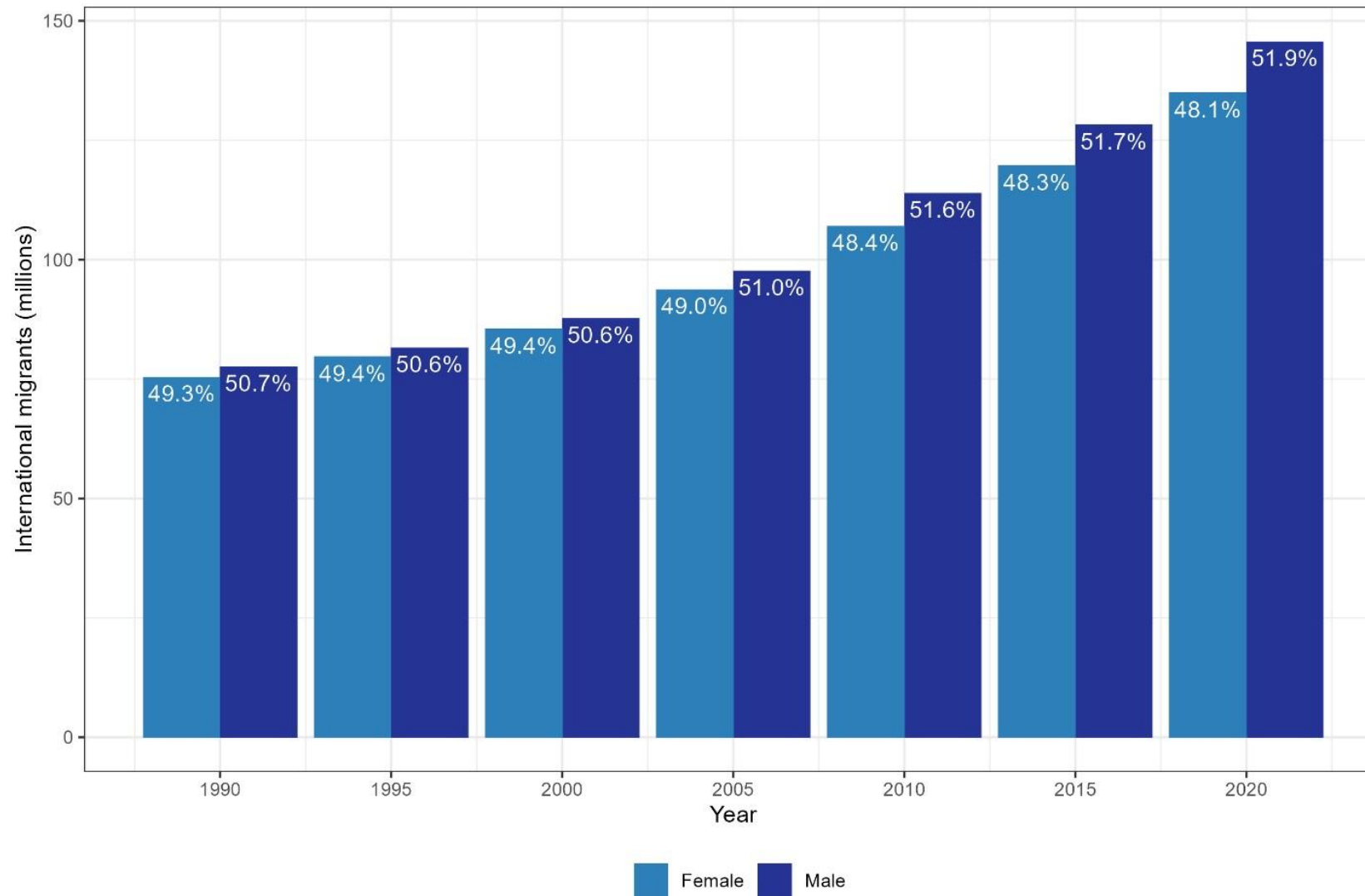
- Between 1840 and 1920 the global labour migrant population became more male-dominated as empires grew and increasing levels of international trade demanded temporary male workers (Donato & Gabaccia, 2015).
- During the 1920s, increased regulation of immigration in many countries pushed global migrations toward a balanced sex distribution of the migrant population.
- In 1960, when the first estimates of the global migrant population by sex are available, women comprised 46.6 per cent of foreign migrants (Zlotnik, 2003).
- Narrative from academic migration scholars on the feminisation of international migration during economic globalisation over the last few decades.
  - Number of female migrants has almost tripled in the past 60 years

# Global Patterns and Trends in Sex-specific Migration

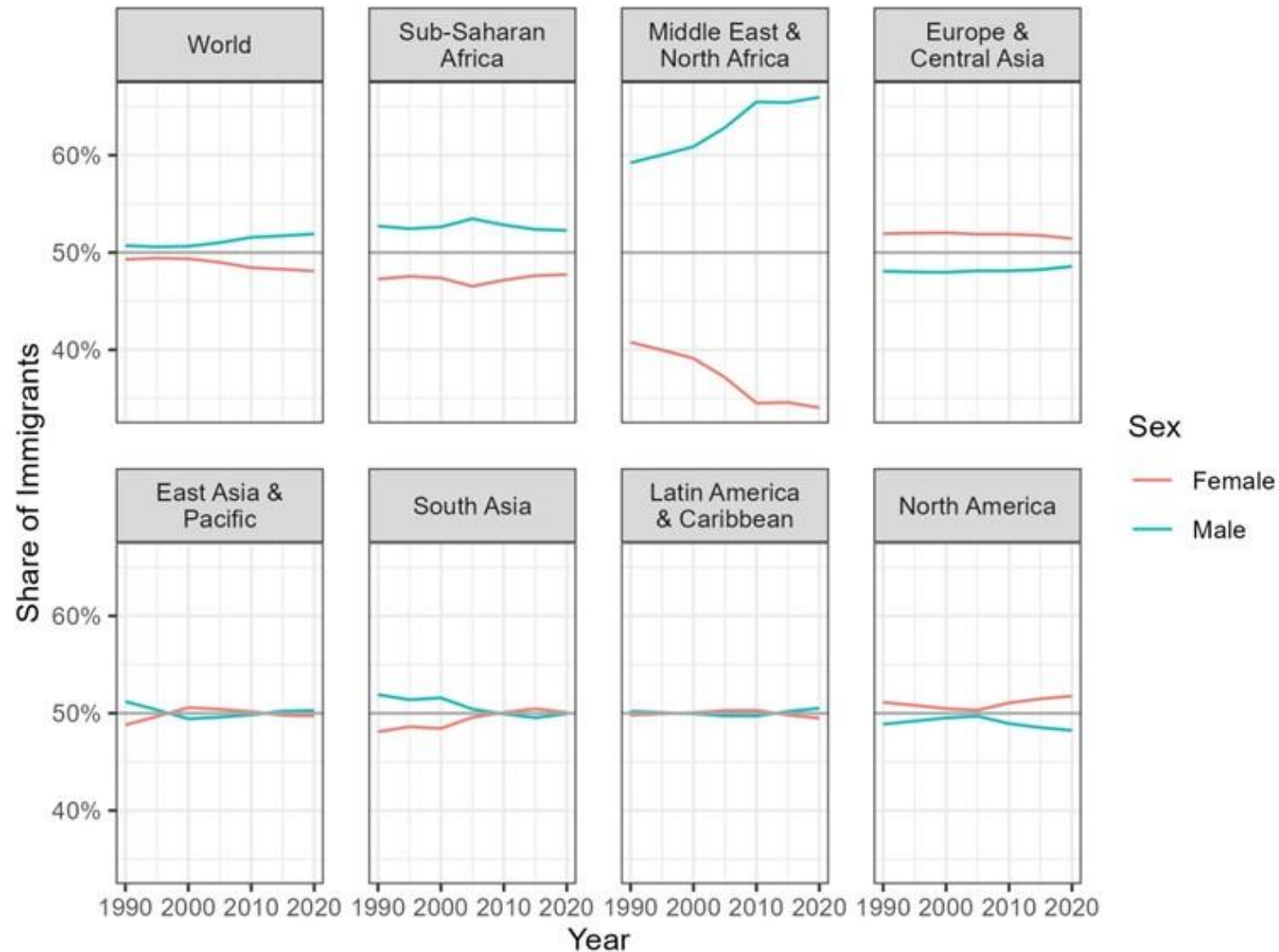
- However
  - Increase accompanied by a larger rise in the number of male migrants (next slide)
  - Expansion of the number of countries
  - General increase in the level of the global population.
- Nevertheless, great changes in the sex differences and migrant populations in particular regions and nations, and the migrant corridors that they traverse (next slides).
  - Causes and consequences of the migration sex differences have also shifted over time and vary substantially across cultures and countries.



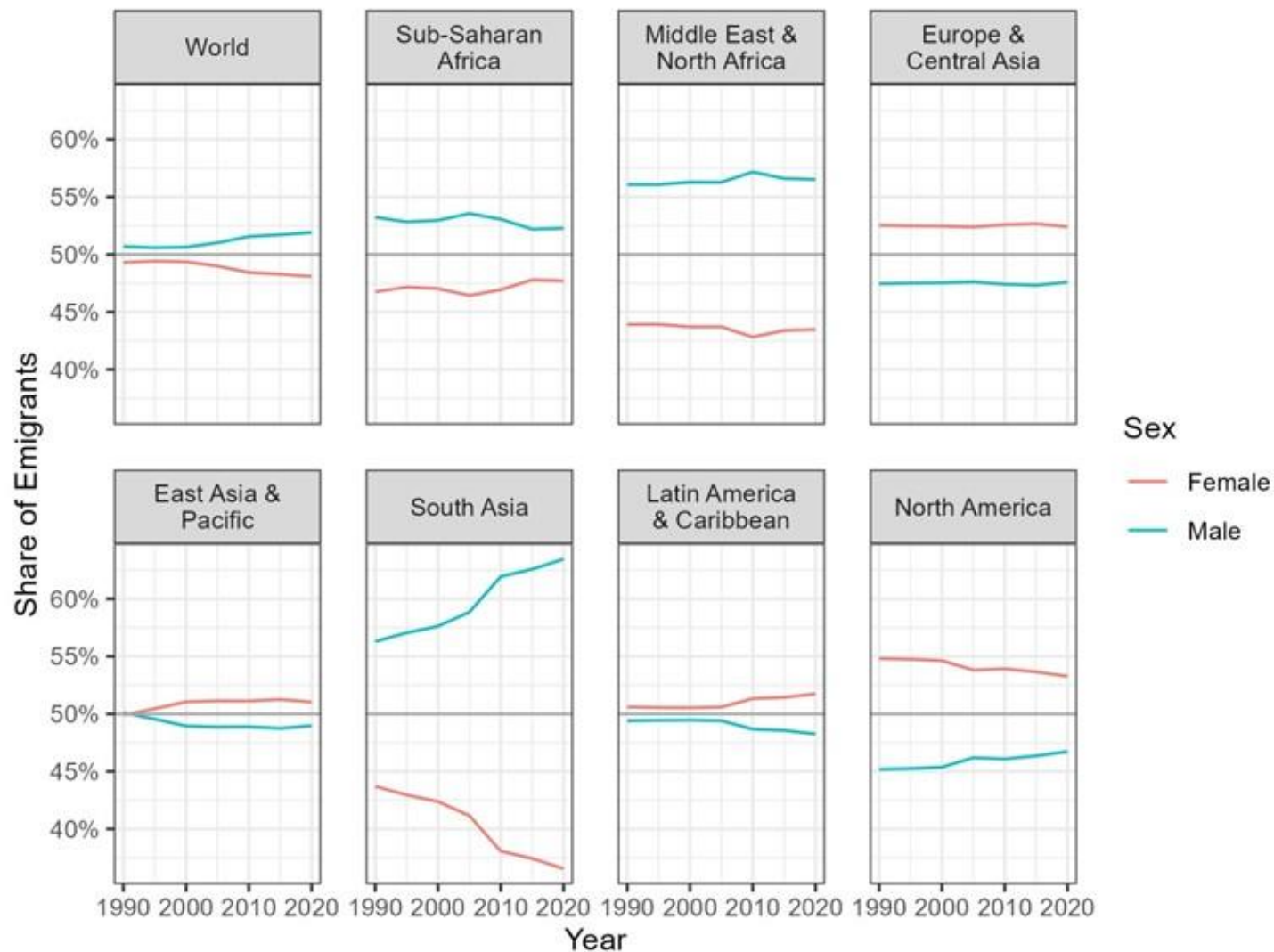
# International Migrants by Sex. Data from UN DESA (2022)



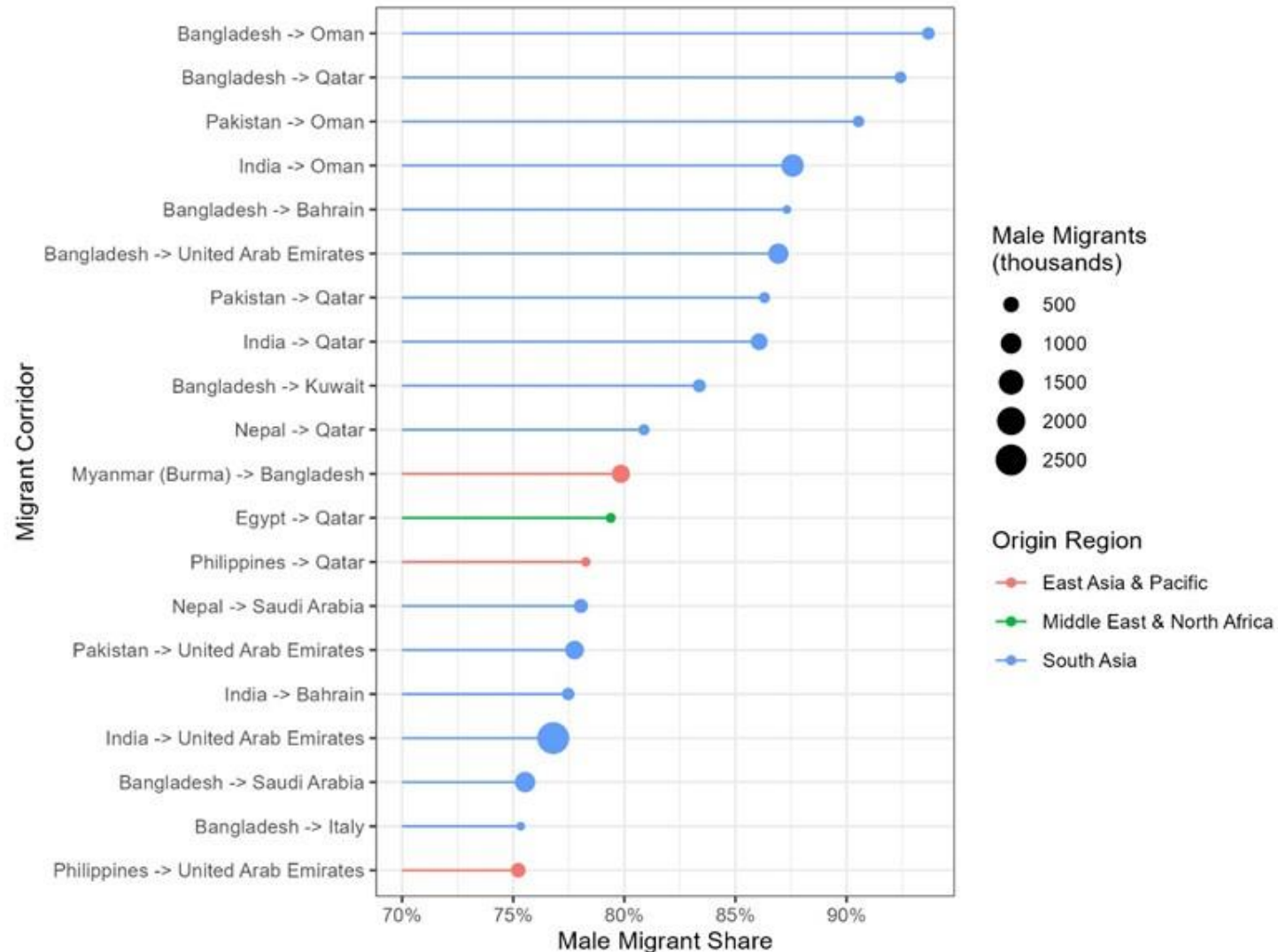
# Shares of Migrants Born by Destination Region



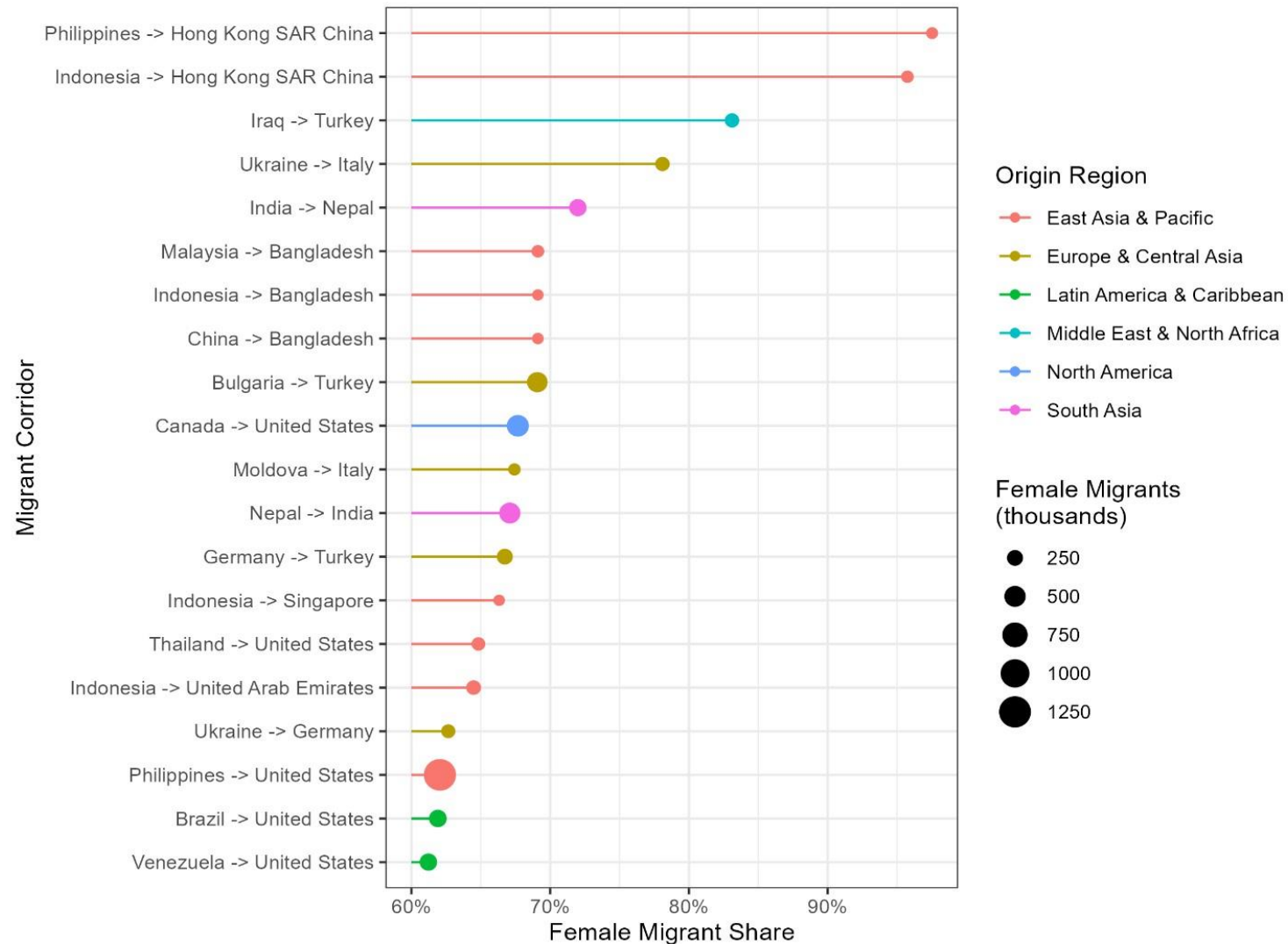
# Shares of Migrants Born by Origin Region



# Top 20 Male Dominant Migrant Corridors



# Top 20 Female Dominant Migrant Corridors



# Summary

- Many large migrant corridors are still male-dominated
- Lack of gender breakdown in data collections due to the lack of methods to capture gender identity and sexual orientation by data producers of migration data, usually NSOs.
- Incorporating gender dimensions into migration statistics needs to be carefully operationalised to ensure the “Leave no one behind” principle at the core of the SDGs for 2030 is met

