

# Migrants, Refugees and Climate Change

## The PSI Perspective



[www.world-psi.org](http://www.world-psi.org)

# Public Services International

- Global federation of public sector trade unions, representing 20 million workers involved in the delivery of public services such as health, social services, utilities, municipal and state services.
- Represents over 7 million workers in the health and social care sectors – currently seeing an increasing phenomenon of migration.
- PSI supports opening legal channels for migration. However, migration should not replace promotion of decent work in home countries; nor to be used to be used as a strategy for development



# ***Conflicts and Disasters are the leading causes of displacement....***



# Global Displacement due to Conflict and Violence

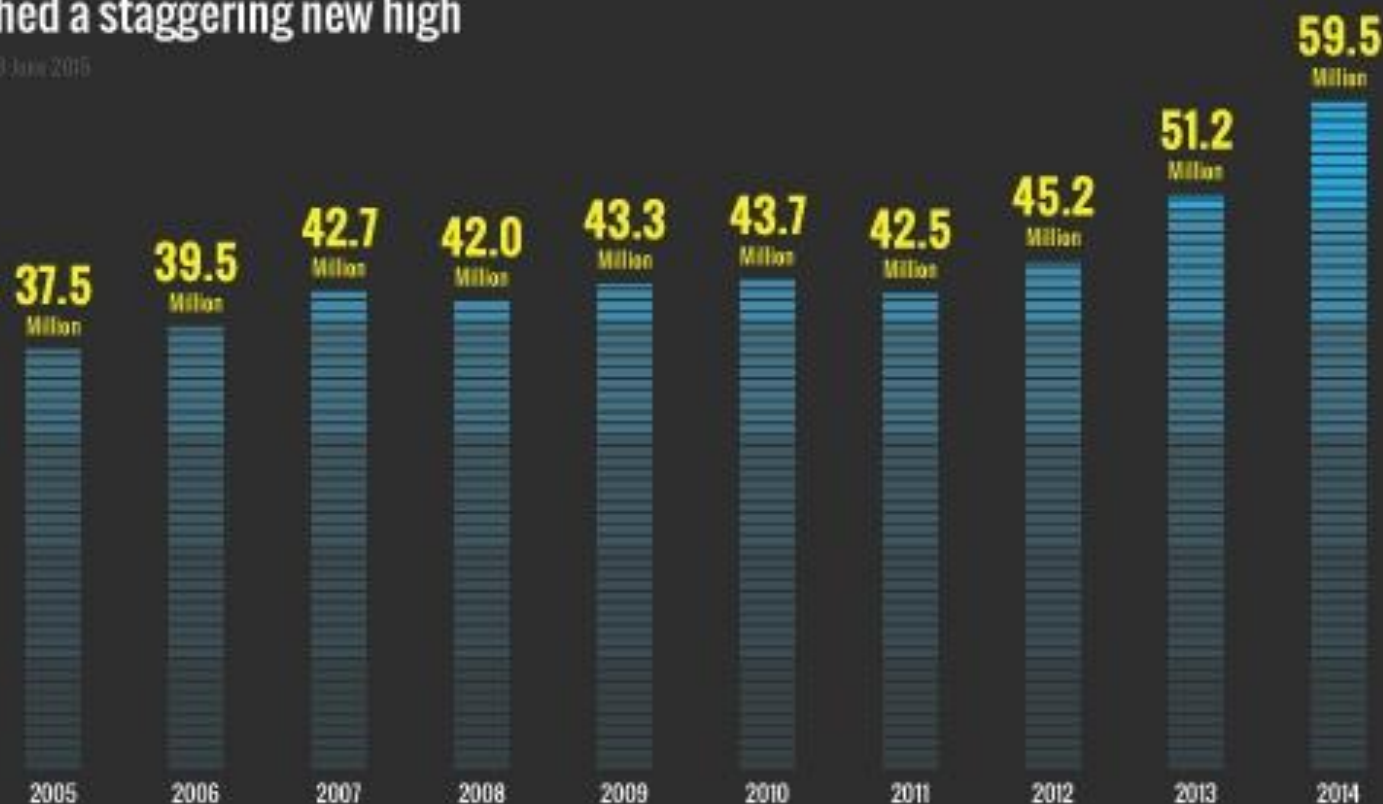
- By end-2014, **59.5 million** individuals were forcibly displaced worldwide as a result of persecution, conflict, generalized violence, or human rights violations.
- This is 8.3 million persons more than the year before (51.2 million) and the highest annual increase in a single year.

(UNHCR Global Trends, 2014)



# The number of people displaced by war has reached a staggering new high

Source: UNHCR / 18 June 2015



# Displacement due to Disasters and Climate Change

- **25 million to 1 billion** environmental migrants by 2050 (IOM, 2015)
- **200 million by 2050**
- Disasters associated with geophysical hazards: earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and weather-related hazards such as floods, storms, landslides, cold snaps and wildfires
- 2013: 22 million people were displaced in at least 119 countries (IDMC, Sept 2014)
- Disasters displaced an average of **27 million people** each year **between 2008 and 2013**





# Gender Dimension

- Women as carers and care workers dealing with impacts of disasters and climate change
- Lack of access by women to health and social services
- Increased burden on women, e.g. gathering food, fuel, water
- Vulnerability to exploitation and violence



# Perilous Journeys



\*812,230 arrivals by sea

**3,499 dead/missing** in the Mediterranean **of 4,849** deaths worldwide

\* Valid as of 10:00 CEST 13 November 2015 (Source: IOM)





# Migrant Routes

In 2015:

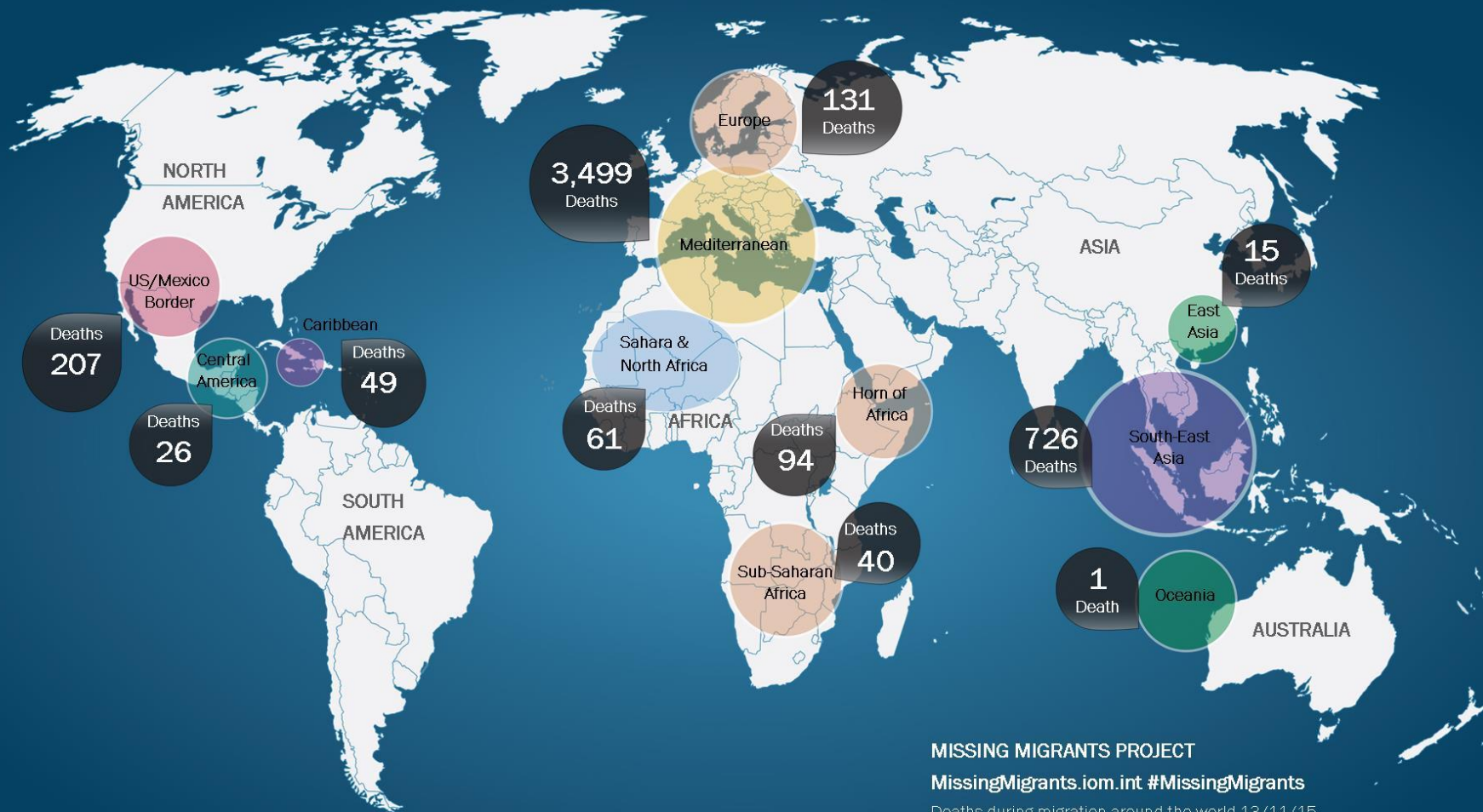
**809,266 people** have been travelling to Europe through various transit routes across Africa, Asia or the Middle East.

(IOM, 2015)





# GLOBAL OVERVIEW: 4,849 MIGRANT DEATHS TO DATE IN 2015 (est.)



MISSING MIGRANTS PROJECT

[MissingMigrants.iom.int](http://MissingMigrants.iom.int) #MissingMigrants

Deaths during migration around the world 13/11/15



# PSI and EPSU Statement

*“We need to avoid the rhetoric of referring to refugees as a burden. They are human beings fleeing danger and persecution. We have the human rights and humanitarian obligation to receive them.”*



-PSI and EPSU Statement  
to the European Council,  
September 2015

# Advisory Group on Climate Change and Human Mobility

*“The Paris Agreement presents a unique opportunity for Parties to the UNFCCC to prevent and reduce climate change-related displacement by encouraging and supporting planning and implementation of **mitigation and adaptation strategies.**”*

*Measures include:*

*Strengthening resilience of climate vulnerable populations, including right to stay*

*Support or facilitate dignified internal and cross-border migration*





# *Access to quality public services promotes sound mitigation and adaptation from the rights-based approach...*



# Challenges

- Austerity measures leading to massive job cuts and much-needed public services, including those services accessed by migrants, asylum seekers and refugees
- Privatisation, outsourcing, precarious work
- Working conditions among frontline workers
- Rise in xenophobia, intolerance and anti-migrant rhetoric
- Diversity policies, e.g. under-representation of migrant workers in public services

# Policies and Actions

1. Rights-based Approach: Respect for human rights and humanitarian law
  - UN Migrant Workers Convention & ILO Migrant Workers Conventions C97 & C143
  - 1951 UN Refugee Convention
2. Addressing the root causes: sustainable, social and economic development, democracy and peace
3. Quality public services are key to addressing inequality and exclusion: access to services for migrants, asylum seekers and refugees
4. Public service workers are at the frontline – providing services, tackling emergency situations and disasters, thus the need for well-trained, adequate staff working in decent conditions
5. Promote workers' involvement at workplace, strengthen collective bargaining and social dialogue
6. Building partnerships with local governments and communities in delivery of services and shaping policies
7. Supporting legal channels for regular migration
8. Tackle exploitation, smuggling and trafficking of migrants
9. Address unethical recruitment practices
10. Campaign to tackle xenophobia and intolerance, call for solidarity and inclusion

# More information

<http://www.world-psi.org/en/issue/migration>