



MIGRATION: SITUATION, DYNAMICS, ROOT CAUSES, AND RESPONSE

An African perspective

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Balaton group Meeting 2016

DEFINING THE SCOPE

The Situation

Dynamics

Root causes

Responses

- The biggest migrant crisis Europe has ever faced”
- 65,3 million forcibly displaced individuals in 2015 (59.5 million individuals by 2014)
- New asylum claims in Europe more than doubled in 1 year (1.32 million new asylum claims in 2015 up from 563 000 in 2014)
- Migration : a complex issue (interconnected and interdependent subsystems, inhomogeneity, difference in scales and magnitude, high dynamism, etc.)
- As a complex system, it is characterized by non-linearity of causation, complex feedback loops with and between the many different parts; high level of uncertainty

DEFINING THE SCOPE

- Definitions & perceptions (IOM has a brought definition of migration, while some countries have their own definition;
- The UK focus on international migrations; ‘immigrant’ and ‘migrant’ (as well as ‘foreigner’) are commonly used interchangeably in public debate and even among research specialists. (Anderson, Bridget, and Scott Blinder (2015) "Who counts as a migrant? Definitions and their consequences." Briefing, The Migration Observatory at the University of Oxford)
- Definitions of ‘migrant’ vary among different data sources, and between datasets and law.
- • No consensus on a single definition of the world “migrant”

The Situation

Dynamics

Root causes

Responses

DEFINING THE SCOPE

The Situation

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- The media (such as BBC) use the term “migrant” to refer to all people on the move who have yet to complete the legal process of claiming asylum. This includes:
- Refugees : people fleeing war-torn countries such as Syria,
- Economic migrants : people who are seeking jobs and better lives.
- Political issue : highly political issue; many surveys different conclusions; data are also used for different perspectives; conclusions from surveys should be treated with caution.

GETTING TO KNOW THE AFRICAN REGION

The Situation

Dynamics

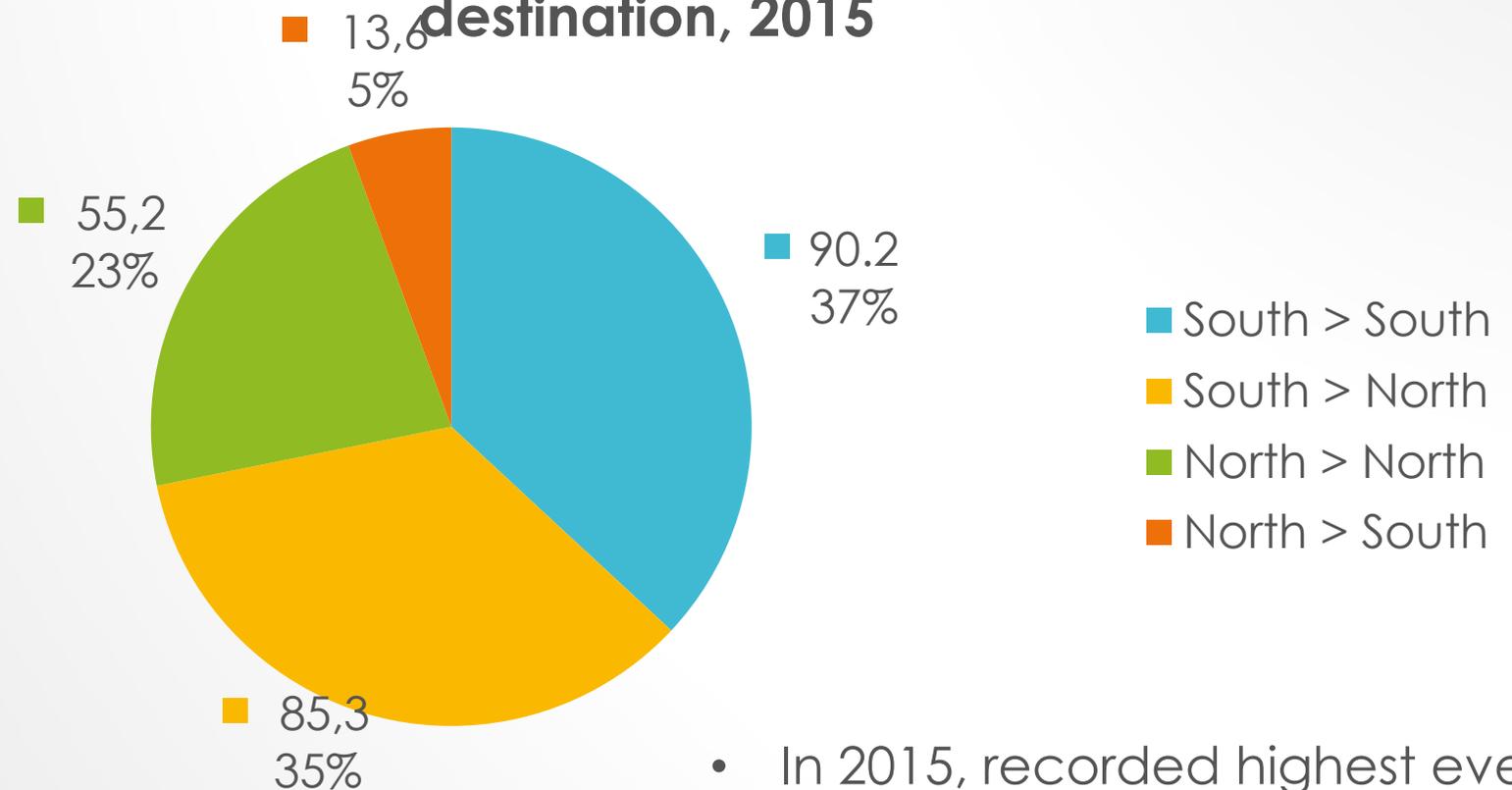
Root causes

Responses



THE STATE OF MIGRATION GLOBALLY & DYNAMICS

Distribution of international migrants, by origin and destination, 2015



Source: UNDESA, 2015.

- In 2015, recorded highest ever international migrants: 244 million
- Only 3% of the world population

The Situation

Dynamics

Root causes

Responses

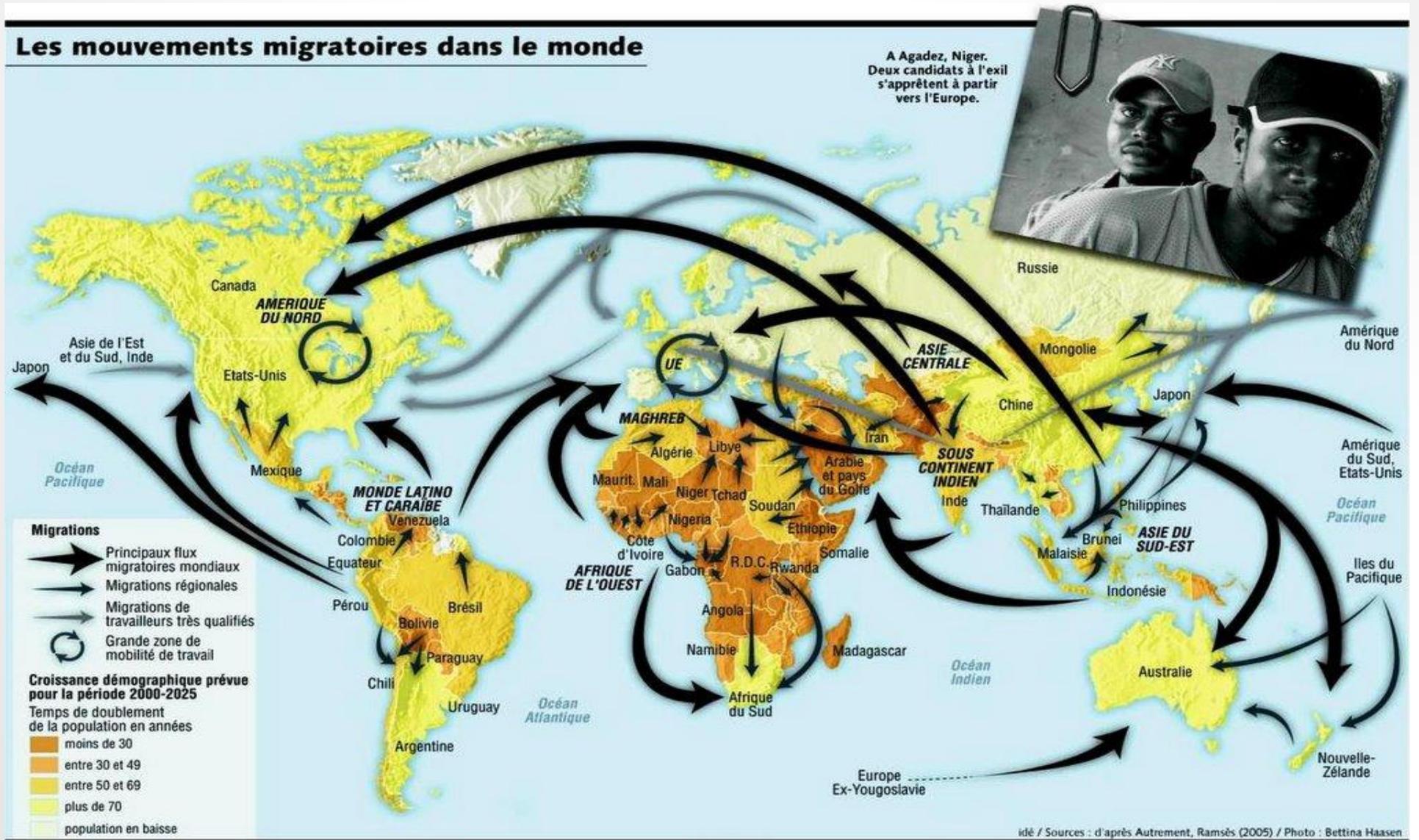
GLOBAL MIGRATION TRENDS

The Situation

Dynamics

Root causes

Responses

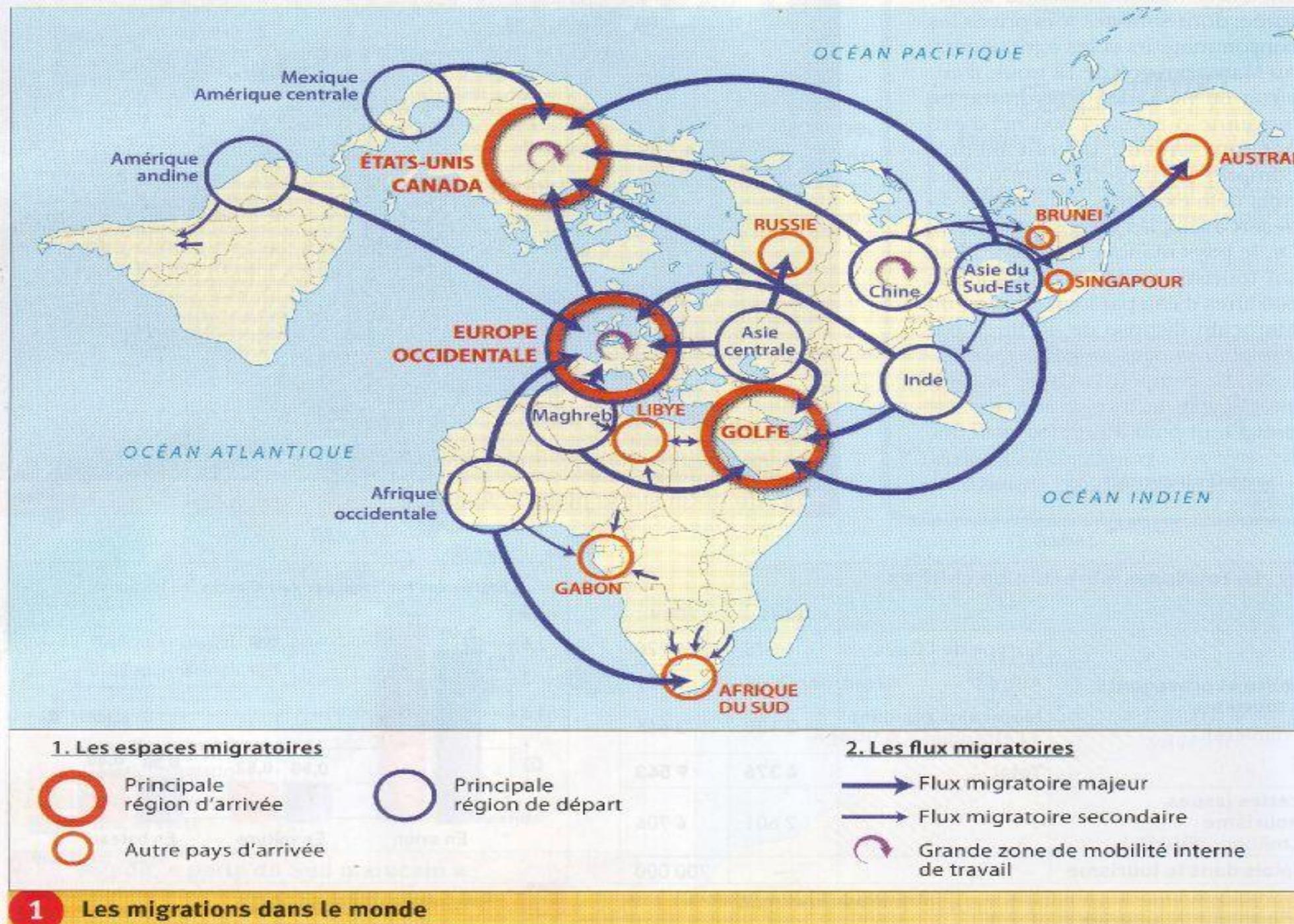


The Situation

Dynamics

Root causes

Responses



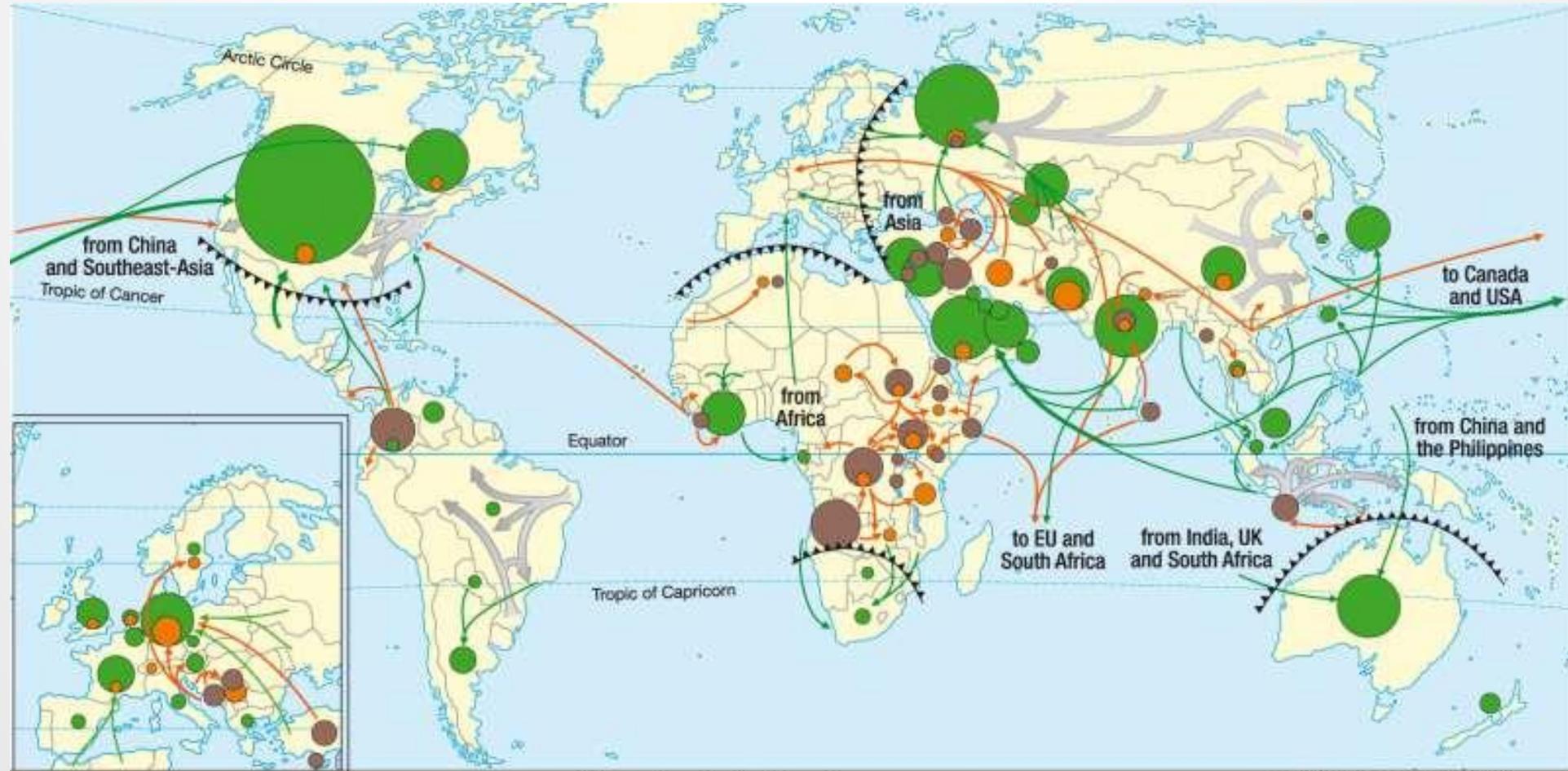
GLOBAL MIGRATION TRENDS

The Situation

Dynamics

Root causes

Responses



UNDERSTANDING THE ROOT CAUSES

The Situation

Dynamics

Root causes

Responses

- “Root causes ? Leading factors? Drivers ?
- Literature is abundant on Pull & Push factors of migration :
- **Economic factors,**
- **Social factors,**
- **Conflict, and political insecurity**
- **Environmental pressures**
- **Demography,**
- **Globalization, international Policy & trade system, weapons industry, etc.**
- Less on interactions between factors and drivers and interdependancy of sub-systems

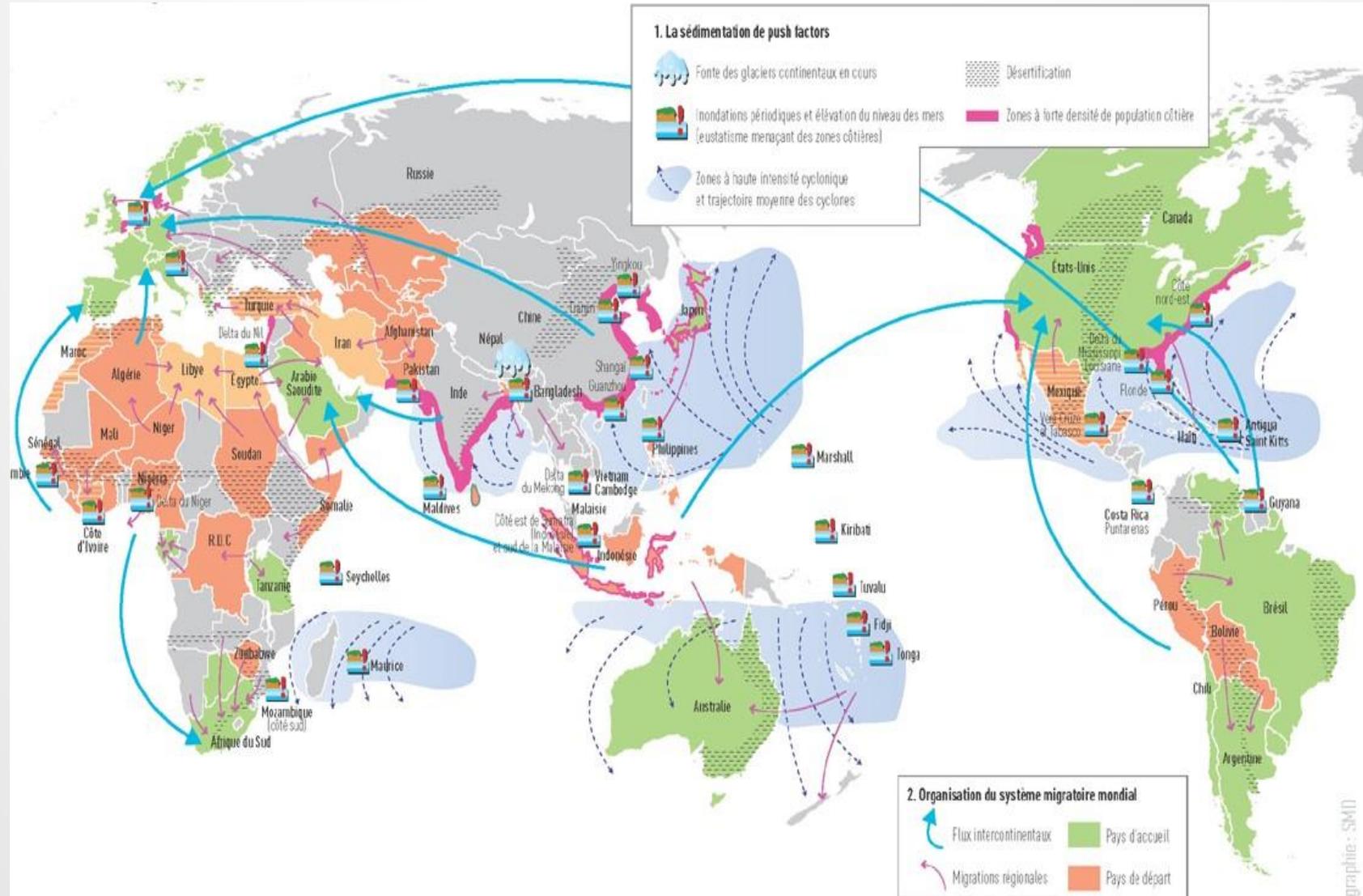
1: ENVIRONMENTAL PRESSURE

The Situation

Dynamics

Root causes

Responses



1: ENVIRONMENTAL PRESSURE: CC AND MIGRATION

The Situation

Dynamics

Root causes

Responses

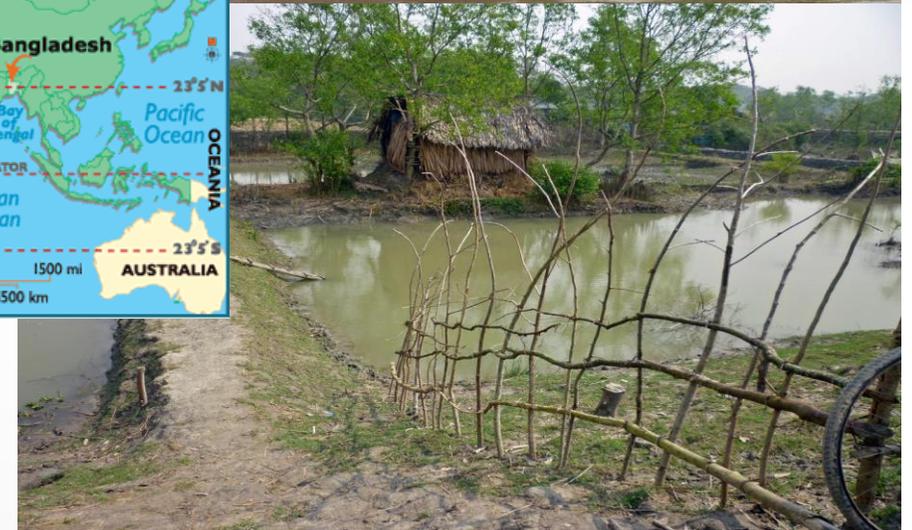
- It has long been established that climate change increases **vulnerability**, challenges **resilience**, and leads to a number of **socio-economic changes**.
- While human migration might be one of the outcomes of the socio-economic changes, a **direct causal link between climate change and migration has yet to be empirically established in many places**

1: ENVIRONMENTAL PRESSURE: THREE CASE STUDIES THAT QUESTION ENVIRONMENTALLY INDUCED MIGRATION

How people apply coping strategies in order to stay on their land ?

Coastal Bangladesh

- Highly vulnerable to CC
- High population density
- Inadequate land tenure
- People tend to migrate short distances and for short-term (Inside Bangladesh or India)
- Paul, Bimal Kanti. "Evidence against disaster-induced migration: the 2004 and 2005 tornado had little impact on out-migration"



The Situation

Dynamics

Root causes

Responses

Coping Strategy: "Rice fields turned into fish or shrimp farming"

ENVIRONMENTAL PRESSURE: THREE CASE STUDIES THAT QUESTION ENVIRONMENTALLY INDUCED MIGRATION

The Situation

Dynamics

Root causes

Responses

Sahel Bakel

Strategy:
“Where we
used to fish
we now grow
food” LEAD FA
Documentary Film



ENVIRONMENTAL PRESSURE: THREE CASE STUDIES THAT QUESTION ENVIRONMENTALLY INDUCED MIGRATION

Alaska

The Situation

- Climate change has a serious impact on Alaskan barrier islands threatening livelihoods of local population (the US army identified 31 villages facing imminent threats and 12 to relocate)

Dynamics

- Despite relocations plans villages are still trapped in a complicated structure of local culture, lack of funding, policies, etc.

Root causes

- Shismaref is the 'poster child' of climate change induced migration with newspaper articles all over the world.
- Vote in 2016: 94 for 78 against despite obvious deteriorations of the conditions in Shismaref one of the most portrayed communities in the media ("Climigration ")

Responses

- still the local population is growing

1: ENVIRONMENTAL PRESSURE: SURVEYS THAT TEND TO DEMONSTRATE LINK BETWEEN ENVIRONMENTAL PRESSURE AND MIGRATION

The Situation

Dynamics

Root causes

Responses

- Two papers on migration from **Mexico** to the US found a positive relationship between climate change, crop yields, and migration (Munshi, 2003; Feng et al., 2010),
- The environmentally induced migration is a highly contextual phenomenon, depending on particular agro-ecological conditions or cultural norms (Maurel, Mathilde, and Zaneta KUBIK; "Climate Variability and Migration: Evidence from **Tanzania**." Paris: Foundation pour les études et recherches sur le développement international (Working Paper 104) (2014).
- Number of studies are based on household surveys covering a very limited number of individuals, households, and communities, which restrains the diversity of observed climatic conditions. Second, climatic data itself is not always available nor reliable,
- Therefore, the hybrid narrative of environmental migration requires further investigation. Large scale surveys and investigations on causal link between Environment/ climate change and migration.

1: ENVIRONMENTAL PRESSURE

The Situation

Dynamics

Root causes

Responses

- There is no consensus yet on “Environmentally induced migration”
- “What is commonly agreed on, is that ecosystem changes, be they physical, chemical or biological, can impair or render the ecosystem unsuitable to support human life, forcing inhabitants to leave the land » (*U N C C D thematic factsheet series, No. 3*)
- Assuming we hit **2°C**, climate change will become a root cause, as opposed to a catalyst (150.000.000 migrants by 2050)
- Developed countries, as primary responsible, are yet to accept climate refugees.

1: ENVIRONMENTAL PRESSURE: CC AND MIGRATION

The Situation

- Varying perceptions among stakeholders have been observed in different countries/contexts based on different realities.

Dynamics

- Clear differences in perception of :
 - environmental vs social scientists on climate change and migration
 - development community vs local farmers in the South on socio-economic outcomes of climate change.

Root causes

- An ongoing research looks at differences in perceptions among different stakeholders in different countries and regions, where migration and climate change play key roles in the national political agenda (key authors : Poulsen, Lô)

Responses

2: CONFLICT AND POLITICAL INSECURITY

The Situation

- Young countries + Young populations + Old, inadequate leadership + Mismanaged resources = Insecurity.

Dynamics

- Eritrea : 5000 nationals flee the country every month.
- Gambia : one of biggest migrant provider to Europe (1400 Gambian arrived in Italy between January and March 2015)
- Somalia, Burundi, Zimbabwe, DRC.

Root causes

- Overall lack of quality leadership options and opportunities.
- Fighting over resources due to mismanagement.
- Powerful countries taking advantage of these weaknesses (Libyan that has been bombed by the UK, France and al.)

Responses

- Young people lose hope and gain desperation

3: MIGRATION AS A CULTURAL AND SOCIAL CONSTRUCT

The Situation

- In some regions in Africa, migration is part of the culture, migration is a survival strategy

Dynamics

- 2 factors contributed to increase Sahelian migrants in Europe :
 - Massive drought in the 1970's (internal)
 - France introduces a Resident Permit which rather than let people enter and exit freely, motivate them to stay.

Root causes

- These broke the social rhythm and distorted migration patterns

Responses

- 2 case studies informed UNCCD :
 - Lô & Mamaty "Desertification and Migrations, : case study : Tambacounda Sénégal Geophormas", ediciones, UNCCD, 1995
 - Schwatz & Notini "Desertification and migration : Mexico and the USA", 1994 USA immigration reform, 1994

4: MIGRATION AS A ECONOMIC ALTERNATIVE

The Situation

- Africa in 1980s:

- Constant & widespread decline in economic performance
- Increase in poverty

Dynamics

- Africa since 2000:

- Steady economic growth mainly due to raw materials;
- But poverty did not really decrease, because of poor wealth distribution
- Collapse of key sectors like agriculture and fisheries
- High rate of youth unemployment even after university
- Sub-regional hubs, like Abidjan, collapsed in conflict

Root causes

Responses

4. MIGRATION AS AN ECONOMIC ALTERNATIVE

The Situation

Dynamics

Root causes

Responses

- Collapse in fisheries
- Total loss for West Africa : \$ 1,3 Billion / year (African Progress Panel, 2011)
- because fishing is no longer lucrative fisherman use their boats to transport migrants to Spain and Italy



TWO CASE STUDIES FROM WEST FRICA : SENEGAL AND THE GAMBIA.

The Situation

Dynamics

Root causes

Responses

- The atypical example of Senegal
- A country with well established democracy and pluralism, peace, religious tolerance, solidarity, etc.
- But a well elaborated model of migration (no governmental migratory policy, but it is a societal norm)
- Heavy social pressure because migration is a ritual
- Remittance (12 % of the national GDP)
- Reservoir (50 % of the population under 19, unemployment 25 %, poverty)

BARCA (BARCELONA) OR BARZAKH (DIE)....

The Situation

Dynamics

Root causes

Responses



Le Huffington Post : border between Morroco and Mellila (Spain)

TWO CASE STUDIES FROM WEST FRICA : SENEGAL AND THE GAMBIA.

- Sabaa in eastern Gambia : Inside the west African village where every young man is trying to migrate to Europe : The “ **Back ways**” (By Waly Musa in Sabaa and Colin Freeman)

The Situation

Dynamics

Root causes

Responses



Village life in Gambia, where many dream of leaving for Europe Photo: Andrew Woodley/Alamy . One in eight people have taken "The Back Way" across the Sahara

SAME SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONSTRUCTS, DIFFERENT MIGRATION ROUTES

The Situation

Dynamics

Root causes

Responses

Similar stories and motivations from all over fields visits (*) :
« I was determined to reach Europe or die trying... After everything I had gone through, I didn't care anymore »: Mamadou Saliou Diallo, Guinea (2005)
« **Going risks death. Staying is death. Going then is a chance at success.** (Missirah)



Truck full of West African migrants heading to Libya (Senegalese, Gambian, Nigerian, etc.)

(*) Senegal, Guinea, Gambia, Mali, Nigeria, etc.

SAME SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONSTRUCTS, DIFFERENT MIGRATION ROUTES

The Situation

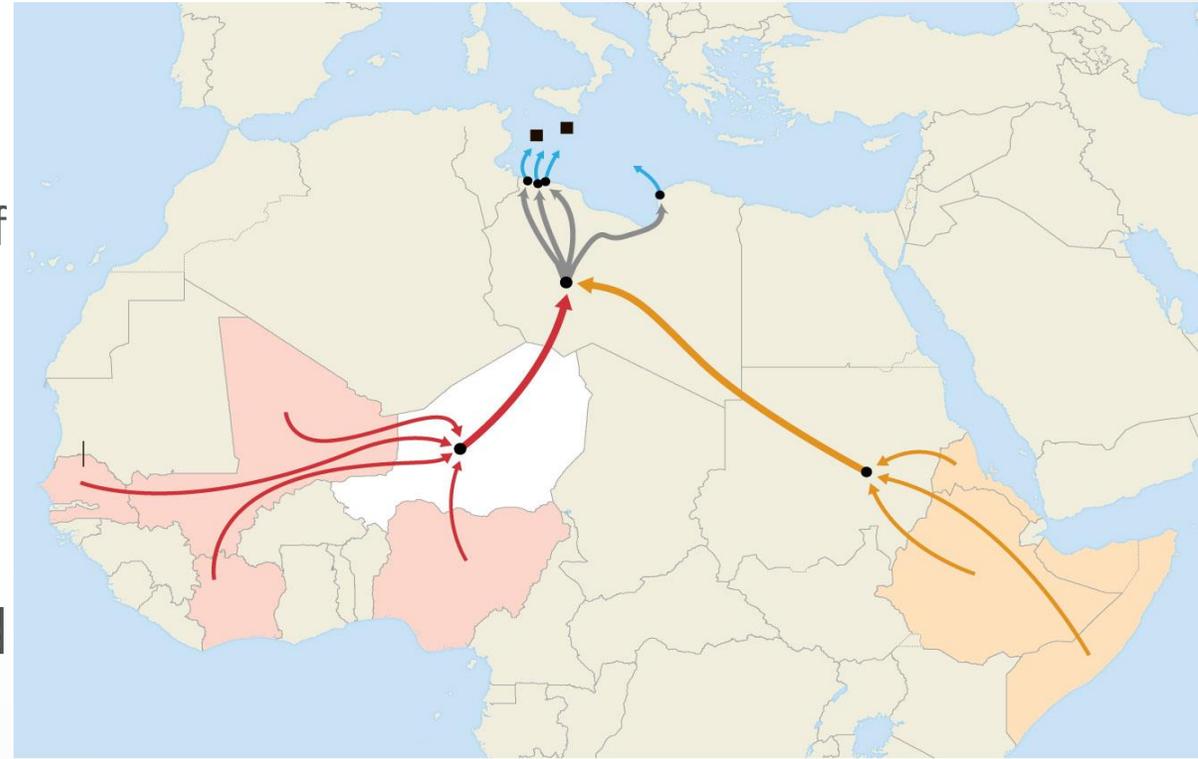
Dynamics

Root causes

Responses

« Hopelessness, lack of perspectives and faith in their countries,... are the explanation, indeed ... »

The issue is that there used to be trouble and difficulties, but people felt they had options (even if they were difficult labor like farming). **Today they feel they have no option that they could call 'life'**. (Ribot, sept 2016)



- The city of Agadez : the door of exile for West African heading to Libya. In less than 4 years, trafficking has become the first economic activity
- Situation is merely the same between Mexico and Usa

CONCLUSION ON ROOT CAUSES

The Situation

Dynamics

Root causes

Responses

- With the exception of an immediate and life threatening situation, the decision to migrate is often made in the context of a variety of “push” and “pull” factors. Rarely is the decision to migrate made due to a single reason. (UNCCD thematic factsheet series, No.3)
- War, poverty, insecurity, lack of democracy, socio-economic factors etc. are fundamental drivers
- Still a social construct thus families pay and pressure young men and people to take the “backway” as both a socio-economic investment and a coming of age
- ***No one leaves for the pleasure of going, but Europe is the closest ‘El Dorado’ »***

CONCLUSION ON ROOT CAUSES

The Situation

- Remittances continue to climb globally, while remittance-sending costs remain relatively high.
- International migrants sent an estimated \$ 431 billion in 2015 – over two thirds of which were sent to developing countries (WB)
- For example, Senegal: remittances = 12% of GDP.
- Africa : 31,4 billions of euros in 2015 (Le Monde)
- ODA-DC: US\$ 135 billions in 2014

Dynamics

Root causes

Responses

RESPONSES: PROJECTS THAT AIM TO STEM THE FLOW

The Situation

Dynamics

Root causes

Response

- Europe has initiated several strategies and projects over the last two decades to overcome the phenomenon of illegal migration :
- The Frontex
- Closing of national borders despite the Schengen Agreement
- EU-Turkey agreement on migrants
- European Action Plan targeting countries of origin

RESPONSES: EUROPEAN ACTION PLAN FOR COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

The Situation

Dynamics

Root causes

Response

- Examples of investments :
 - **Libya** : The stabilization of Libya is an essential step to prevent migration from Sub-Saharan. The EU strongly supports the work of the UN (42,7 millions of euros between 2011 and 2014)
 - **Senegal** : 59, 5 Millions euros). The first project costing 39,6 Millions euros to promote Small and medium size enterprises. Village and Family farms in regions with high potential of migration (19, 8 Millions euros).
- But is many the solution ?

RESPONSES: THE ROOT CAUSES REMAIN

The Situation

Dynamics

Root causes

Responses

- Many predicted that closing down the Greek route would drive many to cross the Mediterranean from Libya.



Marina Militare, Italy /Reuters

- Often a desperate search for opportunity. Most now crossing the Mediterranean are not Syrian or Iraqi but from Nigeria, The Gambia, Senegal and Guinea.
- In 2016 so far, around 29,000 have arrived in Italy and they continue to do so at the rate of roughly 1,500 a week - that's about one-fifth to one-sixth of the traffic that was going via Greece before the EU-Turkey deal came into effect.

RESPONSES: MIGRATIONS HAS WORSE TIMES AHEAD!

The Situation

Dynamics

Root causes

Response

- New Economic Partnership Agreement between Europe & ACP countries: Europe and 13 west African countries have signed a free trade treaty:
 - Worst than TTEP/TAFTA
 - EPA: West Africa to reduce tariffs on customs against increase in development aid;
 - Effects will include collapse in some some economic sectors;
- Medium and long term impact will be definitely more migration to Europe. No doubt !
- **The kiss of death !** Several unintended results

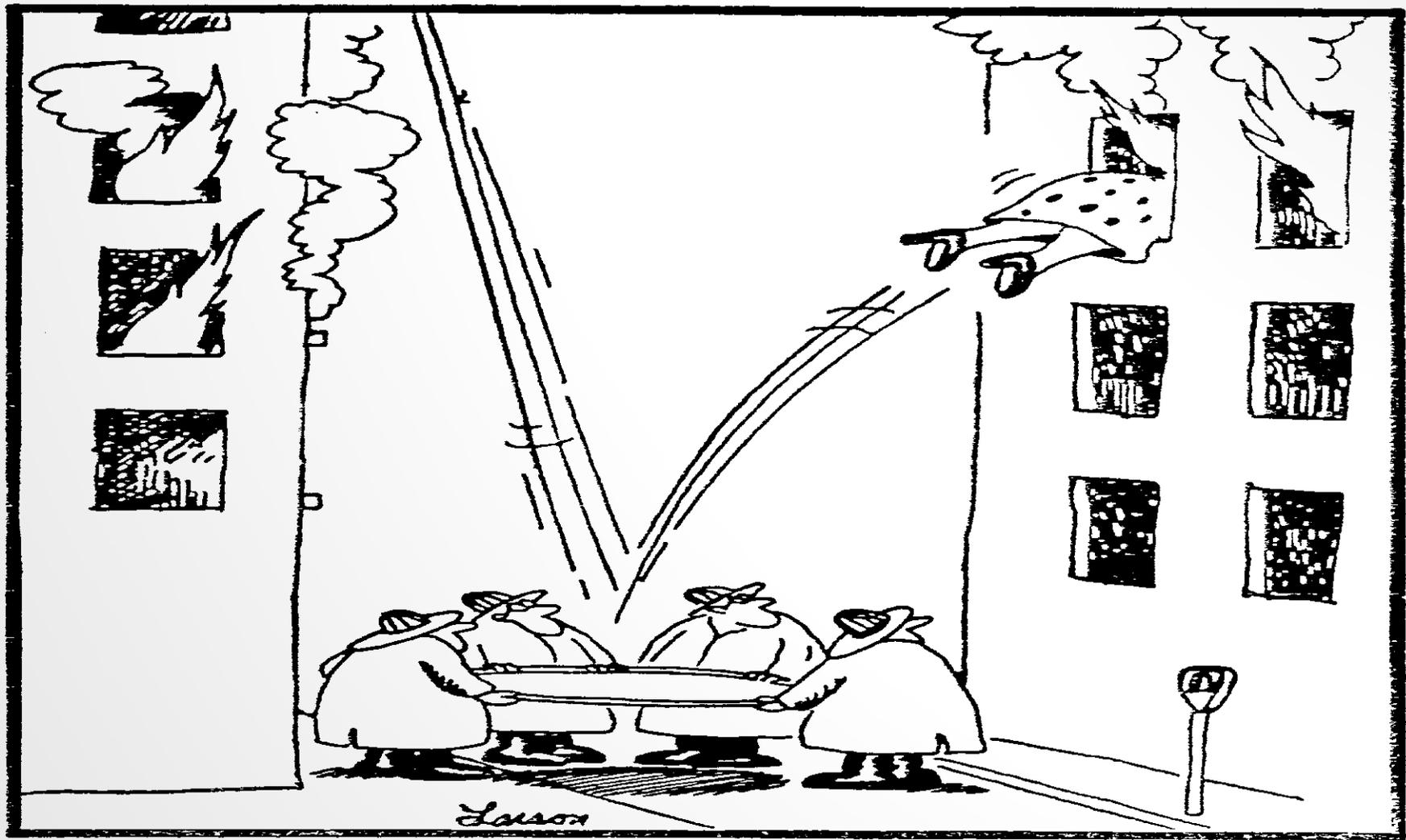
UNINTENDED RESULTS

The Situation

Dynamics

Root causes

Response



WHAT ARE THE OTHER LEVERS ?

The Situation

Dynamics

Root causes

Response

- **“Dismantle”** borders between African countries (Achilles Mbembe, Whitwatersrand University, Johannesburg / Politiques de l’inimitié, éditions La Dcouverte)
- Africa holds the world record of landlocked countries and artificial borders
- Before independence, people migrated freely within the continent: within the same country, from one country to the other in the same region or from one region to the other, etc.
- Europe was never the first and preferred destination (especially if you consider the culture and the weather)
- So why should we dismantle borders?

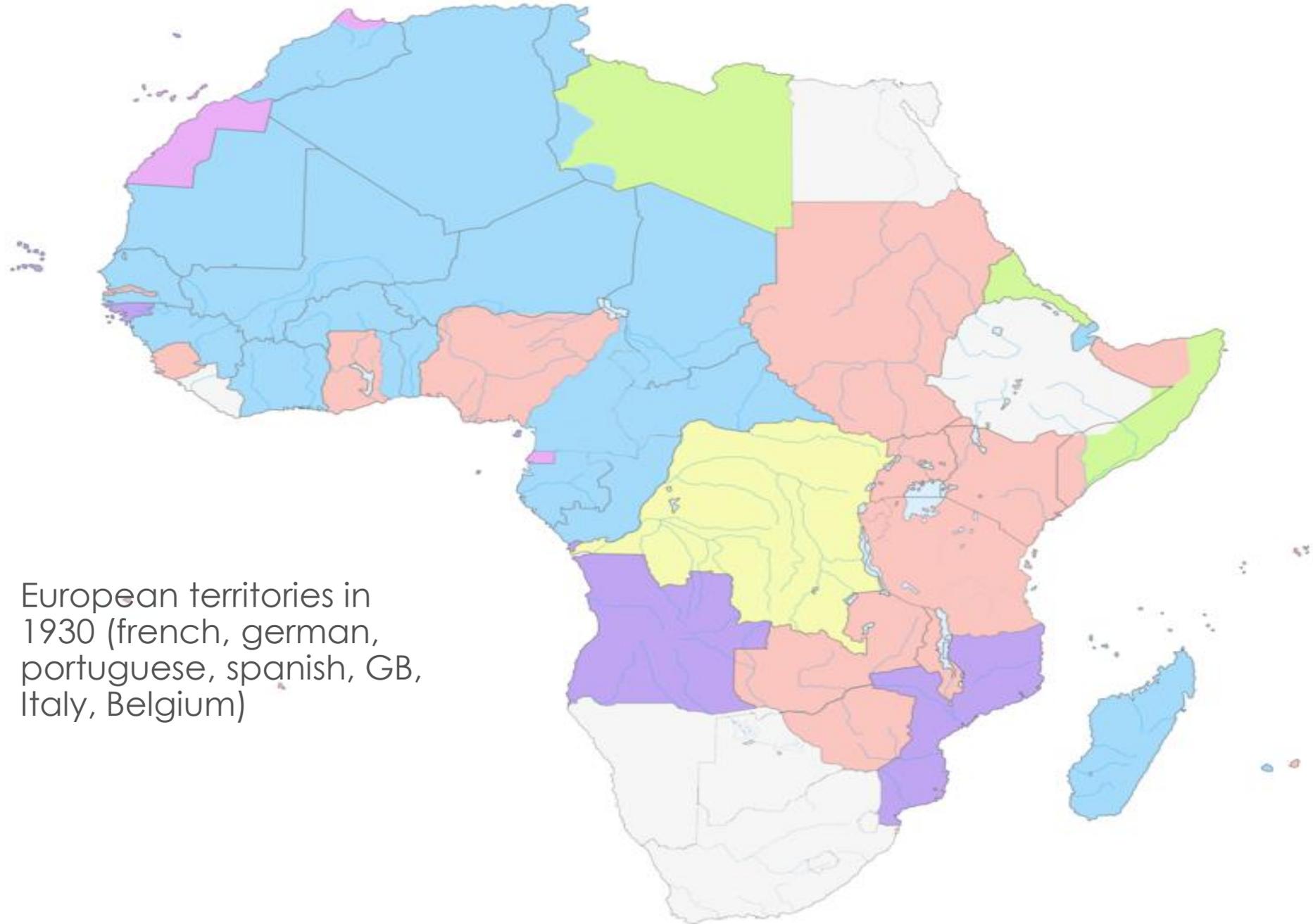
1930

The Situation

Dynamics

Root causes

Response



1960 : THE 55 AFRICA

The Situation

Dynamics

Root causes

Response



OPENING BORDERS

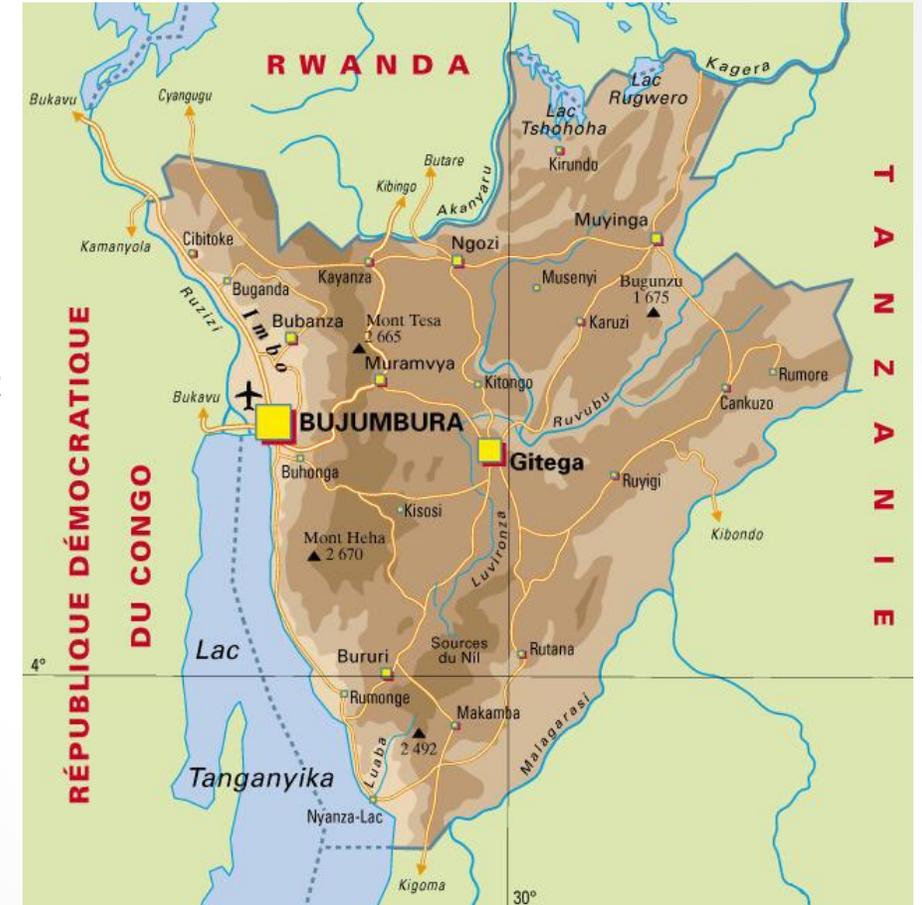
The Situation

Dynamics

Root causes

Response

- Burundi :
 - Population : 11.178.000
 - Size: 27,000 km²
 - Density: 453 in 1km² in 2015
 - Fertility: 5.9 per woman
 - Cultivable land per family: 500m²



OPENING BORDERS

The Situation

Dynamics

Root causes

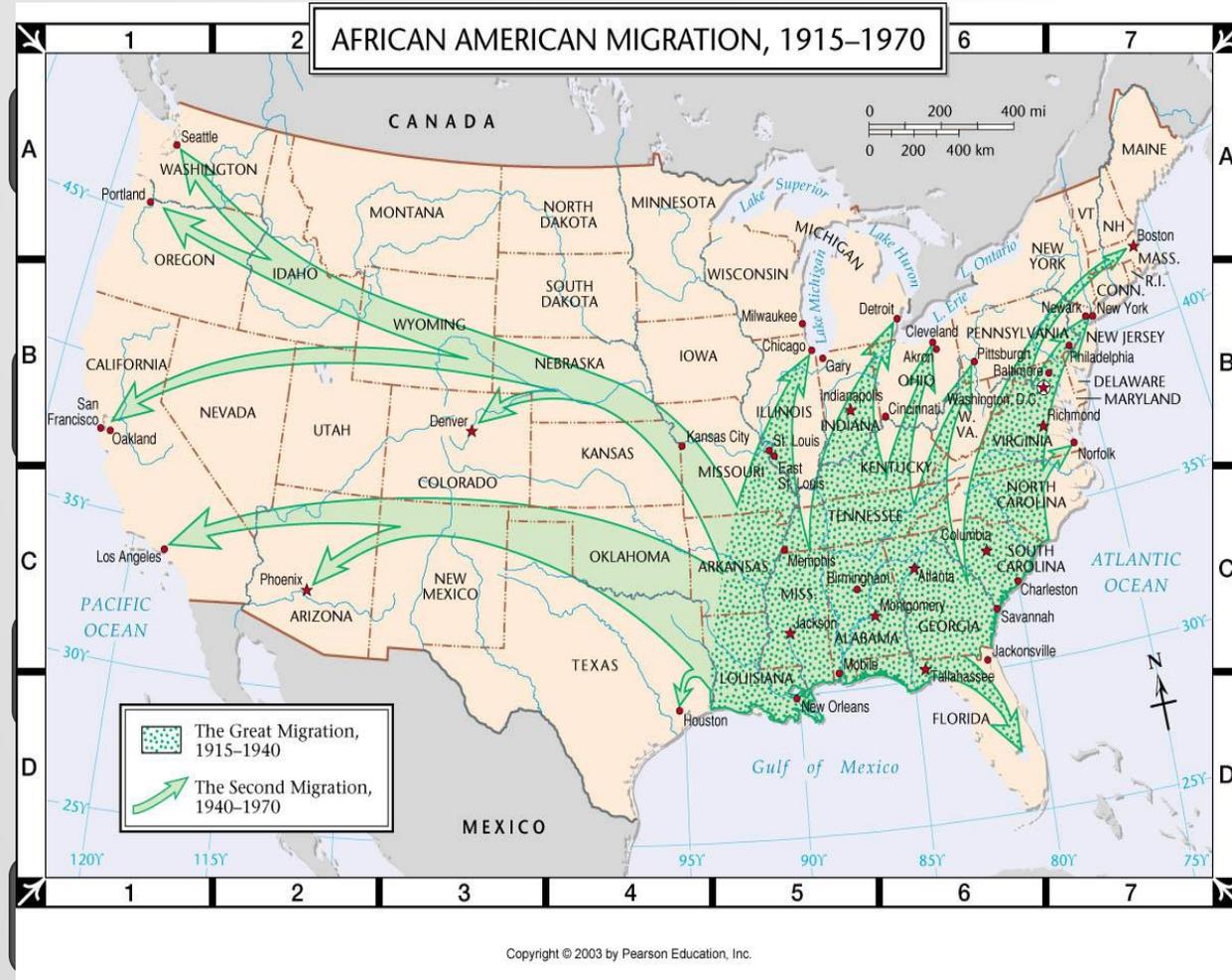
Response

- Democratic Republic of Congo :

- Size : 2.345.000 km²
- Population : 67.000.000
- Density: 29 inhabitants/km²



WITH OPEN BORDERS, CONTINENTAL MIGRATION IS EASIER



Total : 30.102.000 km²
Africa : 30.221.000 km²
 (by Kai krause)

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED

The Situation

- Migration is a highly political / sensitive issue,
- People have always migrated – that's how the world has developed (Outward migration from Portugal: 2,293,683 in 2015, 18.14% of the population / Inward migration to Portugal in 2015 is 837,257 (8.09% of total resident population). Portugal, for example, supports citizens to emigrate to other " lusophone " countries like Mozambique and Angola, etc.

Dynamics

- Globalisation: goods and services moving freely. But humans are not, despite migration being a social construct.
- A Global education program on migration

Root causes

- Legrain P. (2016) "Refugees Work: A Humanitarian Investment that Yields Economic Dividends"; The IMF calculates that additional spending in the EU on refugees of 0.09% of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2015 and 0.11% in 2016 will raise its GDP by 0.13% by 2017.

Response

- Migration discussions often based on perceptions instead of facts,
- Global governance system and an leadership are required to come up with more sustainable solutions.

- Thank you for your attention
 - *Ildp-Africa*
- <https://www.iom.int/world-migration>