Key Findings

- During the last decade, conflicts have proliferated globally, reversing the trend in the years following the Cold War. This has led to an increase in the number of people forced to flee their homes, with over 26 million refugees, 4 million asylum seekers, and 48 million conflict-related internally displaced persons recorded in 2020 – the highest numbers on record.

- There is a link between conflict and socioeconomic development, with poorer and less developed countries more likely to experience violence and insecurity. Citizens from these countries are therefore more likely to leave to try and find more peaceful and prosperous situations, but are less able to access safe migration options.

- Highly peaceful countries have much greater levels of socioeconomic development, with per capita GDP growth almost three times higher than in less peaceful countries. Citizens of such nations have greater access to safe and regular migration options, with the relative "power" of a person's national passport increasing as the GDP of a potential migrant's country of origin increases.

- People leaving their country because of conflict tend to have to escape to neighbouring countries, with nearly 86 per cent of the world's refugees hosted in developing nations. Refugees and asylum seekers comprise only about 3 per cent of all international migrants in high-income countries, but as much as 50 per cent in low-income countries.

- Following high-profile migrations caused by conflict and violence – including to Europe in 2015/16 and from Central America to the United States more recently – governments increasingly recognize the link between insecurity and volatile population movements and have been making greater efforts to foster peace and stability in countries in crisis.

- Some initiatives have emerged as central to such peacebuilding efforts, including community stabilization, in which efforts at promoting stability are concentrated at a local level with ownership in the hands of those more affected. Such work with migrant communities has fostered better relations with citizens in their host countries.

- Much media coverage focuses on perceived negative impacts migrants have on security, but in reality they play a huge role in promoting peace and stability in their countries of origin. Remittances help fuel socioeconomic growth, and migrants often return home with skills to help rebuild after conflict and aid economic and social development.

- Diasporas are also crucial for raising awareness and campaigning against conflict, often facilitating peace negotiations also pushing for transitional justice and reconciliation. This resource needs to be better tapped so that migrants can be involved in efforts to promote peace and stability in their countries of origin.

> ### Takeaway for Policy
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> Countries that are peaceful and stable are much more likely to be prosperous and less likely to have volatile migration movements. Therefore, fostering peace and security is a crucial step in encouraging safe and orderly migration. Migrants themselves have proved effective in efforts to promote peace and security back in volatile countries of origin.

The full chapter is available at https://publications.iom.int/books/world-migration-report-2022-chapter-6.

The WMR interactive platform can be accessed at https://worldmigrationreport.iom.int/.