



**MigrantiINFO**

unicef 



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## **International Migrant Children and Children Left-Behind**

OHCHR Consultation on Protecting the Rights of the Child in the Context of  
Migration

Geneva, 25 May 2010

Jeronimo Cortina

# Global Project on Migration: International Migrant Children and Children Left-Behind

- **What is the Issue?**
  - Little attention, has been devoted to weigh the impact of international migration on sending countries and specifically on children exposed to migration (IMC & CLB)
- **Why Did the Issue Arise?**
  - Reliable national-level data about the incidence and magnitude of international migration (of children) and on those left behind are rare because estimating these numbers is extremely difficult due to a range of methodological problems
- **What are the Implications of not Having Reliable and Valid Data?**
  - Lack any comparability among other sources due to different uses of categories and formats
  - Limit the generalizability of these data
  - Public policy formulation to address rights and vulnerabilities may rest on analyses that may lack any reliability or validity and thus have potential implications regarding implementation and outcomes
- **Where does this research fits?**
  - Interagency collaboration (OHCHR, SUSS-UNDP, ILO, DESA)
  - 2010 Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)
  - Global Migration Group (GMG)

Country of Origin

Country of Transit

Country of Destination

Children  
Left  
Behind

IDPs

Internal  
migrant  
children

***“Children on the Move”***

- Asylum seekers/refugee children
- Migrant children
  - Children migrating with parents
  - Unaccompanied and separated migrant children
- Children who are trafficked/smuggled

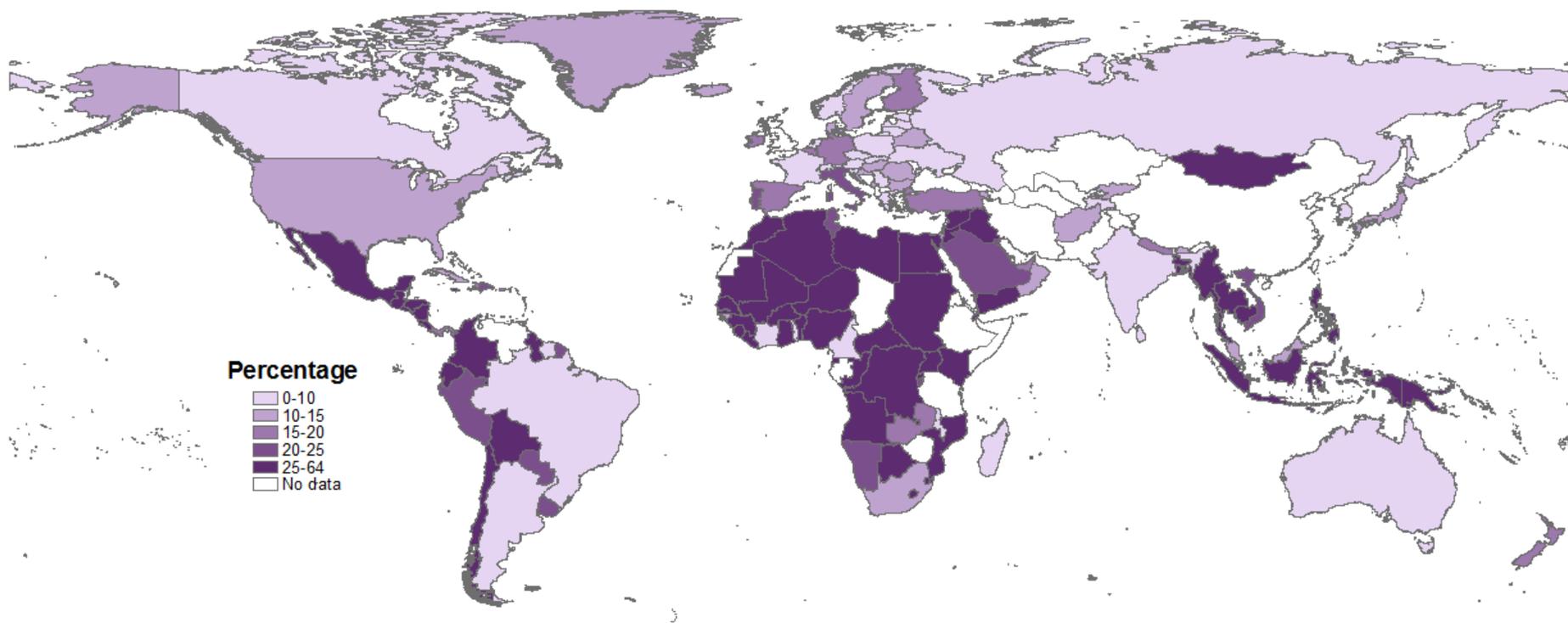
Children  
born to  
migrant  
parents

Foreign Born & Foreigners

# INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT CHILDREN

# International Migrants Under 20 Years of Age: Global Picture

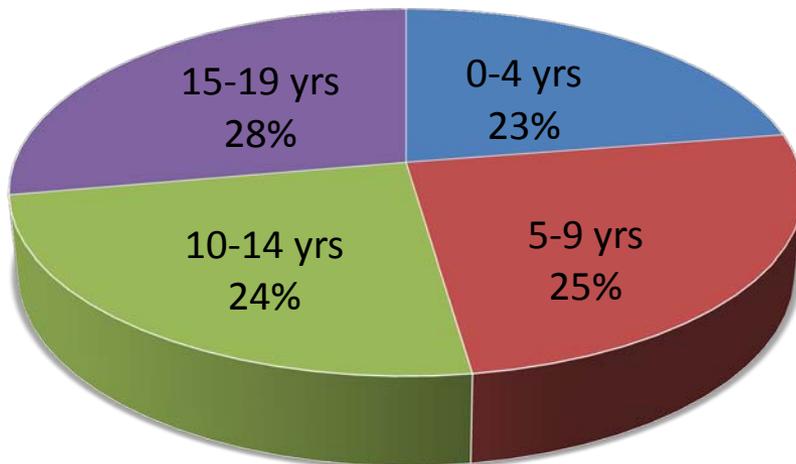
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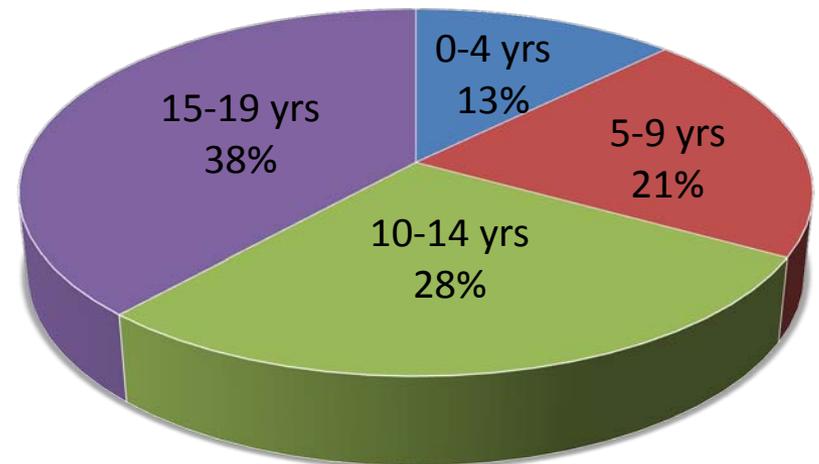
# International Migrants Under 20 Years of Age: Developing and Developed Countries

(Latest data available)

## Developing Countries



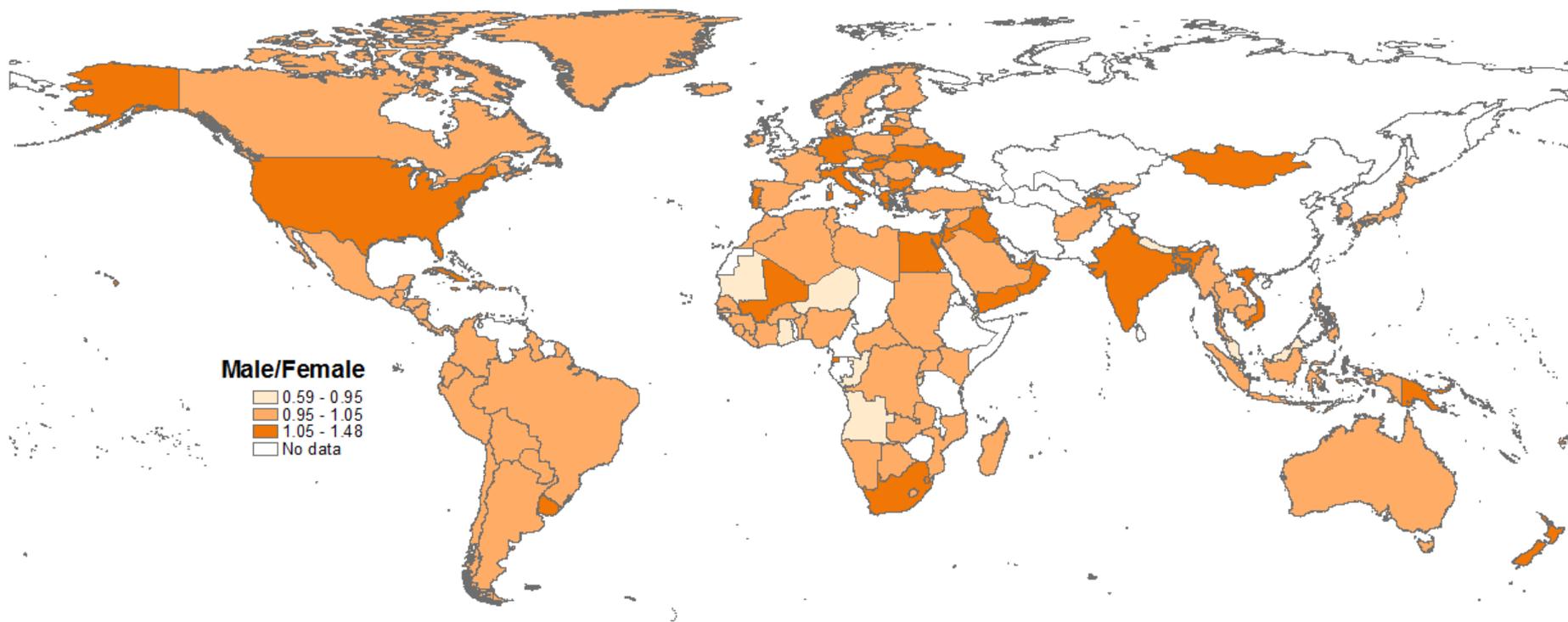
## Developed Countries



# International Migrants Under 20 Years of Age:

## Sex Ratio

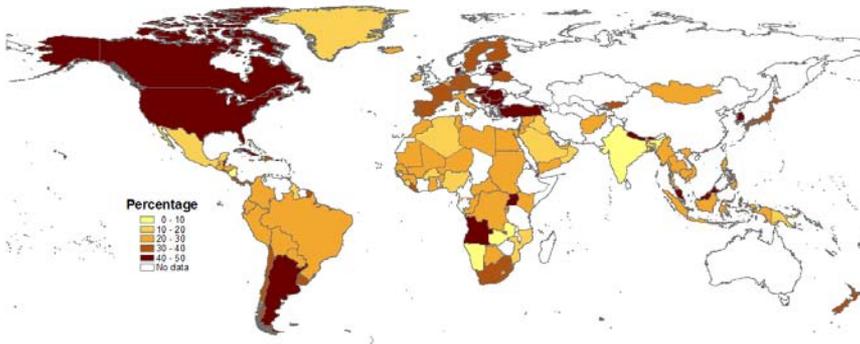
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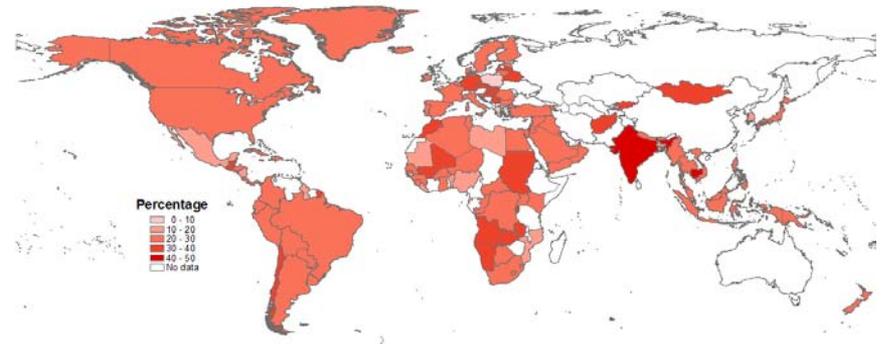
# International Migrants Under 20 Years of Age: Age Distribution

(Latest data available)

Percent of international migrants between 15 and 19 years of age



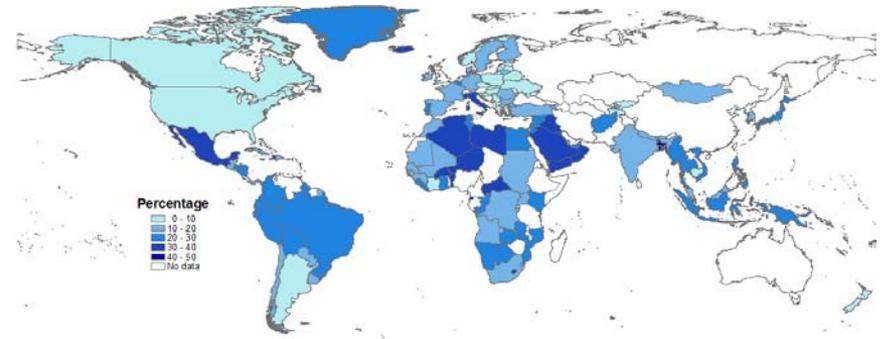
Percent of international migrants between 10 and 14 years of age



Percent of international migrants between 5 and 9 years of age



Percent of international migrants between 0 and 4 years of age



Rights and Developmental Consequences

# CHILDREN LEFT-BEHIND

# The Discourse on Development

- The discourse of migration and development
  1. Migration stimulates development
  2. Migration hinders development
  3. It depends...
- None of these perspectives takes into account the new vulnerabilities and costs for migrants, their families and sending communities from an socioeconomic rights perspective.

# Risks and Vulnerabilities

- Psychosocial effects
  - Transformation of traditional family structures
  - Life-satisfaction
  - Quality of life
  - Risky behaviors
  - Propensity to migrate
- Economic crisis
  - Remittances as a social insurance?
  - Reduce access to health
  - Drop out Education
  - Incorporation into the labour market

# Recommendations

1. Regional and country level policies taking into account the inherent characteristics of the migratory flow
2. Basic social protection schemes (access to education and health services) to secure children's rights to an adequate standard of living.
3. Policies aiming at reducing risky behaviors, psychopathological symptoms and physical indices
4. Inclusive policies that aim at raising children and adolescents' participatory capacity in the decisions that affect their daily lives as well as policies that secure their right to decent remunerated employment and maximum human development
5. Family reunification policies to secure children's rights not to be separated from their parents including their rights to parental guidance and their evolving capacities
6. Co-development strategies to reduce social, economic, educational and health inequalities between countries of origin and destination should be the basis for incorporating migration, its causes, and consequences into countries' developmental strategies that aim to maximize migration's developmental potentials.
7. A comprehensive data collection and analysis should be promoted to gauge the effects of the crisis on children, adolescents and women left-behind in order to promote evidence based policy initiatives to mitigate the effects of the crisis.