

Glossary

This list provides general descriptions, not precise legal definitions, of the terms commonly used in this Report. However, the descriptions include legal and policy elements relevant to how these terms are understood and applied in practice.

asylum or refugee status A legal status arising from judicial or administrative proceedings that a country grants to a refugee in its territory. This status confers on refugees international refugee protection by preventing their return (in line with the principle of *non-refoulement*), regularizing their stay in the territory, and providing them with certain rights while there.

asylum-seeker A person outside of their home country who is seeking asylum. For statistical purposes, it is a person who has submitted their application for asylum but has not yet received a final decision.

complementary (international) protection Forms of international protection provided by countries or regions to people who are not refugees, but who still may need international protection. Countries use various legal and policy mechanisms to regularize the entry or stay of such individuals or prevent their return (in line with the principle of *non-refoulement*).

co-national A person who holds the same citizenship as another person.

destination country/society The country or society to which a migrant moves.

diaspora The population of a given country that is scattered across countries or regions that are separate from its geographic place of origin.

distressed migrant A migrant who moves to another country under distressed circumstances but who does not meet the applicable criteria for refugee status. Their movements are often irregular and unsafe.

economic migrant A migrant who crosses an international border motivated not by persecution or possible serious harm or death, but for other reasons, such as to improve living conditions by working or reuniting with family abroad. This term encompasses labor migrants or migrant workers, who move primarily to work in another country.

emigrant A person who leaves their country of habitual residence to reside in another country. This term is used from the perspective of the person's country of origin.

host country/society The country or society to which a refugee moves, either temporarily or permanently.

immigrant A person who moves to a country to establish habitual residence. This term is used from the perspective of the person's destination country.

internally displaced persons (IDPs) People who have been displaced within a state's borders to avoid persecution, serious harm, or death, including through armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights, or natural or humanmade disasters.

international protection Legal protection granted by countries to refugees or other displaced people in their territory who cannot return to their home countries because they would be at risk there and because their home countries are unable or unwilling to protect them. International protection takes the form of a legal status that, at a minimum, prevents their return (in line with the principle of *non-refoulement*) and regularizes their stay in the territory.

irregular migrant A migrant who is not legally authorized to enter or stay in a given country (also called an *undocumented migrant*).

migrant In this Report, those who change their country of habitual residence and who are not citizens of their country of residence. Such changes of country exclude short-term movement for purposes such as recreation, business, medical treatment, or religious pilgrimage.

naturalized citizen A migrant who has obtained citizenship in their country of destination.

nonnational A person who does not hold the citizenship of the country in which that person resides.

non-refoulement The legal principle prohibiting countries from returning people to places where they may be at risk of persecution, torture, or other serious harm.

origin country/society The country or society from which a migrant or refugee moves.

refugee A person who has been granted international protection by a country of asylum because of feared persecution, armed conflict, violence, or serious public disorder in their origin country. The international protection granted by countries to refugees takes the form of a distinct legal status (see **asylum or refugee status**) preventing their return (in line with the principle of *non-refoulement*), regularizing their stay in the territory, and providing them with certain rights while there, under the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol or other international, regional, or national legal instruments.

regular migrant A migrant who is legally authorized to enter or stay in a given country.

stateless person A person who is not a citizen of any country.

transit country A country that a migrant transits through to reach their destination country.