Migrants in Arab States

According to UNDESA, in 2020 global estimates on international migrant workers in Arab countries were 41.4 million workers (representing 15% of all migrant workers worldwide). The GCC alone is home for close to 31 million migrant workers in various sectors.
Migrant Workers in the Construction Sector

- **Bahrain**: 154,000
- **Qatar**: 100,000 workers (Sum of migrant workers), 37,318 (Sum of Construction migrant workers)
- **Oman**: 373,184
- **UAE**: 2,700,000 workers (Sum of migrant workers), 270,000 (Sum of Construction migrant workers)
- **KSA**: 2,100,000 workers (Sum of migrant workers), 1,400,000 (Sum of Construction migrant workers)

*Note: The chart shows the sum of migrant workers and the specific number of construction migrant workers for each country.*
Migrant Workers in the Agriculture Sector

- Bahrain: 4378
- Qatar: 29540
- Kuwait: 58284
- KSA: 600000

Sum of migrant workers

Sum of Agriculture migrant workers
Challenges faced by migrant workers in the GCC

Migrant workers in GCC countries lack the sufficient health and safety protection from the region’s heat.

Workers mainly in the construction and agriculture sectors are usually exposed to dangers such as heat exhaustion, heat strokes, heat rash, or in some cases, death.

A report by the Human Rights watch found that migrant workers in Qatar, Saudi Arabia and The United Arab Emirates were often unable to recuperate from the heat due to a lack of sufficient rest areas and air-conditioned accommodations.
GCC responses to heat stress

The GCC have been providing **trainings on heat stress** to all workers — could be reinforcing these trainings PDO and PAO. They provide **free cool drinking water** to all workers throughout their working time, and they have been securing **shaded rest areas** that are easily accessible to workers.

It is imperative to continue assessing, improving and reinforcing the **government policies and enforcement mechanisms** focusing on highly vulnerable sectors such as construction, agriculture, infrastructure, and certain service and other heat-intensive industries and intense physical work.

The role of employers and businesses becomes paramount to take action to protect workers from the effects of climate change.

Increased investment in **evidence-building**, with particularly academic and research institutions, is required to better understand the interlinkages between climate change, human mobility and health in the GCC.

Given the high urbanization rate across all the Gulf countries, it is imperative to **link health adaptation planning with urban planning** and ensure such planning considers the health needs of all groups, including temporary contractual workers and populations in underprivileged areas.