



Civil Society & Diaspora
=
Inclusive, Sustainable Peace &
Development

Marcie Washington, PhD
Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs, FIU



**United
Nations**

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs

281 million people live outside their country of origin

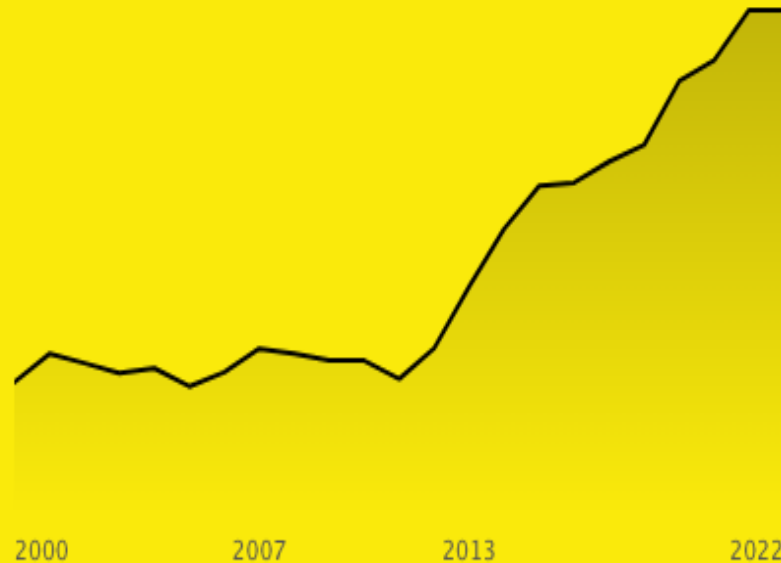
International migrants
represent about 3.6 per cent
of the world's population.



103 MILLION

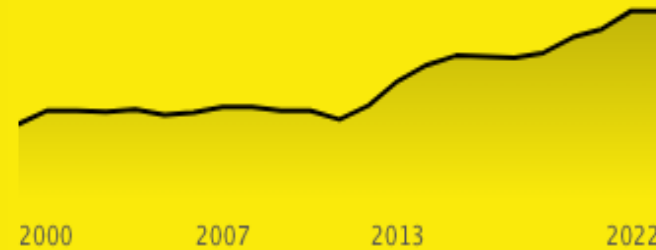
Forcibly displaced people worldwide

While a full picture is yet to be established, UNHCR estimates that global forced displacement has reached 103 million at mid-2022.



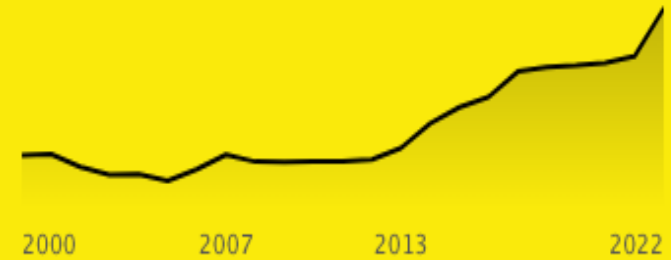
53.2 MILLION

are internally displaced people (Source: IDMC, as of end-2021)



32.5 MILLION

are refugees (as of mid-2022)



4.9 MILLION

are asylum-seekers (as of mid-2022)

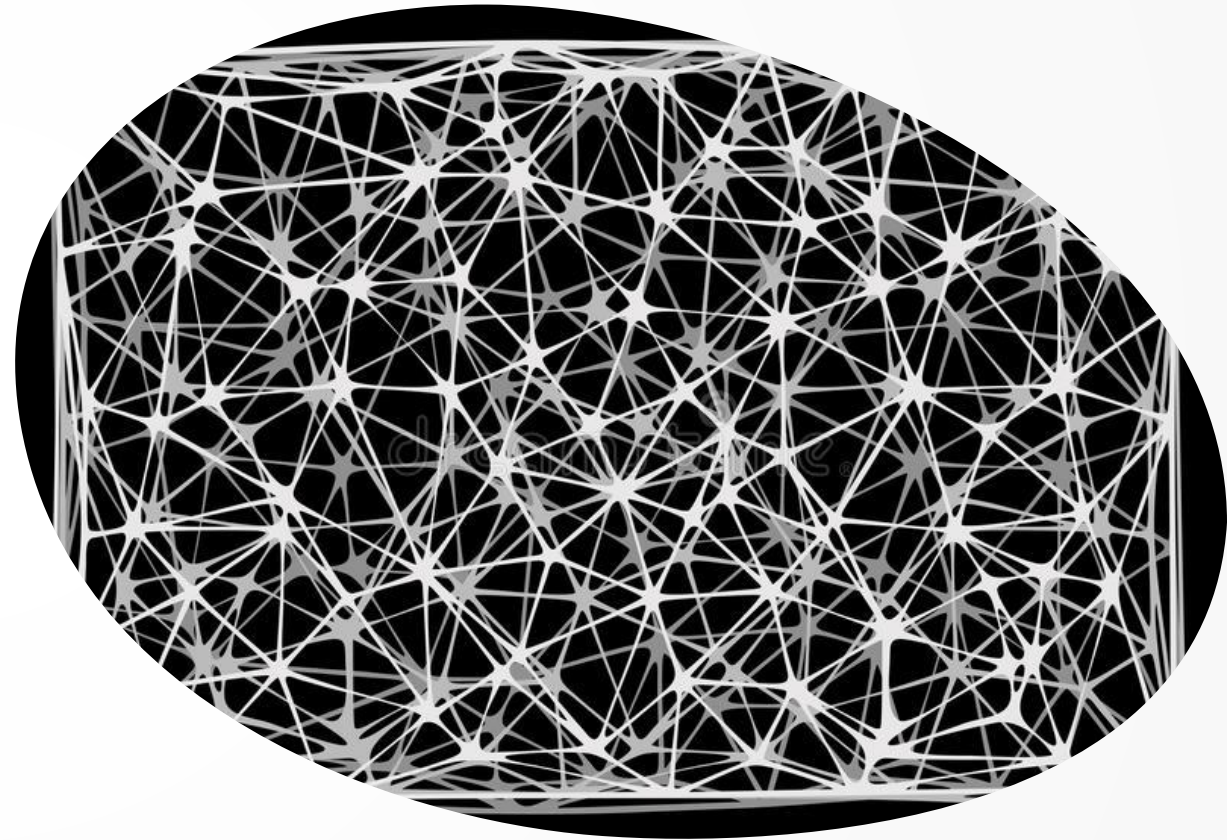


5.3 MILLION

are other people in need of international protection (as of mid-2022)

'Translocal' Diasporas

- Immigrants, Stateless populations, Expatriates, and Refugees
- Diasporas have become *in-betweens* and *cross-cultural brokers* attempting to retain dual levels of understanding the political and social world in the host society and country of origin.



Digital Media Technology and Digital Geographies

Changes in technology, such as internet access, the speed of communications, and an increase in the movement of ideas, have contributed to *challenging 'traditional' sovereign borders and expanded the 'translocal' role of diasporas as political and social agents, both in their homelands and host society.*

Transnational spaces of connectivity between the country of origin and *'host society has open up new avenues for diasporas to create, and engage with, alternative transnational cultural spaces and mediate constructive ways to shift the political and social environment in the homeland.*

Diasporas as 'Bridge Builders'

- ▶ Aim to address the root causes of conflict through prevention, management, reconciliation and transformation, and institution building in a comprehensive manner
- ▶ Diasporas hold a unique position that governments, corporations, and some non-governmental organizations cannot gain a foothold.
- ▶ The political and social relationship diasporas maintain to their homelands; the influence they exercise in their host society; networks with diaspora groups around the world; their relative economic strength; structures that diaspora have already built; deep local knowledge; and the legitimacy and trust they hold in their 'translocal' context, contribute to their significant role in peacebuilding and development activities.

Diasporas as agents and accelerators of peace and development



Global Compact
FOR **Migration**

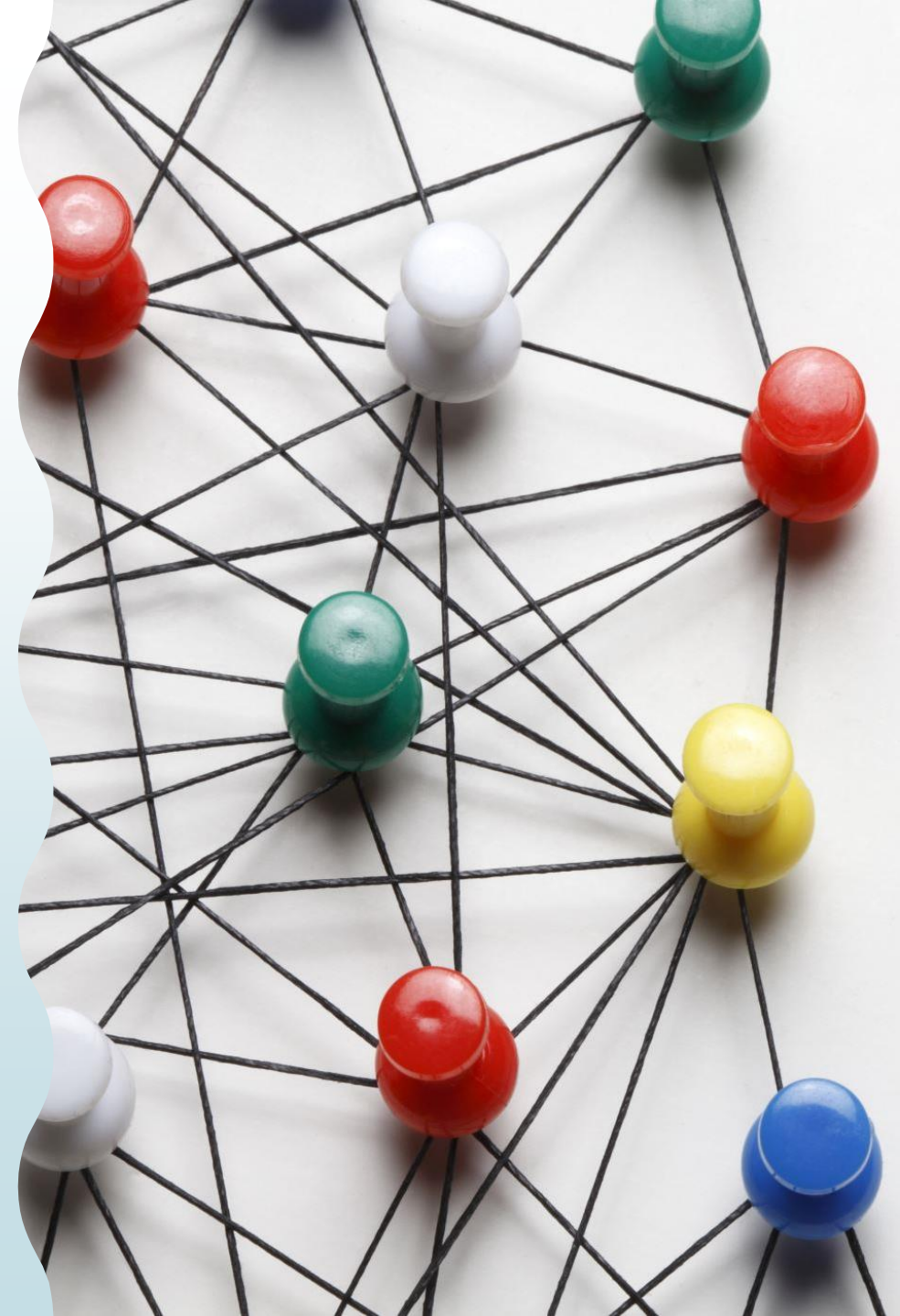


GLOBAL DIASPORA SUMMIT 2022

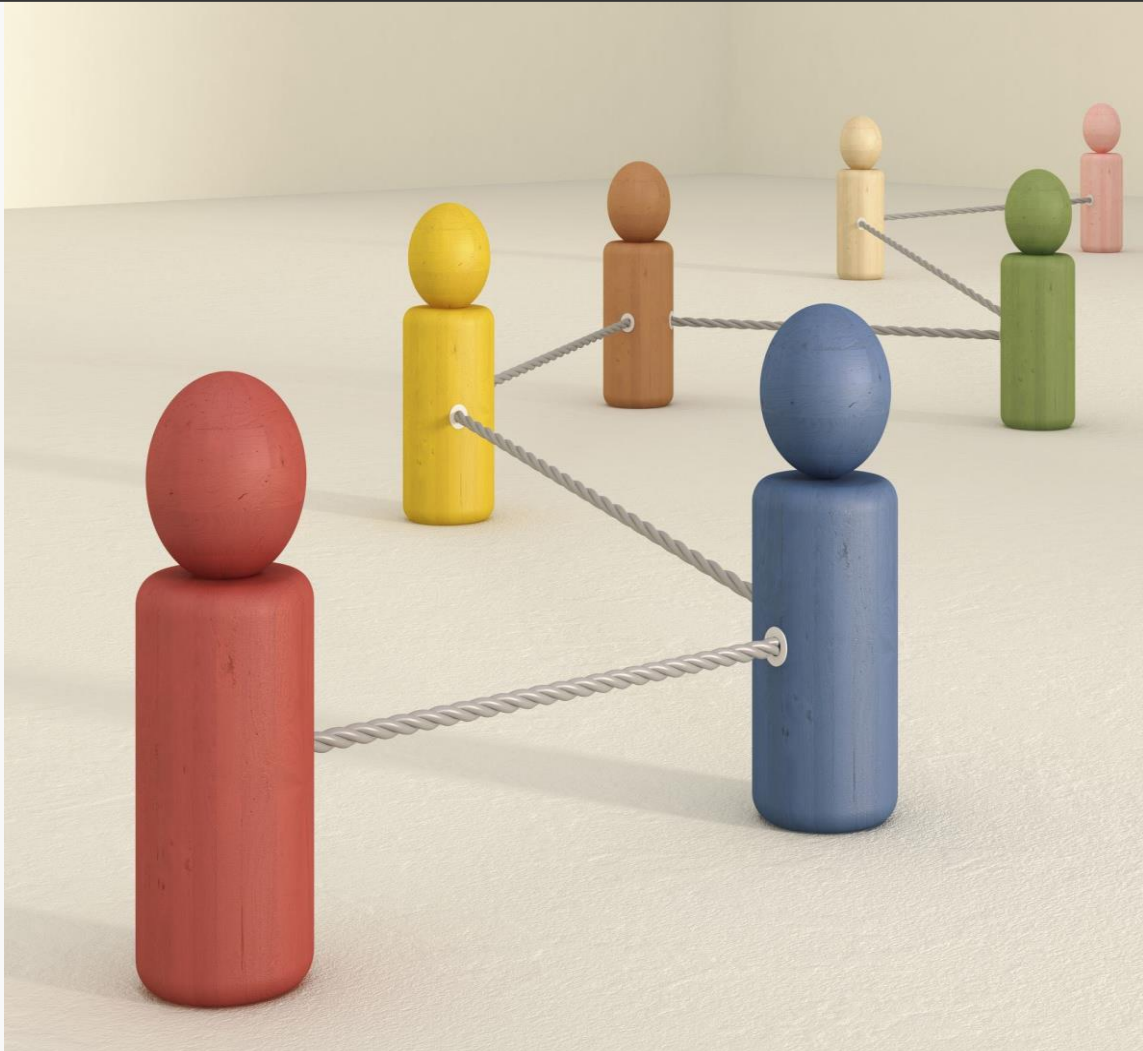
‘Widening the Tent’ through Inclusion of Civil Society

“civil society is the arena, outside the family, the state and the market which is created by individual and collective actions, organizations and institutions to advance shared interests” (Mati, Silva & Anderson 2010: 17).

Civil society organizations (CSOs) recognize and value existing initiatives of groups, individuals, and non-governmental organizations and build upon current initiatives by organizing partnerships between non-governmental initiatives and organizations whether voluntary or professional, small or large, including groups which define themselves along political, interest-based, or faith-based lines.



CSO: Strategic impact



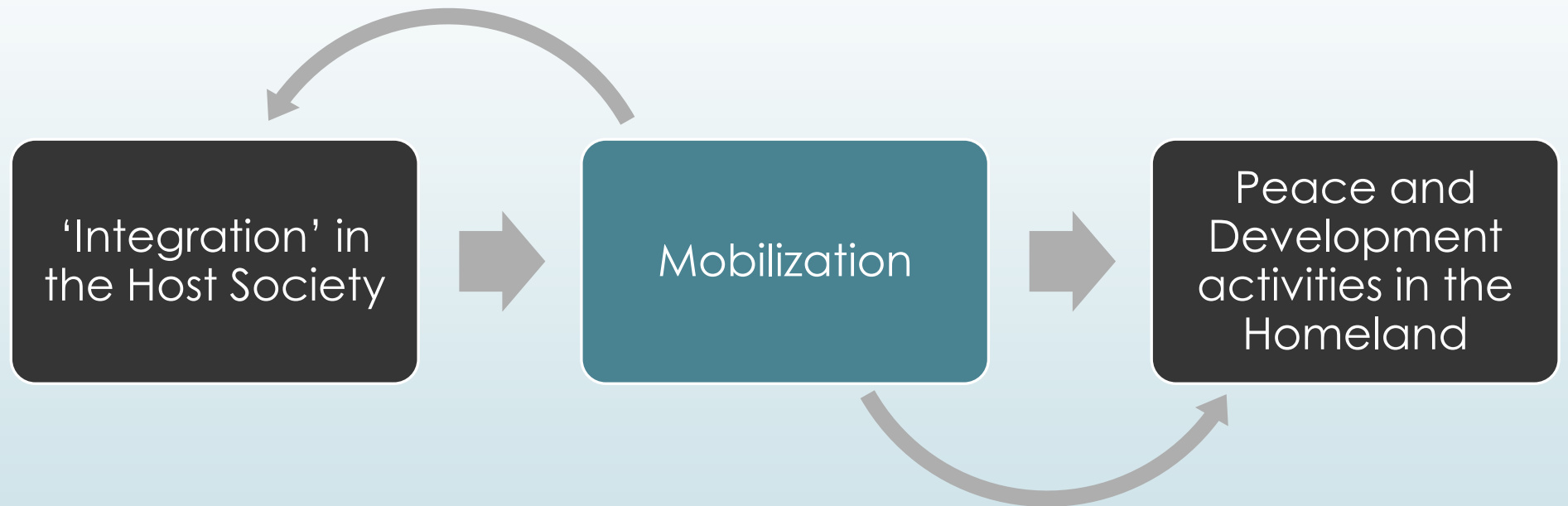
- ▶ Strategic impact on the ground with their leadership and innovative approaches in supporting inclusive peacebuilding by:
 - ▶ expanding space for dialogue;
 - ▶ sharing and supporting ideas;
 - ▶ organizing cooperation and activities;
 - ▶ the convening of a relevant organizations or people;
 - ▶ analyzing problems at different levels; mobilizing and rationalizing the use of resources for its members;
 - ▶ strengthening commitment and solidarity; and
 - ▶ facilitate avenues for low-capacity groups

Inclusive Peacebuilding through Leveraging Relationships and Coordination

- ▶ Civil society organizations (CSOs) do not support the proposal of framing diasporas' as 'blank states' once they enter the host society and/or defining diaspora solely in the realm of conflict or trauma experienced in the homeland.
- ▶ Instead recognize the 'translocal diasporas' agency and capacity to mobilize as 'bridge builders' and collaborate with civil society organizations.



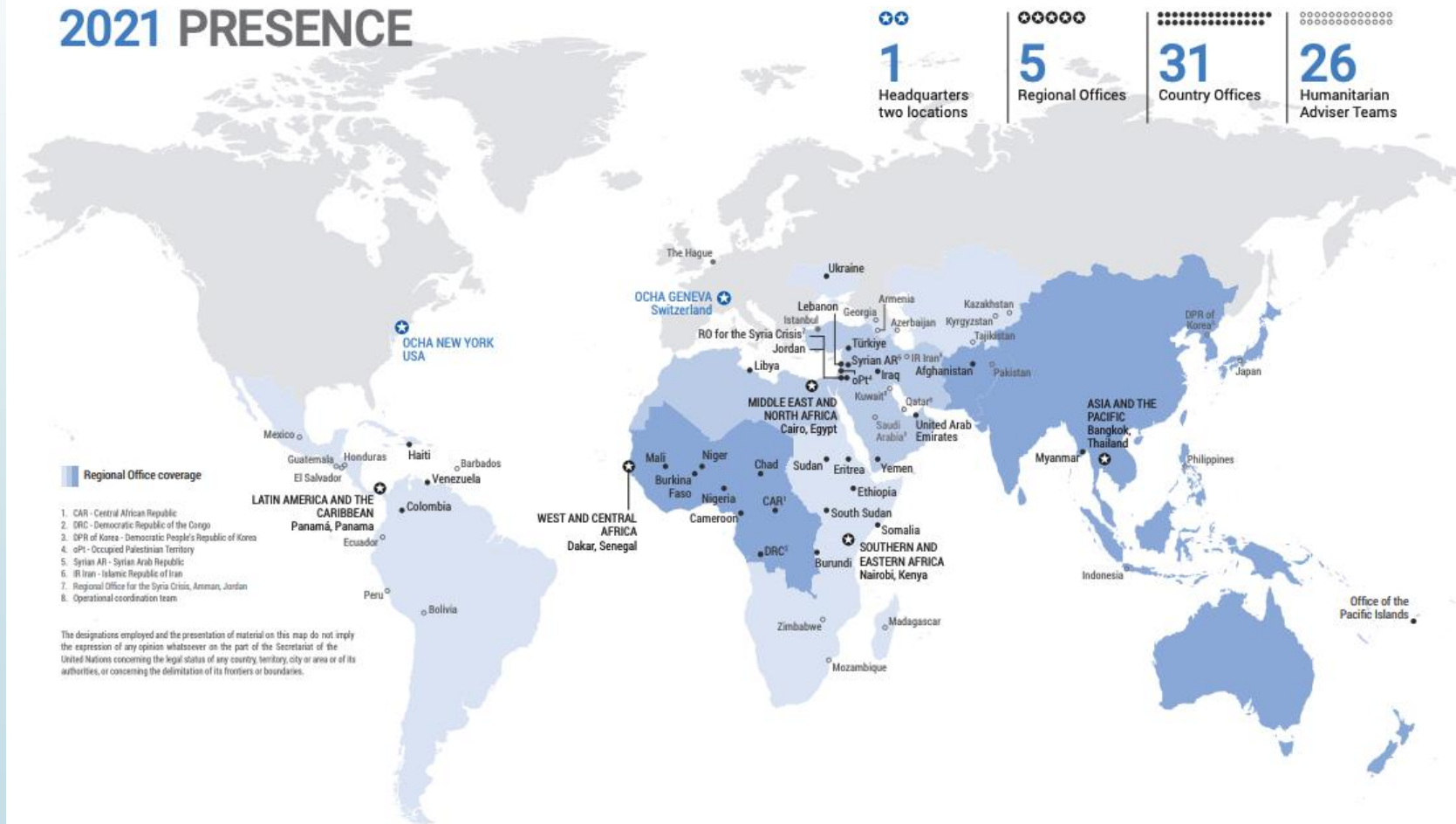
No Road Map can be a “one-size-fits-all”



► “The response in host countries to the Ukraine emergency has been remarkable, with strong state leadership, an outpouring of solidarity by host communities as well as the extraordinary work done by civil society, particularly local NGOs, and refugee-led and community-based organizations,”

Filippo Grandi, UN High Commissioner for Refugees

2021 PRESENCE



'It takes a Local and Transnational Village'

- ▶ Civil society organizations have become the bedrock of inclusive, sustainable peace and development.
- ▶ Civil society organizations realize to support inclusive peace and development activities they must challenge local and transnational individuals and groups to *'stand close together and lift where they stand'*.

