

Ideal Sources of Migration data, stock and flow

•Administrative Data

•Advantages

- Key for regular (continuous) migration information, captures larger amount of cases than surveys
- Border records, records of residency, passports etc., provide different type of information – careful of duplication

•Disadvantages

- the information is usually not too detailed (mostly basic demographic data, e.g. age, sex, etc.). For
- Some countries find immigration bureau administrative sources less useful, as some international migrants can travel across neighboring countries without departure/arrival cards.
- Administrative data and instruments belong to the particular organization, so the information and use/design of instruments is not under control of NSOs. However, some countries (e.g. Macau) have laws in place that require other ministries to provide any information the NSO requests.
- A common problem for countries is that administrative records from other ministries (e.g. departure/arrival cards) is not shared with NSOs, lack of coordination

Ideal Sources of Migration data, stock and flow (cont.)

•Census

•Advantages

- ideal because it is under control of NSOs (no problems with coordination) for , coverage
- Only source of migration statistics for some countries
- Can be used to revise/confirm estimates
- More details compared to Admin. data

Disadvantages

- Timeliness, every 10 years is not often enough as the situation is constantly changing
- Capture inflows, not outflows

•Survey

•Advantage

- A survey could supplement census so data is collected more often (i.e. more up-to-date data), and provide more in-depth information

•Disadvantage

- May not be possible to conduct survey of appropriate size. Sample estimates are very difficult, although censuses can be used to verify previous estimates of population and migrants

Migration Stats Dissemination and Analysis, capacity building

- First we need establish the purpose and also collect/compile the data in the first place, before we can fully analyze the data or discuss methodologies
- Migration data published only from census reports in many countries
- Others also publish monthly or annual bulletins based on arrival/departure cards
- Some published data is limited and there is variation between countries, often no details such as purposes (which is important for policy) because arrival/departure cards don't always include the information.
- Some countries have limited information in annual/monthly bulletins because border movements with neighbors may not be recorded
- Some countries have annual surveys on internal migration (e.g. Malaysia), published data focuses on internal migration only.
- Promote consistency of policies for dissemination of migration statistics (what information and how often) across countries in the interest of international comparability.
- ESCAP could play a role on helping to develop and promote a set of guidelines.

Migration Stats Dissemination and Analysis, capacity building (cont)

- On the other hand, data users provide the mandate for collection and dissemination of statistics. ESCAP can channel message to other data users and, as a data using organization itself, should work on informing on the needs for more information on migration. As an international issue, movement towards migration statistics development will need to be motivated largely by international agencies. All statistics must be user-driven, thus, statistics development needs to especially involve convincing data user groups of what is needed.
- The purpose of the statistics necessarily needs to be established before analysis techniques can be evaluated
- Most countries make their data available online, although some require purchasing. Some countries include major indicators, while others also have raw data for users to conduct research and analyses.
- Pilot studies and workshops, similar modality of ESCAP's disability statistics project can help with capacity building
- Dissemination of technical research papers, examples of best practices are also useful