The migration policy and statistics nexus: regional perspective

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Regional workshop on *Strengthening the collection and use of international migration data in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*

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Why do we need migration data?

- To enable effective response to ongoing migration trends
  - Responding to real needs
  - Ensuring effectiveness and efficiency of programme delivery
  - Adjust programmes and policies according to changing circumstances
- Necessary for both countries of origin and destination
  - Countries of origin: understand who is leaving/where/why/with what effect
  - Countries of destination: understand who is coming/where/why/with what effect
The global call for migration data

- Gaps recognised already in 1891
- More recently, calls for migration data in:
  - ICPD Programme of Action (1994)
  - Outcome of the second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development
  - 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
  - Marrakech Compact on Migration
The (regional) calls for migration data

- ASEAN
  - 2016-2025 ACSS Strategic Plan
- EAEU
  - Integration Development Programme in the Field of Statistics of the Eurasian Economic Union for 2016 - 2020
Existing global sources

- United Nations Population Division Trends in International Migrant Stock
- World Bank Remittances data
- Knomad-ILO Recruitment cost database
- UNESCO Internationally-Mobile Students
What do we (think we) know?

- Stocks
  - Origin/destination -
  - Age
  - Sex
- Flows
- Students
- Remittances
- Recruitment costs

Migration and Remittances in Asia and the Pacific, 1990-2017

Remittances (millions of USD)
Asia-Pacific (in-migration)
Asia-Pacific (out-migration)
What more do we need to know?

- Who are the migrants?
  - Education/training
  - First time/repeat migrants
- What are they doing?
  - Employment
  - Education
- How are they faring?
  - Access to services
  - Abuses against migrant workers
  - Migrants in situations of distress
- What are their intentions?
- What are their impacts?
What are the data challenges?

- Complexities of migration
- Definitions
- Methodologies
- Sharing of data
- Lack of capacity
- Irregularity
Thank you

http://www.unescap.org/our-work/social-development/international-migration