

**COORDINATION MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

Population Division

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

United Nations Secretariat

New York, 11-12 July 2002

**TYPE OF DATA OR INFORMATION RELATING  
TO INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION \***

The World Bank \*\*

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\*\* The World Bank, Washington, D.C. The views expressed in the paper do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the United Nations Secretariat.

## Statement by the World Bank<sup>1</sup>

- **Type of data or information relating to international migration that your organization routinely collects and/or compiles.**

- Two types of migration data
  - Global – Migration data for all countries or all member states
  - Country or regional – May also include data on internal or rural-urban migration
- Global migration data
  - World Development Indicators (WDI)
  - World Bank's annual compilation of data about development
  - WDI 2002 includes approximately 800 indicators in 87 tables, organized in six sections: World View, People, Environment, Economy, States and Markets, and Global Links.
  - The tables cover 152 economies and 14 country groups - with basic indicators for a further 55 economies.
    - Data gathered through country teams and country offices
    - Some in partnership with other organizations
    - Does not include explicit migration data such as immigration, emigration, net migration, foreign born population, or refugee data
  - Selected demographic statistics
    - Total population, population growth, crude birth and death rates
  - Indicators that impact on migration
    - Size, structure, and growth rate of economy
    - Unemployment, minimum wage, labor cost , remittances
  - OECD countries
    - From OECD Continuous Reporting System
    - Foreign population, foreign labor force, inflows of foreign population

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- County-level

- Also includes regional-level or general migration studies and analysis
- As an input to economic and social analysis of country or a region
- Need to understand migration as a part of the development process
- Often an early-warning sign of distress in a country in the case of refugee or internally-displaced person flows
- Over longer run, often represents lack of economic development or job creation
- Recently returned from mission in Armenia, small former Soviet state in the Caucasus where nearly one-quarter of the population has left over the past decade
- Really didn't have exact information on population size and structure because of lack of migration statistics
- Also look at issues of internal migration and spatial distribution within countries. Examples include:
  - A Survey of South-North Migration and Trade
  - Migration, Remittances, and Poverty in Latin America
  - The Impact of Trade Liberalization on Migration and the Skill Composition of the Labor Force in Developing Countries
  - An Overview of Internal Migration and the Global Economic Order
  - Analytical report and lending project on migration from the Russian North
- Some of the migration data used in such analysis are drawn from administrative statistics or censuses and others from household surveys such as the Bank's living standard measurement surveys

- **Purpose of gathering such information.**

- Global migration data
  - To provide data as a public good in order to allow comparisons across countries
  - Bank is uniquely situated through country teams and country offices in nearly all countries of its 189 members to be able to tap in most available statistics
  - As an input to population change as one of the Bank's measures of development and classification of a country is Gross National Income (GNI) per capita

- County-level

- As a measure of population change and social and economic development

- **The way to disseminate the information gathered.**

- Global migration data

- Printed form in the annual World Development Indicators

- Includes current data from the past few years.

- Electronic form through the World Development Indicators CD-ROM

- For time-series data from 1960 and onwards

- Statistical Information Management and Analysis (SIMA)

- SIMA is the Bank's internal database system containing more than 40 databases from the Bank and other international institutions such as International Labor Organization (ILO) and various UN agencies

- A limited amount of data are available on the Bank's external web site ([www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org))

- County-level

- Usually appears in country reports which are distributed widely

- Working papers, country studies, World Bank technical papers

- If related to projects - Project Appraisal Document, Project Information Documents (available on the Bank's website)

- **Difficulties encountered in gathering the information.**

- Global migration data

- Have in the past considered collecting more comprehensive migration statistics for all countries but are aware of the numerous difficulties in doing so

- Poorly developed statistical systems in many developing and transition countries

- Lack of consistent definitions across countries

- County-level

- Often easier because of the lack of need for international comparison
- Often more difficult because of lack of well-developed migration statistics in countries which are often inconsistent from different sources
- Often lacking detailed data disaggregations necessary for economic and social analyses such as migrants by age, sex, origin and destination, level of education, and cause

• **Areas where the data collection efforts need to be strengthened.**

- Global migration data

- Could include migration statistics already compiled by other international organizations and NGOs such as data on refugees, internally displaced persons
- Could attempt to collect data on migration flows – immigration, emigration, and net migration, as well as foreign-born populations and foreign labor populations through network of country teams and country offices
  - No current plans to do so at present
  - Numerous well-known difficulties in doing so

- Country-level

- Already provide technical assistance to developing and transition state in building capacity in their statistical systems
  - Through loans, grants, and newly-established Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB)
  - Have provided technical assistance in numerous areas but so far not for increasing capacity to collect migration statistics
  - Most requests for technical assistance come from countries themselves, often in conjunction with World Bank country teams
  - Have in the past also done regional studies or regional seminars on selected statistical areas