SESSION III

International Migration Statistics: concepts/definitions and sources

Regional workshop for Sub-Saharan Africa on Strengthening collection and use of international migration data for development

United Nations Conference Room
Addis Ababa, 18 – 21 November 2014
Some concepts related to international migration

- **An immigrant of a country:**
  - entering the country by crossing the border
  - not a usual resident of the country when entering
  - staying in the country for at least one year.

- **An emigrant of a country:**
  - leaving the country by crossing the border
  - being a usual resident of the country
  - staying in another country or abroad for at least one year.
Identifying immigrants at the border

Have you been in the country before?

Yes

How long were you away from the country?

3 months

1.5 year

How long do you plan to stay in the country?

3 months

12 months

No

How long do you plan to stay in the country?

3 months

12 months

NO

YES
Who is an international migrant?

- Mr. Samuel Aloo
  - Born in Zimbabwe, age 27
  - Came to Botswana for the first time to work, on 18 November 2013

- Mr. Samuel Aloo
  - Born in Zimbabwe, age 27
  - Came to Botswana to work on 18 November 2014
Who is an international migrant?

- Mr. Joseph KOMBAT
  - Lived in South Africa, with a South African citizenship
  - Went to Canada in July 2012
  - Came back to live in South Africa since August 2013
Who is an international migrant?

- Ms. Assa Gakou eps DOUMBIA
  - Lived in Mali
  - Arrived at the Harare airport on 1 May 2014, filling out an embarkation form with the following information:
    - Visa to work for 5 months
  - Filed an extension of stay on 1 November 2014 for another 10 months
Identifying migrants for what?

- Population estimates & projections

Population in 2013

+ births in 2013
- deaths in 2013
+ net immigrants in 2013

= Population in 2014
Identifying migrants for what?

- How many foreigners are coming to the country each year?
  - Who are they?
  - They are coming for what? (Study? Work?)
  - Is the labour market ready for the immigrants?

- How many emigrated citizens are moving back to the country each year? (Diaspora)

- How many citizens are emigrating each year?
## Categories of inflows and outflows

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inflows of</th>
<th>Usual residence of the country concerned</th>
<th>Citizenship status when crossing border</th>
<th>Categorization of flows</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-residents</td>
<td>Citizens</td>
<td><strong>Imigrating citizens (Group A)</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Foreigners</td>
<td><strong>Imigrating foreigners (Group B)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Residents</td>
<td>Citizens</td>
<td>Residents returning from visits abroad</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Foreigners</td>
<td>Residents returning from visits abroad</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outflows of</td>
<td>Non-residents</td>
<td>Visitors departing after short-stay</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Citizens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Residents</td>
<td>Citizens</td>
<td><strong>Emigrating citizens (Group C)</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Foreigners</td>
<td><strong>Emigrating foreigners (Group D)</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Population stocks related to international migration

- Stock of foreign-born
- Stock of foreigners
- Stock of returned migrants (citizens)
- Stock of Emigrants
Major sources of international migration statistics

- Population and housing censuses
- Sample surveys
  - Household sample surveys
  - Border surveys
- Administrative sources
  - Registers: population register; register of foreigners
  - Issuance of residence permits; work permit
  - Border: embarkation and disembarkation cards
Population and housing censuses (1)

“The total process of collecting, compiling, evaluating, analysing and publishing or otherwise disseminating demographic, economic and social data pertaining, at a specified time, to all persons in a country or in a well-delimited part of the country.”

A major source of international migration statistics
Population and housing censuses (2)

- Collects basic demographic and social variables (age, sex, fertility, mortality, internal and international migration, marital status, migration, ethnoculture, education and employment)

- Comprehensive snapshot of a country on demographic/social status, for small area/population groups estimates

- Every 10 years, infrequent and costly
Population and housing censuses (3)

- Questions related to international and/or internal migration
  - Country of birth
  - Country of citizenship (citizenship acquisition)
  - Period/year of arrival in the country
  - Emigration of household members
  - Ever-lived abroad (return migrants)
  - Reason for migration

- Migration flows:
  - Inter-censal flow calculation
  - Use of the “duration” variable
Advantages:

- Universal → capturing the small proportion of migrants
- Only a small # of questions → more comparable data across countries
- Large number of Social-economic characteristics → characterising migrants (compared to adm sources)
- Small areas estimates
Population and housing censuses (4)

- Limitations:
  - Infrequent
  - Not into causes/consequences
  - Unreliable data on emigration (entire house migrated; rely on proxy respondent)
Sample surveys

- **Household sample surveys**
  - Specialised survey on international migration
  - Integrating migration questions in a multi-purpose survey (LFS, DHS, living standard measurement survey etc)

- **Border/passenger surveys**
Household sample surveys

- **Advantages:**
  - Wealth of information, causes and consequences (e.g., employment conditions of labour migrants)
  - Able to add more questions to identify migrant groups that are of interest/flexible

- **Limitations:**
  - Sample size!
  - Expensive (specialised survey)
Border/passenger surveys

- Sampling among passengers arriving/departing at different location and time
- Asking questions to find “migrants” (duration, country of residence, purpose)
- Interviewers following a passenger and asking questions
- Apply to Island countries (UK, for example)
- Very expensive
Administrative sources (1)

- Registers (population register, register of foreigners, register of asylum seekers)
  - Register/deregister rules might not be strictly followed
- Border collection (arriving/departure cards)
  - Purpose/duration important
  - Processing records require a lot of work
- Issuance of residence permits/work permits
- Register at consulates abroad
Administrative sources (2)

- Counting of people or records? What about people crossing border multiple times in a year?
- Coverage issue – rules for registration/de-registration not strictly followed
- Set up for administrative rather than statistical purposes; legal provision for data exchange
- But all information is valuable – piece information together
Integrating multiple sources

Harmonisation of concepts and definitions!!!
Data revolution

"Your recent Amazon purchases, Tweet score and location history makes you 23.5% welcome here."
The use of mobile phone data for tourism statistics

Source: Mobile Telephones and Mobile Positioning data as source for statistics: Estonian Experiences, Ahas et. Al. (2011)
A few points from a summary of the pre-workshop assignments (1)

- Almost all collecting basic information on international migration through population censuses (e.g., country of birth and citizenship)
- Migration module is incorporated in many national multi-purpose surveys
- Administrative procedure is in place in almost all countries
A few points from a summary of the pre-workshop assignments (2)

- **Challenges:**
  - Linkage between collection of information and statistics is missing
  - Many publish the volume of arrivals/departures, not directly relevant for international migration
  - Census/survey data: not a priority for compilation, takes a long time before data are made available; or data on migration are not analysed