



## SESSION III

# Population censuses to measure migration: Methodological considerations/discussion

*Interregional workshop on*

Collecting and using migration-related data for development:  
Cooperation and exchange in the European-African corridor

*Organizer*

UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs

*Venue*

IFAD, Rome

30 November – 2 December 2016

# Key aspects on using census for international migration data

- ❑ Considering what is achievable and what is not
- ❑ Ensuring better coverage of migrants
- ❑ Phrasing questions in a right way
- ❑ Evaluating and disseminating data (& metadata)

# Advantage of censuses for data on international migration

- ❑ Availability – every country is committed to 1 census every 10 years
- ❑ Comparability – less flexibility in questions
- ❑ Coverage – covers everybody including small population group and difficult to capture group (migrants and undocumented migrants)
- ❑ Wealth of information – Socioeconomic variables and geographic location within the country (concentration of migrants in the country)

# Key policy questions that can be answered by census data collection

- Immigrants:
  - Size of migrants in the country
  - Who are they – age, sex
  - Where do they live in the country?
  - Where are they from?
  - How long have they been in the country?
  - Skill level
  - Employment status
- Emigrants:
  - At what age do they emigrate?
  - When did they leave?
  - Skill level, occupation?
  - Which country did they move to?
- Returned migrants?

# Collecting relevant data through censuses

	Policy questions	Data required
Immigrants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Who are the immigrants?</li> <li>- Where are they from?</li> <li>- How long are they in the country?</li> </ul>	Sex, age, country of origin, duration of stay in the country
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What is the skill level of immigrants?</li> </ul>	Educational attainment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Are immigrants employed/unemployed?</li> <li>- What type of jobs?</li> </ul>	Labour force status Occupation (ISCO) Economic sectors (ISIC) Status in employment
Emigrants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Who are the emigrants?</li> <li>- At what age do people emigrate?</li> <li>- When did they leave the country?</li> <li>- What is their skill level when they left the country?</li> </ul>	Sex, age, country of destination, year of departure, educational attainment at departure

# What censuses can produce?

- ❑ Population stocks related to international migration:
  - ❑ Stocks of foreign-born
  - ❑ Stocks of foreigners
  - ❑ Stock of returned migrants
  - ❑ Stock of first (second) generation immigrants
  - ❑ Stock of emigrants (??)
- ❑ Socioeconomic situation and geographic location of immigrants
- ❑ Intercensal net migration
- ❑ Some indication of recent migration flows

# What censuses cannot do?

- ❑ Infrequent!
- ❑ Migration history, different dynamics of mobility
- ❑ Causes or consequences of international migration
- ❑ Decent work, social protection floor, pension portability
- ❑ Income/remittance??

# Better capturing migration data in censuses

Initial  
planning stage

Preparation  
stage

Questionnaire  
preparation

Plan of  
enumeration

Dissemination

Who to include  
in census  
count?

Use of sampling  
in censuses

Communications  
and publicity  
campaign

Training of  
interviewers

Confidentiality

Selection  
of topics

Formulation  
of  
questions

Use of pre-  
coded  
questions

Questionnaires  
in different  
languages

Enumeratio  
n methods

Reaching  
special  
population  
groups

Coverage  
and  
response

Disaggregati  
on

Metadata

Access to  
data/metad  
ata/microda  
ta



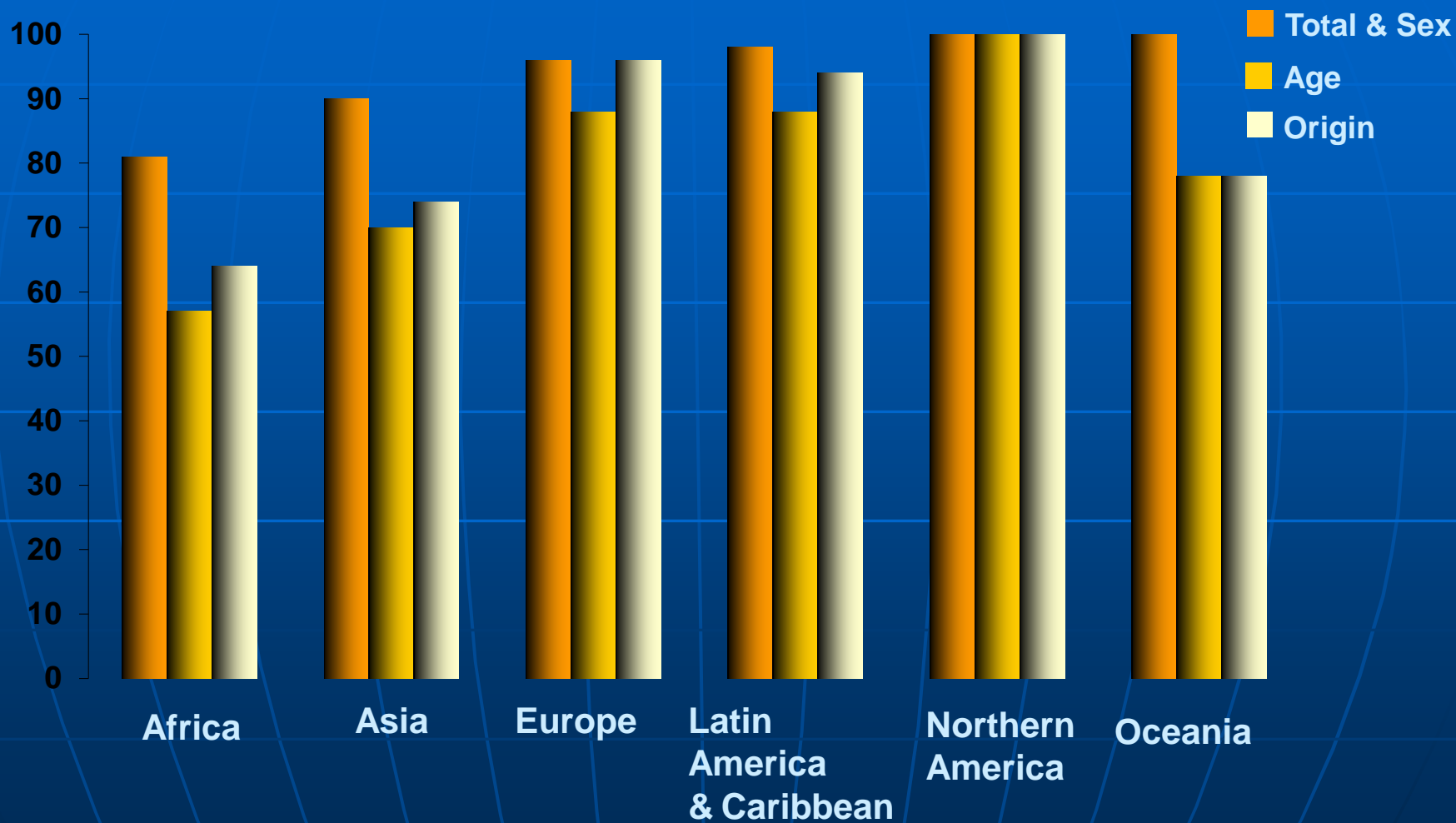
# Phrasing questions

- ❑ Country of birth
- ❑ Country of citizenship, incl. statelessness
- ❑ Year or period of arrival in the country
  - First or most recent arrival
  - Mainly for people born outside of the country; but could be relevant for native-born people when returned migrants are of interest

## Data evaluation and dissemination

- A long lag in receiving the tabulation on international migration (the priority issue)
- Data on country of birth/citizenship only available for a list of countries and most countries are grouped in regions
  - This may be an issue at data collection stage
- Data on educational attainment and occupation mostly not available
- Quality assessment done on census data?

# Data availability from 2000 census round



Source: Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2015 Revision

# Key metadata information

- ❑ Type of censuses (data collection and dissemination)
- ❑ Who are considered usual residents of the country
  - ❑ Duration of stay
  - ❑ Treatment of special population groups
- ❑ Definition of emigrants
- ❑ Quality assessment of
  - ❑ Overall census
  - ❑ Specific to migration variables

# Country of birth (1)

I-5. What is your place of birth?

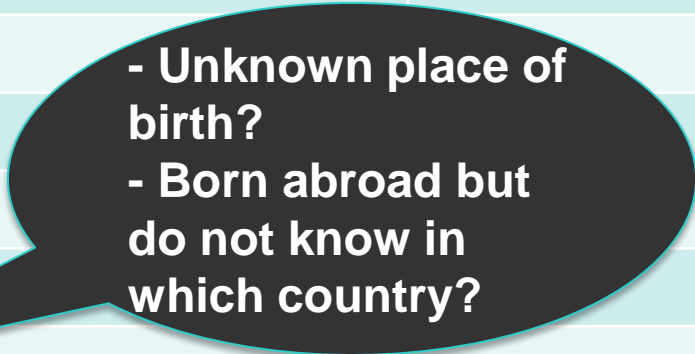
1. In (this country) - District code \_\_\_  
Town/village \_\_\_\_\_
2. Abroad -
  - 1 - Italy
  - 2 - Greece
  - 3 - USA
  - 4 - Canada
  - 5 - Turkey
  - 6 - Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

- ❑ Coding: in sufficient detail to allow the individual identification of all countries
- ❑ Any grouping of countries should only be done at data processing stage
- ❑ Country recorded according to present border

## Country of birth (2)

- Be careful with data with lots of unknowns:

Country of birth	Both sexes	Female	Male
Italy (native born)			
Spain			
France			
...			
China			
Unknown			



- Unknown place of birth?  
- Born abroad but do not know in which country?

9.1a. Were you/ Was N born in (this country) or abroad?

(This country)

Abroad (Specify below)

Country (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

DK/NS

DK/NS

# Country of citizenship (nationalité in French)

iii. Pre-coded list for country of citizenship:

## Example C

### P9. Citizenship

- 01 (from this country)
- 02 Ethiopian
- 03 Somalian
- 04 Yemenite →
- 05 Eritrean
- 06 Other Africans
- 07 French
- 08 Other Europeans
- 09 Asians
- 10 Americans from the United States
- 11 Other Americans
- 12 Others

- ❑ Coding: in sufficient detail to allow identification of all countries of citizenship
- ❑ Do not use adjectives, may confuse with ethnicity
- ❑ Including a category “stateless” or “without citizenship” in the pre-coded responses

# Country of citizenship (nationalité in French)

- Multiple citizenships:
  - Collects such information if of policy concern
  - Made aware of the possibility of counting people with multiple citizenships more than once and how it affects the marginal totals in

## Example D. (Serbia, 2011)

### 16. Citizenship

1. (This country)
2. (This country) and other country \_\_\_\_\_
3. Other country \_\_\_\_\_
4. Without citizenship



## Year or period of arrival in the country

- Distinguishing between recent migrants and those of longstanding
- To whom it should be asked?
  - Foreign-born only?
  - Interested in returned migrants?

a) “In what year did you/ did \_\_\_\_\_ come to live in (this country)?” (Jamaica, 2011)

b) “In which year did the person first arrive in (this country) to live here for one year or more?” (Australia, 2011)

c) “In which year did (name) move to this country? [If moved more than once into (this country), please indicate year of last move.]” (South Africa, 2011)

# Is your census asking the year of arrival to the country?

## Togo



**Haoyi**  
Born in  
China

**2 December**  
**2009: arrived in**  
**Lomé**

**6 January**  
**2010: moved to**  
**Bassar**

Census date: 6-19 December 2010:

**P11. DUREE DANS LA RESI-DENCE ACTUELLE: 11 months**

**P12. LIEU DE RESIDENCE ANTERIEURE: Lomé**

# How to collect data on returned migrants?

- ASK OF ALL PERSONS OVER ONE YEAR OLD

Has (person) ever lived outside (this country) for a period of at least 12 months?

Yes

No → Skip to Question x.

When did (person) last arrive to live in (this country) for 12 months or more?

Year \_\_\_\_ Month \_\_\_\_\_

In which country did (person) last live? [Specify country according to present borders.]

Country \_\_\_\_\_

# Collecting data on returned migrants

RESIDENCE A L'ETRANGER	DUREE DE LA VENUE OU DU RETOUR	MOTIF DE LA VENUE OU DU RETOUR
<p>Est-ce que (NOM) a résidé dans un autre pays de 1996 à 2006</p> <p><b>Encerclez le code correspondant</b></p> <p>0= Non</p> <p>1= CI (Oui, Cote d'Ivoire)</p> <p>2= AP (Oui, Autre pays)</p>	<p>Depuis combien de temps (NOM) est-il venu ou revenu pour la première fois au Burkina ?</p> <p>(en années révolues)</p>	<p>Pourquoi (NOM) est-il venu ou revenu pour la première fois au Burkina ?</p> <p><b>Encerclez le code correspondant</b></p> <p>1= Crise socio-politique</p> <p>2= Expulsé Situation irrégulière</p> <p>3= Raison d'études</p> <p>4= Retour volontaire</p> <p>5= Autres</p>
P11	P12	P13

# Collecting data on emigration

- Through an emigration module: identify the person abroad
  - Emigration within the last XX (5 or 10) years
  - Left the country for at least 6 months (or 1 year)
- Characteristics of emigrants
  - Age, sex, Marital status
  - Age at emigration
  - Educational attainment (at time of migration or current)
  - Occupation (at time of migration or current)
  - Country of emigration
  - Reason for emigration

# Some examples

V - EMIGRATION					
E1	Y a-t-il des personnes qui ont émigré dans votre ménage au cours des cinq dernières années? OUI = 1 NON = 2				
E2	Si oui, combien ? ..... <input type="text"/>				
N° d'ordre	Nom et prénoms	Age	Sexe	Date de départ	Lieu de destination
E3	E4	E5	E6	E7	E8
		<input type="text"/>	1. Masc.	Mois.. <input type="text"/>	
			2. Fem.	Année <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

## Example B (Ghana, 2010)

### EMIGRATION OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY

[Answer for all former household members 15 years or older who have been living continuously for 6 months or more outside (country) (or intends to do so).]

c) "Has any member of this household left to live permanently in another country? (El Salvador, 2007)

# Collecting emigration data through censuses

- Be specific about
  - The time period that you are interested in capturing the emigrants
  - Who are emigrants?
- Not much information on the quality and usefulness of the data gathered
  - Entire household left the country
  - Recall issue
  - Duplicate reporting by multiple household
- Data should be evaluated against:
  - Data from administrative sources or surveys
  - Data from receiving countries

# Additional topics – Emigration

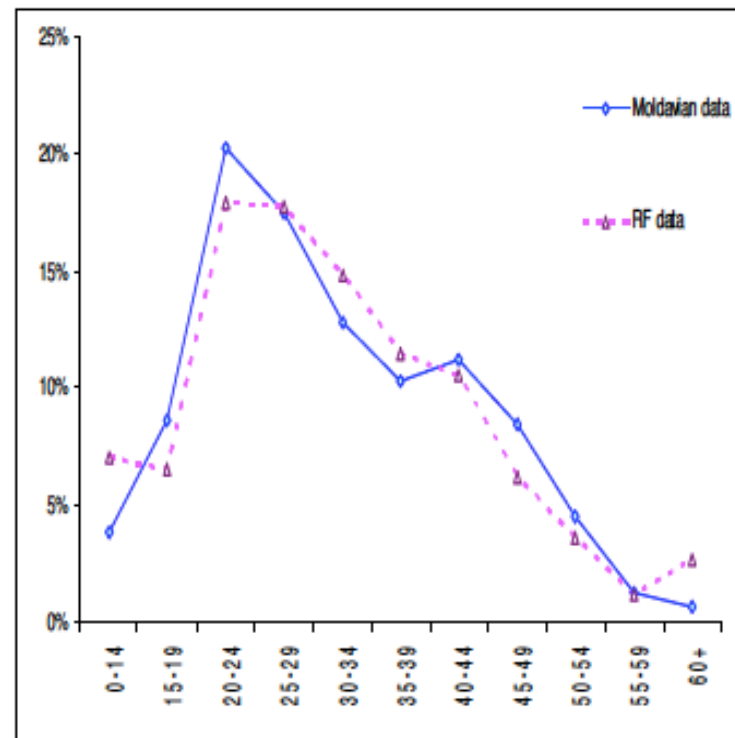
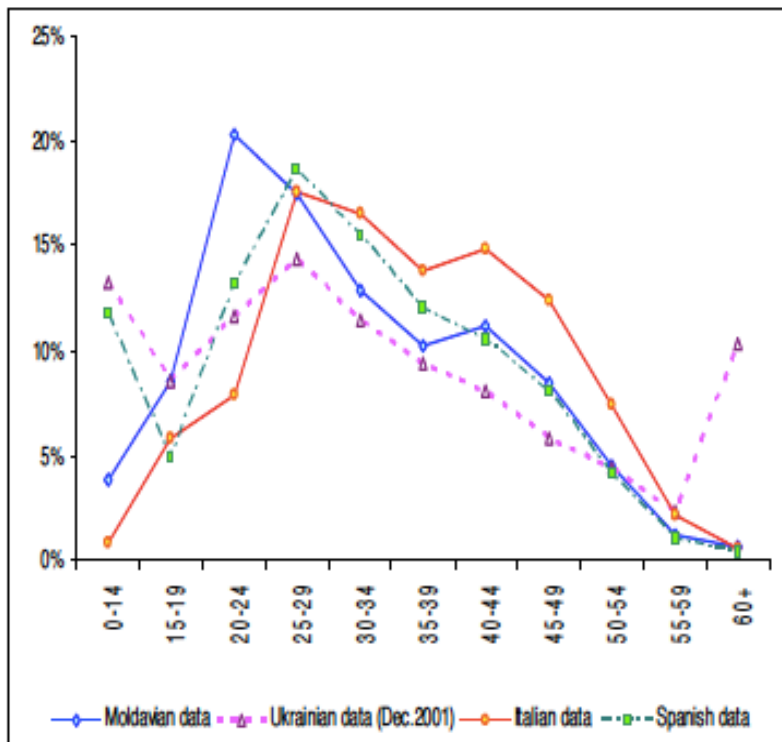
- Emigration module can not provide an accurate count of the total number of emigrants residing abroad, but the following groups can be relatively well-covered:
  - Emigrants who left the country in recent years (up to 5 years before the census)
  - Emigrants who are more likely to keep close ties with their country, mainly because of close family ties and/or geographic proximity
  - Emigrants who are still in the registration system of the country of origin, if registers exist



**Table 8 - Number of Moldavian migrants in main countries of destination**

Host country	Data source	Stock of migrants			Coverage		
		Total	M	F	Total	M	F
<b>Russian Federation</b>	RF data on citizens of Moldova: residents and temporary migrants in the RF 10/2002	60608	38018	22590			
	Moldavian data (cohort of emigrants with period of residence in the RF since 10/2002 and before)	34964	22194	12770	57,7%	58,4%	56,5%
<b>Italy</b>	Italian data (estimation for 10/2004)	39905	12116	27789			
	Moldavian data (emigrants in Italy 10/2004)	53010	17857	35153	132,8%	147,4%	126,5%
<b>Ukraine</b>	Ukrainian data (census 2001)	13522	6439	7083			
	Moldavian data (migrants staying abroad since 2001 and earlier)	1273	728	545	9,4%	11,3%	7,7%
<b>Spain</b>	Spanish data (stocks of Moldavian citizens residents of Spain, estimation for 10/2004)	8012	4446	3566			
	Moldavian data	3868	2388	1480	48,3%	53,7%	41,5%

**Chart 11 - Age structure of migrants from Moldova to host countries (for Moldova average data for all destinations), %**



# Aspects of planning and design of population censuses relevant to migration data collection (1)

## ■ *At the initial planning stage*

- Who is included?
  - *Usual resident population count*
  - *Population present count*
  - *Treatment of special population groups (P&R population census rev. 3)*
- The use of sampling in the census
  - No need for tabulation for small area
  - Need more probing
  - Proportion of international migrants vs. sample proportion

# Census enumeration approach (2010 census round)

Region	Usual resident	Population present	Legal/ permanent address	Total no. of countries
Africa	14	22	4	28
Northern and Central America and the Caribbean	15	6	0	18
South America	3	5	0	7
Asia	22	17	2	31
Europe	25	10	15	36
Oceania	3	5	1	7
Total	82	65	22	127

# Aspects of planning and design of population censuses relevant to migration data collection (2)

- ***At the preparatory stage***
  - Communications and publicity campaign
    - Separating census enumeration from immigration authorities
    - Covering different languages



# Aspects of planning and design of population censuses relevant to migration data collection (3)

- Training of interviewers (sensitivity/capturing the right person)
  - Household listing: probing
  - Understand inclusion/exclusion rules
  - For specific migration-heavy areas: building trust and dealing with fears
- The issue of confidentiality

# Aspects of planning and design of population censuses relevant to migration data collection (3)

## ■ *In the questionnaire preparation*

- The selection of topics to be included
  - Data available from other source?
  - Quality of data collected from census (testing)
  - Be realistic: not one-size-fit-all
- The formulation of questions
  - Avoid technical terms, e.g., “migrant”, “immigrant”, “place of usual residence”
- The use of pre-coded response categories
  - Country listing: NO, unless with a very concentrated list of countries, but still need an “other, specify:” category
- Provision of questionnaire in different languages

# Aspects of planning and design of population censuses relevant to migration data collection (4)

## ■ *In the plan of enumeration*

- Enumeration methods (in-person, self-enumerated)
- Enumerating people
  - in unconventional living situations (a census stand outside of the market)
  - difficult to enumerate groups
    - refugees
- Issues of coverage and response





# In the plans for data processing and dissemination

- Multi-layer tabulation
  - Labour force participation of foreigners, by citizenship and duration of residence in the country
- Always tabulate by sex and age
- Disseminate accompanying metadata:
  - Concepts, definition, duration threshold etc
  - Data coverage
  - Sampling fraction & sample errors (long form)
- Free access of data; publicly disseminated (justify the census cost)

# UN

## recommendations/handbooks

- Principals and Recommendations on Population and Housing Censuses, Rev. 3
- Recommendations on Statistics on International Migration, rev. 1
- Handbook on the Use of Population Censuses for International Migration Statistics

