Why use surveys?

- Detailed information is needed
- Too costly to obtain it from existing sources of data, such as a census
- Well-trained interviewers are required to ensure the quality of information gathered
“Hi, baldy! I am conducting a survey to find out how sensitive people are.”
First challenge: Define a sampling frame

- A sampling frame is an arrangement of data that allows the selection of a sample of the population of interest

- A sampling frame should cover ALL the population of interest
Most commonly used sampling frames for migration surveys

Stocks of migrants:
- Population census – most common
- Population registers
- Registers of foreigners

Flows of migrants:
- Border statistics
Using censuses as sampling frames

Censuses usually cover only immigrants

Criteria to define immigrants:

- *Place of birth – foreign-born*
- *Country of citizenship - foreigners*
- *Country of residence 5 years ago*

Some ask about emigrants from households
Advantage of the population census as a sampling frame

- Universal coverage: a census allows the calculation of the proportion of migrants in every area of the country.

- It thus permits drawing a sample of areas where migrants are concentrated, making the survey less costly while maintaining national representativity.
Second challenge posed by migration surveys:
Finding enough migrants
(LIFETIME MIGRANTS AS PERCENTAGE OF THE POPULATION, 2005)
Implication of second challenge: Finding enough migrants

- In most populations, migrants are “rare” elements, especially if the focus is on recent migrants.
- If migrants are 10% of the population, and 3% are recent migrants, a survey of 10,000 households of 4 persons will yield around 800 recent adult migrants.
One option: Use existing large-scale surveys to collect migration data

- Labour force surveys: advantage is focus on employment, hence on migrants who work

- Other large-scale population surveys
Advantages of labour force surveys

- Routine in many countries
- Administered by National Statistics Offices
- Cover relatively large samples
- Have national coverage and representation (but some only urban areas)
- Already collect basic demographic information plus employment
Third challenge: Deciding how the information will be used

GET ALL THE INFORMATION YOU CAN, WE'LL THINK OF A USE FOR IT LATER.
Basic decision that needs to be taken:

Determinants

Consequences
Migration is a social experiment

- Migrants, by moving, are subject to a “treatment”

- To assess the effects of the “treatment”, one needs to compare migrants with an appropriate control group of “not treated persons”
Which is the correct comparison group?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ORIGIN</th>
<th>Emigrants</th>
<th>Non-migrants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DESTINATION</td>
<td>Immigrants</td>
<td>Non-migrants</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Determinants of International Migration
The appropriate comparison group to study the *determinants* of migration
The challenge of studying the determinants of migration

- Get comparable data on emigrants at destination and on non-migrants at origin: ideally, we need contemporaneous surveys at both origin and destination.
- Alternative: survey at origin asking “proxy respondents” about emigrants.
Two options: Two surveys or one at origin

BEST OPTION 1
Survey at origin

OPTION 2
Survey at origin: using proxy respondents for migrants

Proviso:
Migrants have to leave someone behind

PLUS
Survey at destination
What is the appropriate time reference?

We need to know:

Situation of migrants when they left

Situation of non-migrants at the average time migrants left

To study why they left, the situation at the time of the survey is irrelevant.
In sum, to study why people migrated...

- In country of origin, we need to survey households with and without recent emigrants

- In country of destination, we need to survey recent immigrants from the country of origin

- Compare: migrants at time of departure from origin with non-migrants at origin at the average time of departure of migrants
The consequences of migration
What is the appropriate comparison group to study the consequences of migration?
Contrary to standard practice—

- Comparing immigrants with non-migrants at destination does NOT provide evidence about the consequences of migration.

- Instead, such studies allow instead the assessment of the integration or adaptation of migrants to the host society.
To study the consequences of migration

- To get comparable data on immigrants at destination and non-migrants at origin: contemporaneous surveys are needed at both origin and destination.

- Alternative: a survey at origin asking “proxy respondents” about how emigrants are doing.
Two options: Two surveys or one at origin

OPTION 1
Survey at origin

OPTION 2
Survey at origin: using proxy respondents for migrants

Proviso:
Migrants have to leave someone behind who knows
Appropriate time reference when the question is: how have they fared?

To study consequences, the situation at the time of the survey should be the focus.
Ideally: surveys would be conducted in several countries at a time to be able to compare people at origin with migrants in various destinations or migrants at destination with different origins.
NIDI-Eurostat Survey Project, 1997-1998

- Five countries of origin: Turkey, Egypt, Morocco, Senegal and Ghana
- Two destinations: Italy and Spain
- Migrant: person leaving/arriving in past 10 years
- Common methodology: samples, questionnaires
- Sample sizes were about 1200 migrants in destination countries and 2000 households in origin countries
Comparison groups from NIDI Project

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Non-migrants</th>
<th>Migrants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Egypt, Ghana</td>
<td>Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morocco, Senegal</td>
<td>Spain</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Summary

- Ideally, surveys should be carried out in several *countries* to study the causes *or* consequences of international migration.

- Combining data on non-migrants from *various* countries of origin and on migrants from those same countries in one country of destination allows an analysis of the determinants of migrants to the country.

- Combining data on non-migrants from one country of origin with data on immigrants in several countries of destination allows an analysis of the consequences of migration for migrants from the origin country.