Migration and Development in Africa: Implications for Data Collection and Research

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UN DESA workshop on strengthening the collection and use of migration data for development
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
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Migration data for development in SSA countries

- Importance of migration data for development
  - Trend analysis
  - Awareness raising and dispelling of myths
  - “Migration mainstreaming”

- Migration is induced by socio-economic, environmental and political factors but also impacts other development areas
  - Policies in other areas need to account for this effect
  - Need for reliable, comprehensive, timely statistics on internal and international mobility to inform evidence-based policy making and evaluate policies

- Migration regulatory framework and policies impact migration, therefore its implications for development
Migration Profiles (MPs)

• From a simple overview of a country’s migration processes (EC COM, 2005) to a basic tool for migration-related data collection:
  – Concise statistical reports on a country’s migration situation
  – Consultation with a wide range of actors
  – Internationally comparable (template) yet nationally relevant frameworks for data aggregation
  – Aim: designing strategies to address data gaps and produce evidence for policy

• Extended Migration Profiles (EMPs)
  • Complementary capacity-building activities (e.g. data or policy assessment, setting up of institutional framework, thematic studies)
  • Inter-agency cooperation platform, participation of various stakeholders
  • Sustainability and ownership

• IOM Experience
  • 54 MPs and EMPs published -- 15 of which in Africa -- 13 to be published (10 in Africa)
  • Guide: Migration Profiles: Making the Most of the Process (2011)
  • Migration Profiles Repository (MPR): database and useful resources
  • IOM Guide to enhancing migration data in West and Central Africa (2011)
IOM Migration Profiles in Africa
Published and yet to be published

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*To be published.
• **First MP exercise** conducted in 2009 – *a start to get the agencies around the same table*
  - Administrative and survey data collected on a **variety of migration-related areas**
  - **Issues**
    - Backlog of paper records
    - No disaggregated data
    - Lack of policy coherence and coordination mechanisms
    - Data confidentiality
  - **Recommendations**
    - Inter-agency collaboration for data collection
    - Data management strategy
    - Migration questions in censuses
    - Database of the Nigerian diaspora

• **Capacity building achieved with MP led to a data data project, 2011**
  - **Institutional needs assessment** for agencies with migration-related mandates
  - Further **recommendations**:
    - Staff enlargement and training
    - Tech and software upgrading, funding
    - Inclusion of migration questions in all surveys
Country example: Cape Verde

• **First MP exercise in 2009** (emigration):
  – lack of national policy on immigration
  – Poor coordination mechanisms across migration agencies
  – No institution for migration-related security issues
  – Lack of timely, disaggregated data on immigrants and emigrants

• **Now: greater centrality of National Statistics Office (INE)**
  – Coordinating a common network for integration of admin migration data from other agencies

• **Towards an EMP**, building on EMP Moldova experience – EU Mobility Partnership country

• **Capacity-building project for Migration Management**
African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Observatory on Migration

- Network of research institutions and experts on migration research, designed to improve understanding of South-South ACP migration

- Goal: enhancing research capacities in ACP countries to improve migrant well-being and strengthen the migration-development nexus

- Activities: research and capacity building

- Specificity: researchers and experts from the South

- Among other topics, National Assessment of Migration Data Management (7 in Africa: Angola, Cameroon, Tanzania, Kenya, Lesotho, Nigeria, DRC)

- Resources freely accessible on www.acpmigration-obs.org
  - Migration Research Guide: South-South Migration and Development (2011)
  - Indicators of impact of migration on human development (2012)
Way forward
Challenges for SSA countries

5 priority areas

1) Promote comprehensive government approaches to migration data;
2) Improve existing data sources;
3) Build capacities to analyze existing data and apply it to policy making;
4) Promote regional common approaches;
5) Raising awareness on linkages between migration and development.

Useful complementary ways: learning from other country experiences and making use of internationally available resources and tools (partly highlighted here)
Thank you

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Annex: Migration Profile Template