Improving migration data
- leveraging big data for policy making

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Outline

- Unprecedented data requirements on international migration
- What do we know about international migration?
- How can we improve migration data? A comprehensive national migration data infrastructure
Migration is fully integrated in the Sustainable Development Goals
Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

- Objective 1: Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies

Raised the profile and importance of data and statistics

Put significant pressure on countries’ statistical capacity to fulfil new migration data requirements
What do we know about international migrants?

Most people who migrated, established residence in another country within their region of birth.
Data gaps

Source: UN DESA migration data collection and UNSD census questionnaire compilation (last assessed: October 2018)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Collecting, processing and dissemination of statistical information</td>
<td>Collection and dissemination of migrant stock and flow statistics</td>
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<td>Standardization of statistical methods, classifications and definitions</td>
<td>Revision of the 1998 Recommendations</td>
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<td>Capacity building</td>
<td>Technical Report on disaggregating SDG indicators by migratory status</td>
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<td>Coordination of international statistical programmes and activities</td>
<td>Work with project countries in Asia and Latin America</td>
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<td>The UN Expert Group on Migration Statistics</td>
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A comprehensive national migration data infrastructure

Source: Capacity building framework, developed by UNSD, under the guidance of the Bureau of the UN Statistical Commission, June 2018
Questions for the big data community?

• What is the role of big data in informing public policy?
  • Complement? More frequent data?
• How to assess/address the limitations of big data (representativeness, biases, confidentiality, security, definitions)?
• How “feasible” is to access big data?
• How to ensure that official statisticians are on board/part of the discussion?

Thank you!