International Migration Statistics: concepts, definitions and sources



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Outline

- Definition of international migrant and relevant concepts
- The migration data infrastructure key elements
- Some reflections

Some concepts related to international migration

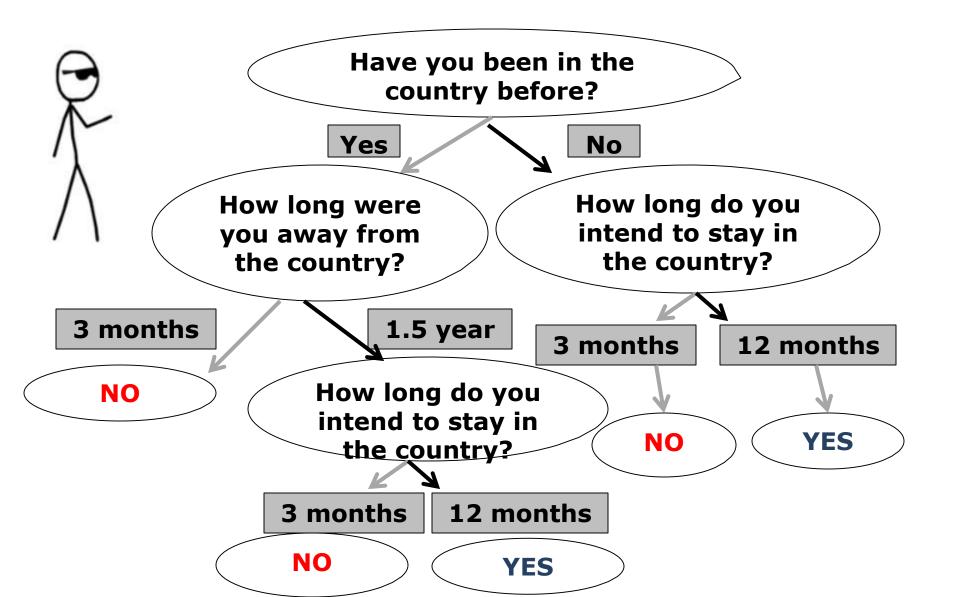
■An **immigrant** of a country:

- entering the country by crossing the border
- not a usual resident of the country when entering
- staying or intending to stay 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 or intend to stay in another country or abroad for at least one year.

Identifying immigrants at the border



Who is an international migrant?

Mr. Phan Chinda

- Born in Cambodia, age 27
- Came to Thailand for the first time to work, on 29 January 2018

Mr. Phan Chinda

- Born in Cambodia, age 27
- Came to Thailand for the first time to work on 7 October 2018

Who is an international migrant?

- ■Ms. Maria Teresa
 - Lived in the Philippines, Filipino citizen
 - Went to USA in July 2012
 - Came back to live in the Philippines since December 2017

Who is an international migrant?

Ms. Sallymata

- Lived in Lao, DPR
- Arrived at Suvarnabhumi airport on 1 March 2017, filling out an embarkation form with the following information:
 - Visa to work for 5 months
- Filed an extension of stay on 1 August 2017 for another
 10 months

Identifying migrants for what?

Population estimates & projections

Population in 2017

- + births in 2017
- deaths in 2017
- + net immigrants in 2017
- = Population in 2018

Identifying migrants for what?

How many foreigners are coming to the country each year?

- From which country? Age? Education level?
- They are coming for what reason(s)? (Study? Work?)
- Is the labour market ready for the immigrants?
- Where do the migrants settle within the country?

How many citizens are emigrating each year?

What are their characteristics?

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

Key inflows and outflows

	Usual residence of the country concerned	Citizenship status when crossing border	Categorization of flows
Inflows of	Non-residents	Citizens	Immigrating citizens (Group A)
		Foreigners	Immigrating foreigners (Group B)
	Residents	Citizens	Residents returning from visits abroad
		Foreigners	Residents returning from visits abroad
Outflows of	Non-residents	Citizens	Visitors departing after short-stay
		Foreigners	Visitors departing after short-stay
	Residents	Citizens	Emigrating citizens (<u>Group C</u>)
		Foreigners	Emigrating foreigners (Group D)

Population stocks related to international migration

Stock of foreign-born

Stock of foreigners

Stock of returned migrants (citizens)

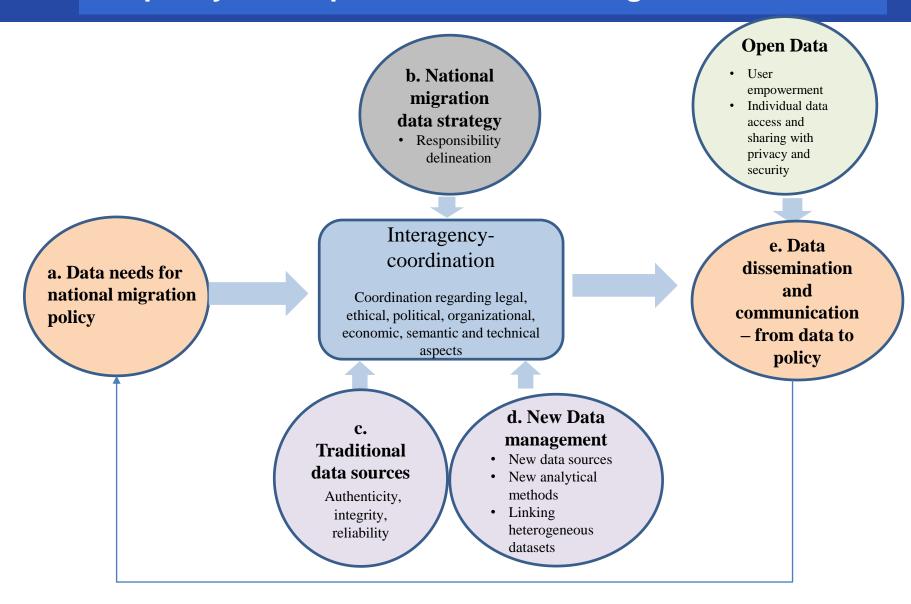
Stock of "second-generation immigrants"

Stock of emigrants

A few words about the definition of migrants

- Only long-term migrants are mentioned
- Short-term "movers" are also important population groups
- The important distinction between flow and stocks
- Possible revision of the definition

National migration data infrastructure – a framework for capacity development on national migration statistics



Major sources of international migration statistics

Main data sources:

- Population and housing censuses
- Household surveys
- Administrative sources
 - Registers: population register; register of foreigners
 - o Issuance of residence permits; work permit

Other data sources

- Border cards
- Border surveys



A few reflections

- ■So much data are being collected: census, surveys and administrative sources
- ■But what are data collected for?
- ■Is there an assessment on what data are needed for policymaking?
- ■Can we put the data together and give us a better picture of what migration looks like in the country? (coordination + integration)
- ■Experiment with non-traditional data sources

A few points about country experiences/challenges (2)

- Many are unhappy about the dissemination strategy and about how data are used to inform policy
 - Anybody has good experience to share?
 - Is producing a thematic report sufficient?
 - Some of you are policymakers, what do you consider effective data communication strategy is?
- Migration data strategy rarely available
- Some has an inter-agency coordination body
 - How effective is it?
 - If effective, what makes it so?

Integrating multiple sources



Harmonisation of concepts and definitions!!!

Non-traditional sources



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