

Regional Workshop on
Strengthening the Collection and Use of International Migration Data
in the Context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

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**Experience of 2011 population and housing census of Nepal
in capturing emigration and immigration**

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Population and housing censuses of Nepal

- Major source of international migration data: Decennial population and housing censuses, CBS
- 11 population censuses were conducted
- The last population census - 2011
- The 12th population census will be conducted in 2021

Sampling schedule in population censuses

- Sampling scheme was introduced first time in 2001 and then in 2011
- Sampling interval = 1:8 houses in 2001, 1:8 households in 2011
- Questions to track emigrants: Full count
- Questions to track immigrants:

Citizenship - Full count but

Place of birth, duration of stay, reasons of stay – Sample count

Population counting

- Usual place of residence, modified de-jure
- Place where a person had been living or intends to live for at least 6 months
- Persons absent from their usual place of residence for a short period of time like treatment, pilgrimage or similar causes is treated as present in their usual place of residence

Population counting (contd.)

- Persons absent from their usual place of residence for employment or study or business purposes are considered absent population and are not counted in the total population
- However, homeless or mobile populations were counted at the place where they were traced on the census day of enumeration: 22 June 2011
- We named this method as 'modified de jure'

Definition of immigrants

- Entering the country by crossing the border
- Not a usual resident of the country where entering
- Staying or intend to stay in the country for at least 6 months

Definition of emigration

- 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 6 months

Key data on international migration as of census 2011

- Foreign-born population = 479,625 (1.8%)
- Foreign citizens in the country = 138,910 (0.524%)
- Citizens living abroad = 1,921,494 (7.3%)

Questions used to collect information on immigrants and emigrants

Information on immigrants and emigrants are adequately collected

for immigrants

- Citizenship
- Country of birth
- Duration of stay
- Reason of stay

for emigrants

- Sex, age at departure
- Level of education
- Duration & reason of absence
- Destination country

Dissemination of collected migration data

- Population by citizenship disaggregated by age and sex
- Foreign-born population by country of birth disaggregated by age and sex
- Foreign-born population by duration of stay in usual place in Nepal disaggregated by age and sex
- Foreign-born population by main reason of stay in Nepal disaggregated by age and sex

Dissemination of collected migration data (contd.)

- Absentees population by duration of absence disaggregated by sex and age at departure
- Absentees population by level of education disaggregated by sex and age at departure
- Absentees population by reason for absence and destination country disaggregated by sex and age at departure

Dissemination of collected migration data (contd.)

- There was wide scope to generate census data using migration as key background variable but these information were not produced because there were no users' demand on it!
- Users are mainly interested in census data on caste/ethnicity, language, religion, special area, sex and disability.
- Because the government has special provision for them to represent in parliament, political party, government services etc.

Data evaluation against other data sources

- The collected migration data were not evaluated against other data sources because of absence of other reliable/comparable data

UN Recommendations on Population and Housing Censuses and inclusion of migration-relevant questions

- Many migration relevant questions were included in the census as recommended by UN
- However, for foreign citizen, duration of stay in the usual place of residence was asked instead of year of arrival in the country as recommended by the UN

Steps that can be taken to improve data-gathering on immigration and emigration in next round of census

- Not to implement sampling schedule in 2011 to address the issues of
 - data demand of 753 local governments
 - minor groups of population
 - complexity in tabulation
- Form separate thematic committee on international migration
- Establish good coordination mechanism, partnership and ownership of all stakeholders including three tiers of the government

Steps that can be taken to improve data-gathering on immigration and emigration in next round of census (contd.)

- Adopt fully UN recommendation on international migration
- Focus on SDGs and coming 15th 5-year plan of the government
- Advocate on census data as public goods
- **No one left behind! my Census, my participation!**

Thank You!