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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Session 7

Administrative data sources to measure migration: an introduction

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Administrative data indispensable for migration statistics?

- Diverse sources
- Standards set: existing tools to perform statutory govt. procedures
- Available/accessible
- Updated regularly with new events
- Recording could be easier with use of electronic formats

- If complete, could provide full coverage
- Wide range of information
- Potential for disaggregated information (multiple characteristics)
- Potential for linking registers using unique IDs

- Verifiable, often document-supported
- Reuse of information, minimal/no additional costs
However...

- Not always designed for statistical purposes
- Data quality adjustment/caution to meet statistical needs
  - Under/multiple-counting and reporting
  - Limited comparability
  - Data influenced by change in legislation
  - .....  

- Data sharing agreements
  - Legal framework (e.g. Statistical Act)
  - Mechanism/protocol
  - Level: micro-data, aggregates...

- Limited official collection/reporting in developing countries
Types of administrative data sources

1. Administrative registers e.g.
   - Population registers at current place of residence
   - Registers of foreigners

2. Specialized registration systems
   - Specific categories of migrants and associated events: entry/exit visas, work permits, residence permits, health insurance, taxation systems, asylum applications, students...

3. Collection of information at the border
   - Passport control
   - Landing/arrival/departure cards
   - Surveys of international passengers
To what extent are they fit for statistical purposes?
1. ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTERS

- Different levels of decentralized data
- Range of information: (parental place of birth, immigrant background, stock of foreigners, demographic events...)
- Linking between registers using unique ID
- Info on some population groups not included in aggregate figures
- Time lag: time of move vs. time of registration
2. SPECIALIZED REGISTRATION SYSTEMS

- Wide-coverage of migrants of different types/events
  - Multiple counting/under-counting
  - Relative reliability of visa statistics?
  - Incomplete/incorrect data entries & omission of variables
  - Largely based on “reported” migration events (e.g. under-estimation of labour emigration)
3. BORDER DATA COLLECTION

- Can reflect actual movement with higher level of accuracy (timing, mode of transport, port of entry/departure..)
- Large volume of movement can affect reliability of information
- Accuracy of data inputs relies on border officers
- Flows do not necessarily reflect “true” migrants
- Data largely tracks passenger traffic & detected violations related to entry/exit legislation
Types of administrative sources commonly used for migration statistics in Asia-Pacific*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Administrative Source</th>
<th>Number of Countries Using</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registers of foreigners</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registers of asylum seekers and refugees</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registers of workers abroad</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population registers</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work permit</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resident permit</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exit permit</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax and/or social security records</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education/school records</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health/medical records</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Border control</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Findings of the “Toolkit to assess National Migration Data Capacity” (responses from 8 ESCAP member States + Jordan)

- Only one type used in some countries.
- Integration at aggregated (macro) level in only 2 countries.
- Mostly aggregated data are disseminated.
Off-setting limitations of administrative sources (1)

- **Unique IDs:**
  - Link registers
  - Distinguish individuals from movement events

- **Quality checks** (input, admin to statistical data, output):
  - Readability, consistency checks, completeness, timeliness, interoperability...
  - E.g. Built-in classifiers/dictionaries; Logical checks

- **In-country collaboration/data exchange:** b/w NSO and agencies responsible for collecting data on population movements:
  - Statistical Act to support
  - Variables, parties involved, frequency, format, and means of exchange?
  - Confidentiality concerns
Off-setting limitations of administrative sources (2)

- **Cross-country checks:**
  - Comparison of immigration data (e.g. work permits issued) with emigration data (e.g. individuals who left for work purposes)
  - Irregular migration; legalize and protect rights

- **Data integration:** combination/compilation of data
  - Non-reported events: coverage and accuracy of migration stock and flow data
  - Describe additional dimensions
Good practice examples in compilation, dissemination and use of administrative data for migration
Russian Federation one-stop-shop on migration data (using multiple admin sources)

Registration of resident population (citizens & foreigners)

Work & residence permits; regulates asylum & naturalization

Electronic systems for registration of migrants

Federal Migration Service

Data available to external users on request

More detailed statistical information from CDBFSP or statistical excerpts on individual requests

Source for statistical reports

Monthly updates on the website

Automated info systems:
- Central Data Bank of Foreigners & Stateless Persons (CDBFSP);
- Russian passport; Internally displaced persons; Citizenship

Philippines: compilation of statistics on overseas workers (using registration data of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas)(1)

Statistics profile of Registered Filipino Emigrants

- Number of Registered Filipino Emigrants by Major Country of Destination: 1981-2016 (click here)
- Number of Registered Filipino Emigrants by Age Group: 1981-2016 (click here)
- Number of Registered Filipino Emigrants by Educational Attainment Prior to Migration: 1988-2016 (click here)
- Number of Registered Filipino Emigrants by Sex: 1981-2016 (click here)
- Number of Registered Filipino Emigrants by Civil Status: 1988-2016 (click here)
- Number of Registered Filipino Emigrants by Occupation Prior to Migration: 1981-2016 (click here)
- Number of Registered Filipino Emigrants by Country of Destination: 1981-2016 (click here)
- Number of Registered Filipino Emigrants by Place of Origin in the Philippines: 1988-2016 (click here)

Mapping of Overseas Filipinos by destination country

Top 10 countries of destination based on the 2013 Stock Estimate of Overseas Filipinos

Statistics profile of Filipino Au Pairs

- Number of Registered Filipino Au Pairs by Country of Destination: 2012-2016 (click here)
- Number of Registered Filipino Au Pairs by Age Group: 2012-2016 (click here)
- Number of Registered Filipino Au Pairs by Educational Attainment: 2012-2016 (click here)
- Number of Registered Filipino Au Pairs by Sex: 2012-2016 (click here)
- Number of Registered Filipino Au Pairs by Civil Status: 2012-2016 (click here)
- Number of Registered Filipino Au Pairs by Occupation Prior to Migration: 2012-2016 (click here)
- Number of Registered Filipino Au Pairs by Mode of Introduction to the Host Family: 2012-2016 (click here)
Philippines: compilation of statistics on overseas workers (using registration data of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas)(2)
Canada: Educational attainment level and earnings of immigrant children by category of their admission into Canada (using data from Immigrant Landing File and NHS 2011)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Admission class</th>
<th>High-school graduation rate (%)</th>
<th>University completion rate (%)</th>
<th>Earnings among non-trivial earners (2010 constant $)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Skilled-worker class</td>
<td>96.2</td>
<td>49.7</td>
<td>46,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business class</td>
<td>97.8</td>
<td>58.9</td>
<td>46,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live-in caregiver class</td>
<td>93.3</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>33,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family class</td>
<td>88.3</td>
<td>21.3</td>
<td>39,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government-assisted refugees</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>28.7</td>
<td>41,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Privately sponsored refugees</td>
<td>91.2</td>
<td>31.7</td>
<td>43,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refugees landed in Canada</td>
<td>91.4</td>
<td>29.4</td>
<td>35,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other refugees and humanitarian class</td>
<td>89.5</td>
<td>25.8</td>
<td>36,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>88.6</td>
<td>34.8</td>
<td>44,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class not identified</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>31.2</td>
<td>43,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second generation</td>
<td>94.9</td>
<td>40.6</td>
<td>49,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third generation or higher</td>
<td>88.8</td>
<td>24.4</td>
<td>46,100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statistics Canada, 2016
USA: Refugee contribution in taxes vis-à-vis relocation benefits & public assistance (using data from Bureau of Population Refugees and Migration, federal and state databases, and American Community Survey)

Fiscal Costs of Refugees Aged 18-45

Source: Researchers’ calculations using data from the American Community Survey, the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration; NBER’s TAXSIM and other federal and state databases

National Bureau of Economic Research, 2017
Understanding migration trends and brain drain among highly skilled workers -- inventors (using data from international patent applications)