Collecting Migration Data through the Surveys: ARMENIA

Regional Workshop
Strengthening the collection and use of IM data in the context of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

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Armenia | Where are we?
Armenia is a country

- in the **South Caucasus** region of **Eurasia**.
- Located in **Western Asia**.
- Bordered by:
  - Turkey
  - Georgia
  - Azerbaijan
  - Iran
### Population, in million

- Armenia: 2.9
- Georgia: 3.9
- Azerbaijan: 10.0
- Turkey: 82.5
- Iran: 82.5

*Source of information: [worldometers](http://www.worldometers.info/world-population/armenia-population/)*
## Armenia | Historical Demographic Profile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Yearly change</th>
<th>Migrants (net)</th>
<th>Median age</th>
<th>Fertility rate</th>
<th>Density (p/km²)</th>
<th>Urban pop</th>
<th>Share in world pop</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>2,9</td>
<td>0.09 %</td>
<td>2,6</td>
<td>-5.0</td>
<td>34.3</td>
<td>1.64</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>64 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>3,1</td>
<td>-0.94 %</td>
<td>-29,6</td>
<td>-44,8</td>
<td>30.6</td>
<td>1.75</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>65 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>3,5</td>
<td>1.18 %</td>
<td>40,4</td>
<td>-13,5</td>
<td>27.2</td>
<td>2.60</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>68 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source of information:* worldometers  
ARMSTAT is a responsible body for migration statistical system in country.
Administrative Data Sources for Migration

- Population Register
  - Passport and Visa Affaires
  - arrival / departure

- Border Management Information System
  - Border crosses

- Asylum Seekers and Refugees Register
  - Asylum seekers and refugees

- Income Taxes Register
  - Formal sector Employee (Nationals, Foreigners)

- Foreigners Register
  - Residence status for foreigners

None of the admin. registers provides data on International Migration
Administrative Records | Challenges

Limited access to administrative microdata

Unified system of administrative registers for the stat. purposes has not yet performed.

None of admin. registers provides complete data on IM.
Data Sources for ILMI

None of the admin. registers provides data on ILM.

Main data sources for measurement of ILM are HHS Integrated Living Conditions Survey (ILCS) and Labour Force Survey (LFS).

But

ILCS, LFS are traditional poverty or labour market studies and NOT migration-oriented surveys.
Integrated Living Conditions Survey (ILCS)

Advantages

- **Systematic** and multidimensional source of information.
- Sufficient sample size for providing aggregated data (7,184 HHs).
- Huge set of indicators provide comprehensive and cross-sectional data analyze.
- **New questions** on migration have been added since 2019.

Disadvantages

- Limited set of data on IL.
- **Heavy questionnaire** is a potential factor that might affect the quality of data and increase non-responses.
- IM data are available for population aged 15 >.

ILCS is traditional poverty study, but NOT asset-based poverty survey.
Labour Force Survey, since 2014...

Advantages

- Regular source of information
- LFS focused on labour migration issues more than in other HH surveys
- The sample size is higher than other HH surveys
- In IM data are available for population at all ages.

http://www.armstat.am/am/
Labour Force Survey, since 2014...

Key indicators of International Migration get from LFS

- Emigration / immigration / remigration, short-term and long-term migration, labour migration (internal / external)
  - Nationals / Citizens abroad
  - Native-born population
  - Foreign-born population
  - Non-citizens (foreigners)
  - Outflow / Inflow
  - Displaced population attached to labour market
  - Inflow of nationals returned from abroad
  - Some elements of labour mobility

By different characteristics
Since [ past year ] have been [NAME] ever moved for 3 months and more?

During the T - 1 are [NAME] permanently (usually) have lived in this settlement?

T - n (late past)

T - 1 year (reference year)

T (current year)

Intention (early future)
HH-based Surveys | Displaced Population |

- < 3 months
- 3-12 months (short-term)
- ≥ 12 months (long-term)

MIGRATION

- Immigrants
- Returnees
- Emigrants
Traditional indicators of ILM and Progress since 2018

Additional statistics needed for better understanding

**New Indicators**

- Resident population in non-resident economic units
- Non-resident foreign workers in resident economic units
- Labour mobility

- Labour underutilization
- Labour underutilization rate
- Participation rates of population in different forms of work activities
IM data quality in HH surveys

- With the existing surveys we can speak much more on trends rather than numbers because of:
  - Applied sampling design
  - Insufficient sample size: rare immigration cases
  - Proxy answers
  - Information gap on absentee HHs
- Accuracy of migration estimates are poor
- Data comparability is limited due to changes of sources & sample size over time
- Data are not analyzed properly due to limited human resources
HH-based Surveys | Challenges

Contradiction!
Rapidly changing word and statistics on PAST.

Contradiction!
Rapidly increasing demand in quality and quantity of data and inadequate resources

Undercount of migration

Freeze frame data on flow

Reliability and accuracy of disaggregated data is poor

No systematic studies for producing comprehensive set of indicators on IM.
Different polar interests of triangle

More data, More disaggregation

Leaving no one behind will require the use of **disaggregated data**

The provision of information is an extra concern (work)

Other expenses are more urgent and important

OFFICIAL STATISTICS

Data users

Data providers (respondents)

Tax payers (state budget)
Varieties of definitions and concepts presented in different standards and methodological documents sometimes causing confusion and difficulties when applying those in practice.

Challenges | A word of warning

SIMPLICITY IS THE SOUL OF EFFICIENCY

~AUSTIN FREEMAN
Some Findings of ILM, Armenia 2017
Armenia is a MIGRANT DONOR country supplying the international labour market with the migrants.
Migration patterns in Armenia follow historical patterns and emigration are dominated by short term labour mobility and outflow of nationals.

More often than not, the Armenian labour market simply cannot absorb the labour which is available at the labour market

Labour underutilization (LU) is one of the key reason for migration

“... LU refers to mismatches between labour supply & demand, translate into an unmet need for employment among the population”; Resolution 19th ICLS
Statistical Committee of the Republic of Armenia (ARMSTAT)

Working-age pop
15-75 yrs.
2 972 9 000 resident pop.
93% 7%

Native-born
Foreign-born
51% 43%

Unemployment rate
17.8% 18.4%

Pop outside of labour force
38% 47%

Source: Labour Force Survey, 2017
Thank you for attention!

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Good data leads to good policy = better lives for people around the world