Expert Group on International Migration Statistics
Task Force 1 Discussant Notes
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TF 1 Terms of Reference: Indicators

- Develop *a standard set of data and indicators* to address key development policy issues that are relevant for international migration and allow for effective monitoring and evaluation
  - Gender-responsive and child-sensitive
- Respond to policy concerns expressed by countries
- Not mandatory (will only serve as a guide)
- Identify *a minimum set of indicators* to facilitate global comparisons of the state of international migration statistics and address key development policy issues
- National: flexibility for countries to integrate their own national policy needs
- Consistent with Task force 2
- Consistent with other global indicators and avoid imposing an unnecessary burden on national statistical systems
- Disaggregation
  - Kept at the minimum to avoid unnecessary burden

Policy-Relevant Statistical Indicators

- Things to think about when developing indicators
- Measures of size, characteristics, impact
- Characteristics of good indicators
  - Relevant
  - Comparable
  - Valid
  - Reliable (over time)
  - Replicable
  - Timely
  - Comprehensible
- Data sources (if possible to calculate)

Overarching criteria for classifying international indicators on migration and related phenomena

- Why start with emigration (difficult to measure) before immigration (better developed)? Obviously not an exhaustive list, just examples?

- FLOWS

- Emigration:
  - "Monitor flows of emigrants" should come first. Why "vs."?
  - Monitor return of foreign citizens (own return migrants (thus immigrants), or migrants who left (returned to) a country?)

- Immigration:
  - What about immigration of nationals?
  - What meant by "mobile citizens"?
  - Limit level of documented and "undocumented" migrants

- STOCK

- Emigration:
  - Degree diaspora maintain economic and social links with country of origin
  - Dual citizenship depends on policies of both country of origin and destination. If allowed, encourages connection with origin country.

- Immigration:
  - While integration is key, so are comparisons of well-being to native population to measure inequalities.
  - "Information", aka Internet
  - Include descendants of migrants

Other possible areas of policy concern (Some included as indicators)

- Contribution towards population growth and decline
- Geographic distribution
- Policies to promote immigration of high-skilled labor, prevent outmigration of high-skilled, return of citizens moved abroad
- Health and well-being of migrants
- Public engagement/language acquisition (integration)
- Contributions to society (impact of migration on labor market, skills, services, wages, etc.)
- Remittances/Investment in countries of origin (development)
- Public Sentiment towards migrants

General Observations

- Level of disaggregation:
  - Too much? Not enough?
  - When want "current" and "prior" characteristics (e.g. industry, occupation, etc.)
  - Adequate level of geography?
- Additional Policy Issues: e.g. Do foreign student remain in labor force?
- Additional Target Groups: e.g. Immigration flows of both nationals and foreigners; environmental migrants
- Data sources: often found myself questioning their inclusion or exclusion
- Indicators
  - Subjective measures more problematic
  - Are many of these possible for less developed statistical systems?

FLOWS – Indicators on emigration and return migration

- Emigration Policies
  - Inflow data from destination countries
    - Will need information from EVERY country to determine flows (problematic)
    - Accessibility, especially for any demographic, geographic, or socio-economic detail (confidentiality restrictions)
    - Citizens who move to another country is relatively easy to ID in foreign sources by country of citizenship, but you don't know non-citizens who left your country, unless have a "previous country of residence" variable.

- Confusing what you mean by "return migration"
  - Voluntary and forced returns of foreign citizens
    - This is a subgroup of emigration of foreigners (how does voluntary return differ from "regular" emigration?)
      - Some will meet residence criteria, some will not…how to separate them?
    - Dependent on administrative sources (expulsion data)?
    - How know if left voluntarily from national sources?

- Remittance flows better fit as stock indicator?

STOCKS - Indicators to support policies towards diaspora (national citizens abroad)

- Stocks easier than flows, but still same issues: need ALL countries, with detailed characteristics of nationals living abroad
    - Surveys of nationals living abroad limited by their still having a connection to country of origin (and proxy responses about their situation abroad)
    - Country of birth is common, but will you be able to ID nationality at birth (unlikely)?
- Dual citizenship by country, since dependent on laws of countries of origin/destination
- Additional indicators: Remittances sent, contribution towards development in origin country, if (allowed to) vote in origin country (dual-citizenship).
- Additional Target Group: Citizens born abroad? (children of diaspora)...what rights (e.g. citizenship, work permits, education) do they have in countries of origin and destination.

FLOWS – Indicators to support immigration policies

- Immigration of citizens (aka return migration)?

- Entry categories specific to legal migration

- For net migration indicator, need to know the outflows

- Longitudinal indicators: more appropriate for stocks?
  - Status change, duration of residence, etc. (some integration related, citizenship acquisition)
  - Mobile citizens=temporary migrants?
  - Retention rate, need to know if left country (how know?...visa expiration?)

STOCKS – Indicators to support the integration/well being/inclusiveness of immigrants

- Well developed list (prior TFs/OECD report?), includes gender and children
- Why different format from other lists? No data sources?
- Legal status difficult to measure.
- Stocks can also be used for estimation of net migration/flows, aside from integration issues.
- Reason for migration: legal or subjective reason, multiple reasons?
- Children of immigrants expands this beyond immigrants, but still a population of interest
- Knowledge of language related to duration of stay
- Additions: Political representation (especially for descendants of immigrants); Geographic/Spatial: Segregation Indices; Internet access; Savings account;
- Subjective measures: "Vulnerability and Discrimination" (underreported)

Fulfill TOR?

- Covers a wide-array of policy-relevant issues
  - Does it need to be complete?
- Responds to policy concerns expressed by countries (global consultation)
- Immigration stock indicators best developed
  - Gender-responsive and child-sensitive
  - Consistent with other UN indicators

- Minimum set of indicators? (has this been established?)
- Global applicability?
  - Eurocentric in terms of data sources?
- Excess Burden?
  - High level of disaggregation, but If not mandatory, is this an issue?
- Better Linkage with TF 2 regarding international mobility (non-resident mobile population)
- Not address "new data" sources (timeliness)

Questions to consider about indicators

- Missing areas of policy concern?
- Feasible
- Timely
- Reliable and Accurate
  - Qualitative?
- Flexible
- Pragmatic
- Reactive
  - Crises (humanitarian, natural disaster, etc.)
- New data sources
  - Big Data?
- Granular
  - Level of disaggregation
  - Level of geography (limited)