Conceptual framework on international migration and temporary mobility statistics

Training Workshop on the Use of Administrative Data for Migration Statistics in Maldives

10-12 December 2024, Malé, Maldives
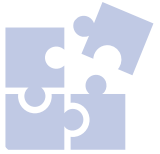
María Isabel Cobos, UNSD

United Nations | Statistics Division

Migration data for evidence-based policies

- **Increasing complexity of international migration** presents significant challenges for statistical measurement and policy formulation

- Despite the unprecedented needs, **statistics on international migration are sparse**

- There are significant **gaps in data collection**, especially concerning inflows and outflows, and disaggregated data (sex and age)

- The lack of consistent and comprehensive data collection methodologies across countries leads to significant **underreporting and inconsistencies in migration data**

United Nations | Statistics Division

Revision of the 1998 UN Recommendations

Aim: to find the right balance between relevance to national policymaking and the promotion of international comparability across countries.

UN Statistical Commission: Mandate to oversee methodological work and capacity building

Agenda 2030: Disaggregation of all relevant indicators by migratory status

Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, Objective 1

Progress so far

In 2018: The UN **Expert Group on Migration Statistics** was formalized by UN Statistical Commission

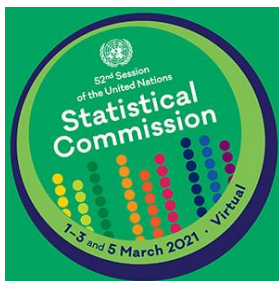https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/sconcerns/migration/index.cshtml

21 countries

17 organizations

6 independent experts
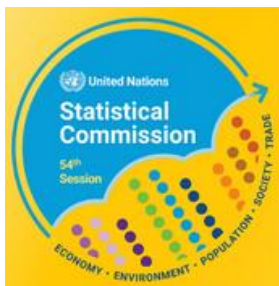
5 Task Forces

Key elements endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission

In 2021:

Conceptual framework on migration and mobility and accompanying statistical definitions

https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/migration-expert-group/task-forces/TF2-ConceptualFramework-Final.pdf

In 2023:

List of core and additional migration indicators for six policy areas relevant to international migration and temporary mobility

https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/Standards-and-Methods/files/technical-report/national-reporting/Indicators-for-international-migration-and-temporary-mobility.pdf

United Nations | Statistics Division

Conceptual Framework: main statistical definitions

From the conceptual framework endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission in its 52nd session

INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY

All movements that cross **international borders** within a given calendar year

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

All movements resulting in a **change in the country of residence** (a subset of international mobility) within a given calendar

INTERNATIONAL TEMPORARY MOBILITY

All movements that cross international border and **do not result in a change in the country of residence** – stay less than 6 or 12 months within a given year

INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT

A person who has **changed his or her country of residence** and established new residence in the country

RESIDENT POPULATION

individuals who have lived (or intend to, or have permission to live) in the country of measurement for either:
(a) most of (6 months and a day), or
(b) at least
the preceding 12 months, not including temporary absences for holidays or work assignments.

TEMPORARY POPULATION

all persons present in the country at a specific point in time who are not residents

Key features of revised conceptual framework for statistics on international migration

1. Encourages to build **stronger links** with policy data needs
2. **Distinction** between international migration and other types of mobility
3. Same measurement criterion for stocks and flows (duration of stay)

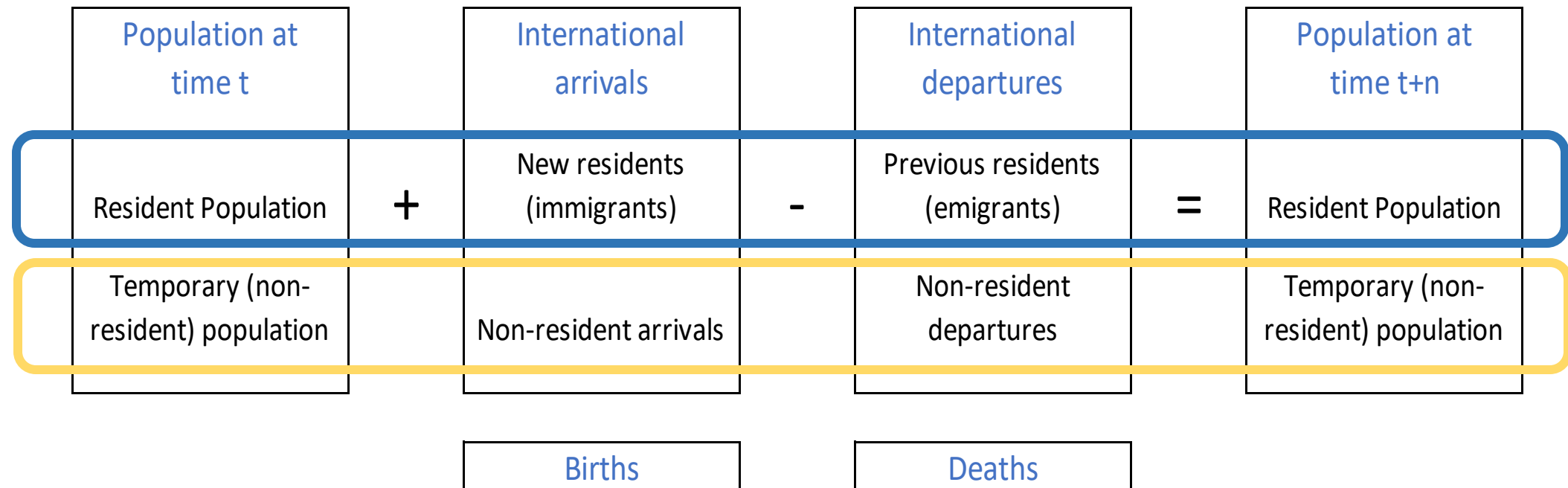| Population at time t		International arrivals		International departures		Population at time t+n
Resident Population	**+**	New residents (immigrants)	**-**	Previous residents (emigrants)	**=**	Resident Population
Temporary (non-resident) population		Non-resident arrivals		Non-resident departures		Temporary (non-resident) population
		Births		Deaths		

Fig. Overarching conceptual framework on international mobility statistics
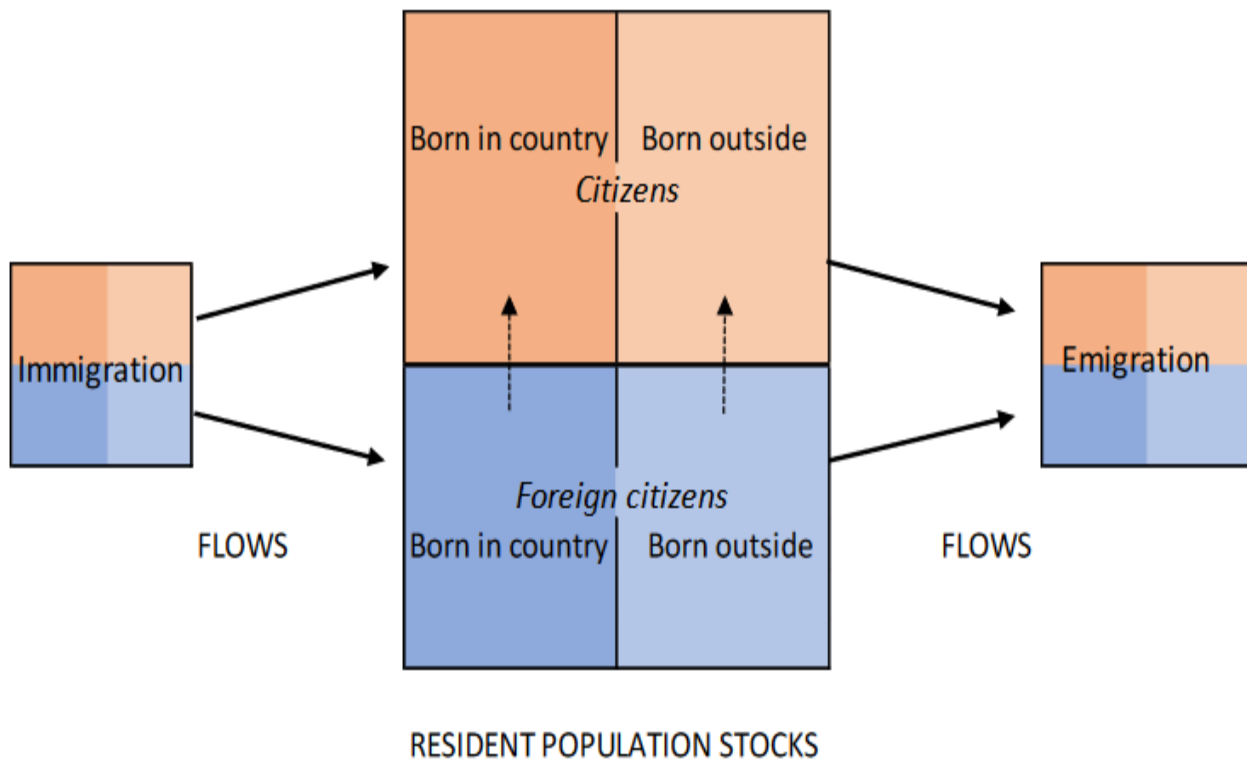
Cross-tabulations of four subpopulations

Fig. Conceptual framework on international migration and the coherence between flows and stocks

Cross-tabulations of these four subpopulations

critical to understanding immigrant and emigrant populations and their international movements:

- Foreign-born citizens

- Foreign-born foreign citizens

- Native-born citizens

- Native-born foreign citizens

From a policy perspective, presenting statistics and indicators for the four subpopulations separately is highly relevant.

United Nations | Statistics Division

Cross-tabulations of four subpopulations

	Native born	Foreign born	
(National) Citizens	a	b	a+b
Foreign citizens	c	d	c+d
	a+c	b+d	T

Cross-tabulations of these four subpopulations critical to understanding immigrant and emigrant populations and their international movements:

- Foreign-born citizens

- Foreign-born foreign citizens

- Native-born citizens

- Native-born foreign citizens

If this is not possible, present statistics and indicators for the marginals:

- Foreign-born (b+d)

- Native-born (a+c)

- Citizens (a+b)

- Foreign citizens (c+d)

Migration Policy Areas

Six migration policy areas relevant for international migration and temporary mobility, anchored in global initiatives, most notably:

POLICY AREA 1
Improve the measurement of international migration and temporary mobility stocks and flows

POLICY AREA 2
Address irregular cross border movements and visa overstays

POLICY AREA 3
Ensure access to basic services by migrants and temporary populations vis-à-vis other population groups

POLICY AREA 4
Increase the integration and wellbeing of migrants

POLICY AREA 5
Empower labor migrants

POLICY AREA 6
Eliminate all forms of discrimination and ending violence against migrants

United Nations | Statistics Division

MIGRATION STATISTICS

MIGRATION STATISTICS
FOR PRODUCTION

POLICY AREA 1:
Improve the measurement of international migration and temporary mobility stocks and flows

POLICY AREA 2:
Address irregular cross border movements and visa overstays

CORE
MIGRATION STATISTICS
that all countries are recommended to regularly produce

ADDITIONAL
MIGRATION STATISTICS
that countries may consider producing, depending on their national priorities and circumstances

United Nations | Statistics Division

STOCK STATISTICS

capture the **size, characteristics, and geographic distribution** of **international migrant and temporary populations** present in the country at a particular point in time.

FLOW STATISTICS

capture movements that cross international borders within a given year.

4

CORE MIGRATION STATISTICS

for measuring stocks and flows of international **migrant** populations

CORE

all countries are recommended to regularly produce

5

ADDITIONAL TEMPORARY MOBILITY STATISTICS

for measuring stocks and flows of key **temporary** populations

ADDITIONAL

countries may consider producing, depending on their national priorities and circumstances

United Nations | Statistics Division

POLICY AREA 1: CORE MIGRATION STATISTICS
that all countries are recommended to regularly produce

POLICY AREA 1:
Improve the measurement of international migration and temporary mobility stocks and flows

Primary topics for disaggregation:
1. Age
2. Sex
3. Country of birth
4. Country of citizenship

			Migration Statistics
STOCKS	1.1		Number/proportion of _____ in the total resident population
			Foreign-born
			Foreign citizen
			Foreign-born citizen
			Native-born foreign citizen
			Foreign-born foreign citizen
			Native-born (native) citizens
	1.2		Number of _____ who obtained citizenship over a given year
			Native-born foreign citizen
			Foreign-born foreign citizen
FLOWS	1.3		Annual number of immigrants who are _____
			Foreign-born
			Foreign citizen
			Foreign-born citizen
			Native-born foreign citizen
			Foreign-born foreign citizen
			Native-born (native) citizens
	1.4		Annual number of emigrants who are _____
			Foreign-born population
			Foreign citizen
			Foreign-born citizen
			Native-born foreign citizen
			Foreign-born foreign citizen
			Native-born (native) citizens

POLICY AREA 1: CORE MIGRATION STATISTICS
that all countries are recommended to regularly produce

		CORE		ADDITIONAL
		Migration Statistics	**Primary topics for disaggregation**	**Secondary topics for disaggregation**
STOCKS	**1.1**	Number/proportion of _____ in the total resident population **Foreign-born population** **Foreign citizen** **Foreign-born citizen** **Native-born foreign citizen** **Foreign-born foreign citizen** **Native-born (native) citizens**	1.Age 2.Sex 3.Country of birth 4.Country of citizenship	Duration of stay; Educational attainment; Labour force status; Location of residence within country; Reasons for migration; NB/FB status of parents
	1.2	Number of _____ who obtained citizenship over a given year **Native-born foreign citizen** **Foreign-born foreign citizen**	1.Age 2.Sex 3.Country of birth 4.Country of citizenship	Educational attainment; Labour force status; Location of residence within country; Duration of stay; Legal grounds for obtaining citizenship (or reasons for migration); NB/FB status of parents
FLOWS	**1.3**	Annual number of immigrants who are _____ **Foreign-born population** **Foreign citizen** **Foreign-born citizen** **Native-born foreign citizen** **Foreign-born foreign citizen** **Native-born (native) citizens**	1.Age 2.Sex 3.Country of birth 4.Country of citizenship	Country of previous residence; Educational attainment; Reason for move; Labour force status prior to move; Location within country
	1.4	Annual number of emigrants who are _____ **Foreign-born population** **Foreign citizen** **Foreign-born citizen** **Native-born foreign citizen** **Foreign-born foreign citizen** **Native-born (native) citizens**	1.Age 2.Sex 3.Country of birth 4.Country of citizenship	Country of next residence; Educational attainment; Reason for move; Labour force status; Departure location within country

Statistics on international temporary mobility

Focus on movements associated :
- o in the labour market,
- o utilising education or training services,
- o seeking health or medical care services; and
- o seeking asylum or protection as refugees

Cross-border workers
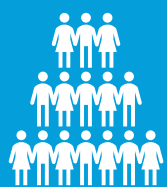
Seasonal workers

Health-related

Training-related

Asylum seekers in transit
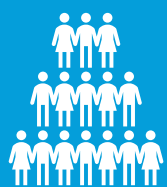
United Nations | Statistics Division

POLICY AREA 1:
Improve the measurement of international migration and temporary mobility stocks and flows

Primary topics for disaggregation:
1. Age
2. Sex
3. Duration of stay
4. Country of final destination (TMI 1.9)

Migration Indicator (MI)		
FLOWS	**MI 1.5**	Total net migration over a given year [2]
Temporary Mobility Indicator (TMI)		
STOCKS	**TMI 1.6**	Number of foreign citizens temporarily present in the country who are _____ (a) cross-border workers (b) engaged in seasonal work (c) other types of employment (d) engaged in training or education (e) seeking health-related treatments (f) asylum seekers/refugees
	TMI 1.7	Number of national citizens temporarily absent from the country who are ___ (a) cross-border workers (b) engaged in seasonal work
FLOWS	**TMI 1.8**	Annual number of foreign citizens entering the country temporarily for _____ (a) cross-border workers (b) engaged in seasonal work (c) other types of employment (d) engaged in training or education (e) seeking health-related treatments (f) asylum seekers/refugees
	TMI 1.9	Annual number of resident _____ departing the country for temporary stays abroad (a) Foreign citizen (b) Citizen population

POLICY AREA 1: ADDITIONAL STATISTICS
that countries may consider producing, depending on their national priorities and circumstances

	ADDITIONAL		
	Migration Indicator (MI)		**Primary topics for disaggregation[1]**
FLOWS	**MI 1.5**	Total net migration over a given year [2]	1.Age 2.Sex
	Temporary Mobility Indicator (TMI)		**Primary topics for disaggregation[1]**
STOCKS	**TMI 1.6**	Number of foreign citizens temporarily present in the country who are _____ (a) cross-border workers (b) engaged in seasonal work (c) other types of employment (d) engaged in training or education (e) seeking health-related treatments (f) asylum seekers/refugees	1.Age 2.Sex 3. Duration of stay
	TMI 1.7	Number of national citizens temporarily absent from the country who are ___ (a) cross-border workers (b) engaged in seasonal work	1.Age 2.Sex 3. Duration of stay
FLOWS	**TMI 1.8**	Annual number of foreign citizens entering the country temporarily for _____ (a) cross-border workers (b) engaged in seasonal work (c) other types of employment (d) engaged in training or education (e) seeking health-related treatments (f) asylum seekers/refugees	1.Age 2.Sex 3. Duration of stay
	TMI 1.9	Annual number of resident _____ departing the country for temporary stays abroad Foreign citizen Citizen population	1.Age 2.Sex 3. Expected duration of stay 4.Country of final destination

Path Forward

The UN Expert Group on Migration Statistics and UNSD are drafting the revised recommendations to include:

- Conceptual framework for statistics on international migration and temporary mobility
- Indicators
- Data sources related to international migration and temporary mobility
- Technical material on data integration for the production of migration statistics
- Operational guidelines
- Guidance on communication of international migration statistics

Draft will be circulated for feedback and submitted for endorsement by the UN Statistical Commission at its 56th Session in 2025

Final version is expected to be presented at the International Forum on Migration Statistics in June of 2025

United Nations

Statistics Division

Thank you!

Questions?

cobos@un.org

United Nations | Statistics Division