Use of Administrative Data for Migration Statistics in Maldives

Debrief meeting & Path forward

December 2024

United Nations | Statistics Division

Key take away messages

Collaboration

- Recognition of MBS **legal mandate** to collect data from agencies for statistical purposes, including microdata

- Involving the right **partners** is paramount

- **MoUs** must be leveraged

- **Visibility** of existing data is work in progress

- **Mutual training** and capacity building is a "must"
  - Agencies can take advantage of MBS expertise and capacity building functions

- Fostering **trust** and feedback

- There are opportunities for **data integration**
  - Microdata with Immigration Maldives data and Xpat database (MHST)
  - Macrodata integration with census and Immigration Maldives data

Key take away messages

Conceptual

- Usefulness of revised UN conceptual **framework** for collaboration and production of relevant and timely migration statistics

- Need to better **understand** variables in different data sources for stock and flow migration statistics

- **Topics** of special interest:
  - Irregular migrants
  - Labour migration

- Policy areas and corresponding **indicators for disaggregation** suggested by UN can be compared to national SDG prioritized indicators, and assess possibility of disaggregation by migratory status

Technical

- Importance of **metadata**, including data dictionaries for effective inter-agency collaboration

- **MinIO** strengthens capacity for secure data sharing

- There is a wealth of **data sources** available in the country that can inform statistics on migration and migrants

- There are **immediate** actions that can be taken, e.g.:
  - Harmonize classifications / encoding
  - Data dictionaries

Agreed activities:

Topic	Task	Who	Timeframe
Collaboration	Establish national inter-agency technical committee on migration statistics to meet regularly and discuss issues • Prepare ToR • Include Department of National Registration	MBS and all other relevant agencies	Jan – Feb 2025
	Memorandum of Understanding between MBS & Immigration • Review data items to be shared in light of workshop learnings (e.g. add country of birth) • Get signed and in effect	Immigration and MBS	Ongoing
	Initiate conversations for MoU between MBS & MHST for Xpat data	MHST and MBS	Jan – Feb 2025
	Presentation of results	**All**	**Sep 2025**
Conceptual	Map process of data flow from IMUGA system to Xpat, Pisces and FPPS	Immigration, MHST, NCIT and MBS	Feb – Mar 2025
	Collaborate in the implementation of UN conceptual framework for statistics on international migration	Immigration and MBS	Ongoing
	Map national SDG priority indicators to indicators for disaggregation by migratory status	MBS	Jan 2025

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Agreed activities:

Topic	Task	Who	Timeframe
Technical	Review and complete data dictionaries (particularly Xpat system)	Immigration, MHST, NCIT	Jan – Feb 2025
	Run exploratory analysis of sample microdata shared by Immigration Maldives, and provide feedback as relevant	MBS	Mar – Apr 2025
	Continue harmonization needs template with suggested actions, including • Use of M49 country codes in Immigration Maldives data bases • Harmonise codes used for islands and atolls • Format (ex. Date of birth) • Coding practices (ex. ISCO, ISIC) • …	Immigration, MHST, NCIT and MBS	Apr – May 2025
	Attempt data integration • A Hands-on training on data integration (microdata linking and macro) • Estimate updated foreign citizens based on census and Immigration Maldives data (for flows) • Update census stock with Immigration Maldives data (for flows)	Immigration, MHST, NCIT and MBS	May – Jun 2025
	Attempt estimation of irregular migrants stock by analyzing visa overstays	Immigration, and MBS	May -Jun 2025