The challenges of sampling migrants in developing countries: the case of Senegal

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A lack of adequate resources on migration in developing countries (I)

Table 1. Availability of empirical data on the international migrant stock since the 2000 round of population censuses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regions and number of countries or areas</th>
<th>Countries or areas with at least one data source</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Number of international migrants included in population counts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>By age</td>
<td>By origin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World (232)</td>
<td></td>
<td>214</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa (58)</td>
<td></td>
<td>48</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia (50)</td>
<td></td>
<td>44</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe (48)</td>
<td></td>
<td>47</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America and the Caribbean (48)</td>
<td></td>
<td>47</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern America (5)</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oceania (23)</td>
<td></td>
<td>23</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A lack of adequate resources on migration in developing countries (II)

- **Limited register-based and Census data**
  - No information available:
    - No data collection
    - Inadequate registration systems
    - Porous borders
  - Less political interest in certain populations (e.g. immigrants) than in developed countries
  - Limited accessibility to existing data (due to less transparency; under-resourced/staffed statistics institutes)

- **Survey data**
  - Lack of sampling frames
  - Resources for undertaking large-scale surveys
Senegal: review of existing data on international migration

**Surveys**
- 1982 OECD-CILSS survey on international migration in the Senegal Valley
- 1993 EMUS Survey *(Enquête sur les migrations et l'Urbanisation au Sénégal)*, part of the REMUAO surveys
- 1997-98 DEmIS survey *(Déterminants de l’émigration au Sénégal)*
- 2008 MAFE survey *(Migrations between Africa and Europe)* (multisited; Dakar region in SEN)
- EPSF 2006-7 & 2010-11 (enquête Pauvreté et Structure Familiale)

**Censuses: Recensement Général de la Population et de l'Habitat du Sénégal (RGPH)**
- RGPH 1955, 1976, 1988 → only internal migration and immigration
- RGPH-III, 2002: intro of a module on emigration over the past 5 years
- **RGPH-IV, 2013:** Rich information on immigration, emigration and return migration
Migration in the 2013 Senegalese Census

Residence criteria (RGPHAE, 2013):

- **Resident**: residing in the household for at least 6 months or intending to do so.
- **Change of residency**: Moving and residing abroad for a period of at least 6 months, or intending to do so.
### Module D: Emigration

- Over the past 5 years (i.e. since 2008)
- Survey about emigrants:
  - Sex
  - Relationship to Head of Household (HoH)
  - Date of departure (Month & year)
  - Age at departure
  - Level of education at departure
  - Occupation at departure (for 6+ year old respondents)
  - Country of destination
  - Reason for migrating (work, study, marriage, health, family, other)

**Database:** 157,000 obs. (c.1.2% of the resident population)
2013 Senegal RGPHAE: Immigration

Var. to identify immigrants:
- Place of residence at time of survey (not visiting)
- Place of birth (B09) → country’s name if abroad
- Nationality (B16) → country’s name

→ 2 possible definitions of immigrants: « born abroad » OR « born abroad & foreign nationality »

- **Database**: c. 273 000 obs. (defined as persons born abroad) (c. 2% of the resident population)
Definition of return migrant in RGPHAE 2013: « Any person who returned to Sénégal, his/her country of birth, after having resided abroad (for an unspecified length of time) and who has resided or intend to reside in Senegal for at least 6 months.

- Place of birth (B09)
- Place of residence at time of survey (not visiting)
- Place of residence 10 years ago (and name of country if abroad) (B12)
- Place of residence 5 years ago (and name of country if abroad) (B13) + reason for moving if different from current place of residence
- Place of residence 1 years ago (and name of country if abroad) (B15)

Database: 75 000 obs. (c. 0.56% of the resident population)
Limitations of 2013 RGPHAE data for sampling migrants

Limitations regarding the variables to identify migrants

- **Emigration**
  - Only those who have left in the past 5 years (bias towards recent migration)
  - No information available when a whole household has left

- **Immigration**
  - Who’s included, who’s not: uncertainty about how questions about place of birth and nationality are answered
  - No information about year of immigration

- **Return migration**
  - Only « snapshot » information about place of residence 1, 5 and 10 years ago, but no information about inter-census migrations → largely underestimate return migration
  - No information about repeated migrations
  - No information about time spent abroad

Limitations re. data availability and preparedness

- Access can be difficult
- Data not always ready for dissemination (e.g. « other country » cat., unfinished coding, lacking support documents)
- Unit for which data are available not necessarily small enough to be used to design a sampling frame (e.g. CA/CR level in Sen rather than district (DR) level)
- Very small samples when looking at specific destination countries (e.g. France or Spain)
Using Census data to inform sampling of return migrants: the TEMPER Survey

- **3-level sampling** → Census data informing selection of 1\(^{\text{st}}\) and 2\(^{\text{nd}}\) levels

- **First level**: selection of 9 départements in 4 regions (Dakar, Thiès, Diourbel and Louga), based on Census info re. the proportion of inhabitants and migratory flows

- **Second level**: random selection of primary sampling units (PSU) (CA/CR, eq. towns) from a list based on proportion of inhabitants + checking presence of return migrants from France or Spain (30 itws per PSU, incl. 15 RM and 15 NM)
Recommendations

• Encouraging inclusion of migration variables in Census and large-scale international survey programmes (e.g. DHS)
• Supporting national statistics institutes to improve the scope of analysis of the data collected and data sharing for academic purposes
• Improving accessibility of Census data available through IPUMS and the information available from them (e.g. country or regions of destinations rather than “abroad”)