Collecting migration and remittance data through household surveys

Lisa Andersson
OECD Development Centre

Improving Migration, Remittance, and Diaspora data: SDGs and the Global Compact on Migration
16 January 2018
Paris
Overall objective

Enhance the capacity of partner countries to incorporate migration into the design and implementation of their development strategies
Ten partner countries
Large and diverse dataset

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Household surveys</th>
<th>Community surveys</th>
<th>Stakeholder interviews</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Armenia</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burkina Faso</td>
<td>2,200</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costa Rica</td>
<td>2,236</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Côte d’Ivoire</td>
<td>2,345</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominican Republic</td>
<td>2,037</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>2,260</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haiti</td>
<td>1,241</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>2,231</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>1,999</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>20,549</strong></td>
<td><strong>590</strong></td>
<td><strong>375</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Overview of the modules

**Socio-economic characteristics**
- Household roster (individual level)
- Expenditures, assets and income (household level)

**Sector-related information**
- Education (individual level)
- Labour market (individual level)
- Agriculture (household level)
- Investments and financial services (household level)
- Health and social protection (individual level)

**Migration dimensions**
- Current emigrants (individual level)
- Remittances (household level)
- Return migration (individual level)
- Immigrants (individual level)
Definition of migrants

- **UN definition:**
  - “Long term migrant is a person who moves to a country other than that of his or her usual residence for a period of at least a year (12 months), so that the country of destination effectively becomes his or her new country of usual residence”

**IPPMD:**
- An international **emigrant** is an ex-member of the household who left to live in another country, and has been away for at least **three consecutive months** without returning
  - Excluding individuals who are temporary abroad for vacation, visiting family, business etc.

- An international **return migrant** is a current member of the household who had previously been living in another country for at least **three consecutive months** and who returned to the country
  - Excluding individuals who are currently in the country on vacation and/or to process their papers to work/go abroad again. However, household members who are in the country of origin for the same reasons and have been in the country for at least a year are considered to be a return migrant.

- An **immigrant** is a member of the household who was born in another country and has lived at least **three consecutive months** in the host country
Additional considerations

• Migrants who left long time ago
  • Recall bias (use major events to recall approximate timing)
  • Adjustments to context in certain countries (Armenia and Georgia)

• Individual/context specific definitions of migrant
  • e.g. Burkina Faso-Côte d’Ivoire border

• “Migrant/migration” sometimes difficult to translate into local language
  • difference between internal and international migration not always clear
Sampling

• How to capture all types of migrants in one survey?
  • Oversampling necessary
  • Multi-stage sampling
  • 1) Limit sampling to certain areas with high migration density
  • 2) Household listing in the absence of migrant data
  • 3) Random sampling from each household pool
Reasons for migration

• Multiple reasons for emigration

➢ Allow up to three reasons on direct question
➢ Include policy questions to further analyse reasons for migration:
  o Unemployment benefits
  o Vocational training
  o Conditional cash-transfers
Remittances and Return migration

- Analyse volume, channels and impact of remittances
  - Combine with questions about access to bank accounts, financial literacy training

- Analyse the return decision and the sustainability of return migration
  - Possibility to interview return migrants directly
  - Socio-economic information, migration experience
  - Impact of different policies on intentions to re-emigrate
Thank you