Migration Data Collection and Management

Elements of Data

Outline

What is Data?
What does Migration Data Look Like?
Usage of Migration Data
Characteristics
Food For Thought

What is Data?

New Oxford Dictionary definition:

« facts and statistics collected together for reference or analysis »
What does Migration Data Look Like?

- One of the most widely used sets of data is that compiled by the UN Statistics Division and interpreted by the UN Population Division – Census data – this data refers more to migrant stocks than flows.

World Population and Migrant Stocks by Continent

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Population (Thousands)</th>
<th>Migrant Stocks (Thousands)</th>
<th>Per cent of population (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>3672.3</td>
<td>49.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>793.6</td>
<td>16.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>727.3</td>
<td>56.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America / Caribbean</td>
<td>518.8</td>
<td>5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North America</td>
<td>313.1</td>
<td>40.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oceania-Pacific</td>
<td>30.5</td>
<td>5.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global</td>
<td>6056.7</td>
<td>174.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: * Figures reflect rounding


What does Migration Data Look Like?

- At the national level, all sorts of different types of data are collected which is used for different purposes:

Immigration and Emigration of Foreigners to Germany

Source: Bundesamt fuer die Anerkennung Auslaendischer Fluechtlinge 2003

What does Migration Data Look Like?


Note: Figures are extrapolations

What does Migration Data Look Like?

Foreign-born and native unemployment rates
Average 1995-1998, as a percent of the foreign and native labour forces

Source: OECD ECO/WKP (2001) Trends in Immigration and Economic Consequences
What does Migration Data Look Like?

Occupational classification—flow data for selected labour-sending countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>1998</th>
<th>1999</th>
<th>2000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professionals</td>
<td>55.6</td>
<td>56.1</td>
<td>56.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technicians</td>
<td>36.6</td>
<td>37.1</td>
<td>37.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>18.8</td>
<td>16.8</td>
<td>16.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Volatility of annual remittances from 1980 to 1999 (in million US$)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>60.2</td>
<td>49.0</td>
<td>60.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Usage of Migration Data

How is Data used in Managing Migration?

- Analysis – what impact is the migratory movement is having on the State?
- Formulating policies to manage migration
- Validating the effectiveness of policies
- Resource management
Usage of Migration Data

How is Data used in Managing Migration?

• Setting and maintaining service standards
• Understanding the impact of migration on other areas of public administration such as education, health or social welfare programmes
• Understanding the impact of migration policies on neighboring and other countries

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Characteristics

What are some of the characteristics of data?

• Availability
• Accuracy
• Comprehensiveness

What are some of the characteristics of data?

• Timeliness
• Comparability
• Confidentiality
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Food for Thought

- Migration policies should be formulated on the basis of data rather than in a void.
- Migration policies should be formulated on the basis of recent rather than historical data.
- Migration policies should be formulated with reference to data from other countries.
- It is better to begin work with existing fragmented data than to wait for an ideal system to be set up.

- It is better to cooperate and coordinate with neighbouring countries than to treat migration as a purely national issue.
- It is better to develop a common approach for the exchange of data based upon currently used definitions rather than wait for standards to be implemented.