Existing survey programs and need for new survey modules ….on migration

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Migration in the MDGs

- As with fertility, and demographics in general apart from health and mortality, migration is hardly mentioned in the MDGs, not even its undoubted significant effects in assisting developing or low-income countries (LYCs) progress towards a number of the main goals and indicators (viz., MDGs 1-5). Thus the percentage urban increased due partly to internal migration from 43 to 54 in 1990-2015, and is projected to be 60 in 2030; and remittances from international migrants back home rose rapidly during this period, to surpass all ODA and rival total private investment flows as a source of foreign exchange, and one far more directly reducing poverty of many LYC households.

- In addition, internal migration is intimately linked, endogenous to, socio-economic development.

Migration in the SDGs

- As with population growth in general, and apart from health and mortality, migration is again hardly mentioned in the SDGs. The only explicit but evidently imprecise and non-quantitative indicator 10.7, under Goal 10 to reduce inequality within and among countries, states: promote orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies". In terms of internal migration, what countries actually have policies other than a wish to discourage out-migration from rural areas (expenditures to improve rural areas are usually a trivial part of LYC government budgets), and to discourage in-migration to urban areas. "Regular" is likely a sneaky way of saying countries should promote more documented vs. undocumented international migration. And what is mobility anyway? The only good news is the subtle way in which its inclusion under Goal 10 suggests that someone recognized its development value for reducing inequality.

International migration in the SDGs: 2 mentions

- Indicator 10.c: reduce to 3% the cost of sending international remittances (i.e., half the current cost).

- Indicators 8.7& 8.8: eliminate forced labor, human trafficking, child labor, protecting labor rights and human rights, "including migrant workers, in particular women". But evidently these issues are not viewed as migration issues but rather as human rights issues, as there is no mention of far more numerically important refugees/asylum seekers and undocumented migrants, many also exploited.

What could have been: roles of migration on achieving a number of SDGs

- Achieving goals "with their feet" in SDGs:
- Ending poverty, indicators 1.1-1.4
- Ending hunger, 2-2.2
- Access to health care, 3.3-1.2, 3.7, and reproductive health services, 3.8
- Access to education, including females, 4.1 & 4.5
- Reducing discrimination vs. women in access to land, employment ….5.1-5.6, 5ac
- Safe water and energy, 6.2-1, 7.1-2
- Employment and work conditions, 8.2-8.5, 8.8, 8.10
- Development infrastructure in general, 9.1
- Improving opportunities, 10.1-3; access to housing 11.1

Contradictions and complications

- Policies aimed to achieve some of the goals stimulate or reduce migration, or contradict goals of policies intended to achieve other goals

- Evidence is weak on the effectiveness of policies to reduce internal migration, especially rural-urban migration (perhaps because such policies are totally swamped by contrary policies of the "urban bias" in development policies?)

- And international migration is both inevitable with vast differences in living standards, but on the other hand, restricted by national sovereignty + race-religion-class-skills, etc., concerns

- So in the remainder of my minutes, let me talk briefly about what are the common sources of data on internal and international migration "out there", how we can improve them, and how some of this is already under way, which hopefully will improve our ability to measure migration (and linkages to development and poverty, etc.) in 2015–2030.

- # Starting with internal migration

Many surveys exist with internal migration in many countries

- Many LYCs have conducted specialized surveys on internal migration, mostly since 1980s, including Mexico, Pakistan, Thailand, Kenya, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Guatemala, Egypt, Morocco, etc.

- The first two surveys embodying the issues of appropriate comparison groups and sampling were in India (Ludhiana) and Ecuador in 1977, supported by the ILO. These led to Bilsborrow et al. (1984) ILO book.

- Especially interesting longitudinal surveys began with the multipurpose Malaysia Family Life Survey (1976, long after finally replicated in Indonesia (1993 and Mexico (2002, but all with still under 9K hhs

- MATLAB and other surveillance systems now exist.

Surveys to study the determinants and/or consequences of internal migration

- We have learned that the key is to recognize the need to have data for *appropriate comparison groups*.

- Thus to study the determinants of (out-)migration, data are needed on both households with out-migrants and households with only non-migrants, in areas of origin. The two groups are then pooled to estimate migration functions, why some migrate and others do not.

- But what about households that migrate out? They can only be found in areas of destination, so ideally, surveys should be conducted in both areas of origin and destination. This was first systematically done in the India and Ecuador surveys mentioned.

- To formulate policy recommendations, it is desirable to conduct studies on both the determinants and consequences of migration. Why?

Questionnaire design for specialized surveys on migration

- To obtain data on appropriate comparison groups, to study the determinants of migration (similar for consequences), we need data on the circumstances of individuals (and households, and their communities, if possible) both *at the time of migration.*

- Also need data on non-migrants at about the same time.

- This is a *major obstacle* to just adding questions on migration to an existing survey: they do not fit in the questionnaire format!

- Moving on to international migration….first, a general fact about the relative rarity of international migrants …..

Importance of international migration in the world, demographically

– The UN (2013) estimated 232 million persons live in a country other than that of their birth, 3.2% of the world population

• This compares with 75 million, 2.9% in 1960, so not as huge of an increase in percentage terms as one would assume from the media and political leaders. But the distribution has changed, increasingly concentrated in developed countries (10.8% of their population) than developing countries (1.6%).

These data refer to *lifetime* migration data on *stocks* of migrants measured mainly as the foreign-born: *flow data show better how rare IM is in general*: the Mean annual im-migration *rate* during 2000-2005 was only 0.22% in More Developed Countries(MDCs) and 0.05% in LDCs (from UN 2009 Wall Chart)

International migration as a rare phenomenon (old UN data)

- Developed countries with *highest inflows in 2000-05* were Spain and Ireland at 0.97 and 0.98% per annum (<1%)

- Others included Canada 0.7, Australia 0.5, USA 0.4, Germany 0.3, UK 0.2, Netherlands 0.2, France 0.1

- Countries with *highest annual outflows*: Armenia -0.7; Albania -0.6; Guatemala -0.5; Mexico, Ecuador, Iran 0.4

- There were few other demographically significant countries in the world (with over 5 million population) that had annual net outflows over -0.1% (e.g., China, India -0.03%)

- During 2000-2005, only 3 countries in the world (with over 1 million population) had a net annual immigration rate as high as 1%, and only two a net emigration rate over 1% (Zimbabwe and Georgia).

Defining and Measuring International Migrants

- Based on place (country) of birth being different from country of current residence = foreign born

- Based on country of previous residence being different from current (plus time of arrival yields fixed-period migration)

- Based on citizenship

Sources of data: Censuses, border/admission statistics; current population registers; registers of foreigners, work permits/foreign workers; visa authorization/naturalization statistics, household surveys.

Consider what is the main interest in data on international migrants— is it to…?

- *Measure*/ count *stocks or flows* of international migrants?
  --of immigrants, *emigrants*, return migrants, or……?
  --over what time period (past 1, 2, 5, 10 … years)?
- *Characterize migrants*: age, sex, education, work experience, economic assets owned, etc.?
- Collect data on *remittances* sent/received/both?
- Study *determinants and/or consequences* of international migration?

Moving down this list involves transitioning from what is possible and desirable in a census to what is possible and desirable in a survey.

My own work has focused on developing countries of net emigration

- Data on individuals who left (emigrated from) households can be obtained only from household members remaining behind (proxy respondents) in origin countries, census or survey

- But there are limitations on the depth and type of data that can be obtained from proxy respondents

- In addition, data on *whole households* who emigrated is not available, and normally obtainable only through a survey in the country/ies of *destination*

- This is a major limitation of a survey carried out only in a country of origin (including all censuses)

Existing state of knowledge on international migration

- The state of knowledge is weak, partly due to its complexity (definition, involving at least two countries, government regulations, etc.) but also the lack of good data sets and analyses

- To study the determinants and consequences of migration, survey data are needed on both individuals and households, migrants and non-migrants; for this, need specialized surveys on international migration.

- This requires the use of specialized methods of data collection, including (1) sampling to address the "rare elements" problem; and (2) questionnaires that collect retrospective data on migrants and non-migrants (Bilsborrow, Zlotnik, et al., 1997)

Sampling Migrants in specialized surveys of international migration

- Need to first define the migrants of interest and survey purpose (e.g., study *determinants or consequences or both*); the purpose identifies what the appropriate comparison groups are (and countries)

    E.g., in the NIDI "push-pulls" project surveys, the focus was on emigrants who left within the previous 10 years, requiring identifying households with one or more such emigrants.

- Second, based on budgetary resources, define the survey domain and target sample size .

- Third, create a sampling frame (from the previous census?) that permits determining the prevalence in the country of households with recent emigrants

- This was done in Turkey, Egypt, Morocco, Ghana, & Senegal, focusing on migration to Spain and Italy.

Sampling in sending countries

- In the country of origin, the goal is to sample (select) households with emigrants and those without.

- From the latest census or other source, form strata based on the prevalence of international migrants by area.

- Oversample Primary Sampling Units (PSUs) with higher proportions of households with recent emigrants.

- At the last stage select Ultimate Area Units (UAUs), such as census sectors using the same principles. Or just select them in a single stage, data/resources permitting.

- Use two-phase sampling in the UAUs, first, listing households with recent emigrants and those without, and oversampling the former, to select those for interview; in phase 2, conduct interviews.

Difficult to use existing multi-country survey programs to add questions to collect data on IM

- Due to rarity of persons, with small sample sizes, and already long questionnaires
- Examples—DHS surveys, LSMS, MICS
- Possible exception: labor force surveys, since they (i) often have large samples (30 to 100K households in a year; (ii) have modest length questionnaires; yet (iii) already collect much basic demographic and economic data (employment, occupation, income).
- Experiments with modules in 4 LDCs.
- Ongoing ILO project seeking to improve global data on international migrant workers.

Examples of specialized surveys of international migration

- US, Spain, UK, Russia, other developed countries

- Albania, 2008 LSMS with Migration Module added

- Kosovo, 2009 Migration Survey

- Argentina—example of subnational survey on immigrants from neighboring countries, 2002-2003

- Morocco longitudinal survey, 2008—also Tunisia

- Egypt Labor Market Panel Survey, 2006

- UNHCR-funded Survey of Colombians in Ecuador, 2006

- NIDI Push-Pulls survey linking countries of origin and destination, 1997-98

Besides NiDi, other adventures in the collection of data on Intl Mig

- World Bank Africa Migration Project, on 6 Sub-Saharan countries, implemented 2009, common questionnaire, some use of oversampling, covers international + internal out-migrants, non-governmental, data on web.
- MEDSTAT-MEDHIMS, 8 countries in North Africa & Eastern Mediterranean: focus on emigration; Egypt and Jordan done; common questionnaire modules; go stat offices, stratification and oversampling, includes refugees, return migrants
- MAFE project of INED, etc., on emigration from 3 SSA countries to 5 countries of W. Europe, common methods, results coming out
- MIRPAL project of WB in CIS States: sending countries plus Russia as destination, common methods

Some Conclusions

- Censuses can easily and should collect data to count recent immigrants and emigrants (e.g., in past 5 years).
- Censuses and large existing surveys could also collect data on some basic migrant-linked characteristics.
- Labor force surveys may be able to collect a bit more, via modules on immigrant workers or emigrant workers
- Surveys of rare populations such as international migrants require specialized sampling methods. The multi-country projects attempt to use these methods with varying success
- Only specialized migration surveys can be designed to both efficiently concentrate data collection on areas and households with migrants of interest and non-migrants, including the collection of retrospective data.
- Most of the multi-country projects are recent, so results are coming out only recently. We will be learning much, but there is little collaboration and differences in approaches. More coordination is desirable. A World Migration Survey?

A challenge: Deciding how the information will be used