

# Challenges of estimating the distribution of remittances among migrant sending countries

Anne Harrison

# Four questions

- What are remittances?
- Who send them?
- Who receives them?
- *What are they used for?*

# What are remittances?

- Direct to households

# Workers abroad

- Seasonal workers eg fruit pickers, tourism workers
- Border workers - do we want these in?
- Compensation of employees
- Long term expatriates
- Workers' remittances



# Transfers

- Previous are **current transfers**
- Also have **capital transfers**, funds sent to acquire capital asset eg house, business premises, vehicles for business
- (Not migrants' transfers)

# Funds via charities

- National channel for remittances from diaspora
- Disaster relief funds

# What do we have now?

- Compensation of employees
  - Too high (local expenditure)
- Workers' remittances
  - Informal channels particularly here
- Current transfers
  - Cannot identify part to HH or charities
- Capital transfers - ditto

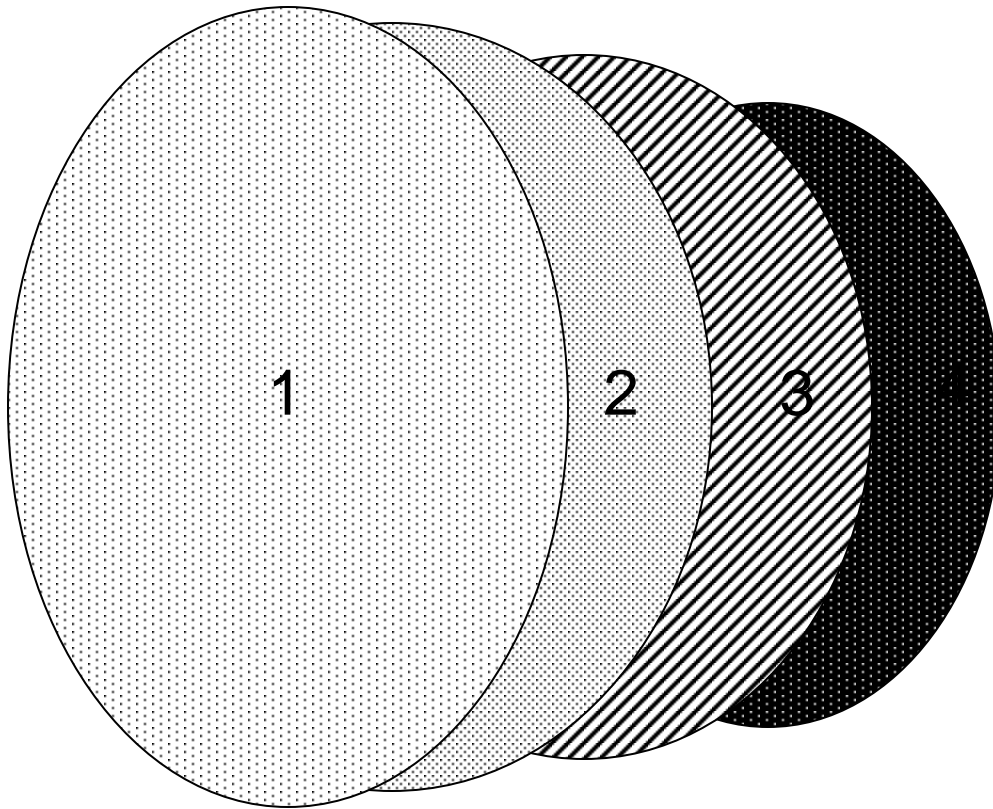


# What might we have?

- Personal transfers
- Personal remittances (current and capital)
- Institutional remittances (current and capital)
- When?

# Who send remittances?

- Working non-residents
- Resident non-national/citizens
- Residents of foreign origin
- Resident not of foreign origin



1. Nationals not of foreign origin
2. Nationals of foreign origin
3. Resident non-nationals
4. Working non-residents

# What do we have?

- Numbers of  $(1+2)$
- Numbers of 3
  
- Total earned by  $(1+2)$
- Total earned by 3
- Total earned by 4

# What do we need?

- Propensity to remit for different population groups
  - Regularly
  - Occasionally

# And..

- Information on former workers who have a pension entitlement payable abroad
- Assets held by non-residents

# Who receives?

- Family
- Fellow nationals
- Means work with data broken down by nationality
- Miss remittances/transfers to unrelated countries

# Glimmer of hope

- Some countries may be able to give destination of some types of remittances



# How dismal is the situation?

- Assuming national ties are the strongest motivation, general picture may be reasonably indicative
- Scope for significant errors for small countries or where diaspora assumes local nationality but maintains link to home country