Preparing evidence-based and comparable Migration Profiles: Contributions from the GMG

Bela Hovy, Chief
Migration Section, Population Division
Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)
United Nations, New York

Workshop “Migration Profiles: Lessons Learned”
Batumi, Georgia, 12-13 July 2011
Presentation outline

1. **The Global Migration Group (GMG)**
   - Who we are and what we do

2. **International standards for international migration statistics, based on:**
   - 1998 United Nations Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration
   - 2008 United Nations Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Rev 2

3. **Five easy steps to improve migration data**
   - Migrants Count (Center for Global Development, 2009)
1. The Global Migration Group (GMG)
What is the Global Migration Group?

- Created by United Nations Secretary-General in context of the 2006 High Level Dialogue
- 16 members, including the 14 United Nations entities (…), IOM and the World Bank
- Objectives:
  - Apply international instruments and norms on international migration
  - Promote coherent, comprehensive and coordinated approach to international migration

Global Migration Group (GMG), 2011
What can the GMG do?

1. **Support** the *process of Migration Profiles at country level, according to our expertise*

2. **Contribute** a common set of indicators on *international migration and development*

3. **Build** national capacities to improve migration data collection and analysis

4. **Strengthen** dialogue between users and producers of migration data
Defining international migration

1. **Duration:** short-term (3 months to < 1 year) vs. long-term (change of place of residence, > 1 year)

2. **Causes:** voluntary vs. forced

3. **Reasons:** settlement, work, study, family reunification, conflict, disasters, etc.

4. **Legal status:** regular vs. irregular

Global Migration Group (GMG), 2011
Types of migration data

• **Migrant stocks**
  - Foreign-born. Persons* whose country of usual residence is different from their country of birth
  - Foreigners. Persons* whose country of usual residence is different from their country of citizenship

• **Migration flows**
  - Inflows. The arrival of persons* who are changing their country of residence
  - Outflows. The departure of persons* who are changing their country of residence

* Regardless of country or birth or citizenship

Global Migration Group (GMG), 2011
International migrant stock

Criterion
- Country of birth or citizenship

Sources
- Population censuses, population registers (surveys)

Advantages
- Global, comparable

Disadvantages
- Once every 10 years; “life-time” migration (regardless of length of stay in country)

Global Migration Group (GMG), 2011
International migration flows

Criterion
Change in place of residence

Sources
Administrative records (residence permits, exit permits, population registers, border statistics) (surveys, census - country of residence 1 or 5 yr. ago)

Advantages
Annual data, recent migrations

Disadvantages
Comparability, coverage (< 40 countries)

Global Migration Group (GMG), 2011
Recommended stock tabulations (core – for international comparability)

- Native and foreign-born population by age and sex
- Foreign-born population by country of birth, age and sex
- Foreign-born population 15 years and over by educational attainment and sex
- Population by citizenship status, age and sex
- Foreigners by country of citizenship, age and sex
- Economically active foreign-born by occupation

(Source: Migrant stock tables of United Nations Statistics Division Population census questionnaire 2011)
Recommended flow tabulations
(core – for international comparability)

- Inflow by reason (work, study, etc.)
- Inflow and outflow by citizenship status, sex and age
- Inflow and outflow by origin/destination (citizenship, country of residence (previous/next), country of birth)

(Source: United Nations Statistics Division Questionnaire on International Travel and Migration)
Data availability - examples

**Empirical data**
- UN Population Division Global Migration Database
- UN Population Division International Migration Flows
- OECD SOPEMI
- UNHCR refugee population

**Estimates**
- UN Population Division International migrant stock
- OECD Database on Immigrants
- World Bank remittances

Global Migration Group (GMG), 2011
## Reporting compliance by countries

### Example 1: migrant stock (total)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total foreign-born/ foreigners</th>
<th>Percentage countries with data</th>
<th>Percentage migrants covered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAC</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern America</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oceania</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>75</strong></td>
<td><strong>74</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources:
- Global Migration Group (GMG), 2011
### Reporting compliance by countries

**Example 2: migrant stock (age)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foreign-born, foreigners by age</th>
<th>Percentage countries with data</th>
<th>Percentage migrants covered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAC</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern America</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oceania</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>58</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Global Migration Group (GMG), 2011
### Reporting compliance by countries

**Example 3: migrant stock (origin)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foreign-born, Foreigners by country of birth/citizenship</th>
<th>Percentage countries with data</th>
<th>Percentage migrants covered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Africa</strong></td>
<td>65</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Asia</strong></td>
<td>50</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Europe</strong></td>
<td>79</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LAC</strong></td>
<td>83</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Northern America</strong></td>
<td>80</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Oceania</strong></td>
<td>75</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>70</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Global Migration Group (GMG), 2011
3. Five Steps Toward Better Migration Data
Ask 3 basic census questions and disseminate tabulations.

National Statistical Offices
DESA (UNSD), UNFPA, World Bank

Global Migration Group (GMG), 2011
## Countries asking the three key questions on international migration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions</th>
<th>Number of countries</th>
<th>Percentage of countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Country of birth</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizenship</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year or period of arrival</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: Based on 62 censuses undertaken between Jan 2005 and Nov 2009*
Exploit administrative data sources

Ministries in charge of migration,
National Statistical Offices
UNESCO, UNHCR

Global Migration Group (GMG), 2011
Example of exploiting administrative data
Tertiary international students, 1999-2008

Developed countries

Developing countries

Global Migration Group (GMG), 2011
Centralize Labor Force Surveys

OECD, Eurostat (ILO)
Provide access to microdata

National Statistical Offices
Eurostat, IPUMS

Global Migration Group (GMG), 2011
Example of access to micro-data

Integrated Public Use Microdata Series, International

Data for social and economic research

IPUMS-International is a project dedicated to collecting and distributing census data from around the world. Its goals are to:
- Collect and preserve data and documentation
- Harmonize data
- Disseminate the data absolutely free!

62 countries - 185 censuses - 397 million person records

Funding provided by: National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, and Sun Microsystems.

Copyright © Regents of the University of Minnesota. All rights reserved.
Broaden the use of standardized survey modules

National Statistical Offices

ILO, World Bank, UNICEF, Eurostat, DHS

Global Migration Group (GMG), 2011
Why strengthening the evidence base?

“The Policy Prerogative”

- National policies
- Bilateral and regional policies
- 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development
- Global Forum on Migration and Development
Thank you

Questions or comments?

http://www.gmg.org