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Main features, status and outputs of MED-HIMS*

Note by the MED-HIMS Programme Steering Committee**

Abstract

This paper deals with MED-HIMS, the Programme of coordinated national household surveys on international migration launched in 2012 by the European Commission and its partner organisations. The paper briefly outlines the components and main features of survey programme, and reports on the current status of operations and future plans following the successful implementation of the surveys in Egypt and Jordan, and the need to review the model instruments possibly before launching of surveys in other participating countries. Furthermore, the paper presents a few examples of the type of data that may be derived from the national surveys.

I.   Introduction

1.   MED-HIMS ('*Mediterranean Household International Migration Survey*') is a regional programme of coordinated national household surveys requested by the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of all the Arab countries participating in MEDSTAT[1]. The main objectives of the MED-HIMS are to study the recent trends, causes, determinants, dynamics and consequences of international migration and mobility, and the inter-linkages between migration and development, and to explore scenarios for a closer cooperation in the area of migration and development between the origin countries in the Southern Mediterranean region and the receiving countries.

2.   Since the launching of development of Model Questionnaires (MQs) in 2009, MED-HIMS gone through a wide preparatory and consultation process with support from the European Commission (EC) and partner international organisations, as documented in reports prepared for several international events as well as the programme's newsletters[2].

3.   Currently MED-HIMS consists of the following participating countries and survey implementing institutions:
- Algeria: Office National des Statistiques (ONS)
- Egypt: Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS)
- Jordan: Department of Statistics (DoS)
- Lebanon: Central Administration of Statistics (CAS)
- Morocco: Haut Commissariat au Plan, Direction of Statistics (HCP/DS)
- Palestine: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)
- Tunisia: Institut National de la Statistique (INS)

4.   At regional level, the programme is supported by the following organisations:
- European Commission (DG EUROSTAT and DG NEAR - Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations)
- The World Bank (Development Data Group)
- UNFPA (Arab States Regional Office)
- UNHCR (Division of Programme Support and Management)
- IOM (Regional Office for Middle East and North Africa)
- ILO (Department of Statistics)
- LAS (League of Arab States - Population Policies, Expatriates and Migration Department)

5.   In May 2014 these organisations have formed the MED-HIMS Programme Steering Committee (PSC), chaired by EUROSTAT. The regional coordination and

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[1]   MEDSTAT is the regional programme funded by the European Commission for strengthening the national statistical systems in European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) South countries focusing on Migration Statistics as one of priority statistical sectors of intervention. A project running under MEDSTAT IV, which started in January 2016, is currently supporting the series of Euro-Mediterranean working groups on priority statistical sectors directly coordinated by the participating NSOs.

[2]   The newsletters and other documents for the public also including the model manuals for data collection are available at EUROSTAT website (http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/european-neighbourhood-policy/enp-south/med-hims).

technical support are provided by a Project Implementation Unit (PIU), working under the supervision of PSC and in close cooperation with EUROSTAT and CAS-Lebanon, the latter as coordinator of the Euro-Mediterranean Working Group on Migration Statistics (EMWGMS).

II. Main methodological aspects

6. The MQs are designed to collect data that are multi-topic, multi-level, retrospective and comparative. Another feature of the MQs is that they have an explicit policy orientation, so that strategic topics and research questions included focus on variables that might potentially be influenceable by policy instruments. The MED-HIMS new research lines are thus strategic in two senses: they pertain to issues crucial for policy-making in both sending and receiving countries, and they offer a theory-based design in which both the participating countries and future new participants will implement new research within a shared framework.

7. The target population includes four groups: current migrants, return migrants, non-migrants, and forced migrants. Among the topics covered are: the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of migrants; behaviours, attitudes, perceptions and cultural values of people with regard to international migration; migration histories and the migration experiences and practices; the processes leading to the decision to migrate; migration networks and assistance; work history and the impact of migration on labour dynamics; circular migration; migration of highly-skilled persons; irregular migration; type and use of remittances and their impact on socioeconomic development; migration intentions; the skill-level of return migrants; the overall awareness of migration issues and practices; and mixed migration (migration asylum nexus) and secondary movement of refugees. Information on socio-economic status of the household is also collected. Data on characteristics of local communities in sample areas may also be gathered, depending on the availability of sources of information and other conditions in each country.

8. The MQs include the following seven questionnaires:
   MQ-1: Household Questionnaire
   MQ-2: Individual Questionnaire for Out-migrant
   MQ-3: Individual Questionnaire for Return Migrant
   MQ-4: Individual Questionnaire for Non-migrant
   MQ-5: Individual Questionnaire for Forced Migrant
   MQ-6: Household Socio-economic and Environmental Conditions Questionnaire
   MQ-7: Community-level Questionnaire

9. The MQs can be used by interviewers to obtain answers from respondents that are both reliable and valid. The questions are drafted in a clear simple language and follow clearly and logically from one to the other, while the layout is designed to make it easy for interviewers to administer the questionnaires. The wording and question sequence are designed to motivate respondents and help them recall information on past events. Using the MQs verbatim is most likely to ensure that the results of the surveys are comparable across participating countries in order to maximise the understanding of the determinants and consequences of international migration and mobility in participating countries. Therefore, participating countries are recommended to follow as closely as possible the

proposed MQs, allowing for minor modifications which may be required to meet local circumstances.

III. Status and funding of activities

10. The status of activities or plans at country level may be summarised as follows:

- Egypt-HIMS
  Survey implemented in 2013; volume one of the Principal Report ('*Egypt-HIMS: Main Findings and Key Indicators*') was published in December 2015, and currently at stage of preparing two further volumes including the detailed statistical tabulations.

- Jordan-HIMS
  Survey implemented in 2014, currently at stage of preparing the Principal Report which will be launched in June 2016.

- Lebanon-HIMS, Algeria-HIMS, Morocco-HIMS and Tunisia-HIMS
  The surveys will be launched in 2017, depending on availability of international funding in the case of Maghreb countries.

- Palestine-HIMS
  Survey to be implemented at a later stage.

11. At the regional level, under the previous setting and the PSC later, support was provided for the coordination of activities and in particular the development of model tools, as well as the organization of meetings necessary for promoting the programme and national surveys, and discussing methodological aspects and the experience of pioneer countries. Regional workshops are generally organised every year. As a core topic of EMWGMS, the progress and prospects of MED-HIMS were recently discussed in a regional workshop organised by TAIEX[3] in Cairo in November 2015, upon the request of CAS-Lebanon, and will be widely covered by the 3rd EMWGMS Meeting organised by MEDSTAT IV back-to-back to the present Joint UNECE / EUROSTAT Work Session.

12. The model manuals for data collection were published in English in November 2013. In the light of the experience gained from the implementation of the MED-HIMS in the pioneer countries, the model instruments will soon go through a revision with the possibility of expanding the scope of the MQ-5 on forced migration upon proposals of some international organisations participating in the survey programme.

13. A draft model tabulation plan including about 500 tables has been developed by the PIU and discussed with the national experts and international representatives participating in the survey programme. This tabulation plan, which participating countries are recommended to produce, includes detailed sets of statistical tabulations on each of the

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[3] Technical Assistance and Information Exchange instrument of the European Commission (http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/tenders/taiex), a funding programme managed by the DG NEAR, i.e. the DG responsible of MEDSTAT Programme.

four target groups covered by the survey, at the household level and the individual level (examples are presented in annex to this document).

14.   As stated in MED-HIMS Manual 2 on "Survey Design and Organization", following the publication of the country principal report, further advanced analysis would be conducted in collaboration with national and international research centres. A programme of regional comparative analysis of data from the national surveys in the participating countries will be initiated. This regional comparative analysis will consist of a series of reports on the major topics covered in the survey.

15.   The availability of international funding represents a major constraint for the implementation of MED-HIMS. So far, the national operations of Egypt-HIMS, Jordan-HIMS and Morocco-HIMS (the latter for the pre-test only) were funded in different ways, however without a complete coverage of the harmonised Technical Assistance. In parallel, funding the regional coordination and the other activities at regional level as the regional workshops has been rather difficult to arrange, at least for the period not covered by MEDSTAT projects. For the future, the Lebanon-HIMS will be mainly funded by the European Union, also for the component of Technical Assistance. The funds necessary for the national surveys in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia are still not secured, although some of these countries may have a solution in the short term under the bilateral cooperation with the European Union.

IV. Outputs

16.   The MED-HIMS surveys are designed to provide information on the following topics:
- Trends, patterns, determinants and consequences of international migration and the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of different categories of migrants covered by the survey;
- Why, when and how migration has occurred and might occur in the future;
- Migration-decision processes, migration histories and the migration experiences and practices;
- Pre-migration situation and motives for moving abroad;
- Migration networks and assistance;
- Work history before and after migration;
- Views about social, economic and labour integration and social exclusion;
- Patterns of circular migration and skills and knowledge acquired by migrants;
- Future plans;
- For non-migrants, qualifications and skills of potential migrants, migration intentions and potential destination;
- Remittances and their utilization and how they contribute to local development-oriented initiatives and investments;
- Impact of migration on household economic behaviour and practices;
- Impact of migration on unemployment and labour dynamics;
- Pattern of gender-selective migration and the nature of the consequences engendered for women by male outmigration and its impact on children;
- Overall awareness of migration issues and practices;
- Effectiveness of governmental interventions on migration management and migration & development.

17.   Given the list of topics above, the programme aims to provide data useful for planners, policy makers and managers of international migration and development programmes. In fact, the output data may be used as evidence-based information for:

-       The establishment of 'National Migration Profiles' allowing to identify certain common characteristics of the flows/stocks of migrants as well as the category of non-migrants;
-       The development of migration policies and future migration programming;
-       The development of scenarios to support circular and managed migration, and to design successful action programmes to be coordinated in collaboration with the main receiving countries, particularly the EU countries through the mechanisms of the EU Global Approach to Migration and Mobility;
-       The identification of priority areas in the field of education and vocational training;
-       The development of policy measures on recognition of qualifications and the use of transparency tools for the skills of migrants acquired at home and abroad;
-       The development of policy measures on mitigating the adverse effect of brain drain;
-       The development of policy measures dealing with forced migration;
-       Achieving better understanding of how remittances can be used to foster local development, and developing relevant policy measures in collaboration with the main receiving countries;
-       Promoting 'migration governance' from a development perspective and improving the understanding of the development and migration nexus;
-       Fostering institutional partnership in the field of migration with the main receiving countries;
-       Assessing the effects of future legislative measures on labour immigration that might be taken by receiving countries in line with their demographic changes.

18.   The list and examples of utilization of data referred above clearly illustrate that MED-HIMS may provide authorities in the sending and main receiving countries, international organisations as well as many other users with a wealth of information necessary for addressing relevant migration, mobility and development issues in a comprehensive manner. Few examples of possible tabulation of survey data are annexed to this report while examples of possible utilisation of data for policy making are illustrated in the presentation on the main findings of the 2013 Egypt-HIMS and another presentation at this Joint Work Session.

Annex – Selected tables from the draft 'Model Tabulation Plan'

Table 2.4 Headship and composition of current migrants' origin households								
Among households with one or more current migrants, the percent distribution by sex of head of household and household size, according to residence								
Characteristic	Type of place of residence		Region of residence					Total
	Urban	Rural	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	
Household headship								
Male								
Female								
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of usual resident members								
1								
2								
3								
....								
9+								
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of households								
Mean size of households								
Number of out migrants								
1								
...								
5+								
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of out migrants								

Table 3.59 Current work status of return migrants													
Percent distribution of return migrants by current work status, according to sex of return migrant and selected background characteristics													
Table 3.59.3 All return migrants													
Characteristic	Current work status												Total	Number
	Own account worker	Employer	Salaried employee	Casual employee in agriculture	Casual employee not in agriculture	Tenant (work on farm, pay rent)	Share-cropper (work on farm, share product with owner)	Farmer	Unpaid family worker	Unpaid worker	Other	Currently not working		
Last destination region														
Arab region													100.0	
Europe													100.0	
North America													100.0	
Other													100.0	
Current age														
15-29													100.0	
30-44													100.0	
45-59+													100.0	
60+													100.0	
Type of place of current residence														
Urban													100.0	
Rural													100.0	
Region of current residence														
Region 1													100.0	
Region 2													100.0	
Region 3													100.0	
Region 4													100.0	
Region 5													100.0	
Level of education														
No education													100.0	
Some primary													100.0	
Primary/Preparatory													100.0	
Secondary													100.0	
Higher													100.0	
Employment status in last destination														
Ever worked													100.0	
Never worked													100.0	
Total													100.0	

Table 4.9.1 Reasons of intended migration by residence

Distribution of potential migrants by reason of thinking of moving abroad, according to type of place of residence and sex

Reason(s) of intended migration (Multiple response)	Type of place of residence of origin household					
	Urban			Rural		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Unemployed and can't find work						
Poor job, low pay						
Poor working conditions						
High cost of living						
Income insufficient here/ Higher wages there						
Work benefits here unsatisfactory						
Personal problems with employer or others at work						
To improve living standard						
Better social and health services there						
To obtain more education for self						
To obtain better education for children						
Good business opportunities there						
To reunite with family						
To get married / spouse waiting for me there						
To get away from family problems						
Lack of security in country						
Political persecution						
Religious persecution						
Other						
Number of return migrants						

Table 5.10   Health care

Percent distribution of forced migrant by type of health care received in past month, according to age and sex

Type of health care received	Age (years)									Total		
	Less than 18			18-59			60+					
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
a) Yes: received health care in past month												
Acute condition												
Accident												
Follow-up chronic condition												
Complications												
Minor operations												
Major operations												
Other												
b) No: didn't receive health care in past month												
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number												