Current international standards on measuring international labour migration from the Guidelines by the 20th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS)

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ICLS Guidelines concerning statistics of international labour migration

Implementation of ICLS Guidelines: Development of methodologies for the collection of data on international labour migration
International labour migration

1. International migrant workers;
   - Usual residents
   - Non-resident foreign workers practices

2. For-work international migrants;

3. Return international migrant workers.

4. Citizens or native-born persons working abroad.

Paragraph 2

Working toward this broader goal, the ILO is formulating a strategy for the development of appropriate methodologies for data collection with a detailed time-table on:
All persons of working-age who are present in the country of measurement:

1. Usual residents in the labour force
2. Non residents with labour attachment to the country (working or seeking work)
Measurement framework of international migrant workers

Resident population (Country of measurement)

Labour force (Employed + Unemployed)

Labour attachment in country of measurement:
- Present in the country of measurement
- Supplying labour to resident producer units in country of measurement

International migrants

Usual residents in country of measurement

Not usual residents in country of measurement (or equivalently, non-resident foreign workers)

International migrant workers present in the country (international migrant and non-resident foreign workers)

Paragraph 19
Some specific examples of international migrant workers:

- **Working refugees/asylum seekers/forcibly displaced persons**: irrespective of authorization to work during processing of refugee status or sanctuary request;
- **Seasonal workers**: Work in the country part of the year;
- **Frontier workers**: Depart from the country at regular and short intervals;
- **Foreign domestic workers**: Engaged by resident employers;
- **Offshore installation workers** and other workers:
  - Foreign domestic workers, itinerant workers, foreign students working or seeking work;

**EXCLUDED**: Foreign military, diplomatic personal, Call Center Staff. International travelers on tourism trip (even if worked incidentally).
For-work international migrants

... is intended to measure the movements of persons from one country to another for the purpose of undertaking or seeking work.

Usual residents and not usual residents who entered the country for the declared purpose work

- Intention to undertake or seek employment
- Intention declared at time of entry (official immigration registers, other documents...)

Paragraph 22
Return international migrants

... is intended to provide a basis for measuring the work experience of persons returning after being international migrant workers abroad.

All current residents who were previously international migrant workers in another country(ies)

- Irrespective of their current labour force status
- Include those previously working abroad without being usual resident of the country where they worked
Development of methodologies for the collection of data on international labour migration:

A Strategy paper
Strategy for development of methodologies

1. The review of national sources and country practices concerning ILM
2. Development of viable methodologies for each of the main and sub-categories of ILM
3. Discussion of the outcomes with a Working Group of Experts
4. Country studies to pilot and field test the agreed methodologies in selected countries
5. Report to the 21th ICLS
Strategy: Country studies

14/a: Lebanon, Jordan, Kuwait, Turkey;
14/b: Brunei, Iran, Switzerland, Turkey;

For-work IM: Colombia, Kuwait, South Africa;
Return IMW: Bangladesh, Moldova, Mexico;
Citizens or Native born working abroad: Philippines, Morocco, Tunisia, Venezuela

Other countries

Overall framework
**Strategy: Country studies – Overall framework**

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<td>a</td>
<td>To review the existing data sources on each element of international labour migration;</td>
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<td>b</td>
<td>To identify, in collaboration with the national statistical office and relevant national stake-holders, the main categories of international labour migration of particular interest in the country;</td>
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<td>c</td>
<td>To use the existing data sources, one of them preferably the labour force survey or another suitable national household survey, to make preliminary estimates of the elements of international labour migration specified under (1) and the main categories of international migrant workers identified under (2);</td>
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<td>d</td>
<td>Where multiple estimates of the main categories of international labour migration may be developed, the different estimates may be reconciled using appropriate procedures, for example, reconciliation tables similar to those developed on estimates of international migrant workers in Brunei Darussalam in the present document;</td>
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<td>e</td>
<td>Develop appropriate methodologies to improve the accuracy of the preliminary estimates, and to develop new data sources or new methodologies where preliminary estimates could not be made with existing data sources and methodologies; accuracies.</td>
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<td>f</td>
<td>Test the new data sources and new methodologies on small-scale and experimental conditions and assess their effectiveness and accuracies.</td>
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Strategy: 21st ICLS

Methodological guidelines

Time-table for major activities
Thank you for your attention!