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

Mustafa Hakki ÖZEL
ILO, Geneva

UNECE, Works Session on Migration Statistics, Geneva, Switzerland, 29-31 October 2019

Objective /Content

1. ICLS Guidelines concerning statistics of international labour migration

2. 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.

Concepts and definitions - 2/4

... is meant to measure current labour attachment of the two groups based on labour attachment & presence criteria.

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

Usual residents in country of measurement

International migrants

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

Rest of the world

Not usual residents in country of measurement
(equivalently, 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;

Foreign domestic workers
Engaged by resident employers

Offshore installation workers

and other workers
Foreign domestic workers, itinerant workers, foreign students working or seeking work

Seasonal workers
Work in the country part of the year

Frontier workers
Depart from the country at regular and short intervals

EXCLUDED: Foreign military, diplomatic personal, Call Center Staff
International travelers on tourism trip (even if worked incidentally)

Paragraph 20
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.

Paragraph 23
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 21th ICLS
Strategy: Country studies

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

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

a To review the existing data sources on each element of international labour migration;
b 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;
c 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);
d 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;
e Test the new data sources and new methodologies on small-scale and experimental conditions and assess their effectiveness and accuracies;
f Test the new data sources and new methodologies on small-scale and experimental conditions and assess their effectiveness and accuracies;
Strategy: 21st ICLS

- Methodological guidelines
- Time-table for major activities

Thank you for your attention!