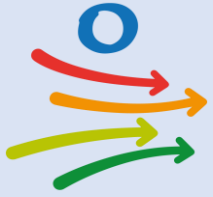




Collecting emigration data through population censuses in countries of origin

Haoyi Chen

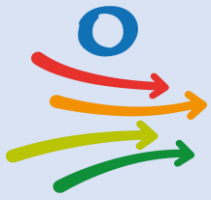
United Nations Statistics Division



What is population and housing census?

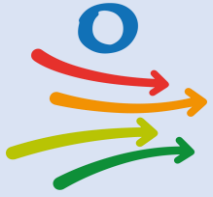
“The total process of collecting, compiling, evaluating, analysing and publishing or otherwise disseminating demographic, economic and social data pertaining, at a specified time, to all persons in a country or in a well-delimited part of the country.”

A major source of international migration statistics



Advantage of censuses for data on international migration

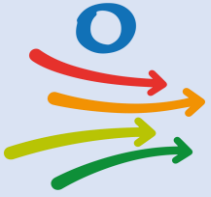
- Availability – most country is committed to 1 census every 10 years
- Comparability – many consistent questions
- Coverage – covers everybody including small population group and difficult to capture group (migrants and undocumented migrants)
- Wealth of information – socioeconomic variables and geographic location within the country (concentration of migrants in the country)



Disadvantages censuses for data on international migration?

- Infrequent!
- Migration history, different dynamics of mobility
- Causes or consequences of international migration

- Difficult to collect data on people living outside of the country



Collecting data on emigration in censuses

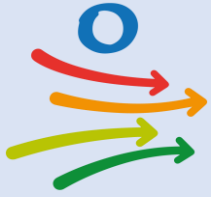
- Through an emigration module: identify the person abroad
 - Emigration within the last XX (5 or 10) years
 - Left the country for at least 6 months (or 1 year)
- Characteristics of emigrants
 - Age, sex, Marital status
 - Age at emigration
 - Educational attainment (at time of migration or current)
 - Occupation (at time of migration or current)
 - Country of emigration
 - Reason for emigration



2010 round of population censuses – questions on emigration

Region	# Censuses that questionnaires are available	# countries with questions on emigration
Africa	43	23
America, North	30	19
America, South	12	6
Asia	35	8
Europe	30	10
Oceania	21	1
Total	171	67

Source: UNSD census questionnaire collection, as of January 2018



Country examples on emigration

Example A (Albania, 2010)

LIST 2. PERSONS THAT LIVE ABROAD

Is any previous member of this household living abroad for 12 months or more?

[Do not include children born abroad who have not lived in this household.]

1 Yes – (Fill in the table)

2 No – Go to LIST 3.

Example D (Algeria, 2008)

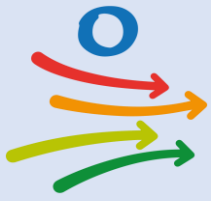
TE 5. DEPARTURES ABROAD DURING THE LAST 5 YEARS

DEP1. Are there persons who were members of the household who settled abroad (emigration) during the last five years?

E01. Has any former member of this household been living continuously for 6 months or more outside (country)?

Yes – Record the following information (for each person listed) ...

No – Go to P00.



Collection emigration through censuses in countries of origin – country experiences?

- How is census in capturing emigration data? Total volume?
Characteristics?
- Is quality of data assessed? How?
- How to improve the data collection for the 2020 round of censuses?