Migration and the development data revolution

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World Universities Conference

April 25th 2015

Hong Kong

Outline

- For over 100 years there have been calls for better data on migration !

- Migration likely to be included in the SDGs.

- Growing calls for better development data.

- How do we achieve a "migration data revolution ?"

Migration and the SDGs

- Migration likely to be included in the Post-2015 development framework.

- Several references to remittances, trafficking, and need for "orderly, planned, safe and well-managed" migration policies.

- "Nobody should be left behind"– including migrants - data should be disaggregated according to migratory status.

- Difficult to measure progress towards goals/targets unless you have reliable, consistent, and comparable statistical data.

High Level Panel on Post-2015

- **The High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the post-2015 development agenda calls for a "data revolution"**

" A true data revolution would draw on existing and new sources of data to fully integrate statistics into decision-making, promote open access to, and use of, data and ensure increased support for statistical systems."

A World That Counts – report of data revolution group

- "Ultimately, the better the data available in the development field, the higher the quality of people's lives in poor countries". (Bill Gates, 2013).

- Whole groups of people are not being counted
- Growing inequalities in access to data
- Existing data remain unused.
- Volume of data increasing exponentially.

The global 'data revolution'

TOTAL POPULATION	ACTIVE INTERNET USERS	ACTIVE SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS	UNIQUE MOBILE USERS	ACTIVE MOBILE SOCIAL ACCOUNTS
7.210 BILLION	3.010 BILLION	2.078 BILLION	3.649 BILLION	1.685 BILLION
URBANISATION: 53%	PENETRATION: 42%	PENETRATION: 29%	PENETRATION: 51%	PENETRATION: 23%
FIGURE REPRESENTS TOTAL GLOBAL POPULATION, INCLUDING CHILDREN	FIGURE INCLUDES ACCESS VIA FIXED AND MOBILE CONNECTIONS	FIGURE REPRESENTS ACTIVE USER ACCOUNTS, NOT UNIQUE USERS	FIGURE REPRESENTS UNIQUE MOBILE PHONE USERS	FIGURE REPRESENTS ACTIVE USER ACCOUNTS, NOT UNIQUE USERS

Factoring migration into the development data revolution

- The 2009 Commission on International Migration Data for Development highlighted a lack of detailed, comparable, disaggregated data on **migrant stocks and flows**

- Censuses may not even include migration questions.

- Data not timely or fully analysed.

- UN 2013– "number of countries that could provide statistics on international migration flows remains extremely low".

Gaps in migration data

- Lack of data on the well-being of migrants documented and undocumented.
- There is a dearth of data on national migration policies at global level and the implications for development.
- Safe migration data not collected.

Progress has been made

- Better data on remittances.
- Better data on profile of stock of migrants, age, sex, origin.
- Better data on students by origin and sex for 200 countries.
- Better data on trafficking. Global reports.

- OECD, World Bank, UNESCO, University of Oxford DEMIG project, UNODC.

Better Data on Migration Policies

- More than a dozen attempts by researchers to create migration policy indexes.

- But no global migration policy index. UN surveys government policy views.

- Current indexes often, limited to one sector of policy, focus on destination countries, focus on one region, and one-off exercises.

- Few ongoing migration policy indexes – MIPEX measuring integration an exception.

How do we move forward?

The Commission on International Migration Data for Development made five key recommendations:

- Ensure that more censuses include basic questions on migration

- Use administrative data more extensively

- Make better use of the migrant data collected in labour force surveys

- Make publicly available micro-data from migration surveys and censuses

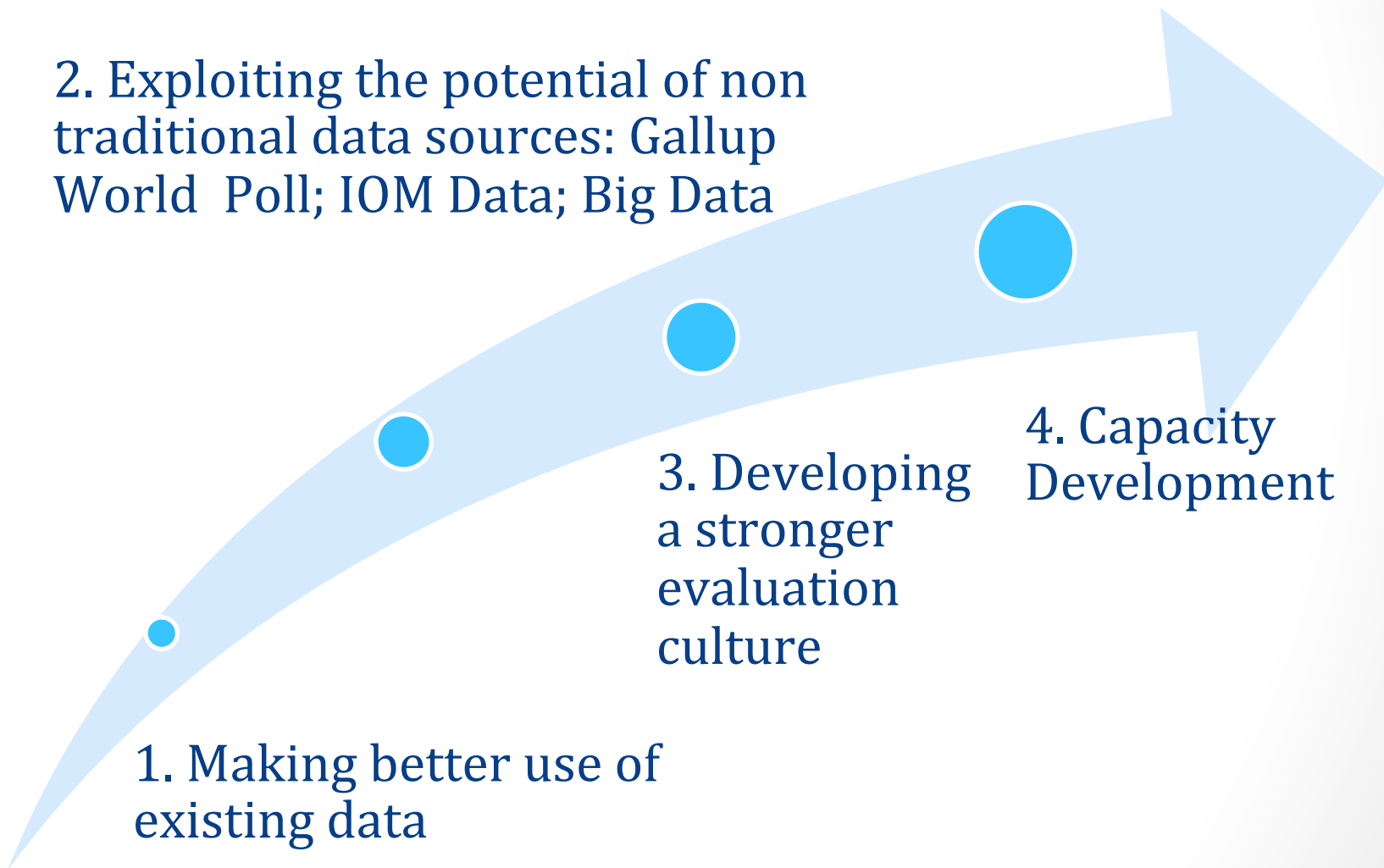- Integrate migration modules into existing household surveys

Towards a Migration Data Revolution

2. Exploiting the potential of non traditional data sources: Gallup World Poll; IOM Data; Big Data

4. Capacity Development

3. Developing a stronger evaluation culture

1. Making better use of existing data

1. **Making better use of existing data**

- Much data scattered within and between countries.
- Only a minority of countries produce an annual national "**Migration and Development report**" or "Migration Profile".
- This would be a low cost way of raising awareness and promoting information-sharing.

2. Exploiting the potential of non traditional data sources

- **Gallup World Poll** – global survey of well-being, public perceptions.
- **IOM Data**
  - ➢ IOM doubled in size in 10 years generates vast amounts of data on returns, trafficking, re-settlement, displaced.
- **Big Data**
  - ➢ Presents opportunities but also very distinct challenges
  - ➢ Official statistical systems will need to   collaborate more broadly with   new data providers if they wish to remain relevant

3. **Developing a stronger evaluation culture**

- Currently, a low priority is given to conducting impact evaluations of migration policies and programmes

- Challenges to developing a stronger evaluation culture are both political and technical

- Even when evaluations conducted little emphasis on assessing development impacts.

4. **Capacity Development**

- Creating or improving national capacity to collect, analyse, share and manage migration data is the corner stone of effective migration data management

- Little migration data training. GMG data handbook.

- Migration should be integrated into national development data strategies

To conclude

- The migration community needs to capitalise on calls for a development data revolution

- Including migration in the SDGs may encourage governments to collect and make better use of migration and development data.

- To date, despite many calls for better data, governments have not agreed on any kind of global action plan and there is relatively little global monitoring of migration data.

- Much could be done to improve migration data collection and analysis at relatively low cost, over the next 15 years and thereby make it easier to monitor migration's impact on the SDGs.

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