

Gaps in data-collection, processing, and publication in the Arab states

Causes, and consequences for the knowledge of migrant populations

STEP		ISSUE	CONSEQUENCES	EXAMPLES
Data collection (recording individuals and their characteristics in censuses, sample surveys, administrative records)	01	Conflict on territory	No collection of data	No census in Syria and Yemen since 2011
	02	Political stakes of collecting population data	No census/ comprehensive collection of data	No census conducted in Lebanon since 1932
	03	Difficult access to entire national territory	Country collects limited range of data /does not cover entire population	Iraq censuses and sample surveys do not cover all the territory since 1997
	04	Sampling size limited	Sample does not include a significant enough number of migrants	Jordan Employment and Unemployment Surveys prior to 2017
	05	No policy focus for country or given data collection operation	Variable not included in questionnaire/administrative form	Some Gulf states do not collect variable "country of birth" in censuses and surveys
	06	Migrants not entitled to certain administrative/ social rights in host state	Migrants not included in specific administrative records	Unemployed migrants in some countries
	07	Specific populations residing in country are outside purview of local government	Specific populations or spaces are not covered by national data collection operations	Palestinian and Syrian refugees in camps are excluded from national surveys' samples in Lebanon
	08	Specific populations are not/ are incompletely covered in administrative recording or census-taking operations in host state	No or little data available on these populations	Migrants in irregular administrative situation in host states Return migrants in countries of origin and destination
Data processing (distributing individuals in populations by individual characteristics)	01	No or partial use of international classifications (occupation, activity, education level, etc.) or definitions (international migrant, ..) by some or all national data-producing bodies	No comparability of data between institutions or between countries	No compliance with UN definition of "international migrant" and definition of "international migrant worker" in Arab states
	02	International classifications do not match country context	Difficulty of classifying individuals by relevant category	Large number of cases put in category "Other" in statistical tables on education level or occupation
	03	Political sensitivity of data	Some variables are not used for disaggregation of data	No or few data broken down by variable "country of birth" or "country of citizenship" in Gulf states
	04	Use of data by policy-makers	Only availability of univariate or bivariate distribution of data	No or few data broken down by "country of nationality" / "Country of citizenship" and one or more other variable
Data publishing and public dissemination (In statistical and other publications, medias, etc.)	01	Delay in publishing data	Data outdated	Traditional, survey-based censuses: detailed results published after years
	02	Political sensitivity of data	No publication of data, or data not disaggregated by certain variables	No distribution of foreign population by country of citizenship in several Gulf states Data cannot be re-processed by user (published as percentages in UAE)