

Meeting objectives

1. To obtain a regional picture of migration-related statistics by sharing information and approaches among countries
2. To discuss how national, regional and global level processes and plans may fit together, e.g. national information systems, a proposed regional database, ICLS standards and SDG monitoring
3. To identify areas in which the ILO may provide support in national and regional capacity building on migration-related statistics

DECENT WORK

A better world starts here.



International
Labour
Organization

Data and the Migration Governance Frameworks

Colombo
28-29 November 2017



Data and national labour migration policy

“Comprehensive information and database on labour migration is a cross cutting foundation for formulation, monitoring and evaluation of policies on good governance, protection and development linkages.”

National Labour Migration Policy of Sri Lanka, 2008



How is data being used at the national level?

Publication of *Labour Migration Status Reports*, e.g. in Nepal and Pakistan:

- Analysis of administrative data
- Linked to policy and thematic issues
- Resulting in recommendations to address gaps in policies, institutional mechanisms and knowledge

Used in policy discourse and advocacy, in Parliamentary questions, in regional and global reports, in the media, etc.

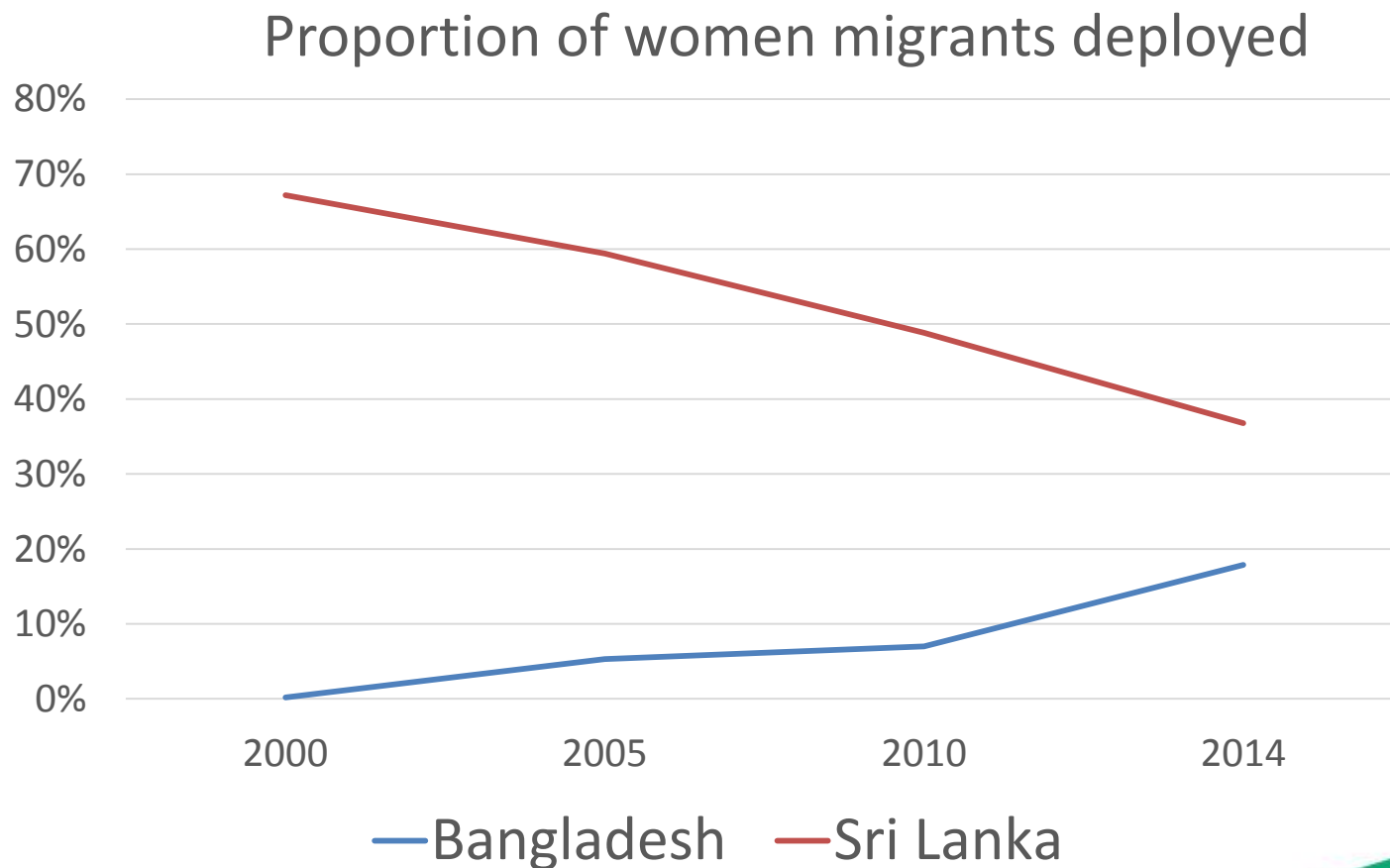
Key policy questions that require evidence-based responses (at national level)

Are the policy objectives being met?

- E.g. What jobs are people migrating for? (sector, skill level, country of destination, etc.)
- Are government interventions to increase/decrease such flows having the desired effect?



Policies matter: Impact of policies to restrict women's migration



Key policy questions that require evidence-based responses (at national level)

Where should the Government agencies (and partners) focus their attention? (in terms of targeting services; regulatory efforts; etc.)

- E.g. Where are the major sending areas/migration hotspots?
- Who is migrating? (gender, province, social group)
- What do we know about the determinants and consequences of migration?

Key policy questions that require evidence-based responses (at national level)

What is the changing impact of migration on national labour markets?

- E.g. Are migrants filling genuine labour market needs?
- Any link between outbound migration and inbound migration?
- What is the impact of return migration?

Data and regional migration frameworks

In the SAARC Plan of Action on Labour Migration (2016), 1 of the 7 priority areas is the:

“Establishment of a Mechanism for Information Exchange and Knowledge Building”



From the SAARC Plan of Action

- a) Data collection and data sharing on issues relating to migration trends and patterns, including return migration. To the extent possible, the data should be disaggregated according to gender, sector and skill levels, with a view to strengthening evidence-based policies.
- b) Support the creation of a shared database or web portal with information about migration trends and patterns, policies, best practices, challenges, agreements/arrangements where possible.

From the SAARC Plan of Action (continued)

- c) Encourage action research on issues and challenges related to labour migration from South Asia, including missing and irregular labour migrants, workers' experiences, recruitment costs, recruitment networks, and reintegration of migrant workers, to name a few.
- d) Assist Member States to host Workshops/ Consultations in relevant thematic areas for sharing experiences and foster intra-regional learning.

On sharing data between countries

“... migration movements are so closely related one to another that it is desirable for a given country to be informed not only of the volume, direction and composition of the immigration and emigration affecting that country, but also the movements affecting other emigration and immigration countries” (United Nations, 1953).

- International Migration Statistics, Guidelines for Improving Data Collection Systems, ILO (1997)



On the question of comparability

“[Although] perfect comparability remains elusive, it is important not to lose sight of the fact that much can be done to improve the relevance and facilitate the use of existing statistics, especially by promoting the dissemination of the statistics already available...”

- International Migration Statistics, Guidelines for Improving Data Collection Systems, ILO (1997)

Comparability for cooperation

- Identification of good practices and lessons learned – e.g. what is India doing right on remittance costs? What has been the impact of Bangladesh easing restrictions on women migrating?
- Case of parliamentary questions or media reports criticizing the Government on deployment of migrant workers. E.g. Is the dip in deployments/remittances in our country, consistent with trends in other countries of origin?

Fair Recruitment: ILO/WB standardized surveys on worker-paid migration costs

Corridor	Mean Costs (USD)
Pakistan – Saudi Arabia	\$4,367
Ethiopia – Saudi Arabia	\$998
India – Qatar	\$1,140
Nepal – Qatar	\$1,054
Philippines – Qatar	\$522

Source: ILO/World Bank surveys of returning workers in 2015

Comparability for competition

Example of HRD Korea. Data is collected that informs employer preference for nationals from one of the 15 countries sending workers under EPS:

- recruitment costs
- number of days required for deployment;
- overstay rates (these affect the annual country quotas set by HRD Korea);
- number of job changes, etc.

HRD Korea Data (2013)

	No. of Entered Workers	Days Required	EP Issuance ~ LC Signing	LC Signing ~ CCVI issuance	CCVI Issuance ~ Entry
EPS 15 countries	50,291	66.7	11.5	24.3	30.9
Myanmar	3,557	77.7	11.9	28.2	37.6

	Total	Legal Workers	Overstayed Workers	Rate of Overstay
15 EPS countries	231,353 pers	176,503 pers	54,850 pers	23.70%
Myanmar	7,529 pers	6,925 pers	604 pers	8.02%

Global level approaches to data collection

- SDG Target 17.18 calls for enhancing “**capacity building support to developing countries to increase significantly the availability of high quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by [...] migratory status**”



Key policy questions that require evidence-based responses (at global level)

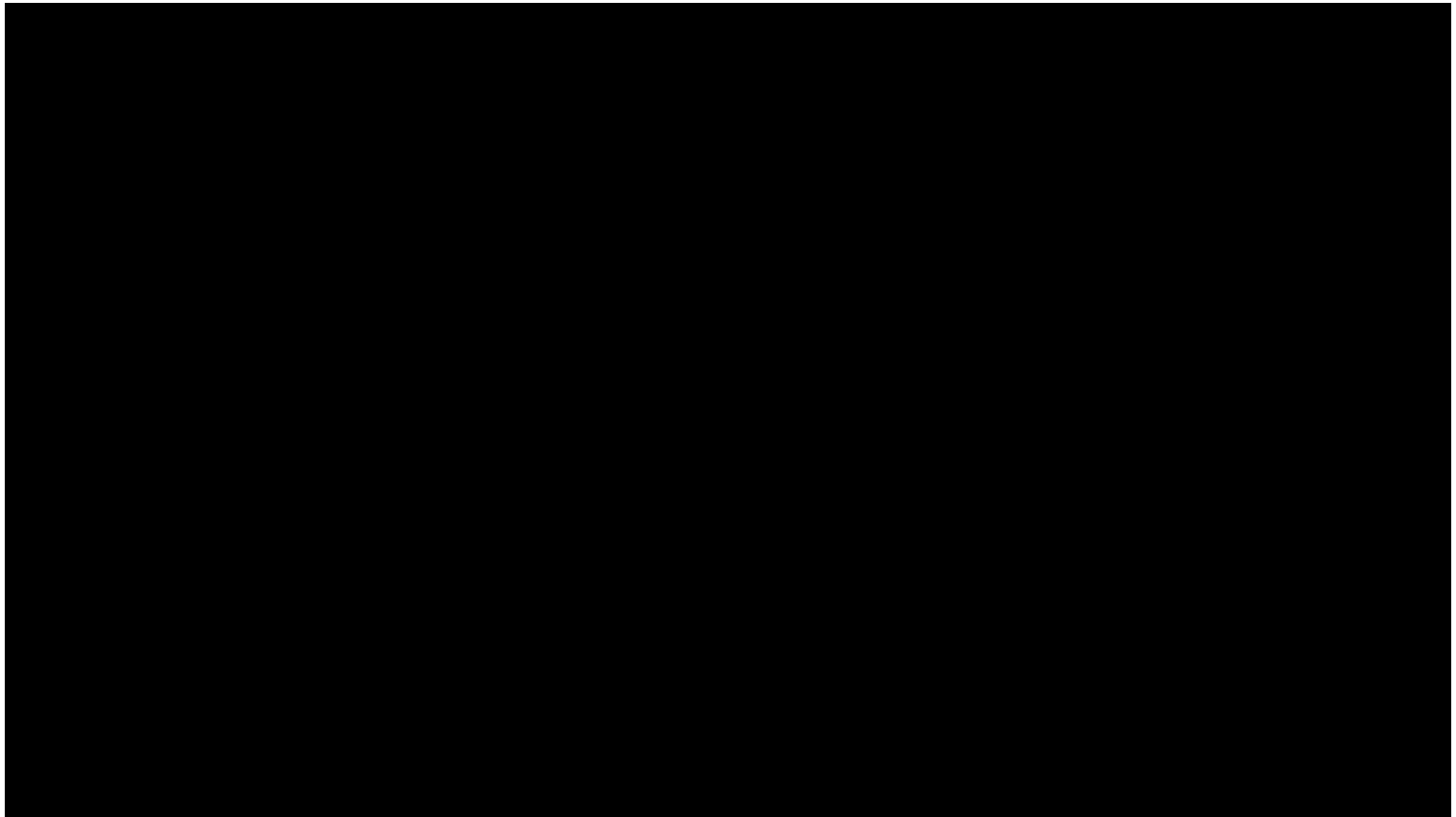
What are the predominant forms of migration?

- 65% of the world's migrants move for work
- 57% of the increase in total migration between 2000 and 2013 was due to higher levels of South–South migration.

Broader macro-economic questions, and how is migration contributing to global growth and development?

- To what extent can FDI be a substitute for international migration?
- What is the effect of increased trade or capital flows on international migration?
- What is the impact of remittances on development?

ILO Global Estimates on Migrant Workers



[LINK TO VIDEO](#)

Questions for discussion

- What are the key policy questions at the national level that require evidence based responses?
- How do you use labour migration data to inform policy making?
- To what extent do you think data collection and analysis within the regional and global frameworks is relevant?
- In light of increasing **decentralization** of certain labour migration governance functions in Nepal, Pakistan and India, what kind of data will be required and what will be available at the **sub-national level**?



International
Labour
Organization

DECENT WORK

A better world starts here.

Thank you

