Looking for a basic and cheap tool for periodical research on international migration from and to country X:
Colombia (ENMIR, 2008-2009)
Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Perú (ENAMIR, 2013)

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First steps

• GIMH carried out first national survey on International Migrations and remittances in Colombia in 2008 (funded by EU and own resources through Esperanza Foundation): ENMIR 1

• Departing from ENMIR 1 experience, with some methodological changes and changes in the questionnaire tools, a second survey was carried out in four Andean countries: Andean Survey of Migrations, Return and Remittances: ENAMIR
Research collaborations

- A network including researchers from Bolivia, Ecuador and Perú was formed for carrying out ENAMIR.
- New researchers contributed to funding and realization of the survey in their countries, adding some changes to the sample design and some questions to questionnaires:
  - CEPLAG (Universidad Mayor de San Simón, Cochabamba), Carmen Ledo
  - PYDLOS (Universidad de Cuenca, Cuenca), Alejandro Guillén
  - OΔT (Universidad Católica Sedes Sapientiae, Lima), Guido Maggi
- XENIA (Universidad del País Vasco, Bilbao), María Cristina Blanco, funded an additional module on Opinions about the Effects of Migration on Families, Local and National Context.
Overall aim of the project

• Provide a basic, periodical and cheap tool to know more about:
  • Trends in migration flows
  • Trends in remittances
  • Returned migrants
  • Immigrants to the selected countries

Returned migrant = person born in the survey country who ever lived abroad

Info from the questionnaire allows to know about duration of stay abroad & period of return but definition does not depend on them.
Obtain a basis for estimations

- Proportion and number of households and persons with international migration experience (migrants, immigrants and returnees)
- Proportion and number of households with migrants and number of migrants
- *Proportion and number of households with returnees, and number of returnees*
- Proportion and number of households where at least one member receives remittances, and number of receivers of remittances
- Proportion of the number of migrants abroad who keep their household of origin and are in irregular situation

Low proportions for other sub-populations like immigrants, circular and repeated migrants, and the sample size, make estimations for them non-reliable
Basic profile of households and persons with migration experience

- **Returnees**, migrants who keep their household of origin and non-migrants (in households with/without mig.experience):
  - Age, sex, education (years, diploma, etc.)
  - Marital status and relation with head of the household
  - Labour force status, occupation and job conditions
  - Reception of remittances

- All households (migrants, immigrants, returnees): head of hh, size, composition, no. of adult members, labour force status, socio-ec status (in Colombia), income, reception of remittances.
Basis to improve knowledge on

• Migrants abroad who keep their household of origin: changes in labour force status and job situation between last migration and time of the survey

• **Returnees**: changes in labour force status and job situation between last migration, before return and time of the survey

• Main reasons for migration and return

• Some information about migration dynamics: origin and destinations, duration of stay, etc.
Unit of analysis and selection of the interviewees

• Observation
  • Occupied dwellings

• Analysis
  • Households in the dwelling
  • Persons who belong to the household, including persons abroad who are expected to return to it

• Selection of interviewees in the following order:
  • Who identifies him/herself as household head
  • His/her spouse
  • Any other person older than 17
Possibilities to study the impacts of return

- Possibilities reflect the possible comparisons across different sub-populations:
  - Between households with and without returnees
    - Size and composition
    - Labour force status and job situation of household members
    - Income
    - Reception of remittances
  - Between returnees, current migrants and non-migrants
    - Labour force status and job situation
    - Reception of remittances
  - Between returnees before return and current: labour force status and job situation
Difficulties to measure impacts of return

Conclusions from previous comparisons should be drawn with caution:

• They reflect differences between returnees who returned in different periods, from different destinations and different length of stay abroad

• It is difficult to establish the causality for this differences
METHODOLOGICAL ASPECTS RELATED WITH RETURN AND REPEATED/CIRCULAR MIGRATION
Identification of households of interest

- Occupied dwellings within the Primary Sampling Units (cartographic areas) are selected according to a systematic rule («salto» = jump)
- If there more than one household in the dwelling, only one is selected and the respondent is asked:
  - Does any household member live/ or has lived abroad?
  - Does any household member receive remittances?
- Answers are captured in the Contact Sheet (Route sheet)
- If answer is YES to any of the two questions, the interview goes on.
Distinction between migrants and returnees

- Migrants and returnees are identified and labeled ex post, utilizing info from the following questions:
  - Country of Birth?
  - Do you sleep in this dwelling?
  - Do you live abroad?
  - Has you ever lived abroad?
  - What is the main reason you migrated abroad?
Identification of repeated migration

• Repeated migration can only be deduced from comparing answers to these two questions:
  • When (year) did you go to live abroad for the first time?
  • When (year) did you go to live abroad for the last time?
• And to some extent as well from answers to
  • In which country(ies) does X live/have you lived starting by the one where you live/lived the last time?
• But it is not possible to know how many times in total the person migrated
• And it is only possible to know the duration of the last migration
Identification of circular migration

• Eventually, it could be identified if the respondent mentions it in the category ‘Other’ and refers explicitely to it when answering:

  • Main reason to go live abroad
  • Main reason to return to live in Colombia

• To have better information about it, it should have desirable to include a response category as:

  • Work or residence abroad for seasons/repeated periods
Control and comparison groups

• For each surveyed household with mig exp/remittances, another household without mig exp/remittances is selected

→ control sample of same size and spatial distribution

• The control sample allows systematic comparisons in non-migratory aspects of both households and individuals

• Inside households with migration experience can be compared migrants and non-migrants; as well as returnees and those who remain abroad
Sampling frame and representativeness

• Lack of a proper sampling frame → GIS database of dwellings derived from Census (or Properties Registers)

• Stratified sampling by conglomerates (geographical regions) in 2 stages, with probability proportional to size in order to find households with and without migration experience.

• First Stage: Within strata, geographical areas of a same size (minimum census areas) are constructed within a certain number of municipalities taking into account the number of dwellings (in order to be able to reconstruct the total population).

• Second Stage: Selection of dwellings within each primary sampling unit by systematic random sampling. If more than one household in the dwelling, the one contacted in first place will be selected.
Sizes of the resulting Colombian samples

- Households responded filter: 21,093
- Households with Mig. Exp. that completed the survey: 1,167
- Control sample households: 1,174
- Total people: 8,772
- People with Exp. Mig: 1,609 (1.38 p/hh)
- People without Exp. Mig: 7,158
### Distribution of households according to experience

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Households with each type of experience

- With emigrated persons: 810
- With returned persons: 433
- With immigrants: 17
- With Colombians born abroad: 43
Conclusions and suggestions

- ENAMIR allows for relevant studies on return in sending areas, and the control sample plays an important role on this.
- However, substantial improvements would be possible by revising and adjusting the questionnaire accordingly.
- In contrast, ENAMIR and similar surveys are not efficient instruments for the study of repeated and circular migration, due to its very low incidence in most migrant populations (especially long-distance ones).
- Only exceptions in areas with high concentration of seasonal migration, especially in the border regions. Surveys on border crossing, or realized in airports/ports might be better choice.
Thank you for your attention!
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