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Scope and Methodology of
the MED-HIMS Project

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1. Scope and Methodology of the MED-HIMS

- The objective of this presentation is to outline the scope and methodology of the regional programme of specialized household surveys on international migration and mobility known as the 'Mediterranean Household International Migration Survey' (MED-HIMS).
- The MED-HIMS is a joint initiative of the European Commission/Eurostat, The World Bank, ILO, IOM, UNFPA, UNHCR, and the League of Arab States, in collaboration with the National Statistical Offices of Arab countries in the Middle East and North Africa.
- The main objective of the MED-HIMS is to study the determinants and consequences of international migration and mobility, and the inter-linkages between migration and development, in participating countries.
- The MED-HIMS aims to establish internationally validated guidelines for the design and implementation of specialized household surveys on international migration.

1. Scope and Methodology of the MED-HIMS, *continued*

Target Population

- This is achieved through the collection of nationally representative data that are multi-topic, multi-level, retrospective and comparative.
- The target population includes five groups:
 - Out migrants,
 - Return migrants,
 - Non-migrants and prospective migrants,
 - Forced migrants / Refugees, and
 - Immigrants
- The MED-HIMS has been implemented in Egypt in 2013, Jordan in 2014 and Morocco in 2018-2019.
- Sample size: Egypt: 90,012 households; Jordan: 75,533 dwellings.

1. Scope and Methodology of the MED-HIMS, *continued*

Survey Types

The MED-HIMS provides the following two survey types:

- **MED-HIMS Standard Surveys** (the long version)
 - large sample sizes
 - conducted about every 5-7 years, to allow comparisons over time.
- **MED-HIMS Light Surveys** (the short version)
 - focus on the collection of information on key migration indicators
 - conducted between rounds of MED-HIMS standard surveys.
 - generally have smaller samples than the standard surveys.

1. Scope and Methodology of the MED-HIMS, *continued*

- **Reference period:** MED-HIMS recommends the use of a reference period of about ten years preceding the survey for **some** of the modules included in the individual questionnaires.
- Thus, in the current version of the Model Questionnaires (MQs), the following reference periods are adopted for the purpose of illustration:
 - starting from “1 January 2005” for the ‘standard survey type’, and
 - starting from “1 January 2010” for the ‘light survey type’.
- A distinction is made between ‘recent’ and ‘non-recent’ international migrants.
 - *Recent migrants* are those who have migrated from the country of origin at least once within the ‘*reference period*’ preceding the survey.
 - Consequently, a *non-recent migrant* is someone who has migrated from his/her country of origin at least once, but not within the ‘*reference period*’.
- As will be shown below, some of the modules included in the MQs are administered only to recent migrants while other modules are administered to all migrants regardless of the date of their migration.

2. The MED-HIMS Instruments

For all participating countries, the MED-HIMS will provide the following manuals:

- Manual 1: MED-HIMS Model Questionnaires
- Manual 2: Design and Organization of MED-HIMS
- Manual 3: Instructions to Supervisors
- Manual 4: Instructions to Interviewers
- Manual 5: Sample Design
- Manual 6: Editing, Coding and Recode Specifications
- Manual 7: Guidelines for Country Report and Model Tabulation Plan

3. The MED-HIMS Model Questionnaires

- The MED-HIMS Model Questionnaires (MQs) provide the core set of questions needed to obtain population-based estimates of the determinants and consequences of international migration and mobility.
- The MQs consist of the following eight questionnaires:
 - MQ-1. Household Questionnaire
 - MQ-2. Individual Questionnaire for Out Migrant
 - MQ-3. Individual Questionnaire for Return Migrant
 - MQ-4. Individual Questionnaire for Non Migrant
 - MQ-5. Individual Questionnaire for Forced Migrant
 - MQ-6. Individual Questionnaire for Immigrant
 - MQ-7. Household Socio-economic Characteristics Questionnaire
 - MQ-8. Community Characteristics Questionnaire

The MED-HIMS Model Questionnaires, *continued*

- The MED-HIMS Model Questionnaires (MQs) provide a holistic framework that deals with various dimensions of international migration and mobility.
- Each of these Model Questionnaires is designed as a series of self contained modules, with each module dealing with a particular migration-related topic.
- The MED-HIMS new research lines are thus strategic in two senses:
 - they pertain to issues crucial for policy-making in both sending and receiving countries, and
 - they offer a theory-base design in which both the participating countries and future new participants will implement new research within a shared framework.

4. From Data to Policy: Examples of Data Utilization

The MED-HIMS output data may be used as evidence-based information for:

- the establishment of a 'National Migration Profile' that will allow to identify certain common characteristics of the migration flows to the main receiving countries;
- the development of migration policies and future migration programming;
- the development of scenarios to support circular and managed migration, and to design successful action programmes to be coordinated in collaboration with the main receiving countries;
- the identification of priority areas in the field of education and vocational training;
- the development of policy measures on recognition of qualifications and the use of transparency tools for the skills of migrants acquired at home and abroad;

4. From Data to Policy, *continued*

- the development of policy measures on mitigating the adverse effect of brain drain;
- achieving better understanding of how remittances can be used to foster local development, and developing relevant policy measures in collaboration with the main receiving countries;
- promoting 'migration governance' from a development perspective and improving the understanding of the development and migration nexus;
- the development of policy measures dealing with forced migration;
- fostering institutional partnership in the field of migration with the main receiving countries; and
- assessing the effects of future legislative measures on labour immigration that might be taken by receiving countries in line with their demographic changes.

5. Outputs and Dissemination

- One of the ultimate goals of the MED-HIMS Programme is to establish 'Migration Profiles' for the participating countries and to generate 'Migration Scenarios', supported by evidence, of policies and measures that address a broad range of challenges and opportunities through dialogue and cooperation between the sending countries and the main destination countries.
- This is important to a region facing dramatic shifts in its demographics, which will need novel and potentially radical solutions based on dialogue and cooperation.

5. Outputs and Dissemination

- The above examples of the utilization of the MED-HIMS outputs clearly illustrate that the project will provide the necessary flow of reliable, comparable and accessible data that would enable authorities in both sending and the main receiving countries to have the information-base and the necessary evidence to develop and support such scenarios in a comprehensive and balanced manner.
- In accordance with the vision of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and other international declarations on the development of statistics, and to increase the use and value of the survey data, the MED-HIMS management will arrange with each participating country to make the survey data files available to researchers and policy makers through the official website of the National Statistical Office.

6. Examples of MED-HIMS results in Egypt and Jordan

- The Sample & Outcome

Variable	Egypt	Jordan
Households selected	90,012	75,533
Households occupied	83,741	59,851
Households interviewed	83,358	50,699
Out migrants interviewed	5,847	1,340
Return migrants interviewed	5,085	1,164
Non-migrants interviewed	11,703	3,297

7. MED-HIMS data on Forced Migration

First Source: MED-HIMS Main Sample Survey

A large probability national sample of households is selected



“The Household Questionnaire” is administered to every household with the aim of identifying the different types migrants belonging to the household.



A non-citizen member of the household is identified as ‘forced migrant’ if the main reason for his/her moving to the survey country was one of the reasons mentioned above.



The ‘Individual Questionnaire for Forced Migrant’ is then administered to each of the forced migrants thus identified.



In addition, the ‘Household Socio-economic Characteristics Questionnaire’ is also used to gather information on the household characteristics.

7. MED-HIMS Data on Forced Migration, *continued*

Second Source: MED-HIMS Targeted Sample of Forced Migrants

- If the number of forced migrants found in the MED-HIMS main sample survey is not large enough for the purposes of meaningful statistical analysis, an additional ‘targeted sample’ of around 3,000 forced migrants is then selected from the records of UNHCR in the survey country.
- The targeted sample of forced migrants is then interviewed using an adapted version of the ‘Household Questionnaire’, together with the ‘Individual Questionnaire for Forced Migrant’, and the ‘Household Socio-economic Characteristics Questionnaire’.

8. Challenges in Locating & Interviewing Forced Migrants

Egypt-HIMS Main Survey

- The sample for the Egypt-HIMS main survey was selected from a master sample frame that included one million households of **Egyptian** citizens only.
- A sample of **83,358 households** was successfully interviewed and only 90 forced migrants were identified.
- It was then decided to opt for the second source of finding forced migrants.

8. Challenges in Locating & Interviewing Forced Migrants, *continued*

Egypt-HIMS Targeted Survey of Forced Migrants

- Among the forced migrants registered with the UNHCR in Egypt, a sample of **3,000 forced migrant households** was randomly selected, with the aim of locating around **2,000** households.
- The list of these forced migrant households included their names, the districts they live in (but not the address), and telephone numbers.
- Sample included forced migrants from seven countries: Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iraq, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Syria.

8. Challenges in Locating & Interviewing Forced Migrants, *continued*

Egypt-HIMS Targeted Survey

- A call centre was established at CAPMAS and staffed by operators recruited by UNHCR who contacted each of the forced migrant households in the original sample.
- **1,692 households** were found, representing 56% of the original targeted sample, and **all** agreed to be interviewed. The remaining households were not located, with their telephone numbers being out of service.
- These households were visited by teams of interviewers for face-to-face interviews.
- The interviewers were among the regular CAPMAS survey staff; they were accompanied by translators recruited by UNHCR.

8. Challenges in Locating & Interviewing Forced Migrants, *continued*

Egypt-HIMS Targeted Survey

- These 1,692 households included **6,813 persons**, who were interviewed with the 'Household Questionnaire'.
- Of the household population:
 - **4,309 persons** (63.4%) were 15 years of age or more;
 - Of whom, **1,793 forced migrants** were randomly selected and successfully interviewed with the 'Individual Questionnaire for Forced Migrant'.
- The 'Household Socio-economic Characteristics Questionnaire' was also administered to each of the 1,692 households in the final sample.

8. Challenges in Locating & Interviewing Forced Migrants, *continued*

Jordan-HIMS Main Survey

- In the Jordan-HIMS main survey, a national probability sample of **dwelling**s was selected.
- **50,699 households** were successfully interviewed.
- Among the forced migrants identified in these households, **2008 migrants** aged 15 years or more were randomly selected and successfully interviewed.
- As the number of forced migrants found and interviewed in the main sample was large enough, targeted sampling was not needed.

9. Was the MED-HIMS Successful?

- An evaluation of the results from the MED-HIMS surveys in Egypt and Jordan indicates that the survey design and methodology was effective and generally successful in eliciting responses from respondents, including on a range of sensitive issues.
- However, conducting a household survey on forced migration has several methodological challenges that need to be addressed if we are to improve our understanding and techniques of data collection on forced migration.

10. Was the MED-HIMS Successful?, *continued*

- In Egypt, forced migrants do not live in camps; there are no camps in Egypt, and forced migrants settle in dwellings. But as the master sample frame included only households headed by Egyptian citizens, there was a need for the supplementary targeted sample.
- It is difficult to locate forced migrants for research purposes. In Egypt, many migrants registered with UNHCR changed their address and/or telephone number without notifying UNHCR.
- In both Egypt and Jordan, many forced migrants have “self-settled”, that is intermingled with local people who may be assisting them.

10. Was the MED-HIMS Successful?, *continued*

- Those who ‘self-settle’ with a host population are likely to be overlooked in targeted samples based on UNHCR registers.
- The “self-settled” migrants, however, would be included in a national sample of **all** households, regardless of citizenship, as was the case in the Jordan survey.
- It is possible that some forced migrants will not be willing to be interviewed, as was the case in the Jordan survey, particularly in light of the sensitive and profound nature of their experiences.

10. Was the MED-HIMS Successful?, *continued*

- Given the sensitive nature of the topic, forced migrants may be tempted to misrepresent their motivations for moving.
- Finally, understanding decision-making among actual migrants is more difficult because it relies on reflection and *post facto* rationalization.

10. Was the MED-HIMS Successful?, *continued*

- Finally, it is hoped that the forced migration component of the MED-HIMS programme will help to
 - disseminate new ideas and thinking to further develop forced migration surveys into a fully formed and coherent instrument; and
 - provide a holistic framework for the study of the causes and consequences of forced migration, and the experiences of refugees.



Thank you.

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