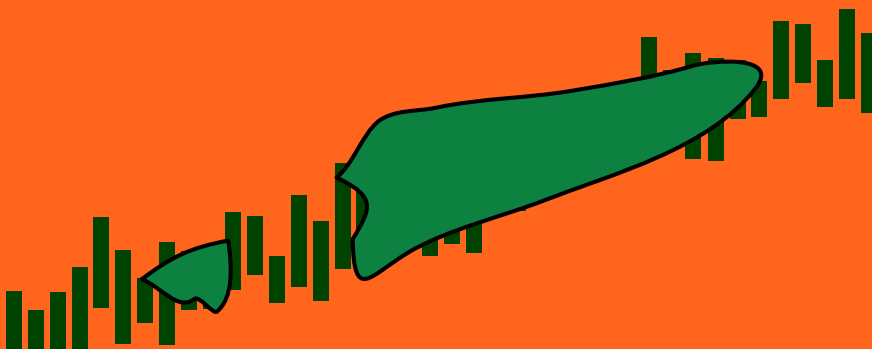




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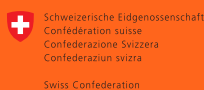
MAPPING OF MIGRATION DATA SOURCES IN TIMOR-LESTE

Rishi Aryal



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IOM Development Fund
*Developing Capacities in
Migration Management*



**Data
Assessment**

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The ACP Observatory on Migration is an initiative of the Secretariat of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States, funded by the European Union, implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in a Consortium with 15 partners, and with the financial support of Switzerland, IOM, the IOM Development Fund and UNFPA. Established in 2010, the ACP Observatory is an institution designed to produce data on South–South ACP migration for migrants, civil society and policymakers and aims to enhance research capacities in ACP countries to improve the situation of migrants and strengthen the migration–development nexus.

The Observatory was established to facilitate the creation of a network of research institutions and experts on migration research. Activities are underway in 12 pilot countries and will be progressively extended to other interested ACP countries. The 12 pilot countries are: Angola, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Kenya, Lesotho, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Senegal, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago and the United Republic of Tanzania.

The Observatory has launched research and capacity-building initiatives on South–South migration and development, addressing topics of increasing importance for the ACP Group. Research publications and capacity-building manuals can be accessed and downloaded free of charge from the Observatory's website (www.acpmigration-obs.org). Upcoming publications and information on the Observatory's activities will be posted online.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Policymakers throughout the world have increasingly recognized the development potential of migration as well as the related need for timely and reliable data on migration that can inform evidence-based policymaking and planning in this area. Yet, often there is a lack of adequate data and/or analysis necessary for informed policies and programmes.

The Government of Timor-Leste, through the National Consultative Committee (NCC), in collaboration with the African, Caribbean and Pacific Observatory on Migration, has launched this initiative to identify existing sources of migration data in the country. This mapping serves as an important starting point for improving migration data and related migration and development planning in Timor-Leste.

2. MIGRATION CONTEXT

During Timor-Leste's occupation by Indonesia (1975-199) as well as the subsequent UN transitional administration (1999-2002), over a quarter of a million people are estimated to have fled to West Timor, Indonesia, Australia and Portugal (Hamilton, 2004). Due to high rates of unemployment and lack of opportunities at home more recently, some have left the country for economic reasons, especially to countries in the region as well as Australia and Portugal. However, emigration continues to be an expensive and unrealistic option for the majority of young people in Timor-Leste (Shuaib, 2008).

Those that do leave the country are faced with high costs for sending remittances home to their families, an obstacle to the potential positive impacts of these financial transfers to recipient households and society at larger (ACP Observatory, 2010).

In contrast, the country has become destination country for immigrants from various parts of the world, but primarily from the surrounding region to work in the construction, commerce and service sectors (Santos and Florindo, 2014). Several cases of migrant smuggling and human trafficking have also been identified, in particular the forced labour of men in the fishing industry and women forced into prostitution (Santos and Florindo, 2014).

In this context, the Immigration and Asylum Law was adopted in 2003 and an autonomous Migration Service has been created to respond to the various migration challenges and opportunities the country faces. However, many migration management challenges must still be addressed and access to reliable and timely information and analysis of migration is an important step to developing adequate policy and programming responses.

3. METHODOLOGY

Open-ended interviews were used to gather information from officials from the following 11 Timor-Leste government institutions, two private Money Transfer Operators (MTOs) and with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) (see table 1). Overall, 22 stakeholders were interviewed (see annex 1) from the below institutions. Among them, 5 have active roles in ICT Support Services, 10 have in management and operation and 7 in data management including collection, analysis or reporting. Their roles were identified by the respective head of the department, and the NCC's help was sought for the identification of the interviewees. Not all of the below institutions were available for interviews.

Table 1: List of Institutions

Institution		Criteria for Inclusion in the Assessment
Government Institutions		
1.	Central Bank of Timor-Leste (CBTL)	CBTL is the monetary authority of Timor-Leste and collects data related to migrant remittances.
2.	Civil Registry Office (CRO)	CRO is the government institution responsible for registering births, marriages and deaths in Timor-Leste. CRO has had a digital database since 2004, containing information relevant to migration, such as, places of birth, the residences of people registered for births, marriages and deaths, as well the residences of those individuals' parents.
3.	Department of Foreign Affairs	The Department of Foreign Affairs is the organ of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that oversees Timor-Leste consulates, which collects some data on Timor-Leste citizens living abroad as well as managing a visa database.
4.	Department of Migration Services (DMS)	DMS is responsible for managing migration in Timor-Leste, including border management. DMS collects data on persons arriving to and departing from Timor-Leste via official border posts as well as administrative data related to immigration applications.
5.	Labour Department/ Secretaria de Estado da Formação Profissional e Emprego (SEFOPE)	SEFOPE is responsible for government policy and programs related to labour, employment and vocational training and collects data on foreign workers and East-Timorese labour emigrants.
6.	Ministry of Social Solidarity (MSS)	MSS promotes solidarity and assistance to East-Timorese citizens and works to guarantee social security to all citizens; recognize and support former Combatentes da Libertação Nacional; and ensure the protection and assistance to internally displaced persons.
7.	National Directorate of Statistics/Diresaun National de Estatística (DNE)	DNE works under the Ministry of Finance and is responsible for providing statistical information to support policymaking in Timor-Leste and collecting data through surveys and assessments as well as from other government departments.
8.	National Disaster Operation Centre (NDOC)	NDOC is the organ of MSS responsible for coordinating disaster management. It is the agency that coordinates governmental response to forced internal migration.
International Organizations		
9.	International Organization for Migration (IOM)	IOM supports the Government of Timor-Leste in the areas of internal displacement, counter-trafficking, facilitating regular migration, combatting irregular migration, and migration and the environment. In addition, IOM supports DMS in the implementation and capacity building of staff for the use of the Border Management Information System (BMIS).
Money Transfer Operators		
10.	Western Union	Captures data on migrants' financial transfers.
11.	International Money Express	Captures data on migrants' financial transfers.

4. MIGRATION DATA SOURCES

As a new country, little information is currently available on national migration trends and patterns or remittances in Timor-Leste, and quantitative data and analysis remain limited. The national census, which took place in July 2010, does, however, provide some statistics on internal migration and on foreigners living in the country. Overall, 15 datasets were identified that can provide information about migration (see table 2).

Table 2: Migration Data Sources

Institution	Source	Data collected
Central Bank of Timor-Leste (CBTL)	Balance of Payments	Remittances of nationals living abroad.
Department of Migration Services (DMS)	Border Management Information System (BMIS) - daily	Net regular migration flows; Visas issued – by category; Cross Border Mobility; Emigration; Total stock of foreign-born resident population; Total stock of non-citizen resident population; Migrants refused entry; Age, sex, nationality of immigrants.
	Visa Management System	Visas issued; visa extension, permanent residences, overstays, etc.
	International arrivals and departures - monthly-annual	Regular migration flows; reasons for arrival and departure -- data collected from arrival and departures card collected at the international airport and border posts of Timor-Leste.
	Document Issuance (Stay of Foreigners sector) - monthly-annual	Regular immigrants – by category – collected through applications for immigration documents.
Labour Department/ Secretaria de Estado da Formação Profissional e Emprego (SEFOPE)	Foreign Workers Database - annual report	Regular foreign workers working in Timor-Leste.
	Foreign Health Workers Database - annual report	Regular foreign health workers working in Timor-Leste.
	Timorese Workers in South Korea (2009-2011) - every 3 years	Labour emigrants from Timor-Leste in South Korea.
National Statistics Directorate (DNE)	Population and Housing Census (latest 2010) - every 10 years	Regular immigrants – stock; Urbanization rate; Sample questions: Where were you born? How long has been living in this district? If moved from other sub-district /country, what are the reasons for movement? In which sub-district was living before moving here? What is your citizenship/nationality?
	Timor Leste Demographic and Health Survey (latest 2009 - 2010) – every 2 years	Regular immigrants - stock.
	Trimester Statistics Indicators – every 3 months	Regular immigrants - stock.
	Household income and expenditure survey	Internal migration; Remittances of nationals living abroad.
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Consulates	Data may be collected on Timorese nationals living abroad (emigrants).

Institution	Source	Data collected
Ministry of Social Solidarity (MSS)	Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Database	Database on the IDPs re-integration process that records the number of resettled IDPs displaced during various crisis situations. This database is now archived after the closure of the IDP's program in 2010.
National Disaster Operation Centre (NDOC)		
Money Transfer Operators	International Money Express (IME)	Remittances – internal and international of money transfers on monthly basis.
	Western Union	

5. CONCLUSION

Overall, several sources of migration data exist in Timor-Leste; however, migration data is currently scattered amongst various institutions and not regularly reported, compiled and analysed. There is limited awareness amongst relevant stakeholders on the role of migration data as a national resource that can be utilized for effective local and national planning and policymaking in the area of migration and development.

For this reason, promoting awareness on migration data management and ensuring that the issue is further discussed at the ministerial-level Interagency Migration Steering Committee and the National Consultative Committee (NCC) on migration would be important. These government bodies could begin to pursue initiatives to compile a regular report of existing data as an important first step to improving availability and access to information on migration in Timor-Leste. In addition, most government institutions would benefit from capacity building measures to enhance their data management skills, in particular in the area of data analysis and reporting. This report can serve as a basis for the NCC to continue its discussions and actions on enhancing migration data management and evidence-based migration policymaking.

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7. ANNEX - STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEW LIST

Institution	Name	Position
Government Institutions		
1.	Mr. Pankrasio Silveiro	Coordinator and Chief of Migration Research Center
2.	Mr. Pascar Alves	Chief of the Administration Department
3.	Mr. Luis Do Carlo	Chief of the Foreign Section
4.	Mr. Domingos Mendonca	Chief Border Management Information System
5.	Mr. Joao Sarmiento	Head of the Operation
6.	Recardo Pedro	Chief of the Border Section
7.	Joao Bosco da Cruz	Technical Specialist for Foreign Workers
8.	Ms. Utilia Pereira	Assistant Inspector
9.	Mr. Jose da Concecao	Statistician
10.	Ms. Ervina Martins	Risk Prevention Professional
11.	Mr. Refiono Lopes dos Reis	Chief of Department for Health Security
12.	Ms. Maria Alexandria	IT Engineer
13.	Mr. Marcus Tau	IT Specialist
14.	Mr. Antonio Do Aruaujo	Director for Counselar Affairs
15.	Gaspar Araujo	Chief of IT Department
16.	Joao Carlos	Database Officer
17.	Mr. Silvino Lopes	Head of Department Information, Data Management and Dissemination
International Organizations		
18.	Mr. Hugo Fernandes	Project Manager for Strengthening Parliamentary and Ministerial Capacity
19.	Cristopher Squire	BMIS Specialist
20.	Kwadwo Osafo	ICT Officer/Security Focal Point
Money Transfer Operators		
21.	Arif K Ali	Manager
22.	Josefina Silva	Chief of WU



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