



THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON MIGRATION STATISTICS IN THE IGAD REGION

Prepared by

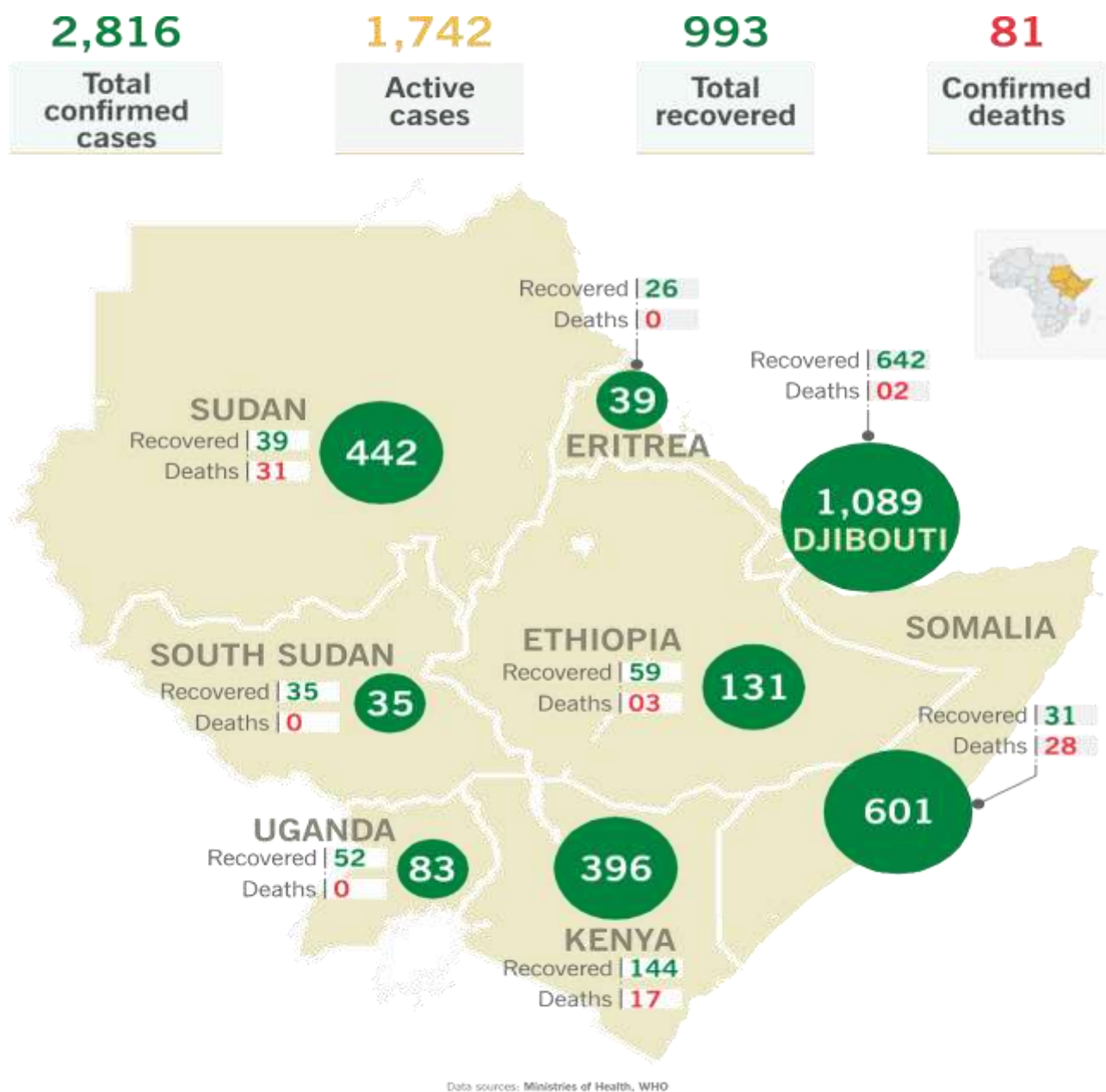
**IGAD with the support of the African Union Commission
in partnership with Statistics Sweden**

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Current situation of COVID-19 in IGAD Region

The spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Africa has been increasing at a fast pace since mid-March. IGAD countries have not been spared by this pandemic. Governments are implementing various strategies that range from simple restrictions to lockdown of cities and regions and curfews to contain the pandemic. All these strategies are aimed to “flatten the curve” of the coronavirus pandemic. As at 30 April 2020, IGAD Member States had reported a total of 2,816 positive cases and 81 deaths. Table 1 shows the distribution of the cases by countries within the region. Thirty-five percent (993) of the confirmed cases had recovered while the crude fatality rate was at 3% (81).

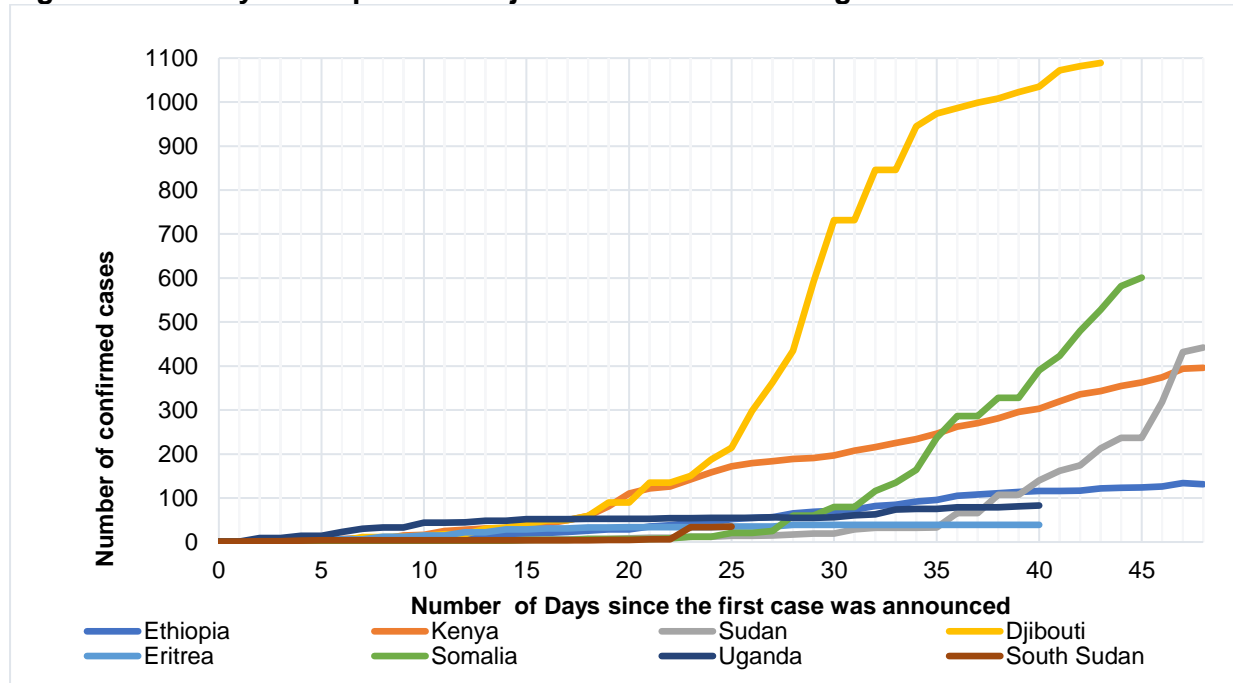
Figure 1: COVID 19 Situation in the IGAD Region as at 30 April 2020



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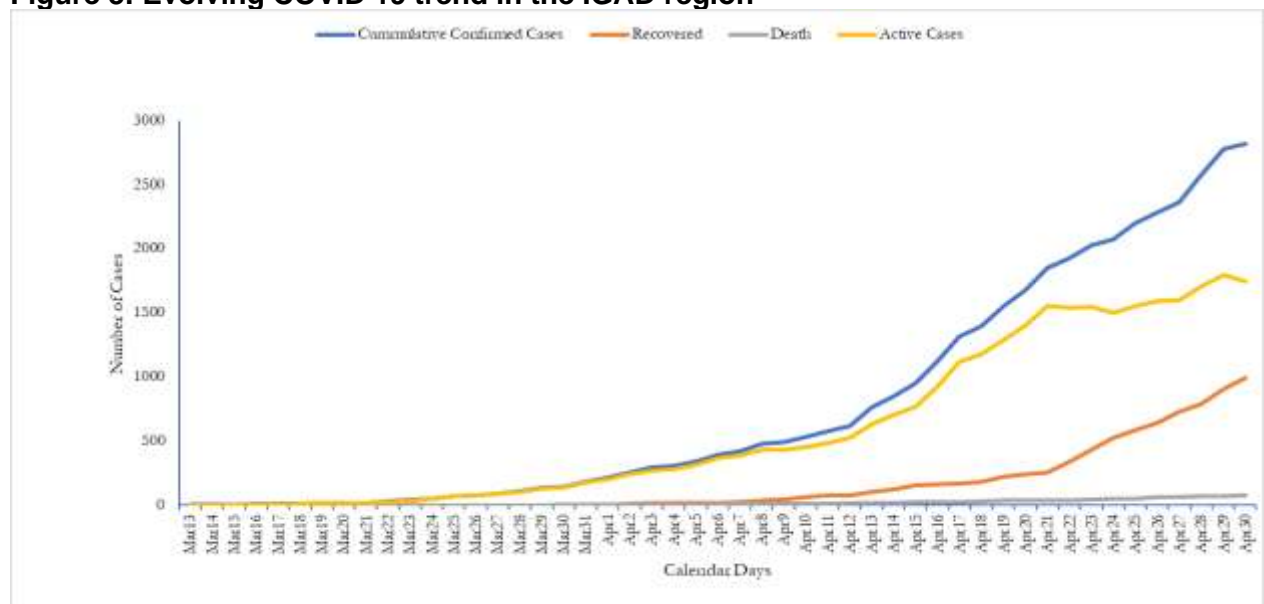
Within the region, different countries have different epidemic trajectories as shown in Figure 2¹. This difference could be attributed to several factors including; (a) mode of transmission, (b) control measures and (c) testing. Djibouti and Somalia had a steep increase at some point of time while other Member States has considerably lower trajectories.

Figure 2: Country level epidemic trajectories in the IGAD region



As illustrated in Figure 3, there is an upward trend in all of the three parameters; positive cases, recoveries and deaths. At regional level (consolidation of the Member States cases), as the cumulative number of confirmed and recovered cases increase over time, the trend for active cases over the same time slows down disproportionately. Deaths have also been on increase, with the crude fatality rate of 2.9%

Figure 3: Evolving COVID 19 trend in the IGAD region



¹ Based forty-nine days since the first case was reported in IGAD region

Analysis of COVID-19 impact on migration statistics

Trend of the COVID-19 cases show that the curve is yet to flatten and as a result, African countries are implementing different strategies to curb the spread of the disease. These strategies are expected to have a serious effect on statistical operations, including on the production of migration statistics. To understand this phenomenon, the African Union Commission instituted an online survey with all its Member States to assess the possible impact of the pandemic on the production of migration statistics and to collect proposals for solutions in order to contain the negative impact of this pandemic on the production of migration statistics in Africa. Given that migration is a priority in the IGAD region, it will also be important to cascade the analysis of this data to the IGAD level in order to design possible solutions within the context of the REC.

Methodology

The questionnaire was sent to the migration statistics focal persons of national statistics offices of the 55 countries in Africa. Amongst this eight of the countries are from IGAD region. The questionnaires were self-administered and emailed back to the African Union Commission (AUC). Data collection was done in the month of April 2020.

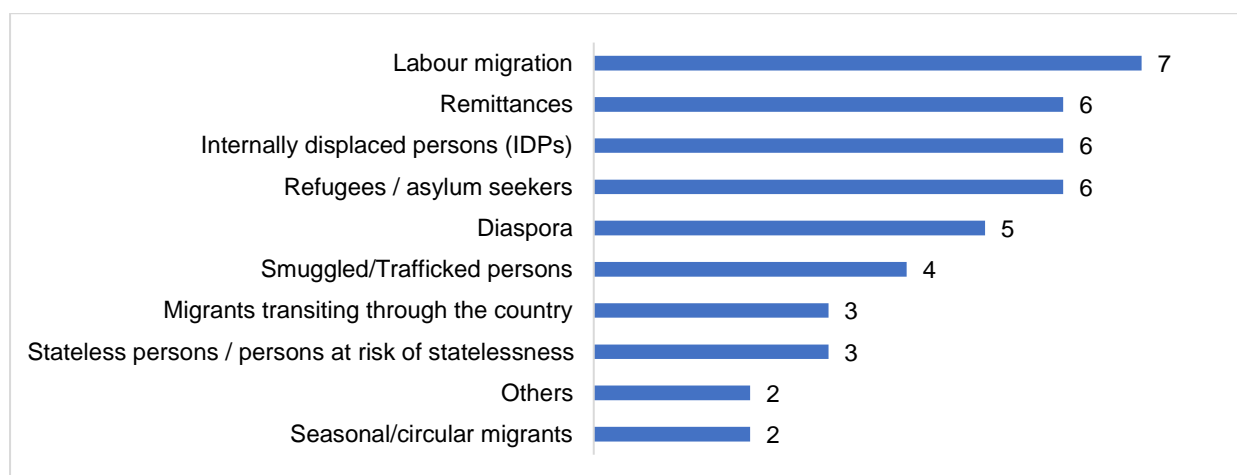
Findings

Out of eight countries within IGAD region, seven responded to the questionnaire. The countries include; Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda. The following are the findings from the survey;

Main migration topics that are covered by country migration statistics

Based on the findings (Figure 4), all of the responding IGAD Member States collect data on labour migration, while six of them have statistics on remittance, IDP and Refugees/Asylum seekers. Five have statistics on Diaspora. A few of them report on smuggled/trafficked persons, migrants transiting through the country, stateless persons and circular migrants.

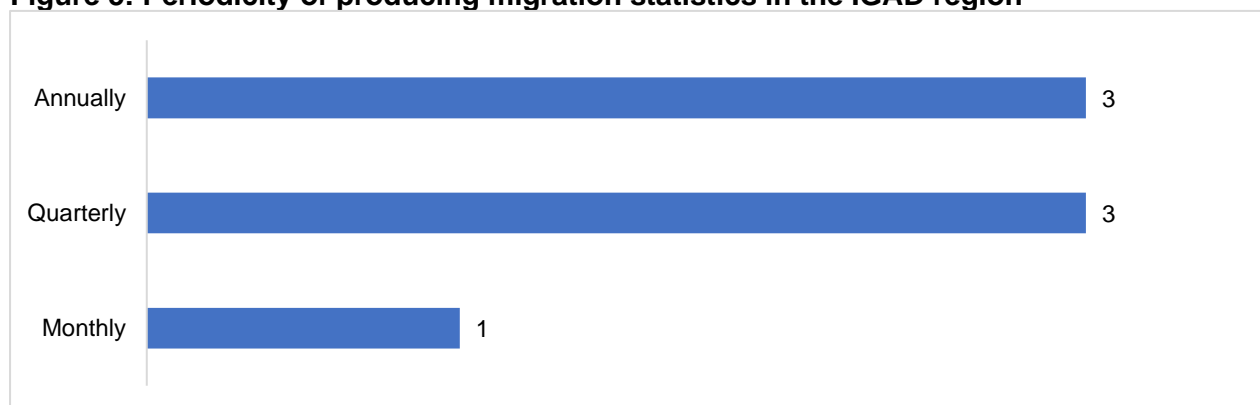
Figure 4: Migration topics covered by countries in IGAD region



Periodicity of producing migration statistics by NSOs in the seven countries.

It is critical to note that in Figure 5, only three of the seven countries produce migration statistics either quarterly or annually. Only one country produces migration statistics on a monthly basis. The current measures put in place by the Member States to contain pandemic (Lock downs, working from home and minimal physical contacts) will surely have an effect on the whole cycle of the production of statistics. This will further affect those countries producing data on regular basis i.e. quarterly and monthly.

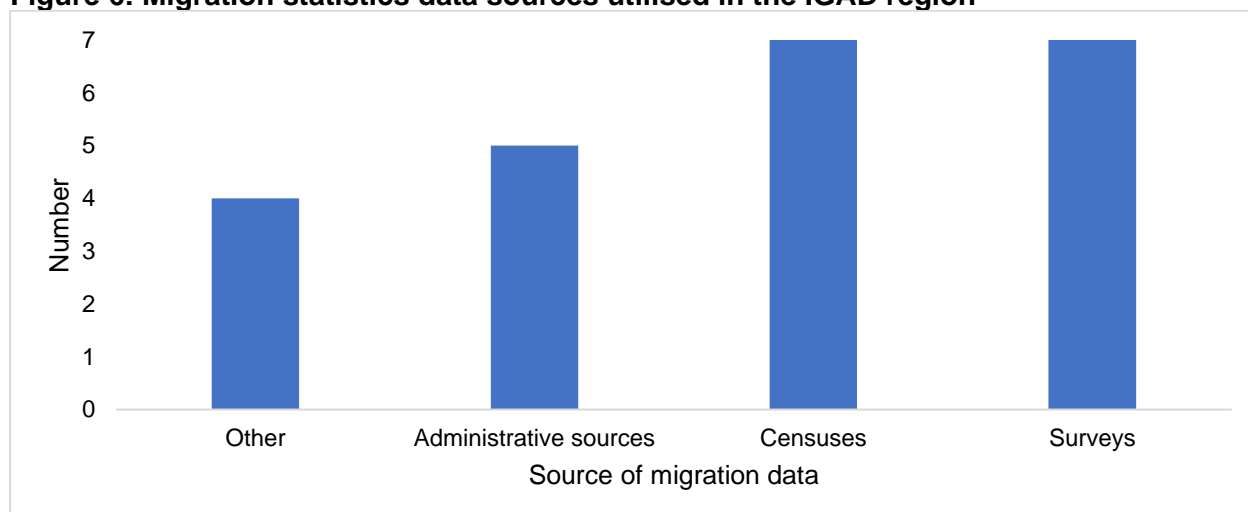
Figure 5: Periodicity of producing migration statistics in the IGAD region



Main sources of data for producing migration statistics in the Member States

Surveys and censuses remain the most utilised data sources for migration statistics. All IGAD Member States utilise population and housing census and surveys as key sources of producing migration statistics. However, administrative sources are also substantially utilised as shown in the Figure 6 (five out of the seven countries). Four out of the seven countries use data sources other than population and housing censuses, surveys and administrative sources for the production of migration statistics.

Figure 6: Migration statistics data sources utilised in the IGAD region

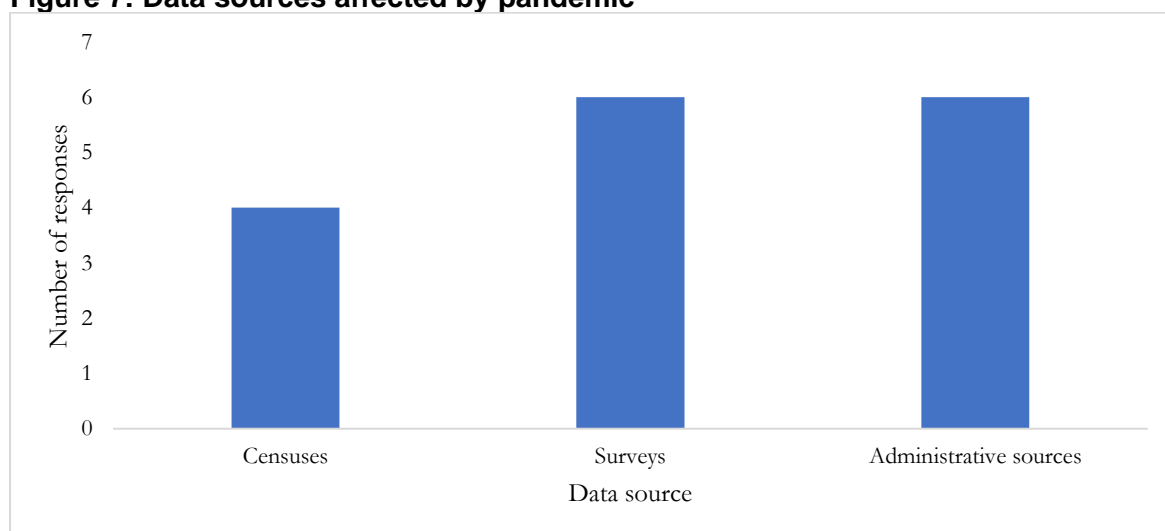


The measures put in place to flatten the curve by the Member States will greatly affect the production of migration statistics. This will be due to minimal or delay in collection of data as the movement of the staff involved is minimized.

Data sources that can be affected by the coronavirus pandemic

The results show that all the data sources for generating migration statistics will be adversely affected by the pandemic, with administrative sources and surveys being the most affected. Thus, it is important to think of modalities to bridge the gap that will be created.

Figure 7: Data sources affected by pandemic



The methodologies and the approaches utilised in collecting migration data are mainly dependent on physical interaction with the respondents. Current measures put in place by the countries to curb the pandemic limits the interaction this has led to postponement of planned censuses and surveys. Thus, the current situation calls for need for coming up with new methodologies, strategies and approaches to address the challenges posed by COVID 19 on production of migration statistics within the region.

Countries having any major ongoing migration surveys/censuses that will be affected by the coronavirus crisis

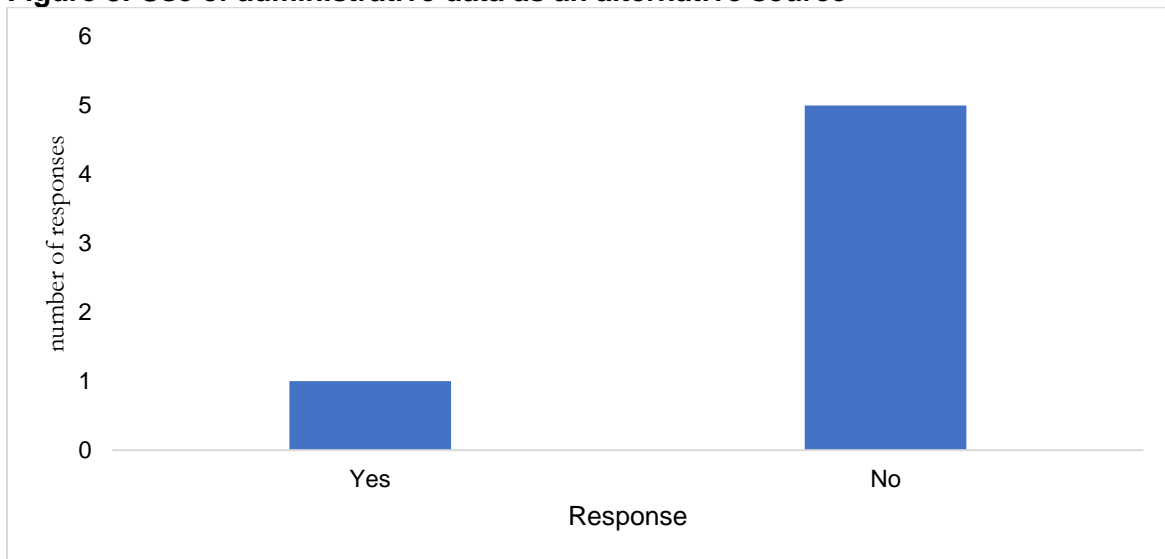
Out of the six countries that responded to this question, three countries namely; Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda Indicated that they had major ongoing migration surveys/censuses which will be affected by the corona pandemic. One of the countries did not respond to this question.

Country	Affected event
Ethiopia	Population and housing census had been postponed due to the election and the prevailing circumstances emanating from COVID-19. As the election has also been postponed due to the pandemic, there will be a ripple effect on the dates of conducting the census. The Central Statistics Agency had planned to fill in some gaps in data by conducting a labour survey in May 2020. The migration module was to be integrated in the labour survey. The experts were to finalise the development of the survey questionnaire and manual in March and to hold discussions with stakeholders (national and international organisation) in April. The two events have not happened due to the pandemic.
Kenya	Kenya Continuous Household Survey Programme (KCHSP – 2019) which has a comprehensive migration module and labour module has been affected by the pandemic.
Uganda	The Uganda National Household survey (UNHS2019/20) has a module on internal migration. What has been affected is the international movement (migration flows) since the airport is closed. Even when it was open, some flights had been cancelled hence affecting the number of in and out flows.

Possibility of using administrative data as an alternative for the affected surveys/censuses by the pandemic

The response rate for this subject was six out of seven. Majority of the respondents (5/6=83.3%) indicated that at the prevailing situation, administrative data sources cannot be utilised as an alternative source for censuses or surveys. Further analysis indicated that in all the three countries in which ongoing migration surveys/censuses will be affected, it will not be possible to use administrative data as an alternative source for the planned or ongoing exercise.

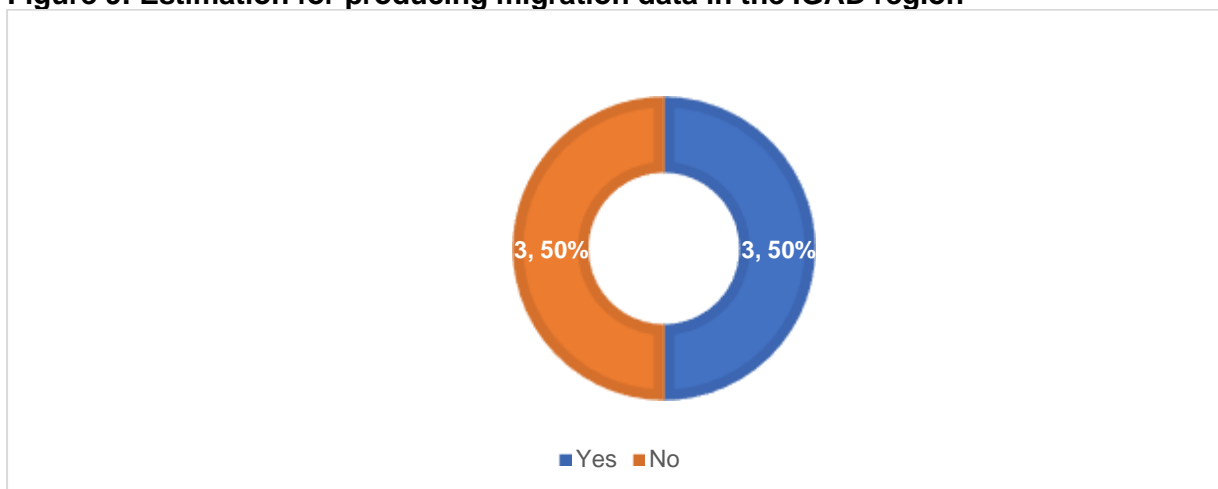
Figure 8: Use of administrative data as an alternative source



Use of estimation as a temporary solution to produce migration data

As Figure 9 shows, the response rate for this subject was six out of seven. A half of the respondents were for the idea of using estimation models as a temporary solution in filling in the gaps in migration statistics as a result of the pandemic.

Figure 9: Estimation for producing migration data in the IGAD region



Recommendations

Based on the findings, minimize and contained the negative impacts of this pandemic on the production of migration statistics in the region, the following are key recommendations;

- Rescheduling survey and census period
- Continuous improvement and automation of administrative data sources: This may include re-establishment of the civil registration system
- Embracing technology e.g. Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) and/or Computer Assisted Self Interviewing (CASI) to limit face to face interviews in the near future
- Exploring the use of big data as a potential source of migration statistics
- Strengthening/enhancing the capacity of migration and local authorities in compilation of migrant's information
- Strengthening the statistical offices in coordination, compilation, analysis, and dissemination of migration statistics
- Internal resource mobilisation, since some externally financed programmes may be halted while other internally financed programmes may also lose their budgets for other hard-hit sectors"
- Sustained support by AUC and IGAD to the Member States in estimation of migration data- Set up a team of migration experts responsible for developing and producing estimates for migration data at continent and regional level in coordination with RECs.

Annex 1: Questionnaire

COVID-19 IMPACT ON THE COLLECTION OF MIGRATIONS STATISTICS IN AFRICA

QUESTIONNAIRE

The world is currently in the COVID-19 pandemic. This pandemic will have serious impact on the production of migration statistics in Africa. To this end, the African Union Commission aims to assess the possible impact of the pandemic on the production of migration statistics and also to collect proposals for solutions in order to contain the negative impact of this pandemic on the production of migration statistics in Africa.

For any information on this questionnaire, please contact Mr. Samson Bel-Aube Nougbodohou (Bel-AubeN@africa-union.org) or Mr. Brian Onsase Okengo (OkengoB@africa-union.org;) with copy to Mme Leila Ben Ali (LeilaB@africa-union.org;))

I. IDENTIFICATION OF THE RESPONDENT

Country Name:

Name of respondent

Department/Division of the respondent

Position (i.e. job title) of the respondent:

Phone number of the respondent

E-mail address of the respondent

Date of completion of the questionnaire ___ / ___ / 2020

II. IMPACT ON THE COLLECTION OF MIGRATIONS STATISTICS IN AFRICA

II-1: What are the main migration topics that are covered by your migration statistics?

Topics	(1=YES) and (2=NO)
Labour migration	<input type="checkbox"/>
Seasonal/circular migrants	<input type="checkbox"/>
Refugees / asylum seekers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Internally displaced persons (IDPs)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stateless persons / persons at risk of statelessness	<input type="checkbox"/>
Migrants transiting through the country	<input type="checkbox"/>
Smuggled/Trafficked persons	<input type="checkbox"/>
Diaspora	<input type="checkbox"/>
Remittances	<input type="checkbox"/>

Others	<input type="checkbox"/>
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II-2: How often are migration statistics produced for your institution?

Periodicity	(1=YES) and (2=NO)
Monthly	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quarterly	<input type="checkbox"/>
Annually	<input type="checkbox"/>

II-3: What are the main sources of data for producing migration statistics in the country?

Sources of data	(1=YES) and (2=NO)
Censuses	<input type="checkbox"/>
Surveys	<input type="checkbox"/>
Administrative sources	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

II-4: What data sources can be affected by the coronavirus pandemic?

Sources of data	(1=YES) and (2=NO)
Censuses	<input type="checkbox"/>
Surveys	<input type="checkbox"/>
Administrative sources	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

If other please specify:

1)
2)
3)

II-5: Do you have any major ongoing migration surveys / censuses that will be affected by the coronavirus crisis? (1=Yes 2=No)

If yes:

a.) Please list these major data collection operations?

1)
2)
3)

b.) Is it possible to use administrative data as an alternative for the affected surveys/censuses by the pandemic? (1=Yes 2=No)

c.) Can estimation of data be used as a temporary solution to produce migration data?

(1=Yes 2=No)

II-6: What is the estimated financial impact of Coronavirus on the production of your migration statistics? (USD) -

_____ |

II-7: What are the possible remedies/solutions for containing the negative impacts of this pandemic on the production of migration statistics in the country?

END OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE