Subject: Re: Migration
Posted by uqmbell on Fri, 04 Apr 2014 06:22:34 GMT
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1. What is the information needed?
Measures of internal migration: the intensity of movement within countries.

2. What questions will elicit this information?
Migration questions can be asked in a range of ways and it is important that they provide accurate, reliable data. Questions included in Phases 1-5 of the DHS asked about duration of residence in the current locality and place of previous residence, but these were dropped in phase 6. Data on previous residence without a fixed time interval are difficult to analyse, and a preferable approach is to capture information on (a) whether the respondent has changed residence over the previous one or five years, if so (b) place of previous residence (city, town or rural area) and (c) place of birth (city, town or rural area). Bell et al (2014) Internal Migration Data Around the World: an Assessment of Contemporary Practice, Population, Space and Place, DOI 10:1002/psp.1848 provides a more detailed assessment of contemporary data collection practice and reviews the utility of alternative measures. While the above questions capture the minimum dimensions of mobility, a case can also be made for the DHS to adopt a much stronger focus capturing individual and family migration histories, in the same way as widely adopted for fertility histories.

3. How will the resulting information be used?
Internal migration is a key demographic process shaping settlement patterns, a driver of human development and closely linked to transitions in the life course. Data on the incidence and spatial patterning of internal migration represent key indicators of demographic change, capture essential links to transitions in the life course and are essential predictors for a range of health and welfare conditions.

4. What is the priority of suggested additions compared with what is already in the questionnaires?
Arguably, information on internal migration has been eliminated from the DHS at the very time its significance is becoming more widely recognised. There are now a number of international initiatives focused on enhancing the reliability and availability of internal migration data, including the IUSSP Scientific Panel on Migration and Urbanisation in Developing countries, and the IMAGE project (Internal Migration Around the GlobE). The DHS represents one of the few multi-national survey instruments which might be harnessed to generate essential, reliable data on internal migration, particularly in developing countries where such data are sparse and fragmented.

5. If suggesting more than one addition, what is the priority among the suggested additions?
A small suite of questions are needed to capture essential information.

6. Should the additional data be collected in all countries, or only in selected types of countries (e.g., countries with a particular type of program, countries with prevalence of a particular infection >5% or 10%)?
While internal migration intensities vary widely in magnitude between countries, the process is of

importance globally and the topic should be applied to all countriy surveys.