

Contents

Introduction	7
---------------------	---

1. The migration and remittances nexus	9
---	---

1.1 Understanding migration data	9
---	---

1.1.1 Defining international migration	11
1.1.2 The challenge of collecting data on migration	19

1.2 Developing a unified framework for collecting and compiling remittance data	21
--	----

1.2.1. The Balance of payments framework	24
1.2.2 The Guide for Compilers and Users of Remittance data	27
1.2.3 Issues with the BPM6 and RCG frameworks	29

1.3 Further efforts to enhance remittance data collection and compilation	30
--	----

1.3.1 The United Nations SDGs	31
1.3.2 The United Nations Capital Development Fund	33
1.3.3 The contribution of the World Bank and the OECD	28

1.4 Case study on Moldova	39
----------------------------------	----

1.5 Chapter summary	42
----------------------------	----

2. The ecosystem for collecting, compiling and disseminating remittance data	45
---	----

2.1 Remittance channels	45
--------------------------------	----

2.1.1 Formal remittance channels	47
2.1.2 Informal remittance channels	47

2.2 Sources of data on remittances	52
---	----

2.2.1 International Transactions Reporting Systems (ITRS)	54
2.2.2 Direct reporting	56
2.2.3 Household surveys	57

2.3 Case study on Moldova	61
----------------------------------	----

2.4 Chapter summary	65
----------------------------	----

3. The evolution of remittance data dissemination and stylized facts on remittances	67
--	----

3.1 Evolution of data dissemination over time and current data sources	67
---	----

3.1.1 Global databases and reports	73
3.1.2 Regional data and reports	74

3.2 Reliability issues of remittance data	79
--	----

3.2.1 Statistical discrepancies between inward and outward remittances	79
3.2.2 Limited data on informal remittances and limited comparability of data in time	82
3.2.3 Variations in methodologies and limited comparability of data in space	83

3.3 Organising and presenting migration and remittance data	85
--	----

3.4 Stylized facts on remittances	91
3.4.1 Outward remittances	91
3.4.2 Inward remittances	97
3.4.3 Remittances in perspective: a comparison to other financial flows	111
3.5 Case study on Moldova	114
3.6 Chapter summary	125
4. Migration and remittances in a dynamic global landscape	127
4.1 Emerging remittance channels	130
4.2 The costs of remitting	138
4.3.1 Migration and ageing in source countries and implication for migration and remittances	156
4.3.2 Conflict and environmental driven migration and remittances	158
4.4 Remittances and external country stability	161
4.5 Case study on Moldova	170
4.5.1 Emerging remittance channels and the costs of remitting to Moldova	170
4.5.2 Remittances, the external country stability, and government policies in Moldova	183
4.6 Chapter summary	190
Conclusion	195
References	199
Appendix	221
Index	235