Migrating Out of Poverty

Bangladesh Household Survey – 2013

User Guide

1. Introduction

The Migrating out of Poverty (MOOP) Research Program Consortium (RPC) conducts research across Asia, Africa and Europe. Our research focuses on the relationship between internal, regional and international migration and poverty. Part of our research relies on a set of comparable household surveys conducted in Ghana, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Ethiopia and Zimbabwe between 2013 and 2015.

MOOP is funded by the UK's Department for International Development from 2010-2017 and coordinated by the University of Sussex, Brighton, UK. Core Partners include the Centre for Migration Studies in Ghana; the African Migration and Development Policy Centre (AMADPOC) in Kenya; the African Centre for Migration and Society in South Africa; the Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit in Bangladesh, and the Asia Research Institute at the National University of Singapore.

The first wave of surveys was conducted in 2013 covering Indonesia, Bangladesh and Ghana. MOOP is now publishing this data online to facilitate further research by the wider community of academics, researchers and students. Approximately 1200 households were sampled in each country and interviewed using a near-identical questionnaire. The samples consists of households with current migrants and households with no current migrants, defined below.

The field work in Bangladesh was conducted across 6 districts located in 6 administrative divisions of Bangladesh. These are: Chittagong, Chapai Nawabgang, Tangail, Satkhira, Barisal and Gaibandha. The survey interviewed a total of 1205 households, of which 905 were households with migrants and 300 with no migrants. Each district contained on average 200 sample households – 150 households with migrants and 50 with none. Over sampling of migrant household was purposively done to fulfil certain minimum number of migrants in the households to undertake statistical analysis.

2. Methodology and Sampling

The study applied stratified and systematic random sampling techniques, which was accomplish in different two stages. In the first stage the study distributed all the migrant households identified through the Rapid Screening Survey (RSS) according to different migrant characteristics – called strata. These included, for instance, type of migration – internal, regional and contractual, returned vs. current migrants, male vs. female migrants, etc. In the second stage, stratified sampling technique was applied to identify the required number of households from amongst those listed under the RSS. For this purpose all households belonging to a particular "strata" was assigned a serial number - say, 1 to N, and arranged in an ascending order, following which the kth number principle was applied to identify the required number of households from a given strata. For instance:

If there are 60 households with returned migrants, and based on assigned weight 15 samples should come from this strata, we could assign a serial number 1 to 60 to all these 60 households, and select every 4th household. The 4th or what is otherwise called kth number is based on the formula of (60/15 = 4). Here 60 refers to the number of household belonging

to a particular strata, 15 is the number of samples to be drawn. Once the required number of households has been identified, their HH code shall be listed under the respective strata to be followed by detailed interviewing.

The same exercise was repeated for every household "strata" toward identification of the required number of households for detailed interviewing. If a particular household falls under more than one household "strata" - say, having both returned and current migrants, an additional household could be identified to replace or supplement this household.

The selection of non-migrant households followed the same sampling technique as that used for migrant households. Out of the 150 non-migrant households identified through the RSS, 50 were identified applying systematic random sampling technique for detailed interviewing. This involved ordering such household, say, based on an assigned number, and selecting every third household from the list. If any of the selected household was not available or not willing to give an interview, the next household in the list was selected for detailed interviewing.

In total, 905 households with migrants and 300 households without migrants were interviewed.

Definition of migrants

A migrant is anyone who used to live in the household and left to go away from the village/town/city in the past 10 years, and with duration of absence, or intended absence, of at least 3 months, following the definition suggested by Bilsborrow et al, 1984, p.146.

An internal migrant is anyone who used to live in the household and left to go away in the past 10 years to another location within the country, and with a duration of absence, or intended absence, of at least 3 months or have been continuously moving between origin and destination for at least a year (Bilsborrow et al, 1984, p.146). The definition of internal migration allows the study to include seasonal migrants

A short term contract international migrant is anyone who used to live in the household and left to go away in the past 10 years, to work on a contractual basis for a stipulated period of time to countries of Middle East and South East Asia with a duration of absence, or intended absence, of at least 1 month.

A regional migrant is anyone who used to live in the household and left to go away in the past 10 years to another country within the region of South Asia and with a duration of absence or intended absence of at least 3 months.

A return migrant is an individual who has been away for at least 3 months over the past 10 years, and who has lived in his/her native place for the last 12 consecutive months. The use of 12 months would automatically exclude from the definition all seasonal migrants who tend to migrate every year for a limited number of months (Carletto and de Brauw, 2008).

3. Household Questionnaire

A detailed household survey based on questionnaire was conducted on a list of households identified and screened through the rapid screening process. Two separate questionnaires

were prepared, one each for households with and without migrants, with the only difference between the two being the absence of any information relating to migration and remittances in the questionnaire applied to households without migrants.

The variable names correspond to the question numbers in the questionnaire, which includes the code boxes for each categorical variable. For example, the variable q5 corresponds to question 5 in the questionnaire. There are 7 additional variables:

- HHID: Household identifier which is unique for each household across all data sets from number 1 to 1205.
- ID: Individual identifier which is a unique number for each member within a household
- dist, upazila, and union: Codes for the geographical units where households where interviewed
- cb_1: Describes whether the household has an internal, international, regional or no migrant
- cb_2: Describes whether the household has a current or return migrant

4. Data Files

The Bangladesh Data contains three types of file. Each file is saved into stata (.dta) and spss (.sav). The details of the files are as follows:

- BNG-PUBLISHED_MIGRANT_NONMIGRANT_HH.dta

- BNG-PUBLISHED_MIGRANT_NONMIGRANT_HH.sav

- BNG-PUBLISHED_MIGRANT_NONMIGRANT_HH_MEMBER.dta

- BNG-PUBLISHED_MIGRANT_NONMIGRANT_HH_MEMBER.sav

- BNG-PUBLISHED_MIGRANT_NONMIGRANT_HH_INCOME.dta

- BNG-PUBLISHED_MIGRANT_NONMIGRANT_HH_INCOME.sav

BNG-PUBLISHED_MIGRANT_NONMIGRANT_HH files contain data of household level with 1205 observations (households) and 96 variables corresponding to the questions 1, 3 and 46a, questions 51 to 61, questions 65 to 74.

BNG-PUBLISHED_MIGRANT_NONMIGRANT_HH_MEMBER files contains household member level data with 6104 observations (household members) and 108 variables corresponding to the questions 5 to 50 (excluding question 46a), questions 75 to 94.

BNG-PUBLISHED_MIGRANT_NONMIGRANT_HH_INCOME files contains household income source data of 1,205 households and 13 income sources (= 15,665 observations) corresponding to the questions 62 to 64.

Household Identifier

The household identifier (HHID) in the data set is a unique number from 1 up to 1205 and can be used to merge the data. They are located in various villages. The village identifier has five characters.

Person Identifier

Individual personal identifier is identified by household ID (HHID) and individuals within the household (ID). So to find an individual person, use both the HHID number and the person identified ID number together.

References

Bilsborrow R. E., Oberai A.S. and Standing G. 1984. Migration surveys in low income countries: Guidelines for survey and questionnaire design. London: Croom Helm.

Carletto C. and de Brauw A. 2008. Measuring migration using household surveys. Washington D.C.: The World Bank Migration Operational Vehicle, Operational Note No. 2.