BEMS Data Guide
Updated 7/22/2015

Notes
- I'm following the MMP convention for naming each of the files (PERS, HOUSE, etc). In addition, I'm also borrowing from the MMP by naming this version of the data number 9, after the 9 communities/mouzas surveyed in this data. So, PERS file for this version of the BEMS is named PERS9, followed by the most recent date that the file was updated (PERS9_072215, for example)
- The created variables *p_idnumber* (unique person identifier) and *h_idnumber* (unique household identifier) are provided in all of the data files to help with organizing individual respondents and households, and can also be used to merge information across files (merging variables from HOUSE to PERS, for instance)
- Following the MMP, the HOUSE file also includes some created variables (created using PERS file) that provide some details about household demographics and migration experiences of the household members (see Table 1 for more details).
- I have created event-history files (LIFE files) for household heads, spouses, and others in the household. To the extent they are available, these files take advantage of the marriage (table B), livelihood (table F) and international migration (table L) histories. These files also include created variables (all of which are time-specific and are detailed in Table 2).
  - o LIFEHEAD: The household head event-history file contains the most complete information, because table L (which collects detailed information about all international migration trips from one household member) collects from the household head; if the head is not an international migrant, it collects from another household member who is an international migrant.
  - o LIFESPOUSE: In this case, the only time that spouses provide the information in table L is when the household head is not a migrant but the spouse is, so this file is less complete than LIFEHEAD. But, spouses do provide marriage and livelihood histories so that is also included in this file.
  - o LIFEOTHER: Non-heads/spouses do not provide information about marriage or livelihood histories, and only provide the info in table L if the head and spouse of the household are not migrants. But, this file is included to make sure we take advantage of all of the respondents that provided details migration history information.

Creating the files
- There are two Stata .do files (in the "DO Files" folder) required to construct the larger BEMS data files from the individual raw .dta files. The folder "Individual DTA Files" contains the raw .dta files that these .do files work on. To construct the larger, final files:
  1. Run the .do file "BEMS Cleaning File - 07_22_15", which cleans up all of the individual BEMS tables and gets them ready to merge together
  2. Run the .do file "BEMS Merge File - 07_22_15", which will merge together the individual tables into the final files, in addition to doing some extra cleanup of the variables and their variable/value labels

Description of files completed to date (in "Final BEMS Files" folder)

- PERS9_072215: an individual-level data file that provides general demographic information and brief migration history for each member of a surveyed household; also includes health information for the head of household and spouse (see Table 3 for a complete listing of BEMS survey tables included in each final file)
- HOUSE9_072215**:** a household-level file with information about household composition, economic and migratory activity of household members, land ownership/usage, business ownership, household environmental perceptions, environmental conditions, agricultural activities, and physical and psychological health/well-being of household members
- MIG9_072215**:** an individual-level file containing details of internal and international migration trips, as well as measures of economic and social activity during those trips; contains information provided by household heads, spouses, and other migrants in the household
- LIFEHEAD9_072215, LIFESPOUSE9_072215 and LIFEOTHER9_072215: These are event-history files for the migration, family, and life histories of the household head, spouse, and other members in the household, respectively

Table 1. Description of Created Variables: HOUSE File

Variable name	Description
members	total number of household members
workers	total number of workers in household
nonworkers	total number of non-workers
totalinternal	total number of internal migration trips by members
totalindia	total number of Indian migration trips by members
totalother	total number of other migration trips by members
hsex/spex	sex of household's head/spouse
hyrbirth/spyrbirth	year of birth of household's head/spouse
heduc/speduc	education of household's head/spouse
hocc/spocc	occupation of household's head/spouse
hinternaltp/spinternaltp	total number of internal migration trips of household's head/spouse
hindiatp/spindiatp	total number of Indian migration trips of household's head/spouse
hothertp/spothertp	total number of other migration tripsof household's head/spouse
hinternalyrl/spinternalyrl	year of last internal migration trip of household's head/spouse
hindiayrl/spindiayrl	year of last Indian migration trip of household's head/spouse
hotheryrl/spotheryrl	year of last other migration trip of household's head/spouse
sons/daughters	total number of sons/daughters in household
sonsworkers/dauthterworkers	total number of working sons/daughters in household
sonsinternaltp/daughtersinternaltp	total number of internal migration trips by sons/daughters in household
sonsindiatp/daughtersindiatp	total number of India migration trips by sons/daughters in household
sonsothertp/daughtersothertp	total number of other migration trips by sons/daughters in household

Table 2. Description of Created Variables: LIFE Files

Variable name	Description
year	year in the PY (2014, 2013, etc)
age	respondent's age in the PY
intltrip	respondent took international migration trip in PY (0=no trip; 1=took trip)
intltripnum	total number of trips taken to date in respondent's life
married	respondent married in PY (0=not married; 1=married)
marrstatus	respondent's marital status in PY (not married/1st/2nd/3rd marriage)
marrnumber	total number of marriages to date in respondent's life
F1_1/F3_1	source of livelihood in PY
F1_5/F3_5	place of livelihood in PY
F1_6/F3_6	employment status in PY
F1_7/F3_7	season of work in PY (if seasonal)
F1_8/F3_8	documents in India (if on migration trip in PY)
F1_9/F3_9	documents in other country (if on migration trip in PY)
F1_10A-C/F3_A-C	wage information in PY

Note: LIFEHEAD and LIFESPOUSE include all variables; LIFEOTHER includes only year, age, intltrip and intltripnum

Table 3. List of Individual BEMS Survey Tables in Final BEMS Data Files

Final File	BEMS Survey Tables
PERS	A, D1, D1c, D2, D2c, D3, D3c, Q2
HOUSE	ID, B1, B2, E, F2, G1, G2, G3, H1, H2, H3, I, I1, J1, J2, J3, J4, J5, J6, K1, K2, P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P6, P7, Q1, Q2, Q2a, Q3, Q4, Q5, Q6, R1, R2, S, S1, T, V
MIG	A, D1, D1a, D1b, D1c, D2, D2a, D2b, D2c, D3, D3a, D3b, D3c, G1, G2, G3, H1, H2, H3, M1, M2, N1, N2, N3, O1, O2, O3
LIFEHEAD	A, B1, D1, D1a, D2, D2a, D3, D3a, F1, L
LIFESPOUSE	A, B2, D1, D1b, D2, D2b, D3, D3b, F3, L
LIFEOTHER	A, D1c, D2c, D3c, L