Migrating Out of Poverty

Ghana Household Survey – 2018

User Guide

Acknowledgments

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 in 2013, 2015 and 2018.

MOOP is funded by the UK's Department for International Development from 2010-2019 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. Then, a second wave was developed in 2015. Finally, the third set of surveys for these countries was conducted in 2018. MOOP is now publishing the 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.

This document is for the 2018 survey in Ghana. The Global Survey was conducted in the Centre and North of Ghana covering five regions of Brong Ahafo, Northern Region, Upper West, Upper East, and the Volta region. These regions were selected on the basis of data provided from the 2010 Ghana Population and Housing census by the Ghana Statistical Service, which indicated that these regions were the major source areas of internal migration in Ghana. In addition, the Brong Ahafo region was selected because it is both a major source as well as a major destination region (GSS 2010). These regions also represent various ecological zones of Ghana. The Northern, Upper East, Upper West regions are located in the northern savannah zone.

2. Methodology and Sampling

A two-staged stratified sample design was used. At the first stage, a sample size of 1500 migrant and non-migrant households were selected from the five migrant source regions in Ghana. The list of the EAs from the 2010 Population and Housing Census within the five selected regions was used as the sampling frame. Number of EAs selected from each region was proportional to the total number of out-migrants from that region as shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Determination of Sample size 2013			
Region	Number of out-migrants	Number of EAs Selected	Total Number of Households (based on number of EAs)
Volta Region	681,833	32	480
Brong Ahafo Region	399,687	19	285
Northern Region	433,121	21	315
Upper East Region	328, 990	16	240
Upper West Region	252,841	12	180
Total	2, 096,472	100	1500

Source: Awumbila et. al. 2014

The Ghana Statistical Service produced a map of each region, showing the boundaries of the selected PSUs. At the second stage, a systematic sampling technique with a random start was used to select migrant and non-migrant households from the selected EAs. A screener survey was used at this stage to determine households which have absent migrants, seasonal migrants and or returned migrants. Field Assistants made a sweep of the PSU to enumerate and list all inhabited domestic addresses. The household records were then complied into an address sampling frame stratified by non-migrant and migrant households. The migrant category was then stratified into the following three groups: seasonal migrants, returned migrants and absent out-migrants. Four households in the non-migrant stratum and 11 households in the migrant stratum (the two categories added up to the required 15 households in each EA) were then randomly selected for interview. The selection procedure thus ensured that about 400(26.7%) of the 1500 households come from non-migrants households (i.e. control group), while the remaining 1100 are selected from migrants households. We selected more people from migrants' households so as to ensure that we have more respondents in the various categories of migrants.

The earlier MOOP data consists of two waves of panel data (2013 and 2015), with 1412 households in March 2013 survey round and 1100 households surveyed in March 2015 in five dominant migrant sending regions of Ghana (i.e. Northern, Upper East, Upper West, Brong Ahafo, and Volta). The 2015 study was designed to provide the basis for a further round of data collection by eliciting consent to record and retain contact and location details of the 1114 households.

In the 2018 study, a number of methodological improvements were made, based partly on the experience of conducting the second wave in 2015. Two strategies were employed to address attrition and increase the sample size back to around 1400. First, in each enumeration area, efforts were made to randomly select replacement households with similar characteristics to the households who have dropped out (since 2015 survey) based on whether they were a household with or without migrants at the time of the 2015 wave. The second strategy involved measures to increase the sample size to about 1400 and also to

include more households with international migrants. The first two waves were designed to capture households with internal migrants, resulting in a very small number of households being identified with international migrants. To increase the sample size and also the number of households with international migrants, efforts were made to randomly select 3 additional households with international migrants, in each enumeration area. These two strategies worked quite well, leading to an overall increase in the number of households to 1,429.

Table 2: Number of households by region in 2018		
Region	Number of Households in 2018	New households in 2018
Volta Region	462	256
Brong Ahafo Region	274	147
Northern Region	281	85
Upper East Region	228	67
Upper West Region	184	35
Total	1,429	590

Data concerning the selected households as units, and individual members of those households, was collected through face-to-face interviews with household members. Respondents answered questions about the household itself and also about themselves, if they have been migrants during the previous ten years. Some household member(s) were also asked to supply certain information about household members who were currently absent as migrants. CSPRO was used to capture the data.

Definition of Migrants

The Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) defines a migrant as a person who has moved and stayed at his/her current place of residence for at least a year (GSS 2008). This definition does not capture seasonal migrants, who tend to stay at their places of residence for less than a year (Awumbila et al. 2014a). Following Bilsborrow et al (1984, 146), the following definitions were adopted:

- 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 (definition adapted from Bilsborrow 1984:146).

- An international migrant is anyone who used to live in the household and left to go away in the past 10 years, to another country and with a duration of absence, or intended absence, of at least 3 months.

- A seasonal migrant is a sub-set of either an internal migrant or international migrant who stays away for a few months but less than a year.

- A returned migrant is an individual who had 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.

3. Household Questionnaire

The questionnaire was designed by the University of Sussex in collaboration with the core partners. CMS further fine-tuned the questionnaire to ensure that the questions are relevant to the local context, and piloted the survey. The questionnaire was completed by the Main Respondent. The Main Respondent is defined as the individual who identifies himself or herself as the person best able to answer questions about family background AND management and allocation of finances for the study household.

This 2018 questionnaire consists of the following sections:

Section	Description
Section 1	Household Grid
Section 2	Migration History –Absent Migrants only (information related to all persons 10 years or older)
Section 3	Migration Experiences at Destination (for absent migrants 10 years and older)
Section 4	Remittances from absent migrants (for absent migrants 10 years and older)
Section 5	Other remittances (for both migrant and non-migrant households)
Section 6	Household Assets and wellbeing (to be completed by both Migrants and Non-Migrants Households)
Section 7a	Sources of Household income
Section 7b	Household Expenditure on Food items and Non Food items
Section 7c	Purchase of Assets
Section 8	Migration Experience of Returned Migrants

The variable names correspond to the question numbers in the questionnaire, for example, the variable q5 corresponds to question 5 in the questionnaire. Codes for categorical variables are contained in the questionnaire.

4. Data Files

Data Files

The Ghana 2018 data comprises of 5 files. Each file is saved into stata (.dta). The details of the files are as follows:

File name	Description	Observations	Variables
Individual_Data	Section 1, Section 2, Section 3, Section 4 and Section 8	9,889	173
Household_Data	Section 5 and Section 6 (wellbeing)	1,429	232
Household_Income	Section 7a	18,577	9
Household_Consumption	Section 7b	104,370	33
Household_Assets	Section 6 (assets) and Section 7c	40,012	30

Household Identifier

The household identifier (hid) in the data set is a unique number and can be used to merge the data across waves. They are located in various districts. The district identifier has one or two characters.

Person Identifier

Individual personal identifier is identified by household ID (hid) and individuals within the household (hhm). So to find an individual person, a unique ID was constructed and added to the data using both the household ID and the household member ID. The generated variable can be identified as ID.

Corrections of 2018 data

The quantitative team of the *RPC Migrating out of Poverty* conducted some corrections in the 2018 data with the confirmation of the research partners at the *Centre for Migration Studies (CMS)*, University of Ghana, Accra.
- All values coded as 9999, 999 and 99 were recoded as missing
- Spelling mistakes were corrected
- A number of issues were identified for the user to consider:

Question Number	Flagged observations
Q5 Q5. What is name's relationship to the head of the household?	Cases that report being younger than 10 years old report relationship as: Head (5) Spouse/partner (14), father/mother (26), father/mother in law (1)
Q7 Q7. Current age verified?	ID 9011400007 is reported as "Married" but age is 2 years old. Therefore age changed to missing because all answers were related to a grown up, because she reports having a child, doing work, etc.
Q11 Q11. How old was name when s/he had the first child?	The following list of IDs are cases that report lower age than the one of the first child: 1077300013 36024900014 420004451 6908950003 120002692 37034800011 4220000442 706900004 120002693 3920000442 4220000443 7211220004 15070500010 4001860003 4802220009 8064700010 1507050009 4001860004 5609800004 9011400007

	2303700006	4020000469	5609850007	9211970002
	33050300010	405810008	6209480008	9714300003
	3602390008	63100500011	9714300004	
	99109200013	6820002061	9714300005	

References

Awumbila M., Benneh Y, Teye J.K, and Atiim G 2014a. Across Artificial Borders: An Assessment of Labour Migration in the ECOWAS Region. Brussels: ACP Observatory on Migration.

Awumbila M., Teye J.K., Litchfield J., Boakye-Yiadom L., Deshingkar P. and Quartey P. 2014. Are Migrant Households Better Off than Non-Migrant Households? Evidence from Ghana. Migrating Out of Poverty.

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.