

Migrating Out of Poverty

Ghana Household Survey – 2015

User Guide

Acknowledgments

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“Data for Ghana was collected by the Centre for Migration Studies (CMS) of the University of Ghana, through funding from the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) and made available by the Migrating out of Poverty Research Programme Consortium, at the School of Global Studies, University of Sussex, UK.”

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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, 2014 for Ethiopia and 2015 for Zimbabwe. Follow up surveys have been conducted for the African countries. 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 2015 survey in Ghana. The 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 in 2013. 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 compiled 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 2013 sample was traced in 2015 and re-interviewed, with a total of 1116 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 1116 households.

The 2013 and 2015 surveys were designed to capture households with internal migrants, resulting in a very small number of households being identified with international migrants.

Region	Number of Households in 2015
Volta Region	303
Brong Ahafo Region	195
Northern Region	257
Upper East Region	192
Upper West Region	169
Total	1116

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 2015 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 2015 data comprises of 5 files. Each file is available in STATA and Excel format. 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	7761	165
Household_Data	Section 5 and Section 6 (wellbeing)	1116	218
Household_Income	Section 7a	14508	7
Household_Consumption	Section 7b	1116	463
Household_Assets	Section 6 (assets) and Section 7c	1116	20

Household Identifier

The household identifier (hhno) in the data set is a unique number and can be used to merge the data across waves. They are located in various districts.

Person Identifier

Individual personal identifier is identified by household ID (hhno) 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.

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.

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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.