

CONCEPT NOTE

KNOMAD Workshop on Migration Cost Surveys

International Training Centre ILO, Turin, Italy

April 18-20, 2016

1. This note proposes a workshop on migration costs incurred by low-skilled workers. The objective is two-fold: first, to launch the third phase of migration cost surveys, and second, to equip field researchers with knowledge to survey migrants in-person. The workshop will have two main components: (i) discussions on a survey strategy and sampling framework in each country, and (ii) training to use the World Bank's Survey Solutions –Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing system (CAPI). This workshop is in collaboration with International and European Forum of Research on Migration (FIERI) and the World Bank DECCT.

Background and Motivation

2. Migration affects development in countries of origin and destination. The World Bank-led Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD) is a platform to synthesize and generate knowledge and policy expertise on migration and development issues. Its Thematic Working Group (TWG) on Low-skilled labor migration, co-chaired by Manolo Abella, COMPAS (University of Oxford), and Manuela Tomei, the ILO, aims to identify policies to reduce the migration costs of low-skilled labor migrants, as well as mechanisms to facilitate cross-border movements of low-skilled labor.

3. To achieve these objectives, over the past two years, the TWG implemented a project to collect migration cost data from workers that are comparable across migrant-sending countries. Analysis of these data contributes to setting a global target to reduce migration costs – e.g. to one month's wage. This initiative complements ILO's on-going efforts to improve migrant-recruitment service practices.

4. Progress includes the following:

- (i) During 2014, the project developed a data collection strategy: a face-to-face interview with a migrant worker in a destination country using a questionnaire.
- (ii) The project identified a set of key criteria for sample selection, to ensure comparability across of survey data, as follows: (i) respondents are migrants who have performed low-skilled jobs (as defined by ILO Skill Level 1) in the destination country, irrespective of the level of their education attainment; (ii) it limits jobs to three sectors – construction, agriculture and domestic work, although this as relaxed to include the manufacturing sector in Korea and Malaysia; (iii) to address recall errors, surveys were limited to returnees who left the home country in 2011 or afterwards (including those visiting home

on vacation); for migrant surveys, it restricts to those who have arrived the destination country within the past one year; and (iv) in principle, the survey shall be conducted with regular migrants who left the home country with a work visa/ permit.

- (iii) It generated information on components of migration costs in the following corridors through surveys conducted in collaboration with ILO Asia Pacific.

Destination	Origin	Surveyed in	Respondents	Sample size/ survey method
Spain	Bulgaria, Ecuador, Morocco, Poland	Destination	Currently employed migrants	Pilot – 100 in total. Snowballing at worksites and cafeterias.
Korea	Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam	Destination	Currently employed migrants	Pilot – 100 in total. Training center for new arrivals and snowballing at worksites.
Kuwait	Bangladesh, Egypt, India and Sri Lanka	Destination	Currently employed migrants	Pilot – 100 in total. Snowballing at non-worksites.
Malaysia	Vietnam	Destination	Currently employed migrants	About 400. Snowballing at worksites and non-worksites.
Chiapas, Mexico	Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador	Destination	Currently employed migrants	About 330 in total. Snowballing at worksites.
Saudi Arabia	Ethiopia, Pakistan	Origin	Returned migrants	About 330 by origin. Snowballing.
Qatar	India, Nepal, the Philippines	Origin	Returned migrants	About 350 by origin. Airport interceptions, and re-deployment registration sites.
UAE	Pakistan	Origin	Returned migrants	About 250 by origin. Snowballing.

- (iv) The TWG has improved the questionnaire to reflect lessons learned from field surveys in 2014-15. The questionnaires have been translated, thus far, in nine languages.

- (v) The work has contributed to building capacity of field researchers, especially on using a CAPI to conduct face-to-face surveys.

5. Analyses of the survey data revealed, among others, that, for regular migrants, migration costs can range from less than \$100 to more than \$9,000. Among surveyed corridors, Pakistani workers paid the highest fees –an average \$4,400 for a low-skilled job in Saudi Arabia, compared to \$751 for Ethiopians in Saudi Arabia. Some stylized facts include:

- (i) ***Migration corridor matters***: structural factors (e.g., destination and types of migration regimes) matter more for worker-paid migration costs than individual characteristics (e.g., education and year of experience with working abroad). To get a similar low-skilled job abroad, worker-paid costs range from one-month's foreign earnings (e.g., migrant workers in Korea) up to 15 months (e.g., Pakistani migrants who returned from Saudi Arabia, SAU).
- (ii) ***High cost items vary by origin country***: for a destination in the Gulf Cooperation Council region, the highest costs were visa-related for Pakistani workers, as opposed to fees paid to recruitment agents for Indian workers. For Vietnamese workers, recruitment fees were highest for those who went to Malaysia, while airfares were highest for those who went to Korea.
- (iii) ***Gender matters***: across different corridors, female domestic workers tend to pay less than male migrant workers, most likely because of bilateral labor arrangements that limit the migration costs of domestic workers.
- (iv) ***High recruitment costs do not necessarily reflect high wage differentials***: Vietnamese workers expect to earn six times more in Korea than home, while paying one-month expected earnings for their recruitment. On other hand, Pakistani workers incurred the equivalent of nine-month expected earnings for jobs in SAU that pay four times as much as they earn in Pakistan.
- (v) ***Hidden costs can arise varying working conditions by occupations*** (gender-biased and varying by nationalities of the workers and by destination): for instance, Ethiopian female respondents who worked in SAU as domestic workers reported working an average 120 hours per week, while Ethiopian males who worked as laborers in the construction sector averaged 70 hours a week.
- (vi) ***Loans increase migration costs***: many migrants reported that they borrowed money to pay migration costs – some at high interest rates, so that a large portion of their earnings were used to service debt. For instance, nearly half of migrants' remittances are used for debt payments in Nepal.

6. Recognizing that the surveys could provide possible benchmarks for reducing recruitment costs as a Sustainable Development Goal, the project continues to collect data in other corridors in 2016, with the following broad framework in place:

- (i) Interview migrants returning from Saudi Arabia. Our findings suggest Pakistani workers who went to SAU incurred far higher migration costs than Indians, Nepalese and Filipinos who went to Qatar. By conducting surveys with returnees from SAU in India and the Philippines, we aim to determine if this owes to factors specific to certain origin countries or to those in the destination country.

- (ii) Interview migrant workers in Italy and Russia. This work will shed light on migration costs incurred by workers not only for crossing borders but also for securing jobs once they are already in the destination. This will also aim to identify to what extent costs differ for workers from countries in free-labor mobility areas from those who are from outside such areas.
- (iii) As a project of Sweden Migration Studies Delegation (Delmi), a Sweden and London-based research team conducts surveys with Thai workers who returned from berry picking works in Sweden, using a modified version of the KNOMAD questionnaire.
- (iv) Interviewers will continue to use the World Bank's Survey Solutions – the Computer Assisted Personalized Interviewing system, in order to reduce errors in surveys, and improve the quality of data and analysis

Workshop Objectives

7. The main purpose of the workshop is to bring together a group of researchers involved in this project to learn about the overall goal of this project, to discuss country-specific survey strategies and sampling frameworks, to share lessons learned from previous field surveys, and to learn the Bank's Survey Solutions. This workshop, therefore, would contribute to improve the capacity of the researchers to conduct surveys and to control the quality of data.

Workshop Format

8. For the sessions on survey strategies and sampling frameworks, each researcher will be invited to report on their country-specific sampling framework and implementation strategy, and point out potential challenges and risks. It is important to spell out strategies to mitigate such risks. Presentation may be up to 30 minutes. Following the presentations, each session will have a Q&A/group discussion and conclude with a concrete sample framework for the given survey.

9. A team of Survey Solutions Specialists from the World Bank will undertake a training course with the invited researchers. The training will cover (i) benefits of using CAPI technology in general and advantages of Survey Solutions compared to other CAPI products, (ii) the main components and functionality of Survey Solutions, (iii) basics of questionnaire development and testing using Survey Solutions Designer and Tester, (iv) Survey Management functionality, (v) data export and data management with Survey Solutions, and (vi) a hands-on exercise in working with various components of the system. For this part of the training, each researcher will use a tablet that has a KNOMAD questionnaire uploaded.

Expected Outputs/ Outcomes

10. The organizers expect that after the workshop, the researchers will be fully ready to operate the Survey Solutions CAPI system and to implement the respective surveys in the field, using a concrete sampling strategy identified at the workshop. During the workshop, KNOMAD staff will be taking notes on the Survey Solutions CAPI application and discussions of the

sampling strategies. These notes, together with the presentations, will be developed into a Workshop Summary, which will constitute a main product to emerge from this work. This summary will also feed into the methodology section of the final report that analyzes survey data from each country.

11. The expected number of participants is around 12 from both KNOMAD and the Sweden team.

Tentative Agenda

April 18, 2016

08:30 Registration

08:45 Launch of Migration Costs Surveys, Year 3, Manolo Abella and Soonhwa Yi
This session will present the overarching goal of KNOMAD, followed by the overall goal of the migration costs project, methodology, team composition, timeline and milestones in year 2016.

Part I. Workshop on sampling framework

9:00 Findings from surveys in 2014-15, Manolo Abella
This session will summarize results from the previous surveys, including reflections on survey strategies, sample selection criteria, and findings on migration costs.

In the following sessions, each research team will present country context, planned survey designs, risks and mitigation strategies, and, if any, lessons learned from pilot surveys.

10:00 Survey design and implementation protocols in Italy, by FIERI

11:00 Coffee break

11:15 Survey design and implementation protocols in Russia, Romir

12:15 Lunch

1:45 Survey design and implementation protocols in India, Sasikumar, India National Labor Institute.

2:45 Survey design and implementation protocols in the Philippines, Carl Rookie Daquio, Philippine Institute for Labor Studies

3:45 Coffee break

4:00 Survey design and implementation protocols in Thailand, Linn Axelsson, Sweden Delmi project

5:00 Comments on survey design presentations and Q&A, Gero Carletto, WB

6:00 Wrap-up, Soonhwa Yi

7:00 Workshop dinner in downtown Turin

April 19

Part I Continued

9:00 Findings from surveying Indian migrants in Qatar – recruitment costs, Ganesh Seshan, Georgetown University, Qatar

9:45 Mapping bilateral labor arrangements with recruitment practices – Israel experience
Yonathan Paz, Center for International Migration & Integration, Israel.

10:30 Coffee break

Part II: Training: Survey Solutions – CAPI, Michael Lokshin, WB

10:45 Benefits of using CAPI technology and advantages of Survey Solutions compared to other CAPI products
This session also covers main components and functionality of Survey Solutions.

12:15 Lunch break

1:30 Basics of questionnaire development and testing using Survey Solutions Designer and Tester

3:00 Coffee break

3:15 Survey Management functionality

4:30 Data exports and data management with Survey Solutions

6:00 Adjourn

April 20

Part I. Training Continued

9:00 Hands-on exercise in working with various components of the system

10:30 Coffee break

10:45 Hands-on exercise continued

12:00 Lunch break

1:30 Hands-on exercise continued

5:50 Wrap-up and next steps, Soonhwa Yi

6:00 Adjourn

Participant List: [TO BE UPDATED]