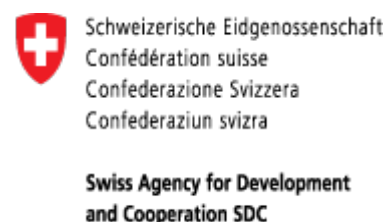




# KNOMAD-ILO Migration Costs Surveys 2015 Dataset: User's Guide



Serving as a global hub of knowledge and policy expertise on migration and development, the Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD) aims to create and synthesize multidisciplinary knowledge and evidence; generate a menu of policy options for migration policy makers; and provide technical assistance and capacity building for pilot projects, evaluation of policies, and data collection.

KNOMAD is headed by Dilip Ratha and is supported by a multi-donor trust fund established by the World Bank. Germany's Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Sweden's Ministry of Justice, Migration and Asylum Policy, and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) are the contributors to the trust fund.

All queries should be addressed to [KNOMAD@worldbank.org](mailto:KNOMAD@worldbank.org). KNOMAD working papers, reports and a host of other resources on migration are available at [www.KNOMAD.org](http://www.KNOMAD.org).

## **KNOMAD-ILO Migration Costs Surveys: 2015 Compiled Dataset**

### **User's Guide**

#### **Abstract**

The Migration Cost Surveys project is a joint initiative of the Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD) and the International Labor Organization (ILO). The project was initiated to support methodological work on developing a new Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicator (10.7.1) on worker-paid recruitment costs. The surveys of migrant workers conducted in multiple bilateral corridors between 2015 and 2017 provide new systematic evidence of costs incurred by workers to obtain jobs abroad. The compiled dataset is divided into two waves (2015 and 2016) based on the questionnaire version used in the surveys. This user's guide describes surveys conducted using the 2015 questionnaire. The 2015 KNOMAD-ILO Migration Costs Surveys dataset represents 7 surveys covering 10 bilateral corridors with a total of 3,149 migrants.

## **Acknowledgements**

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We also extend our appreciation to the international team involved in administering the surveys in each of the countries. For the 2015 datasets, these include Rashid Amjad (Executive Director, Centre for Migration Research and Development), Nasir Iqbal (Director of Research, Benazir Income Support Programme), Syed Abdul Majid (Pakistan Institute of Development Economics), Muhammad Javid (Pakistan Institute of Development Economics), and Saida Hameed (ILO, Pakistan) for Pakistan; Adamnesh Atnafu (Addis Ababa University) and Aida Awel (ILO, Addis Ababa) for Ethiopia; S.K. Sasikumar (V.V. Giri National Labour Institute) and Prabhu Mohapatra (Delhi University) for India; Ganesh Gurung, Tara Prasad Bhusal, Ujwal Gurung (all from Nepal Institute of Development Studies) and Anna Engblom (ILO) for Nepal; Carl Rookie O. Daquio, Mary Grace L. Riguer and Maria Isabel Artajo from the Institute for Labor Studies, for the Philippines; Ailee Lim and Ivy Kwek (both from P.E Research), Nilim Baruah, Heike Lautenschlager from the ILO Regional Office for Asia/Pacific, for the survey of Vietnamese in Malaysia; and Agustín Escobar Latapí (CIESAS), Karla Gonzalez Cordero and Claudia Morales Ramírez for Mexico. We also thank participants of KNOMAD workshops on Migration Costs held on February 9-11, 2015 in Bangkok, and November 16-17, 2015 in Washington DC, for their valuable comments. Last but not least, our deepest appreciation to the survey respondents who generously gave of their time to share with us their unique experiences.

## KNOMAD-ILO Migration Costs Surveys: 2015 Compiled Dataset

### User's Guide

1<sup>st</sup> Release: 1st December 2017

#### **Files**

##### 1. Data files:

STATA file	2015 KNOMAD-ILO MCS.dta
Excel file	2015 KNOMAD-ILO MCS.xls

##### 2. Documentation:

User's guide (this file)	2015 KNOMAD-ILO MCS User Guide.docx
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##### 3. Questionnaires:

2015 MCS base survey	2015 MCS Base Survey.pdf
2015 Vietnamese survey (Vietnamese)	2015 MCS Vietnam Survey.pdf
2015 Pakistan survey (Urdu)	2015 MCS Pakistan Survey.pdf

#### **Suggested Citation:**

Please include the following citation when referencing/using this dataset:

KNOMAD. 2017. "KNOMAD-ILO Migration Costs Surveys," World Bank, Washington, DC.

## Contents

Abstract .....	3
Acknowledgements .....	4
1. Purpose .....	7
2. Data access.....	7
3. User's support.....	7
4. Survey methodology .....	7
5. Interpretation of costs incurred by migrants.....	11
6. Comparison of 2015 and 2016 Migration Cost Surveys.....	11
7. 2015 Migration Cost Surveys modules: .....	11
8. Variables.....	11
8.1 Original variables .....	11
8.2 Constructed variables .....	20
9. Publications.....	22
10. Annex: Table 1 (see excel file).....	23

## 1. Purpose

The KNOMAD-ILO Migration Costs Survey (MCS) aims to systematically document monetary and a subset of non-monetary costs incurred by migrant workers seeking jobs abroad. The project is a joint initiative by the Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD), which is hosted at the World Bank, and the International Labor Organization (ILO). The data was collected to support methodological work on developing a new Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) indicator 10.7.1 to monitor trends in recruitment costs paid by workers, of which the World Bank and ILO are joint custodians. The proposed Recruitment Cost Indicator (RCI) is the average worker-incurred recruitment cost paid for securing an overseas job, expressed as a multiple of monthly foreign gross earnings.

Aside from financial costs incurred by workers who were recruited and received a job offer prior to migrating, several corridors that were surveyed on a pilot basis covered non-recruited migrants who moved abroad in search of work without prior job offers. Their job searches were initiated after arriving in the destination country. In the 2015 dataset, these are limited to workers who migrated to Mexico from Guatemala, Honduras and El-Salvador.

## 2. Data access

The KNOMAD-ILO Migration Cost Surveys are publicly available and free to all users. To access the data and documentation, please visit the [World Bank Microdata Catalog](#) website and search for Migration Cost Surveys.

To help us track and catalog usage of the dataset, please include the following citation in your documents:

KNOMAD. 2017. “KNOMAD-ILO Migration Costs Surveys,” World Bank, Washington, DC.

## 3. User’s support

The KNOMAD-ILO MCS dataset should be used along its documentation – the questionnaire and user’s guide. Please send all queries to the following email address:

[migrationandremittances@worldbank.org](mailto:migrationandremittances@worldbank.org)

## 4. Survey methodology

Individual surveys included in the 2015 KNOMAD-ILO MCS compiled dataset are as follows:

- Pakistan to Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates
- Ethiopia to Saudi Arabia
- India to Qatar
- Nepal to Qatar
- Philippines to Qatar
- Vietnam to Malaysia
- Guatemala, Honduras and El-Salvador to Mexico (non-recruited workers)

Identifying representative samples of migrants is a challenging task without an appropriate sampling frame. In the absence of census information, all of the surveys conducted for this project used either convenience or snowball sampling. Sample enrollment was restricted to migrants primarily in low-skilled positions, who departed to the destination country, typically no more than 5 years prior to the interview year.<sup>1</sup> All but two surveys using the 2015 questionnaire were conducted in the country of origin by interviewing returning migrants. The exceptions were the surveys of Vietnamese migrants in Malaysia and migrants from Guatemala, Honduras and El-Salvador in Mexico, which were administered in the destination countries (Malaysia and Mexico, respectively). Their customized questionnaires are worded in present tense, when it comes to various aspect of stay in the destination country. The content of the variables remains analogous to the surveys of returnees. Please refer to Annex Table 1 for a summary description of the samples included in the 2015 KNOMAD-ILO MCS dataset. The following paragraphs briefly describes the sampling approach taken for each of the 2015 surveys.

*Pakistan – Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates:* External migration from Pakistan to the Middle East, including Saudi Arabia and UAE, is not evenly distributed across provinces, regions and across more than 146 districts of the country; it is rather concentrated in some districts. More than sixty per cent of Pakistanis migrated from only 20 districts, with heavy concentration in Central and North Punjab, KPK, only Karachi in Sindh and couple of districts in Southern Punjab. The survey was conducted in six high-migration districts including Rawalpindi and Gujrat from North Punjab and Gujranwala and Sailkot from the central Punjab; and Mardan and Charsada from KPK. Karachi (a high migrant district) was excluded due to cost. Dir and Swat from KPK were excluded due to fragile law and order situation. The choice of selected districts was primarily driven by accessibility in terms of law and order situation and cost of survey.

To identify the targeted migrants from six sampled districts, purposive/snowball sampling strategy was used. To obtain required respondents an extensive listing process was undertaken with the assistance of key informants, migrants visiting the offices of regional Protector of Emigrants and return migrants. During the first visit, each identified migrant was asked to report/confirm: i) present address with mobile number; ii) year/month of migration; country of employment; iii) occupation; iv) sector of employment; v) date of return; vi) purpose of return; and, vii) if on a visit, the date when going back to the host country. In each district, except Rawalpindi, 150 potential respondents were identified and their availability for interview was also confirmed. From a list of 877 who met the criteria for inclusion a total of 634 were finally selected for the final sample.

*Ethiopia- Saudi Arabia:* The survey was undertaken in returnee communities of three regions and the city administration of Addis Ababa where substantial number of returnees are reported

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<sup>1</sup> Exceptions were made, such as in the Philippines-Qatar survey, to widen range of arrival years when it became difficult to identify respondents who met the original enrollment criteria.



according to IOM (2014) data. The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MOLSA) was able to provide contact addresses at the regional and zonal offices of most - though not all – returnees. This served as the sampling frame and interviewers were able to contact people on the phone in terms of randomized selection. Interviewers were obliged to call for substitutes of the randomly selected participants when there was no response. Consequently, the subjects were selected through purposeful sampling.

The data collection was carried out in three regions namely Amhara, Oromiya, Tigray, and the Addis Ababa city administration. These regions and the city of Addis Ababa were selected because the highest number of migrants originated from these areas. Participants were first contacted by phone to invite them to participate. Some were reached through families, friends, and acquaintances (network) using the snowball method. Quota method was also applied to obtain a proportionate sample of returnees by age, sex, educational level and other factors. Nonetheless the targeted proportion (62% male and 33% female based on IOM's registry of arrivals at the Bole International Airport) was not achieved despite best effort of the research team. About 64% of the 499 observations included in the sample are females since a significant number of males could not be reached at the contact addresses they have provided. It was also difficult to distribute the sample by region according to the IOM registry since the returnees did not always stay at the regions where they originated. Some have re-migrated either internally or internationally.

*India – Qatar:* To obtain basic information about migrants that can be used for selecting sample respondents, a profiling of returning migrants was first undertaken at three airports, namely Delhi, Mumbai and Hyderabad. These airports are used mainly by migrants originating from the states of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Delhi, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. Consultation with migrant associations and recruiting agencies indicated that nearly 60-70 percent of low skilled migrants from India to Qatar originate from these states. Two other major sending states namely Kerala and Tamil Nadu (non- Hindi speaking) were not included in the profiling. The returnees included both current emigrants (those travelling to India on vacation who will return to Qatar within a short time) and return migrants (those returning after completing their contractual period). During the profiling, the following information were obtained: Contact details including age and origin state; year of last migration and occupation; whether current or return migrant; and willingness to be part of the survey.

Of the 1200 migrant profiles 401 migrants were chosen based on the criteria of a) low skilled male construction workers; b) last migration episode on or after 2011; c) at least 40 percent of the sample drawn were to be from the two states of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, which sent about the same proportion of low skilled migrants to the Gulf region. The selected migrants were later interviewed by a team of interviewers, in most cases shortly upon return to their respective residences. The final sample consists of 400 observations.

*Nepal – Qatar:* A sampling approach similar to that which followed in India was adopted by the research team in Nepal. 352 returning migrant workers who arrived at the Kathmandu Airport were identified as meeting the criteria: they left on or after 2011 to work in Qatar; were employed in the three low-skill occupations, and were willing to be interviewed either at the airport upon arrival, at the hotels they were staying in before proceeding to their villages, or only upon return to their homes.

*Philippines – Qatar:* The number of Filipino workers who were registered with the national authorities in the Philippines for employment in Qatar averaged 36,359 a year for the period 2010-2014. Because of anticipated difficulties related to identifying returnees from Qatar and selecting the target respondents, the survey did not take place at the airport. Instead, the selection of respondents was done mostly at the *Balik Mangagawa Centres* (BMC or reintegration centers of the Department of Labor and Employment). These centers have detailed records of the returnees from different countries thus facilitating the identification of low-skill migrants who worked in Qatar. Most of those who registered at these centers are migrants going back to their previous employment abroad, since these centers now serve also to register those who came back “on leave” from their employers but are returning to their jobs abroad. The consequence of using the centers for the data collection is a heavy representation of migrants going back to Qatar and almost none among those who had returned home for good. The BMCs are geographically spread out in major cities across the country but for various reasons, specially the paucity of qualified returnees from Qatar in some regions, the final sample was drawn very largely from the BMCs in the National Capital Region, and in Regions I, III, and IVA. Well over 400 migrants from Qatar were initially interviewed but because of the criteria for qualification and entry errors many respondents were excluded and the final sample was reduced to 366.

*Vietnam – Malaysia:* The sampling frame was derived from lists of verified labor supply contracts with Malaysian companies in various states and sectors that have requested for Vietnamese workers from 2011 to 2013. A total of 262 companies which hires Vietnamese workers were identified, out of which 215 were in manufacturing and 11 in construction. Of the 222 companies called, 66 companies had no Vietnamese workers, 26 rejected the request for permission to interview workers, and 19 stated that they have more than 20 Vietnamese workers. Despite an authorization letter from ILO Asia Pacific as well as a support letter from the Malaysian Employers Federation (MEF) only 3 companies agreed to the request for permission to survey the workers. The firms also demanded a non-disclosure agreement, interviews to be subject to the factory’s production schedule, and the presence of a supervisor where the interviews were conducted. In order to improve representativeness of the sample and reach hard to find populations, snowballing approach was employed. This approach was complemented by a cluster design, whereby the population was divided into clusters and a subset of the clusters was randomly selected. After fulfilling the specified quota by sector, the population was further disaggregated by location and types of contacts. Penang and Klang Valley were selected as primary locations since these two states reportedly have the highest concentration of Vietnamese workers. In addition, the population was divided into three types of contacts, viz. individuals, community

groups and factories. Initial contacts were made through organizations and community groups, including trade unions, NGOs and churches, and individuals with established contacts with Vietnamese workers. Gender balance was considered while conducting the interviews. The final sample consisted of 404 respondents, of whom 361 were employed as low-skill workers in manufacturing and 43 in construction.

## **5. Interpretation of costs incurred by migrants**

With the exception of Mexico, all KNOMAD-ILO MCS 2015 surveys capture financial costs incurred by migrants who were recruited for low-skilled jobs in the destination country. We refer to their total costs as worker-paid *recruitment costs*. The Mexico survey covered non-recruited migrant workers who arrived without receiving prior job offers. In the case of these migrants, a more general term of *migration cost* is used to describe expenses incurred to search for and acquire jobs abroad.

## **6. Comparison of 2015 and 2016 Migration Cost Surveys**

While content-wise, surveys using the 2015 and 2016 MCS base questionnaires offer similar insights into migration costs, there are differences in terms of a) presence of variables, b) how the variables are named and labeled c) response options d) coding of response options. For comparison, please refer to the 2015 and 2016 MCS base questionnaires. Merging of the two dataset requires attention to these differences.

## **7. 2015 Migration Cost Surveys modules:**

- A. Respondent Information
- B. Information on costs for current job
- C. Borrowing money for the foreign job
- D. Job search efforts and opportunity costs
- E. Work in foreign country
- F. Job environment

## **8. Variables**

This section provides information on the variables included in the questionnaire (original variables) and additional variables that were constructed for analytical purposes (constructed variables).

### **8.1 Original variables**

The following table lists variable names as they appear in the dataset and their associated labels. The codebook values and labels for variables are located in the 2015 MCS Base questionnaire. For variables with many options such as questions referring to countries, currencies, ISIC and ISCO classification, the full codebook can be found in the Appendix B of the 2015 MCS Base questionnaire.

Questions that allow for selection of multiple options (*who\_borrow\_X*, *other\_pay\_for\_X*, *which\_reimburse\_X*, *what\_collateral\_X*, *employer\_pay\_what\_X*, *which\_rights\_X*, and for

corridors Vietnam to Malaysia and Mexico surveys: how\_repaid\_X) were coded using variable extensions (i.e. \_1,\_2, etc.) to capture all options selected by the respondent. For example, if a respondent indicated two loan sources, the corresponding variables denoting the sources would be labelled as *who\_borrow\_1* and *who\_borrow\_2*. Note that the numbering of the extensions *DOES NOT* correspond to the numbered response options.

Variable Name	Question
<b>PART A. RESPONDENT INFORMATION</b>	
home_country	Country where the interview is being conducted
current_country	What country did you just return from?
address_resp	Address of respondent
place_born	Where were you born?
citizen	Are you a citizen of %place_born%?
country_citizen	What country are you a citizen of?
gender	Sex
age	How old are you? (in years)
marital_status	What is your current marital status?
level_edu	What is the highest level of education you have completed?
people_support	How many people have you supported, on a regular basis, financially here in %home_country% and in %current_country% with your earnings?
first_outside	Is this the first time you have worked abroad?
times_outside	How many times have you worked in a country other than %home_country%?
years_outside	How many years have you worked in a country other than %home_country%?
year_first	In which year did you first work outside of %home_country%, even if it was not in %current_country%?
country_before	Where did you live right before going to %current_country%?
how_find_out	How did you find out about getting your most recent job in %current_country%?
other_job_source	Please describe other job information source?

first_curr_cy	Was that the first time you have gone to %current_country% to work?
year_arrived	When did you go to %current_country% for the most recent job? (in year)
months_lived	How long has it been since you arrived here for this job? (in months)
months_expect	How many months have you stayed in %current_country% for the most recent job?
<b>PART B. INFORMATION ON COSTS FOR CURRENT JOB</b>	
job_application_how	How did you apply for the most recent job?
local_agent ("agent" in data)	Did you pay to %job_application_how% to get this job (such as brokerage fees)?
cost_agent	How much did pay to %job_application_how%?
currency_agent	What was the currency?
learn_language ("language" in data)	Did you learn %current_country%'s language before going there?
cost_language	How much did it cost you to learn %current_country%'s language?
currency_language	What was the currency?
training	Did you undergo training to qualify for the most recent job you had in %current_country%?
cost_training	How much did it cost you to undergo training to learn those skills?
currency_training	What was the currency?
skills_test	Did you take any skills tests (both assessments and certifications) in order to go to %current_country% for the most recent job?
cost_skills_test	How much did it cost you to take these skills tests?
currency_skills_test	What was the currency?
passport	Did you obtain a passport in order to go to %current_country% for that job?
cost_passport	How much did it cost you to obtain passport?
currency_passport	What was the currency?
medical_exam	Did you take any medical exams in order to go to %current_country% for that job (before deployment and upon arrival)?
cost_medical_exam	How much did it cost you to take the medical exams?

currency_medical_exam	What was the currency?
medical_exam_designated	Did you have to go to a designated clinic or hospital to take the medical exams?
clearance	Did you obtain a police/security clearance in order to go to %current_country% for that job?
cost_clearance	How much did it cost you to obtain this police/security clearance?
currency_clearance	What was the currency?
contract_approved	Was your contract approved by a national authority before you left %home_country%?
cost_contract_approved	How much did it cost to obtain this contract approval?
currency_contract_approved	What was the currency?
exit_approved	Did you have to obtain an exit approval in order to leave for %current_country%?
cost_exit_approved	How much did it cost to obtain this exit approval?
currency_exit_approved	What was the currency?
briefing	Did you have to undergo a required predeparture briefing in order to go to %current_country% for that job?
cost_briefing	How much did it cost for this pre-departure briefing?
currency_briefing	What was the currency?
insurance	Did you obtain any health/life insurance in order to go to %current_country% for that job?
cost_insurance	How much did this health/life insurance cost?
currency_insurance	What was the currency?
welfarefund	Did your Government require you to be a member of a state-run Welfare Fund in order to go to %current_country% for that job?
cost_welfarefund	How much did it cost to obtain this welfare fund membership?
currency_welfarefund	What was the currency?
visa	Did you obtain a visa in order to go to %current_country% for that job?
cost_visa	How much did it cost to obtain the visa to work in %current_country%?
currency_visa	What was the currency?

other	Did you make any other formal payments (allowed by law) for that job that I have not covered in my earlier questions?
cost_other	How much were these other payments?
currency_other	What was the currency?
other_pay_for	What were these other payments for?
other_pay_for2	Please specify Other?
inlandtransp	Before departure, did you incur expenses for local transportation and accommodation in this country in order to apply for that job and to get necessary documentations?
cost_inlandtransp	How much did you pay for local transportation and accommodation?
currency_inlandtransp	What was the currency?
inter_transp	Did you pay for international transportation to go to %current_country% for that job?
cost_inter_transp	How much did you pay for international transportation, including all taxes (e.g. departure tax)?
currency_inter_transp	What was the currency?
who_paid	Who paid for the international transportation to go to %current_country% for that job?
reimburse_exp	Were you told that the employer would reimburse your expenses?
who_told	Who told you about such reimbursement?
which_reimburse	Which payments were you told would be reimbursed?
been_paid	Have you been reimbursed for any of these payments?
amount_been_paid	How much were you reimbursed?
currency_been_paid	What was the currency?
other_pay2	Did you make any informal payments for that job?
other_pay2_for	What were these informal payments for?
cost_other_pay2	How much were these other payments?
currency_other_pay2	What was the currency?
tot_exp	In total, how much have you and your family spent to get the most recent job in %current_country%?
currency_tot_exp	What was the currency?

duration_deployment	How much time did it take to complete the job deployment procedure (from job application to departure)? (in Months)
success_find	Were you successful in finding jobs abroad in the past including those in other foreign countries?
cost_find_yes	How much in total did you spend in your earlier efforts to work abroad?
currency_find_yes	What was the currency?
cost_find_no	How much in total did you spend for previous failed attempts to get a foreign job?
currency_find_no	What was the currency?
<b>PART C. BORROWING MONEY FOR THE FOREIGN JOB</b>	
borrow_money	Did you or someone (including your family) borrow any of the money that you spent in order to get the most recent job in %current_country%?
amount_borrow	How much?
currency_borrow	What was the currency?
who_borrow	Who was the money borrowed from?
borrow_other	Please specify Other?
interest_rate	What interest rate is being paid (in percent)?
unit_interest_rate	What is the unit of the interest rate?
how_repaid	How is the loan being repaid?
how_repaid_other	Please, specify the other source of income
amount_loan_paid	As of today, how much has been repaid to the person/institution that loaned the money?
currency_loan_paid	What was the currency?
amount_loan_left	How much is left to be repaid to the person/institution that loaned the money?
currency_loan_left	What was the currency?
assets_collateral	Was any asset put up as collateral in order to get the loan?
what_collateral	What collateral was given?
collateral_other	Please, specify Other
lose_collateral	Did you lose any or all of the collateral due to failure to repay the loan?
<b>PART D. JOB SEARCH EFFORTS AND OPPORTUNITY COSTS</b>	
work_prior	Were you working here in %home_country%, even if you received no pay, prior to going to work in %current_country%?



type_job_before	What was your main job before you went there?
desc_elementary_occ	Please, describe the elementary occupation?
work_forwho	At that time did you work for yourself or for an employer, even if not paid?
desc_services_employer	What products were made or what services were provided by your employer in %home_country%?
isic2_class1	ISIC code for products made or services provided. Classification 1
isic2_class4	ISIC code for products made or services provided. Classification 4
isic2_class3	ISIC code for products made or services provided. Classification 3
isic2_class2	ISIC code for products made or services provided. Classification 2
amount_earn_prior	How much did you earn as a %type_job_before% in the country where you lived prior to working in %current_country%?
unit_earn_prior	What was the unit?
currency_earn_prior	What was the currency?
time_find	How long did it take you to find information about the most recent job in %current_country%? In Months
search_affect	Did your search for this job affect your ability to work your previous job in %home_country%?
hold_certificate	Do you hold a skill certificate issued by vocational testing center?
skill_certificate	What skill certificate do you have?
use_skill	Did you use your skill in your most recent job in %current_country%?
believe_useskill	Do you believe you could have found a job in %current_country% which would use your skill?
amount_useskills	If you had a job in %current_country% that used your skills, how much more do you think you could have earned?
currency_amount_useskills	What would be the currency?
unit_amount_useskills	What would be the unit?
<b>PART E. WORK IN FOREIGN COUNTRY</b>	

employer_visa	Did your most recent employer in %current_country% arrange for your work visa?
contract_before	Did you sign a contract before departing for the most recent job?
same_contract	Are you working under the same contract that you received before departure?
desc_kind_work	What kind of work did you do in %current_country%?
isco_class1	ISCO Classification 1
isco_class2	ISCO Classification 2
isco_class3	ISCO Classification 3
isco_class4	ISCO Classification 4
desc_services	What products were made or what services were provided by your employer?
isic1_class1	ISIC code for products made or services provided. Classification 1
isic1_class2	ISIC code for products made or services provided. Classification 2
isic1_class3	ISIC code for products made or services provided. Classification 3
isic1_class4	ISIC code for products made or services provided. Classification 4
amount_promised	What wage were you promised for that job in %current_country% before departure?
currency_amount_promised	What was the currency?
unit_promised	What was the unit?
amount_current	How much did you actually earn on average, including overtime payments, before deductions for taxes and social security
currency_amount_current	What was the currency?
unit_amount_current	What is the unit?
amount_deducted	How much were your earnings, on average, after taxes, social security contributions and foreign worker levy?
currency_amount_deducted	What was the currency?
unit_amount_deducted	What was the unit?
paid_regularly	Were you paid regularly?
amount_sent	In the year you have worked in %current_country% how much money, on average, were you able to send home to your family?

currency_amount_sent	What has been the currency?
unit_amount_sent	What has been the unit?
unit_sent_other	Please, specify Other Unit
changed_employer	Have you changed employers since you arrived in %current_country%?
supply_workers	Did your employer supply migrant workers to other employers?
<b>PART F. JOB ENVIRONMENT</b>	
employer_pay	Did your employer in %current_country% pay any of the costs that you had to pay in order to go to %current_country%?
employer_pay_what	What costs did your employer pay?
pay_back	Do you have to pay back these costs through deductions from your earnings?
deduct_month	How much is (or was) deducted from your earnings each month?
currency_deduct_month	What is (or was) the currency?
months_pay_back	For how many months in total do you have to make these payments?
housing	Did your employer provide you with housing?
housing_deducted	Was the cost of housing deducted from your wages?
food	Did your employer provide you with food?
food_deducted	Was the cost of food deducted from your wages?
union	Was there a union or worker/staff association in your workplace in %current_country%?
allow_union	Were you allowed to join the union?
joined_union	Have you joined the union?
deprived_rights	Have you been deprived of any rights during your employment in %current_country%?
which_rights	Which rights?
hours_week	How many hours a week did you usually work?
rest_day	Did you receive at least one rest day a week?
injured	Have you been injured while at work or fallen sick at your current job?
cause_injured	What was the cause of injury or illness? Please, specify
paid_injured	Were you paid for the days when you were not able to work because of injury or illness?

work_visa	Did you enter the country with work visa?
current_status	What was your status in %current_country% before returning home?
current_status_other	Please, specify Other status

## 8.2 Constructed variables

Constructed variables are additional variables created for the purposes of analysis. With the exception of item (2), constructed variables are placed at the end of the dataset. These variables can be organized broadly into the following categories:

1. **Descriptive:** variables that identify the country of origin, destination, bilateral corridors and source data. The interview date variable *int\_date* was constructed based on an additional file provided by the survey contractor. The file captures the dates at which different stages of data collection from each migrant occurred (supervisor assigned, first answer set, approved/rejected by supervisor, completed). The final “completion” entry for each migrant was used as an approximation of the interview date.
2. **2016 constant US dollar equivalents of variables:** monetary variables with the extension “USD2016” are 2016 constant US dollar counterparts to the monetary variables expressed in original currencies. The conversion allows for direct comparison of costs across corridors with different currencies. 2016 constant US dollar values are placed right by their original currency values in the dataset. Construction of the variables includes two steps. First, exchange rate between the two currencies in appropriate year was applied. Second, nominal dollar values were converted to constant 2016 dollar values using the US consumer price indexes (CPIs). World Development Indicators database served as a source of both exchange rates and inflation data.
3. **Summation of itemized costs and deductions:** variables that add up financial costs and separately, monetary deductions of all applicable items, such as *sumcostUSD2016* and *tot\_deductUSD2016*.
4. **Monthly equivalent of reported income/remittances amounts:** While migrants may have reported their income/remittance in any unit – day/week/month/year/other, these variables were transformed into a monthly amount, enabling direct comparison. The following methodology was used in the conversions, demonstrated using the variable *amount\_currentUSD2016* to obtain monthly income on arrival at the destination country.
  - Daily unit:  $\text{mthinc\_arvUSD2016} = \text{amount\_currentUSD2016} * 26$
  - Weekly unit:  $\text{mthinc\_arvUSD2016} = \text{amount\_currentUSD2016} * 4$
  - Yearly unit:  $\text{mthinc\_arvUSD2016} = \text{amount\_currentUSD2016} / 12$
  - Other unit: case-by-case basis

5. **Ratios:** Various new variables were created as ratios of two original variables as an additional statistic comparing migrants within and across corridors. For example, relative size of loans - as a proportion of total costs (loan\_to\_totexp) - provides information of the extent, importance and burden of migrant loans. Two important ratios are discussed below:

- a. **Recruitment Cost Indicator (RCI):** Worker-paid recruitment costs can be defined to include all monetary costs incurred by workers (above and beyond those incurred by employers) to establish an employment relationship. Such costs broadly encompass placement fees paid to recruitment agency or to their agents, documentation fees (such as to cover passport, visa, medical certificate, security clearance, or a language test), transportation costs and informal payments. The cost of servicing migration loans is currently excluded.

The proposed Recruitment Cost Indicator (RCI) is the average worker-paid recruitment cost incurred for securing an overseas job, expressed as a multiple of monthly foreign gross earnings on arrival.<sup>2</sup>

$$RCI = \frac{tot\_expUSD2016}{mthincUSD2016}$$

- b. **Migration Cost Indicator (MCI):** For workers that were not recruited for jobs abroad but rather travelled and engaged in job searches at the destination country, the monetary costs incurred can be more broadly viewed as migration costs. For these corridors, an analogous migration costs index is defined as:

$$MCI = \frac{tot\_expUSD2016}{mthincUSD2016}$$

Variable name	Description
datasource	What survey wave is the observation coming from?
id	Unique individual ID code assigned to a migrant
int_date	Interview date (based on an additional interview file)
origin_country	Name of the origin country
destination	Name of the destination country
corridor	Name of the bilateral corridor
sumcostUSD2016	Sum of itemized costs in 2016 constant USD

<sup>2</sup> Since a question about foreign earnings *on arrival* was not explicitly included in the 2015 MCS questionnaire, we use current income captured by the variable, *amount\_current* as a proxy for monthly foreign gross earnings on arrival.

mthinc_priorUSD2016	Estimated monthly home earnings prior to migrating in 2016 constant USD. Calculation used amount_priorUSD2016 and unit_amount_prior. Assumptions: 26 work days in month.
prom_mthincUSD2016	Estimated monthly foreign earnings promised to the migrants in 2016 constant USD. Calculation used amount_promisedUSD2016 and unit_promised.
mthincUSD2016	Estimated monthly foreign earnings on arrival in the destination country in 2016 constant USD. Calculation used amount_currentUSD2016 and unit_amount_current. Assumptions: 26 work days in month.
mthinc_less_taxUSD2016	Estimated monthly foreign earnings minus taxes, social security contributions and foreign worker levy in 2016 constant USD. Calculation used amount_deductedUSD2016 and unit_amount_deducted. Assumptions: 26 work days in month.
mthremitUSD2016	Estimated monthly remittance during the year of work abroad in 2016 constant USD. Calculation used amount_sentUSD2016 and unit_amount_sent.
rci	Recruitment cost indicator (RCI). Recruitment costs paid as a multiple of monthly foreign gross earnings received (on arrival). Formula: $\text{tot\_expUSD2016}/\text{mthincUSD2016}$
mci	Migration cost indicator (MCI). This is only for a subset of workers who were not directly recruited for jobs abroad. Analogous to the RCI, it is the ratio of migration costs to monthly foreign gross earnings.
loan_to_totexp	What proportion of total recruitment/migration costs does the loan represent? Formula: $\text{amount\_borrowUSD2016}/\text{tot\_expUSD2016}$
loan_to_income	Total amount borrowed as a multiple of monthly foreign gross earnings on arrival. Formula: $\text{amount\_borrowUSD2016}/\text{mthincUSD2016}$
remit_to_income	What proportion of the monthly foreign gross income is remitted home? Formula: $\text{mthremitUSD2016}/\text{mthincUSD2016}$
forinc_to_homeinc	Monthly foreign earnings as a multiple of home earnings earned prior to migrating. Formula: $\text{mthincUSD2016}/\text{mthinc\_priorUSD2016}$

## 9. Publications

- A list of publications using this dataset can be found at <https://www.knomad.org/>.

**Table 1: Summary Description of 2015 KNOMAD-ILO Migrant Costs Surveys**

Survey	Destination	Origin	Sample size	Performance site, time period	Survey Methodology	Specific Questionnaire	Year of arrival *	Interview date
Ethiopia-SAU 2015	Saudi Arabia	Ethiopia	499	Ethiopia: Regions of Amhara, Oromiya, Tigray and Addis Ababa city administration	Snowballing of return migrants.	n/a	2010: N=70 2011: N=109 2012: N=173 2013: N=130 2014: N=17	January 2015 - September 2015
Pakistan 2015	Saudi Arabia	Pakistan	375	Pakistan: Districts of Rawalpindi and Gujrat from North Punjab, Gujranwala and Saikot from the central Punjab, and Mardan and Charsada from KPK	Snowballing of return migrants.	Urdu version	2011: N=122 2012: N=131 2013: N=82 2014: N=39 2015: N=1	May 2015 - July 2015
	United Arab Emirates		259		Snowballing of return migrants.	Urdu version	2011: N=52 2012: N=54 2013: N=61 2014: N=89 2015: N=3	
India-Qatar 2015	Qatar	India	400	India: Dehi, Mumbai and Hyderabad airports	Airport interception with migrants arriving from Qatar	n/a	2011: N=98 2012: N=151 2013: N=119 2014: N=32	June 2015 - September 2015
Philippines-Qatar 2015	Qatar	Philippines	366	Philippines: Various returnee processing centers, primarily in Metro-Manila	Convenience sample	n/a	2005: N=15 2006: N=16 2007: N=30 2008: N=38 2009: N=29 2010: N=37 2011: N=43 2012: N=57 2013: N=55 2014: N=43 2015: N=3	May 2015 - October 2015
Nepal-Qatar 2015	Qatar	Nepal	352	Nepal: Tribhuvan airport in Kathmandu	Airport interception	n/a	2011: N=63 2012: N=104 2013: N=182 2014: N=3	July 2015 - December 2015
Vietnam-Malaysia 2015	Malaysia	Vietnam	404	Malaysia: State of Penang and region of Klang Valley.	Snowballing (interviews at work premise, residence, churches, restaurants and bus-stops)	Vietnamese version	2011: N=37 2012: N=50 2013: N=70 2014: N=115 2015: N=132	July - September 2015
Mexico 2016**	Mexico	Guatemala	204	Mexico: Suchiate municipality, Ciudad Hidalgo and city of Tapachula, Chiapas	Snowballing at non-worksites	n/a	2014: N=108 2015: N=92 2016: N=4	January 2016- March 2016
		Honduras	163				2014: N=118 2015: N=45	
		El Salvador	126				2014: N=80 2015: N=46	

Notes:

\* Interview date is calculated from a separate file interview\_actions, which registers data collecting process. The final "Completed" action for each observation is then used as the interview date.

\*\*Although Mexico 2016 survey was conducted in 2016, the questionnaire resembles 2015 rather than 2016 structure. Thus, it is included with other 2015 surveys.