



Internal Migration Eye - IMigE

Vol 2 Issue 1

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Introduction

Welcome to the Internal Migration Eye - IMigE - the newsletter of the Migrating out of Poverty Research Programme Consortium.

Who we are

Migrating out of Poverty is a DFID-funded consortium of six research institutes based in Africa, Asia and Europe working together to conduct research on the links between migration and poverty. Our research aims to deepen the understanding of migration within and between developing countries in order to better equip migrants, organisations supporting them, and policy makers, with evidence to inform their efforts to reduce poverty.

Key Contents

In this quarter, with thoughts of the Beijing +20 Review taking place this year which examines women's position and progress toward gender equality over the past 20 years, we highlight the findings from our recent research of particular relevance to women.

There is much talk of the feminisation of migration, meaning the dramatic increase in the numbers of women migrating alone and voluntarily to work. The Migrating out of Poverty Consortium has focused on domestic work as a sector that has provided an accessible employment option for large numbers of poor women who migrate independently. The International Labour Organization (ILO) defines domestic work as work performed in or for a household, and a domestic worker as a person engaged in domestic work within an employment relationship. The ILO estimates the number of people employed as domestic workers - excluding child domestic workers - to be in the region of 53 million people worldwide. 83 per cent of these are women, originating predominately from the poorer sections of society.

In this edition's 'Migrating out of Poverty New Research' section Maria Platt et al explore the role of [information communications technology in the lives of Indonesian domestic workers](#) in Singapore, while Khoo Choon Yen et al identify the differential [impact of gender on migration patterns, processes and outcomes](#). We also note the highlights of [Consortium partners' engagement with the media, policy makers and the general public](#). We conclude with the [Good Read section](#) which this quarter promotes texts on economic theory and political economy

Migration, Precarity and
Global Governance:
Challenges and opportunities
for labour

New Blogs

Endang Sugiyato makes a case for the [protection of female migrant domestic workers in the Middle East and Asia Pacific](#)

Collins Yeboah outlines the [impact of migrating for domestic work](#) through the story of Hawa and Adiata;

Lucia Zerna reflects on [the ICT use of Indonesian migrant women](#);

Igor Bosc looks at [the importance of framing the labour trafficking discourse](#);

Dorte Thorsen explains [the term 'labour trafficking'](#).

About us

[Migrating out of Poverty](#) is a seven-year research programme consortium (RPC) funded by DFID. It focuses on the relationship between regional migration, internal migration and poverty and is located in five regions across Africa and Asia.

Our research aims to deepen the understanding of migration within and between developing countries in order to better equip migrants, organisations supporting

selected by Migrating out of Poverty CEO Alan Winters and Research Director Priya Deshingkar.

New Migrating out of Poverty Research

WP 22 [Gendered migration patterns, processes and outcomes: Results from a household survey in Ponorogo](#) by **Khoo Choon Yen, Maria Platt, Brenda S. A. Yeoh, Silvia Mila Arlini, Grace Baey, Theodora Lam, Sukamdi, Julie Litchfield and Endang Sugiyarto**

This working paper is based on a survey of 903 migrant and 300 non-migrant Indonesian households. It notes a strong gender dimension in the patterns and processes surrounding migration. The gendered division of responsibilities within households affects men and women's propensity to migrate in different ways. The researchers found that households with a high dependency ratio lower women's likelihood to migrate. Women are more likely to migrate internationally rather than internally and are more likely to migrate to a greater range of destinations compared to their male counterparts. This difference is due to a well-established gendered migration regime, which sees women's international migration aided by a system of debt-finance migration that requires little, if any, upfront payment before migrating. The researchers found that migrant households are more likely to report a greater improvement in quality of life compared to five years earlier. These findings suggest that migration, especially international migration (to which women have easier access), has the potential to positively influence perceptions of quality of life for households involved in this study.

[Download Working Paper 22](#)

WP 24 [Migration and Information Communications Technology Use: A case study of Indonesian Domestic Workers in Singapore](#) By **Maria Platt, Brenda S.A. Yeoh, Kristel Ann Acedera, Khoo Choon Yen, Gace Baey and Theodora Lam**

This paper explores the use of Information Communications Technology (ICT) among Indonesian Foreign Domestic Workers (FDWs) working and living in Singapore. Its findings are based on a survey of 201 Indonesian domestic workers, 308 of whom were interviewed in-depth. The paper points to recent changes in the technological landscape in Singapore which have altered FDWs use of ICT. This includes cheaper mobile devices and increasing access to free internet, either at their place of employment or in public space. The authors suggest that ICT use has shaped the migration experiences of women in three key areas. Firstly, it has made communication with friends and family an everyday occurrence. Secondly, access to ICT is contingent upon issues of trust and negotiation with employers, who can restrict their employees' use of ICT. Thirdly, the use of ICT can provide FDWs with a degree of social empowerment by allowing them to connect globally to a range of information.

[Download Working Paper 24](#)

them, and policy makers, with evidence to inform their efforts to reduce poverty.

Partners

Refugee & Migratory Movements Research Unit at Dhaka University, Bangladesh

Centre for Migration Studies at the University of Ghana

African Migration and Development Policy Centre in Nairobi, Kenya

The Asia Research Institute at the National University of Singapore

The African Centre for Migration and Society at the University of Witwatersrand, South Africa

The School of Global Studies, University of Sussex, UK

Other Activities

In addition to conducting research, partners in the Migrating out of Poverty Consortium present their work to a variety of non-academic audiences including policy makers, civil society - including migrant organisations - the media and the general public.

The Asia Research Institute (ARI) marked International Migrants Day 2014 with a screening of their documentary 'Gone Home' on December 17. The short film on returned Bangladeshi migrant construction workers was accompanied by a multi-media piece and a curated series of photo essays as part of their research project on Bangladeshi migrant men working in Singapore's construction industry. Watch '[Gone Home](#)' and visit the [project website](#).

Research Director Priya Deshingkar and Theme Leader for Qualitative Research Benjamin Zeitlyn were interviewed by a Reuters journalist on female migrant construction workers in India in October 2014. The [story](#) was published in January 2015.

To mark International Women's Day 2015 Sussex researchers hosted a panel discussion on 6 March 2015, '[Labour Trafficking? Understanding the use of brokers in women's and girls' labour migration](#)' which explored the use of brokers in women's and girls' migration and the impact of trafficking discourses.

The Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) took legal action to raise awareness of the legal measures to combat irregular migration under the 2013 Overseas Employees and Migrants Act in March 2015. This public interest litigation is the first case of its kind brought under the Act.

RMMRU's research findings were incorporated by the International Labour Organization into [English and Bangla manuals](#) for aspiring Bangladeshi migrants to Oman and Qatar.

The Centre for Migration Studies (CMS) mounted a Migrating out of Poverty stand to share research findings with delegates to the 5-day SADA Business and Investment Forum in Tamale, in Ghana's Northern Region.

A good read

Selected by L. Alan Winters and Priya Deshingkar

Migration as a strategy for household finance: A research agenda on remittances payments and development by Michael A Clemens 2014 Center for Global Development *Working Paper 354*

The simplest versions of economic theory suggest that rising incomes in developing countries will deter emigration from those countries. This captivates policymakers in international aid and trade diplomacy and a similar view frequently crops up in discussions of internal migration in terms of the need to boost rural economies to reduce rural-urban migration. Michael Clemens surveys the lengthy literature and recent data on this idea and finds that they suggest something quite different: that over the course of a "mobility transition", emigration generally rises with economic development until countries reach upper-middle income, and only thereafter falls. He quantifies the shape of the mobility transition in every decade since 1960. He then briefly surveys research over the same period and identifies six classes of theory to explain the mobility transition and numerous tests of its existence and characteristics in both macro-and micro-level data. He concludes that there is much more to learn about this relationship and that we should certainly not rely on it for policy purposes.

[Download the paper](#)

Migration, Precarity, and Global Governance: Challenges and Opportunities for Labour **by Carl-Ulrik Schierup, Ronaldo Munck, Branka Likic-Brboric, Anders Neergaard 2015, Oxford University Press.**

This book proposes and discusses the political economy of a distinct category, "migrant precariat" or migrants who are doubly disadvantaged on account of being involved in precarious work and their precarious citizenship status. This, the authors argue, is the globally fragmented and disposable labour force found in sectors such as hospitality, industry, care work, domestic work and entertainment where working hours are long, rights are abused and there is a constant risk of dismissal or deportation. The essays explore the asymmetries and inequalities within and between countries arising from new production and recruitment regimes. It is argued that the search for cheap and flexible labour has led to the segmentation and precaritization of labour markets where forced migration and unfree labour have become the dominant modality of migrant work. The role of trade unions in fighting for and securing migrant rights is an important theme in the book and the second part is devoted to the revival and reconstruction of trade union movements across the world. The chapters by Delgado-Wise, Castles and Piper and Grugel look particularly interesting.



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