



## **Indonesia Country Programme**

Briefing Note

December 2014

### **What is the Issue?**

The UNDP's 2009 Human Development Report estimates that 740 million people migrate internally and another 90 million migrate within developing country regions, often to improve development prospects for themselves and their families and due to lack of alternatives. Migration can contribute to improving the economic and social well-being of migrants and their families. However, it can also expose migrants to new vulnerabilities, such as debt and limited access to services. Political authorities and origin and destination communities often do not have effective policies in place to adequately manage migration.

While many governments in the Global South and international donors have become aware of the importance of migration for poverty reduction, they lack substantive evidence and data that can help them to maximise the benefits of migration and minimise its potential harms.

### **What is the Programme?**

The [Migrating out of Poverty Research Programme](#) Consortium is a seven year (2010-2017) multi-partner research programme with funds of £6.425m provided by the UK Department for International Development (DFID), which aims to generate policy relevant evidence on the nature and extent of internal and regional (South-South) migration.

The Consortium is led by the School of Global Studies at the University of Sussex, with partners based in five regions: in South Asia, the Bangladesh-based Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) at the University of Dhaka; in Southeast Asia, the Asia Research Institute (ARI) at the National University of Singapore; in West Africa, the Centre for Migration Studies (CMS) at the University of Ghana; in East Africa, the African Migration and Development Policy Centre (AMADPOC) in Nairobi; and in Southern Africa, the African Centre for Migration and Society (ACMS) at the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa.

Each partner, under the guidance and support of the Consortium lead, is responsible for designing and conducting research projects that address the overall programme research questions. The projects consist of academic research, complemented by activities to ensure the communication of findings and influencing of migration policy and practice. For more information, please contact: [<migrationrpc@sussex.ac.uk>](mailto:migrationrpc@sussex.ac.uk) or visit [<http://migratingoutofpoverty.dfid.gov.uk/>](http://migratingoutofpoverty.dfid.gov.uk/).

### **What the programme aims to achieve:**

The research conducted by each partner is designed to address the following programme objectives:

- To understand why migration plays a significant role in poverty reduction in some places and contexts, but not in others
- To explore the transformational potential of migration on poverty
- To contribute to the generation of quality data on migration
- To have a strong policy focus
- To influence policy and practice through engagement with key stakeholders among policy makers, the media and civil society

## **Past and On-Going Activities in Indonesia**

The Singapore-based Asia Research Institute (ARI), the consortium partner in Southeast Asia, is currently implementing two research projects Indonesia:

### **1. Household Survey in Rural Indonesia**

This quantitative survey of 903 migrant and 300 non-migrant households was conducted in Ponorogo, East Java, Indonesia, and aimed to explore how migration helps households move out of poverty. In particular, it focused on households' self-perceived situations with regard to quality of life, living conditions and financial situation. It also sought to explore gender dynamics in households by examining how migration might work to alter existing gender norms and gendered power relations within households. The significant proportion of non-migrant households allowed for a degree of counterfactual analysis and comparison with migrant households. Two of the key findings are: (1) international migration may have the biggest implications for poverty reduction in migrant communities such as Ponorogo; and (2) neither men nor women reported any change in their occupational status after they had migrated, which is in part a reflection of the rural economy from whence they originated, where employment options are typically limited in scope. The evidence gathered will provide a basis for policy recommendations and related work on (a) reducing the costs in order to maximise the gains obtained through regional migration and (b) exploring how migration might lead to more meaningful livelihood strategies for returned migrants.

A working paper based on this research is available online: ***'Gendered Migration Patterns, Processes and Outcomes: Results from a Household Survey in Ponorogo, Indonesia'***:

<http://migratingoutofpoverty.dfid.gov.uk/documents/wp22-khoo-choon-yen-et-al-2014-gendered-migration-patterns-processes-and-outcomes-final.pdf>

### **2. Global Qualitative Research in Indonesia**

This qualitative project was a follow-up to the quantitative household survey (see above), which aimed to understand the impacts of migration, specifically on households which have/had members migrating to work in the domestic and construction work occupations. Fieldwork was completed in March 2014, where in-depth interviews were conducted with 45 households in the same villages surveyed previously. Forty households had existing or returned migrants who work or worked in domestic or construction work, whereas five were non-migrant households in order to provide a counter-factual narrative. A subsequent trip was made to Surabaya to interview 10 current migrants who were domestic or construction workers, eliciting responses on their working experience, household relations and aspirations. Key fieldwork observations include: (1) the importance of social networks in the migration process (influencing decision making, through family/friends and agents linking potential migrants to employers); (2) gendered roles and expectations in the climate of feminised labour migration; and (3) future aspirations as linked to land/business ownership and educational attainment of the younger generation. The evidence gathered will provide a firm basis for policy recommendations and advocacy work in exploring how migration might lead to more meaningful livelihood strategies for people once/if they return home to their communities of origin.

A working paper based on this research will be published in 2015.

### **Future Research in Indonesia**

ARI is also in the process of finalising one research project to be conducted in Indonesia from January 2015:

#### **1. Intra-household dynamics, with a focus on gender and age**

This qualitative project will investigate the impacts of migration on families. It pays particular attention to gender relations, youth aspirations and remittance use. It aims to understand the social impacts of migration on families in developing countries. In common with projects in Ghana and Bangladesh which will focus on different contexts and migration flows to answer identical research questions, this project attempts to answer the following questions:

1. What gendered patterns of remittance uses can we observe?
2. Does migration allow long-term investment in human capital and education?
3. How does migration affect the life choices of young people living in migrant communities?