



## Migrating out of Poverty Research Programme Consortium

This consortium is coordinated by the University of Sussex, and the core partners are: Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit, Bangladesh - Centre for Migration Studies, Ghana - African Migration and Development Policy Centre, Kenya - Asia Research Institute, Singapore - African Centre for Migration & Society, South Africa

The *Migrating out of Poverty* research programme consortium (RPC) is funded by the UK's Department for International Development from 2010-2017. It undertakes research in five regions across Asia and Africa, examining the relationship between internal and regional migration and poverty. Within the five regions the RPC works in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Nepal, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

The Consortium's work focuses on internal and regional migration because poorer people are more likely to move over shorter distances. As three quarters of the world's migrants move within their own country rather than across international borders, initiatives focused on international migration and development have often overlooked this widespread phenomenon.

The *Migrating out of Poverty* consortium's quantitative, qualitative and policy research generates new knowledge related to migration and poverty; creates new datasets; engages with policy makers; and builds capacity to understand migration-poverty research linkages. A global research programme is designed to answer questions relating to all regions, while focused research programmes respond to regional priorities related to individual core partner areas.

### Under what circumstances does migration help poor people move out of poverty?

There is a growing understanding that migration can help people to move out of poverty. But this strategy works better for some migrants, and in some places, than others. The Consortium's research is identifying the factors at household, community and macro level which affect migration and poverty, and examining how these differ by context.

### How does migration affect poor women and girls?

Discussions of the 'feminisation' of migration have tended to portray women and girls as victims of migration and trafficking, yet they often migrate to promote their own and their families' development. The findings from this research strand will be used to develop recommendations for migration and social protection policy.



Motives for migration, and work at destination, are strongly differentiated by gender.  
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**Under what circumstances do urbanisation and rural-urban migration lead to longer-term reductions in poverty?**

Africa’s urban population is expected to double by 2030, and urban growth in Asia has been rapid for at least two decades. However, evidence on the impact of urbanisation, and rural-urban migration, on poverty reduction remains limited and policy perceptions continue to be overwhelmingly negative. The Consortium’s research addresses this evidence gap in order to highlight the factors that mediate the impacts of rural-urban migration on the poor. This will be used to inform policies on urban development, rural-urban migration and the informal sector.

**Which policies have worked to maximise the developmental impact of migration?**

A number of development policies directly and indirectly impact on migrants and their ability to benefit from migration. These include policies on urbanisation, labour markets, social protection and remittances. To date there has been little analysis of these policy processes or evaluation of the impact of these policies. The consortium’s policy research strand is developing a shared evidence base in these two areas.

**Improving data on internal migration and poverty**

While data on international remittances is now available, data on internal remittances remains patchy. As a result, the Consortium is analysing secondary data on remittances to establish their significance for poverty reduction.

The name ***Migrating out of Poverty*** reflects an aspiration for a more balanced view of migration; one that moves away from simplistic negative portrayals of migration to recognition that migration *can* lead to poverty reduction and development. Although migration does not necessarily lead to such positive outcomes, the Consortium’s research sheds light on the circumstances in which migration can most effectively reduce poverty.

**Regional priorities**

The Consortium’s regional research programme is partner-driven. It aims to respond to the need for research-based evidence in ongoing regional and national policy discussions, and to provide practical evidence-based support for tackling the emerging priorities of governments and civil society. For example, ACMS is producing original data on labour migration in South Africa, while ARI in Singapore has investigated migration as a livelihood strategy for Indonesian migrant women employed as domestic workers in Singapore.



Thailand has taken steps to include migrants in its census.  
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**Further information:** please visit: <http://migratingoutofpoverty.dfid.gov.uk>.

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