A LARGE-SCALE SURVEY OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS FROM RURAL BANGLADESH
RANDALL KUHN, TANIA BARHAM, ABDUR RAZZAQUE
PROMISING DELIVERY
QATAR AND MIGRANT LABOUR ABUSE OF THE 2022 FOOTBALL WORLD CUP

QATAR
2022 Olympics

London
2012 Olympics

Vancouver
2010 Olympics

South Africa
2010 World Cup

Brazil
2014 World Cup

Sochi
2014 Olympics

Beijing
2008 Olympics

Qatar
Migrant worker deaths since Dec. 2010

= 1 worker death

No Workers Rights.
What we know about Gulf migration

- Strictly curtailed human rights (esp under *kefala*); few legal protections, unstable tenure; indebtedness

- Health evidence
  - Some evidence on mental illness, depression, suicide
  - Evidence of unsafe working conditions, travel restrictions

- Methodology
  - Mostly small samples, some convenience samples
  - Representative samples of economic conditions (e.g. Kerala)
  - Few binational samples (another REALM project in Nepal)
Study aims: comparing probashi to their left-behind peers

1) Measure well-being of probashi in comparison to non-migrants, internal migrants with individual and family baseline controls

2) Model covariates of probashi well-being and working/living conditions (e.g. destination, duration, human capital)

3) Begin to explore the role of worker recruitment in explaining probashi well-being
Matlab Thana

- Rural area 55km SE of Dhaka
- High rates of out-migration
- Site of effective mother/child health interventions
- Health and Demographic Surveillance System (HDSS) tracks vital events since 1974
Matlab Health and Socioeconomic Survey (MHSS)

- **MHSS1 (1996):** 11,500 respondents in 2700 households
  - Research on left-behind parents, children

- **MHSS2 (2012-14):** MHSS1 respondents, descendants
  - 2,700 hh → 10,500 hh
  - >30,000 respondents
  - High outmigration rates
  - Extensive out-migrant tracking
MHSS2 migrant followup

- Large share of probashi (e.g. 24% of age 23-34 cohort)
- In-person interviews in Eid festival (30%)
- Short phone survey for others (60%)
- Followup phone survey now in field
Aim 1: Assess data quality
Aim 2: Migrant vs. non-migrant outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Sample Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-Migrant</td>
<td>2,333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal migrant</td>
<td>1,372</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overseas in 2012-2014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone survey</td>
<td>561</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Festival survey</td>
<td>282</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overseas in past 5 years</td>
<td>218</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Phone vs. in-person data: Kernel density
Income and hours worked, age 25-54
### Income, hours worked and wages

By migration status, age 25-54

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Migration Status</th>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Hours/50 wks</th>
<th>Wage/hr#</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-migrant</td>
<td>$1287</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>$0.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal migrant</td>
<td>$1880</td>
<td>***</td>
<td>***    $0.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Int’l Mig Current</td>
<td><strong>5017</strong></td>
<td>***</td>
<td>***    $1.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Int’l Mig Return</td>
<td><strong>1667</strong></td>
<td>46</td>
<td>*       $0.70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statistical test of difference from non-migrant: *** p<0.001; ** p<0.01; * p<0.05

# - Computed from Income and hours
Location of current and return migrants, 2012-2014

- Saudi Arabia: 27%
- United Arab Emirates: 25%
- Other GCC States: 18%
- Malaysia: 13%
- Singapore: 9%
- Other Destinations: 8%
- Other Destinations: 9%
# Wages, costs by destination

MHSS2 estimates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Earnings</th>
<th>Hours / 52wks</th>
<th>Wage / Hr</th>
<th>Migration cost</th>
<th>Marginal ROI#</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>$5,637</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>$1.63</td>
<td>$3,889</td>
<td>$2.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UAE</td>
<td>$4,436</td>
<td>***</td>
<td>$1.29</td>
<td>$3,312</td>
<td>$2.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other GCC</td>
<td>$4,910</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>$1.40</td>
<td>$3,798</td>
<td>$2.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE Asia</td>
<td>$6,379</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>$1.80</td>
<td>$4,298</td>
<td>$2.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$6,140</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>$1.85</td>
<td>$4,254</td>
<td>$2.67</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statistical test of difference from Saudi Arabia: *** p<0.001; ** p<0.01; * p<0.05

* - Assumes 2.5 years work at local average wage minus non-mig wage

*REALM survey estimates will better account for duration, multiple trips, loans/interest rates, wage trajectories*
Data validation: height and weight
Health risk factors: Marginal estimates

Statistical test of difference from non-migrant: *** p<0.001; ** p<0.01; * p<0.05
Reported health outcomes

Statistical test of difference from non-migrant: *** p<0.001; ** p<0.01; * p<0.05
Objective health measures
Phone survey excluded

Statistical test of difference from non-migrant: *** p<0.001; ** p<0.01; * p<0.05

- Mobility limitation#
- Grip strength < 36kgf
- Hypertension - Stage 1+

Non-migrant
Internal migrant

# Grip strength < 36kgf
Data validation: Depression index

![Graph showing depression index across different migration categories](image-url)
Days of week with positive feelings
By migrant status

Statistical test of difference from non-migrant: *** p<0.001; ** p<0.01; * p<0.05
Days of week with negative feelings
By migrant status

Statistical test of difference from non-migrant: *** p<0.001; ** p<0.01; * p<0.05
Conclusions & Some Next Steps

- Phone survey data quality is high
- *Probashi* have predictable income returns; returnee earnings moderately increased
- *Probashi* healthier, likely due to selectivity
  - Hypertension, overweight increased; injury risk lower
- Need panel controls for self-selection
- Follow-up phone survey will add new data
Followup phone survey

Livelihoods:
- Recruitment, networks
- Employment and living conditions
- Remittances and investments
- Occupational health risks, injuries

Health:
- Abuse, rights violations
- Full mental health

Life chances:
- Attitudes towards migration
- Agency - supervision, chain migration
Next step: Probashi Lives Study

- Many burdens must be measured in micro-temporal scale (e.g. stress, heat, sleep, mobility, social contact)
- Smartphones allow this
- *Probashi* are highly motivated to share their stories