



KNOMAD and ILO Asia Pacific  
Workshop on Migration Cost Surveys  
Bangkok, Thailand  
February 9-11, 2015

### **Background and Motivation**

1. This note proposes a workshop/training on migration costs incurred by low-skilled migrant workers. The objective is to equip researchers to undertake in-person migrant surveys to measure the costs in a given country. Thus it will have two components: (i) training on how to operate the World Bank's Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing system (CAPI), and (ii) to discuss a sampling framework in each interview country. The workshop/ training is in collaboration between the KNOMAD, ILO Asia Pacific and the World Bank DECCT.
2. Migration affects development in countries of origin and destination. The World Bank-led Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD) is a platform to synthesize and generate knowledge and policy expertise on migration and development issues. Its Thematic Working Group (TWG) on Low-skilled labor migration, co-chaired by Manolo Abella, COMPAS (University of Oxford), and Manuela Tomei, the ILO, aims to identify policies to reduce the migration costs of low-skilled labor migrants, as well as mechanisms to facilitate cross-border movements of low-skilled labor.
3. To achieve these objectives, in 2014, the TWG launched a project to collect migration cost data that is comparable across migrant-sending countries. Analysis from the data collection would contribute to setting a global target to reduce migration costs – e.g. to one-month wage. This initiative complements ILO's on-going efforts in Asia to improve recruitment services, including the monitoring of recruitment costs.
4. The project developed a data collection strategy during the first year: a face-to-face interview with a migrant worker in a destination country using a questionnaire. To increase the comparability, the data collection covers three key sectors with relatively high concentration rates of low-skilled migrant workers, namely construction, agriculture and domestic work. This sectoral coverage can be expanded to others in case another sector has a higher concentration ratio in a migrant destination country – e.g., the manufacturing sector in Korea. In order to increase the reliability of data, the team limited the sample to those who have a legal status and arrived the country within less than a year.

5. The pilot surveys undertaken in 2014 indicated that the survey questionnaire was adequate to capture the magnitude of migration costs incurred by workers. A team of researchers carried out face-to-face surveys with migrant workers in Korea, Kuwait and Spain. Results suggested that destination countries with the effective implementation of bilateral labor agreements generate a migration costs less or equal to one-month salary in the destination – for instance in Spain and Korea. In this case, air fares tend to have the lion’s share. On the other hand, the surveys in Kuwait indicated that worker-paid costs were far higher – nine-month wages on average, and visa costs appear to be a key factor.

6. Building up on lessons learned from the pilot surveys, the project aims to implement the data collection in 2015, with the following broad framework:

- Interview returnees from their work in the Middle East. The migration literature as well as the first year’s findings suggest large gains from reducing migration costs in the Middle East corridor. Interviewing migrant workers in the region, however, may face high risks, as migration issues tend to be politically sensitive and thus it is less likely that researchers obtain the governments’ support to interview migrant workers. Thus the interview shall take place in workers’ home countries including Ethiopia, India, Nepal, and the Philippines.
- Interview will be based on the Computer Assisted Personalized Interviewing system, unlike the first year that employed the pen-and-paper interviewing, in order to reduce errors in surveys, and improve the quality of data and analysis.
- The ILO Asia Pacific will join this effort and undertake surveys, using an adaptation of the KNOMAD questionnaire, with returnees Pakistan from Saudi Arabia, workers from Vietnam in Malaysia, and domestic workers from Indonesia and the Philippines in Singapore.

### **Workshop/ Training Objectives**

7. The main purpose of the workshop/ training is to bring together a group of researchers involved in this project to learn about the CAPI and to discuss a country-specific sampling framework. A key objective of the seminar, therefore, is to improve the capacity of the researchers in conducting surveys and in controlling the quality of data.

### **Workshop/Training Format**

8. A CAPI Specialist from the World Bank will undertake a training course with the invited researchers. The training will cover (i) benefits of using CAPI, (ii) how the system works, and (iii) hands-on exercise. For the latter component, each researcher use a tablet that has a KNOMAD questionnaire uploaded.

9. For the sessions on sampling framework, each researcher will be invited to report briefly on their country-specific sampling framework and point out potential challenges and risks. It is important to spell out strategies to mitigate such risks. This may involve a power point presentation that may not exceed 30 minutes. Following the presentations, each session will have a Q&A/group discussion and conclude with a concrete sample framework for the given survey.

## **Expected Outputs/ Outcomes**

10. After this event, the researchers will be fully ready to operate the CAPI system and to implement the respective surveys in the field, using a concrete sampling strategy identified at the workshop. During the workshop, KNOMAD and ILO staff will be taking notes of the feedback on the CAPI and discussions of the sampling strategies. These notes, together with the presentations, will be developed into a Workshop Summary, which will constitute a main product to emerge from this work. This summary will also feed into the methodology section of the final report that analyzes survey data from each country.

11. The expected number of participants is around 12 from both KNOMAD and ILO Asia Pacific.

## **Tentative program**

### **February 9, 2015**

08:30 Registration

09:00 Welcome

09:15-17.00 CAPI Training **[TO BE COMPLETED]**

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### **February 10**

[CONTINUED FROM THE FIRST DAY]

09:00-12.00 CAPI Training [TO BE COMPLETED]

13:30 **Implementing Field Surveys**

This session will share the lessons of LSMS experience, focusing on the planning of the field survey and implementing the field operations.

Presenter: Gero Carletto, The World Bank

14:45 Coffee break

15:00 Sampling framework for surveys in Malaysia, by PE Research

16:30 Sampling framework for surveys in India, by S. K. Sasikumar

18:00 Adjourn

## February 11

Discussions on sampling framework by corridor continued

9:00 Nepal, by Ganesh Gurung

10:30 Coffee break

10: 45 Pakistan, by Anna Engblom

12:15 Lunch break

13:45 The Philippines, by Mary Grace Riguer

15:15 Coffee break

15:30 Ethiopia, by Aida Awel

17:00 Wrap-up and next steps

17:15 Adjourn

### Participant List:

| #                     | Name                 | Confirmed | Room required |
|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------|---------------|
| KNOMAD and World Bank |                      |           |               |
| 1                     | Manolo Abella        | Yes       | Yes           |
| 2                     | Soonhwa Yi           | Yes       | Yes           |
| 3                     | Gero Carletto        |           | Yes           |
| 4                     | CAPI trainers        | Yes       | Yes           |
| 5                     | CAPI Trainers        | Yes       | Yes           |
| ILO                   |                      |           |               |
| 6                     | Nilim Baruah         | Yes       | N             |
| 7                     | Max Tunon            | Yes       | N             |
| 8                     | Manuel Imson         | Yes       | N             |
| 9                     | Heike Lautenschlager | Yes       | N             |
| 10                    | Anna Engblom         | Yes       | Yes           |
| 11                    | NPC Pakistan         |           | Yes           |
| Researchers           |                      |           |               |
| 12                    | PE Research          |           | Yes           |
| 13                    | PE research          |           | Yes           |
| 14                    | Ganesh Gurung (NPL)  | Yes       | Yes           |

|    |                          |     |     |
|----|--------------------------|-----|-----|
| 15 | Sasikumar (IND)          | Yes | Yes |
| 16 | Carl Rookie Daquio (PHL) | Yes | Yes |
| 17 | Aida Awel (ETH)          |     | Yes |
|    |                          |     |     |