EURCAP
BUILDING CAPACITY FOR RETURN MANAGEMENT

BASELINE STUDY

SAFE AND ORDERLY MIGRATION: KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES AND PRACTICES IN BANGLADESH

International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency

HDRC
Human Development Research Centre
humane development through research and action

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ABBREVIATIONS

BMET	Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training
BNWLA	Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association
DEMO	District Employment and Manpower Office
FGD	focus group discussion
G2G	government-to-government
HDRC	Human Development Research Centre
IOM	International Organization for Migration
KAP	knowledge, attitude and practice
KII	key informant interview
NGO	non-governmental organization
PSWO	Padma Social Welfare Organization
TMSS	Thengamara Mohila Sabuj Sangh

Executive Summary

Introduction

With a young and still growing population and limited job opportunities back home, many Bangladeshi nationals seek employment abroad. It is estimated that there are approximately 1.8 million new labour market entries per year, of which the labour market can only provide 200,000 new formal jobs. Furthermore, approximately 87 per cent of all new entries are absorbed by the informal sector (LO/FTF Council, 2016), which is characterized by unsafe working conditions and no regulations. Due to the inability of the labour market to absorb new Bangladeshi labour migrants, the flow of irregular migration of Bangladeshi nationals has reached unprecedented levels during recent years.

Figures show an increase in the number of Bangladeshi migrants utilizing the Libyan smuggling corridor to reach Europe with Bangladeshi nationals becoming the second largest group of irregular migrants arriving in Italy in 2017. Until 30 June 2017, approximately 8,241 Bangladeshis crossed the dangerous Mediterranean passage by sea, accounting for over 12 per cent of all irregular migrants to the country. During the whole of 2016, a combined total of 8,932 Bangladeshis arrived in Italy and Greece . While the lack of accurate data on the stocks and flows of irregular migration is well documented, this data provides a clear estimate of the increased movement of Bangladeshi migrants towards Europe.

Accurate and reliable research on the effectiveness of migration related information campaigns is generally scarce, including in Bangladesh. To gain more empirical evidence around the attitudes and intentions of potential migrants and which communication channels are used for migrating abroad, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), together with the Human Development Research Centre (HDRC), conducted a baseline survey for creating a stronger evidence base to guide the setup of an effective awareness-raising programme on safe and orderly migration, including the risks of irregular migration. The study is part of the project Community-led Outreach on Safe Migration in 12 Districts of Bangladesh (which is funded by the IOM EU Readmission Capacity-building Facility (EURCAP)) and was administered among 600 potential migrants in 12 selected districts.[1] The districts were chosen based on a planning workshop (held on 28 February 2017) with the Government of Bangladesh, development partners, civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations

[1] The following districts were selected: Habiganj, Sylhet, Sunamganj, Jhenaidah, Jessore, Madaripur, Shariatpur, Munshiganj, Noakhali, Feni, Comilla and Faridpur.

(NGOs) and the media, as well as from the assisted voluntary return and reintegration (AVRR) data of IOM, the Andaman Sea returns data of IOM and consultations with relevant stakeholders who directly work with irregular migrants in the selected districts. A baseline study was conducted at the end of the project to measure any change in outcomes on knowledge, attitudes and practices surrounding safe and orderly migration. For a more extensive explanation on the methodology, please refer to section 1.4 in Chapter 1.

Profile of potential migrants

The study defines potential migrants as persons between 15 and 35 years of age who intend to migrate abroad within the near future, as well as those who wish to migrate to Europe within the next five years.[2] Both male and female migrants were surveyed, with a distribution ratio of 70/30 per cent respectively. Of all respondents, 405 were potential male migrants and 195 were potential female migrants. Furthermore, most respondents were potential migrants without any previous migration experience (81%, n=486), with the remaining percentage being returned migrants who had the aspiration to remigrate (19%, n=114). Respondents who did not want to migrate or remigrate were excluded from the knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP) survey baseline. Although most respondents (90.7%) had the desire to migrate abroad, a relatively low percentage had no wish to migrate abroad but were considering doing so to support their families (9.3%), which was particularly high in the district of Noakhali (30%).

The average age of all respondents was typically between 24 and 29 years (37%). Potential migrants were generally between the age of 18 and 29 (69.7%), whereas returned migrants were slightly older (52.6%; 30–35 years of age). There was also a notable difference between those who migrated from rural or urban areas, with rural migrants being a few years older (24–29; 40.9%) than those who planned to migrate from urban areas. Young migrants, aged between 15 and 17 years, represented only a small percentage of the respondents (2.5%).

The education level of most migrants was relatively low. Approximately one third completed primary education (36.2%), with a minority having no education (17%). A small proportion completed higher secondary education (8.8%). Generally, men were more highly educated than women, with 30.6 per cent of male respondents having completed class 8 (junior secondary school) compared to 19.5 per cent of women.

Most respondents were self-employed or had seasonal or piecemeal work (43.7%), but unemployment was a general problem for most migrants (35.7%). Unemployment rates were particularly high in Madaripur (50%), Noakhali (42.9%) and Jessore (45.2%). In addition to unemployment, most respondents experienced several difficult situations in the household such as

[2] The sampling frame was developed on the basis of demographic data from the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) and from the Andaman Sea return as well as assisted voluntary return and reintegration (AVRR) programmes of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). This led to the initial sampling frame age of 15–35 years.

serious illness in the family (22.2%), unable to pay back debts or other instalments or obligations (18%), as well as crop failures (16.8%).

Returned migrants who had the intention to remigrate were also interviewed for the survey. In total, 114 of all 600 respondents were identified as returnees who have the potential to remigrate. Generally, most migrants returned from the United Arab Emirates (21.1%), Saudi Arabia (14.9%), and, to a lesser extent, Lebanon (3.5%), Libya (3.54%) and India (1.8%). European countries were less popular, with a small minority of male migrants coming back from Italy (1%) and the United Kingdom (1%). During the focus group discussions (FGDs), three groups included returnees from Greece. The most important reason for migrating abroad that was identified during the FGDs with returned migrants was the ambition to find better employment and earn higher wages, as well as to settle in Europe. The experiences of returnees varied, with some being arrested in Libya and others staying in Greece for a long period (10 years). The average duration of stay of most returned migrants was one to three years (43%), with female migrants mostly staying one year or less.

Attitudes and intentions towards safe and orderly migration

The primary motivation to migrate abroad was the promise of earning higher wages (54.8%), but other considerations were also found important, such as lack of employment opportunities (22.8%) as well as being underemployed (17.5%). To this end, most potential migrants had an ambition to find better employment and earn higher income (63%) as well as to support their family members (23.7%). Most potential migrants who were unemployed came from Faridpur, Jessore, Comilla, Jhenaidah and Shariatpur. Respondents from Comilla (22%) and Noakhali (30%) were specifically interested in working abroad to increase their skill levels. This finding is also contiguous with the results of the key informant interviews (KIIs), where respondents indicated that the limited scope of employment, together with low wages, is a significant push factor for international migration.

When asked about their intentions to migrate to Europe, the majority of potential migrants had the intention to travel to a European country within the next five years (56.5%). However, although most respondents indicated that they would like to migrate to Europe ultimately, they did not intend to travel there directly due to possible restrictions in regard to visa and legal requirements, as well as their education and levels of skills. As such, the first intended country of destination for most potential migrants (male and female) was Saudi Arabia (34.7%), followed by Malaysia (9.8%) and Oman (8.7%). When results were segregated by gender, Saudi Arabia was popular mostly among female respondents (41.5%), followed by Oman (15.4%). The Government of Bangladesh recently signed a memorandum of understanding with the Government of Saudi Arabia to promote and facilitate the

deployment of Bangladeshi female domestic workers in Saudi Arabia. Male respondents mostly intended migrate to Saudi Arabia (31.4%), followed by Kuwait (10.4%). Although Italy (5%) and France (1.2%) were not high on the list of intended countries of destination, the Middle East – including Saudi Arabia – has a long history of labour migration and is also known to be part of the smuggling corridor towards Europe. A few of the legal channels for recruiting Bangladeshi workers in Bangladesh are as follows:

- **Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET):** Registered overseas employment (legal migration) is managed by the BMET, which is under the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment. To be considered regular migrants, potential migrants have to register on the BMET database at the Union Digital Centres (UDCs) in all union *parishads* or at the nearest District Employment and Manpower Office (DEMO). The BMET is also mandated to process foreign demands for the recruitment of Bangladeshi workers, control and regulate emigration clearance for recruited workers for overseas employment, regulate the private recruitment agencies, provide training and skills development through its technical and vocational skills training institutes to those who want to work in different employable trades, and collect and disseminate labour market information.
- **Bangladesh Overseas Employment and Services Limited (BOESL):** The BOESL is a state-owned company engaged in the recruitment of workers for overseas employment. This is the only company created by the Government of Bangladesh to operate in direct competition with over more than 1,300 private recruitment agencies in the country.
- **Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (BAIRA):** A good number of private recruitment agencies are operating to arrange the recruitment of workers for different countries. These recruitment agencies are authorized and licensed by the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment. These agencies collect demand from employers and recruit workers through intermediaries (*dalal*) from different corners of the country, ranging from the remotest to urban areas. To provide such services, these recruitment agencies charge fees from the workers (e.g. for assisting migrants in passport applications, for covering training and skills development costs, for providing job contracts, for covering medical service costs, for obtaining clearance and smart cards from the DEMO branches and for providing plane tickets, among other services). Costs of travel, medical services and others are supposed to be borne by the employers, but workers usually pay for these later on.

During the FGDs, it became clear that the decision of migrants to leave Bangladesh was influenced by the presence of social networks in the country, as well as social networks in the country of destination. Additional factors that influenced the attitude of both potential and returned migrants towards going to Europe were an ambition to find better employment including labour conditions, the desire to earn higher wages, the possibility of settling permanently in the destination country and the presence of better environmental conditions in the destination. Strikingly, during the FGDs, most migrants did not have a preference for a specific European country, but they were more concerned about the

general opportunities Europe would bring. The KAP survey, however, shows a slight preference among respondents for Italy and France.

Several questions were asked about the financial and non-financial costs of migration. The anticipated average cost for migrating abroad was estimated at BDT 364,808 (EUR 3,800). Potential migrants in the districts of Sylhet and Sunamganj expected to pay an amount of BDT 450,000 (EUR 5,000). The differences in awareness with regard to the costs involved could be attributed to the long history of migration from Sylhet to the United Kingdom. During the FGDs, most respondents expected to pay around BDT 70,000–120,000, which is significantly lower than the amount quoted in the KAP survey. This provides an indication that most migrants did not have a good level of awareness of the actual costs involved in the migration process. In addition, most migrants were generally unwilling to be specific about their anticipated costs. These findings are in line with the results of the KIIs, in which some respondents indicated that there was a certain level of secrecy around communicating the costs involved with migrating abroad. When turning to the non-financial cost of migration, a majority of respondents were willing to be separated from their family members (83.5%) and face language barriers in the country of destination (58%). It is worth noting that some migrants were also willing to work under bad conditions (36.8%), sell their organs (9.2%) or engage in sexual activities (9%) to pay for the cost of migration. Potential female migrants coming from Habiganj District were most willing to engage in sexual activities to pay for the cost of migration (56.3% of all female respondents). During the KIIs, we found that irregular migrants that were victims of human trafficking, forced labour, kidnapping and sexual abuse often came from low education backgrounds – this was especially prevalent among women.

Approximately 28.3 per cent of potential migrants expected to migrate through government channels, through the government-to-government (G2G) plus system),[3] followed closely by the intention to seek help from friends and family (24.3%) as well as recruiting agencies (19.5%). The intention to migrate through government channels was particularly high in the districts of Shariatpur (68%), Comilla (52%), Feni (50%) and Noakhali (50%). A comparatively high percentage of respondents from Habiganj (48%) and Munshiganj (34%) were planning to go abroad through the help of families and friends. Social networks were considered important for supporting the migration process financially, as most potential migrants intended to borrow money from their family members, friends or in-laws (70%), in addition to using their own savings (49%).

[3] The government-to-government (G2G) plus system, which was developed and implemented in 2016 by the Government of Bangladesh and the Government of Malaysia, was aimed at facilitating recruitment to specified sectors between the two countries. In a policy shift and a bid to eliminate middle men in the recruitment system, the Government of Malaysia indicated in July 2018 to revert the G2G plus system with Bangladesh and reintroduce the G2G system as a State-level labour recruitment system.

Although more than half of all respondents (55.7%) did not feel they had the required skills for employment abroad, a high percentage of them (74.3%) indicated to be willing to attend pre-migration training and skills development. Furthermore, while the majority of returned migrants felt they had the required skills for working abroad (84.2%), potential migrants considered their skill sets substantially lower (35%). In particular, there was a high interest among respondents to engage in language courses or other skill development training sessions that would increase the chances of attaining better employment in the future country of destination.

The most common sector where both potential migrants and returnees with the potential to remigrate intended to work was the domestic sector (22.5%), which was particularly popular among female migrants (66.7%). The second most popular intended sector of work was hospitality (15.3%), with others reporting they would seek anything available (13.7%). On average, the majority of potential migrants expected salary range between EUR 300 and EUR 500 (approximately BDT 30,000–50,000). There was no significant difference between the results from returnees with the potential to remigrate and from potential migrants. However, potential female migrants estimated their wages to be substantially lower than potential male migrants. On average, potential female migrants expected to earn between BDT 20,000 and BDT 30,000, whereas potential male migrants expected to earn between BDT 30,001 and BDT 50,000. Generally, both female and male migrants intended to send 51–75 per cent of their wages as remittances. There was a slight difference when comparing the results between returnees and potential migrants, whereby 27.2 per cent of returned migrants intended to send back 75 per cent of their salaries versus 17.1 per cent among potential migrants.

Both potential and returned migrants were asked what kind of information they would find useful for migrating abroad safely. Overall, the following information or services were considered most useful:

- Visa and legal requirements (67%);
- The risks of migrating abroad (62%);
- Visa-checking services (54.8%);
- What kind of work might be available (54.5%);
- Information on realistic salary expectations (50.8%);
- Increased government support (45%).

Knowledge and practices of safe and orderly migration

Both potential and returned migrants were also asked about their awareness of how to migrate through regular channels. The KAP survey consisted of several aspects, including knowledge of labour rights and legal requirements, selection criteria for a recruitment agent and brokers and the risks of the migration process. In general, the term “safe migration” was mostly associated with securing a job with a good company (77.5%), getting a good salary in the destination country (74.5%) and migrating through government channels (55.2%). Generally, potential migrants were less concerned about doing the actual job that was originally promised (11.5%).

Furthermore, limited knowledge of the overseas job market, including visa and legal requirements of the country of destination, lead potential migrants to miscalculate the risks of the migration process. The majority of respondents were aware that a passport, a visa and a work contract are necessary to migrate regularly (50.7%), with a small percentage indicating they would only need a passport and any visa (14.7%). Nevertheless, many potential migrants travel to their first countries of destination on a tourist visa, relying mostly on the broker for ensuring their migration process (Ullah, 2017). When asked about the benefits associated with migrating on a regular work visa, most potential migrants expected to earn higher wages and have greater protection (45.3%). A small percentage (3%) thought it would only benefit the employers. No significant difference was found when results were segregated by district.

Furthermore, general awareness regarding the possible risks involved during migration – including human trafficking – was also a part of the survey. Over two-thirds (66.7%) of respondents mentioned that one could be arrested, deported or exploited when travelling with a student, free or Hajj visa.[4] Returned migrants were generally more aware of these risks (81.6%). Potential migrants from the districts of Comilla (48%), Feni (46%) and Noakhali (34%) did not associate any risks of travelling with a student or Hajj visa. Approximately 13.8 per cent of all respondents did not associate any risks with travelling without the right documentation. The additional, identified challenges for Bangladeshi migrants were the unavailability of promised work (78.8%), lower wages than anticipated (75.7%), arrest (63.5%), long working hours (50%) and sexual harassment (26.3%). A small group of migrants (1.3%) were not aware of any risks associated with the migration process. During two FGDs, potential male migrants were able to highlight the risk of kidnapping, whereby they stressed the consequences for the family left behind as they would be forced to pay ransom money. Migrants with prior migration experience identified additional risks. Some indicated that they felt insecure when boarding the plane when they laid first sight on their (restricted) visas and travel documentation but decided to go ahead with their planned travel due to their stage of migration. When speaking about their own experiences abroad, others indicated to have suffered from exploitation and abuse, and, in rare cases, confinement, with no knowledge of who to contact in case of emergency.

With regard to awareness of labour standards, only 18.8 per cent of respondents were able to list all indicators associated with labour rights, namely, freedom from forced labour, freedom from child labour, freedom from discrimination at work, and freedom to form and join a union and bargain

[4] A so-called "free visa" refers to a work permit given by an employer in a Middle Eastern country (including Saudi Arabia) where the migrant will not be employed. Rather, the visa is used to seek employment elsewhere, without any responsibility to the employer issuing the visa. When the visa expires, extension is usually arranged (and renewal of job permit) by paying a large sum of money to the employer in question.

collectively. Comparatively, 4.2 per cent of respondents did not have any knowledge of labour standards whatsoever. A relatively large minority of potential migrants knew which elements should be included in an employment contract, with 21.5 per cent selecting the employment period, wages and overtime pay, working hours and rest time, benefits, job duties and rules about termination.

A generally held belief highlighted in similar studies on safe migration in the region (ILO, 2015) is that friends and families are considered the most reliable source of information on migrating abroad for work. The findings of the survey do indeed point towards the significant role of social networks in the decision-making process of potential migrants. At the initial stage of migration, the majority of respondents planned to approach their relatives for assistance or information on migrating abroad (70.5%), followed by their friends (41.5%). As multiple answers were possible, a relatively high percentage of potential migrants would also approach the DEMO to ask for assistance regarding ways to migrate abroad (37.2%). Intentions for approaching local DEMO branches was particularly present among migrants coming from Comilla, Faridpur, Feni, Jessore, Jhenaidah and Noakhali. These findings differ slightly from the results of the KIIs, in which respondents indicated that there was a general lack of willingness to speak openly about potential plans for migration with members of the family, especially regarding costs associated with migration abroad.

When selecting a recruitment agency or a broker, 64.3 per cent gave priority to speed of employment, followed by cost (55.8%), among key criteria. No significant differences were found when results were segregated by gender. During the FGDs, it became clear that the advice given by friends and families was also considered an important determinant for selecting a broker. When turning to the most trusted source of information for pre-departure information, the significance of social networks (through families and friends) were considered important. More than half of potential migrants (54%) would put more trust in someone who migrated and returned to provide them with pre-departure migration information, compared to 10.7 per cent who would prefer government authorities. Potential migrants coming from Faridpur (32%), Jessore (38%), Sunamganj (28%) and Sylhet (24%) would place the most trust in their brokers. Without more reliable and available means to compare the services of available recruitment actors, word of mouth and information from relatives and friends was perceived to be the only way to accurately assess which recruitment agent would be reliable.

When asked about whom they would contact in emergency situations while in the country of destination, over half of the respondents said they would contact an embassy or a consulate (51.7%), followed by friends and family (44.2%) and the police (31.5%). In short, although there was a general level of awareness about where to validate visa and other legal requirements, the role of social networks and information provision by family members and friends, as well as brokers, appeared to take a prominent role in the overall decision-making process.

In a more advanced stage of the migration process, when asked about ways to *validate* their visa and legal requirements, most potential migrants planned to go to a DEMO branch (43.2%). Nonetheless, a minority (20%) planned to use a combination of a *dalal* and a DEMO branch for validation purposes (20%). This indicates a general lack of awareness in regard to what kind of services a broker can

provide. A significant proportion of potential migrants (20%) did not know whom to approach to validate their visa and other legal documents.

Communication channels and materials

The DEMO branches in Bangladesh have played a key role in the implementation of previous safe and irregular migration information campaigns. DEMO branches provide migration-related services at the district level; these services, which vary per district and DEMO branch, include registering fingerprints and issuing "smart cards"[5] based on the registration done at the UDC level. Most key informants, including DEMO officers, were actively involved in previous safe migration awareness campaigns in their districts, focusing on a wide range of activities at the district, *upazila* and union levels including, but not limited to the dissemination of relevant safe migration messaging through information, education and communication (IEC) materials; additional campaigning; seminars and courtyard meetings; observing an international migration day; and distribution of IEC materials on safe migration. There was a consensus on the effectiveness of previous safe migration awareness campaigns conducted by IOM in collaboration with the DEMO, the BMET and NGO partners as well as on the need to continue these campaigns. Areas of intervention that were considered most resourceful were community-based activities such as drama and theatre plays; provision of information on visa and legal requirements; dissemination of leaflets, posters and brochures that focus mainly on imagery rather than the text and the various steps in the migration process; and dissemination of videos that focus specifically on the dangers of irregular migration and benefits of safe migration.

Furthermore, of all respondents approximately 39.3 per cent was exposed to safe migration previously, although a relatively large percentage (60.8%) had no recollection of such information. Some noticeable differences were visible when analysing the data by district. Limited awareness of previous safe migration information was particularly present among respondents living in the districts of Comilla (88%), Feni (86%), Noakhali (98%) and Shariatpur (90%). Those who were exposed to information on migration mostly heard the information through families and friends (58.7%), news reports on TV (41.7%), public service announcements on TV (25.1%) and a broker (*dalal*) (18.3%). These findings again indicate the value of social network in information provision (both active and passive).

[5] To counter fraud in the recruitment of overseas workers, the Government of Bangladesh issues smart cards with names, photographs, and fingerprints of workers heading for Saudi Arabia and other countries. The smart cards prevent impersonation and eliminate the role of intermediaries in the overseas recruitment process. As information on migration is registered through the BMET and the DEMO branch, the information can be utilized when migrants encounter any issues. If such a situation occurs, the Embassy of Bangladesh in the host country can immediately identify the status of the worker with information contained on the smart card, without needing the person's passport.

Focusing on the media consumption of potential and returned migrants also allowed for a more detailed understanding of the type of communication channels and mediums of information the respondents used most frequently. Overall, a large majority of respondents watched TV on a regular basis (91.5%), and channels NTV (50.1%), Shomoy TV (40.8%) and Channel i (29.7%) were most popular. Usage of regular mobile phones as well as smartphones/tablets was relatively high among all respondents (47.7% and 25.5%, respectively). This finding indicates that there is a high potential in utilizing mobile technologies for future awareness-raising activities.

Approximately 28.5 per cent of respondents read newspapers regularly. In comparison to women (7.2%), the majority of positive responses came from potential male respondents (38.8%). The most popular newspaper was *Prothom Alo*, followed by the *Daily Bangladesh Pratidin* and the *Local Daily*. Furthermore, a small proportion of potential migrants regularly listened to the radio (9.3%), with no active female listeners. In response, 92.9 per cent (n=52) mentioned that they normally listened to FM radio.

To further analyse the usage of and access to the Internet of migrants, all respondents (potential and returned migrants) were asked whether they had access to and used the Internet. Of the respondents, 29.7 per cent indicated usage of the Internet. The majority of these users were potential male migrants (27.37%). Internet usage was less popular among female migrants, with only 3.17 per cent responding positively to the question. When usage and access trends between potential and returned migrants were compared, potential migrants were more likely to use the Internet (22.17%).

Furthermore, of the respondents who indicated that they had access to and used the Internet, 29.7 per cent were subscribed to social media sites. Nearly all potential migrants were active on Facebook (99.4%), followed by YouTube (43.8%) as well as Google+ (16.5%). Social media was generally not used for active retrieval of information on safe migration, with only 16.3 per cent who responded positively. Of those respondents, the majority searched for information on visa application and general information on living in the EU (40.0%), which was especially the case for potential migrants. Returned migrants were less specific and searched for visa application processes on various countries (33.3%).

Recommendations

Based on the KAP survey results, as well as the FGDs and KIIs, several recommendations can be made for the development of migration information campaigns, including the provision of technical assistance and capacity-building support to government and non-governmental agencies.

Technical assistance and capacity-building

1. **Decentralization of government migration services conducted under the BMET:** The current level of services provided to potential and returned migrants in their respective districts was considered inadequate in reaching those areas facing the highest risk of irregular migration. Some KII respondents indicated that the DEMO branches have no permanent premises or continuous outreach programmes to conduct migration information campaigns for potential migrants. To this end, some DEMO officials asserted that decentralizing the work of the BMET, particularly regarding documentation and the clearance process, could limit the role of brokers in the migration process, as this would decrease the cost and time associated with travelling to Dhaka.
2. **Capacity-building of technical training centres (TTCs) and training of trainers (ToT):** A majority of migrants expressed interest to take part in pre-departure and skills development training sessions. However, several KII respondents highlighted the lack of capacity of the TTCs currently under the wing of the BMET. Providing technical and capacity-building support to technical and vocational schools, including TTCs under the BMET, would benefit training centres in providing pre-departure and skills development training to Bangladeshi workers.[6]
3. **Regulation of the recruitment industry in Bangladesh:** Brokers (*dalals)* are mostly active in remote areas in Bangladesh and are kept by influential networks that send potential migrants overseas under the guise of providing better opportunities. Most migrants put significant faith in the hands of brokers, while having limited knowledge of the overseas job market. Often, private recruitment agencies use several layers of subagents to find prospective migrants, yet this sector is characterized by a lack of regulatory frameworks. Potential migrants, and the recruitment sector as a whole, would benefit from strengthened regulations and formalizing qualified subagents.

Support services for potential migrants

1. **Integrated approach to migration information campaigns:** A minority of potential and returned migrants who participated in the study were exposed to previous safe migration information, yet

[6] There are two types of training available in Bangladesh – formal and informal. Formal training is provided by the educational, vocational and technical training institutes (e.g. TTCs under the BMET), while informal training is imparted through on-the-job training, in-plant training and apprenticeship training.

they could not collect specific details on the regular migration process. It was identified that district-level government officials (or other relevant civil society organizations dealing with safe and irregular migration) have no permanent premises or continuous outreach programmes to conduct information campaigns on migration. Future migration information campaigns would benefit from more focused interventions at the district, *upazila* and union levels to increase the sustainability of future interventions and prevent migrants from taking irregular migration routes. Furthermore, as most migrants planned to migrate due to a lack of livelihood options, there is an opportunity to develop interventions that integrate the provision of technical and vocational skills training with adequate information provision on regular migration pathways.

2. **Requirements and expectations of the migration process:** Among all respondents, there was a general lack of understanding of the regular migration process. Both FGD and KII respondents expressed the need to focus on targeted information messaging, providing specific and practical information on regular migration pathways and requirements, such as visa and legal requirements of regional destination countries, including ways to check the validity and authenticity of travel documents (e.g. passport and visa type), as well as the jobs and salaries that may be available. Providing this information to potential migrants, including on the steps pertaining to registration, clearance and approval of visa documentation, would contribute to efforts to enhancing migrants' understanding of regular migration pathways.

3. **Social networks in country of origin and destination:** The results of the study indicate that social networks (through family, friends and the larger community) both in Bangladesh and abroad play an important role in providing information on opportunities and conditions in destination countries. As such, future information campaigns would benefit from involving the local community, as well as international networks of family and friends, in providing information on the realities of the migration process and living conditions in destination countries.

4. **Community-based approaches:** Respondents were mostly exposed to previous safe migration campaigns through community-based approaches, such as drama and theatre shows, courtyard meetings and less so through IEC materials. As a majority of migrants expressed their trust in community leaders and religious establishments, there is an opportunity strengthen engagement with community elites and religious leaders at the union level, including those representing municipalities and city corporations in urban areas, to provide information on safe and regular migration pathways. Similar interventions in other countries have shown that community-level ownership to awareness-raising and community action for preventing trafficking in persons has led to promising results.

5. **Peer-to-peer education:** A relatively sizeable minority of returned migrants experienced some form of violence, exploitation or abuse. To prevent others from making uninformed decisions, several returned migrants expressed an interest in being mobilized in their communities to spread more information on the risks of irregular migration. Hence, there is an opportunity to engage returned migrants in sharing their stories with communities and families about the dangers, trauma and abuse that many experienced while attempting to migrate irregularly.

6. **Visual materials:** During the field-testing of previous migration IEC materials, there was a consensus among both potential and returned migrants that IEC materials focusing mostly on

textual information was too difficult to understand for most migrants with low educational backgrounds. As such, when designing new IEC materials, emphasis should be placed on imagery, rather than the textual materials.

Research

1. **Impact of human trafficking on families left behind:** Some respondents indicated that families left behind are often victimized when a (irregular) migrant comes into the hands of traffickers. These families are forced to pay ransom money, leading to even higher indebtedness for the migrant and family members involved, and possibly feeding into the remigration cycle. As research on this topic has generally been understudied, additional research could be carried out on the cost of migration – specifically relating to the impact of human trafficking on families left behind in the country of origin.

2. **Approaches to remigration and sustainable return and reintegration:** Although the baseline study included several returned migrants, both in the KAP survey and FGDs, exploring the aspirations and intentions of remigration, as well as migrants' in-depth experiences during migration, was beyond the scope of the study. Additional research is needed to better understand the factors and dimensions that influence the decision-making process for remigration, including the process of sustainable return and reintegration. Future research can leverage IOM's existing AVRR programmes and the guidelines and tools developed to measure reintegration sustainability at the individual, community and structural levels, alongside the social, economic and psychosocial dimensions (e.g. Mediterranean Sustainable Reintegration (MEASURE) Project[7]).

3. **Factors influencing the decision-making process of migrants in transit:** To better understand the factors that influence the decision-making process of migrants in transit (such as those residing in Libya or those using other smuggling corridors), more research is needed on the routes and dynamics that influence migrants' decision-making process.

[7] More information on IOM's integrated approach to sustainable reintegration, including the respective guidelines and tools developed, can be found in this report commissioned by IOM and funded by the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID): Samuel Hall/IOM, "Setting standards for an integrated approach to reintegration" (2017), available from www.iom.int/sites/default/files/our_work/DMM/AVRR/IOM_SAMUEL_HALL_MEASURE_REPORT%202017.pdf

CHAPTER 1
BACKGROUND, OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

1.1 Introduction

With a young and growing population and limited job opportunities back home, many Bangladeshi nationals seek employment abroad. It is estimated that there are approximately 1.8 million new jobseekers per year, while the labour market can only provide 200,000 new formal jobs.[8] As the labour market is unable to absorb these new entries, 87.4 per cent of these jobseekers enter the informal economy, which is characterized by low-paid and unsafe jobs. Others migrate abroad in search of better opportunities. In 2016, approximately 570,000 labour migrants travelled through regular channels to the Middle East. The same number of Bangladeshi migrants migrated abroad for overseas employment up until July 2017 (according to the BMET data), which indicates a significant increase in outmigration from the previous year. As the labour market cannot accommodate the new jobseekers, the flow of irregular migration has reached unprecedented levels in recent years. Figures show an increase in the number of Bangladeshi migrants utilizing the Libyan smuggling corridor to reach the EU, with Bangladesh becoming the second largest nationality for irregular migrants arriving in Italy in 2017.[9] Up until 30 June 2017, approximately 8,241 Bangladeshis had crossed the dangerous Mediterranean passage by sea, accounting for over 12 per cent of all irregular migrants in Italy.[10] During the whole of 2016, a total of 8,932 Bangladeshis arrived in Italy and Greece combined. In short, while the lack of accurate numbers on the stocks and flows of irregular migration is well documented, these numbers give clear estimations of the increased movement of Bangladeshi migrants towards Europe.[11]

Recruitment of irregular migrant workers happens through the vast and established networks of *dalals* – who often charge high fees for their services – between sending and receiving countries. In addition, travel arrangements often involve complex itineraries through several countries, using false documents of various kinds including passports, visas and permits. The risks associated with this type of migration are significant, with a majority of migrants becoming victims of abuse or human trafficking in at least one stage of their journey. One IOM study found that 79 per cent of 2,769 migrants and refugees interviewed from February to May 2017, who travelled along the Central Mediterranean route connecting North Africa to Europe, responded positively to at least one of four

[8] On average, there are approximately 200,000 new formal jobs per year (according to the 2015 labour market study of the International Labour Organization (ILO)).
[9] According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) system, the first country of origin is Nigeria.
[10] Most of the reported arrivals were men (6,933), unaccompanied minors (1,251), followed by accompanied minors (30) and adult females (27). Source: IOM, "Mixed migration flows in the Mediterranean: Compilation of available data and information, July 2017".
[11] In addition, it is important to note that these numbers rely on reporting authorities from Italy and Greece only, and do not provide an accurate reflection of the total number of Bangladeshi migrants arriving in the EU.

human trafficking and exploitative practices indicators based on their own direct experience.[12] Studies done by IOM show that migrants, families and communities often have a limited understanding of the dangers of (irregular) migration, including:

- Limited awareness of the processes for accessing regular migration routes;
- Those who are aware of the dangers are willing to experience risk for the hope of migrating abroad;
- A lack of understanding about the profit and loss calculation of migration costs versus potential earnings and the cost of living abroad;
- Insufficient information dissemination to change irregular migration behaviour, especially when migrants are crippled with debt, lack of employment, and lack of referrals from trusted community sources and networks.

Though the project "Community-led Outreach on Safe Migration in 12 Districts of Bangladesh", which is funded by the IOM EU Readmission Capacity-building Facility (EURCAP), IOM has collaborated with the Government of Bangladesh, civil society and communities to contribute to a decrease in the trends of irregular migration by building community support for safe migration and engaging the wider community in awareness campaign planning. Previous and current awareness-raising programmes encourage migrants to travel safely, but materials and methods are often developed through a top-down approach and could still benefit from wider and more community-based stakeholder engagement. Therefore, to develop an effective community-based awareness-raising campaign, it is necessary to understand how potential migrants think about both the risks and benefits of migration and which communication channels and sources are used to gain information on migrating abroad. To this end, the Human Development Research Centre (HDRC), in collaboration with IOM, conducted a KAP survey to create a stronger evidence base for guiding the set-up of an effective awareness-raising programme on the risks of irregular migration and benefits of safe migration.

1.2 Objectives

The overall goal of the baseline study is to generate a better understanding of potential Bangladeshi migrants' information needs, preferred channels of communication, and effectiveness of existing awareness-raising materials among the 15- to 35-year-old demographic of potential migrants and returnees with the potential to remigrate. The specific objectives of the study are to: (1) identify the perspectives on safe and orderly migration among potential migrants; (2) identify which communication channels and sources are used by potential migrants to seek information on migration; and (3) establish a baseline study on the knowledge, attitudes and practices about safe and orderly migration among potential migrants by which the effectiveness of the planned information campaign can be assessed.

1.3 Research questions

To operationalize the previously mentioned objectives, the following research areas of intervention were identified for this study:

[12] IOM, "Analysis: Flow Monitoring Surveys – the human trafficking and other exploitative practices prevalence indication survey" (June 2017).

1. What is the potential Bangladeshi migrants' understanding of and perceived needs on migrating safely and regularly?
2. What channels for information dissemination on safe migration are available and used by potential migrants?
3. How can future information materials be produced to inform potential migrants about the dangers of irregular migration and the benefits of safe and regular migration?

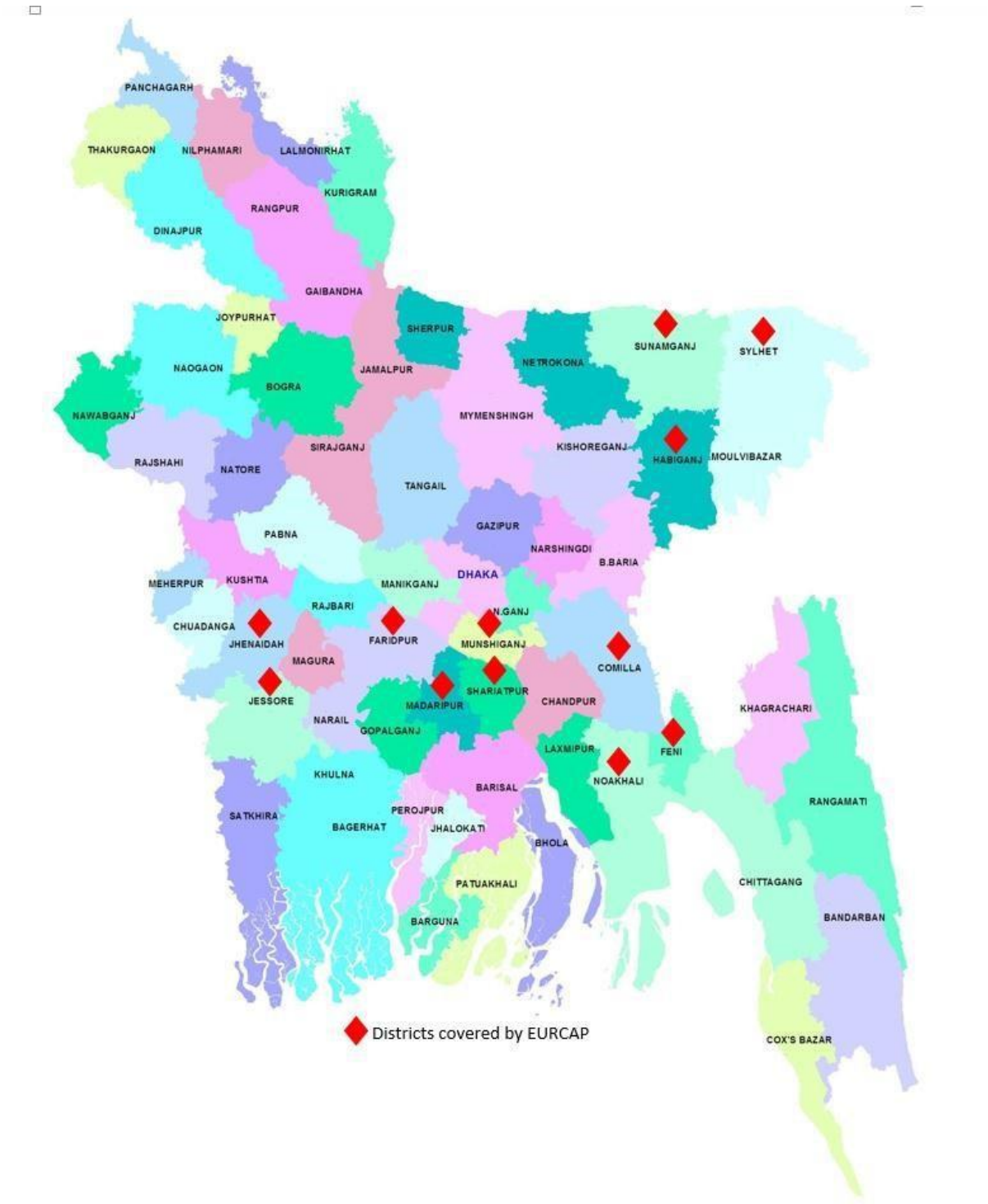
1.4 Methodology

The KAP study consisted of three parts:

- **Survey:** 600 surveys were administered in 12 districts of Bangladesh among potential migrants and returnees with the potential to remigrate;
- **FGD:** 12 FGDs were held with potential migrants and returnees;
- **KII:** 12 KIIs were carried out with key stakeholders including representatives from government and NGOs.

Quantitative data (gathered through a KAP survey) and qualitative data (gathered through FGDs with potential migrants and returnees, as well as KIIs with relevant stakeholders) were used in this study along with secondary information of previous migration information campaigns. The surveys were administered at household level in the following 12 districts: Comilla, Faridpur, Feni, Habiganj, Jessore, Jhenaidah, Madaripur, Munshiganj, Noakhali, Shariatpur, Sunamganj and Sylhet.

Figure 1.1: Map of districts



Source: IOM Bangladesh KAP survey, 2017.

1.4.1 Indicators

Table 1. 1: Indicators and components of the knowledge, attitude and practice study

Indicator	Specific components
Knowledge and practices of safe and orderly migration among potential migrants	1. Knowledge of legal requirements; 2. Awareness of risks and problems in the migration process; 3. Knowledge of labour rights in the destination country; 4. Knowledge of labour contracts; 5. Selection criteria for a recruitment agency or a broker; 6. Preferred channel of migration; 7. Influencer of migration; 8. Most trusted source for visa validation; 9. Most trusted source of pre-departure information; 10. Sources of assistance in emergency situations.
Attitudes on safe and orderly migration among potential migrants and their migration intentions	1. Main motivations for migrating abroad; 2. Anticipated destination country; 3. Anticipated costs of migrating abroad; 4. Anticipated benefits of travelling abroad; 5. Expected channel of migration (recruitment agency or broker); 6. Expected source of financing for migrating; 7. Anticipated need for and willingness to undergo training and skill development; 8. Anticipated work and salary in the destination country; 9. Anticipated remittances; 10. Anticipated requirements and processes for regular migration.
Communication channels and sources among potential migrants	1. Exposure to safe migration information; 2. Most reliable source of information for safe migration; 3. Preferred communication channels and sources; 4. Experienced gaps in information provision on safe migration.

1.4.2 Target groups

Table 1. 2: Target groups

Selection criterion	**Returnees with the potential to remigrate**		**Potential migrants**	
	Inclusion criterion	**Exclusion criterion**	**Inclusion criterion**	**Exclusion criterion**
Age range	15–35	Age range does not correspond	15–35	Age range does not correspond

Gender	Male and female	n.a.	Male and female	n.a.
Education	Primary, college (secondary, higher secondary college, bachelor) students, including dropouts	Education level does not match the criterion	Primary, college (secondary, higher secondary college, Bachelor) students, including dropouts	Education level does not match the criterion
Migration experience	With experience working abroad prior to the start of the KAP survey and wishes to migrate abroad in the near future	Respondent has not migrated before/does not have experience in working abroad	No experience in working abroad, prior to the start of the KAP/FGD	Respondent has migrated before or has experience working abroad
District	Comilla, Faridpur, Feni, Habiganj, Jessore, Jhenaidah, Madaripur, Munshiganj, Noakhali, Shariatpur, Sunamganj and Sylhet	Respondent does not live in any of the selected districts	Comilla, Faridpur, Feni, Habiganj, Jessore, Jhenaidah, Madaripur, Munshiganj, Noakhali, Shariatpur, Sunamganj and Sylhet	Respondent does not live in any of the selected districts

1.4.4 Sampling method and size

The rationale for selecting the 12 districts was based on an analysis of IOM's assisted voluntary return and reintegration (AVRR) and Andaman Sea returns data, including the results of a planning workshop (held on 28 February 2017) attended by representatives from the Government of Bangladesh, development partners, civil society organizations, NGOs and the media. While the AVVR data is based on the districts receiving "returned" migrants, the Andaman Sea returns data includes information on those districts where migrants have originated from. This method was chosen to avoid potential bias in selecting the respective implementation districts. Additionally, local NGOs with extensive experience in implementing migration-related interventions in high-risk states of irregular migration were also consulted.

Furthermore, the sampling frame (inclusion and exclusion criteria) for potential and returned migrants was developed based on the results of the planning workshop held on 28 February 2017, the profile of migrants who have been assisted through IOM's AVRR programme, NGO partners such as BRAC and members of the IOM project team with significant experience in the field of migration in Bangladesh. The age range was defined as between 15 and 35 years, with education levels up to college, including dropouts. Further selection of participants was done through a participatory rapid appraisal (PRA).

In determining a representative sample size for the target population, taking into consideration budget and time constraints, 600 surveys were administered in 12 districts of Bangladesh (50 surveys per district, of which 420 were conducted among potential male migrants and 180 among potential female migrants) with a 70 to 30 male-to-female ratio. The quantitative (KAP) survey included potential migrants from 15 to 35 years of age.

Furthermore, 12 FGDs were held in six districts of Bangladesh (two per district); each FGD was grouped into two sub-sessions (one session for returned male migrants and one session for male and female

potential migrants), in order to assess the differences in knowledge and awareness of the safe migration process. Of these 12 FGDs, six were held with returned male migrants, three FGDs with potential male migrants and three FGDs with potential female migrants. Segregating male and female participants during the FGDs allowed the female migrants to speak more openly about their perspectives on migration.

Knowledge, attitude and practice survey

The sample of potential migrants was selected in five stages:

1. **Step 1:** Twelve districts were selected based on IOM's AVRR data and the Andaman Sea returns data, as well as the BMET data on registered overseas employment.
2. **Step 2:** A total of 24 *upazila*s were selected based on the BMET registered overseas employment data (two *upazila*s in each district). For an overview of registered overseas employment per *upazila*, please see Annex (Table A1).[13]
3. **Step 3:** In consultation with the Upazila Nirbahi Officers (UNOs), local government representatives and concerned officials working in the field of migration, two unions within each *upazila* were selected.
4. **Step 4:** The selected unions were divided into rural and urban unions (meaning that each district was covered by two rural and two urban unions). An exception was made for the district of Comilla, upon advice from local government representatives.
5. **Step 5:** Respondents were selected through a PRA exercise in the selected 48 unions from 24 *upazila*s in 12 districts. During the selection of potential migrants, apart from their personal and demographic information, data on inclusion and exclusion criteria were collected to ensure that the respondents were selected through random selection.

Fieldwork

The fieldwork commenced by appointing and training the enumerators, supervisors and other personnel for questionnaire pre-testing, data collection, field supervision and FGD guidance. A 42-page "show card" manual was prepared for each enumerator. For data collection, qualified enumerators (four supervisors and 13 data collectors) were appointed on a contract basis and were trained for three days by the HDRC and IOM. The KAP survey, FGD and KII questionnaires were revised during the pre-testing and the training of enumerators. Pre-testing was conducted in the district of Narshindi.

[13] Please note that the registered overseas employment figure from the BMET contain some gaps. Most of the data however pertains to the period of 2014–2017 concerning the 12 selected districts.

The data was collected from 28 June 2017 to 9 July 2017. The 17 enumerators, including supervisors, were divided into four groups (three groups had four enumerators and another group had five enumerators; 50% of them were female) and supervised by two team members including the team leader. The supervisors reviewed the completed questionnaires on a daily basis for possible errors. If any error was found, the respective enumerator was recalled, and if necessary, was sent to the same respondent again the next day. Furthermore, the FGDs were moderated by IOM personnel and HDRC team members. All interviews were recorded, transcribed in Bangla, and translated to English for coding and analysis through the qualitative data analysis software Atlas.ti 7.

After completion of the fieldwork, all questionnaires and FGD and KII results were reviewed by HDRC staff. The KAP survey results were compiled through a single-entry system (each questionnaire was assigned a serial number), whereby all questionnaires were checked for accuracy. One of the team members was present throughout the data entry process to provide guidance and solve any issues. Simple one- and two-dimensional tables were used to interpret the findings.

Table 1. 3: Distribution of quantitative (KAP), FGD and KII data

District		*Upazila*		Union	Potential migrants		Focused group discussion			Key informant interview (District)
					Male	Female	Potential migrants		Returned migrants	
							Male	Female	Male	
1	Habiganj	1	Habiganj Sadar	2	17	8	–	–	–	1
		2	Chunarughat	2	17	8	–	–	–	
2	Sylhet	1	Kanaighat	2	17	8	–	–	–	1
		2	Golapganj	2	17	8	1	–	1	
3	Sunamganj	1	Sunamganj Sadar	2	17	8	1	–	1	1
		2	Chhatak	2	17	8	–	–	–	
4	Jhenaidah	1	Maheshpur	2	17	8	–	–	–	1
		2	Jhenaidah	2	16	9	–	–	–	
5	Jessore	1	Jessore Sadar	2	17	8	–	1	1	1
		2	Sharsha	2	17	8	–	–	–	
6	Madaripur	1	Kalkini	2	16	9	–	–	–	1
		2	Madaripur	2	17	8	–	–	–	
7	Shariatpur	1	Jajira	2	17	8	–	–	–	1
		2	Naria	2	17	8	–	–	–	
8	Munshiganj	1	Sirajdikhan	2	17	8	–	–	–	1
		2	Munshiganj	2	17	8	–	1	1	
9	Noakhali	1	Senbagh	2	17	8	–	–	–	1
		2	Begumganj	2	16	9	–	1	1	
10	Feni	1	Feni Sadar	2	17	8	–	–	–	1
		2	Daganbhuiyan	2	17	8	–	–	–	

District		*Upazila*		Union	Potential migrants		Focused group discussion			Key informant interview (District)
					Male	Female	Potential migrants		Returned migrants	
							Male	Female	Male	
11	Comilla	1	Daudkandi	2	17	8	–	–	–	1
		2	Muradnagar	2	17	8	–	–	–	
12	Faridpur	1	Bhanga	2	17	8	–	–	–	1
		2	Faridpur Sadar	2	17	8	1	–	1	
Total: 12			Total: 24	48	405	195	3	3	3	12

Focus group discussions

To contextualize the findings of the KAP survey, 12 FGDs were held among potential and returned migrants (male and female) from Bangladesh in six districts (Jessore, Faridpur, Munshiganj, Noakhali, Sylhet and Sunamganj) (two FGDs per district). Each FGD was divided into two sub-sessions: one session with returnees with the potential to remigrate and one session with potential migrants. The FGDs with potential migrants consisted of three male and three female groups. The six FGDs that were held with returned migrants only consisted of male migrants, and the participants were selected through previous AVRR programmes by the IOM project team (Tables 1.2 and 1.3). In total, there were 82 participants, of whom 26 were potential male migrants and 15 were potential female migrants, who were selected by the research team of the HDRC.

Furthermore, although a significant part of analysing the FGD data involved grouping the responses, the primary motivation for this method of data collection was to gain insight into the respondents' knowledge of and attitudes towards safe migration. As such, no percentages regarding the FGDs are included. Although this approach may appear to increase the accuracy of the report, in reality using this approach can distort the results. To indicate some level of analysis regarding the FGDs, the following terminology is used: "a few" is 10 per cent, "a minority" is up to 25 per cent, a "large minority" is between 25 per cent and 40 per cent, "about half" is between 40 per cent and 60 per cent, a "majority" is between 60 per cent and 75 per cent, and a "large majority" is more than 75 per cent of all respondents.

Table 1. 4: Distribution of Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) by district

District	Potential migrants		Returned migrants		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Jessore	–	1	1	–	2
Faridpur	1	–	1	–	2
Munshiganj		1	1	–	2

Noakhali	–	1	1	–	2
Sylhet	1	–	1	–	2
Sunamganj	1		1	–	2
Total	3	3	6	–	12

Table 1. 5: Location and number of participants in FGD by district

District	Potential migrants			Returned migrants	Total
	Male	Female	Total	Male	
Jessore	–	5	5	10	15
Faridpur	6	5	11	4	15
Munshiganj	–	–	–	4	4
Noakhali	–	5	5	3	13
Sylhet	12	–	12	12	24
Sunamganj	8	–	8	8	16
Total	26	15	41	41	82

Key informant interviews

The KIIs were conducted in the 12 selected districts among DEMO officials and NGO representatives working in the field of migration. All respondents had significant experience in the field of migration, with each having between five to 25 years of experience, and dealing with issues pertaining to irregular migration, labour migration and human trafficking. Table 1.4 shows the respondents' organizations, districts and categories.

Table 1. 6: List of key informants

Designation	Agency/organization	District	Category
Assistant Director	DEMO	Faridpur	Government
Assistant Director	DEMO	Noakhali	Government
Assistant Director	DEMO	Munshiganj	Government
Assistant Director	DEMO	Jessore	Government
Assistant Director	DEMO	Sylhet	Government
Area Coordinator	TMSS	Sunamganj	NGO
Executive Director	PSWO	Jhenaidah	NGO
Programme Organizer	BRAC	Habiganj	NGO
Deputy Area Manager	TMSS	Shariatpur	NGO
Advocate	BNWLA	Comilla	NGO
Advocate	BNWLA	Feni	NGO
Area Manager	TMSS	Madaripur	NGO

Notes:

- BNWLA – Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association.
- TMSS – Thengamara Mohila Sabuj Sangha.
- PSWO – Padma Social Welfare Organization.

1.4.5 Definitions of key terms

Assisted voluntary return: This is the "administrative, logistical, financial and reintegration support provided to rejected asylum seekers, victims of trafficking in human beings, stranded migrants, qualified nationals, and other migrants unable or unwilling to remain in the host country who volunteer to return to their countries of origin" (IOM, Key Migration Terms, 2011).

District: A district is an administrative area consists of several *upazila*s (subdivisions). There are 64 districts in Bangladesh. The *upazila* consists of several unions and *pourashava*s (municipalities).

Irregular migration: Defined as the "[m]ovement that takes place outside the regulatory norms of the sending, transit and receiving countries. There is no clear or universally accepted definition of irregular migration. From the perspective of destination countries, it is entry, stay or work in a country without the necessary authorization or documents required under immigration regulations. From the perspective of the sending country, the irregularity is, for example, seen in cases in which a person crosses an international boundary without a valid passport or travel document or does not fulfil the administrative requirements for leaving the country" (IOM, Key Migration Terms, 2011).

Migrant: "IOM defines a migrant as any person who is moving or has moved across an international border or within a State away from his/her habitual place of residence, regardless of

(1) the person's legal status;
(2) whether the movement is voluntary or involuntary;
(3) what the causes for the movement are; or
(4) what the length of the stay is (IOM, Key Migration Terms, 2011).

Potential migrant: Refers to a migrant intending to migrate abroad in the near future.

Returned migrant (with the potential to remigrate): Refers to a migrant who migrated abroad previously and returned to Bangladesh, and has the intention to remigrate.

Respondent: The individual (male or female) selected as an interviewee for the study.

Urban respondent: An interviewee who lives in an urban sphere, particularly within the area of a municipality or *upazila* headquarter area, a district town and a divisional town. The urban area is well connected with malted roads, electricity and water supply, and all urban facilities.

Rural respondent: Refers to the interviewee who lives in a village within the administrative area of a union *parishad*.

Trafficking in persons (human trafficking): “The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation” (Article 3(a), United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000). Trafficking in persons can take place within the borders of one state or may have a transnational dimension.

CHAPTER 2
RESPONDENT PROFILE

This chapter describes the profiles of potential migrants and returned migrants in the 12 selected districts who have the intention to migrate abroad in the near future. First, the demographic profile of potential and returned migrants is discussed on the basis of gender, age, education, employment, marital status and dependents, then their economic profile is described based on their socioeconomic status and household conditions. Finally, the chapter focuses on the migrants' anticipated plans for migrating abroad as well as their previous migration experience including countries of destination and duration of stay.

2.1. Demographic profile

Table 2.1 shows the demographic profile of respondents by migrant type and area. The survey was administered among 600 respondents, including potential migrants and returned migrants who had the desire to remigrate. According to the research methodology and sampling procedure, the survey was conducted with a ratio of 70 per cent male and 30 per cent female respondents, which respectively showed slight differences when the results were compiled. Most migrants were potential migrants (81%), followed by returned migrants (19%). Generally, most respondents were between the ages of 24 and 29 years while having levels of education. Most respondents were self-employed or engaged in seasonal and piecemeal work (43.7%), and were married (60.3%).

Table 2.1: Demographic profile of respondents by type of migrant and area (%)

Demographic profile	All (n=600)	Potential n=486	Returned n=114	Urban (n=226)	Rural (n=374)
Gender					
Female	32.5	32.7	31.6	37.2	29.7
Male	67.5	67.3	68.4	62.8	70.3
Age					
15- 18	2.5	2.9	0.9	4.9	1.1
18–23	27.8	33.1	5.3	30.1	26.5
24–29	37.5	36.6	41.2	31.9	40.9
30–35	32.2	27.4	52.6	33.2	31.6
Education					
No education or did not complete primary school	17	16.3	20.2	18.1	16.3
Completed primary school (year 1–5)	36.2	37.0	32.5	35.0	36.9
Completed junior secondary	27	27.2	26.3	27.4	26.7
Completed secondary	11	10.1	14.9	8.0	12.8
Completed higher secondary	8.8	9.5	6.1	11.5	7.2
Employment					

Unemployed; looking for work	35.7	35.8	35.1	34.1	36.6
Self-employed, seasonal or piecemeal work	43.7	43.4	44.7	40.3	45.7
Home duties	20.7	20.8	20.2	25.7	17.6
Marital status					
Single	35.3	39.5	17.5	35.8	35.0
Married	60.3	56.8	75.4	57.1	62.3
Divorced	4.3	2.3	3.5	4.9	1.1
Widowed	1.5	1.4	3.5	2.2	1.6
Dependants					
Average household members	5.57	5.52	5.82	5.59	5.57

2.1.1 Gender

Of all respondents, 32.5 per cent were female and 67.5 per cent were male, mainly originating from the rural areas of Bangladesh. By area and district (Table 2.2), most potential migrants living in the rural areas came from the districts of Comilla, Noakhali and Feni, whereas migrants living in the urban areas came from the districts of Habiganj, Sunamganj and Sylhet.

Table 2.2: Gender balance of respondents by district and area (%)

District	Male			Female			Total		
	Urban	Rural	n	Urban	Rural	n	Urban	Rural	n
Comilla[14]	0.0	100.0	34	0.0	100.0	16	–	100.0	50
Faridpur	41.2	58.8	34	31.3	68.8	16	38.0	62.0	50
Feni	0.0	100.0	34	31.3	68.8	16	10.0	90.0	50
Habiganj	52.9	47.1	34	50.0	50.0	16	52.0	48.0	50
Jessore	29.4	70.6	34	50.0	50.0	16	36.0	64.0	50
Jhenaidah	45.5	54.5	33	52.9	47.1	17	48.0	52.0	50
Madaripur	48.5	51.5	33	52.9	47.1	17	50.0	50.0	50
Munshiganj	50.0	50.0	34	56.3	43.8	16	52.0	48.0	50
Noakhali	0.0	100.0	33	41.2	58.8	17	14.0	86.0	50
Shariatpur	47.1	52.9	34	50.0	50.0	16	48.0	52.0	50
Sunamganj	52.9	47.1	34	50.0	50.0	16	52.0	48.0	50
Sylhet	52.9	47.1	34	50.0	50.0	16	52.0	48.0	50
All	35.1	64.9	405	43.1	56.9	195	37.7	62.3	600

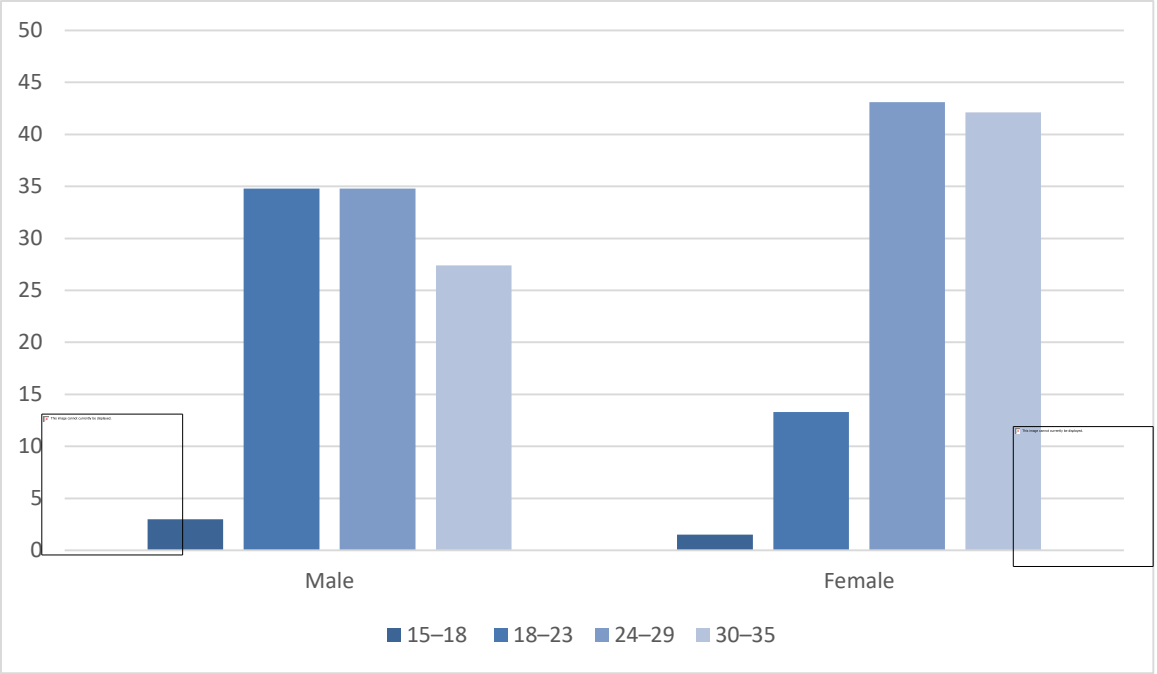
2.1.2 Age

The general age of respondents was typically between 24 and 29 years (37.5%), with only a small percentage being below 18 years of age (2.5%). Taking into consideration the sampling methodology of this study, no migrants above the age of 35 were interviewed, which did not allow for a general assessment of the findings in relation to the general profile of potential migrants in Bangladesh. By

[14]Because of the selection process, there were no urban respondents in the district Comilla, as the local government representatives suggested to focus on the rural areas only.

gender, a larger proportion of female potential migrants, at 43.1 per cent, were between 24 and 29 years old, compared to the male respondents, at 34.8 per cent (Figure 2.1).

Figure 2.1: Age groups of respondents by gender (%)



Furthermore, when looking at the differences between returned and potential migrants, returnees were slightly older with a general age range of 30–35 years (50%). Potential migrants living in Jessore and Jhenaidah (each district with 48%) and Madaripur (40%) were generally 30–35 years old (Table 2.3). Furthermore, those migrants below 18 years of age mostly came from the districts of Sunamganj and Faridpur.

Table 2.3: Age of respondents by district (%)

District	Potential and returned migrants (n=600)				
	Below 18	18–23	24–29	30–35	n
Comilla	–	26.0	46.0	28.0	50

Faridpur	6.0	30.0	38.0	26.0	50
Feni	–	22.0	46.0	32.0	50
Habiganj	4.0	32.0	32.0	32.0	50
Jessore	4.0	12.0	36.0	48.0	50
Jhenaidah	–	20.0	32.0	48.0	50
Madaripur	–	30.0	30.0	40.0	50
Munshiganj	2.0	24.0	44.0	30.0	50
Noakhali	2.0	30.0	42.0	26.0	50
Shariatpur	–	30.0	42.0	28.0	50
Sunamganj	8.0	38.0	30.0	24.0	50
Sylhet	4.0	40.0	32.0	24.0	50
All	2.5	27.8	37.5	32.2	600

2.1.3 Education

Most migrants who participated in the KAP study had low levels of education. Generally, 36.2 per cent completed primary school and 17 per cent did not have any education or dropped out during primary school (Table 2.4). Overall, male migrants had higher education levels than female migrants. A relatively small percentage of respondents completed secondary school (11%) and higher secondary school (8.8%).

Table 2.4: Education levels of respondents by gender (%)

	Female		Male		All	
	%	n	%	n	%	n
No education or did not complete primary school	24.1	47	13.6	55	17.0	102
Completed primary school (years 1–5)	44.6	87	32.1	130	36.2	217
Completed junior secondary (years 6–8)	19.5	38	30.6	124	27.0	162
Completed secondary (years 9–10)	5.6	11	13.6	55	11.0	66
Completed higher secondary (years 11–12)	6.2	12	10.1	41	8.8	53
Total	100.0	195	100.0	405	100.0	600

As shown in Table 2.5, potential migrants living in Shariatpur, Munshiganj and Sunamganj generally had lower education levels than respondents from other districts. The most highly educated migrants came from Noakhali, Habiganj and Sylhet.

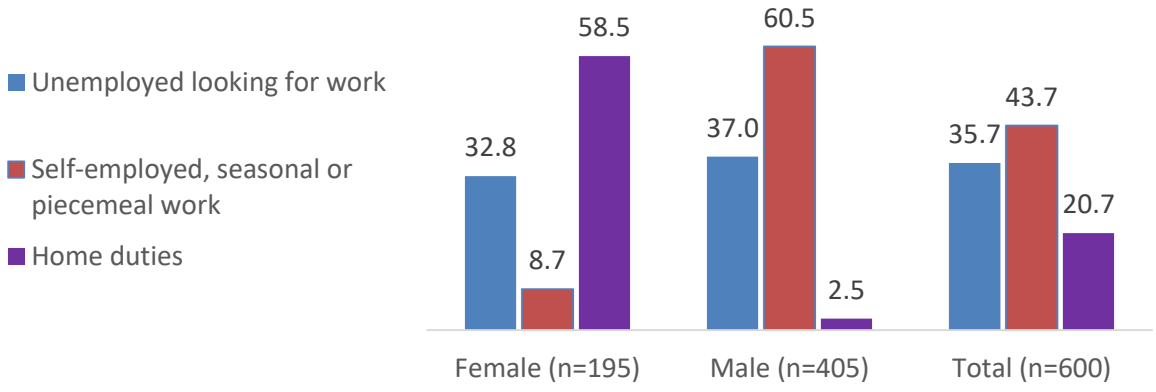
Table 2.5: Education levels of respondents by district (%)

	Comilla (	Faridpur	Feni	Habiganj	Jessore	Jhenaidah	Madaripur	Munshiganj	Noakhali	Shariatpur	Sunamganj	Sylhet	N
No education or did not complete primary school	8.8	8.8	4.9	8.8	4.9	9.8	5.9	12.7	3.9	15.7	11.8	3.9	102
Completed primary school (years 1–5)	10.1	9.2	8.3	6.5	12.9	6.5	7.4	8.8	3.7	7.8	9.7	9.2	217
Completed junior secondary (years 6–8)	9.3	5.6	8	6.8	4.9	8	14.2	7.4	12.3	10.5	4.3	8.6	162
Completed secondary (years 9–10)	–	12.1	13.6	12.1	12.1	10.6	6.1	3	15.2	–	7.6	7.6	66
Completed higher secondary (years 11–12)	7.5	7.5	9.4	15.1	1.9	11.3	1.9	7.5	15.1	–	9.4	13.2	53

2.1.4 Employment

Among all respondents, approximately 43.7 per cent was self-employed or employed in some type of seasonal or piecemeal work (Figure 2.2). However, the unemployment rate was relatively high, with 35.7 per cent being unemployed and looking for work. A small percentage (20.7%) performed home duties. The latter was specifically present among female respondents (58.5%). Potential male migrants were generally self-employed or engaged in seasonal and piecemeal work (60.5%). No significant difference was found among potential or returned migrants, or those living in urban and rural areas (Table 2.6).

Figure 2.2: Employment of respondents by gender (%)



Although a majority of respondents from most districts were self-employed or engaged in seasonal or piecemeal work, respondents from Munshiganj and Noakhali did not engage in these types of activities (Table 2.6). In those districts, female respondents were mostly engaged in home duties.

Table 2.6: Employment of respondents by district (%)

District	Male				Female			
	Unemployed looking for work	Self-employed, seasonal or piecemeal work	Home duties	n	Unemployed looking for work	Self-employed, seasonal or piecemeal work	Home duties	n
	%				%			
Comilla	29.4	70.6	-	34	25	12.5	62.5	16
Faridpur	26.5	73.5	-	34	12.5	12.5	75	16
Feni	35.3	64.7	-	34	37.5	12.5	50	16
Habiganj	32.4	67.6	-	34	50	12.5	37.5	16
Jessore	50	50	-	34	18.8	12.5	68.8	16
Jhenaidah	30.3	69.7	-	33	5.9	11.8	82.4	17
Madaripur	51.5	30.3	18.2	33	35.3	5.9	58.8	17
Munshiganj	41.2	50	8.8	34	25	-	75	16
Noakhali	57.6	42.4	-	33	11.8	-	88.2	17
Shariatpur	44.1	52.9	2.9	34	37.5	6.3	56.3	16
Sunamganj	20.6	79.4	-	34	75	12.5	12.5	16
Sylhet	26.5	73.5	-	34	62.5	6.3	31.3	16
All	37	60.5	2.5	405	32.8	8.7	58.5	195

2.1.5 Marital status

A large proportion of respondents were married (60.3%), especially amongst female migrants (79%) as well as returned migrants (73.8%) (Table 2.7). When results were segregated even further, most female married migrants were between 24 and 35 years old (85%). Generally, more than one-third (35.3%) of respondents were single, with a small percentage being divorced (2.5%) and widowed (1.8%) (Tables 2.1 and 2.6).

Table 2.7: Marital status of respondents by gender (%)

	Female (n=195)	Male (n=405)	Total (n=600)

Never married	7.7	48.6	35.34
Currently married	79.0	51.4	60.33
Divorced	7.7	–	2.50
Widowed	5.6	–	1.83
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

2.1.7 Dependents

The average number of dependents per household surveyed was 5.6, which is greater than the national average household size.[15] Table 2.1 shows that irrespective of type of migrant (i.e. potential or returned) and area (i.e. rural or urban), the average size of household is similar (between 5.52 and 5.82).

2.2 Economic profile

This section describes the economic profile of all respondents based on their socioeconomic class, marital status and experienced household conditions during the past 12 months.

Table 2.8: Household demographics and socioeconomic profile by area and type of migrant (%)

	All (n=600)	Potential migrants (n=486)	Returned migrants (n=114	Urban (n=226)	Rural (n=374)
Socioeconomic class[16]					
E	12.7	12.3	14.0	11.5	13.4

[15] According to the 2011 population and housing census, the average household size in Bangladesh is 4.6.

[16] Socioeconomic classes are as follows:

A1- Money is enough to buy a house or apartment if needed

A – Money is enough for everything, but not enough to buy a house or an apartment.

B – Money is enough to buy home appliances but cannot buy a new car.

C – Money is enough to buy food and new clothes, but not enough to buy a new television or a new refrigerator.

D – Money is enough for food, but not enough to buy new clothes.

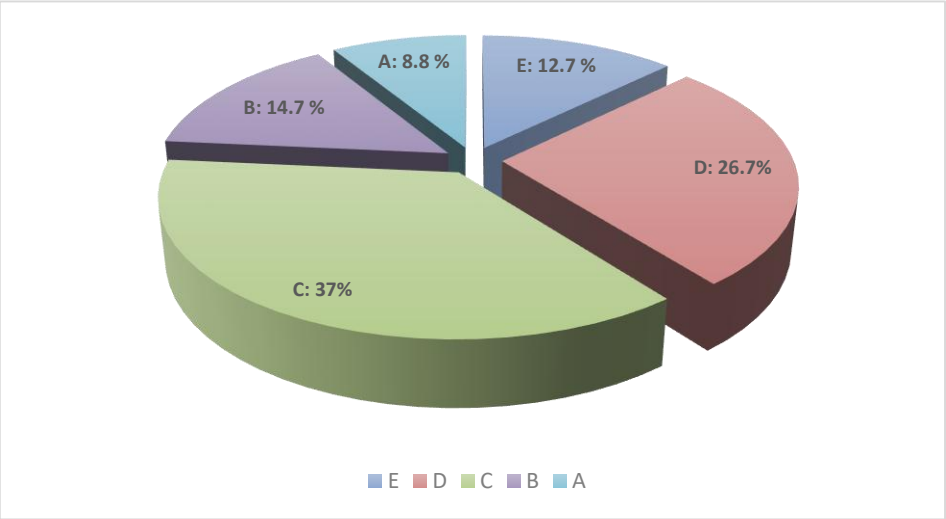
E – Money is not enough to buy food.

D	26.7	27.6	22.8	16.8	32.6
C	37.0	36.4	39.5	38.9	35.8
B	14.7	13.6	19.3	20.8	11.0
A	8.8	9.9	4.4	11.5	7.2
A1	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.5	0.0
Household conditions					
Unemployed	31.8	32.7	28.1	37.2	28.6
Serious illness in the family	22.2	22.0	22.8	19.5	23.8
Unable to pay debt	18.0	16.7	23.7	17.3	18.4
Crop failure	16.8	18.5	9.6	20.8	14.4
Natural disaster	10.3	11.1	7.0	16.8	6.4
Land conflict	5.3	6.0	2.6	6.2	4.8
Wages withheld for a few months	2.0	2.1	1.8	2.7	1.6
Death of an earning household member	1.8	1.9	1.8	2.2	1.6
Children dropped out of school	1.5	1.6	.9	2.2	1.1
Family split-up or divorce	1.2	1.4		2.2	0.5
Riots or armed conflict	1.2	1.0	1.8	2.2	0.5
Stayed in an evacuation centre or a displacement site	0.5	0.2	1.8	1.3	–
None of the above	40.0	40.3	38.6	37.6	41.4

2.2.1 Socioeconomic class

As shown in Table 2.8, a significant number of potential migrants surveyed (37%) reported that their funds were sufficient to buy food and new clothes, but not enough to buy a new television or a new refrigerator. Around 12.7 per cent of respondents indicated that they did not have enough money to buy food. Among all respondents, 14.7 per cent belonged to a “moderate financial position”, meaning they are able to buy food, clothes and home appliances. Only 8.8 per cent of the respondents were financially better off and could afford everything except buying a new house (Figure 2.3).

Figure 2.3: Socioeconomic classes of respondents



Notes:

- **n=600.**
- Legend:

A: Money is enough for everything, but not enough to buy a house or an apartment.

B: Money is enough to buy home appliances but cannot buy a new car.

C: Money is enough to buy food and new clothes, but not enough to buy a new television or a new refrigerator.

D: Money is enough for food, but not enough to buy new clothes.

E: Money is not enough to buy food.

2.2.2 Household conditions in the last 12 months

Surveyed respondents were asked about their household experiences in the last 12 months prior to the survey. A good proportion of potential migrants (31.8%) were unemployed. This is followed by 22.2 per cent who coped with a serious illness in the family, 18 per cent were unable to pay debt, nearly 17 per cent grappled with crop failure, and 10.3 per cent faced natural disasters. Only 5.3 per cent dealt with land conflict (Table 2.9).

Table 2.9: Household conditions by gender (%)

	Female (n=195)	Male (n=405)	Total (n=600)
Unemployment	31.8	31.9	31.8
Serious illness in the family	22.6	22.0	22.2
Unable to pay debt/installment	21.0	16.5	18.0
Crop failure	15.9	17.3	16.8

Natural disaster	7.2	11.9	10.3
Land conflict	6.2	4.9	5.3
Wages withheld for a few months	–	3.0	2.0
Death of an earning household member	2.6	1.5	1.8
Children dropped out of school	2.6	1.0	1.5
Family split-up or divorce	2.1	0.7	1.2
Riots or armed conflict	2.1	0.7	1.2
Stayed in an evacuation centre or a displacement site	0.5	0.5	0.5
None of the above	35.4	42.2	40.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Notes:

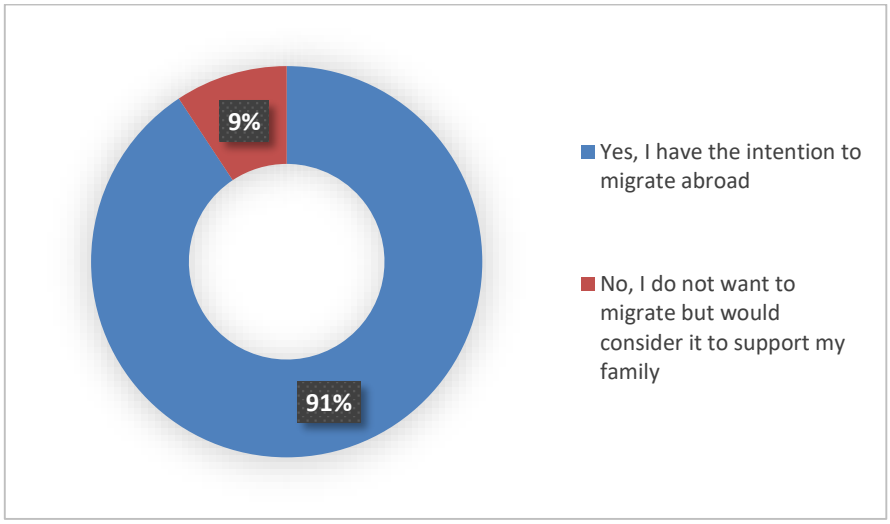
- Multiple responses were allowed.

2.3 Anticipated plans and previous migration experience

2.3.1 Potential migrants: Anticipated plans

Overall, a large majority of respondents expressed the intention to migrate abroad (90.7%). A significantly smaller percentage did not want to migrate but would consider it to support their families.

Figure 2.4: Intention to migrate (%)



Note: n=600.

No significant differences were found when results from all districts were compared. However, respondents in Noakhali (30%) and Comilla (12%) mentioned that they did not want to migrate but may migrate to support their families (Table 2.10).

Table 2.10: Anticipated migration plans of potential migrants by district (%)

	Respondent has a desire to migrate			Respondent does not want to migrate but may migrate to support family		
	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female	Both
Comilla (n=50)	91.2	81.3	88.0	8.8	18.8	12.0
Faridpur (n=50)	100.0	87.5	96.0	–	12.5	4.0
Feni (n=50)	76.5	81.3	78.0	23.5	18.8	22.0
Habiganj (n=50)	100.0	81.3	94.0	–	18.8	6.0
Jessore (n=50)	91.2	87.5	90.0	8.8	12.5	10.0
Jhenaidah (n=50)	100.0	76.5	92.0	–	23.5	8.0
Madaripur (n=50)	100.0	94.1	98.0	–	5.9	2.0
Munshiganj (n=50)	97.1	100.0	98.0	2.9	–	2.0
Noakhali (n=50)	75.8	58.8	70.0	24.2	41.2	30.0
Shariatpur (n=50)	94.1	87.5	92.0	5.9	12.5	8.0
Sunamganj (n=50)	94.1	93.8	94.0	5.9	6.3	6.0
Sylhet (n=50)	100.0	93.8	98.0	–	6.3	2.0
All (n=600)	93.3	85.1	90.7	6.7	14.9	9.3

2.3.2 Returned migrants: Previous migration experience

Of the 600 respondents, 114 (19%) were returned migrants who had previously migrated and were considered to have the potential to remigrate. Of this group, the majority were male (68.4% of returned migrants, 13% of all respondents) and a smaller proportion were female (31.6% of returned migrants, 6% of all respondents) (see Table A3 in the Annex). By district, most returned migrants came from Munshiganj, Habiganj and Comilla (Table 2.11).

Table 2.11: Distribution of returned migrants by gender (%)

Returned migrant (n=114, 19%)	Female	Male
Comilla (n=12)	50.0	50.0
Faridpur (n=7)	42.9	57.1
Feni (n=11)	18.2	81.8
Habiganj (n=13)	46.2	53.8
Jessore (n=7)	14.3	85.7
Jhenaidah (n=11)	54.5	45.5
Madaripur (n=8)	37.5	62.5
Munshiganj (n=17)	17.6	82.4
Noakhali (n=8)	12.5	87.5

Shariatpur (n=9)	11.1	88.9
Sunamganj (n=5)	80.0	20.0
Sylhet (n=6)	-	100.0
Total (n=114)	31.6	68.4

Most female returned migrants with the potential to remigrate came from the districts of Comilla, Habiganj and Jhenaidah (12% for each district), whereas most male returnees with the potential to remigrate were from Munshiganj (28%), Feni (18%) and Shariatpur (16%) (see Table A2 in the Annex).

2.3.3 Returned migrants: Previous countries of destination

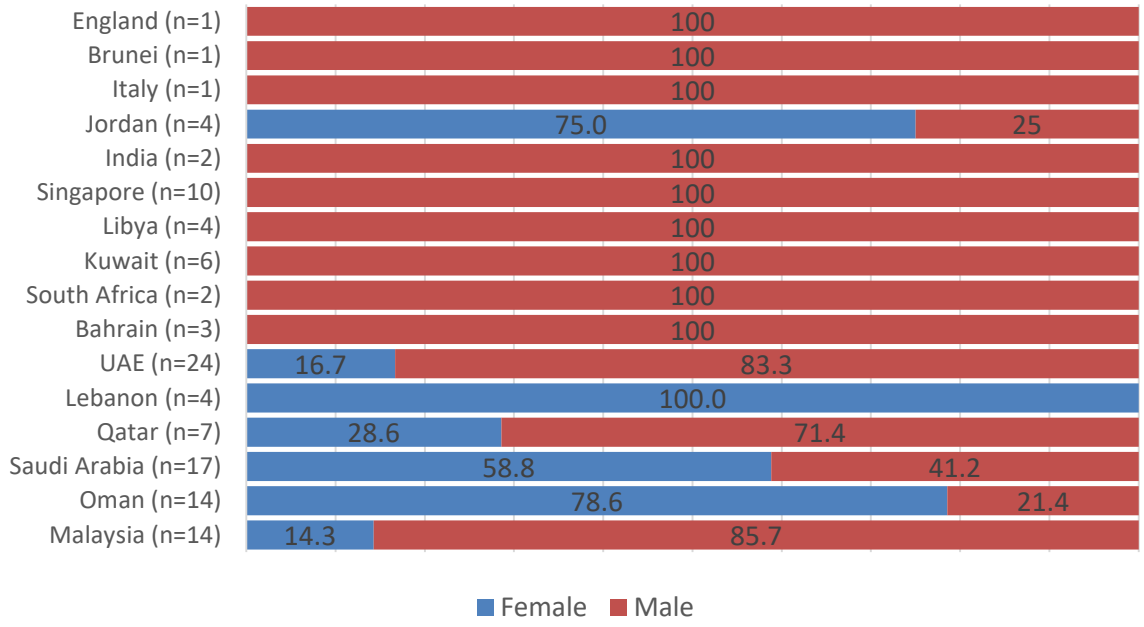
As part of the assessment, FGDs were held with returned migrants who were assisted through the IOM assisted voluntary return and reintegration (AVRR) programme. Additional KAP surveys were administered among returned migrants in the 12 districts of Bangladesh. Table 2.12 shows that the most popular previous country of destination for most returnees was the United Arab Emirates (21.1%), followed by Saudi Arabia (15%), and Oman and Malaysia (each with 12%). European countries were not popular among most returnees. Of all KAP respondents, the United Kingdom and Italy were the only previous countries of destination in Europe (1% each) and were visited by male migrants. Returnees coming from Italy mostly came from the district of Madaripur, and those travelling to the United Kingdom came from Sylhet. Nonetheless, there were several respondents during the FGDs who successfully reached Europe. The identified routes of returnees were:

- Bangladesh – India – Pakistan – Iran – Turkey – Greece
- Bangladesh – India – Pakistan – Afghanistan – Iran – Turkey – Greece
- Bangladesh – Pakistan – Iran – Turkey – Greece
- Bangladesh – Jordan – Lebanon – Syrian Arab Republic – Turkey – Greece
- Bangladesh – India – Libya – Italy
- Bangladesh – Libya – Italy
- Bangladesh – Saudi Arabia – Libya – Italy
- Bangladesh – Dubai – Turkey – Libya – Italy

Table 2.12: Previous countries of destination of returned migrants (%)

	Comilla (n=12)	Faridpur (n=7)	Feni (n=11)	Habiganj (n=13)	Jessore (n=7)	Jhenaidah (n=11)	Madaripur (n=8)	Munshiganj (n=17)	Noakhali (n=8)	Shariatpur (n=9)	Sunamganj (n=5)	Sylhet (n=6)	Total (n=114)
Malaysia	25	–	–	–	29	9	–	18	13	33	–	17	12
Oman	42	14	9	15	14	27	–	–	13	–	–	–	12
Saudi Arabia	8	14	18	23	14	18	–	6	–	11	80	17	15
Qatar	8	14	9	–	–	–	13	–	25	11	–	–	6
Lebanon	8	–	9	–	–	–	13	–	–	11	–	–	4
United Arab Emirates	–	43	27	38	14	27	25	6	25	33	–	17	21
Bahrain	8	–	9	–	–	–	–	6	–	–	–	-	3
South Africa	–	–	9	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	20	–	2
Kuwait	–	–	9	8	14	9	–	6	–	–	–	17	5
Libya	–	–	–	–	–	–	25	–	25	–	–	–	4
Singapore	–	–	–	–	–	9	–	53	–	–	–	–	9
India	–	–	–	–	14	–	–	6	–	–	–	–	2
Jordan	–	14	–	15	–	–	13	–	–	–	–	–	4
Italy	–	–	–	–	–	–	13	–	–	–	–	–	1
Brunei	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	17	1
United Kingdom	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	17	1
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Figure 2.5: Previous countries of destination of returned migrants by gender (%)



The majority of returnees migrated with the ambition to find better employment and higher wages by settling abroad (including Europe) to provide for their family members back home. The experiences of returnees varied, with a minority reporting travelling great lengths to reach Europe successfully, with others being arrested in their first destination countries. Those who did manage to reach Europe or find employment elsewhere reported to be feeling anxiousness due to the presence of regular police controls and the fear of losing their jobs, visa, and/or travel documentation. One migrant from Greece was reported saying:

> *"He (*dalal*) showed me a paper where my name was mentioned, together with other people's names. He told me that I was listed for a job at a hospital or a type of clinic, so there wouldn't be a need for me to worry. He informed that my salary would be BDT 30,000. After my arrival, I noticed that the visa was for construction work and that my salary would be way lower than what the recruiting agent told me."*

The majority of respondents reported facing difficulties with finding employment during the stages of their migration; most of them found temporary jobs (or no job at all) with wages that were far below their expectations.

2.3.4 Returned migrants: Duration of stay at last destination

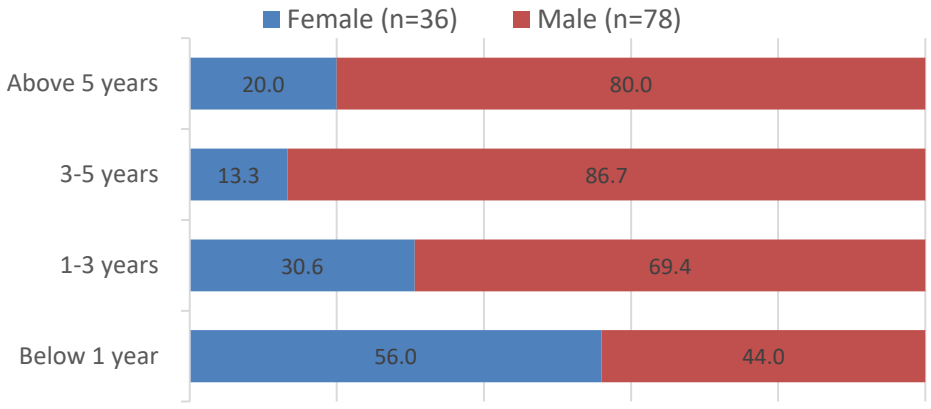
The durations of stay of returned migrants that were part of the survey as well as FGDs varied significantly. A small minority of respondents that were part of the FGDs were arrested upon arrival at the airport in Libya, whereas others stayed for several days in Libya, and some stayed 15 years in countries such as Greece, using the previously identified smuggling routes . When looking at the KAP survey results, Table 2.13 shows that the average duration in the previous destination country was 40 months. Approximately 43 per cent of all returned migrants reported to have stayed in their last destination between 1 to 3 years. Approximately 21.9 per cent stayed less than 1 year. This was

especially the case among female migrants (56%) (Figure 2.6). Approximately 22 per cent of respondents stayed 5 years or longer. Migrants coming from the district of Feni stayed longest in their last destinations, with an average of 77 months spent in their previous countries of destination. This was followed by migrants from Faridpur, with an average stay of 68 months.

Table 2.13: Duration of stay (in months) of returned migrants at last destination by district (%)

	Comilla (n=12)	Faridpur (n=7)	Feni (n=11)	Habiganj (n=13)	Jessore (n=7)	Jhenaidah (n=11)	Madaripur (n=8)	Munshiganj (n=17)	Noakhali (n=8)	Shariatpur (n=9)	Sunamganj (n=5)	Sylhet (n=6)	Total (n=114)
Below 1 year (1–11 months) (n=25)	8	29	9	39	–	36	13		13	-	60	50	22
1–3 years (12–36 months) (n=49)	50	–	27	39	71	27	50	29	75	78	40	50	43
3–5 years (37–60 months) (n=15)	17	14	9	8	14	9	25	29	–	11	–	–	13
Above 5 years (61–156 months) (n=25)	25	57	55	15	14	27	13	18	13	11	–	–	22
Average months	43	68	77	27	37	41	40	35	32	37	13	16	40

Figure 2.6: Duration of stay of returned migrants at last destination by gender (%)



CHAPTER 3
ATTITUDES AND INTENTIONS

This chapter provides an analysis of the attitudes and intentions of potential migrants who intend to migrate abroad and returnees who plan to remigrate, which are differentiated by gender, district, type of migrant and area.

3.1 Main motivations for migrating abroad

As shown in Table 3.1, the most frequently cited motivation for migration of potential and returned migrants in all districts was the ambition to earn higher wages (54.8%). Other frequently cited factors were the inability to find work (22.8%) and being underemployed (17.5%). The main motivation for migrating abroad was similar across all districts. When comparing the differences among female and male migrants, the promise of earning better wages was prevalent in both groups. By migrant type, more potential migrants than returned migrants indicated that they intend to migrate to pay back existing debts (2.1%) (Table 3.2). During the FGDs, most potential migrants expressed a sense of powerlessness regarding their inability to find work and provide for their family members. There was a consensus that migrating abroad would allow them to earn better wages and support their families back home, regardless of the potential risks involved.

During the FGDs with returned migrants, a majority of respondents indicated that the following considerations influenced their decision-making process:

- Being able to provide better education for their children;
- Ambition to reduce their overall level of "poverty and hardship";
- Ambition to build a house with wages earned or purchase a plot upon return to Bangladesh;
- Better environment and living conditions in the country of destination (particularly concerning European countries).

Table 3.1: Motivation for migration by district (%)

	Comilla (n=50)	Faridpur (n=50)	Feni (n=50)	Habiganj (n=50)	Jessore (n=50)	Jhenaidah (n=50)	Madaripur (n=50)	Munshiganj (n=50)	Noakhali (n=50)	Shariatpur (n=50)	Sunamganj (n=50)	Sylhet (n=50)	Total (n=600)
Cannot find work	32.0	44.0	24.0	2.0	38.0	32.0	20.0	26.0	14.0	32.0	6.0	4.0	22.8
Underemployed	24.0	6.0	24.0	8.0	12.0	18.0	28.0	16.0	32.0	20.0	8.0	14.0	17.5

	Comilla (n=50)	Faridpur (n=50)	Feni (n=50)	Habiganj (n=50)	Jessore (n=50)	Jhenaidah (n=50)	Madaripur (n=50)	Munshiganj (n=50)	Noakhali (n=50)	Shariatpur (n=50)	Sunamganj (n=50)	Sylhet (n=50)	Total (n=600)
Higher income	44.0	44.0	44.0	84.0	48.0	40.0	46.0	52.0	40.0	48.0	86.0	82.0	54.8
Join friends or family abroad	–	–	4.0	6.0	–	–	6.0	6.0	10.0	–	–	–	2.7
Want to leave home	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2.0	–	–	–	0.2
Pay back debts	–	6.0	4.0	–	2.0	10.0	–	–	–	–	–	–	1.8
Choice of father	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2.0	–	–	–	0.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

By district (Table 3.1), respondents in Faridpur overwhelmingly listed their inability to find work as their motivation for migrating abroad (44%). Overall, migrants living in Faridpur, Feni, Jessore and Jhenaidah indicate their wish to pay back debt as their motivation to migrate abroad.

Table 3.2: Motivation for migration by type of migrant, area and gender (%)

	Potential (n=486)	Returned (n=114)	Urban (n=226)	Rural (n=374)	Female (n=195)	Male (n=405)
Cannot find work	21.4	28.9	19	25.1	23.1	22.7
Underemployed	18.7	12.3	14.2	19.5	10.8	20.7
Higher income	54.3	57.0	61.9	50.5	53.3	55.6
Join friends or family abroad	3.1	0.9	2.7	2.7	6.7	0.7
Want to leave home	0.2	-	–	0.3	0.5	–
Pay back debts	2.1	0.9	1.8	1.9	5.1	0.2

Father wants to take	0.2	-	0.4	–	0.5	–
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

3.2 Anticipated country of destination

As presented in Table 3.3, the most common intended country of destination among all migrants was Saudi Arabia (34.7%), followed by Malaysia (9.8%), Oman (8.7%), Kuwait (8.2%) and the United Arab Emirates (6.0%). Italy was listed as the ninth=most anticipated country of destination. Other European countries (1.5%), the United Kingdom (1.2%) and Germany (0.2%) were less popular. Saudi Arabia just signed a memorandum of understanding with Bangladesh to recruit Bangladeshi workers – including female domestic workers – which would explain its popularity among the respondents. Of all countries of destination, New Zealand, Poland, Germany, Japan, Spain and Sweden were the least popular.

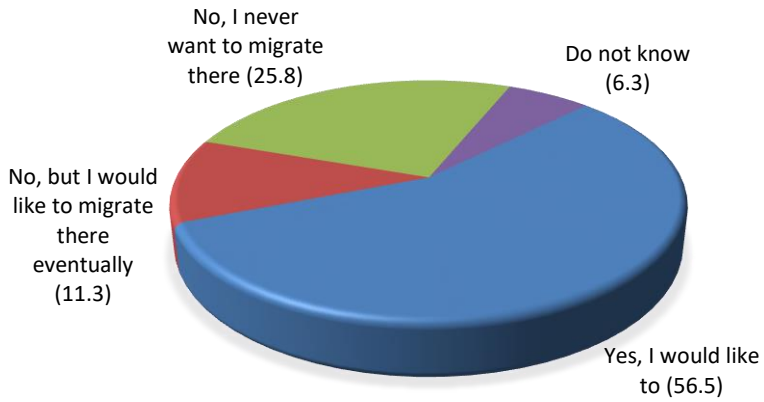
Table 3.3: Preferred country of destination by gender (%)

	Female (n=195)	Male (n=405)	Total (n=600)
Saudi Arabia	41.5	31.4	34.7
Malaysia	9.7	9.9	9.8
Oman	15.4	5.4	8.7
Kuwait	3.6	10.4	8.2
United Arab Emirates	4.6	6.7	6.0
Singapore	0.5	8.6	6.0
United States of America	9.7	3.0	5.2
Qatar	1.0	6.9	5.0
Italy	5.6	4.7	5.0
Australia	–	2.2	1.5
Other European countries	1.0	1.7	1.5
Canada	0.5	1.5	1.2
France	–	1.7	1.2
United Kingdom	1.5	1.0	1.2
India	1.0	0.7	0.8
Other Asian countries	–	1.0	0.7
Lebanon	2.1	–	0.7
Greece	–	0.7	0.5
Other Middle Eastern countries	0.5	0.2	0.3
Libya	–	0.5	0.3
Republic of Korea	–	0.5	0.3
Mauritius	1.0		0.3
New Zealand	–	0.2	0.2
Poland	–	0.2	0.2
Germany	–	0.2	0.2
Japan	0.5		0.2
Spain	–	0.2	0.2
Sweden	–	0.2	0.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

3.3 Anticipated country of destination in Europe

In addition to their general anticipated countries of destination, all respondents were asked whether they considered living in Europe within the next five years. In response, more than half (56.5%) planned to migrate to the EU within the next five years (Figure 3.1). A large majority of all returned migrants indicated during the FGDs that their ultimate ambition was to migrate to Europe. Yet those who reached Europe did not travel there directly but through different smuggling corridors.

Figure 3.1: Anticipated country of destination in Europe during the next five years (%)



Note: n=600.

When results about the preferred destinations are examined by type of migrant, a high percentage (67.8%) of respondents expressed their intention to migrate to an EU country within the next five years. Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar are the immediate destination countries from where most of respondents intend to migrate to Europe within the next five years (Table 3.4). This indicates that most of the potential migrants have the intention to continue their journey towards the EU.

Furthermore, when looking at the differences in results between genders, male respondents were more eager to migrate to Europe (63.2%) than female respondents (42.6%). Among potential migrants, more than half (58%) had the intention to migrate to a European country within the next five years (see Table A3 in the Annex).

Table 3.4: Top five anticipated countries from where migrants intend to continue their journey towards Europe within the next five years (%)

	Saudi Arabia (n=208)	Oman (n=52)	Kuwait (n=49)	United Arab Emirates (n=36)	Qatar (n=30)
Yes	46.6	32.7	75.5	36.1	53.3
No, but I would like to migrate there eventually	11.5	26.9	6.1	2.8	40.0
No, I never want to migrate there	32.2	38.5	16.3	47.2	3.3
Do not know	9.6	1.9	2.0	13.9	3.3

Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

During the FGDs, returned migrants indicated that the presence of social networks in the country of destination influenced their decision-making process for migrating towards the EU countries (e.g. Italy and Greece). Additional factors that influenced their attitude towards the EU is the perception of the socioeconomic conditions in Europe. Relatives or friends often provided information on the living conditions and opportunities for finding employment there. Some migrants who lived and worked in Greece for more than 10 years indicated that before their departure they had heard about the possibility of working in Greece from family members.

During the FGDS, both returned and potential migrants indicated that their interest was mainly to migrate to *any* EU country. The main considerations were:

- Opportunities of finding better employment (including labour conditions);
- Opportunities of earning higher wages, especially in comparison with the salaries in countries in the Middle East;
- Ability to settle permanently and resettle the family;
- Better work and living conditions, including the environment;
- Ability to send children to school.

Female potential migrants were generally more specific regarding their wish to migrate to the EU. During one FGD, several women reported that they would like to migrate to EU because of the better living conditions and facilities in European countries such as Italy and Germany, especially in comparison to Saudi Arabia or Qatar. With regard to the environment, one returned (male) migrant reported:

> *"The environment of those countries is so good. There is no dust, and everything is neat and clean. It is better to visit those countries. Everything is available there."*

Despite the desire to migrate to Europe ultimately, a small majority of returnees were concerned about the risk of not being able to find appropriate employment, or the controlling authorities losing their visa or travel documents.

3.4 Anticipated cost of migrating abroad

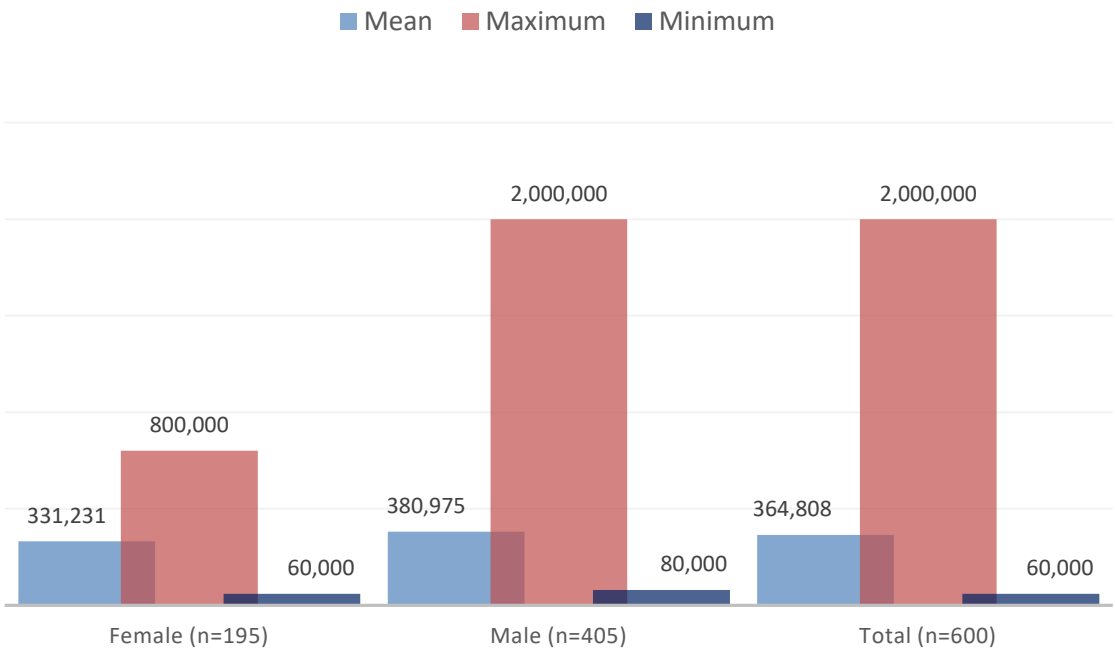
3.4.1 Financial cost of migration

Table 3.5 shows the results for the anticipated financial cost of migration by district. The average anticipated cost of migration was estimated at BDT 364,808. More than one third (37.5%) of the respondents expected the cost of migration to be in the range between BDT 300,001 and BDT 500,000, while 33.7 per cent reported that the cost would be between BDT 100,001 and BDT 300,000. Only 15 per cent mentioned between BDT 50,000 and 100,00.

The maximum anticipated cost of migration, as a respondent reported, for a male is 2,000,000, which is significantly higher than for a female migrant, which is at 800,000; whereas, the minimum anticipated costs for male and female migrants are 80,000 and 60,000, respectively (Figure 3.2).

The estimated costs for migrating abroad was significantly lower among the respondents from the FGDs, while, on average, respondents expected to pay between BDT 70,000 (USD 700) and BDT 120,000 (USD 1,200). This indicates that there is a general lack of awareness of the costs involved in migration. In addition, there was also a limited willingness among respondents to share this type of information, with a minority of potential migrants reporting that family members already paid a certain amount of money to the *dalal*. (These findings are in line with the results of the KIIs in which some indicated that there was a certain level of secrecy around communicating on the costs involved in migrating abroad.)

Figure 3.2: Anticipated financial cost of migration by gender (BDT)



By district, the average estimated migration cost was highest in Sylhet (BDT 464,400) and Sunamganj (BDT 435,400). On the other hand, in Madaripur, the average migration cost was estimated at BDT 297,000, which is less than the average migration cost anticipated by respondents, which is at BDT 364,808. When looking at the difference by gender, estimated migration cost for male migrants is higher than the cost for female migrants. This was the case for all districts, expect Feni and Jessore.

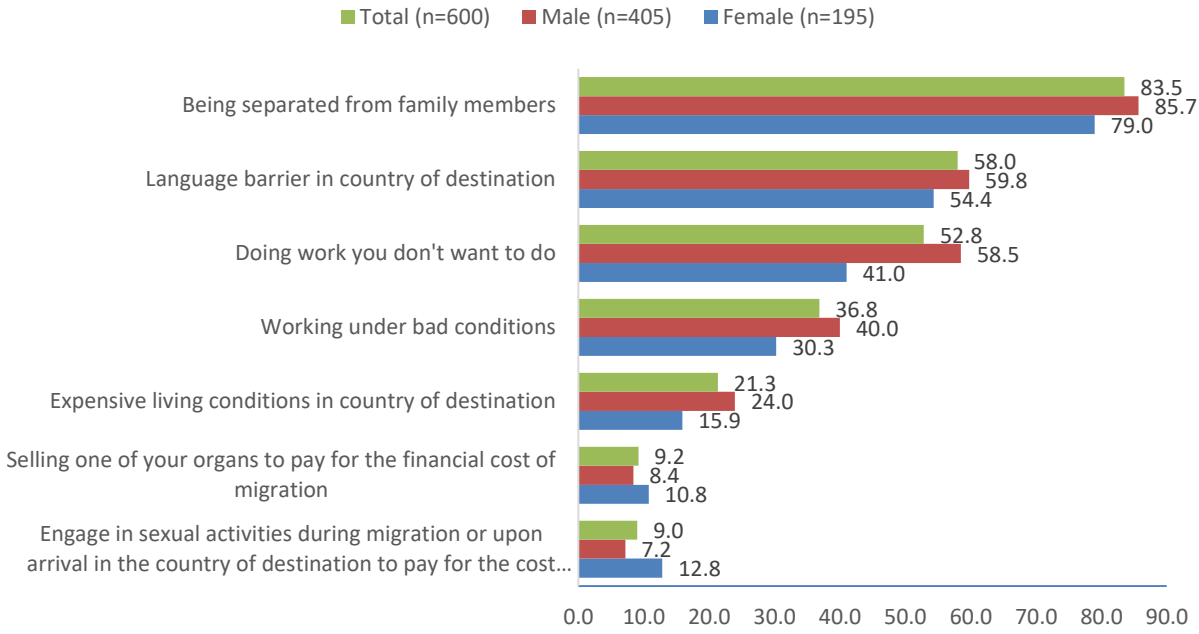
Table 3.5: Anticipated financial cost (BDT) of migration by district (%)

	Comilla (n=50)	Faridpur (n=50)	Feni (n=50)	Habiganj (n=50)	Jessore (n=50)	Jhenaidah (n=50)	Madaripur (n=50)	Munshiganj (n=50)	Noakhali (n=50)	Shariatpur (n=50)	Sunamganj (n=50)	Sylhet (n=50)	Total (n=600)
Between 50,000 and 100,000	30.0	8.0	28.0	6.0	10.0	10.0	16.0	10.0	18.0	16.0	18.0	10.0	15.0
Between 100,001 and 300,000	24.0	40.0	34.0	40.0	38.0	24.0	48.0	48.0	28.0	32.0	24.0	24.0	33.7
Between 300,001 and 500,000	34.0	40.0	30.0	32.0	38.0	54.0	32.0	30.0	38.0	46.0	36.0	40.0	37.5
500,001 and above	12.0	12.0	8.0	22.0	14.0	12.0	4.0	12.0	16.0	6.0	22.0	26.0	13.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

3.4.2 Non-financial costs of migration

Respondents were also asked about what they would be willing to endure when going abroad. There was an option to include multiple responses. Overall, it was found that a large majority of respondents (83.5%) were willing to be separated from their family members, which was followed by language barriers in the destination country (58%) and doing unfavourable work (52.8%) (see Table A4 in the Annex). Interestingly, most migrants were also willing to work under bad conditions (36.8%), while a small percentage were willing to sell their organs (9.2%) or engage in sexual activities to pay for the cost of migration (9%) (Figure 3.3). When looking at the differences by district, respondents from Jhenaidah and Jessore were most likely to engage in sexual activities or sell one of their organs to pay for the cost of migration. During the FGDs, a significant minority of migrants were concerned about the potential non-financial cost involved in migration, such as being separated from their family members or experiencing harsh labour conditions in the country of destination, but most still felt the need to migrate abroad to support their families.

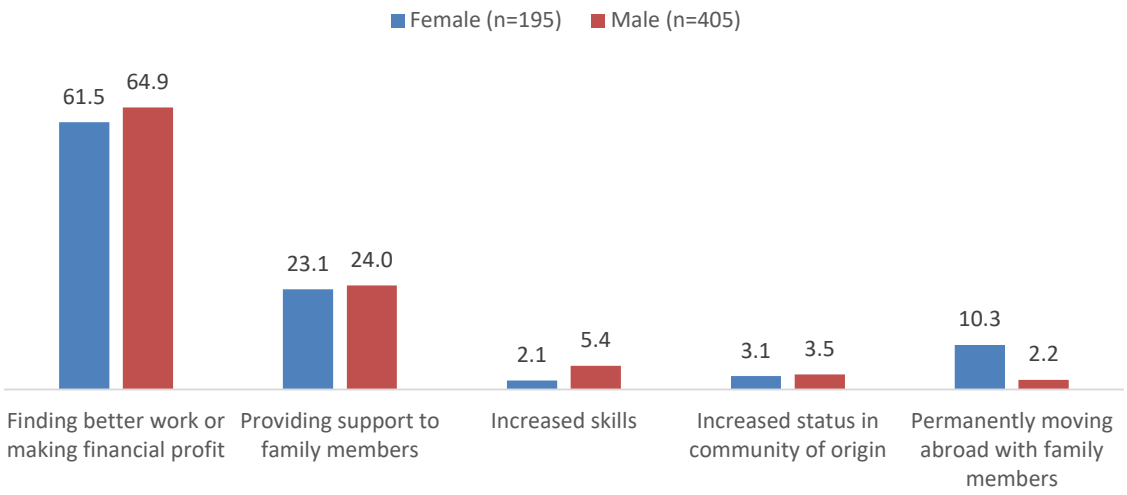
Figure 3.3: Non-financial costs of migration by gender (%)



3.5 Anticipated benefits of migrating abroad

As Figure 3.4 shows, around two thirds male (64.9%) and female (61.5%) respondents were expecting to find better work or make a financial profit when they go abroad. This was followed by the anticipation of being able to support their family members (23.1% female migrants and 24.0% male migrants). Furthermore, a small minority of all respondents, 2.2 per cent male and 10.3 per cent female, anticipated to move permanently together with their family members. Respondents from the districts of Comilla and Noakhali expected to increase their skill level through migration -this was not indicated by respondents from other districts. Generally, it is important to keep in mind that most potential migrants had low educational background and were often unemployed (see Chapter 2, Table 2.1). By district, respondents from Comilla were concerned with moving abroad to settle with their family members (20%), while respondents from Madaripur were mostly concerned with increased status in their communities (12%) (see Table A5 in the Annex).

Figure 3.4: Anticipated benefits of migration by gender (%)



3.6 Anticipated channels of migration abroad

Respondents were also asked about their anticipated migration channels. Several legal migration channels exist in Bangladesh, which are regulated by the Government of Bangladesh through economic leverage as well as bureaucratic requirements. Furthermore, a recent study has estimated that recruitment agents assisted nearly 37 per cent, equal to 2.33 million, of the total stock of 6.26 million overseas job placements between 1976 and 2008 (Rahman, 2011). Additionally, the following legal channels exist in Bangladesh:

- **Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET):** Registered overseas employment (legal migration) is managed by the BMET, which is under the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment. To be considered regular migrants, potential migrants have to register on the BMET database at the UDCs in all *parishad*s or at the nearest DEMO branch. The BMET is also mandated to process foreign demands for recruitment of Bangladeshi workers, control and regulate emigration clearance for recruited workers for overseas employment, regulate the private recruitment agencies, provide institution-based training and skills development to those who want to work in different employable trades, and collect and disseminate labour market information.

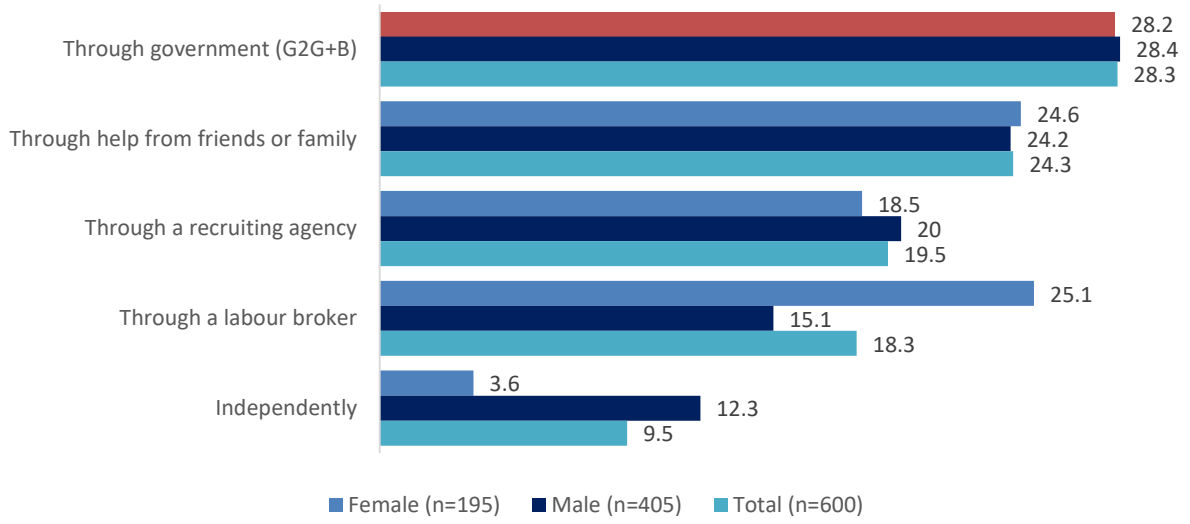
- **Bangladesh Overseas Employment and Services Limited (BOESL):** The BOESL is a state-owned company engaged in the recruitment of workers for overseas employment. This is the only company created by the Government of Bangladesh to operate in direct competition with over more than 1,300 private recruitment agencies in the country.

- **Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (BAIRA):** A good number of private recruitment agencies are operating to arrange recruitment of workers for different countries. These recruitment agencies are authorized and licensed by the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment. These agencies collect demand from employers and recruit workers through intermediaries (*dalal*) from different corners of the country, ranging from isolated to urban areas. To provide such services, these agencies charge commissions from workers (e.g. for assisting migrants in passport applications, for covering

training and skills development costs, for providing job contracts, for covering medical service costs, for obtaining clearance and smart cards from the DEMO branches and for providing plane tickets, among other services). Costs of travel, medical services and others are supposed to be borne by the employers, but workers usually pay for these.

When asked about their preferred migration channels, more than one fourth (28.3%) (Figure 3.5) planned to migrate abroad through the government-to-government (G2G) plus system, followed closely by help from friends and family members (24.3%). Although migrating with the help of a broker was not most popular, a relatively large percentage planned to contact a broker (18.3%), which was especially present in the districts of Habiganj, Sunamganj and Jessore. Results show that by gender, no significant differences were found.

Figure 3.5: Anticipated channels of migration by gender (%)



During the FGDs, one potential female migrant who had previous migration experience shared her anticipated channel of migration. She planned to go through legal channels, which was fairly uncommon among all participants. Generally, respondents planned to approach a broker who was considered most successful in the community. The potential female migrant was reported saying: *"Yes, I am going through a travel agency which is in Dhaka: Mahadi Travel Agency. The agency has a government-approved licence."* When asked about where she retrieved this information, she replied:

> "*My sister suggested me this travel agency. She currently lives in Saudi Arabia. She told me that the office of this agency is in Dhaka and also in Saudi Arabia, and that they legally send people. This is important because there are many people who will say that they will send people legally, but they will trap people after taking them abroad. So my sister gave me the*

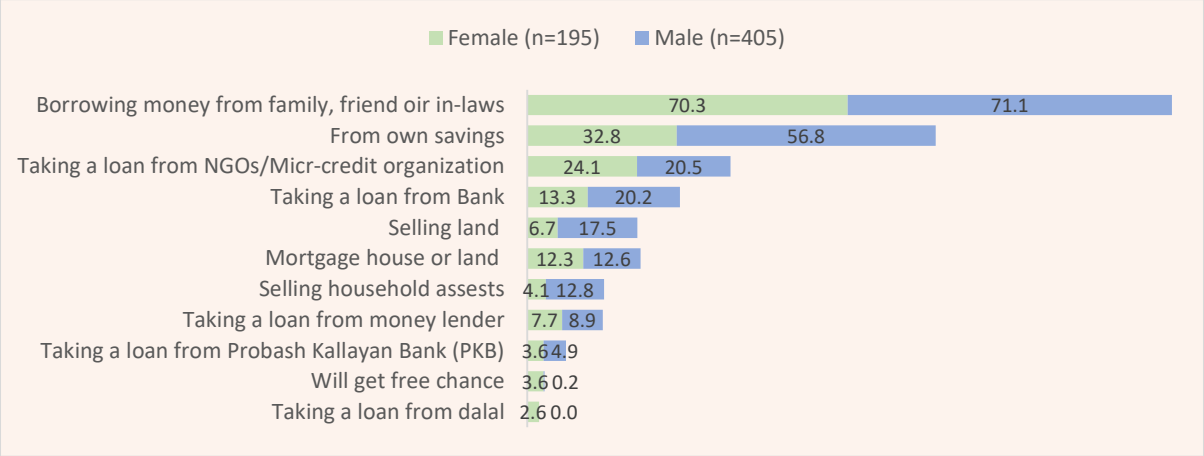
address of this agency [who] will look after everything, so that we do not fall into any danger. It's exactly what my sister said, we haven't face any problem after going to the agency."

When asked about whether she faced any difficulties before, she indicated to have travelled previously to Saudi Arabia with a *dalal*. The *dalal* did not give her the promised work (i.e. domestic/household work) but had "dishonest intentions" (during the FGDs most female migrants were not comfortable talking about sexual exploitation or abuse directly but used words such as "dishonest"). As a result, she left the household in question and went back to Bangladesh, losing the investments that she had made. There was no intention to remigrate, until her aunt offered her a place to stay in Oman. She worked there for two years and returned to Bangladesh. She is currently looking for other opportunities through Mahadi Travel Agency.

3.7 Expected sources of financing

Respondents were asked about their source of funds to pay for the financial costs of migration. It was possible to list multiple responses to this question. A large majority of all respondents (70.8%) planned to pay for the financial costs of migration by borrowing money from family members, friends or in-laws. Around 49 per cent planned to use money from their own savings, followed by loans from microcredit organizations (21.7%) (see Table A6 in the Annex). Men were more likely to opt for taking a loan from a bank, compared to women (Figure 3.6).

Figure 3.6: Expected sources of financing by gender



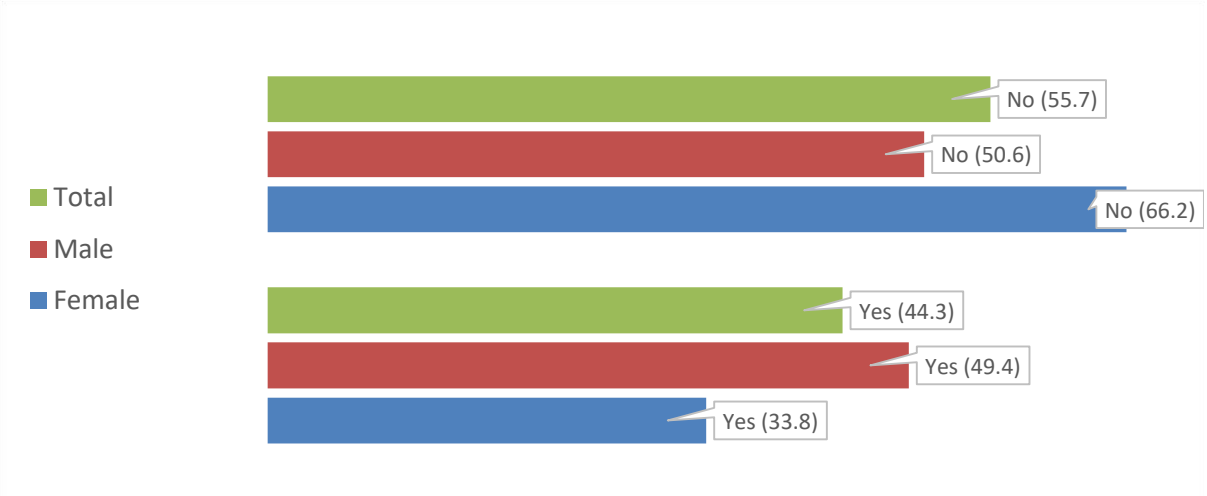
By district, there are no significant differences regarding the expected sources of financing for migrating abroad. A high percentage of respondents from all 12 districts planned to pay for the financial cost of migrating abroad by borrowing money from family members, friends or in-laws. The second highest proportion of respondents mentioned that they would bear the financial costs using their own savings (see Table A6 in the Annex). During the FGDs, several women were able to identify specific banks and microcredit NGOs able to supply loans at low rates (e.g. ASA and Sajida Foundation).

3.8 Anticipated need for training and skills development

Respondents were asked about their anticipated need for training and skills development, as well as their willingness to attend such training. The BMET is concerned with the planning and implementation of strategies for the proper utilization of the workforce in Bangladesh. Part of the BMET's activities is implementing training and skills development in 45 trades in 38 technical training centres (TTCs) for the purpose of facilitating skilled labour migration. The annual capacity of these centres is about 65,000 individuals (BMET officials were not part of the KIIs). These TTCs thus provide relevant training and skills development programmes for potential migrants.

Overall, more than half of all respondents (55.7%) did not think they had the skills required for a job abroad (Figure 3.7), which was especially prevalent among female potential migrants (66.2%) compared to male respondents (50.6%).

Figure 3.7: Anticipated need for training by gender (%)



Note: n: total=600, female=195, male=405.

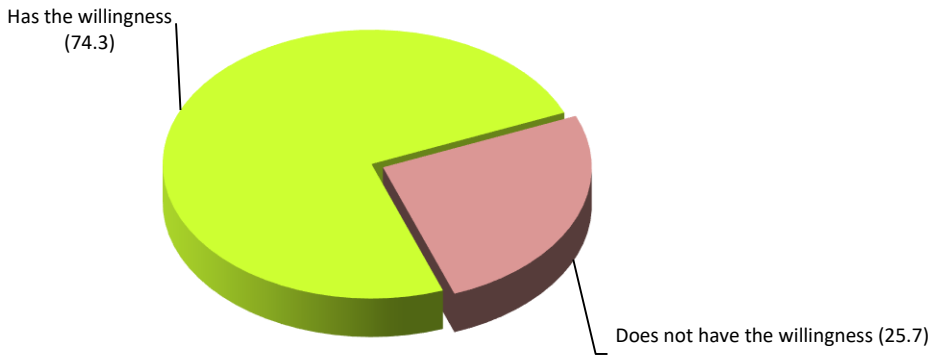
Furthermore, a subsequent question was asked about their willingness to attend such training, which was relatively high among all respondents. More than half of all male respondents from Habiganj, 52 per cent, indicated their willingness to attend training and skills development, which is the highest among the 12 districts. Among the districts, Comilla had the lowest proportion of male respondents indicating willingness — at only 14 per cent. In this district, 22 per cent of female respondents expressed their interest in training and skills development, while Feni and Noakhali registered 2 per cent each.

3.9 Willingness to undergo training and skills development

Respondents were also asked about their willingness to attend training and skills development. A majority (74.3%) of the respondents expressed their willingness to undergo training and skill

development (Figure 3.8). During the FGDs, there was a high level of interest in engaging in language courses or other skills development-related training programmes.

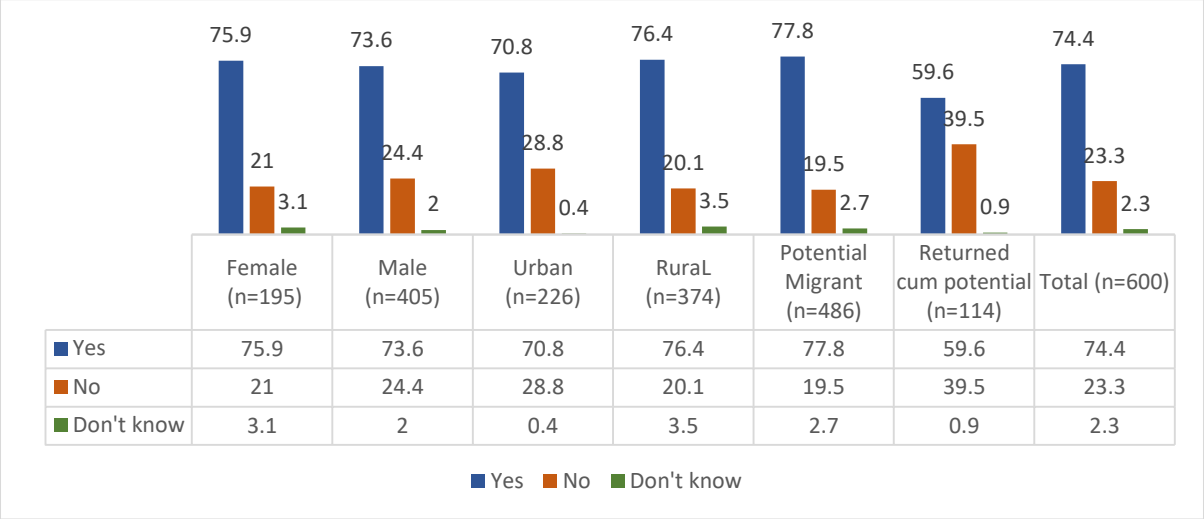
Figure 3.8: Willingness to undergo training and skills development (%)



Note: n=600.

When results are segregated by gender, 73.6 per cent of male and 75.9 per cent of female respondents were willing to attend training and skills development before migrating. By migrant type, 77.8 per cent potential and 59.6 per cent returned migrants indicated willingness to attend training and skills development. By area, 70.8 per cent respondents from urban areas and 76.5 per cent migrants from rural areas were willing to attend training and skills development before migrating abroad (Figure 3.9).

Figure 3.9: Willingness to undergo training and skills development by gender, area and type of migrant (%)



3.10 Anticipated work in the destination country

As shown in Table 3.6, most respondents anticipated to find work in the domestic sector, followed by work in restaurants and any job available. By gender, a large proportion of male respondents (20.7%) intended to find a job in a restaurant, followed closely by construction work (17.8%) and any job available (17.8%). On the other hand, most female respondents intended to find domestic work (66.7%). When comparing the differences between types of migrant, most returned male migrants were more likely to search for construction work than those who did not migrate before. Similar responses were found in results between urban and rural migrants, in which urban migrants were mostly interested in construction work. Interestingly, rural migrants indicated they would accept any job available (16.3%), which differed significantly from the responses of urban migrants (9.3%). Most returned migrants that were part of the FGDs indicated that they had low-skilled work in sectors such as transportation, garments manufacturing, construction, services and agriculture.

Table 3.6: Intended sector of work by gender, area and type of migrant (%)

	Female (n=195)	Male (n=405)	Urban (n=226)	Rural (374)	Potential migrant (n=486)	Returned cum potential (n=114)
Domestic work	66.7	1.2	23.5	21.9	21.2	28.1
Restaurant	4.1	20.7	15.0	15.5	16.5	10.5
Any job available	5.1	17.8	9.3	16.3	14.2	11.4
Construction	1.5	17.8	19.0	8.6	10.7	20.2
Other manufacturing	2.1	16.0	10.2	12.3	11.7	10.5

Clothes – manufacturing	17.4	8.4	9.7	12.3	13.0	4.4
Tourism/Hospitality	1.5	4.7	4.0	3.5	3.5	4.4
Driving	–	5.4	1.8	4.8	3.3	5.3
Agriculture	–	2.5	2.2	1.3	2.1	-
Electrical technician	–	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.6	-
Other	1.5	4.7	4.9	2.9	3.2	5.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

During the FGDs, potential migrants were also asked about possible work opportunities in Europe. The majority of migrants were aware of the opportunity to work in Europe, with someone reporting: "*It is where most money can be earned."* Nonetheless, the majority of migrants indicated it would be very difficult to work (legally) in Europe without adequate skills or work experience. Both male and female respondents had heard about the opportunities in countries such as Italy and France, but their overall levels of knowledge were limited to knowing about "the opportunity".

3.11 Anticipated salary in the destination country

As shown in Table 3.7, over two fifths (41.5%) of all respondents expected their monthly salaries to be within the range of BDT 30,001 and BDT 50,000. However, the results were slightly skewed due to the answers given by male potential migrants. When looking at the differences by gender, male respondents were expecting to earn more salary than their female counterparts. Similar differences were also seen when the results from rural and urban respondents were compared. No significant differences were found among potential and returned migrants.

Table 3.7: Anticipated monthly salary (BDT) in the destination country by gender, area and type of migrant (%)

	Female (n=195)	Male (n=405)	Urban (n=226)	Rural (n=374)	Potential migrant (n=486)	Returned cum potential (n=114)	Total (n=600)
Less than 20,000	12.3	–	2.2	5.1	4.1	3.5	4.0
Between 20,000 and 30,000	55.9	21.5	29.2	34.8	32.5	33.3	32.7
Between 30001 and 50,000	20.0	51.9	39.4	42.8	41.8	40.4	41.5
50,001 and above	11.8	26.7	29.2	17.4	21.6	22.8	21.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

During the FGDs, the salaries reported by returned migrants differed significantly, with some earning from USD 20–35 a day to USD 100 per month. The majority of returnees were not able to meet their anticipated expectations regarding employment; most reported to work temporarily (one or two weeks per month or three to six months per year), often working long hours for low wages.

One migrant from Greece reported:

> *"After migrating to Greece, I was unemployed for six months. No relatives were there to give me work, but I did have to pay room rent, electricity bill and my food. Then one day I bought a bus ticket to Athens and after roaming a lot I managed to find work in a flower shop. There I worked 18 hours a day, from 5 a.m. to midnight, receiving 20 euros a day."*

3.12 Anticipated remittances

Respondents were also asked how much of their monthly salaries they were intending to send home. Of all respondents, 52.3 per cent intended to send 51–75 per cent of their salaries to their families back home. About one-fourth (24%) planned to send home approximately 26–50 per cent of their earned wages. When the results were compared by gender, no significant differences were found. Nonetheless, returned migrants were intending to send home the largest amount of their earned wages. Approximately 27.2 per cent indicated to send back more than 75 per cent of their wages (Table 3.8). During the FGDs, some migrants were able to provide a specific number to their envisioned remittance rates. Overall, the expected remittances per month varied between BDT 10,000 (USD 100) and BDT 25,000 (USD 250). The major outflow of Bangladeshi labour generated a significant amount of remittances to Bangladesh. However, some scholars have asserted that due to the increase in the flow of unskilled and semi-skilled labour, remittances are increasing at a much lower rate than the labour flow (Siddiqui and Chowdhury, 2003).

Table 3.8: Anticipated remittances by gender, area and type of migrant (%)

	Female (n=195)	Male (n=405)	Urban (n=226)	Rural (n=374)	Potential (n=486)	Returned (n=114)	Total (n=600)
Less than 25 per cent of salary	3.6	–	2.2	0.5	0.8	2.6	1.2
26–50 per cent of salary	24.1	24.0	23.5	24.3	23.3	27.2	24.0
51–75 per cent of salary	49.2	53.8	49.6	54.0	54.5	43.0	52.3
More than 75 per cent of salary	20.5	18.3	23.5	16.3	17.1	27.2	19.0
Do not know	2.6	4.0	1.3	4.8	4.3	-	3.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

3.13 Anticipated legal requirements and processes

Respondents were asked about the services or information provision they found useful for migrating abroad safely. In response, a significant proportion (67%) considered information on visa and other legal requirements most beneficial for them as they carried on safe migration. This was followed by information on the possible risks of migrating abroad (62%) (Table 3.9).

Table 3.9: Anticipated legal requirements and processes by gender, area and type of migrant (%)

	Female (n=195)	Male (n=405)	Urban (n=226)	Rural (n=347)	Potential (n=486)	Returned (n=114)	Total (n=600)
Information on visa and other legal requirements	71.8	64.7	66.8	67.1	64.2	78.9	67.0
Information on the risks of migrating abroad	65.1	60.5	73.5	55.1	63.2	57.0	62.0
Visa-checking services	46.7	58.8	45.1	60.7	55.3	52.6	54.8
Information on what kind of work might be available	46.7	58.3	56.2	53.5	54.3	55.3	54.5
Information on realistic salary expectations	43.1	54.6	57.1	47.1	49.4	57.0	50.8
Government support	37.4	49.4	38.1	50.0	47.5	36.8	45.5
Emergency contact details	14.4	11.1	10.2	13.4	13.0	8.8	12.2
Information on decent work	14.9	8.6	7.5	12.6	10.9	9.6	10.7
Information on labour rights	4.1	8.4	4.0	8.8	6.4	9.6	7.0

CHAPTER 4
KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICES

This chapter analyses the knowledge and practices of potential and returned migrants with regard to safe and orderly migration, segregated by gender, type of migrant, area and district. This section examines migrants' awareness of legal requirements for work overseas, the risks present in the migration process, migrants' knowledge of labour rights and labour contracts, and the selection criteria for recruitment agencies or brokers. Furthermore, this chapter pays extra attention to the preferred channels of recruitment, influencers of migration, and the most trusted sources of pre-departure information and legal requirements.

4.1 Knowledge

4.1.1 Awareness of safe and orderly migration

All respondents were asked about what they associated "safe migration" with. As Table 4.1 shows, 77.5 per cent of respondents associated safe migration with securing a job with a good company, followed by obtaining a good salary in the destination country (74.5%) and completing the migration process through government channels (55.2%). Only a small percentage associated safe migration with obtaining the job that was originally promised.

By district, respondents from Jhenaidah and Madaripur mostly associated safe migration with securing a job with a good company. Few respondents in Madaripur associated safe migration with completing the migration process without the help of a *dalal* (2%). Respondents form the district of Noakhali represented the largest group that listed "going abroad with passport and visa" (80%) (see Table A7 in the Annex).

Table 4.1: Awareness of safe and orderly migration by gender and type of migrant (%)

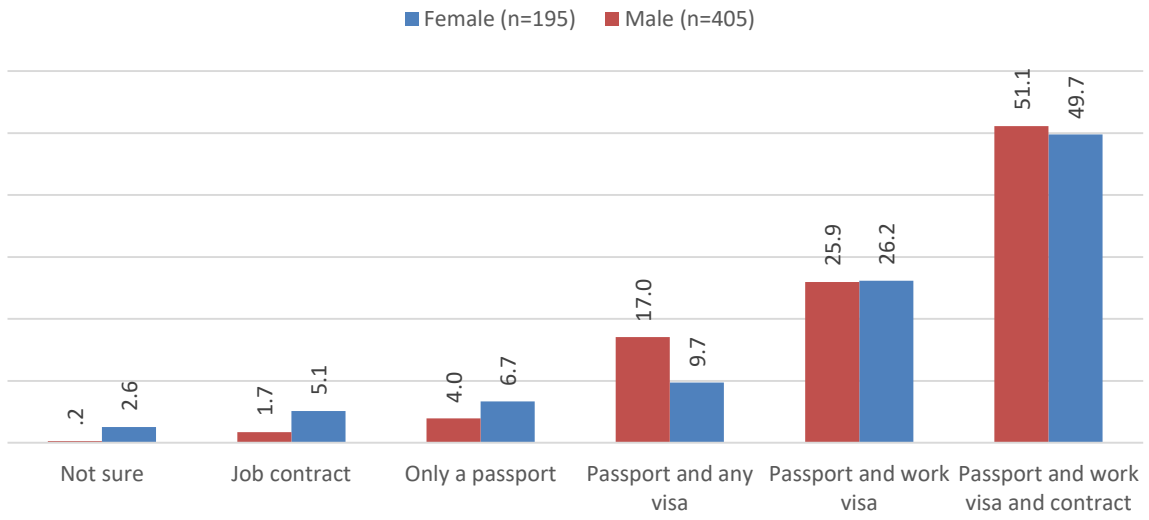
	Female (n=195)	Male (n=405)	Total (n=600)	Potential (n=486)	Returned (n=114)	Total (n=600)
Securing a job with a good company	72.8	79.8	77.5	77.6	77.2	77.5
Getting a good salary in the destination country	75.4	74.1	74.5	75.5	70.2	74.5
Completing the migration process through government channels	47.7	58.8	55.2	54.1	59.6	55.2
Completing the migration process without the help of a *dalal*	28.2	33.8	32.0	31.5	34.2	32.0
Safety during migration and in the destination country	42.6	43.0	42.8	43.4	40.4	42.8
Using safe and reliable transportation vehicles	21.0	21.7	21.5	22.8	15.8	21.5

Going abroad with a passport and a visa	52.8	52.1	52.3	50.8	58.8	52.3
Travelling by air	17.9	20.5	19.7	18.7	23.7	19.7
Getting the job that was originally promised	4.6	14.8	11.5	10.9	14.0	11.5

4.1.2 Knowledge of requirements for legal work abroad

Over half of respondents (50.7%) reported that they would need a passport, a work visa and a contract to migrate abroad legally for work. This was followed by one-fourth (26%) of respondents thinking they would only need a passport and a visa. A small percentage (14.7%) thought that a passport and any visa would be sufficient (for data disaggregated by district, see Table A8 in the Annex).

Figure 4. 1: Knowledge of documents required for (legal) labour migration (%)



During the FGDs, a majority of returnees indicated that they did not have sufficient information on visa and legal requirements of their countries of destination. Rather, significant trust was placed in the hands of brokers, as well as other relatives living in destination countries reporting on the expected working and living conditions. Having the opportunity of viewing travel documentation before departure was uncommon, or even checking its validity at relevant government offices. Generally, this was not considered a significant issue due to the assurance of such brokers about the migration process.

A minority of migrants travelled to their first countries of destination with a tourist visa, and went into the irregular circuit when their visas expired and/or travelled to the next country of destination with the help of another broker. The decision-making process regarding a potential move to the next destination country was attributed largely to the presence of conflict, the lack of employment and the presence of brokers.

Furthermore, the KAP survey respondents were also asked about the benefit of migrating abroad with a regular work visa (Figure 4.2). Overall, 45.3 per cent of respondents thought they would earn more money and would be provided with greater protection by migrating abroad with a work visa. Only 17.7 per cent of all respondents thought that a work visa would give them greater protection. Furthermore, when findings were segregated by district, it was found that a high proportion of respondents from Sylhet indicated that a regular work visa would enable them to earn more money and offer them greater protection. A small percentage of respondents from Feni, Munshiganj and Shariatpur did not see any clear benefit of migrating with a regular work visa (2% each) (Table 4.2).

Figure 4. 2: Benefits of migrating abroad with a regular work visa (%)

During one of the FGDs, there was a general level of mistrust towards legal migration channels and the benefit of travelling with a regular visa. One returnee indicated that one of his relatives migrated with legal documentation but was still doing "hard work" and had to leave their job due to harassment. He was quoted saying:

> *"Sister, one of my nephews migrated to Malaysia through a visa from the Bangladesh Government lottery process. However, the work is very hard and he has been suffering a lot. His visa is genuine, but the job is too hard. After going through a process of suffering, my nephew ran away from there. He also found himself in a bind and had leave his job due to inhumane harassment."* (Returnee from Sunamganj)

The other seven participants of the FGD agreed with the statement given. In the FGDs, some myths regarding visa and legal documentation were identified, such as the following:

- Travelling with a free visa[17] guarantees good employment in the country of destination and protects against any risks during migration.
- The *dalal* is able to arrange and facilitate the complete migration process, guaranteeing a job contract, an appropriate visa and travel documentation.
- It does not matter how the travel arrangements are made; the most important thing is to arrive in the country of destination.

Table 4.2: Benefits of migrating abroad with a regular work visa by district (%)

[17] "Free visa" refers to a work permit given by an employer in a Middle Eastern country (including Saudi Arabia) where the migrant will not be employed. Rather the visa is used to seek employment elsewhere, without any responsibility to the employer issuing the visa. When the visa expires, extension is usually arranged (and renewal of job permit) by paying a large sum of money to the employer in question

	Comilla (n=50)	Faridpur (n=50)	Feni (n=50)	Habiganj (n=50)	Jessore (n=50)	Jhenaidah (n=50)	Madaripur (n=50)	Munshiganj (n=50)	Noakhali (n=50)	Shariatpur (n=50)	Sunamganj (n=50)	Sylhet (n=50)	Total (n=600)
Can earn more money	30.0	36.0	8.0	16.0	40.0	48.0	58.0	26.0	34.0	60.0	16.0	14.0	32.2
Can have greater protection	10.0	18.0	30.0	22.0	22.0	16.0	10.0	34.0	14.0	8.0	20.0	8.0	17.7
Can earn more money and have greater protection	54.0	46.0	54.0	56.0	38.0	36.0	22.0	36.0	50.0	26.0	50.0	76.0	45.3
It will only benefit the employer	–	–	4.0	4.0	–	–	10.0	2.0	–	–	14.0	2.0	3.0
There is no benefit to anyone	–	–	2.0	–	–	–	–	2.0	–	2.0	–	–	0.5
Not sure	6.0	–	2.0	2.0	–	–	–	–	2.0	4.0	–	–	1.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

4.1.3 Awareness of human trafficking risks and problems

Studies have shown that Bangladesh is in many cases a country of origin and transit for practices of human trafficking, especially considering women and children who are trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation, involuntary domestic servitude and debt bondage (Huda, 2006). It is estimated that women and girls who are trafficked usually travel to or through countries such as India, Pakistan, Bahrain, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (ibid.).

As such, perspectives on irregular migration and human trafficking were also part of the KAP study. Respondents were asked about their levels of awareness with regard to the risks and problems of migration (Table 4.3). In response, over two thirds (66.7%) of all respondents mentioned that one could be arrested, deported, or exploited when travelling with a student, free or Hajj visa. Approximately 13.8 per cent did not think there would be any risks in the migration process, which was especially present in the districts of Comilla, Feni and Noakhali. Generally, returned migrants were more aware of the possible risks, with 81 per cent of all returned migrants listing arrest, deportation and exploitation. No significant difference was found among male and female migrants.

Table 4.3: Risk associated with going abroad for work with a student, free or Hajj visa by gender and type of migrant (%)

	Female (n=195)	Male (n=405)	Urban (n=226)	Rural (n=374)	Potential migrant (n=486)	Returned (n=114)	Total (n=600)
Never	14.4	13.6	3.1	20.3	15.2	7.9	13.8
No, any official can be bribed	1.5	8.1	6.6	5.6	7.0	1.8	6.0

Could be arrested, deported or exploited	67.2	66.4	73.9	62.3	63.2	81.5	66.7
Not sure	16.9	11.9	16.4	11.8	14.6	8.8	13.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

During the FGDs, both potential and returned migrants were asked about their knowledge of the risks in the migration process. Both respondent groups have heard about human trafficking previously. Generally, both groups were able to differentiate between the risks of human trafficking among men and women. The main identified consequence for women was sexual exploitation, whereas for men it was forced labour. Generally, human trafficking was mostly associated with physical torture, sexual harassment and exploitation. In two FGDs, potential male migrants highlighted the risks of kidnapping, stressing the consequences for the family members left behind as they would be forced to pay ransom money. During the FGDs with returned migrants, a majority was not particularly concerned with the more serious consequences associated with human trafficking; rather, they indicated that prior to migration, they were mostly concerned about being unable to find accommodation or food. Furthermore, those returnees who were aware of the risks in the migration process purposefully chose to ignore them: *"No, we leave home by saying 'Bismillah' and leave it to Allah, there is no benefit in worrying about the risks."*

Another respondent who returned from Italy reported he had some concern regarding the chosen way of travel but was assured by the broker: *"Of course, we had a little bit of tension about the journey, but the dalal assured that everything would be ok."*

The main risks identified *during* migration varied across FGD respondents (i.e. returned migrants). Some indicated that they felt insecure when boarding the plane when laying first sight on their (restricted) visa and travel documentation. Others indicated to have suffered from exploitation and abuse, and, in rare cases, confinement, with no knowledge of who to contact in case of emergencies:

> *"When we started from Turkey, we were in a hill area when the Turkish police raided us. When I ran away from the police, I got hurt but continued nonetheless. (...) During our travel to our next destination country (Greece), we saw a dead body lying on the road covered in a lot of blood. Although we panicked, we did not allow it to affect us because we were set on reaching Greece. We advanced a lot and spent high amount of money, so there was no option to return."*

Furthermore, a migrant who travelled to Greece highlighted his level of determination to reach his intended country of destination, despite not being aware of the possible risks beforehand. He shared:

"In Iran (where we travelled by road), we had to go with very little food for 28 days. After 28 days, I saw some bread in a garden, which I collected, washed and dried. We were with 11 people and we all ate the bread. On the road, we ate everything that was available."

In the KAP survey, respondents were also asked about the specific problems they encountered in their destination countries. There was an option for respondents to select multiple responses regarding this question. Overall, a large majority (78.8%) mentioned that Bangladeshi migrants mostly faced issues with promised work not being available. A relatively large percentage of respondents also indicated that Bangladeshi migrants would work for lower wages than they anticipated (75.7%). Other issues that were identified by both male and female migrants were long work hours, safety and health problems, and arrest. Female migrants, especially, were worried about possible sexual harassment in destination countries (50.8%) (Table 4.4). During the FGDs, some potential migrants indicated that they had some reservations about moving abroad – particularly to the EU. They indicated being worried about their lack of ability to adjust, not being able to speak the language, inability to find appropriate work, lack of physical safety at the workplace, inability to earn a decent wage and the possibility of being trafficked.

Table 4.4: Problems encountered by migrants in destination countries by gender and type of migrant (%)

	Female (n=195)	Male (n=405)	Potential migrant (n=486)	Returned (n=114)	Total (n=600)
Promised work not available	69.7	83.2	76.7	87.7	78.8
Lower wage than anticipated	67.2	79.8	73.3	86.0	75.7
Long working hours	44.6	52.6	48.4	57.0	50.0
Safety and health problems	23.1	26.2	23.9	30.7	25.2
Extortion	7.7	9.6	9.9	5.3	9.0
Arrest	64.6	63.0	64.4	59.6	63.5
Sexual harassment	50.8	14.6	27.4	21.9	26.3
Violence	20.5	17.8	19.3	15.8	18.7
Discrimination	12.8	9.9	11.7	7.0	10.8
Don't know	2.6	0.7	1.6	0.0	1.3

During the FGDs, additional questions were asked regarding the respondents' levels of awareness of the risks and consequences of human trafficking. When asked about the differences between trafficking of men and trafficking of women, there was a consensus that women were more likely to face sexual harassment and exploitation, and men were more likely be forced into labour and physical

abuse. A minority of respondents shared more detailed information regarding more serious consequences of human trafficking, with one returnee from Greece reporting:

> *"We know that there are differences between trafficked male and females. For example, when women are trafficked to Dubai, they will be sold. When dalals traffic men or children, they snatch out their kidneys, eyes and other valuable parts. We all know these things about human trafficking."*

Another migrant highlighted the issue and consequences of kidnapping among potential migrants. He retrieved this information from friends and other migrants, which was often the case among respondents.

> *"Yes, I have heard that men and women are trafficked in different ways. But men are trafficked more than women. They confine men and demand ransom money for them. (...) Many of my friends in Pakistan have been victims of trafficking while passing through Turkeys borders. The mafia confines them for 3 or 6 months to a year and demand ransom money from their family. If you do not bring the money, you are killed."*

Despite being aware of the dangers of human trafficking, a large majority of returnees indicated that prior to their migration they were willing to take the risks associated with irregular migration due to the level of hardship and the lack of employment opportunities in Bangladesh. Furthermore, for the majority of returnees, difficulties experienced during migration, such as travelling by foot or having multiple transits, were not seen as obstacles for *remigration*. With a large majority of returnees spending significant amounts of money for travelling abroad, most of them – upon their return to Bangladesh – face serious debts that they are unable to pay back due to the lack of employment opportunities. As such, the main (negative) consequences of irregular migration identified are the inability to support their families and the inability to reintegrate and find employment, which drive some to resort to remigration.

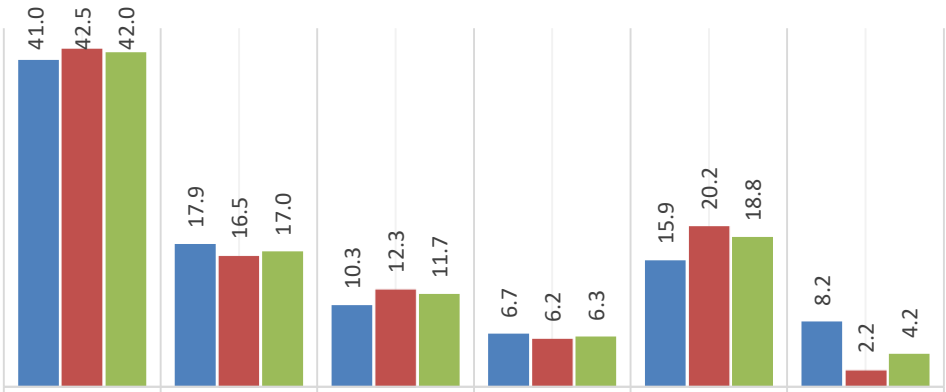
On the other hand, those returnees who suffered physical abuse, torture or sexual exploitation in the country of destination were generally determined not to leave the country again, but they were rather willing to be mobilized in their communities by sharing their experiences of irregular migration in order to increase the awareness of the need to migrate safely.

4.1.4 Knowledge of labour rights in the destination country

Respondents had limited knowledge of labour rights in destination countries, as only 18.8 per cent of them were able to list all the indicators associated with labour rights (pertaining to the correct answer "all of the above"). Furthermore, more than two-fifths of the respondents (42%) mentioned that freedom from forced labour should be included in labour standards, which was followed by freedom

from child labour (17%). When results were differentiated by gender, no significant differences were found. Furthermore, by district, it was found that respondents from Habiganj were most knowledgeable of their labour rights, with 36 per cent listing the correct answer (Figure 4.3 and Table 4.5).

Figure 4. 3: Indicators to be included in labour standards by gender (%)



	Freedom from forced labour	Freedom from child labour	Freedom from discrimination at work	Freedom to form and join a union, and to bargain collectively	All of the above	None of the above
Female (n=195)	41.0	17.9	10.3	6.7	15.9	8.2
Male (n=405)	42.5	16.5	12.3	6.2	20.2	2.2
Total (n=600)	42.0	17.0	11.7	6.3	18.8	4.2

Table 4.5: Indicators to be included in labour standards by district (%)

	Comilla (n=50)	Faridpur (n=50)	Feni (n=50)	Habiganj (n=50)	Jessore (n=50)	Jhenaidah (n=50)	Madaripur (n=50)	Munshiganj (n=50)	Noakhali (n=50)	Shariatpur (n=50)	Sunamganj (n=50)	Sylhet (n=50)	Total (n=600)
Freedom from forced labour	56.0	64.0	54.0	26.0	50.0	32.0	22.0	38.0	54.0	28.0	40.0	40.0	42.0
Freedom from child labour	32.0	14.0	10.0	20.0	10.0	24.0	10.0	2.0	12.0	20.0	26.0	24.0	17.0
Freedom from discrimination at work	–	10.0	4.0	8.0	14.0	12.0	22.0	24.0	–	30.0	10.0	6.0	11.7
Freedom to form and join a union, and to bargain collectively	–	8.0	18.0	8.0	8.0	6.0	2.0	10.0	4.0	6.0	4.0	2.0	6.3
All of the above	12.0	4.0	4.0	36.0	14.0	18.0	44.0	20.0	16.0	10.0	20.0	28.0	18.8
None of the above	–	–	10.0	2.0	4.0	8.0	–	6.0	14.0	6.0	–	–	4.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

4.1.5 Knowledge of labour contracts

Respondents were also asked about their knowledge and awareness of items that should be included in a labour contract. Most respondents indicated that the period of employment should be included (53.8%), followed by wages and overtime pay, working hours and rest time, and job duties (Figure 4.4). When findings were segregated by gender, no significant differences were found. A large minority of respondents from the district of Habiganj (32%) listed all of the correct indicators that should be included in an employment contract Respondents from Noakhali, Feni, Comilla and Habiganj did not list "rules about termination" for inclusion in a labour contract (Figure 4.4 and Table 4.6).

Figure 4. 4: Indicators to be included in the employment contract by gender (%)

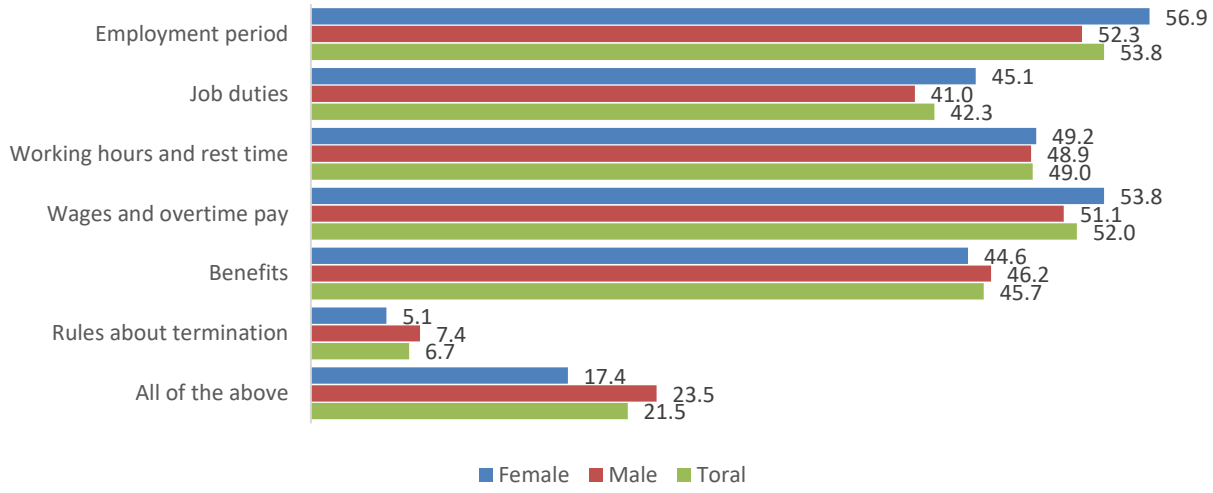


Table 4.6: Indicators to be included in the employment contract by district (%)

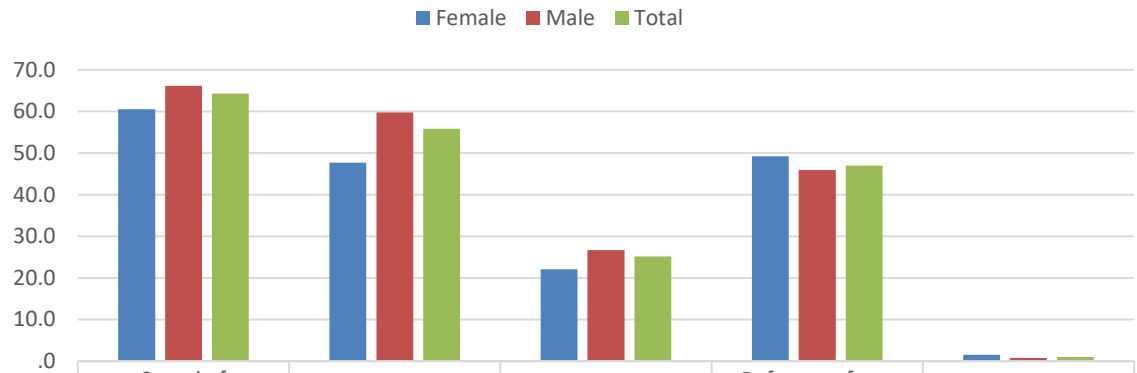
	Comilla (n=50)	Faridpur (n=50)	Feni (n=50)	Habiganj (n=50)	Jessore (n=50)	Jhenaidah (n=50)	Madaripur (n=50)	Munshiganj (n=50)	Noakhali (n=50)	Shariatpur (n=50)	Sunamganj (n=50)	Sylhet (n=50)	Total (n=600)
Employment period	32.0	72.0	38.0	56.0	68.0	66.0	68.0	60.0	28.0	66.0	54.0	38.0	53.8
Job duties	28.0	46.0	26.0	32.0	38.0	42.0	72.0	48.0	20.0	56.0	50.0	50.0	42.3
Working hours and rest time	64.0	76.0	44.0	20.0	62.0	70.0	44.0	22.0	44.0	44.0	50.0	48.0	49.0
Wages and overtime pay	58.0	54.0	40.0	38.0	50.0	46.0	42.0	36.0	50.0	84.0	66.0	60.0	52.0
Benefits	58.0	40.0	46.0	40.0	26.0	26.0	44.0	46.0	50.0	76.0	52.0	44.0	45.7
Rules about termination	–	12.0	–	–	6.0	6.0	6.0	2.0	–	20.0	12.0	16.0	6.7

All of the above	30.0	12.0	28.0	32.0	22.0	30.0	20.0	10.0	20.0	2.0	22.0	30.0	21.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

4.1.6 Selection criteria for recruitment agencies or brokers

About two thirds of all KAP survey respondents (64.3%) mentioned that they would prioritize speed of deployment in choosing a recruitment agency or a broker. This was followed by more than half (55.8%) of the respondents who indicated that they would consider the cost. More than two-fifths (47%) stated that they would select an agency or a broker through referrals from friends and relatives (Figure 4.5 and Table 4.7).

Figure 4. 5: Selection criteria for recruitment agencies or brokers by gender (%)



	Speed of deployment	Cost	Reputation	Reference from relative/friends	Don't know
Female	60.5	47.7	22.1	49.2	1.5
Male	66.2	59.8	26.7	45.9	.7
Total	64.3	55.8	25.2	47.0	1.0

Note: n: total=600, female=195, male=405.

Table 4.7: Selection criteria for recruitment agencies or brokers by district (%)

	Comilla (n=50)	Faridpur (n=50)	Feni (n=50)	Habiganj (n=50)	Jessore (n=50)	Jhenaidah (n=50)	Madaripur (n=50)	Munshiganj (n=50)	Noakhali (n=50)	Shariatpur (n=50)	Sunamganj (n=50)	Sylhet (n=50)	Total (n=600)
Speed of deployment	46.0	78.0	58.0	58.0	80.0	80.0	54.0	78.0	36.0	60.0	72.0	72.0	64.3
Cost	14.0	62.0	56.0	40.0	62.0	50.0	52.0	68.0	14.0	96.0	86.0	70.0	55.8
Reputation	12.0	40.0	22.0	12.0	40.0	42.0	2.0	6.0	32.0	6.0	42.0	46.0	25.2
Reference from relatives/friends	88.0	24.0	60.0	74.0	20.0	32.0	38.0	32.0	74.0	6.0	48.0	68.0	47.0
Don't know	–	–	–	4.0	6.0	–	–	–	–	2.0	–	–	1.0

During the FGDs, similar answers were given although, the main emphasis for selecting a recruitment channel was reputation in the community. Information was given by those who knew someone migrating abroad successfully or by the migrant-respondent residing outside of Bangladesh. A minority of migrants were aware of the regular migration channels and contacted the respective DEMO offices for more information and registration. These cases however were exceptional. One migrant who worked in Iran reported:

> *"Actually, I received some information on an agent from my brother who lived in Malaysia. From Malaysia, he gave me the contact of the agent in Dhaka. Firstly, I migrated to Tehran with tourist visa without receiving information of my work permit that I may be getting over there. I worked for 8 months like this; I did not think much about that work permit at all."*

Approximately 8 male migrants (in an FGD in Sunamganj), accounting for 9 per cent of all FGD respondents, indicated migrating to Europe with the help of different brokers in Pakistan. These returnees migrated to Greece from Pakistan. One of those migrants who had travelled to Pakistan mentioned that he only started thinking about Europe when the "dalal told us that better opportunities would be available in Europe." The broker referred to was of Bangladeshi origin, which generated a level of trustworthiness.

4.2 Practices

4.2.1 Preferred channels of migration

Several questions were asked with regard to migrants' preferred channels of migration. Most respondents planned to approach relatives (70.7%), friends (41.5%) or the DEMO (37.2%) for assistance in the migration process (Table 4.8). The results indicate the value of social networks in the migration process. Although some migrants planned to approach a broker (18.7%), comparatively more people were intending to go to the DEMO (37.2%), which is indicative of the level of awareness of the safe migration channels among the respondents.

Table 4.8: Preferred channels of migration by district (%)

	Comilla (n=50)	Faridpur (n=50)	Feni (n=50)	Habiganj (n=50)	Jessore (n=50)	Jhenaidah (n=50)	Madaripur (n=50)	Munshiganj (n=50)	Noakhali (n=50)	Shariatpur (n=50)	Sunamganj (n=50)	Sylhet (n=50)	Total (n=600)
Government official	48.0	12.0	40.0	22.0	6.0	2.0	56.0	14.0	22.0	50.0	32.0	56.0	30.0
Local government authorities	–	2.0	10.0	16.0	14.0	2.0	6.0	8.0	2.0	32.0	14.0	26.0	11.0
DEMO	52.0	50.0	76.0	26.0	40.0	52.0	38.0	16.0	44.0	20.0	4.0	28.0	37.2
BMET	–	6.0	24.0	4.0	10.0	10.0	6.0	2.0	–	2.0	–	–	5.3
Local elites	24.0	6.0	8.0	10.0	8.0	4.0	–	4.0	16.0	6.0	6.0	14.0	8.8
Recruitment agency	10.0	42.0	16.0	12.0	34.0	42.0	12.0	24.0	20.0	18.0	–	6.0	19.7
Dalal	2.0	38.0	4.0	28.0	36.0	16.0	–	22.0	–	12.0	36.0	30.0	18.7
Friends	30.0	50.0	8.0	46.0	30.0	26.0	50.0	36.0	30.0	50.0	80.0	62.0	41.5
Relatives	90.0	68.0	50.0	76.0	56.0	66.0	74.0	48.0	88.0	70.0	80.0	82.0	70.7
Neighbours	16.0	6.0	4.0	30.0	2.0	2.0	14.0	22.0	14.0	22.0	28.0	16.0	14.7
Colleagues	–	–	–	6.0	4.0	4.0	–	–	–	2.0	6.0	12.0	2.8
NGOs	–	12.0	–	–	14.0	20.0	–	2.0	–	–	–	4.0	4.3
UP chairman	2.0	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0.2
Online	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2.0	–	–	–	–	0.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

By district (Table 4.8), most respondents from Comilla (90%), Noakhali (88%), Sylhet (82%) and Sunamganj (80%) planned to ask their relatives for assistance in the migration process. As mentioned above, there was some level of awareness with regard to the safe migration process, as some respondents indicated to approach the DEMO. This was especially the case among respondents from Comilla, Faridpur, Feni and Jessore, and female respondents more generally (39.5%).At the same time, female respondents were also more likely to seek help from a *dalal* (26.7%), compared to men who would the same thing (14.8%).

Table 4.9: Preferred channels of migration by gender and type of migrant (%)

	Female (n=195)	Male (n=405)	Potential (n=486)	Returned (n=114)	Total (n=600)
Government official	25.6	32.1	31.1	25.4	30.0
Local government authorities	3.6	14.6	11.1	10.5	11.0
DEMO officials	39.5	36	37.0	37.7	37.2
BMET	3.1	6.4	4.9	7.0	5.3
Local elites	4.6	10.9	9.9	4.4	8.8
Recruitment agency	25.1	17.0	20.0	18.4	19.7
Dalal	26.7	14.8	20.6	10.5	18.7
Friends	31.3	46.4	41.6	38.6	41.5
Relatives	76.9	67.7	70.6	54.4	70.7
Neighbours	13.3	15.3	13.8	12.3	14.7
Colleagues	3.1	2.7	2.7	1.8	2.8
NGOs	3.6	4.7	3.5	1.8	4.3
UP chairman	–	0.2	-	0.9	0.2
Online	–	0.2	-	0.9	0.2

During the FGDs returned migrants were also asked what kind of channels they used to migrate abroad. Those who went to Europe (Greece) indicated that they migrated through the help of a broker that was known within the community of origin. Most returnees indicated that they travelled through various countries. Factors shown to influence the decision-making process in migrating to the next country of destination were the lack of employment and the instability in some transit countries, including Libya. One returned migrant who initially travelled from Bangladesh to Jordan with a temporary work visa mentioned that he continued his journey irregularly through different means of transportation via Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey and Greece. When talking about ways of transportation, he indicated:

> *"Sometimes I faced problems with finding food and transportation. From Syria[18] to the border, they took me by bus and used a taxi on the border side – where 10 to 11 people were crammed in. I also had to walk by foot."*

The respondent did not identify potential risks prior to departure, but he experienced hardship during migration:

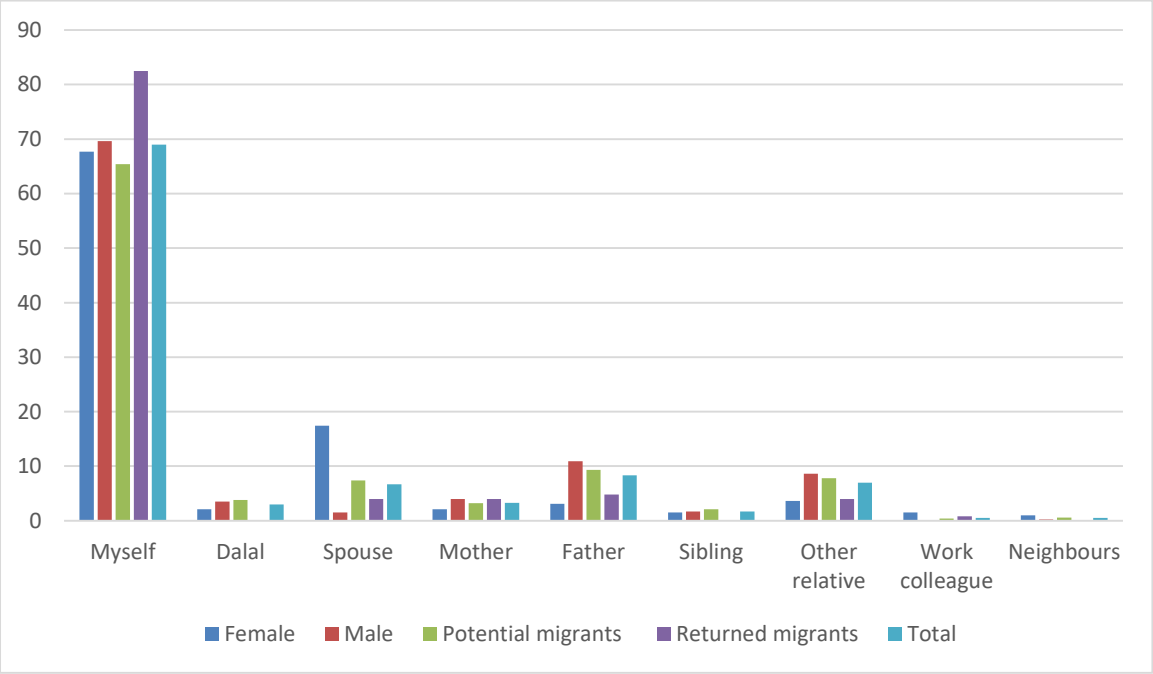
[18] Note: This is a verbatim response from the respondent. In all other instances, IOM formally uses the official name of the country, which is the Syrian Arab Republic.

"At first I did not have any fears, but when we started our journey I started to worry. We had to walk for days which caused my legs to swell up. The dalal told us that the journey wouldn't be so long, but he lied to us. We were very hungry, as we didn't have any food, and eventually had to walk four nights to reach Turkey. They didn't tell us anything before."

4.2.2 Influencers of migration

During the KAP survey, respondents were asked who influenced their decision to look for work abroad. As Figure 4.6 shows, a large majority of the respondents (69%) mentioned that they themselves decided to move abroad. Only 8.3 per cent reported that their fathers influenced their decision. Around 7 per cent (n=42) of them mentioned "other relatives" as influencers. The other influencing persons that respondents mentioned are as follows: spouse (6.7%), mother (3.3%), *dalal* (3%) and sibling (1.7%). Findings by district can be found in Table A9 in the Annex.

Figure 4. 6: Influencers of migration by gender and type of migrant (%)



Note: n: total=600, female=195, male=405, potential migrants=486, returned migrants=114.

4.2.3 Most trusted sources for visa validation

Subsequent questions were asked on where respondents planned to validate their visa. In response, irrespective of gender, migrant type, and area, more than two-fifths (43.2%) planned to validate their visa through the District Employment and Manpower Offices (DEMO). While this is an indication of a general level of awareness pertaining to the safe migration process, a large minority planned to check their visa through a combination of a *dalal*, DEMO or NGO, indicating that these respondents were

not aware of the services a *dalal* can provide. Over one-fourth, 21.5 per cent, of the respondents were not sure where they would check their visa (Table 4.10). Segregated by district, findings show that respondents from Munshiganj were most likely to validate their visa through online sources. A significant minority from Comilla were under the assumption that it is possible to validate a visa through a combination of a *dalal*, DEMO or NGO (See Annex A: Table A 12).

Table 4.10: Most trusted sources for visa validation by gender and type of migrant (%)

	Female (n=195)	Male (n=405)	Potential (n=486)	Returned (n=114)	Total (n=600)
DEMO	41.0	44.2	42.4	46.5	43.2
A *dalal* checking documents with DEMO, or NGO	25.6	17.4	20.3	19.2	20.0
Dalal only	10.3	4.4	7.0	3.5	6.2
Recruitment agency	–	1.5	0.8	1.8	1.0
Returned people from abroad in locality	–	1.2	0.8	0.9	0.8
Relatives	2.1	1.5	1.9	0.9	1.7
Through the embassy	–	1.2	0.8	0.9	0.8
Through relatives abroad	–	0.2	0.2		0.2
Online	0.5	3.0	1.0	7.0	2.2
Through father	–	0.2	0.2		0.2
Through government	–	0.2	0.2		0.2
Not sure	16.4	24.0	23.0	14.9	21.5
Nowhere	3.6	1.0	1.2	4.4	1.8
Don't know	0.5	–	0.2		0.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

4.2.3 Most trusted sources of pre-departure information

All respondents surveyed were asked about the person they trust most for pre-departure migration information. There was an option for multiple responses for this query. More than half (54%) mentioned that they trust someone who migrated and returned for pre-departure migration

information (Table 4.11). More than two-fifths (44.8%) mentioned that they trust 'other relatives', followed by friends (27.3%).

Table 4.11 also illustrated the responses per district, where a good portion of respondents from Faridpur (38%) and Jhenaidah (50%) mentioned 'Recruiting Agency' as their most trusted sources of information in migrating abroad. Some respondents of Faridpur (32%), Jessore (38%), Sunamganj (28%) and Sylhet (24%) mostly trusted the *dalal*. In Habiganj, around 50 per cent of respondents trusted the police, followed by 68 per cent of respondents in Sylhet and Sunamganj. Among male and female respondents per district, the most trusted source of information is someone who migrated and returned, other relatives, DEMO officials, and a recruiting agency.

Table 4.11: Most trusted sources of pre-departure information by district (%)

	Comilla (n=50)	Faridpur (n=50)	Feni (n=50)	Habiganj (n=50)	Jessore (n=50)	Jhenaidah (n=50)	Madaripur (n=50)	Munshiganj (n=50)	Noakhali (n=50)	Shariatpur (n=50)	Sunamganj (n=50)	Sylhet (n=50)	Total (n=600)
Spouse	20.0	18.0	8.0	20.0	10.0	4.0	6.0	4.0	10.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	10.3
Parents	28.0	40.0	12.0	24.0	22.0	24.0	30.0	16.0	28.0	12.0	46.0	38.0	26.7
Other relatives	78.0	32.0	20.0	48.0	38.0	36.0	50.0	36.0	52.0	56.0	38.0	54.0	44.8
Someone who migrated and returned	96.0	36.0	78.0	34.0	26.0	70.0	38.0	30.0	90.0	56.0	38.0	56.0	54.0
Friends	2.0	38.0	6.0	20.0	22.0	32.0	44.0	52.0	4.0	32.0	44.0	32.0	27.3
DEMO officials	38.0	16.0	58.0	20.0	22.0	28.0	28.0	14.0	28.0	14.0	4.0	20.0	24.2
NGO officials	–	4.0	2.0	2.0	4.0	4.0	2.0	2.0	–	–	2.0	10.0	2.7
Police	–	2.0	12.0	50.0	4.0	2.0	26.0	4.0	18.0	6.0	68.0	68.0	21.7
Local government authorities	–	2.0	14.0	6.0	16.0	2.0	14.0	10.0	–	38.0	8.0	18.0	10.7
Dalal	2.0	32.0	2.0	18.0	38.0	10.0	2.0	14.0	–	10.0	28.0	24.0	15.0
Local elites	2.0	6.0	4.0	2.0	–	4.0	2.0	4.0	4.0	16.0	4.0	–	4.0
Recruitment agency	4.0	38.0	14.0	8.0	24.0	50.0	26.0	16.0	12.0	24.0	2.0	2.0	18.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

When contextualizing these findings through the conducted FGDS, a majority of returned migrants indicated that they did not actively retrieve pre-departure information through regular channels. Travel documentation was given hours before departure making it challenging to check the validity

and authenticity of visas. Most interviewees indicated that they did not have sufficient information on the country of destination, and would have preferred to know the following information or learn the following skills:

- Knowledge of the types of work and salaries that might be available;
- Information on trustworthy recruitment agencies for providing visa and travel documentation;
- Better knowledge on the general process of migration, including ways to check validity of visas, as well as the required terms of conditions of labour contracts.
- Better language skills of the country of destination.

4.2.4 Sources of assistance in emergency situations

The survey respondents were also asked who they would contact if their labour rights were violated in their countries of destination. There was an option for multiple responses to this query. A high proportion of respondents (51.7%) mentioned that they would contact the embassy or consulate if there were labour rights violations (Table 4.12). More than two-fifths (44.2%) mentioned that they would contact their friends and families. This was followed by the police (31.5%), a migrant association (27.3%), the recruitment agency representative (18.3%) and labour authorities (15.3%). When looking at the differences per district, respondents residing in Comilla and Sylhet (86% and 85%, respectively) were most likely to approach an embassy or a consulate, with only a small percentage of respondents in Faridpur and Habiganj intending to approach the *dalal* (2% each).

Table 4.12: Used sources of assistance in emergency situations by gender and type of migrant (%)

	Female (n=195)	Male (n=405)	Potential migrants (n=486)	Returned migrants (n=114)	Total (n=600)
Labour authorities	8.7	18.5	14.8	17.5	15.3
Embassy or consulate	40.5	57.0	50.0	58.8	51.7
Recruitment agency representative	24.6	15.3	20.2	10.5	18.3
Police	39.5	27.7	34.0	21.1	31.5
Migrant association	22.6	29.6	30.0	15.8	27.3
Trade union	1.0	7.4	5.8	3.5	5.3
NGO	11.8	6.9	9.1	6.1	8.5
Friends and family	48.2	42.2	45.7	37.7	44.2
Don't know	0.5	1.0	0.8	0.9	0.8
Relative	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.0	0.5
Dalal	1.0	–	0.4	0.0	0.3
Employer	–	0.5	0.4	0.0	0.3

4.2.5 Safe migration practices among friends and relatives

Respondents were also asked what kind of advice they would give to their friends who received an offer for an overseas job by a *dalal* (Table 4.13). In response to this question, over half of the respondents surveyed (51.5%) would tell their friends to get a work visa before migrating abroad. About one-fifth (19.8%) would advise them to ask the recruiter for more information. The latter result indicates that respondents were under the impression that the recruiter would be able to provide accurate information. Segregated by district, results show that a large minority of respondents from Comilla would advise their friends to take the job (see Table A10 in the Annex).

Table 4.13: Advice given to a friend offered an overseas job by a dalal (%)

	Female (n=195)	Male (n=405)	Potential migrants (n=486)	Returned migrants (n=114)	Total (n=600)
I would tell my friend to get a work visa before he/she goes	51.3	51.6	47.3	69.3	51.5
I would tell my friend to ask the recruiter for more information on the visa	19.5	20.0	20.6	16.7	19.8
Tell him/her to take the job	12.8	15.3	16.3	7.0	14.5
Not sure what I would do	16.4	13.1	15.8	7.0	14.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

CHAPTER 5
COMMUNICATION CHANNELS AND SOURCES

This chapter analyses the media profile of potential and returned migrants by district, gender and area. Specific attention is spent on whether the respondents use various forms of media to gain more knowledge on migration. The first section presents a summary of the media profile, which is explained in more detail in the subsequent sections.

5.1. Summary of media profile

Table 5.1: Summary of media profile by type of migrant, area and gender (%)

	All (n=600)	Potential n=486	Returned n=114	Urban (n=226)	Rural (n=374)	Female (n=195)	Male (n=405)
Exposure to safe migration information							
Exposure to safe migration info	39.2	35.0	57.0	36.7	40.6	47.7	35.1
Unexposed to safe migration info	60.8	65.0	43.0	63.3	59.4	52.3	64.9
Information sources – top 5							
Friends or family	58.7	55.3	67.7	66.3	54.8	67.7	52.8
TV reports	41.7	46.5	29.2	41.0	42.1	34.4	46.5
TV public service announcements	25.1	26.5	21.5	20.5	27.6	10.8	34.5
Dalal	18.3	22.4	7.7	16.9	19.1	32.3	9.2
NGO	12.3	15.9	3.1	10.8	13.2	14.0	14.0
Media consumption (watch, listen, read)							
TV	91.5	91.8	90.4	90.3	92.2	82.6	95.8
Regular mobile phone	47.7	46.5	52.6	38.9	53.2	52.8	45.2
Smartphone/Tablet	25.5	23.9	32.5	23.5	26.7	7.2	34.3
Newspaper	19.0	17.5	25.4	15.9	20.9	1.0	27.7
Magazine	2.2	2.3	1.8	1.8	2.4	1.0	2.7
Internet-based media	5.7	4.3	11.4	9.7	3.2	1.5	7.7
PC/Laptop	0.8	1.0	0.0	0.4	1.1	0.5	1.0
Radio	6.0	6.0	6.1	8.0	4.8	0.5	8.6
Other	3.3	3.5	2.6	6.6	1.3	6.7	1.7
Internet							
Internet usage	29.7	22.17	7.50	10.83	18.38	3.17	26.5
Social media usage	29.3	21.55	7.33	10.4	18.83	2.84	26.5
Internet and migration	4.8	3.33	1.5	1.33	3.5	-	4.83

5.2. Information on safe migration

5.2.1. Exposure to information on safe migration

The DEMO branches in Bangladesh play a key role in the implementation of previous safe migration awareness-raising campaigns. The DEMO provides migration-related services at the district level, which includes (and varies per district and DEMO branch) registering fingerprints and issuing "smart cards"[19] – on the basis of the registration done at the UDC level. An appointed magistrate at the Deputy Commissioner's Office provides additional information and services regarding migration and trafficking. Some DEMO branches are also responsible for repatriating deceased migrants from abroad and providing financial assistance for students whose parents are migrants and live abroad. With regard to safe migration awareness-raising, the DEMO officers who were part of the KIIs all indicated to be actively involved in the implementation of these activities, focusing on the dissemination of relevant safe migration messaging through IEC materials, additional campaigning, seminars and courtyard meetings, observing International Migration Day and distribution of IEC materials on safe migration. There was a consensus on the effectiveness of and the need for previous safe migration awareness campaigns that have been conducted by IOM in collaboration with the DEMO, the BMET and NGO partners.

The following activities and areas of intervention were considered successful:

- Community-based interactions such as drama and theatre shows, public miking, courtyard meetings, as evidenced by the high levels of participation in similar programmes in the past;
- Provision of information on visa and legal requirements, as well as information on the country of destination, as evidenced by the increased number of potential migrants requesting for information at DEMO branches or registering for their intention to migrate abroad (e.g. through fingerprint registration);
- Dissemination of leaflets, posters and brochures that focus mainly on imagery and the various steps in the migration process; IEC materials focusing mainly on text were considered less effective due to the low literacy rates of some potential migrants;
- Airing of videos and documentaries pertaining to the risks of irregular migration and the benefits of safe migration at the district, *upazila* and union levels, including DEMO branches.

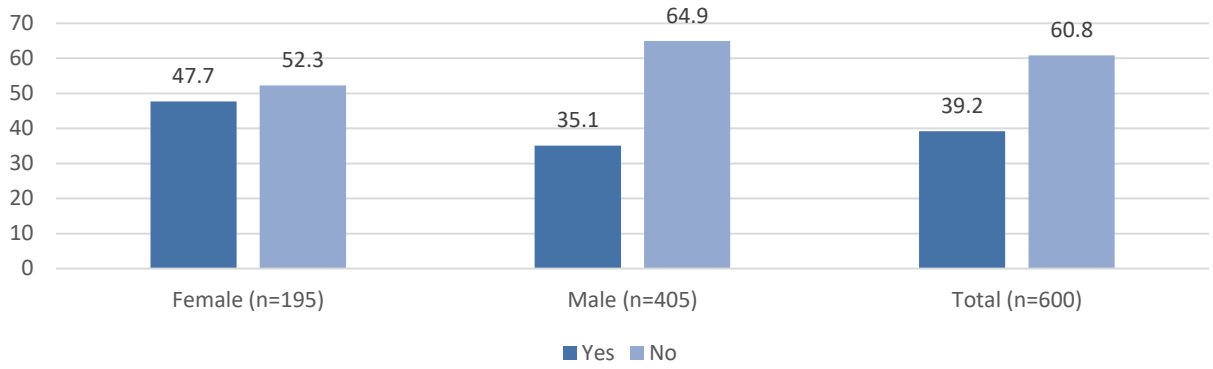
However, most KII respondents (including DEMO officers and NGO representatives) indicated that district-level government officials had no continuous implementation of outreach programmes to conduct safe migration awareness-raising campaigns targeting potential and returned migrants.

Subsequently, as part of the KAP survey, potential and returned migrants were asked about their exposure to safe migration information. Generally, distinctive of all categories, a relatively large

[19] To counter fraud in the recruitment of overseas workers, the Government of Bangladesh issues smart cards with names, photographs, and fingerprints of workers heading for Saudi Arabia and other countries. The smart cards would prevent impersonation and eliminate the role of intermediaries in the overseas recruitment process. As information on migration is registered through the BMET and the DEMO, this can be utilized when migrants get into a bad situation. If such a situation would occur, the Embassy of Bangladesh in the host countries can immediately identify the status of the worker with information contained on the smart card, without needing the person's passport.

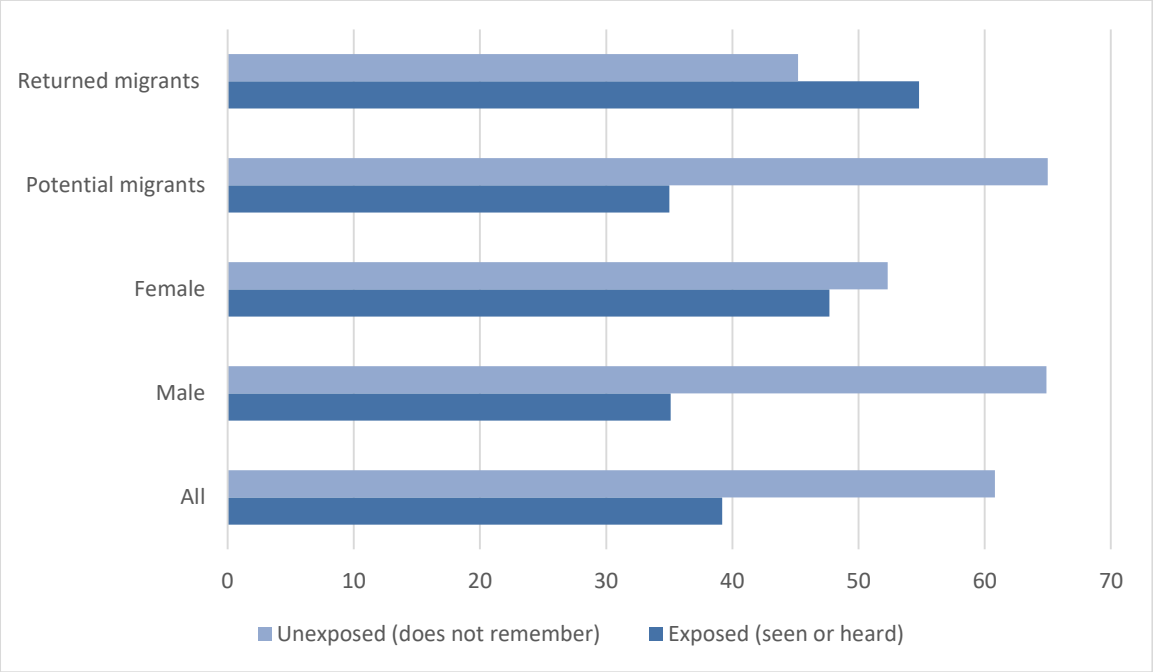
minority of respondents answered positively about their exposure to previous safe migration information (39.2%). Furthermore, a large proportion of respondents (60.8%) replied negatively and did not remember such information (Figure 5.1). Compared by district, the findings indicate that respondents from Comilla (88%), Feni (86%), Noakhali (98%) and Shariatpur (90%) were least exposed to safe migration information (see Table A11 in the Annex). Generally, women were exposed to more safe migration information than men.

Figure 5.1: Exposure to previous information on safe migration by gender (%)



When comparing the results by type of migrant, more than one-third of potential migrants (35%) replied positively and more then half of returned migrants (54.8%) reported that they had seen or heard information on safe migration. A total 60.8 per cent of all migrants had never seen or heard information on safe migration; with a majority of them being potential migrants (Figure 5.2).

Figure 5.2: Exposure to previous information on safe migration by type of migrant (%)



Note: n: all=600, male=405, female=195, potential migrants=486, returned migrants=114.

Respondents who had obtained information on safe migration were also asked where they had heard such information. The migrants were allowed to give multiple responses to this query. Overall, a majority of respondents (58.7%) were exposed to safe migration information through their friends and families, which is indicative of the value of social networks in spreading awareness. Around two-fifths (41.7%) of respondents were exposed to safe migration through TV reports, followed by public service announcements and advertisements (25.1%). Although these responses are promising for knowing where to target future awareness-raising activities there was also a minority who retrieved such information from brokers in their communities (18.3%). Only a few potential migrants, 10.6 per cent, were informed by the DEMO branches in their respective districts (see Table A12 in the Annex).

During the FGDs with potential and returned migrants, there was a consensus that community-based activities, including drama and theatre shows, as well as public miking or folk songs, were preferred and effective in spreading messages on safe migration. Specific elements of communication that were highlighted and considered useful are as follows:

- Information on the rules and regulations of the country of destination;
- Availability of training, skills development and language courses;
- IEC materials (e.g. brochures, leaflets and posters) focusing mostly on imagery material rather than text; some of the previous awareness-raising materials were found to be somewhat "complicated".

5.2.2. Future awareness-raising activities

The KII respondents were also asked what was needed to strengthen the support system for potential and returned migrants. As a response, the respondents highlighted that the availability and proximity

of brokers at the union and village levels was an important factor for choosing a broker over a registered recruitment agency further from home (e.g. Dhaka). As such, decentralizing the work of the BMET in their clearance process would decrease the time and costs associated with travelling to Dhaka.

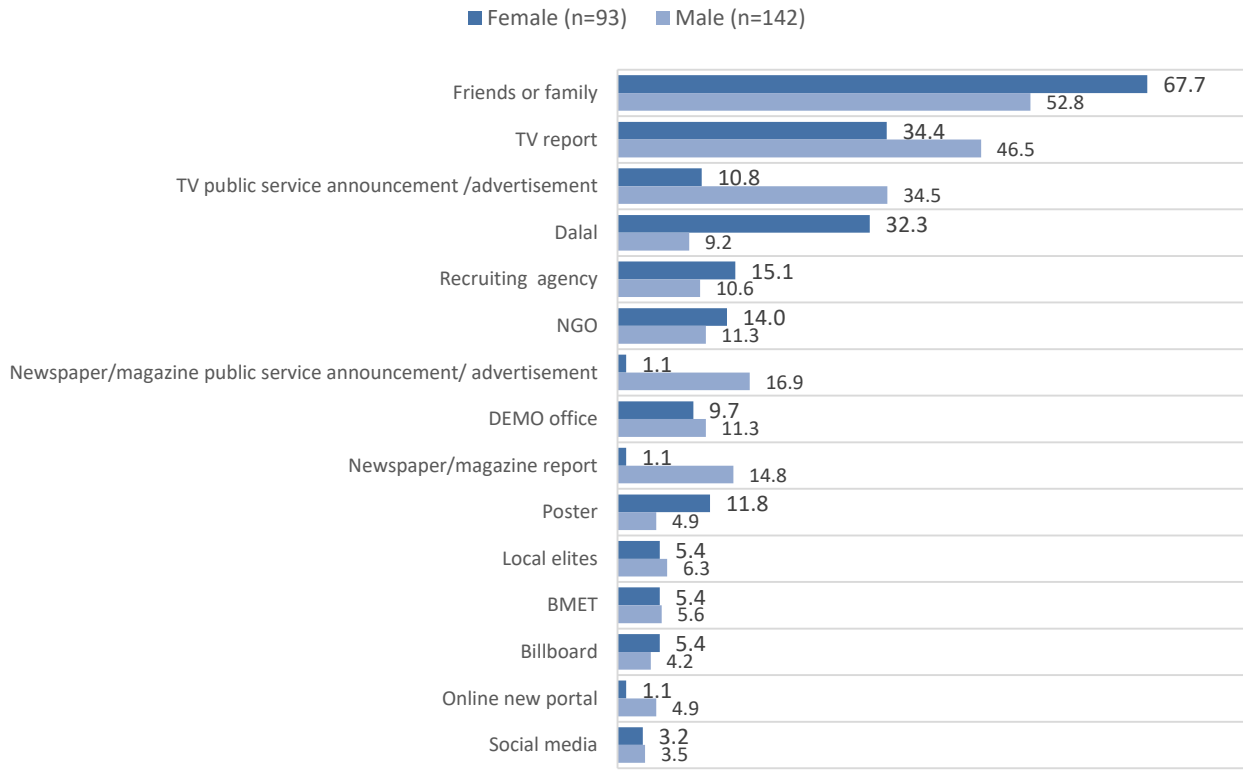
Furthermore, both KII and FGD respondents were subsequently asked which elements in awareness-raising campaigns would be most beneficial for future programmes. The following topics were highlighted as the main points:

- Due to the high reliance on informal networks for information provision, the mobilization of returned migrants was seen to be effective in making the public more aware about the dangers and consequences of irregular migration.
- Increased attention should be given to community-based performances and interaction, including drama and theatre shows, public miking, particularly in hard-to-reach areas at the *upazila* and union levels.
- Specific attention should be given on information provision regarding visa and legal processes, relevant training and skills development, and country-specific information.
- In light of the above, a majority of the KII respondents indicated the need for increased availability of training and skills development and orientation sessions.
- Detailed information about which recruitment agencies can be trusted and where they can be found should be available.
- Development and dissemination of leaflets, posters, and brochures that focus mainly on imagery were seen as a powerful tool in providing information on the various steps in the migration process. The use of IEC materials focusing mainly on text was considered less effective due to the low literacy rates of some potential migrants.
- Future awareness-raising advertisements should be disseminated through a variety of channels including local television stations.
- Based on the responses of the potential and returned migrants, and the reliance on information from families, friends and other sources in the community, some KII respondents suggested developing outreach materials based on migrant narratives , depicting travel experiences and/or the (in)ability to attain employment.

5.2.3. Information sources

Respondents were asked from where they had heard information on safe migration. In response, more than half of the respondents mentioned friends or families (58.7%) as their source of information. Surprisingly, a significant percentage of potential and returned migrants (18.3%) collected information from *dalal*s, the illegal sub-agent, who are among the main actors in the process of irregular migration. The top 15 sources of information are shown in Figure 5.3. By district, all sources of information mentioned by the respondents are shown in Table A12 in the Annex.

Figure 5.3: Top 15 sources of information by gender (%)



Notes: Multiple responses were allowed.

5.3 Media consumption

Several questions on the general media usage of potential and returned migrants (e.g. what they watched, what they read and what they listened to) were included. The respondents were allowed to give multiple responses to this query. Overall, by sex, migrant type and district, a large proportion of all respondents (91.5%) regularly watched television, among them 82.6 per cent and 95.8 per cent were female and male, respectively, which was followed by mobile phone usage (47.7%) and smartphone/tablet usage (25.5%). Around 19 per cent regularly read newspapers (Table 5.2). The differences per district can be found in Table A13 in the Annex.

Table 5.2: Media consumption of respondents by gender (%)

	Female (n=195)	Male (n=405)	Total (n=600)
TV	82.6	95.8	91.5
Radio (including mobile-based)	0.5	8.6	6.0
Newspaper	1.0	27.7	19.0

Magazine	1.0	2.7	2.2
Internet-based media	1.5	7.7	5.7
PC/Laptop	0.5	1.0	0.8
Smartphone/Tablet	7.2	34.3	25.5
Regular mobile phone	52.8	45.2	47.7
None of the above	6.7	1.7	3.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

5.3.1 Television

Following on from the previous section, additional questions were asked with regard to television usage. The most popular television channels among all respondents were NTV (50.1%), followed by Shomoy TV (40.8%), Channel i (39.7%) and Banglavision (39.5%). The top 20 channels are shown in Table 5.3. All other channels can be found in Table A14 in the Annex.

Table 5.3: Television channels tuned in to by respondents by gender (%)

	Female (n=161)	Male (n=388)	Total (n=549)
NTV	41.0	53.9	50.1
Shomoy TV	31.1	44.8	40.8
Channel i	37.9	40.5	39.7
Banglavision	36.0	41.0	39.5
RTV	37.9	37.6	37.7
ATN Bangla	21.7	31.2	28.4
BTV	30.4	20.6	23.5
Boishakhi TV	23.0	21.1	21.7
Ekushey TV	23.0	20.1	20.9
ATN News	17.4	19.6	18.9
Ekattor	10.6	21.1	18.0
Deshtv	18.0	17.0	17.3
Asian TV	16.1	15.2	15.5
My TV	13.0	12.1	12.4
Independent	7.5	14.2	12.2
Mohona TV	18.0	9.8	12.2
Dipto	15.5	10.6	12.0
Maasranga	8.7	12.9	11.7
Star Jalsha	33.5	2.6	11.7
Local cable TV	9.9	11.3	10.9

It was found that, by type of television shows (Table 5.4), most respondents watched local news (74.9%), local movies (63%) and infotainment (57.7%). Other popular television shows were sports

shows, international news and music shows. By gender, men mostly watched local news (82.7%), whereas women mostly preferred infotainment (78.9%). The next selection of television shows for men were sports shows (76%) and local movies for women (70.8%).

Table 5.4: Television shows normally watched by respondents by gender (%)

	Female (n=161)	Male (n=388)	Total (n=549)
Local news	55.9	82.7	74.9
International news	26.7	53.6	45.7
Sports shows	11.8	76.0	57.2
Local docu-dramas	3.1	1.8	2.2
International, dubbed docu-dramas	0.6	2.6	2.0
Talk shows	3.1	7.2	6.0
Game shows	1.2	3.4	2.7
Variety shows	14.3	5.2	7.8
Comedy shows	3.7	1.0	1.8
Reality shows	5.6	4.9	5.1
Infotainment (gossip-type news)	78.9	49.0	57.7
Local movies	70.8	59.8	63.0
International movies	30.4	17.3	21.1
Music shows	41.6	28.1	32.1
Animation	2.5	1.5	1.8

5.3.2 Newspapers and magazines

Overall, more than one-fourth (28.5%) of all respondents regularly read newspapers or magazines (Figure 5.4). When segregated by gender, results show that this percentage was substantively higher among male potential migrants (38.8%) than among female potential migrants (7.2%). Nonetheless, a generally high percentage of all respondents did not read newspapers or magazines (71.5%). Most popular newspapers were the *Daily Prothom Alo* (45%), the *Bangladesh Pratidin* (24%) and local dailies (18.1%) (Figure 5.5).

Figure 5.4: Newspaper and magazine usage by gender, type of migrant and area (%)

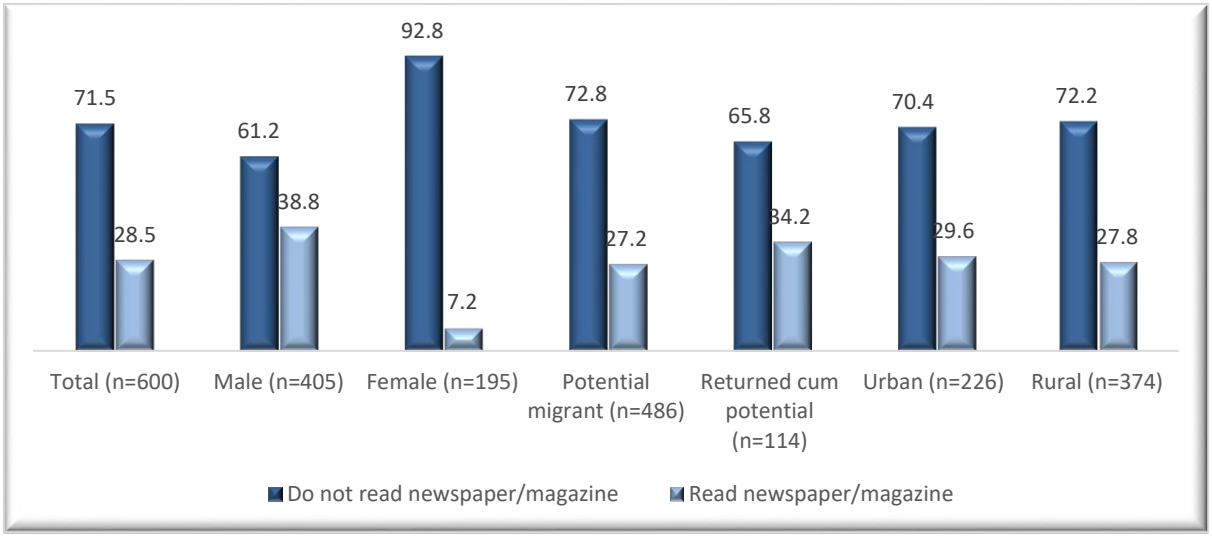
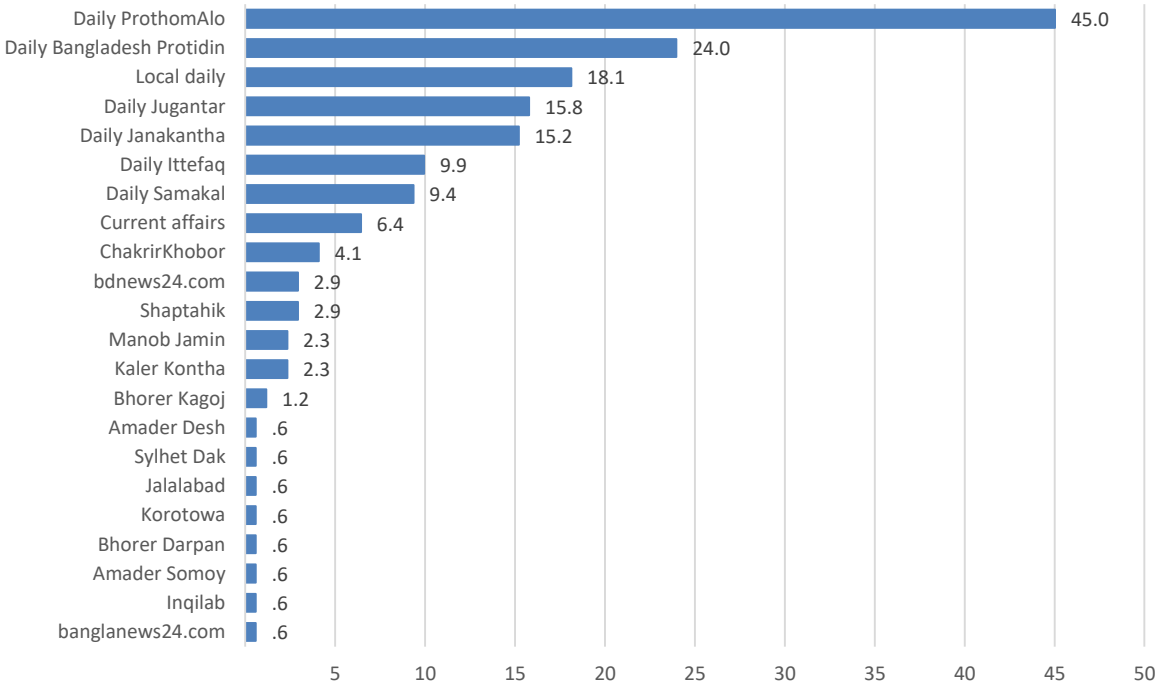


Figure 5.5: Newspapers and magazines normally read by respondents (%)

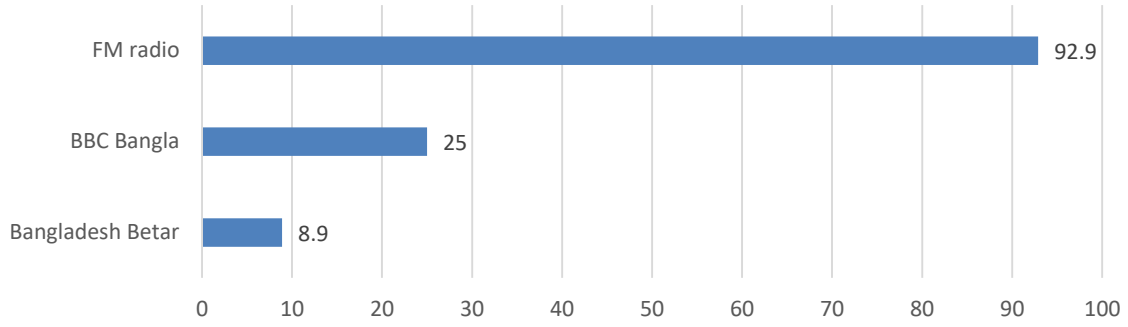


Note: n=171.

5.3.3 Radio

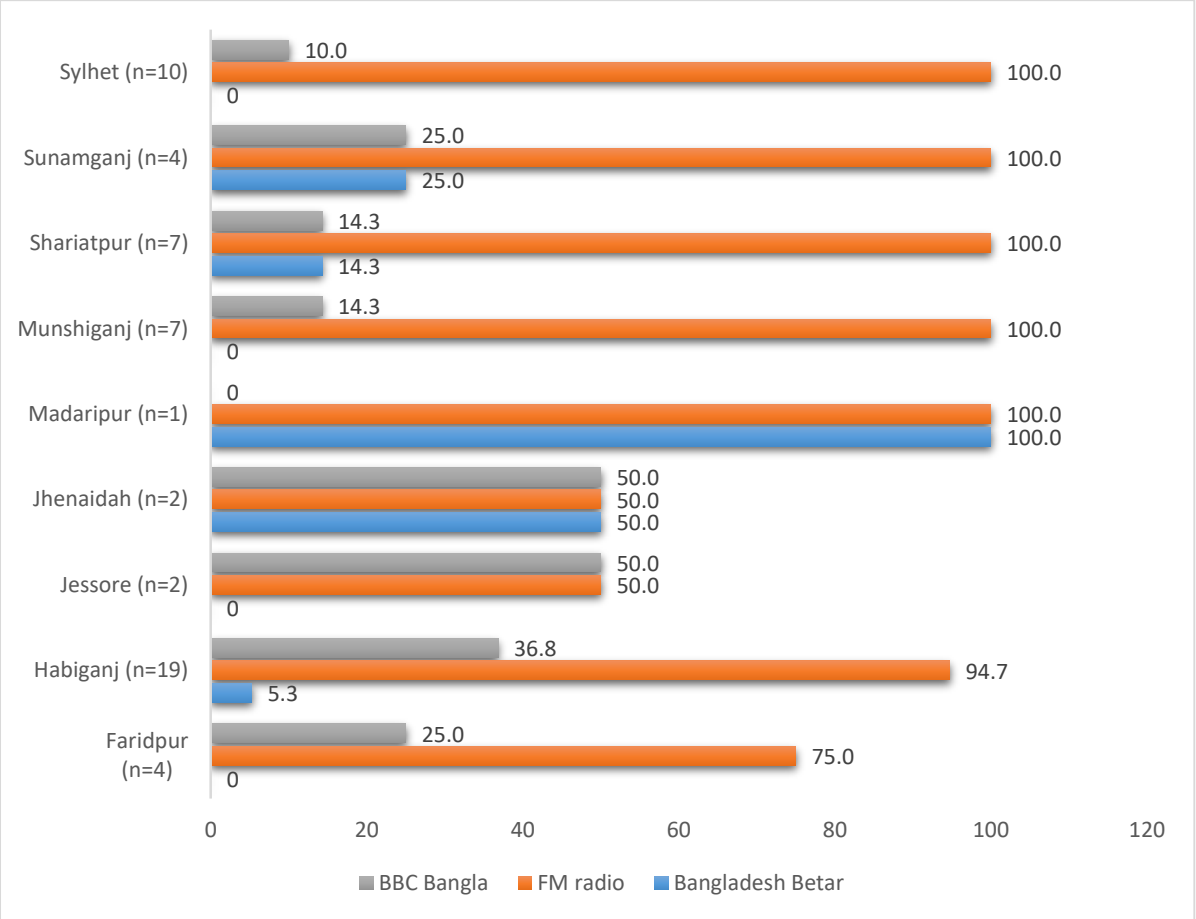
The respondents surveyed were also asked about their radio usage. There was an option for multiple responses to this question. Only 9.3 per cent of all respondents regularly listened to the radio, with no active female listeners. Of all positive responses, 92.9 per cent mentioned that they normally listened to FM radio stations, followed by the BBC Bangla (25%) (Figure 5.6).

Figure 5.6: Radio stations listened to by respondents (%)



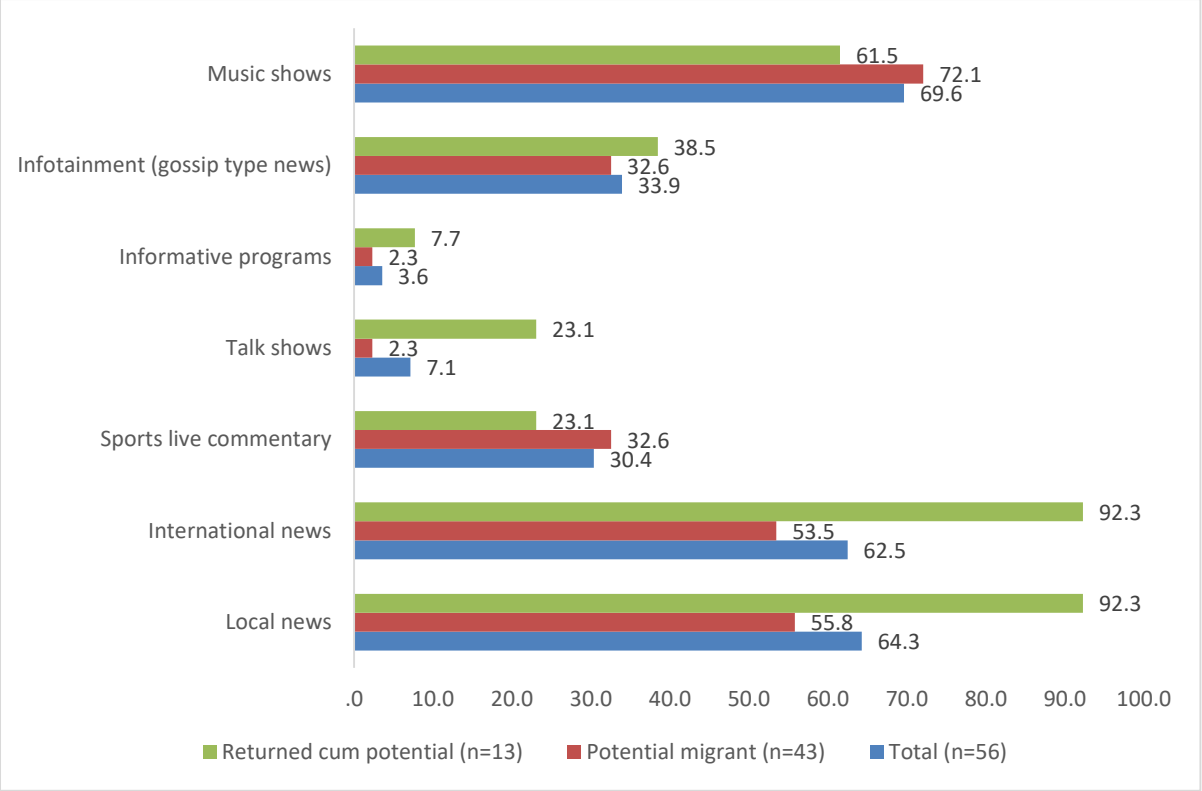
Note: n=56.

Figure 5.7: Radio stations listened to by respondents by district (%)



Respondents who listened to the radio were also asked about the types of shows they normally tuned in to. The respondents were allowed to give multiple responses to this question. A major proportion of respondents (69.6%) regularly listened to music shows, followed by local news and international news. Informative programmes and talk shows were the least popular (Figure 5.8).

Figure 5.8: Radio shows listened to by respondents by type of migrant (n=56)

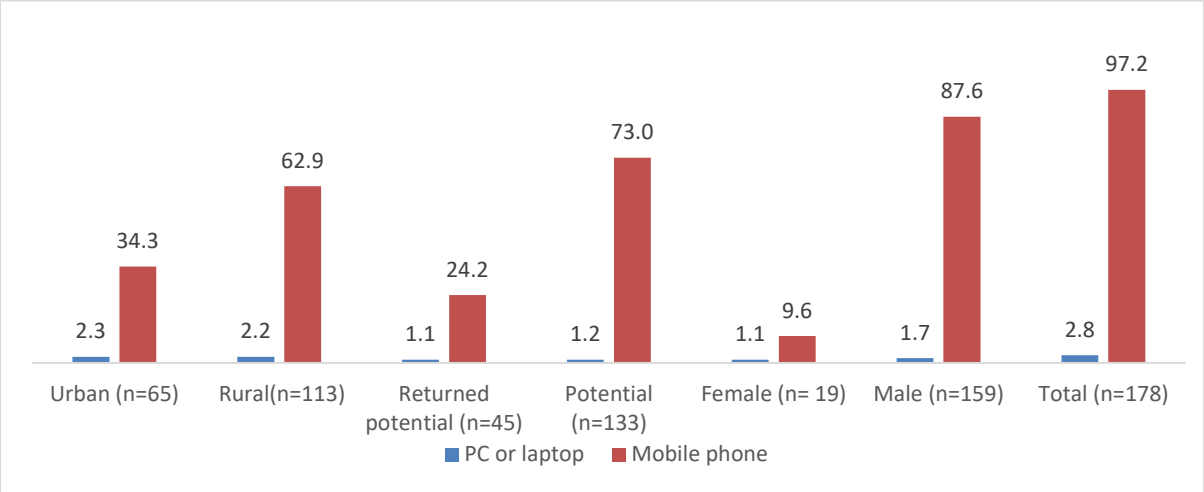


Note: n=56.

5.3.4 Internet

As Table 5.1 shows, 29.7 per cent indicated to use the Internet. The majority of these users were potential male migrants (27.37%). Internet usage was less popular among female migrants, with only 3.17 per cent responding positively to the question. When segregated by type of migrant, gender and area, results show that most of the potential migrants use mobile phone to access the Internet. Generally, nearly all respondents accessed the Internet via their mobile phones.

Figure 5.9: Ways to access the Internet by area, type of migrant and gender (%)



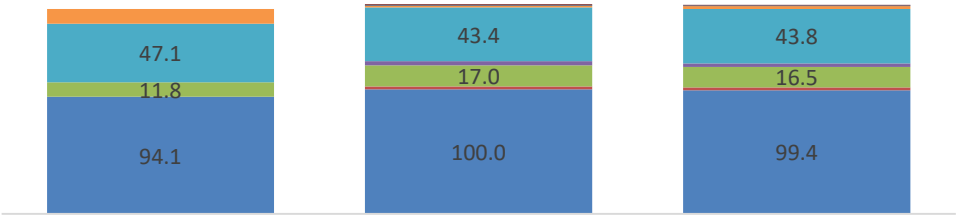
Notes: Multiple responses were allowed.

Note: n=178.

5.3.6. Social media

Among all respondents who were subscribed to social media platforms (29.3%), most used Facebook (99.4%), while others accessed YouTube (43.8%) and Google+ (16.5%). Among female respondents, only 8.7 per cent were subscribed to social media platforms, of whom the majority used Facebook (94.1%) and YouTube (47.1%) (Figure 5.10)

Figure 5.10: Social media subscriptions of respondents by gender (%)



	Female	Male	Total
Whats app	0	.6	.6
Google	0	.6	.6
Imo	11.8	1.3	2.3
YouTube	47.1	43.4	43.8
Instagram	0	3.1	2.8
Google +	11.8	17.0	16.5
Twitter	0	2.5	2.3
Facebook	94.1	100.0	99.4

Note: n=176.

Furthermore, when asked about the respondents' specific activities on social media, most of them were engaged with liking information (84.7%), followed by sharing information (74.4%) as well as chatting (64.8%) (Table 5.5).

Table 5.5: Social media activities of respondents by gender and type of migrant (%)

	Female (n=17)	Male (n=159)	Potential (n=130)	Returned (n=46)	Total (n=176)
Liking information	70.6	86.2	83.3	88.6	84.7
Sharing information	58.8	76.1	73.5	77.3	74.4
Chatting	52.9	66.0	66.7	59.1	64.8
Commenting on information	41.2	55.3	54.5	52.3	54.0
Watching videos	41.2	42.1	45.5	31.8	42.0
Downloading	29.4	31.4	31.1	31.8	31.3
Searching information/Browsing	17.6	29.6	28.0	29.5	28.4
Competition and games	11.8	20.1	22.0	11.4	19.3
Reading material	11.8	17.6	14.4	25.0	17.0
Communication and networking	11.8	6.9	8.3	4.5	7.4

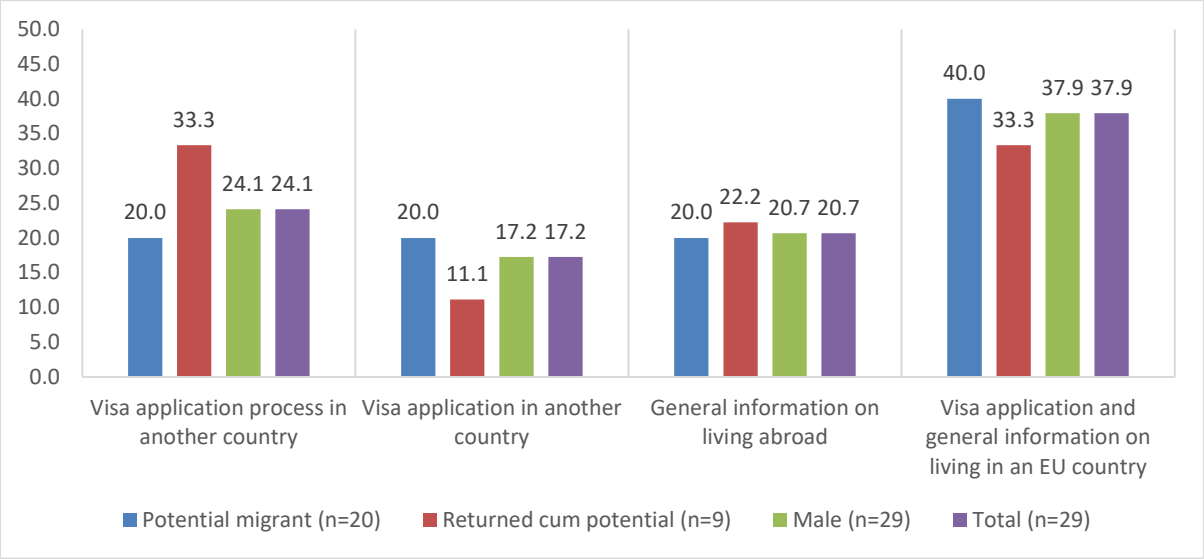
Note: n=176.

5.3.6. Internet and migration

Respondents were asked about their use of the Internet to gain more information on migrating abroad (see Table 5.1 for an overview of Internet and social media usage). Only a few respondents (16.3%) actively searched for information on safe migration. Returned migrants used the Internet more frequently for retrieval of information on safe migration (23.4%) than potential migrants did (13.7%). By district, respondents from Jessore, Jhenaidah and Shariatpur did not use the Internet to obtain information on safe migration. The most tech-savvy respondents were residing in Habiganj (26.9%), Sunamganj (26.7%) and Munshiganj (26.3%).

Of those respondents who actively searched for information on (safe) migration, one-third (37.9%) searched for details about visa applications and general information on living in an EU country (Figure 5.11). More than one-fifth (24.1%) searched for similar information but not necessarily focused on the EU Member States. When segregated by type of migrant, findings show that returned migrants were more likely to search for details on visa application processes than potential migrants. On the other hand, potential migrants were more likely to search for information focused on the EU Member States. No female respondents indicated they used the Internet to search for information on migration opportunities.

Figure 5.11: Migration information by gender and type of migrant (%)



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ANNEX

Data Tables

Table A 1: Registered overseas employment data by *upazila* (2016–June 2017)

	Zone A				
	Faridpur	**January–May 2016**	**June–December 2016**	**2017**	**Total 2016–2017**
1	Alfadanga	175	224	341	740
2	Saltha	260	453	601	1,314
3	Madhukhali	453	550	356	1,359
4	Boalmari	528	762	853	2,143
5	Charbhadrasan	789	931	469	2,189
6	Nagarkanda	773	1,071	1,090	2,934
7	Bhanga	1,225	1,996	2,023	5,244
8	Faridpur Sadar	71	375	2,358	2,804
9	Sadarpur	1,791	2,140	1,768	5,699
	Madaripur	**January–May 2016**	**June–December 2016**	**2017**	**2016–2017**
1	Rajoir	582	1,035	1,063	2,680
2	Kalkini	1,258	1,920	1,728	4,906
3	Shibchar	1,549	2,185	2,014	5,748
4	Madaripur	1,659	2,841	2,808	7,308
	Shariatpur	**January–May 2016**	**June–December 2016**	**2017**	**2016–2017**
1	Shariatpur	55	120	270	445
2	Gosairhat	309	388	407	1,104
3	Bhedarganj	344	466	409	1,219
4	Damudya	337	620	637	1,594
5	Naria	813	995	1,060	2,868
6	Janjira	874	1,232	793	2,899
	Munshiganj	**January–May 2016**	**June–December 2016**	**2017**	**2016–2017**
1	Lohajang	590	882	769	2,241
2	Gazaria	643	1,026	701	2,370
3	Tongibari	1,027	1,522	1,576	4,125
4	Sreenagar	1,809	2,356	1,884	6,049
5	Munshiganj	2,074	3,154	3,009	8,237
6	Sirajdikhan	1,597	3,423	2,636	7,656
	Zone B				
	Habiganj	**January–May 2016**	**June–December 2016**	**2017**	**2016–2017**
1	Shaistagonj	90	143	131	364
2	Lakhai	177	220	206	603
3	Ajmiriganj	179	322	262	763
4	Bahubal	685	907	657	2,249
5	Habiganj Sadar	843	1,173	886	2,902
6	Madhabpur	852	1,216	1,140	3,208
7	Nabiganj	1,169	1,618	1,195	3,982
8	Baniachang	1,116	1,857	1,309	4,282
9	Chunarughat	1,546	2,071	1,634	5,251
	Sylhet	**January–May 2016**	**June–December 2016**	**2017**	**2016–2017**
1	Sylhet Sadar	16	20	2	38
2	Companiganj	381	466	221	1,068
3	Fenchuganj	292	485	230	1,007
4	Osmani Nagar	304	528	250	1,082
5	Balaganj	376	591	291	1,258

6	Jaintiapur	496	617	229	1,342
7	Bishwanath	597	710	433	1,740
8	Beanibazar	510	891	518	1,919
9	South Surma	1	1	–	2
10	Gowainghat	939	1,286	390	2,615
11	Kanaighat	928	1,304	889	3,121
12	Golapganj	1	1,504	662	2,167
13	Jokigonj	17	745	433	1,195
	Sunamganj	**January–May 2016**	**June–December 2016**	**2017**	**2016–2017**
1	Dharamapasha	80	123	129	332
2	Sullah	96	128	99	323
3	Tahirpur	185	250	220	655
4	South Sunamganj	3	3	–	6
5	Bishwamvarpur	236	267	279	782
6	Jamalganj	254	323	264	841
7	Derai	526	743	509	1,778
8	Jagannathpur	731	950	842	2,523
9	Dowarabazar	903	1,102	838	2,843
10	Sunamganj Sadar	1,406	1,593	1,412	4,411
11	Chhatak	1,446	1,814	1,511	4,771
Zone C					
	Noakhali	**January–May 2016**	**June–December 2016**	**2017**	**2016–2017**
1	Suborno Char	19	52	51	122
2	Noakhali	250	170	28	448
3	Kabirhat	39	16	850	905
4	Hatiya	1,116	1,480	1,199	3,795
5	Companiganj	1,260	1,814	1,798	4,872
6	Chatkhil	1,182	1,942	2,639	5,763
7	Senbagh	1,321	2,321	2,241	5,883
8	Sonaimuri	1,585	2,874	3,220	7,679
9	Begumganj	2,222	3,433	4,194	9,849
	Feni	**January–May 2016**	**June–December 2016**	**2017**	**2016–2017**
1	Parshuram	258	714	656	1,628
2	Fulgazi	377	862	852	2,091
3	Chhagalnaiya	580	1,511	1,566	3,657
4	Sonagazi	801	1,945	2,040	4,786
5	Daganbhuiyan	846	2,012	2,228	5,086
6	Feni Sadar	1,203	2,972	3,537	7,712
	Comilla	**January–May 2016**	**June–December 2016**	**2017**	**2016–2017**
1	Comilla Sadar	2691	141	2,900	5,732
2	Dakshin	–	–	–	0
3	Meghna	738	837	1,097	2,672
4	Laksam	1,415	1,242	1,649	4,306
5	Brahmanpara	1,445	1,296	1,424	4,165
6	Monohorgonj	1,228	1,314	1,706	4,248
7	Titas	1,479	1,377	1,629	4,485
8	Homna	1,519	1,515	1,811	4,845
9	Daudkandi	2,374	1,915	2,428	6,717
10	Burichong	1,810	1,939	2,415	6,164
11	Chandina	2,333	2,073	2,432	6,838
12	Debidwar	2,624	2,594	2,863	8,081
13	Langolkoat	2,598	2,633	2,421	7,652
14	Barura	3,028	2,729	3,957	9,714
15	Chauddagram	3,499	3,223	4,086	10,808

16	Muradnagar	3,514	3,438	3,830	10,782
Zone D					
	Jhenaidah	**January–May 2016**	**June–December 2016**	**2017**	**2016–2017**
1	Kotchandpur	209	288	298	795
2	Harinakunda	266	394	338	998
3	Shailkupa	411	562	466	1,439
4	Kaliganj	464	678	697	1,839
5	Maheshpur	668	866	776	2,310
6	Jhenaidah	852	1,252	1,147	3,251
	Jessore	**January–May 2016**	**June–December 2016**	**2017**	**2016–2017**
1	Keshabpur	122	90	80	292
2	Abhaynagar	229	254	251	734
3	Manirampur	418	374	423	1,215
4	Bagherpara	394	472	471	1,337
5	Jhikargachha	449	494	404	1,347
6	Sharsha	425	470	463	1,358
7	Chaugachha	434	533	500	1,467
8	Sadar	3	6	1	10

Source: Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET).

Table A 2: District-wise composition of potential and returned migrants by gender (%)

	Potential migrants		Returned migrants		n
	Female	Male	Female	Male	
Comilla	20.0	56.0	12.0	12.0	50
Faridpur	26.0	60.0	6.0	8.0	50
Feni	28.0	50.0	4.0	18.0	50
Habiganj	20.0	54.0	12.0	14.0	50
Jessore	30.0	56.0	2.0	12.0	50
Jhenaidah	22.0	56.0	12.0	10.0	50
Madaripur	28.0	56.0	6.0	10.0	50
Munshiganj	26.0	40.0	6.0	28.0	50
Noakhali	32.0	52.0	2.0	14.0	50
Shariatpur	30.0	52.0	2.0	16.0	50
Sunamganj	24.0	66.0	8.0	2.0	50
Sylhet	32.0	56.0		12.0	50
Total	26.5	54.5	6.0	13.0	600

Table A 3: Likelihood to migrate to Europe in the next five years (%)

		Comilla (n=50)	Faridpur (n=50)	Feni (n=50)	Habiganj (n=50)	Jessore (n=50)	Jhenaidah (n=50)	Madaripur (n=50)	Munshiganj (n=50)	Noakhali (n=50)	Shariatpur (n=50)	Sunamganj (n=50)	Sylhet (n=50)	Total (n=600)
Yes (n=339)	Potential (n=275)	4.4	4.2	5.5	4.0	6.1	4.9	5.7	1.1	4.4	4.6	6.5	6.5	58.0
	Returned (n=64)	5.6	4.0	7.1	4.8	4.0	0.8	4.0	4.8	3.2	6.3	0.8	5.6	50.8
	All (n=339)	4.7	4.2	5.8	4.2	5.7	4.0	5.3	1.8	4.2	5.0	5.3	6.3	56.5
	Male (n=256)	4.0	4.2	7.4	5.9	5.9	3.7	5.4	2.2	4.4	5.2	6.7	8.1	63.2
	Female (n=83)	6.2	4.1	2.6	0.5	5.1	4.6	5.1	1.0	3.6	4.6	2.6	2.6	42.6
	All (n=339)	4.7	4.2	5.8	4.2	5.7	4.0	5.3	1.8	4.2	5.0	5.3	6.3	56.5
	Urban (n=127)	–	4.4	0.4	6.2	5.8	3.5	6.6	3.1	2.2	5.8	8.4	9.7	56.2
	Rural (212)	7.5	4.0	9.1	2.9	5.6	4.3	4.5	1.1	5.3	4.5	3.5	4.3	56.7
	All (n=339)	4.7	4.2	5.8	4.2	5.7	4.0	5.3	1.8	4.2	5.0	5.3	6.3	56.5
No, but I would like to migrate there eventually (n=68)	Potential (n=54)	2.3	0.4	2.3	0.6	0.8	0.4	–	–	3.6	0.2	0.6	–	11.4
	Returned (n=14)	3.2	–	2.4	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	–	2.4	–	–	–	11.1
	All (n=68)	2.5	0.3	2.3	0.7	0.8	0.5	0.2	–	3.3	0.2	0.5	–	11.3
	Male (n=49)	3.2	0.5	1.0	1.0	1.2	0.7	–	–	3.7	–	0.7	–	12.1
	Female (n=19)	1.0	–	5.1	–	–	–	0.5	–	2.6	0.5	–	–	9.7
	All (n=68)	–	3.8	–	2.5	1.8	3.8	2.3	5.8	0.2	1.8	2.2	1.5	25.8

		Comilla (n=50)	Faridpur (n=50)	Feni (n=50)	Habiganj (n=50)	Jessore (n=50)	Jhenaidah (n=50)	Madaripur (n=50)	Munshiganj (n=50)	Noakhali (n=50)	Shariatpur (n=50)	Sunamganj (n=50)	Sylhet (n=50)	Total (n=600)
	Urban (n=13)	–	0.9	1.8	0.4	0.4	0.9	–	–	0.4	–	0.9	–	5.8
	Rural (n=55)	4.0	–	2.7	0.8	1.1	0.3	0.3	–	5.1	0.3	0.3	–	14.7
	All (n=68)	2.5	0.3	2.3	0.7	0.8	0.5	0.2	–	3.3	0.2	0.5	–	11.3
No, I never want to migrate there (n=155)	Potential (n=115)	–	3.4	–	1.7	1.9	3.0	2.5	5.3	0.2	2.3	2.1	1.9	24.3
	Returned (n=40)	–	5.6	–	5.6	1.6	7.1	1.6	7.9	–	–	2.4	–	31.7
	All (n=155)	–	3.8	–	2.5	1.8	3.8	2.3	5.8	0.2	1.8	2.2	1.5	25.8
	Male (n=81)	–	3.7	–	1.0	1.2	3.7	2.2	5.4	–	1.5	1.0	0.2	20.0
	Female (n=74)	–	4.1	–	5.6	3.1	4.1	2.6	6.7	0.5	2.6	4.6	4.1	37.9
	All (n=155)	–	3.8	–	2.5	1.8	3.8	2.3	5.8	0.2	1.8	2.2	1.5	25.8
	Urban (n=72)	–	3.1	–	4.4	1.8	6.2	3.5	8.0	–	3.1	1.3	0.4	31.9
	Rural (n=83)	–	4.3	–	1.3	1.9	2.4	1.6	4.5	0.3	1.1	2.7	2.1	22.2
	All (n=155)	–	3.8	–	2.5	1.8	3.8	2.3	5.8	0.2	1.8	2.2	1.5	25.8
Do not know (n=38)	Potential (n=30)	1.3	–	0.2	1.3	–	–	0.6	0.6	0.6	1.3	–	0.4	6.3
	Returned (n=8)	0.8	–	–	–	–	–	–	0.8	0.8	1.6	1.6	0.8	6.3
	All (n=38)	1.2	–	0.2	1.0	–	–	0.5	0.7	0.7	1.3	0.3	0.5	6.3
	Male (n=19)	1.2	–	–	0.5	–	–	0.5	0.7	–	1.7	–	–	4.7
	Female (n=19)	1.0	–	0.5	2.1	–	–	0.5	0.5	2.1	0.5	1.0	1.5	9.7
	All (n=38)	1.2	–	0.2	1.0	-	–	0.5	0.7	0.7	1.3	0.3	0.5	6.3
	Urban (n=14)	–	–	–	0.4	-	–	0.9	0.4	0.4	1.8	0.9	1.3	6.2
	Rural (n=24)	1.9	–	0.3	1.3	–	–	0.3	0.8	0.8	1.1	–	–	6.4
	All (n=38)	1.2	–	0.2	1.0	–	–	0.5	0.7	0.7	1.3	0.3	0.5	6.3

Table A 4: Non-financial costs of migration by gender (%)

	Female (n=195)	Male (n=405)	Total (n=600)
Willing to endure:			
Engage in sexual activities during migration or upon arrival in the country of destination to pay for the cost of migration	12.8	7.2	9.0
Selling one of your organs to pay for the financial cost of migration	10.8	8.4	9.2
Expensive living conditions in the country of destination	15.9	24.0	21.3
Working under bad conditions	30.3	40.0	36.8

Doing work you don't want to do	41.0	58.5	52.8
Language barrier in the country of destination	54.4	59.8	58.0
Being separated from family members	79.0	85.7	83.5
None	0.5	0.7	0.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table A 5: Anticipated benefits of migration by district (%)

	Comilla (n=50)	Faridpur (n=50)	Feni (n=50)	Habiganj (n=50)	Jessore (n=50)	Jhenaidah (n=50)	Madaripur (n=50)	Munshiganj (n=50)	Noakhali (n=50)	Shariatpur (n=50)	Sunamganj (n=50)	Sylhet (n=50)	Total (n=600)
Finding better work or making financial profit	30.0	66.0	68.0	84.0	68.0	80.0	84.0	42.0	38.0	72.0	82.0	52.0	63.8
Increased status in the community of origin	–	–	4.0	2.0	–	2.0	12.0	4.0	–	8.0	4.0	4.0	3.3
Providing support to family members	28.0	34.0	20.0	6.0	32.0	18.0	4.0	52.0	20.0	20.0	8.0	42.0	23.7
Increased skills	22.0	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	30.0	–	–	–	4.3
Permanently moving abroad with family members	20.0	–	8.0	8.0	–	–	–	2.0	12.0	–	6.0	2.0	4.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table A 6: Expected sources of financing by district (%)

	Comilla (n=50)	Faridpur (n=50)	Feni (n=50)	Habiganj (n=50)	Jessore (n=50)	Jhenaidah (n=50)	Madaripur (n=50)	Munshiganj (n=50)	Noakhali (n=50)	Shariatpur (n=50)	Sunamganj (n=50)	Sylhet (n=50)	Total (n=600)
From own savings	10.0	60.0	40.0	64.0	48.0	54.0	48.0	52.0	10.0	64.0	78.0	60.0	49.0
Selling household assets	18.0	4.0	8.0	8.0	6.0	10.0	4.0	20.0	4.0	22.0	6.0	10.0	10.0
Mortgage house/land	4.0	20.0	10.0	6.0	40.0	20.0	2.0	4.0	16.0	4.0	8.0	16.0	12.5
Selling land	–	6.0	24.0	38.0	12.0	20.0	8.0	4.0	8.0	6.0	22.0	20.0	14.0
Borrowing money from family, friends or in-laws	68.0	76.0	62.0	52.0	68.0	90.0	66.0	84.0	60.0	86.0	60.0	78.0	70.8
Taking a loan from a money lender	28.0	10.0	22.0	2.0	8.0	4.0	–	6.0	12.0	10.0	–	–	8.5
Taking a loan from Migrant Welfare Bank (PKB)	–	2.0	18.0	2.0	14.0	4.0	2.0	4.0	–	2.0	2.0	4.0	4.5
Taking a loan from a bank	4.0	12.0	24.0	16.0	20.0	8.0	8.0	4.0	38.0	8.0	38.0	36.0	18.0
Taking a loan from NGOs/microfinance organization	34.0	24.0	30.0	6.0	22.0	26.0	30.0	10.0	42.0	4.0	12.0	20.0	21.7
Will get free chance	–	6.0	–	–	2.0	8.0	–	–	–	–	–	–	1.3
Taking a loan from a *dalal*	–	–	–	8.0	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2.0	0.8

Table A 7: Awareness of safe and orderly migration by district (%)

	Comilla (n=50)	Faridpur (n=50)	Feni (n=50)	Habiganj (n=50)	Jessore (n=50)	Jhenaidah (n=50)	Madaripur (n=50)	Munshiganj (n=50)	Noakhali (n=50)	Shariatpur (n=50)	Sunamganj (n=50)	Sylhet (n=50)	Total (n=600)
Securing a job with a good company	44.0	74.0	46.0	92.0	88.0	94.0	94.0	84.0	44.0	90.0	88.0	92.0	77.5
Getting a good salary in the	46.0	76.0	60.0	64.0	68.0	78.0	94.0	84.0	50.0	94.0	86.0	94.0	74.5
Completing the migration process through government channels	58.0	54.0	58.0	42.0	26.0	72.0	50.0	28.0	50.0	66.0	84.0	74.0	55.2
Completing the migration process without the help of a *dalal*	14.0	36.0	12.0	44.0	24.0	38.0	2.0	12.0	22.0	32.0	64.0	84.0	32
Safety during migration and in the destination country	50.0	48.0	40.0	58.0	28.0	48.0	20.0	30.0	20.0	30.0	66.0	76.0	42.8
Using safe and reliable transportation vehicles	–	10.0	12.0	26.0	16.0	16.0	20.0	10.0	2.0	28.0	52.0	66.0	21.5
Going abroad with passport and visa	64.0	40.0	82.0	54.0	38.0	48.0	46.0	38.0	80.0	74.0	36.0	28.0	52.3
Travelling by air	8.0	22.0	30.0	10.0	24.0	8.0	24.0	28.0	14.0	32.0	18.0	18.0	19.7
Getting the job that was originally promised	32.0	6.0	12.0	12.0	2.0	10.0	18.0	2.0	26.0	2.0	10.0	6.0	11.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table A 8: Knowledge of requirements for labour migration by district (%)

	Comilla (n=-50)	Faridpur (n=-50)	Feni (n=-50)	Habiganj (n=-50)	Jessore (n=-50)	Jhenaidah (n=-50)	Madaripur (n=-50)	Munshiganj (n=-50)	Noakhali (n=-50)	Shariatpur (n=-50)	Sunamganj (n=-50)
Only a passport	–	–	2.0	4.0	–	–	16.0	12.0	–	10.0	6.0
Job contract	–	2.0	–	–	2.0	–	10.0	18.0	–	–	2.0
Passport and any visa	26.0	10.0	20.0	16.0	2.0	2.0	10.0	12.0	22.0	30.0	16.0
Passport and work visa	38.0	28.0	24.0	6.0	30.0	34.0	22.0	22.0	42.0	18.0	16.0
Passport and work visa and contract	36.0	60.0	54.0	70.0	66.0	64.0	42.0	32.0	34.0	40.0	60.0
Not sure	–	–	–	4.0	–	–	–	4.0	2.0	2.0	–
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table A 9: Influencers of migration by district (%)

	Comilla (n=50)	Faridpur (n=50)	Feni (n=50)	Habiganj (n=50)	Jessore (n=50)	Jhenaidah (n=50)	Madaripur (n=50)	Munshiganj (n=50)	Noakhali (n=50)	Shariatpur (n=50)	Sunamganj (n=50)	Sylhet (n=50)	Total (n=600)
Myself	48.0	84.0	56.0	62.0	80.0	86.0	78.0	62.0	38.0	88.0	68.0	78.0	69.0
Dalal	4.0	6.0	4.0	2.0	6.0	4.0	2.0	2.0	–	–	4.0	2.0	3.0
Spouse	16.0	4.0	4.0	10.0	4.0	–	8.0	8.0	8.0	–	4.0	14.0	6.7
Mother	–	–	18.0	4.0	–	2.0	2.0	4.0	4.0	–	6.0	–	3.3
Father	8.0	6.0	6.0	12.0	8.0	4.0	–	18.0	22.0	6.0	10.0	–	8.3
sibling	2.0	–	–	–	–	2.0	2.0	–	2.0	4.0	2.0	6.0	1.7
Other relatives	20.0	–	10.0	10.0	2.0	2.0	4.0	4.0	24.0	2.0	6.0	–	7.0
Colleague	–	–	–	–	–	–	4.0	2.0	–	–	–	–	0.5
Neighbours	2.0	–	2.0	–	–	–	–	–	2.0	–	–	–	0.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.

Table A 10: Advice given to a friend offered an overseas job by a *dalal* (%)

	Comilla (n=50)	Faridpur (n=50)	Feni (n=50)	Habiganj (n=50)	Jessore (n=50)	Jhenaidah (n=50)	Madaripur (n=50)	Munshiganj (n=50)	Noakhali (n=50)	Shariatpur (n=50)	Sunamganj (n=50)	Sylhet (n=50)	Total (n=600)
I would tell my friend to get a work visa before he/she goes	26.0	68.0	34.0	42.0	78.0	88.0	62.0	54.0	22.0	46.0	50.0	48.0	51.5
I would tell my friend to ask the recruiter for more information on the visa	18.0	32.0	26.0	40.0	16.0	10.0	2.0	4.0	18.0	6.0	26.0	40.0	19.8
Tell him/her to take the job	40.0	–	16.0	8.0	6.0	2.0	20.0	26.0	30.0	16.0	6.0	4.0	14.5
Not sure what I would do	16.0	–	24.0	10.0	–	–	16.0	16.0	30.0	32.0	18.0	8.0	14.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table A 11: Exposure to information on safe migration (%)

	Comilla (n=50)	Faridpur (n=50)	Feni (n=50)	Habiganj (n=50)	Jessore (n=50)	Jhenaidah (n=50)	Madaripur (n=50)	Munshiganj (n=50)	Noakhali (n=50)	Shariatpur (n=50)	Sunamganj (n=50)	Sylhet (n=50)	Total (n=600)
Yes	12.0	64.0	14.0	38.0	84.0	48.0	40.0	44.0	2.0	10.0	48.0	66.0	39.2
No	88.0	36.0	86.0	62.0	16.0	52.0	60.0	56.0	98.0	90.0	52.0	34.0	60.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table A 12: Sources of information on safe migration by district (%)

	Comilla (n=50)	Faridpur (n=50)	Feni (n=50)	Habiganj (n=50)	Jessore (n=50)	Jhenaidah (n=50)	Madaripur (n=50)	Munshiganj (n=50)	Noakhali (n=50)	Shariatpur (n=50)	Sunamganj (n=50)	Sylhet (n=50)	Total n=600)
Newspaper/ Magazine report	–	–	14.3	10.5	9.5	–	10.0	9.1	–	20.0	29.2	9.1	9.4
Newspaper/ Magazine public service announcement/ advertisement	–	3.1	–	15.8	–	–	–	–	–	–	20.8	48.5	10.6
TV report	–	56.3	71.4	10.5	71.4	87.5	15.0	13.6	–	40.0	20.8	27.3	41.7
TV public service announcement/ advertisement	–	15.6	71.4	26.3	14.3	4.2	5.0	13.6	–	40.0	54.2	54.5	25.1
Radio report	–	–	–	–	–	–	5.0	4.5	–	–	4.2	9.1	2.6
Radio public service announcement/ advertisement	–	–	–	–	2.4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0.4
Online news portal	–	–	14.3	–	2.4	–	5.0	9.1	–	–	4.2	6.1	3.4
Social media	16.7	6.3	14.3	–	–	–	10.0	4.5	–	20.0	–	–	3.4
Mobile text message	–	–	–	10.5	–	–	–	–	–	–	8.3	3.0	2.1
Billboard	–	21.9	–	–	2.4	–	–	–	–	–	12.5	–	4.7
Poster	–	28.1	–	–	11.9	4.2	5.0	–	–	–	8.3	–	7.7
Leaflet/Brochure	–	3.1	–	–	2.4	–	–	–	–	–	4.2	–	1.3
Friends or family	100.0	62.5	28.6	89.5	19.0	25.0	85.0	68.2	100.0	20.0	79.2	78.8	58.7

Local government authorities	–	–	–	–	7.1	–	–	9.1	–	40.0	–	–	3.0
Local elites	–	12.5	–	–	9.5	4.2	–	13.6	–	40.0	–	–	6.0
Religious leader	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4.2	3.0	0.9
Dalal	–	25.0	–	31.6	23.8	12.5	–	4.5	–	–	29.2	24.2	18.3
Police	–	–	14.3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0.4
DEMO	100.0	6.3	28.6	5.3	11.9	25.0	15.0	–	–	–	–	–	10.6
Migrant Welfare Bank (PKB)	–	–	–	5.3	2.4	8.3	–	–	–	–	–	–	1.7
Recruitment agency	–	21.9	–	–	16.7	58.3	–	4.5	–	–	–	–	12.3
BMET	–	9.4	–	–	7.1	25.0	5.0	–	–	–	–	–	5.5
NGO	–	21.9	–	31.6	11.9	25.0	–	–	–	–	8.3	9.1	12.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table A 13: Media consumption by district (%)

	Comilla (n=50)	Faridpur (n=50)	Feni (n=50)	Habiganj (n=50)	Jessore (n=50)	Jhenaidah (n=50)	Madaripur (n=50)	Munshiganj (n=50)	Noakhali (n=50)	Shariatpur (n=50)	Sunamganj (n=50)	Sylhet (n=50)	Total (n=600)
TV	100.0	92.0	92.0	90.0	100	98.0	98.0	90.0	94.0	90.0	78.0	76.0	91.5
Radio (including mobile-based)	–	8.0	–	14.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	12.0	–	12.0	6.0	8.0	6.0
Newspaper	4.0	16.0	28.0	34.0	10.0	22.0	12.0	12.0	20.0	14.0	24.0	32.0	19.0
Magazine	–	2.0	4.0	10.0	2.0	2.0	–	–	–	–	4.0	2.0	2.2
Internet-based media	–	12.0	–	8.0	10.0	10.0	2.0	18.0	–	4.0	4.0	–	5.7
PC/Laptop	–	2.0	2.0	–	2.0	2.0	–	–	–	–	2.0	–	0.8
Smartphone/Tablet	30.0	22.0	42.0	30.0	8.0	12.0	20.0	44.0	54.0	14.0	12.0	18.0	25.5
Regular mobile phone	68.0	8.0	70.0	66.0	18.0	18.0	30.0	38.0	60.0	54.0	78.0	64.0	47.7

	Comilla (n=50)	Faridpur (n=50)	Feni (n=50)	Habiganj (n=50)	Jessore (n=50)	Jhenaidah (n=50)	Madaripur (n=50)	Munshiganj (n=50)	Noakhali (n=50)	Shariatpur (n=50)	Sunamganj (n=50)	Sylhet (n=50)	Total (n=600)
None of the above	–	4.0	–	4.0	–	2.0	2.0	6.0	–	8.0	4.0	10.0	3.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Notes:

- **Multiple responses were allowed for this question.**

Table A 14: TV channels (%)

	Female (n=161)	Male (n=388)	Total (n=549)
NTV	41.0	53.9	50.1
Shomoy	31.1	44.8	40.8
Channel i	37.9	40.5	39.7
Banglavision	36.0	41.0	39.5
RTV	37.9	37.6	37.7
ATN Bangla	21.7	31.2	28.4
BTV	30.4	20.6	23.5
Boishakhi TV	23.0	21.1	21.7
Ekushey TV	23.0	20.1	20.9
ATN News	17.4	19.6	18.9
Ekattor	10.6	21.1	18.0
Deshtv	18.0	17.0	17.3
Asian TV	16.1	15.2	15.5
My TV	13.0	12.1	12.4
Independent	7.5	14.2	12.2
Mohona TV	18.0	9.8	12.2
Dipto	15.5	10.6	12.0
Maasranga	8.7	12.9	11.7
Star Jalsha	33.5	2.6	11.7
Local cable TV	9.9	11.3	10.9
SATV	8.1	7.7	7.8
Zee Bangla	6.2	0.8	2.4
Sony 8	1.2	2.3	2.0
Sony Max	–	2.6	1.8
Ten Sports	0.6	1.8	1.5
Zee TV	0.6	1.5	1.3
Jasha Movies	2.5	0.8	1.3
Channel 24	–	1.3	0.9
Discovery	–	1.3	0.9
Channel 9	–	1.0	0.7
Star Plus	1.2	0.3	0.5
Channel 81	–	0.8	0.5
Bijoy TV	–	0.5	0.4
Star Movies	–	0.5	0.4
Zee Cinema	–	0.5	0.4
Nickelodeon	–	0.3	0.2
Animal Planet	–	0.3	0.2
National Geographic	–	0.3	0.2
Sony Six	–	0.3	0.2
Life Ok	–	0.3	0.2
HBO	–	0.3	0.2
Star Sports	–	0.3	0.2

MAX	–	0.3	0.2
Jamuna TV	–	0.3	0.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table A 15: Internet usage for migration by district, type of migrant and gender (%)

	Use	Do not use	Total
District			
Comilla (n=50)	1.67	6.77	8.33
Faridpur (n=50)	2.00	6.33	8.33
Feni (n=50)	4.00	6.33	8.33
Habiganj (n=50)	4.33	4.33	8.33
Jessore (n=50)	0.83	4.00	8.33
Jhenaidah (n=50)	0.83	7.50	8.33
Madaripur (n=50)	2.00	7.50	8.33
Munshiganj (n=50)	3.17	6.33	8.33
Noakhali (n=50)	4.33	5.17	8.33
Shariatpur (n=50)	0.83	4.00	8.33
Sunamganj (n=50)	2.50	7.50	8.33
Sylhet (n=50)	3.17	5.83	8.33
All (n=600)	29.67	70.33	100.0
Type			
Potential (n=486)	22.17	58.38	81.00
Returned (n=144)	7.50	11.50	19.00
All (n=600)	29.67	70.33	100.0
Area			
Urban (n=65)	10.83	26.83	37.67
Rural (n=113)	18.83	43.50	62.33
All (n=178)	29.67	70.33	100.0
Gender			
Female (n=195)	3.17	29.33	32.50
Male (n=405)	26.50	41.00	67.50
All (n=600)	29.67	70.33	100.0