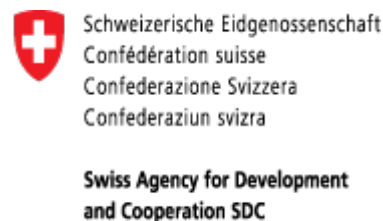


# KNOMAD-ILO Migration Costs Surveys 2016 Dataset: User's Guide



Serving as a global hub of knowledge and policy expertise on migration and development, the Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD) aims to create and synthesize multidisciplinary knowledge and evidence; generate a menu of policy options for migration policy makers; and provide technical assistance and capacity building for pilot projects, evaluation of policies, and data collection.

KNOMAD is headed by Dilip Ratha and is supported by a multi-donor trust fund established by the World Bank. Germany's Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Sweden's Ministry of Justice, Migration and Asylum Policy, and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) are the contributors to the trust fund.

All queries should be addressed to [KNOMAD@worldbank.org](mailto:KNOMAD@worldbank.org). KNOMAD working papers, reports and a host of other resources on migration are available at [www.KNOMAD.org](http://www.KNOMAD.org).

# **KNOMAD-ILO Migration Costs Surveys: 2016 Compiled Dataset**

## **User's Guide**

### **Abstract**

The Migration Cost Surveys project is a joint initiative of the Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD) and the International Labor Organization (ILO). The project was initiated to support methodological work on developing a new Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicator (10.7.1) on worker-paid recruitment costs. The surveys of migrant workers conducted in multiple bilateral corridors between 2015 and 2017 provide new systematic evidence of costs incurred by workers to obtain jobs abroad. The compiled dataset is divided into two waves (2015 and 2016) based on the questionnaire version used in the surveys. This user's guide describes surveys conducted using the 2016 questionnaire. The 2016 KNOMAD-ILO Migration Costs Surveys dataset consists of 5 surveys covering 9 bilateral migration corridors with a total of 2,454 interviewed migrants.

## **Acknowledgments**

This user guide and accompanying dataset was prepared by a team comprising Ganesh Seshan, Petra Niedermayerova and Manolo Abella under the auspices of the KNOMAD's Thematic Working Group (TWG) on Labor Migration. KNOMAD is headed by Dilip Ratha; the Labor Migration TWG is chaired by Manolo Abella and co-chaired by Manuela Tomei (low-skilled migration); and the focal point in the KNOMAD Secretariat is Ganesh Seshan.

We would like to thank all the researchers, supervisors, teams of field surveyors, institutions and participants who enabled the completion of the KNOMAD-ILO Migration Cost Surveys project by contributing to various stages of data collection. Special thanks to Dilip Ratha (World Bank, Head of KNOMAD) for inspiring and initiating this project and to Soonhwa Yi (The World Bank) and Manolo Abella (KNOMAD) for leading the work on the questionnaire design and providing high-level supervision of the project. Valuable inputs for the survey instrument were also provided by Nilim Baruah, Anna Engblom and Heike Lautenschlager from the International Labor Organization (ILO). Technical support during the conception of this project including work on the survey design by Manuela Tomei, Michelle Leighton, Christian Kuptsch (all from ILO) and Philip Martin (University of California, Davis) is gratefully acknowledged. We also thanks Gero Carletto for his technical support for sampling designs. Valuable technical support for the Computer-Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) technology was provided by the Survey Solutions team at the World Bank, particularly from Michael Lokshin and Sergiy Radyakin.

We also extend our appreciation to the international team involved in administering the surveys in each of the countries. For the 2016 datasets, these include S.K. Sasikumar (V.V. Giri National Labour Institute) and Prabhu Mohapatra (Delhi University) for India; Sovetova Anna Aleksandrovna, Fadeeva Tatyana Aleksandrovna and Shakaryan Aida Amayakovna from ROMIR, for Russia; Ferruccio Pastore, Ester Salis and Pietro Cingolani from Forum of International and European Research on Immigration (FIERI), for Italy; Ganesh Gurung, Mahendara Rai, Niyama Rai (all from Nepal Institute of Development Studies) and Anna Engblom (ILO) for Nepal; Carl Rookie O. Daquio, Mary Grace L. Riguer, Ma. Celeste Valderrama, Stephanie B. Tabladillo, Brenalyn Peji and Paulina Kim Pacete from the Institute for Labor Studies, for the Philippines.

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**KNOMAD-ILO Migration Costs Surveys: 2016 Compiled Dataset**  
**User's Guide**

1<sup>st</sup> Release: 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017

**Files**

1. Data files:

STATA file	2016 KNOMAD-ILO MCS.dta
Excel file	2016 KNOMAD-ILO MCS.xls

2. Documentation:

User's guide (this file)	2016 KNOMAD-ILO MCS User Guide.docx
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3. Questionnaires:

2016 MCS base survey	2016 MCS Base Survey.pdf
2016 Italian survey (Italian)	2016 MCS Italy Survey.pdf
2016 Russian survey (Russian)	2016 MCS Russia Survey.pdf
2016 Nepalese survey (English)	2016 MCS Nepal Survey.pdf

**Suggested Citation:**

Please include the following citation when referencing/using this dataset:

KNOMAD. 2017. "KNOMAD-ILO Migration Costs Surveys," World Bank, Washington, DC.

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## **1. Purpose**

The KNOMAD-ILO Migration Costs Survey (MCS) aims to systematically document monetary and a subset of non-monetary costs incurred by migrant workers seeking jobs abroad. The project is a joint initiative by the Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD), which is hosted at the World Bank, and the International Labor Organization (ILO). The data was collected to support methodological work on developing a new Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) indicator 10.7.1 to monitor trends in recruitment costs paid by workers, of which the World Bank and ILO are joint custodians. The proposed Recruitment Cost Indicator (RCI) is the average worker-incurred recruitment cost paid for securing an overseas job, expressed as a multiple of monthly foreign gross earnings.

Aside from financial costs incurred by workers who were recruited and received a job offer prior to migrating, several corridors that were surveyed on a pilot basis also covered non-recruited migrants who moved abroad in search of work without prior job offers. Their job searches were initiated after arriving in the destination country. In the 2016 dataset, these are limited to two surveys of workers who migrated to Italy from multiple African countries, and from Central Asian countries to Russia.

## **2. Data access**

The KNOMAD-ILO Migration Cost Surveys are publicly available and free to all users. To access the data and documentation, please visit the [World Bank Microdata Catalog](#) website and search for Migration Cost Surveys.

To help us track and catalog usage of the dataset, please include the following citation in your documents:

KNOMAD. 2017. “KNOMAD-ILO Migration Costs Surveys,” World Bank, Washington, DC.

## **3. User’s support**

The KNOMAD-ILO MCS dataset should be used along with its documentation – the questionnaire and user’s guide. Please send all queries to the following email address: [migrationandremittances@worldbank.org](mailto:migrationandremittances@worldbank.org)

## **4. Survey methodology**

The 2016 KNOMAD-ILO Migration Costs Surveys dataset consists of 5 surveys, covering 9 bilateral migration corridors with a total of 2,454 interviewed migrants<sup>1</sup>. Individual surveys included in the 2016 KNOMAD-ILO MCS compiled dataset are as follows:

- India-Saudi Arabia
- Philippines to Saudi Arabia
- Nepal to Malaysia, Qatar and Saudi Arabia

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<sup>1</sup> West African countries (to Italy) are treated as one corridor due to the small sample size of migrants from each country. The list of countries is included in Table 1.

- Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan to Russia (non-recruited workers)
- West African countries to Italy (non-recruited workers)

Identifying representative samples of migrants is a challenging task without an appropriate sampling frame. In the absence of census information, all of the surveys conducted for this project used either convenience or snowball sampling. There is also variation in terms of when migrants were interviewed in their migration life-cycle. Two surveys of recruited workers – that is workers who are recruited in their home countries for jobs abroad - namely Filipinos and Indians to Saudi Arabia, were conducted with migrants returning to their *origin countries* (for visits or permanently). The surveys of non-recruited migrants – Central Asian migrants to Russia and West African migrants to Italy – were administered in the *destination countries*, which permitted multiple bilateral migration channels to be documented (at cost of smaller sample sizes in some corridors, particularly with Italy as destination). The survey instruments for non-recruited migrants were worded in present tense for various aspect of stay in the destination country. The content of the variables remains analogous to the surveys of returnees. Finally, the survey of Nepalese migrants was conducted with migrants who were departing to their destination countries within a two-week period. Please refer to **Annex Table 1** for a summary description of the samples included in the 2016 KNOMAD-ILO MCS dataset. The following paragraphs briefly describe the sampling approach taken for each of the 2016 surveys.

*India - Saudi Arabia:* The survey was based on administering a structured questionnaire originally developed by the KNOMAD Thematic Working Group on Low Skilled Migration to a sample of returning Indian migrant workers, either currently working in Saudi Arabia or who have worked there between 2012-2015. The survey of returnees from Saudi Arabia was limited to the Delhi Airport primarily due to Delhi being an important arrival point for the overwhelming bulk of migrants to Saudi Arabia since the 2000s and the large number of migrants (specially since 2008) originating from North India (Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Punjab, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Haryana).

The survey was carried out in two consecutive stages. The first stage involved a broad profiling of migrant workers returning from Saudi Arabia to India at Delhi Airport. This was done to identify respondents who fitted the enrollment criteria of being workers in low-skilled positions primarily employed in the construction, domestic or agriculture sector whose most recent contract of employment dated between 2011 and 2015. A third criteria was to have a fair representation of migrants' geographical origin. Basic information was obtained about current emigrants (those travelling to India on vacation who will return to Saudi Arabia within a short time) and return migrants (those returning after completing their contractual period). In the second stage, completed immediately after the profiling, survey administrators chose those who fitted the criterion of occupational niche and period of contract. Of the 439 respondents who completed the survey, 30 were rejected because of failure to meet the criteria for inclusion or due to



insufficient or incomplete information. The final working sample includes 409 observations, and is mainly composed of migrants from Bihar (45%), Uttar Pradesh (37%) and Rajasthan (13%).

*Philippines to Saudi Arabia:* Target respondents were first randomly selected from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) list of workers deployed to Saudi Arabia during the period 2013-2015, and an attempt was made to contact them through email and by phone. This approach failed to yield sufficiently high responses, even after complementing it with the use of Facebook accounts to identify prospective respondents. A subsequent strategy was to reach returnees from Saudi Arabia through the reintegration centers (Balik Mangagawa) which was also used in the previous survey of returnees Qatar in 2015. One difference with the former survey is the effort to include more workers who were returning permanently from Saudi Arabia. The earliest accepted date of arrival in Saudi Arabia was moved two years back (to 2010) to qualify more respondents. The survey was conducted in five high-migration origin regions: National Capital region, Region IV-A, Regions I, III, and XII. The final sample consisted of 484 respondents.

*Nepal to Malaysia, Qatar and Saudi Arabia:* The purpose of this data collection was to provide a feedback on the effectiveness of the “Free visa, free ticket” policy. The survey targeted Nepali migrants who have received their final labor permit and were about to go abroad for foreign employment<sup>2</sup>. A purposive/snowball sampling strategy was applied to identify respondents. Respondents had to fit all of the following criteria to be enrolled in the survey: 1) Migrating for employment to the GCC countries and Malaysia; 2) signed a contract for a job in a low-skilled occupation (as defined by ILO skill level 1, within the construction, agriculture or service sectors; 3) migrating through a licensed recruitment agency<sup>3</sup>; 4) pre-approved for the migration after July 6, 2015 when the “Free visa, free ticket” policy began being implemented<sup>4</sup>; and 5) migrants who have reached the final migration phase, completed all the procedures and are leaving Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu, Nepal within the following two-week period. To identify the respondents, specific catchment areas were identified to administer the survey. These sites included inns and lodges that migrant workers are known to reside during their brief period in Kathmandu before flying out to their country of destination. Since prospective instead of current or returning migrants were targeted for this survey, their destination country outcomes (such as income received) were not realized at the time of the interview. Rather, migrants provided the expected outcomes based on their contracts, and migrant families were later contacted to provide answers for the questionnaire section on migration cost. A total of 352 respondents matching all criteria were interviewed for this survey.

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<sup>2</sup> Since prospective instead of current or returning migrants were targeted for the survey, their destination country outcomes have not been realized at the time of the interview. Rather, migrants provided the expected outcomes based on their contracts, and migrant families were later contacted to provide answers for the questionnaire section on migration cost.

<sup>3</sup> Under the Foreign Employment Act 2007 of Nepal, there are two modes of migrating for foreign employment: (1) through a licensed recruitment agency and (2) individually. The “Free visa, free ticket” provision is applicable to Nepali migrant workers going through a licensed recruitment agency.

<sup>4</sup> The Department of Foreign Employment has recently added a new feature to their existing SMS system where by the exact date of the pre-approval taken can be noted. The ‘free visa, free ticket’ was regarded as a failure in a report submitted to the Nepalese government in August, 2017.

*Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan to Russia (non-recruited workers):* The survey was conducted by a Russian company, ROMIR, among migrants who have lived and worked in Russia since 2012 and originated from the following countries: Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. As a criterion, respondents were limited to those employed in construction, domestic work, agricultural and service sectors. Sample design was hampered by lack of census information on the dispersion of the migrants within the country. ROMIR originally organized the survey to cover the most attractive areas of the Russian Federation for migrants and included cities known to have the highest migrant concentration, including Moscow, St. Petersburg, Novosibirsk, Samara, Stavropol and Krasnodar. The MCS questionnaire was translated into Russian and the interviewers were selected on the basis of their familiarity with the respondents' language. Despite this the response rate was low – only about 1 in 5 of those reached for the survey participated due to various concerns, especially about immigration status. About a third did not meet the criteria for the sample and some interviews were not completed for lack of time. The final sample includes 904 migrants, approximately 300 respondents for each nationality.

*Multiple West African countries to Italy (non-recruited workers):* An Italian version of the questionnaire was administered to West Africans who primarily entered Italy without proper documents, but later were regularized or became asylum seekers. These migrants were not recruited for jobs in Italy prior to leaving their home countries. Most of the new arrivals were admitted for family reunification or as refugees. The surveys were conducted in the regions of Piedmont and Lombardy, excluding Rome for cost reasons. The sample size and sampling strategy also had to be adjusted several times to account for difficulties encountered in reaching the migrants. The original targets were equal number of respondents from West African countries and Egyptians. The Egyptian sub-sample was not pursued after initial attempt to enroll them proved difficult, in part due to the reluctance of this population to be interviewed. The final sampled yielded 305 respondents from West Africa.

## **5. Interpretation of costs incurred by migrants**

The 2016 KNOMAD-ILO MCS dataset combines surveys of recruited workers (India and Philippines to Saudi Arabia; Nepal to Malaysia, Qatar and Saudi Arabia) as well as non-recruited workers (Central Asian migrants to Russia and West African migrants to Italy). With the former group of migrants, we refer to the total costs as worker-paid *recruitment costs*. For the latter group, a more general term of *migration cost* is used to describe expenses incurred to search for and acquire jobs abroad.

## **6. Comparison of 2015 and 2016 Migration Cost Surveys**

While content-wise, surveys using the 2015 and 2016 MCS base questionnaires offer similar insights into migration costs, there are differences in terms of a) presence of variables, b) how the variables are named and labeled c) response options d) coding of response options. For comparison, please refer to the 2015 and 2016 MCS base questionnaires. Merging of the two dataset requires attention to these differences.

## 7. 2016 Migration Cost Surveys modules:

- A. Respondent information
- B. Information on costs for current job
- C. Borrowing money for the foreign job
- D. Job search efforts and opportunity costs
- E. Work in foreign country
- F. Job environment
- G. Current status and contact information

## 8. Variables

This section provides information about variables included in the questionnaire (original variables) and variables that were constructed for analytical purposes (constructed variables). The questionnaire used for Nepal to Malaysia, Qatar and Saudi Arabia sample (2016 MCS Nepal questionnaire) differs from the 2016 MCS Base questionnaire. Due to its methodology – sampling of prospective instead of current or returning migrants - outcomes in the destination country have not been realized at the time of the interview. Rather, migrants provided the expected outcomes based on their contracts, and migrant families were later contacted in order to provide answers for the questionnaire section on migration cost (see Part F of the 2016 MCS Nepal questionnaire). In addition, the dataset includes variables unique to Nepal and these are listed in a separate table, which follows the list of original variables.

### 8.1 Original variables

The following table lists variable names as they appear in the dataset and their associated labels. The codebook values and labels for variables are located in the 2016 MCS Base questionnaire. For variables with many options such as questions referring to countries, currencies, ISIC and ISCO classification, the full codebook can be found in the Appendix B of the 2016 MCS Base questionnaire.

Questions that allow for selection of multiple options (*broker\_for\_X*, *network\_for\_X*, *agency\_for\_X*, *how\_repaid\_X*, *what\_collateral\_X*, *which\_rights\_X*) were coded using variable extensions (i.e. *\_1*, *\_2*, etc.) to capture all options selected by the respondent. Note that the extensions correspond to the number of the response options. For example, variable *broker\_for\_3* indicates whether broker arranged visa for migrant or not (option number 3).

Some of the questions that allow for selection of multiple options (*costs\_for\_X*, *other\_payment\_for\_X*, *reimburse\_item\_X*, *amount\_borrow\_X*, *deduct\_item\_X*, *new\_job\_cost\_item\_X*) are followed by a sequence of questions regarding each option that was selected by the respondent (*r1\_cost*, *r2\_other\_cost*, *r3\_reimbursement*, *r3A\_deduction*, *r4\_loan*, *r5\_new\_job\_cost*). For example, if migrant selected taking loan from a money lender (*who\_borrow\_3*), she would then also select amount, currency, interest rate and unit of interest rate of the particular loan (*amount\_borrow\_3*, *currency\_borrow\_3*, *interest\_rate\_3*, *unit\_interest\_rate\_3*).

Variable Name	Question	Description/Notes
<b>PART A. RESPONDENT INFORMATION</b>		
gps	Interview location (GPS)	
current_country	Country from which you are returning	
gender	Sex	
place_born	Where were you born?	
citizen	Are you a citizen of %place_born%?	
country_before	Which country did you live right before you left for %current_country%?	
area	What is the name of the place you were living in %country_before% before going to %current_country%?	
rural_urban	Residency in %country_before%	
age	How old are you? (in years)	
marital_status	What is your current marital status?	
level_edu	What is the highest level of education you have completed?	
reason	What was the primary reason why you went to %current_country%?	
year_arrived	What year did you arrive %current_country%?	
months_lived	How long have you stayed in %current_country%? (in months)	
months_expect	If you have returned %place_born% on vacation/ family visit, how many more months do you expect to live in %current_country% with the current work arrangement?	
first_outside	Is this the first time you have worked abroad?	
times_outside	How many times have you worked abroad including the latest one?	

years_outside	How many years have you worked abroad excluding the time in %current_country%?	
year_first	In which year did you first work abroad, even if it was not %current_country%?	
first_curr_cy	Is this the first time you went to %current_country% to work?	
how_find_out	How did you find out about an opportunity to work in %current_country%?	
other_job_source	Please describe other job information source?	
people_support	How many people have you supported, on a regular basis, financially in %current_country%?	
people_support_home	How many people have you supported, on a regular basis, in %place_born% with remittances?	
migrant_member	Do you have any family member who currently lives outside %place_born%?	
List_migrant_member	List them	
List_member_currnt	Who currently live in %current_country%?	
<b>PART B. MIGRATION COSTS (MONETARY)</b>		
tot_exp	In total, how much have you and your family spent to go to %current_country% for the recent job?	
currency_tot_exp	What was the currency?	
costs_for	What were these payments for?	Multi-select question leading to r1_cost component
cost_X	How much did you pay for %rostertitle%?	Component r1_cost
currency_cost_X	What was the currency?	Component r1_cost. In the questionnaire named "currency_X"
other_payment_for_X	What were the other payments for?	Multi-select question leading to r2_other_cost component
other_cost_X	How much did you pay for %rostertitle%?	Component r2_other_cost
currency_other_cost_X	What was the currency?	Component r2_other_cost
broker_for_X	What did the broker do for you?	

network_for_X	What did the relative/friend do for you?	
agency_for_X	What did the recruitment/manpower agency do for you?	
medical_exam_designated	Did you have to go to a designated clinic or hospital to take the medical exams?	
reimburse	Were any of the costs reimbursed or paid by your employer or recruiter?	
reimburse_item_X	What were the costs reimbursed or paid by your employer or recruiter?	Multi-select question leading to r3_reimbursement
reimburse_amount_X	How much was reimbursed for %rosteritle%?	Component r3_reimbursement
currency_reimburse_X	What was the currency?	Component r3_reimbursement
deduct	Were any of the costs deducted from your salaries?	
deduct_item_X	What were the costs deducted from your salaries?	Multi-select question leading to r3A_deduction
cost_deduct_amount_X	How much was deducted for %rosteritle%?	Component r3A_deduction
currency_cost_deduct_X	What was the currency?	Component r3A_deduction
deduct_duration_X	how many months in total was these deducted?	Component r3A_deduction
time_deployment	How long did it take in total to leave for %current_country% (from the moment to start the job/passport application to arrive in %current_country%, in months)?	
cost_find_yes	How much in total did you spend in your earlier successful efforts to work abroad?	
currency_cost_find_yes	What was the currency?	
previous_attempt_failed	Did you have failed attempts to go abroad to work?	
cost_find_no	How much in total did you spend for previous failed attempts to get a foreign job?	
currency_cost_find_no	What was the currency?	

#### PART C. BORROWING MONEY FOR THE FOREIGN JOB

borrow_money	Did you or someone (including your family) borrow any of the money that you spent in order to get this job?	
who_borrow_X	Who was the money borrowed from?	Multi-select question leading to r4_loan
borrow_other	Please specify Other?	
amount_borrow_X	How much?	Component r4_loan
currency_borrow_X	What was the currency?	Component r4_loan
interest_rate_X	What interest rate is being paid (in percent)?	Component r4_loan
unit_interest_rate_X	What is the unit of the interest rate?	Component r4_loan
repay	Was the loan expected to be repaid?	
how_repaid_X	How is the loan being repaid?	
how_repaid_other	Please specify the other source of income	
how_repaid_other_eng	SUPERVISER TRANSLATE IN ENG: the other source of income	
amount_loan_paid	As of today, how much has been repaid to the person/institution that loaned the money?	
currency_loan_paid	What was the currency?	
amount_loan_left	How much is left to be repaid to the person/institution that loaned the money?	
currency_loan_left	What was the currency?	
assets_collateral	Was any asset put up as collateral in order to get the loan?	
what_collateral_X	What collateral was given?	
collateral_other	Please specify Other	
collateral_other_eng	SUPERVISER TRANSLATE IN ENG: other collateral	
lose_collateral	Did you lose any or all of the collateral due to failure to repay the loan?	
<b>PART D. JOB SEARCH EFFORTS AND OPPORTUNITY COSTS</b>		
work_prior	Were you working, even if you received no pay, prior to coming to work in %current_country%?	

work_forwho	At that time did you work for yourself or for an employer, even if not paid?	
type_job_before	What was your main job before you came here?	
desc_elementary_occ	Please, describe the elementary occupation.	
desc_elementary_occ_eng	SUPERVISER TRANSLATE IN ENG: elementary occupation	
desc_services_employer	What products were made or what services were provided by your employer?	
desc_services_employer_eng	SUPERVISER TRANSLATE IN ENG: type of product/service	
isic2_class1	ISIC code for products made or services provided. Classification 1	
isic2_class2	ISIC code for products made or services provided. Classification 2	MISSING
isic2_class3	ISIC code for products made or services provided. Classification 3	MISSING
isic2_class4	ISIC code for products made or services provided. Classification 4	MISSING
amount_earn_prior	How much did you earn as a %type_job_before% in the country where you lived prior to working in %current_country%?	
unit_earn_prior	What was the unit?	
currency_earn_prior	What was the currency?	RENAMED TO: currency_amount_earn_prior
job_arrange_before	Did you secure a job in %current_country% before leaving %country_before%?	
time_find	How long did it take you to find information about the job? In months	
search_affect	Did your search for the job affect your ability to work your previous job in "country_before%?	
job_apply_how	How did you apply for the job?	



hold_certificate	Do you hold a skill certificate issued by vocational testing center of your country?	
skill_certificate	What skill certificate do you have?	
skill_certificate_eng	SUPERVISER TRANSLATE IN ENG: skill certificate	
use_skill	Do you use your skill in your current job?	
believe_useskill	Do you believe you could have found a job here which would use your skill?	
amount_useskills	If you had a job in %current_country% that used your skills, how much do you think you can earn?	
currency_amount_useskills	What would be the currency?	
unit_amount_useskills	What would be the unit?	
<b>PART E. WORK IN FOREIGN COUNTRY</b>		
desc_kind_work	What kind of work did you do in %current_country%? (be specific including sector information)	
desc_kind_work_eng	SUPERVISER TRANSLATE IN ENG: work	
isco_class1	ISCO Classification 1	
isco_class2	ISCO Classification 2	MISSING
isco_class3	ISCO Classification 3	MISSING
isco_class4	ISCO Classification 4	MISSING
employment_type	What was your employment type?	
labor_contract	Did you have a labor contract for the current job?	
supply_workers	Did your employer supply migrant workers to other employers?	
job_change	Did you change your job in %current_country%?	
desc_kind_work2	What was your first job in %current_country%?	
desc_kind_work2_eng	SUPERVISER TRANSLATE IN ENG: first work	
employer_visa	Did your employer arrange for your visa and work permit?	

contract_before	Did you sign a contract before departing for this job?
same_contract	Are you working under the same contract that you received before departure?
same_job_promised	Was your job the same one as promised before you left %country_before%?
amount_promised	What wage were you promised for your job in %current_country% before departure?
currency_amount_promised	What was the currency?
unit_promised	What was the unit?
amount_current	During the first year in %current_country%, how much did you actually earn on average, including overtime payments, before any deductions?
currency_amount_current	What is the currency?
unit_amount_current	What is the unit?
amount_deducted	During the first year, how much were your actual earnings, on average, after tax/ social security/ food/ housing deductions (don't include deductions related to recruitment costs)?
currency_amount_deducted	What is the currency?
unit_amount_deducted	What is the unit?
amount_current2	How much was your last earnings, on average, including overtime payments and before any tax deductions?
currency_amount_current2	What is the currency?
unit_amount_current2	What is the unit?
amount_deducted2	How much was your last earnings, on average, after tax/ social security/ food/ housing deductions (don't include deductions related to recruitment costs)?
currency_amount_deducted2	What is the currency?
unit_amount_deducted2	What is the unit?

paid_regularly	Were you paid regularly?	
amount_sent	During last year, how much money, on average, were you able to send home to your family?	
currency_amount_sent	What has been the currency?	
unit_amount_sent	What has been the unit?	
unit_sent_other	Please specify Other Unit	
changed_employer	How many times did you change employers since you arrived in %current_country%?	
new_job_cost	When you got a new job in %current_country%, did you ever pay money to get the job?	
new_job_cost_item_X	What were the payments for?	Multi-select question leading to r5_new_job_cost
new_job_cost_other	Please specify Others.	
new_job_cost_other_eng	SUPERVISER TRANSLATE IN ENG: other costs	
new_job_cost_amount_X	How much did it cost for %rosteritle%?	Component r5_new_job_cost
currency_new_job_cost_X	What has been the currency?	Component r5_new_job_cost
<b>PART F. JOB ENVIRONMENT</b>		
housing	Did your employer provide you with housing?	
housing_deducted	Was the cost of housing deducted from your wages?	
food	Did your employer provide you with food?	
food_duducted	Was the cost of food deducted from your wages?	
union	Was there a union or worker/staff association in your workplace?	
allow_union	Are you allowed to join the union?	
joined_union	Did you join the union?	
deprived_rights	Have you been deprived of any rights?	
which_rights_X	Which rights?	
hours_week	How many hours a week did you usually work?	
rest_day	Did you receive at least one rest day a week?	

injured	Have you been injured while at work or fallen sick at your recent job?
cause_injured	What was the cause of injury or illness? Please, specify
cause_injured_eng	SUPERVISER TRANSLATE IN ENG: cause of injury
paid_injured	Were you paid for the days when you were not able to work because of injury or illness?
<b>CURRENT STATUS AND CONTACT INFORMATION</b>	
work_visa	What type of visa did you have when you entered %current_country%?
current_status	What was your latest status in the %current_country%?
current_status_other	Please, specify your latest status
regular	Have you ever participated in mass regularization schemes in %current_country%?
cost_regular	Have you paid any fees to participate in the regularization schemes?
amount_regular	How much did you pay?
currency_regular	What is the currency?

## 8.2 Nepal survey original variables

The following variables are unique to the 2016 MCS Nepal questionnaire and could not be matched with a correspondent variable from the 2016 MCS Base questionnaire. Either the coding of these variables differs significantly from coding used in other surveys or analogous variables were not included in the 2016 MCS Base questionnaire. Please refer to the 2016 MCS Nepal questionnaire to learn details about coding of these variables. In the dataset, the Nepal specific variables follow the original variables.

Variable name	Description	Notes
Depart_Time	Will you depart for a foreign country to work within two weeks' time?	
HHs_head	Are you the head of your household?	
Relation_HH	Who is the head of your household?	
Live_Before	Where is your home district?	

social_media	Do you use any social media?	
social_media_type	Which form of social media are you currently using?	
preapprove_date	When was your foreign employment preapproved?	
Preapprov_period	Supervisor: specify the timing of pre-approval for foreign employment	
Currency_pay_3rdp	What was the currency?	
Hire_3rd_person	Did you hire someone to do your job?	
Pay_3rd_person	How much did you pay to the person you hired?	
Unit_pay_3rdp	What was the unit?	
Contract_Sign	Have you signed an employment contract for this job in %current_country1%?	
contract_language_X	In what language is your signed employment contract?	
employment_duration	According to your labor contract letter, how long will you work in %current_country1% (in months)?	
job_describ	According to your signed employment contract, what kind of work will you be doing at the %current_country1%? (be specific, e.g., laying bricks).	
job_sector	Supervisor: Please classify the sector of the foreign job	
pay_overtime	Does your contract specify that you will get paid for overtime-work?	
support_family	How many family members do you plan to support from sending money from %current_country1%?	
job_info_time	When did you find out about this foreign job?	
job_info_month_ago	Supervisor: Type in how many months ago this job information was found	
recruit_by_who	After you found job information through %job_info_source%, who arranged the recruitment process for this job in %current_country1%?	
job_by_recruit_X	What did %recruit_by_who% do for you?	
recruit_duration	How long did the entire recruitment process take (in months)?	
financing_X	How did you finance the costs to go to %current_country1% for the job?	Financing_1 has been adjusted to "borrow_money", and follows standardized coding.
financing_other	Please specify others.	

Receipt	Did %name% receive a receipt for the payments from the Recruitment Agency?	
Actual_Amt	Did the receipt received show the actual amount %name% paid to the Recruitment Agency?	
Salary_Monthly	According to contract, how much is your monthly salary?	
currency_Salary_Monthly	What is the currency?	In questionnaire named "Currency_salary"
Remittance	How much do you plan to send money home per month?	
currency_Remittance	What is the currency?	

### 8.3 Constructed variables

Constructed variables are additional variables created for the purposes of analysis. With the exception of item (2), constructed variables are placed at the end of the dataset. These variables can be organized broadly into the following categories:

1. **Descriptive:** variables that identify the country of origin, destination, bilateral corridors and source data. The interview date variable *int\_date* was constructed based on an additional file provided by the survey contractor. The file captures the dates at which different stages of data collection from each migrant occurred (supervisor assigned, first answer set, approved/rejected by supervisor, completed). The final “completion” entry for each migrant was used as an approximation of the interview date.
2. **2016 constant US dollar equivalents of variables:** monetary variables with the extension “USD2016” are 2016 constant US dollar counterparts to the monetary variables expressed in original currencies. The conversion allows for direct comparison of costs across corridors with different currencies. 2016 constant US dollar values are placed right by their original currency values in the dataset. Construction of the variables includes two steps. First, exchange rate between the two currencies in appropriate year was applied. Second, nominal dollar values were converted to constant 2016 dollar values using the US consumer price indexes (CPIs). World Development Indicators database served as a source of both exchange rates and inflation data.
3. **Summation of itemized costs and deductions:** variables that add up financial costs and separately, monetary deductions of all applicable items, such as *sumcostUSD2016* and *tot\_deductUSD2016*.
4. **Monthly equivalent of reported income/remittances amounts:** While migrants may have reported their income/remittance in any unit – day/week/month/year/other, these variables were transformed into a monthly amount, enabling direct comparison. The

following methodology was used in the conversions, demonstrated using the variable *amount\_currentUSD2016* to obtain monthly income on arrival at the destination country.

- Daily unit:  $mthinc\_arvUSD2016 = amount\_currentUSD2016 * 26$
- Weekly unit:  $mthinc\_arvUSD2016 = amount\_currentUSD2016 * 4$
- Yearly unit:  $mthinc\_arvUSD2016 = amount\_currentUSD2016 / 12$
- Other unit: case-by-case basis

5. **Ratios:** Various new variables were created as ratios of two original variables as an additional statistic comparing migrants within and across corridors. For example, relative size of loans - as a proportion of total costs (*loan\_to\_totexp*) - provides information of the extent, importance and burden of migrant loans. Two important ratios are discussed below:

- a. **Recruitment Cost Indicator (RCI):** Worker-paid recruitment costs can be defined to include all monetary costs incurred by workers (above and beyond those incurred by employers) to establish an employment relationship. Such costs broadly encompass placement fees paid to recruitment agency or to their agents, documentation fees (such as to cover passport, visa, medical certificate, security clearance, or a language test), transportation costs and informal payments. The cost of servicing migration loans is currently excluded.

The proposed Recruitment Cost Indicator (RCI) is the average worker-paid recruitment cost incurred for securing an overseas job, expressed as a multiple of monthly foreign gross earnings on arrival.<sup>5</sup>

$$RCI = \frac{tot\_expUSD2016}{mthinc\_arvUSD2016}$$

- b. **Migration Cost Indicator (MCI):** For workers that were not recruited for jobs abroad but rather travelled and engaged in job searches at the destination country, the monetary costs incurred can be more broadly viewed as migration costs. For these corridors, an analogous migration costs index is defined as:

$$MCI = \frac{tot\_expUSD2016}{mthinc\_arvUSD2016}$$

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<sup>5</sup> Note that in the 2015 MCS dataset, respondents were not asked about income on arrival in the destination country. Arrival income was instead proxied using reports of current income.

Variable name	Description
datasource	What survey wave is the observation coming from?
id	Unique individual ID code assigned to a migrant
int_date	Interview date (based on an additional interview file)
origin_country	Name of the origin country
destination_country	Name of the destination country
corridor	Name of the bilateral corridor
sumcostUSD2016	Sum of itemized costs in 2016 constant USD
tot_borrowUSD2016	Total amount borrowed in 2016 constant USD. Calculation: Sum of all itemized loans amount_borrow_X_USD2016
mthinc_priorUSD2016	Estimated monthly home earnings prior to migrating in 2016 constant USD. Calculation used amount_priorUSD2016 and unit_amount_prior. Assumptions: 26 work days in month.
prom_mthincUSD2016	Estimated monthly foreign income that was promised to migrant in 2016 constant USD. Calculation used amount_promisedUSD2016 and unit_promised.
mthinc_arvUSD2016	Estimated monthly foreign earnings on arrival in the destination country in 2016 constant USD. Calculation used amount_currentUSD2016 and unit_amount_current. Assumptions: 26 work days in month.
mthinc_arv_less_taxUSD2016	Estimated monthly foreign earnings on arrival in the destination country minus taxes, social security contributions and foreign worker levy in 2016 constant USD. Calculation used amount_deductedUSD2016 and unit_amount_deducted. Assumptions: 26 work days in month.
mthinc_contract_arvUSD2016	Monthly estimated foreign earnings on arrival in the destination country expected based on contract in 2016 constant USD. Equal to Salary_MonthlyUSD. (specific to Nepal 2016 survey)
mthincUSD2016	Estimated current monthly foreign earnings in 2016 constant USD. Calculation used amount_current2USD2016 and unit_amount_current2. Assumptions: 26 work days in month.
mthinc_less_taxUSD2016	Estimated current monthly foreign earnings minus taxes, social security contributions and foreign worker levy in 2016 constant USD. Calculation used amount_deducted2USD2016 and unit_amount_deducted2. Assumptions: 26 work days in month.
mthremitUSD2016	Estimated monthly remittance during the year of work abroad in 2016 constant USD. Calculation used amount_sentUSD2016 and unit_amount_sent.
rci	Recruitment cost indicator (RCI). Recruitment costs paid as a multiple of monthly foreign gross earnings received (on arrival). Formula: $\text{tot\_expUSD2016} / \text{mthinc\_arvUSD2016}$ (for Nepal 2016: $\text{tot\_expUSD2016} / \text{mthinc\_contract\_arvUSD2016}$ )
mci	Migration cost indicator (MCI). This is only for a subset of workers who were not directly recruited for jobs abroad. Analogous to the RCI, it is the ratio of migration costs to monthly foreign gross earnings.



loan_to_totexp	What proportion of total recruitment/migration costs does the loan represent? Calculation: $\text{tot\_borrowUSD2016}/\text{tot\_expUSD2016}$
loan_to_arvinc	Total amount borrowed as a multiple of monthly foreign gross earnings on arrival. Formula: $\text{tot\_borrowUSD2016}/\text{mthinc\_arvUSD2016}$
loan_to_contract_arvinc	Total amount borrowed as a multiple of expected monthly foreign gross earnings. Formula: $\text{tot\_borrowUSD2016}/\text{mthinc\_contract\_arvUSD2016}$ (specific to Nepal 2016 survey)
remit_to_income	What proportion of the monthly foreign gross income is remitted home? Calculation: $\text{mthremitUSD2016}/\text{mthincUSD2016}$
forinc_to_homeinc	Monthly foreign gross earnings on arrival as a multiple of monthly home earnings earned prior to migrating. Formula: $\text{mthinc\_arvUSD2016}/\text{mthinc\_priorUSD2016}$

## 9. Publications

A list of publications using this dataset can be found at <https://www.knomad.org/>.

**Annex Table 1: Summary Description of 2016 KNOMAD-ILO Migrant Costs Surveys**

Survey	Destination	Origin	Sample size	Performance site, time period	Survey Methodology	Specific questionnaire	Year of arrival	Interview date
India-Saudi Arabia 2016	Saudi Arabia	India	409	India; New Delhi Airport	Returnees (at airport with migrants arriving from Saudi Arabia)	Yes	2012: N=4 2013: N=1 2014: N=204 2015: N=200	September 2016 - April 2017
Philippines-Saudi Arabia 2016	Saudi Arabia	Philippines	484	Philippines; five high migration origin regions: National Capital Region (NCR), CALABARZON (IV-A), Central Luzon (III), SOCCSKSARGEN (XII), and Ilocos (I)	Returnees (at airport with migrants arriving from Saudi Arabia)	Yes	2010: N=23 2011: N=13 2012: N=40 2013: N=115 2014: N=244 2015: N=36 2016: N=11	June 2016 - August 2016
Nepal 2016	Qatar	Nepal	89	Nepal; in and around Tribhuvan International Airport	Prospective migrants Before departure	Yes	2016	August 2016 - September 2016
	Saudi Arabia		98					
	Malaysia		165					
Russia 2016	Russia	Uzbekistan	324	Russia; cities with the highest concentration of Central Asian, including Moscow, St. Petersburg, Novosibirsk, Samara, Stavropol and Krasnodar.	Current migrants in destination	Yes (Russian)	2013: N=21 2014: N=90 2015: N=141 2016: N=72	July 2016 - August 2016
		Kyrgyzstan	271				2013: N=25 2014: N=65 2015: N=98 2016: N=83	
		Tajikistan	309				2008: N=1 2013: N=29 2014: N=80 2015: N=123 2016: N=76	
Italy 2016	Italy	Nigeria	49	Italy; regions of Piedmont and Lombardy, excluding Rome.	Current migrants in destination	Yes (Italian)	2012: N=8 2013: N=6 2014: N=3 2015: N=22 2016: N=10	July 2016 - March 2017
		Senegal	83				2012: N=18 2013: N=7 2014: N=24 2015: N=20 2016: N=14	
		West African CFA*: Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Togo	82				2012: N=11 2013: N=5 2014: N=22 2015: N=25 2016: N=19	
		West African countries*: Cape Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone	91				2012: N=22 2013: N=3 2014: N=30 2015: N=24 2016: N=12	

Notes: \*Due to small sample size, some origin countries in Italy 2016 survey were grouped into regions