The Gambia Bureau of Statistics

MIGRATION SURVEY
IN THE GAMBIA

SURVEY REPORT

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Introduction

Background and objectives of the survey

The World Bank proposes a new study on international migration in West Africa, focusing on Senegal and the Gambia. For many years, the two countries have had high rates of out-migration to countries in the ECOWAS region, Gulf States and the European Union, with remittances contributing substantially to household welfare (14% and 22% for Senegal and The Gambia in 2016, respectively). The recent humanitarian and political crises linked to rising irregular migration to the European Union has put the issue of migration at the forefront of the political debate, in both sending and receiving countries. However, the reliance on anecdotal and journalistic evidence, rather than on solid data, has been fueling misconceptions and biased the debate about international migration, offering a fertile ground to populist, shortsighted solutions to a nuanced and complex issue.

This activity is intended to address gaps in knowledge regarding the impacts of migration and remittances on development. Understanding the causes, benefits and risks of migration is important for the development of Sub-Saharan Africa, where reliable data on migration and remittances are scarce. This study is to undertake surveys of representative samples of an average of 2,000 households and 1,000 return migrants in Senegal and the Gambia in 2019, to provide information on migration, economic and social consequences on households sending countries and return migrants.

The team proposes to generate the necessary (and missing) evidence along three key dimensions:

1. **Determinants of international migration:** (a) document socio-economics characteristics of potential migrants vis-à-vis the population, (b) understand decision-making and expectations among potential migrants, and (c) show additional push and pulls factors which shape the migration decision;
2. **Economic and social consequences on households in sending countries:** (a) describe contribution of remittances to household welfare, and (b) assess vulnerabilities of migrants' families left behind related to missing household members;
3. **Return migrants**, (a) show characteristics of return migrants and forced returnees[1], including skills acquired abroad, (b) document migration experience, and (c) highlight vulnerabilities such as potential traumas which challenges re-integration in the country of origin.

Survey structure

The survey is structured simply to collect quantitative data from households. The primary sampling unit of the survey being the household required that intervies are conducted at the household level. The survey was structured in parts in order to facilitate the operation and give maximum quality output. This includes questionnaire design, lister recruitment and training, listing of households, enumerator recruitment and training, field pilot, field data collection and quality control and data cleaning

Survey instruments

The instruments for the survey includes the following:

- Listing sheet which is a set of questions that capture the key details of the households to be used for the selection and identification of the households to be interviewed.
- Household questionnaire for the tarining of the fieldworkers.
- Powerpoint presentation for the delievry of the training activity
- Tablets for the collection of the field data from the households.
- Settlement and location maps for the identification of the enumeration areas (EAs) selcted for the survey.

Listing activities

Training

The listing exercise for the Migration Survey – 2019 was preceded by a two days training and one day pre-test. The listing the teams which includes twenty enumerators and five supervisors/mappers were trained on the listing process and put to a practical experience as a pre-test before the actual exercise. The training is an important aspect of the listing exercise as it avails the teams the opportunity to understand the listing tool and prepares them to undertake a successful field work, anticipating various scenarios in different communities, such as reluctant or 'uneasy' respondents and how to handle them. Also, the pre-test or pilot allows the coordinating team to test the Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) device and to make necessary adjustments before final deployment of the team for the actual listing process. Discussions and demonstration were the main approaches adopted for the training and covers two main aspects; roles and responsibilities of the listing staff and interpretation of the form in various local vernaculars. The training sessions were facilitated by the coordinating team including the Deputy Statistician General (DSG).

Day One: Discussion

The Statistician General (SG) and the DSG made opening remarks and welcomed the participants. Both the DSG and SG highlighted the rationale behind the listing operation and its significance as a foundation for quality data since its output contributes to the next stage of the sampling for the main interviews. The discussions also included the explanation of certain terminologies such as the definition of a household, household head and dwelling unit. The definition of household was discussed at length citing typical examples in The Gambia. For example, a household was defined as one that "usually consists of one or more persons, related or unrelated, who **live together** with **common catering arrangements** and are **answerable** to the same head of household", and that the household members may not be necessarily related biologically. However, a typical situation was mentioned during the discussions in which a man, having two or more wives living separately which should be treated as separate households. Field organization, listing procedure or operation after identifying the selected clusters or enumeration areas (EAs), field ethics and best practice upon reaching or entering the community and map reading were also among the things discussed. The first part of the discussions included explanation of the roles and responsibilities of the enumerators, supervisors and the coordinators during the conduct of the listing exercise. These include but not limited to the following:

As enumerators:
List all the structures (compounds) and households within the selected clusters or EA in a systematic manner;
Sync all completed forms to the supervisor for reviews
Communicate problems encountered in the field, if there is any, to the supervisor and follow her/his instructions.
In case the problem is not resolved, then the supervisor should forward it to the field coordinators.
Should ensure at all time he/she maintains good cooperation with team members and execute your assignment properly

As supervisors:
Take lead in field work logistics (e.g. identifying and contacting local officials and village elders in each PSU to inform them about the listing operation and to obtain their cooperation);
Lead in identifying the EA boundary with team members
Receive and review duly completed listing PSUs and sync to the central office;
Ensure that each cluster has been fully covered and listed;
Apart from training the teams the coordinators also ensure that teams obtain all the required tools and materials such as allocated EA maps, tablets (functioning correctly with accessories), and other logistics, before going to the field. The coordinators will be responsible for monitoring the teams during the field work including making field visits to randomly select EAs and verified the work of the listing teams.

Day Two – Demonstration (Interpretation and CAPI)

One of the main challenges for some enumerators is to introduce themselves and interpret questions in the local languages. Therefore, the second day was dedicated to simulation on how to introduce oneself to household heads, describing their mission and subsequent administering of the question on the form. Each of the participants including supervisor took turns to demonstrate this task in the various vernaculars such as Mandinka, Wollof, and Fula, which are widely spoken in all the regions. Below is an excerpt use as an introductory statement by the participants.

Listing and teaming

The completion of the training exercise was followed by the deployment of the listers for the listing of the households. The teams were deployed in the field starting with EAs that are around the Greater Banjul Area (GBA) in order to have very close monitoring of all the teams within very short time. There were 5 teams of 6 that were deployed and were coordinated by two Cartographers. The cartographers are responsible for the mapping of the geographical boundaries and are very equipped with the necessary skills to facilitate the process.

The collected listing data was the synchronized with the server at the central office for collation and checking. After the completion of the listing exercise, the teams were convened by turn to look at their respective data and clean it for possible inconsistencies. There were cases were few teams were returned to the field to fix the errors found as they cannot be fixed at the office.

Number of distribution of EA's and listed household
The total number of EAs listed during the listing exercise was 149 with a total of 7585 households listed as outlined in the table below:

EA Number	Number of households	EA Number	Number of households	EA Number	Number of households
10202	46	50107	65	73110	75
12207	94	50123	51	73208	23
20125	81	50138	47	73310	44
20221	37	50163	38	74114	42
21328	27	50186	76	74133	37
22114	110	50225	44	75104	94
22134	112	51111	39	80102	30
22217	68	51134	56	80204	14
22335	77	51224	41	81111	76
23201	59	52113	32	81136	48
23203	70	52214	57	81150	56
23207	73	53102	51	81179	23
23219	95	53106	53	82104	23
23222	65	53112	49	82109	33
23229	69	53119	37	82113	34
23234	67	53201	54	82119	16
23242	64	53205	74	82125	25
23245	75	53209	45	82133	25
23248	75	53216	44	82137	22
23251	54	54203	67	82142	39
23255	52	55105	41	82146	43
23404	53	55112	43	82205	9
23407	80	55203	44	82210	46
23414	73	55209	33	82216	29
23418	80	55217	58	82222	13
23422	69	55303	70	82228	12
23429	71	55307	72	83105	19
23441	70	55312	66	83111	25
23451	71	55316	69	83117	21
23455	56	55321	71	83124	43
31147	78	55325	69	83129	17
33108	61	55329	68	83142	33

EA Number	Number of households	EA Number	Number of households	EA Number	Number of households
33215	46	55334	74	83207	12
33307	51	55338	49	83214	22
34105	55	55342	55	83220	17
34212	50	55348	59	83225	31
35207	65	55354	82	83229	44
36108	75	55404	39	83232	44
36215	79	55412	33	83236	28
38109	20	55418	70	83239	62
40101	70	56115	33	84110	29
40216	51	56222	51	84116	35
41209	60	60207	65	84121	81
43103	72	61108	34	84207	24
43120	103	61210	34	84220	43
43140	47	63128	35	84228	28
44102	71	63214	53	85102	15
45104	50	70111	76	85205	44
45202	63	72107	26	86111	11
		72219	48	86224	26

Listing logistics and comletion rate
The logistics for the listing included:
- Tablets for the collection of the field data from the households.
- Settlement and location maps for the identification of the enumeration areas (EAs) selcted for the survey.
- Vehicle and fuel
- Airtime for easy communication within teams and between teams and the office.
- Identification cards for respondents to identify the fieldworkers.

Fieldwork

Fieldwork plan
Below is a plan that was used to implement the data collection during the migration survey. The teams were first deployed in the GBA just as the case of the listing exercise. The idea again is to make sure there is close proximity of the teams to the head office in order to ease coordination of the teams and timely address any issue that are encountered. `during the first phase of the data collection, there problems encountered with the CAPI application and this greatly affected the progress of the survey. However, the communication that ensued between the technical team and the fieldworkers ensure that all problems were attended to timely.

Activity	July		August	
	3rd	4th	1st	2nd
Greater Banjul Area	X	X		
Interior of the country			X	X

Training

The survey started with the training of field workers who are expected to collect the rerquired data for a period of approximately three weeks. The training took the form of presentations on technical issues starting with concepts, definition and migartion terms. There was an extensive presentation on key terms and concepts that were used frequently during the subsequent training days.

The questionnaire was then discussed in detail by treating it module by module while putting emohasis on the different types of households and respondents for each of the sections. This was first done in English until th equestionnaire was completed. Local language translations were also done since the interviews were to be mainly conducted in the local languages. Trainees were asked, in turn, to ask specific questions in the various local languages in order that everyone has a common way of asking the questions without changing the meaning of the questions. Mock interviews were conducted in mandinka, Wollof and Fula as they are the three major languages.

To further test the understanding of the trainees, a class test was given to them. The test was designed around a scenario which constitutes a typical household setting with special focus on the household rosters and the education module. Thhe household roster is usually the most important moduel in household surveys as all othe rmodules pick from it.

Pretest

As part of the training, three-days pretest was conducted to assess:
- The completeness of the questionnaire
- The understanding of the interviewers
- The consistency of the CAPI application
- The functionalities of the transfer of the data to the server

The trainees were deployed to the field to have actual interview situations with respondents and test the training achievenments as stated in the bullet points above. As usual, the EAs that were selected for the pretest were not part of the selected EAs for the main survey.

During the pretest, close monitoring of the interviewers was done as way of assessing the ways the questions have been asked as well as the ability of the intervewers to manage their interview sessions. Each interviewer was assessed by their respective supervisors which was made part of the screening of the fieldwirkers for the final fieldwork. The field experience gave the technical team added knowledge about what more needed to be done during the three days referesher training.

Issues encountered with the CAPI Application

There were a number of issues encountered during the pretest with the CAPI isoutline below:

- The Random Person selection works only if the household roster has both a returnee and a potential migrant. If one of them is missing, the selection does not work. The second issue is that even there is a potential migrant with the required age cohort, it will only select the returnee but will leave out the potential migrant.
- It was stated that Q7.15 should be preceded by a question that asks if (NAME) was going to school and his/her schooling got interrupted. Such a question is the only case where Q7.15 can be valid.
- Questions 7.19, 7.21 and 7.22 should have 'Employer" as an option.
- Questions 7.51, 7.52, and 7.53 should not appear for a person who answers 1 or 2 in Question 7.47.
- Question 7.172 should not appear for a person who answers 2 in Question 7.171 but this is not the case in the current version.
- Questions 7.174 up to 7.189 and 7.193 up to 7.193 are all deleted from the current version.
- After completing section 7, the CAPI skips to section 9 and then back to section 8.

Team compositions

Eight teams where deployed in the field comprising one team leader (Supervisor) and six interviewers as well as one driver whose main responsibiltiy was to facilitate the movement of the team from one location to another throughout the survey.

- Roles during fieldwork
  - ✓ Role of interviewers

    The main role of interviewers was to administer the questionnaire to the different households in the EAs that have been allocated to them. They were provided with the working documents and office supplies needed to do their job properly.

  - ✓ Role of supervisors

    Supervisors were first required to help interviewers to locate the EAs and households allocated to them and help them to solve any problems they will encounter during the interviews. In addition, they were responsible for administering the questionnaires to community leaders. Every evening during the debriefing sessions, supervisors would check whether interviewers have followed the instructions more specifically related to prior, free and informed consent.

    To ensure the quality of the data collected, supervisors were expected:

    - o Randomly select and verify some of the addresses allocated to the interviewer to ensure that they have surveyed the appropriate households in the EA;
    - o Randomly select and verify at least one questionnaire from each interviewer to ensure that it is complete, and its content is coherent;

- o Observe some interviews to ensure that they are asking the questions correctly and recording the answers correctly;
- o Meet with team member to discuss the results and assign the work for the next day.

Field visit of the GBOS coordination team

In order to ensure that the data collection process runs smoothly, the GBOS coordination team will regularly visit the field. They will attend in some interviews to ensure that the interviewers administer and ask the questions properly. They will also verify that each interviewer implements and complies with the instructions and regulations set out above in this manual. Otherwise, an interviewer who violates these instructions and regulations will be excluded from the survey.

Survey implementation

❖ Logistics for data collection: number of teams/interviewers

The logistics for the data collection included providing each team with a vehicle, driver and adequate fuel to carryout the work. As stated above, there were eight teams deployed with each team having one supervisor and six interviewers. Each team was allocated a number of EAs to cover durijg the first phase of the exercise.

❖ Survey operation

A sample of households were selected and these were the households visited during the data collection. There were extra households selected as replacement households in case there would be need to make replacement during the data collection is normally necessitated because of either refusal or non-location of the selected households.

During this phase, a coordination team was assigned to work closely with the teams to monitor the work in terms of the quality of the work. There were instances when issues occurred that required technical intervention and the cooridnating team was always at hand to address these. Some of these were addressed on the spot however, there were many othefr issues that had to with the failure of the CAPI application which required that the design team was always contacted and the problems shared with them for solutions. These had major logistic problems for the teams since some teams were delayed to a great deal. There were instances when changes were suggested on the questionnaire while the fieldwork was on-going and this also caused various amlounts fo instability in the application. Nonetheless, the teams navigated through the first phase and completed the assigned allocations as required.

Teams were reconvened to take stock of the experiences that have been had during the first phase and also to go through the data and fix issues that needed to be fixed. This gave us an opportunity to have a compilation of the all the CAPI-related issues and share them with the programming team for solutions. After receiving updated version of the CAPI application based on solutions provided by the programming team, the survey teams were allocated the remaining EAs and then redeployed for the second phase of the data collection. Great improvements were realised during the second phase both in the consistency of the application and the performance of the interviewers.

Data quality

Data quality checks were done occasionally during the survey in order to have real-time report on the quality of the work and to control thhe errors that might have been noticed. The editing team had a set of codes that were run to generate such reports and the survey teams are always communicated to address field-related issues for correction. This activity went throughout the survey however, each was called to the central office closely look at the errors that were noticed in the data they collected. The errors were reviewed together with the teams and each interviewer checked for errors associated with them from the respective households in their tablets.

It is refrsehing to note that most of the errors that were noticed from the data and relate to the interviewers couldn't be found in the data on the tablets. The general understanding was that there were issues with the server retrieval of the data and therefore, recommnedation was made to back-up all the data from each tablet by team and forward them to the technical team for onward collation.

Consent seeking from households

Consent to conduct interviews was sought from every household that was located and the table below shows the summary. Out of 2810 households, 2800 gave consent to be interviewed, 1 household refused and 9 had unstated consent status. The unstated consent status might be an error from the application as the consent field was a mandatory one which cannot be left blank.

Table 1: Status of consent sought from households

Status of consent	Freq	Percent
Accept	2,800	99.64
Not accept	1	0.04
NS	9	0.32
Total	2,810	100.00

Attrition

The number of households that were selected as target households was 3013 and a further 709 households were sampled for possible replacement in cases of refusal, households not being found etc. it is important to note that all the households that were selected for replacement were almost all utilized. The total coverage in the survey in terms of households contacted was 2810, leaving us with an attrition rate of 6.7 percent and a response rate of 93.3 percent.

Table 1_1: Number of households selected for interview and replacement

Sample	# hh
Target	3,013
replacement	709
Total	3,722

Number on interviews conducted by team by week

The teams were tracked on a very regular and consistent manner and their progress was monitored very closely. The number of interviews conducted by each team in every week is presented in Table 2 below. In the first wee, there were 224 interviews conducted by all the teams although this improved markedly in the subsequent weeks. This was mainly due to the instability with the CAPI application as there were numerous problems that did not allow for consistency in the operations. However, the number of interviews increased as the application became more stable and both the understanding and speed of the interviews improved. In the last week of the survey, the number of interviews was low because as a result of teams following on their call-backs which were not much.

Table 2: Number of original sampled households visited by team by week of interview

Team	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	Total
1	34	67	66	123	81	2	4	377
2	19	67	60	86	102	21	7	362
3	28	74	57	105	53	3	0	320
4	32	63	55	87	100	10	4	351
5	28	78	55	99	69	0	7	336
6	32	64	74	106	61	25	18	380
7	25	63	26	77	77	47	6	321
8	26	56	55	79	63	1	74	354
Total	224	532	448	762	606	109	120	2,801

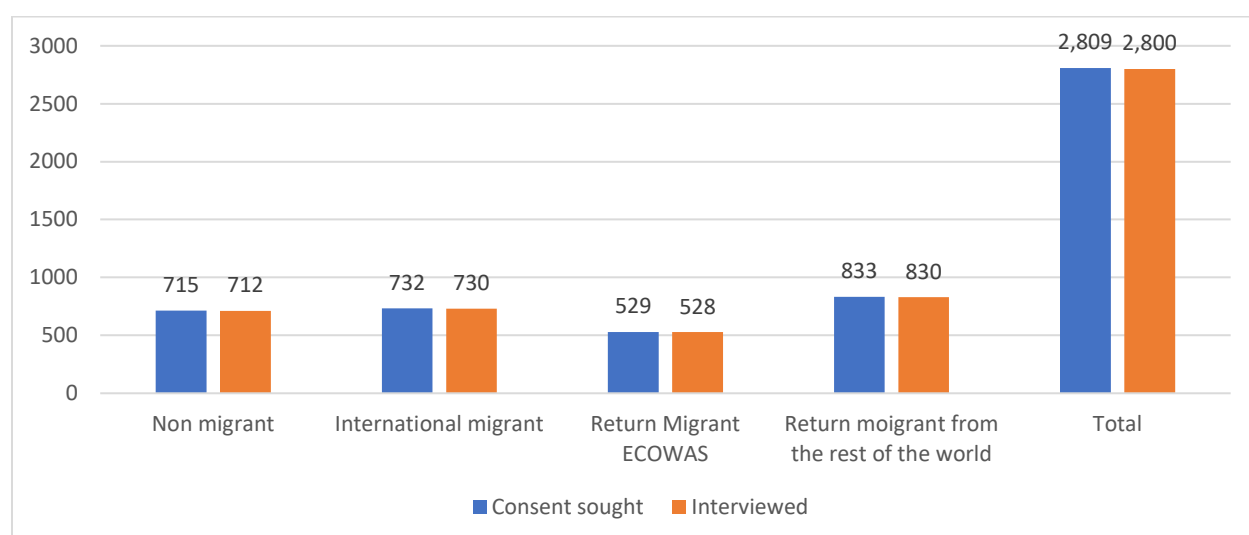## Average completion rate of interviews

On average, the survey had about 92 percent of interviews completed during the seven weeks of survey. The distribution by teams shows that Team one had an average interview completion rate of 93.3 percent with a total interview of 377. Team two had 97.2 percent of completed interviews (362 interviews), Team 3 had 85.9 percent (320 interviews), Team 4 had 94.0 percent (351 interviews), Team 5 had 91.1 percent (336 interviews) Team 6 had 91.0 percent (379 interviews), Team 7 had 91.5 percent (321 interviews) and Team 8 had 90.1 percent (354 interviews).

Table 3: Mean completed interviews conducted by each team

Team	Mean completion	# of completed interviews
1	0.933687	377
2	0.9723757	362
3	0.859375	320
4	0.9401709	351
5	0.9107143	336
6	0.9102902	379
7	0.9158879	321
8	0.9011299	354
Total	0.9189286	2800

Type of household by consent and interview

According to the listing data, 715 of the households that were located were non-migrant households. However, 712 of these were successfully interviewed during the survey. Similarly, there were 730 international migrant households but 730 were interviewed. The number of households were returnee from ECOWAS was 529 according to the listing data but 528 were interviewed while 830 out of the 833 households listed as households with returnees from the rest of the world were interviewed. Overall, there 2800 interviews out of the 2809 households that were located and from which consent was sought (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Distribution of households by consent and interviewed by stratum

Households with or without GPS

The location of households is a key component of the survey as a result of which their GPS coordinates were taken during the survey. Of all the households that were located, GPS coordinates were missing for 226 households as shown in Table 4 below. This is another issue attributable to CAPI problems as this is a mandatory field. During the survey, it was confirmed that GPS coordinates were taken for all the households but for some reason, the CAPI application randomly dropped them.

Table 4: Distribution of number of households with and without GPS coordinates by team

Team	With GPS	Without GPS	Total
1	364	14	377
2	353	9	362
3	312	15	327
4	318	33	351
5	308	28	336
6	340	41	381
7	256	65	321
8	333	21	354
Total	2,584	226	2,809

Mismatch in the type of household

There was huge mismatch in the type of household between the listing data and what was found on the ground during the actual data collection. For instance, there were households that were listed as non-migrant households during the listing exercise but their statuses changed when interviewers visited them and found them to be one of the other three types.

As presented in Table 5, out of the 712 households that were listed as non-migrant households, 58 were later found to contain returnees from ECOWAS and 27 had had returnees from the rest of the world. Similarly, 78 and 46 households of the 730 households listed as households with internal migrants were found to contain returnees from ECOWAs and the rest of the world respectively.

The number of households that were listed as those containing returnees from ECOWAS was 528. However, 368 were found to be non-migrant households and 21 actually had returnees from the rest of the world instead. The listed households for returnees from the rest of the world was 830. The actual fieldwork showed that 493 of these were non-migrant households, 77 were households with returnees from ECOWAS and only 260 of them had returnees from the rest of the world.

Table 5: Mismatch in the type of household between the listing data and actual data collected

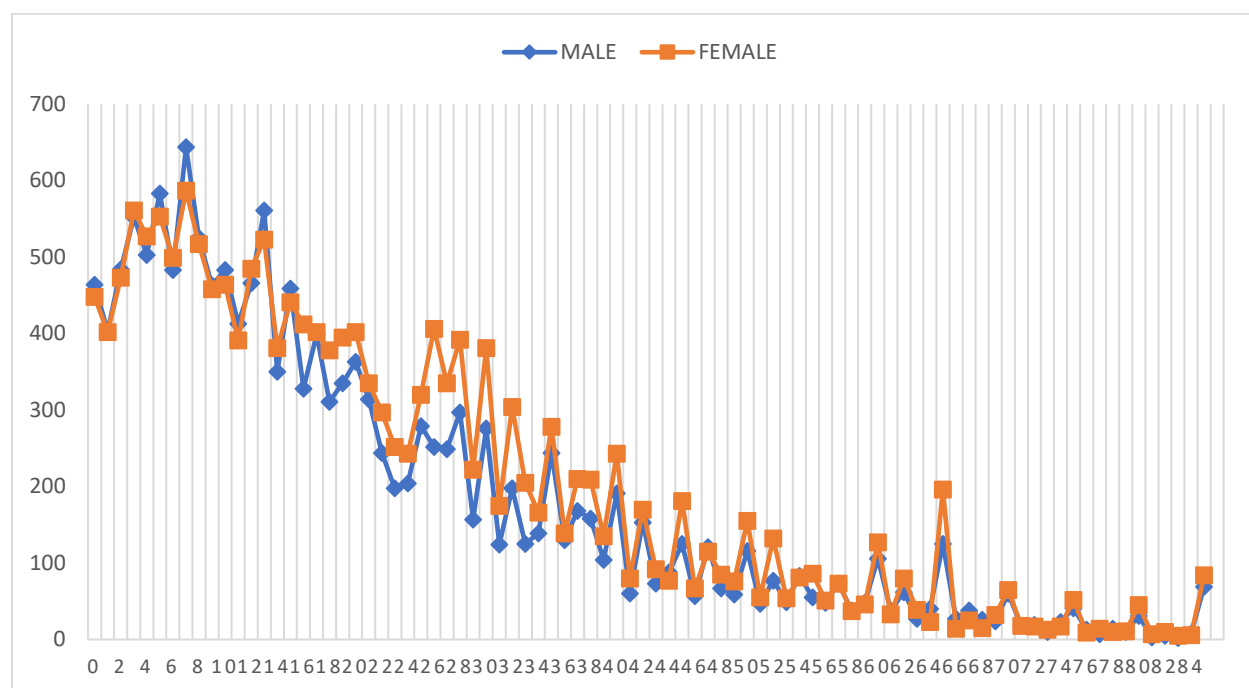| Strata	Non-returnee	ECOWAS	Rest of the World	Total
Non-migrant	627	58	27	712
International migrant	606	78	46	730
Return Migrant ECOWAS	368	139	21	528
Return migrant from Rest of the world	493	77	260	830
Total	2,094	352	354	2,800

Number of interviews by location

The number of interviews conducted by strata distributed by location are presented below in Table 6. There were 1514 interview conducted in the urban area as against 1285 in the rural area. Distribution by the type of household shows that more interviews were conducted in the urban for every stratum except for non-migrant households

Table 6: Number of interviews by area and strata

	Non-migrant	International migrant	Return Migrant ECOWAS	Return migrant from the rest of the world	Total
Urban	351	384	279	500	1,514
Rural	361	345	249	330	1,285
NS	3	3	1	3	10
Total	715	732	529	833	2,809

Age-sex distribution

The age-sex distribution of the household members is presented in Figure 2 below. Generally, there were more males from the early ages up to age 10 when the female numbers overtook those of males. The disparity in the numbers seem to level out in the old ages beyond 60 years. However, there seems to be age-heaping around zeros and 5s especially for females as can be seen in the figure.

Figure 2: Age-sex distribution of household members

Comparison between household members listed and conformed

Figure 3 below shows the mismatch between the household members that were listed in the roster and those that were actually confirmed as household members. In a normal case, all points should lie along the diagonal if all the people listed in the roster were confirmed as household members. The initial disparity occurred because interviewers were only confirming the household respondent as the household member and leaving out everyone else. This was noticed and communicated to all teams. Most of the cases were later corrected as well as interviewers learning from their initial mistakes.

Figure 3: Comparison between household members listed and those actually confirmed