July 2020

Respondents

155
Returned migrants participated in interviews between May 15 – June 4

95%
Of respondents are male

63%
Of respondents are between the ages of 25 - 38

Province | Respondents
---|---
Jessore | 75
Cox’s Bazar | 75
Dhaka | 2
Sylhet | 1
Khulna | 1
Chittagong | 1
Total | 155

Primary Countries of Return, by Respondents
(countries with less than 10 respondents not shown, n=137)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Arab Emirates</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oman</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Type of Job in Destination Country

- Construction: 31%
- Manufacturing/factory work: 21%
- Other: 16%
- Domestic Work: 8%
- Retail/Vendor: 8%
- Hospitality/Restaurant: 7%
- Driver/Transportation: 4%
- Agriculture: 3%
Of respondents do not have enough food to eat every day (60%)

Of respondents do not have enough income to support themselves (93%)

Have not received any support since returning to Bangladesh (86%)

92% of respondents had not been sick since returning to Bangladesh.

Confidence in accessing medical care if respondents became sick (n=133)
- Low: 8%
- Moderate: 56%
- Very: 22%

Risks and Vulnerabilities
- 10 out of 13 respondents who had been sick were able to access medical care.
- Said returned migrants are being treated worse or much worse since returning.
- Of those who said returnees are being treated worse or much worse are being treated that way by more than one group.

Who is treating returnees worse or much worse? (multi-response, n=75)
- Community members
- Community leaders
- Family or friends
- Government
- I don’t want to answer
- I don’t know
88% of respondents are currently unemployed in Bangladesh.

Of those planning to re-migrate said they will return to the same country they were working in previously.

94% of respondents are currently unemployed in Bangladesh.

Do respondents plan to re-migrate for work? (n=154)

- Yes: 60%
- Maybe: 20%
- No: 10%
- I don’t know: 0%

Primary ways respondents will decide when it’s safe and possible to re-migrate. (n=100, multi-response)

- 53%: Receive info from recruitment agency
- 21%: Ask friends or family
- 16%: Receive info from government
- 10%: I don’t know

How respondents plan to find a job in destination country (n=100)

- Return to previous job
- Recruitment agency
- Friends or family
- I don’t know
- Talk to company directly
- Other
**Ways respondents listed to protect themselves against Covid-19 (multi-response)**

- Wash hands
- Wear face mask or cover
- Social distancing
- Don't join large groups
- Stay away from sick people
- Other

**Source (multi-response)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source (multi-response)</th>
<th>Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government/health center</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facebook</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Television news</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends or family</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online news/website</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO/International organization</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Village chief/community leader</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

84% Need more information on Covid-19. This is where they would go for trusted information.

**Where did respondents receive prevention information on Covid-19? (n=146)**

- Social media
- Government
- Family/friends
- Website/news
- Employer
- NGO/International organization

*Multiple responses could be given. Government includes health centers.

**Number of ways respondents knew how to protect themselves against Covid-19**

- 1-2 ways: 12%
- 3-4 ways: 62%
- 5-6 ways: 38%
- 7-8 ways: 2%

**Source (multi-response)**

- Government/health center: 99 responses
- Facebook: 86 responses
- Television news: 65 responses
- Friends or family: 45 responses
- Online news/website: 38 responses
- NGO/International organization: 34 responses
- Village chief/community leader: 17 responses

84% Need more information on Covid-19. This is where they would go for trusted information.
A five-year (2016-2021) program, the USAID Asia Counter Trafficking in Persons (CTIP) project is a regional activity that focuses on transnational and regional challenges to combat human trafficking. The program aims to reduce the trafficking of persons in Asia through a coordinated and consolidated action by governments, civil society and business that will foster cross-border cooperation, develop opportunities for private-sector leadership and improve the quality of data associated with human trafficking. Read the full research brief with detailed methodology here.

Nearly half (48%) of respondents said returnees are being treated worse or much worse. Returned migrants who have less access to support services and who are experiencing verbal - and even physical violence - are more vulnerable to exploitation. They may also consider riskier migration options to return abroad and avoid further mistreatment. Awareness campaigns targeting attitudes towards returned migrants should be developed by those working at community level to curb the mistreatment returned migrants are facing.

A staggering 86% of returned migrants interviewed reported receiving no support services since returning to Bangladesh. Most respondents (93%) reported not having enough income to support themselves, and two-thirds said they didn’t have enough food to eat every day. Cash assistance programs and immediate need packages such as food and hygiene items should be prioritized as ways to assist this population.

Most respondents (65%) plan to re-migrate for work and about half of those said they would ask for information from a recruitment agency when deciding whether it’s safe and possible to re-migrate. Migrant assistance organizations and the Bangladesh Ministry of Expatriates’ Welfare and Overseas Employment should work closely with recruitment agencies to ensure correct information will be provided to migrant workers. Information such as up-to-date travel restrictions and clear guidelines on what fees migrant workers should and should not be responsible for when migrating for work is recommended to provide recruitment agencies.

Seventy-two percent of those planning to re-migrate said they would return to their previous job. Similar to the previous recommendation, migrant assistance organizations and worker rights groups in both Bangladesh and destination countries could use this opportunity to reach employers of returned migrants via recruitment agencies to advocate for safe and hygienic conditions once workers return. Guidelines on fees employers are legally responsible to pay when workers make the return journey to their jobsites should also be given to employers.

Nearly all respondents (94%) had received prevention information on Covid-19 and could list several ways to protect themselves, but 84% said they needed more information. Most would look to government sources - including health centers, for trusted information, as well as Facebook and television news programs. Targeted messaging campaigns that provide protection information, Covid-19 hotline number(s), and up-to-date travel restrictions should continue to be a priority for humanitarian organizations and the Bangladesh Ministry of Health.