

## RAPID ASSESSMENT

# NEEDS AND VULNERABILITIES OF INTERNATIONAL AND INTERNAL RETURN MIGRANTS IN SATKHIRA

REGIONAL EVIDENCE FOR MIGRATION ANALYSIS AND POLICY (REMAP)
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)
DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX (DTM)







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#### **DEFINITIONS**

**Returnee**: The term "returnee" in this document refers to former Bangladeshi migrants who returned to their point of departure within Bangladesh during the survey period. This could be within the territorial boundaries of Bangladesh or between a country of destination or transit and Bangladesh.

#### **ACRONYMS**

BDT: Bangladeshi Taka

**BMET**: Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training

**DTM**: Displacement Tracking Matrix

**IOM**: International Organization for Migration

MFI: Microfinace institution

NGO: Non-governmental organization

NPM: Needs and Population Monitoring

**REMAP**: Regional Evidence for Migration Analysis and Policy

**USD**: United States Dollar

#### **Stastical Notes:**

- 1. When the label "Multiple answers possible" appears above a graph, it means that a single respondent was allowed to provide more than one answer. For this reason, totals do not add up to 100 per cent.
- 2. Statistics representing less than 10 people will be marked with an asterisk. Percentages of zero are automatically assumed to represent less than 10 people since the total sample size in this report is less than 1000.

#### **DISCLAIMER**

This report is part of the outputs under the European Union funded project "Regional Evidence for Migration Analysis and Policy (REMAP)". The objective of DTM REMAP is to strengthen the evidence-based formulation and implementation of humanitarian and development policy and programming on migration and forced displacement in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, People's Republic of Bangladesh, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan through the use of the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM). The findings, interpretations and conclusions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of IOM, its Member States, the European Union or other donors. The designations employed and the presentation of material throughout the work do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IOM concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning its frontiers or boundaries.

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#### **BACKGROUND**

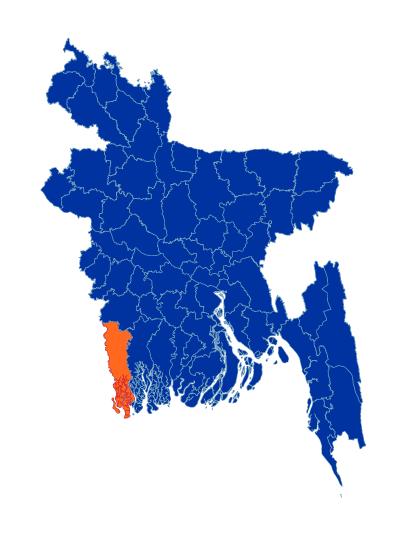
As the COVID-19 pandemic emerged globally, migrant workers, both internationally and within Bangladesh, found themselves facing a new set of challenges and vulnerabilities. With limited access to income-generating activities, social services, healthcare systems, and social support networks, many have opted to return home. During May and June 2020, IOM, supported by the European Union under the regional program REMAP, along with the NPM team based in Cox's Bazar, completed data collection on the needs and vulnerabilities of international and internal Bangladeshi migrant returnees. A rapid assessment report on all surveyed migrants was developed shortly afterwards, focusing on the demographic and socio-economic profile of returnees, their livelihoods and employment, their migration and return experiences and practices, and their economic and social challenges and aspirations.

Following the country-level rapid assessment, data was analysed on the district level in order to gauge potential geographical distinctions and provide greater nuance and detail to the focus themes. This district-level report summarizes the findings in Satkhira.

Snowball sampling was used from a returnee list provided by the Government of Bangladesh in order to determine a sample population for this study. Due to mobility restrictions, data collection was phone-based. Returnees were categorized as either international, having returned from outside Bangladesh, or internal, having returned to their home district from another district in Bangladesh. Due to the sampling method, the survey is non-probabilistic, meaning that the sample is not necessarily representative of the returnee population of Bangladesh. Additionally, the number of female respondents was low, so the report does not necessarily represent the needs and vulnerabilities of female returnees.

In comparison to the other district survey results, international and internal returnee respondents in Satkhira experience less severe drops in income and unemployment. However, when asked about their challenges since they returned to their district, a large proportion of respondents reported that finding a job as their most significant challenge, accompanied by social and mental issues. Moreover, a large majority of respondents face challenges regarding debt and debt repayment. Finally, more internal than international returnee respondents indicated that they want to remigrate when it is safe.

#### SATKHIRA



**RESPONDENTS** 



TOTAL INTERNATIONAL RETURNEES SURVEYED IN SATKHIRA

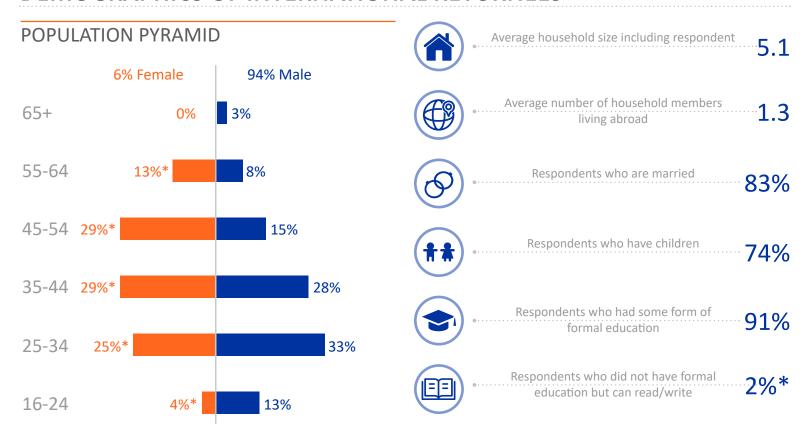


TOTAL INTERNAL RETURNEES SURVEYED IN SATKHIRA

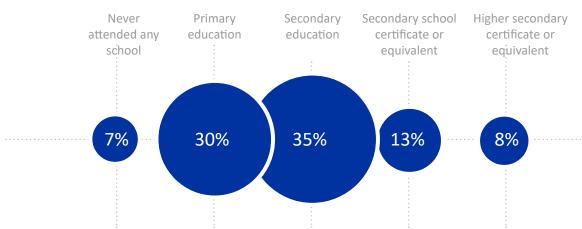
# INTERNATIONAL RETURNES



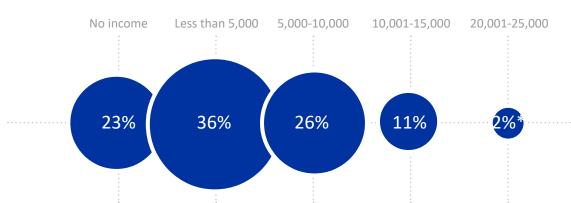
#### **DEMOGRAPHICS OF INTERNATIONAL RETURNEES**



#### EDUCATION LEVEL (top 5 answers)



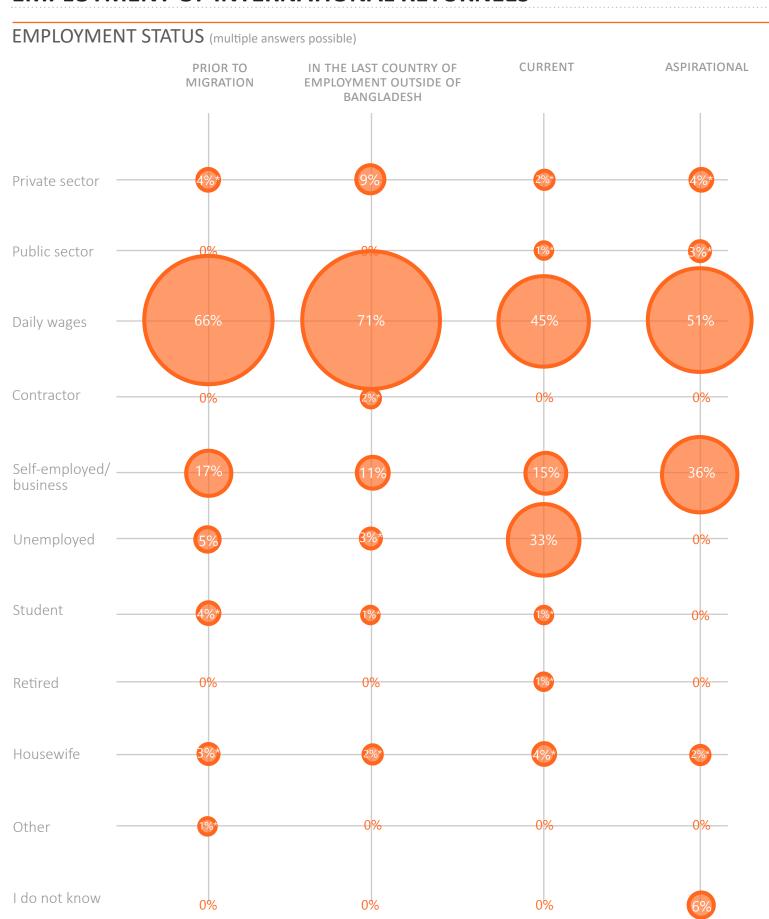
#### CURRENT TOTAL AVERAGE MONTHLY HOUSEHOLD INCOME IN BDT

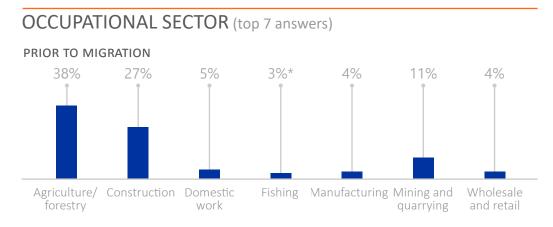


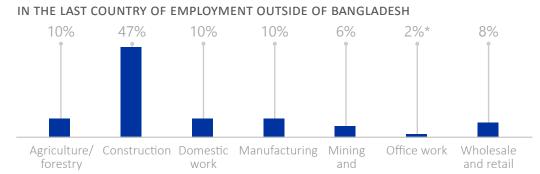
The majority of the sample population were male in between 25 and 44 years old. Eighty-three per cent of respondents were married at the time of the interview, and of respondents who were married or had been married, 74 per cent had children.

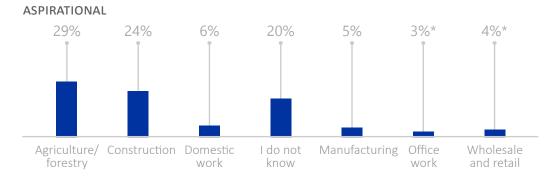
A large majority of respondents had completed some form formal education (91%). Of those, the most common level of completion was secondary education (35%), followed primary education (30%). Sixty-two per cent respondents earning less than BDT 10,000 (117.92 USD)\* and 23 per cent reported no income at the time of the interview.

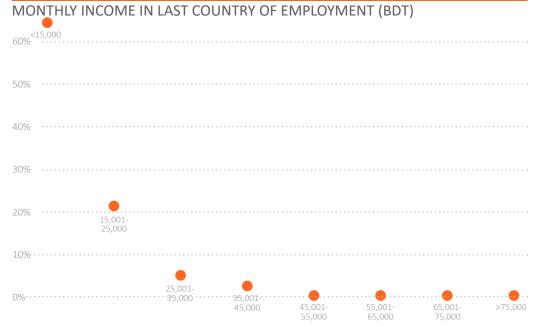
#### **EMPLOYMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RETURNEES**











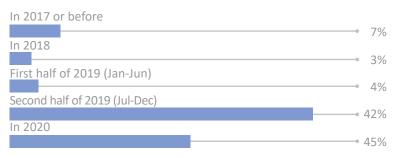
Throughout international returnee respondents' migration journey, the primary form of employment was daily wages. However, the proportion of respondents working for daily wages became less significant at the time of the interview (45%) and aspirationally (51%) as opposed to prior to migration (66%) and in the last country of employment (71%). Prior to migration, self-employment (17%) was also important, but declined in significance in the last country of employment (11%). At the time of the interview, 33 per cent of respondents were unemployed. This reflects the current challenges with livelihood opportunities in the wake of COVID-19 response measures. A large proportion of respondents aspired to work for daily wages (51%) in the future. Another 36 per cent aspired to be self-employed in the future.

Occupational sectors also shifted throughout international returnee respondents' migration journey, with agriculture and forestry becoming less significant in the last district of employment (10%) as opposed to prior to migration (38%). On the other hand, work in construction became more significant in the last country of employment (47%) as opposed to prior to migration (27%). Finally, 29 per cent of respondents aspire to work in agriculture and forestry in the future and another 24 per cent construction. Domestic work remained relatively consistent throughout the returnee respondents' migration journey.

The majority of respondents (91%) earned less than BDT 25,000 (294.81 USD)\* per month in their last country of employment, with 69 per cent of respondents earning less than BDT 15,000 (176.90 USD)\*. Only nine per cent earned more than BDT 25,000 (294.81 USD)\* per month in the last country of employment.

#### MIGRATION AND RETURN JOURNEY OF INTERNATIONAL RETURNEES

#### WHEN DID YOU LEAVE YOUR HOME DISTRICT?

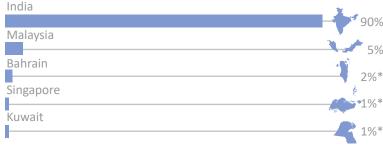


DID YOU GO ABROAD THROUGH THE BMET OR GOVERNMENT CHANNELS?

**73%** YES

#### FROM WHICH COUNTRY DID YOU RETURN?

(top 5 answers)



HOW MUCH DID YOU PAY FOR THE FACILITATION OF MIGRATION?

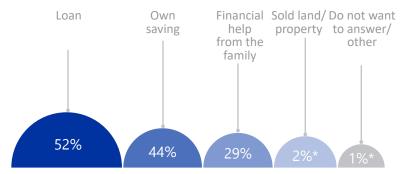
BDT 47,914

Average amount paid by those who went abroad through BMET or government channels (USD 565.02)\*

BDT 64,489

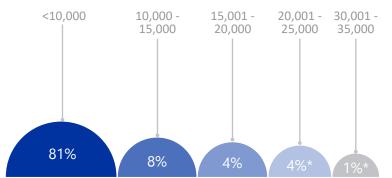
Average amount paid by those who did not go abroad through BMET or government channels (USD 760.48)\*

### HOW DID YOU OBTAIN MONEY FOR MIGRATION FACILITATION? (multiple answers possible)

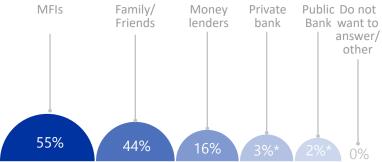


#### REMITTANCES IN BDT (top 5 answers)

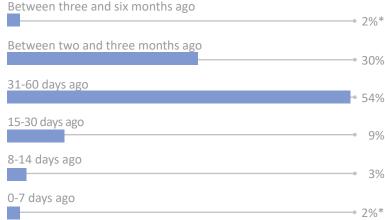
63% Of respondents sent money home every month



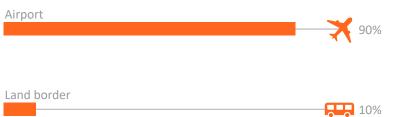
### IF YOU USED A LOAN TO OBTAIN MONEY, WHAT WAS THE SOURCE OF THE LOAN? (multiple answers possible)



#### WHEN DID YOU RETURN?



#### WHAT WAS YOUR POINT OF ENTRY?

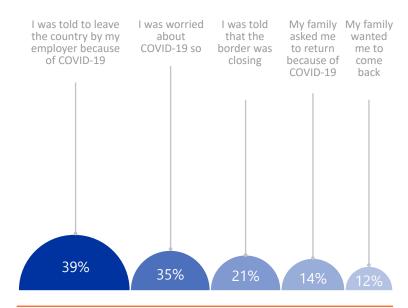


#### WHO PAID FOR YOUR RETURN JOURNEY?

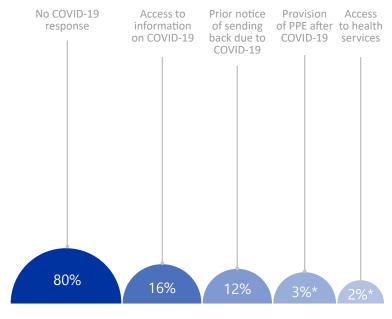
(multiple answers possible)



#### WHY DID YOU RETURN? (top 5 answers, multiple answers possible)



IF YOUR RETURN WAS DUE TO COVID-19, HOW WERE YOU TREATED IN THE COUNTRY FROM WHICH YOU RETURNED AFTER COVID-19 CAME INTO EFFECT? (top 5 answers, multiple answers possible)



59% Of respondents received their final wages before returning

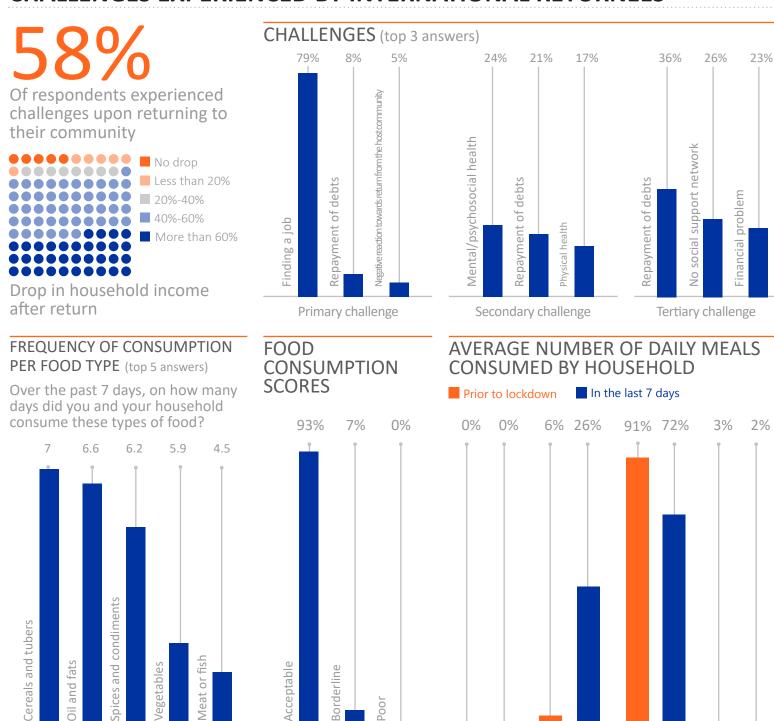
Eighty-seven per cent of respondents had emigrated from Bangladesh in the second half of 2019 or after, with 73 per cent having gone abroad via the BMET or government channels. Money for migration was obtained largely through a loan (52%). Sixty-three per cent of the sample population sent remittances home, most often less than BDT 10,000 (117.92 USD)\* (81%).

Eighty-four per cent of respondents returned to Bangladesh one to three months ago, aligning with the timeline of the emergence of COVID-19 and the implementation of response measures. The majority returned via air travel (90%) while the remaining returned via a land border (10%). Eighty-nine per cent paid for their return journeys by themselves, however, 11 per cent were supported by their employers.

When asked the reason for their return, 39 per cent of respondents reported that they were told to leave the country, while 35 per cent reported that they were worried about COVID-19. Twenty-one per cent of respondents decided to return because they were told that the borders were closing. Family decision-making was also an important factor in returning to Bangladesh, with 26 per cent of respondents citing that their family either wanted them to come back (12%) or that they asked them to come back (14%).

According to 80 per cent of respondents, there was no COVID-19 response in the country from which they returned after the pandemic came into effect. However, 16 per cent received access to information on COVID-19 and 12 per cent had prior notice of being sent back to Bangladesh due to COVID-19. Thirty-five per cent of international returnee respondents did not receive their final wages before returning to the country.

#### CHALLENGES EXPERIENCED BY INTERNATIONAL RETURNEES



Poor

1

Over half of all respondents experienced challenges upon returning to Bangladesh (58%). Returnees' main primary challenge was finding a job (79%) followed by repayment of debts (8%) and negative reaction towards return from host community (5%). However, it is important to note the relevance of the main secondary challenges: mental/ psychosocial health issues (24%), repayment of debts (21%) and physical health (17%). These issues reflect the multi-faceted effects of COVID-19 and its relationship with both social and economic factors.

and f

Another indication of household challenges is the drop in income after the respondents' return. Thirty-four per cent of respondents reported a more than 60 per cent drop in household income and 47 per cent reported a drop between 40 and 60 per cent. A convergence of factors, such as the loss of remittances, the scarcity of income generating activities due to COVID-19, the risk of working instead of isolating during the pandemic and others, may contribute to these drops in income.

>3

#### **DEBT AMONG INTERNATIONAL RETURNEES**

# DO YOU OR YOUR HOUSEHOLD OWE DEBT?

83%

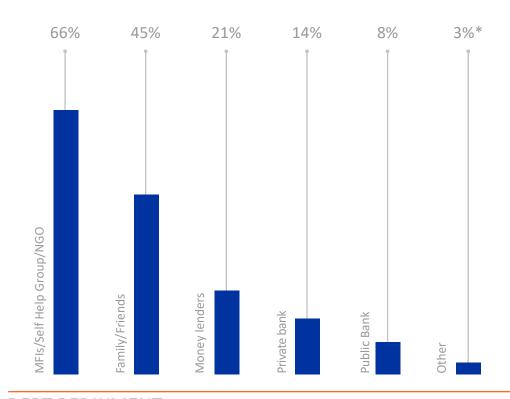
Of respondents/ respondent households owed debt

In total, 83 per cent of respondents or respondent households reported that they owed debt, a majority of which was owed to MFIs/Self help groups/NGOs (66%), family and friends (45%) and money lenders (21%).

Prior to returning, the majority of international returnee respondents planned to repay their debts with the personal income they would earn through their job abroad (72%). Another 49 per cent reported income and job earnings from their family members as a debt repayment method.

Alternatively, 60 per cent of respondents planned to rely on income/job earnings from family members to repay their debt after having returned to their home districts. This was followed by personal income made through a formal job (39%), borrowing from family and friends (17%), income from crop-harvest/farming (12%) and income from business activities (8%).

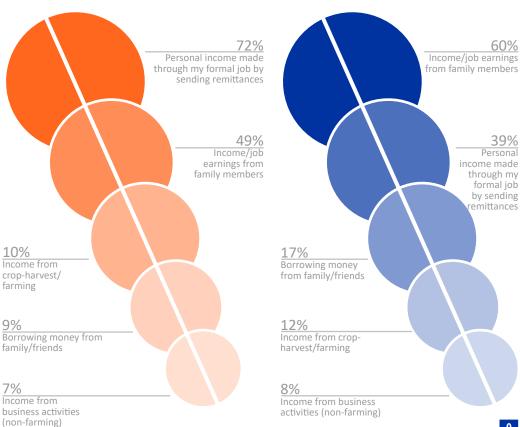
#### TO WHOM DO YOU OWE YOUR DEBT?



**DEBT REPAYMENT** (top 5 answers, multiple answers possible)

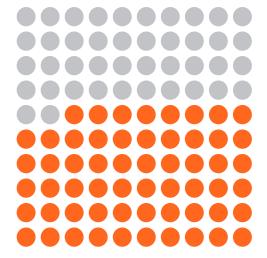
Before your return, how did you plan to repay this debt?

How do you plan to repay this debt now?

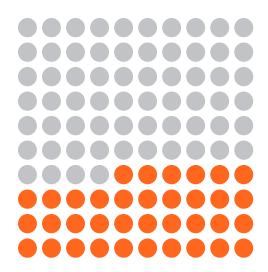


#### **FUTURE EMPLOYMENT ASPIRATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL RETURNEES**

## RESPONDENTS PLANNING TO BE EMPLOYED



RESPONDENTS PLANNING TO BE SELF-EMPLOYED



58%

Of respondents were planning to be employed in the private sector, employed in the public sector, work for daily wages, or work as a contractor

36%

Of respondents were planning to be selfemployed or to start or own a business

# IF YOU PLAN TO BE SELF-EMPLOYED, DO YOU HAVE THE SEED MONEY TO START YOUR BUSINESS?

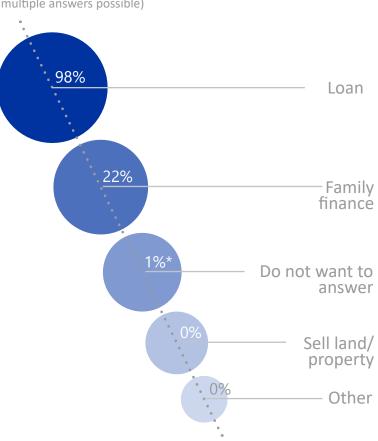


Among internal returnee respondents, 58 per cent were planning to be employed in the future. This included those wanting to work in the private sector, in the public sector, for daily wages and as contractors. Alternatively, 36 per cent of respondents aspired to be self-employed in the future, either starting or running their own business.

Of the respondents who planned to be self-employed, 15 per cent had seed money to start their business. Those who did not, planned to arrange for seed money primary through loans (98%). Family finances were also an important method through which respondents planned to attain seed money (22%).

Two per cent of female international returnee respondents planned to be housewives in the future.

# IF YOU DO NOT HAVE SEED MONEY YET, HOW DO YOU PLAN TO ARRANGE FOR IT? (multiple answers possible)

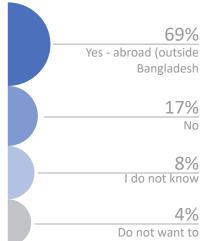


#### **FUTURE MIGRATION ASPIRATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL RETURNEES**

When asked whether they would want to re-migrate, 69 per cent of the sample population responded positively to international migration. While only six respondents wanted to re-migrate internally. Seventeen per cent of respondents reported that they would not want to remigrate. Among those that wanted to re-migrate, the majority of respondents reported that they want to leave after COVID-19 ends (85%). Twelve per cent of respondents did not know when they would re-migrate.

Almost all respondents who want to re-migrate would choose to go back to the same country they were working in before returning to Bangladesh (99%). Meanwhile, 67 per cent of respondents are interested in upgrading their skill set. Five per cent have already taken training to upgrade their skill set and of those, 33 per cent have a training certificate.

# DO YOU WANT TO RE-MIGRATE?



5%

Of respondents have taken training to upgrade their skill set

33%\*

Of respondents who have taken training to upgrade their skill set have a **training certificate** 

**67**%

Of respondents are interested in upgrading their skill set

99%

Of respondents want to re-migrate to the same country

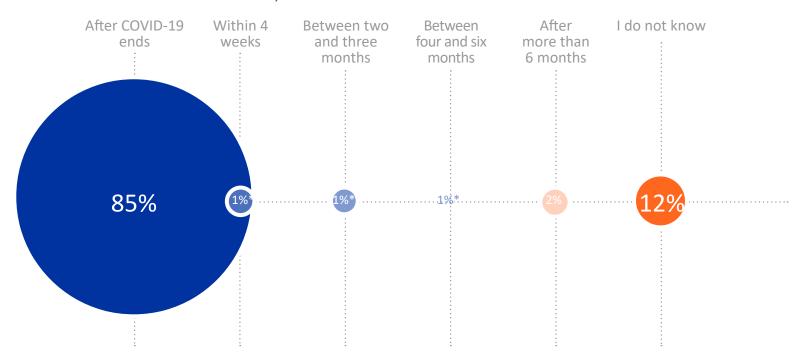
# IF YOU WANT TO RE-MIGRATE, WHERE? INTERNATIONAL DESTINATIONS (top 4 answers)



# IF YOU WANT TO RE-MIGRATE TO THE SAME COUNTRY, WHICH ONE? (top 4 answers)



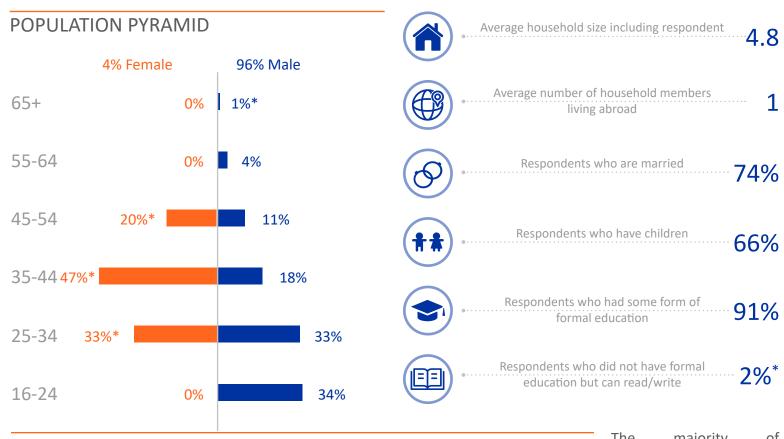
#### IF YOU WANT TO RE-MIGRATE, WHEN?



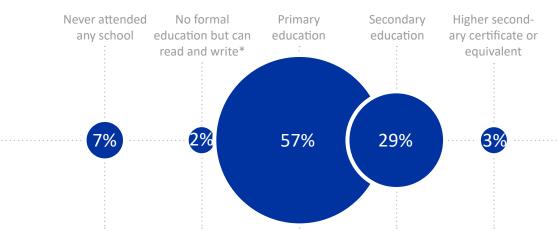
# INTERNAL RETURNEES



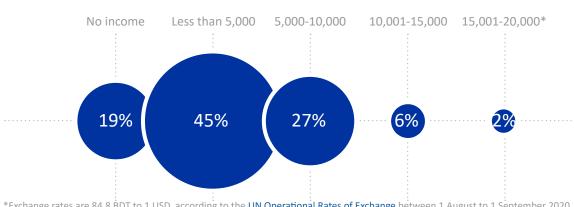
#### **DEMOGRAPHICS OF INTERNAL RETURNEES**



#### **EDUCATION LEVEL** (top 5 answers)



#### CURRENT TOTAL AVERAGE MONTHLY HOUSEHOLD INCOME IN BDT

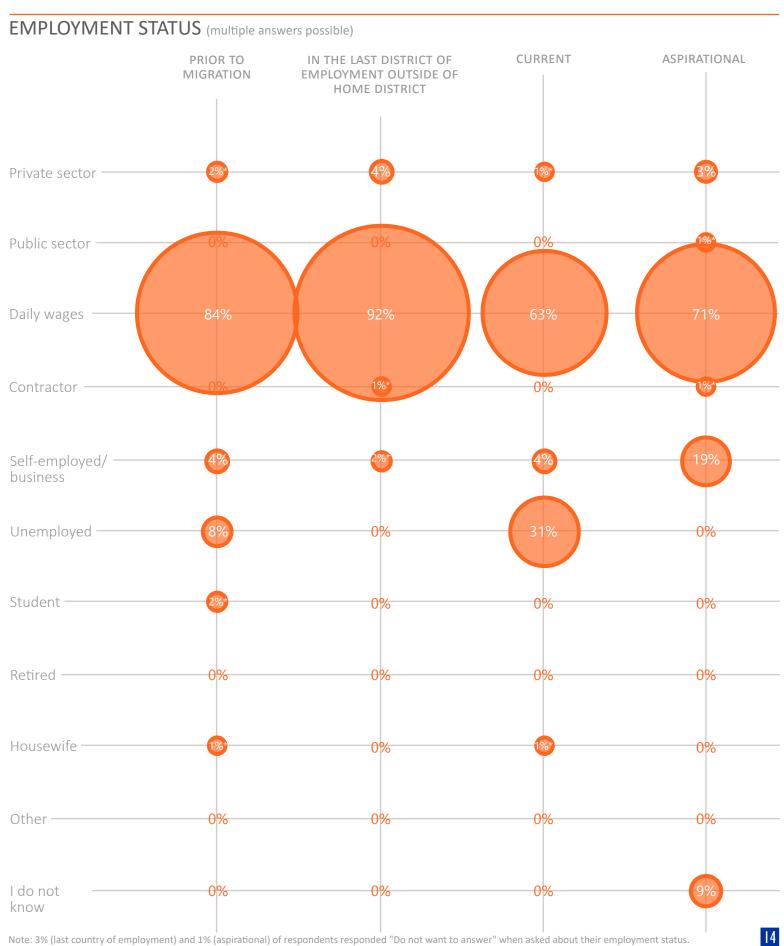


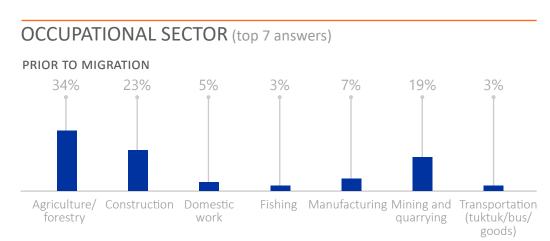
\*Exchange rates are 84.8 BDT to 1 USD, according to the UN Operational Rates of Exchange between 1 August to 1 September 2020.

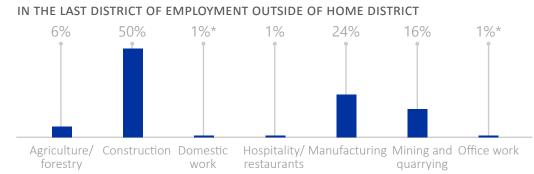
The majority of respondents in the internal returnee sample population were male in between 16 and 34 years old. Seventy-four per cent of respondents were married at the time of the interview, and out of respondents who were married or had been married, 66 per cent had children.

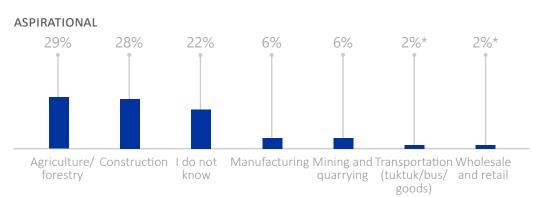
per Ninety-one cent respondents had completed some form of formal education. Of those, the most common level of completion was primary education (57%), followed by secondary education (29%). Nearly half of the respondents indicated that they had an average monthly income of less than 5,000 (58.96 USD)\* BDT. Nineteen per cent reported no monthly income.

#### **EMPLOYMENT OF INTERNAL RETURNEES**

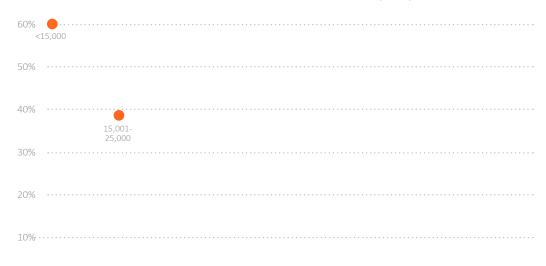








#### MONTHLY INCOME IN LAST DISTRICT OF EMPLOYMENT (BDT)



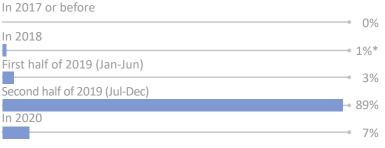
Similarly to international returnee respondents, the primary form of employment for internal returnee respondents, both prior to migration and while working in the last district of employment, was daily wages (84% and 92%). During the time of interviewing, 31 per cent of respondents were unemployed, while 63 per cent worked for daily wages. Seventy-one per cent of all internal returnee respondents aspired to work for daily wages in the future, while 19 per cent planned to be self-employed.

The prevalence of different occupational varied sectors throughout internal returnee respondents' migration journeys, agriculture and forestry becoming less significant in the last district of employment (6%) as opposed to prior to migration (34%) and aspirationally (29%). On the other hand, work in construction stayed relatively consistent prior to migration (23%) and aspirationally (28%), but became more significant in the last district of employment (50%). Manufacturing was important occupational sector in the last district of employment (24%) compared to prior to migration (7%) and aspirationally (6%). Finally, returnee respondents reported mining and quarrying as an occuptional sector more frequently prior to migration (19%) and in the last district of employent (16%) as opposed to aspirationally (6%).

The majority of respondents earned less than BDT 15,000 (176.90 USD)\* per month in their last district of employment (60%). None of the respondents for internal returnees earned more than BDT 45,000 (530.66 USD)\* in their last district of employment.

#### MIGRATION AND RETURN JOURNEY OF INTERNAL RETURNEES

#### WHEN DID YOU LEAVE YOUR HOME DISTRICT?



#### 3 — 4 Shariatpur

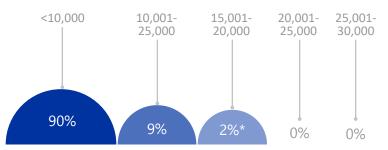
(top 5 answers)

FROM WHICH DISTRICT DID YOU RETURN?

3



74% Of respondents sent money home every month



#### WHEN DID YOU RETURN?

Between three and six months ago

0%

Between two and three months ago

11%

31-60 days ago

39%

15-30 days ago

24% Dhaka

3% Madaripur

8-14 days ago

0-7 days ago

1%\*

WHY DID YOU RETURN? (top 5 answers, multiple answers possible)



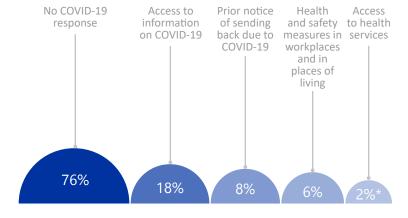
36% Of respondents received their final wages before returning

Eighty-nine per cent of respondents had left their home districts to migrate to another district in Bangladesh during the second half of 2019. The most common district to migrate to was Barisal (35%), followed by Dhaka (24%) and Bhola (6%).

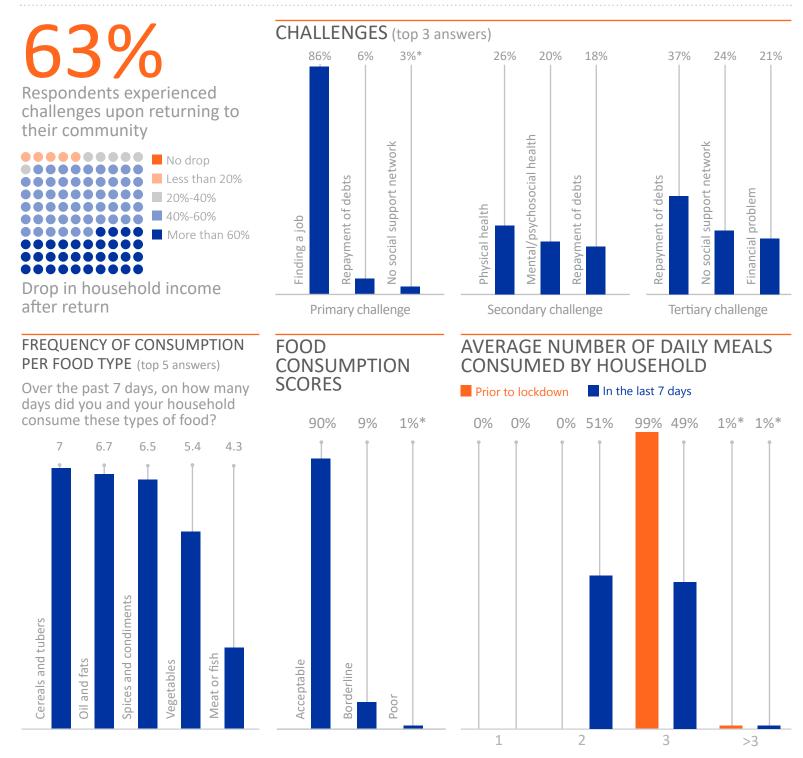
Seventy-four per cent of the sample population sent remittances home, the amount of which was mostly less than BDT 10,000 (117.92 USD)\* (90%). Almost all respondents returned to their home districts between two weeks and three months ago (98%), citing decisions by their employer because of COVID-19 (61%), personal worries due to COVID-19 (25%) and their contract that did not get renewed (19%) as primary reasons for returning.

Seventy-six per cent reported no COVID-19 response in the district from which they returned after the pandemic came into effect. On the other hand, 18 per cent reported that they had access to information on COVID-19 in the district from which they returned and 8 per cent received prior notice of being sent back due to COVID-19. Six per cent experienced health and safety measures in their workplaces and places of living, while 2 per cent had access to health services. Sixty-four per cent of respondents did not receive their final wages before returning to their home district.

IF YOUR RETURN WAS DUE TO COVID-19, HOW WERE YOU TREATED IN THE DISTRICT FROM WHICH YOU RETURNED AFTER COVID-19 CAME INTO EFFECT? (top 5 answers, multiple answers possible)



#### **CHALLENGES EXPERIENCED BY INTERNAL RETURNEES**



Sixty-three per cent of all respondents experienced challenges upon returning to their home district. Similarly to international returnee respondents, internal returnee respondents' main primary challenge was finding a job (86%). This was followed by repayment of debts (6%) and no social support network (3%). Physical health (26%) and mental/psychosocial health (20%) were significant secondary challenges, while repayment of debts (37%) was a primary tertiary challenge. This re-emphasizes

the pervasiveness of the social and economic impacts of return, internationally or internally, during COVID-19.

Drops in household income were greater for internal returnee respondents than for international returnees, with 34 per cent of internal returnee respondents experiencing a more than 60 per cent drop in household income. A further 55 per cent experienced a drop between 40 and 60 per cent.

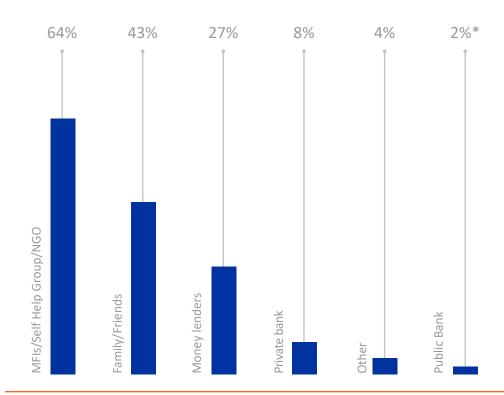
#### **DEBT AMONG INTERNAL RETURNEES**

## DO YOU OR YOUR HOUSEHOLD OWE DEBT?

82%

Of respondents/ respondent households owed debt

#### TO WHOM DO YOU OWE YOUR DEBT?



In total, 82 per cent of respondents or respondent households reported that they owed debt, a majority of which was owed to MFIs/Self help groups/NGOs (64%), family and friends (43%) and money lenders (27%).

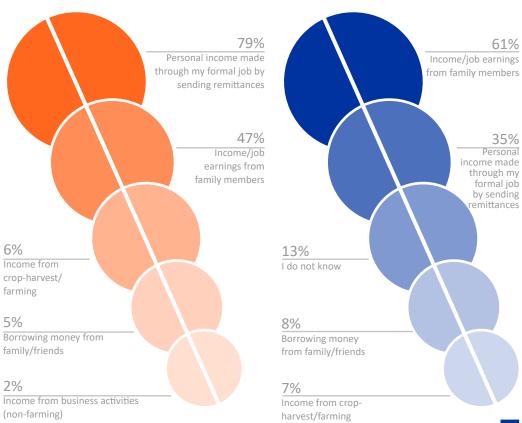
Prior to returning, the majority of internal returnee respondents planned to repay their debts with the personal income they would earn through their job (79%). Another 47 per cent reported income and job earnings from family members as a debt repayment method.

Alternatively, 61 per cent of respondents planned to repay their debt with income/job earnings from their family members after having returned to their home districts. This was followed by personal income they would earn through their job (35%), borrowing money from family and friends (8%) and income from crop-harvest and farming (7%). Thirteen per cent of respondents did not know how they would repay their debt at the time of the interview.

**DEBT REPAYMENT** (top 5 answers, multiple answers possible)

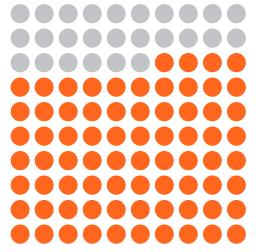
Before your return, how did you plan to repay this debt?

How do you plan to repay this debt now?



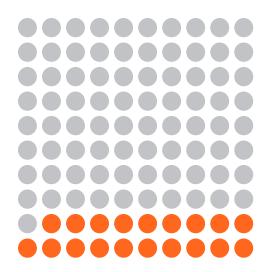
#### **FUTURE EMPLOYMENT ASPIRATIONS OF INTERNAL RETURNEES**

## RESPONDENTS PLANNING TO BE EMPLOYED



Of respondents were planning to be employed in the private sector, employed in the public sector, work for daily wages, or work as a

## RESPONDENTS PLANNING TO BE SELF-EMPLOYED

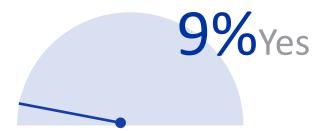


19%

Of respondents were planning to be selfemployed or to start or own a business

# IF YOU PLAN TO BE SELF-EMPLOYED, DO YOU HAVE THE SEED MONEY TO START YOUR BUSINESS?

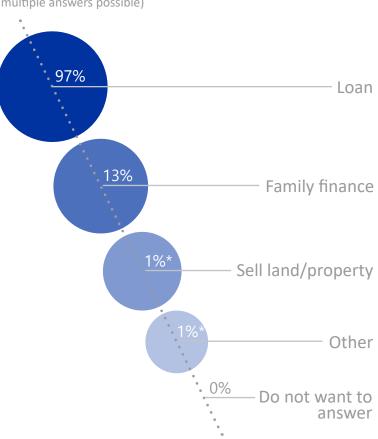
contractor



Among internal returnee respondents, 74 per cent were planning to have a job in the future. This included those wanting to work in the private sector, in the public sector, for daily wages and as contractors. Alternatively, 19 per cent of respondents aspired to be self-employed in the future, either starting or running their own business.

Of the respondents who plan to be self-employed, 9 per cent had seed money to start their business. Those who did not, planned to arrange for seed money primary through loans (97%). Family finances were also an important method through which respondents planned to attain seed money (13%), followed by selling land or property (1%).

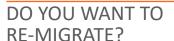
# IF YOU DO NOT HAVE SEED MONEY YET, HOW DO YOU PLAN TO ARRANGE FOR IT? (multiple answers possible)

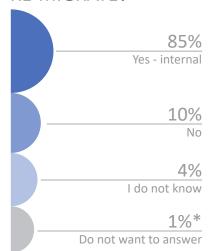


#### **FUTURE MIGRATION ASPIRATIONS OF INTERNAL RETURNEES**

When asked whether they would want to re-migrate, 85 per cent of the sample population responded, "Yes, internally". Among those who wanted to re-migrate, 53 per cent reported that they want to leave after COVID-19 ends.

While a larger proportion of internal returnee respondents would like to re-migrate as opposed to international returnee respondents (85% versus 71%), fewer internal respondents would choose to migrate to the same place they had left to return home (75% versus 99%). Meanwhile, 78 per cent of respondents are interested in upgrading their skill set. Three per cent have already taken training to upgrade their skill set and of those, 8 per cent have a training certificate.





3%

Of respondents have taken training to upgrade their skill set

8%\*

Of respondents who have taken training to upgrade their skill set have a **training certificate** 

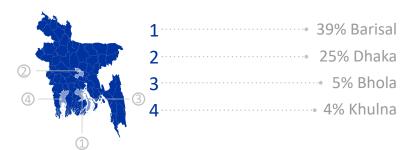
78%

Of respondents are interested in upgrading their skill set

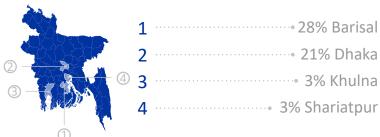
75%

Of respondents want to re-migrate to the same district

# IF YOU WANT TO RE-MIGRATE, WHERE (INTERNAL DESTINATIONS)? (top 4 answers)



# IF YOU WANT TO RE-MIGRATE TO THE SAME DISTRICT, WHICH ONE? (top 4 answers)



#### IF YOU WANT TO RE-MIGRATE, WHEN?

