

SNAPSHOT REPORT: BASELINE MOBILITY ASSESSMENT (BMA) KURIGRAM DISTRICT

APRIL – SEPTEMBER 2022

Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)

Regional Evidence for Migration Analysis and Policy (REMAP)

International Organization for Migration (IOM)



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DTM
IOM DISPLACEMENT
TRACKING MATRIX



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Disclaimer

This report is part of the outputs under the European Union funded project “Displacement Tracking Matrix Regional Evidence for Migration Analysis and Policy (DTM 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 Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq and Pakistan through the use of the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM).

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ABOUT DTM REMAP

The Baseline Mobility Assessment (BMA) is part of the European Union-funded Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) 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 Afghanistan, Bangladesh, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, and Pakistan.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) in partnership with the Government of Bangladesh, Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment (MoEWOE) began implementing Baseline Mobility Assessments (BMA) in Bangladesh to increase understanding of internal and international mobility in Bangladesh. This report presents the findings of the BMA data which was collected between April and September 2022 in Kurigram district using time frames: 2020 and 2021.

DTM REMAP enables IOM and its partners to maximize resources, set priorities, and deliver better-targeted, evidence-based, mobility-sensitive and sustainable humanitarian assistance and development programming. For more information about DTM in Bangladesh, please visit www.dtm.iom.int/bangladesh

METHODOLOGY

The purpose of Baseline Mobility Assessment in Bangladesh is to track mobility, provide information on population estimates, locations and geographic distribution of migrants and returnees. Data is collected at the village level from key informants and direct observations.

Under BMA methodology, enumerators collect data through a two-layered assessment:

1. Union-level assessment (B1): It aims to identify villages with high inflows and outflows of Bangladeshi nationals and provide estimated numbers of each target population category.
2. Village-level assessment (B2): Based on the results of B1, this assessment collects information on inflows and outflows of each target population category at each village, identified through B1. Additional villages are also identified and assessed, based on referrals from key informants.

TARGET POPULATION

Data on population sizes for the following five target population categories is collected from each of the following population groups using time frames: 2020 and 2021.

Target Population	
International Returnees	Bangladeshi nationals who had moved abroad and have now returned to Bangladesh
International Migrants	Bangladeshi nationals who moved abroad
Internal (In-)Migrants	Bangladeshi nationals from other locations inside Bangladesh currently residing in an assessed village
Internal Out-Migrants	Bangladeshi nationals from an assessed village who moved as internal migrants to reside elsewhere in Bangladesh
Internal returnees	Bangladeshi nationals from an assessed village who had moved from their area of origin as an internal migrant in the past and have now returned home

BACKGROUND

Bangladesh is comprised of eight administrative divisions: Barishal, Chattogram, Dhaka, Khulna, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Mymensingh and Sylhet. Each division is named after its major city. These divisions are further divided into 64 districts.

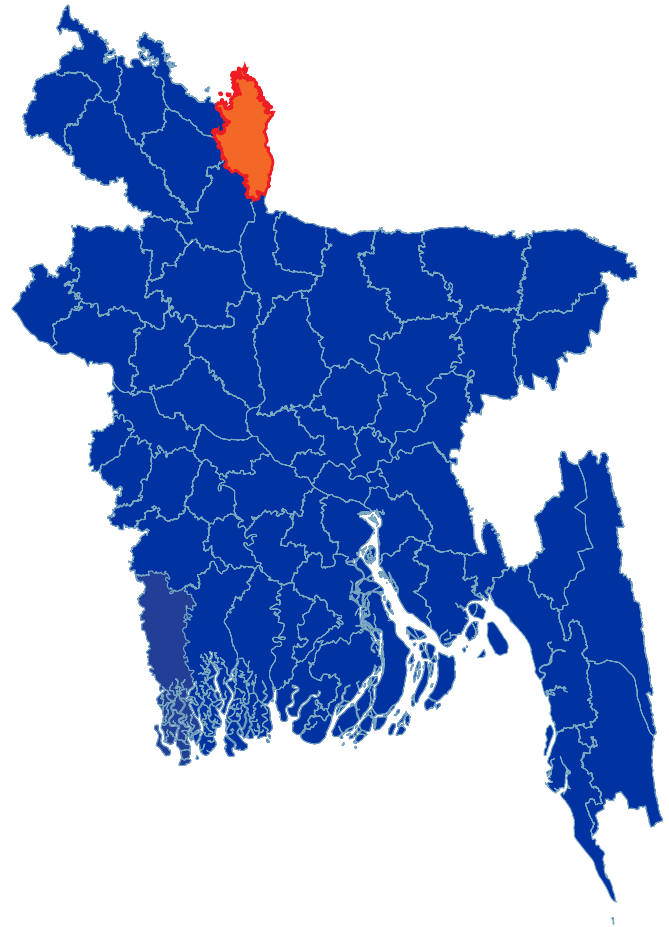
Kurigram District is located in Rangpur Division in northern Bangladesh. It is bounded by West Bengal state of India on the north, Gaibandha and Jamalpur districts on the south, Assam state of India on the east, Rangpur and Lalmonirhat districts on the west.

There are nine upazilas in Kurigram district: Bhurungamari, Chilmari, Kurigram Sadar, Nageshwari, Phulbari, Rajarhat, Rajibpur, Roumari and Ulipur. In addition, there are three municipalities in Kurigram district which are Kurigram Pourashava, Nageshwari Pourashava and Ulipur Pourashava. Each one of these three municipalities are further divided into nine wards.

According to Needs Assessment Working Group, National Disaster Response Coordination Center (2019), Kurigram district is highly prone to floods and river erosion. The district experience severe flooding almost every year. In 2019, about 39% of the population were affected and 64,024 population were displaced, 19,638 hectares of cropland, 188,549 houses, and 1,277 km of road were also damaged¹.

In addition to vulnerabilities to flood and other natural disasters, based on Household Income and Expenditure Survey 2016², more than half of the population live below the national poverty line and more than 30% of the population is either landless or have less than five decimals of land.

There is need for further assessments to study the effects of mentioned vulnerabilities and lack of access to services and relate its impacts on drivers of urban migration within Bangladesh as well as international migration.



STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT

This report is comprised of two sections. The first section focuses exclusively on international migration from Kurigram district and international return from abroad to Kurigram district and the second section mainly focuses on internal migration in the assessed villages, internal return migration to the assessed villages and internal out-migration from the assessed villages including the reasons and locations of migration and return.

¹Needs Assessment Working GroupNAWG, National Disaster Response Coordination Center-NDRCC - July 2019: https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/20190721_monsoon_flood_nawg_situation_updates-5.pdf

²Household Income and Expenditure Survey 2016: http://bbs.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/bbs.portal.gov.bd/page/b343a8b4_956b_45ca_872f_4cf9b2f1a6e0/HIES%20Preliminary%20Report%202016.pdf



SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS



2,853

Villages
assessed



9,436

Key informants
interviewed



58,880

Internal
migrants



260,773

Internal
returnees



2,453

International
migrants



1,869

International
returnees from
abroad



11

International
migrants moved
to Europe

Baseline Mobility Assessment (BMA) was conducted in all nine upazilas of Kurigram district. This assessment covered 2,853 villages through 9,436 key informant (92% male and 8% female) interviews. Based on the key informants' estimates, during 2020 and 2021, 1,869 international returnees have returned from abroad. Moreover, 2,453 Bangladeshi nationals have left their homes (assessed villages) as international migrants during 2020 and 2021.

In addition, 58,880 internal migrants are hosted in the assessed villages during 2020 and 2021. Meanwhile, 260,773 former internal migrants have returned to their homes in the assessed villages during 2020 and 2021.

COVERAGE

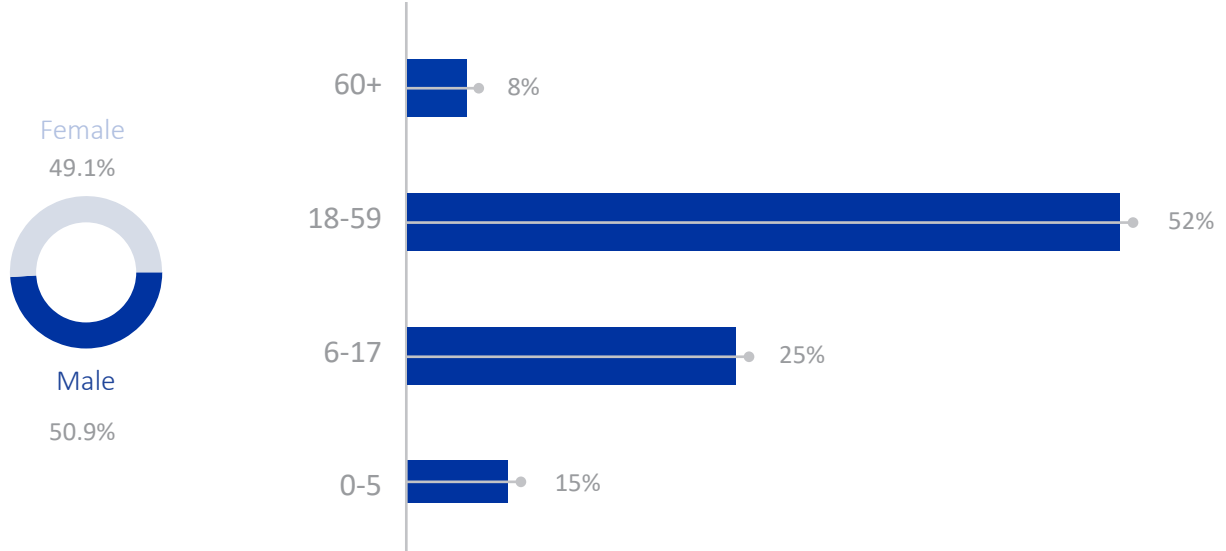
Kurigram district is divided into 9 upazilas. The upazilas are further divided into 73 unions. There are three municipalities in Kurigram district which are Kurigram Pourashava, Nageshwari Pourashava and Ulipur Pourashava and each one of them are further divided into nine wards.

Upazila	# of unions	# of mouzas	# of villages	# of KIs
Bhurungamari	10	56	137	557
Chilmarii	6	58	221	559
Kurigram Sadar	8	79	543	1,941
Nageshwari	14	79	488	1,663
Phulbari	6	49	262	875
Rajarhat	7	110	194	813
Rajibpur	3	26	93	263
Roumari	6	29	244	727
Ulipur	13	149	671	2,038
Total	73	635	2,853	9,436

¹ To mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and ensure the safety of DTM REMAP staff, migrants and communities, DTM teams maintained social distancing, practiced infection prevention and control measures, and used personal protective equipment in line with WHO guidelines while conducting the assessments in the villages.

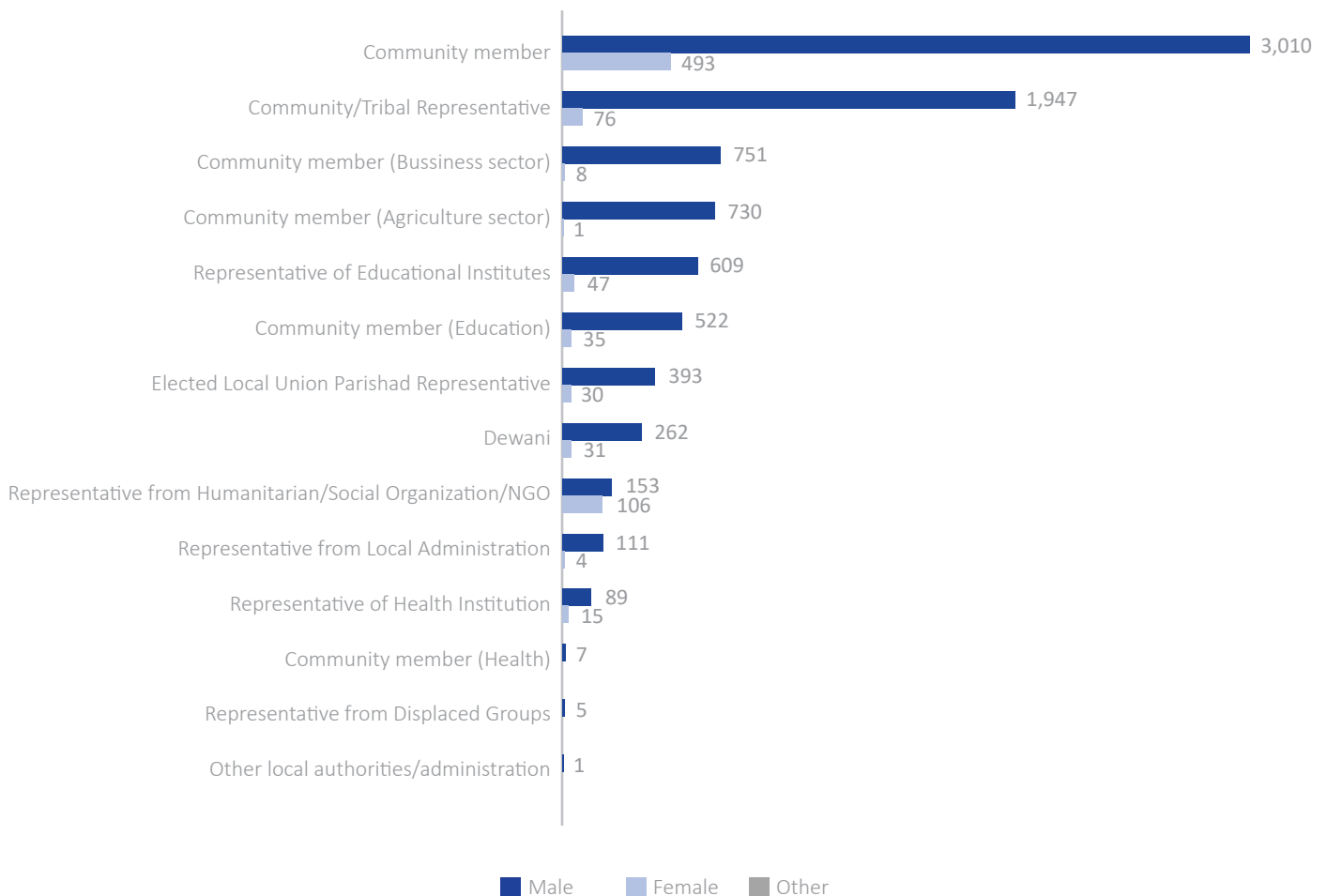
SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC INDICATORS

Based on DTM REMAP Key Informants' estimates, more than half of the population in Kurigram district are between the ages of 18 and 59 years old (52%). Youth between the ages of 6 to 17 comprise 25 per cent of the population. Fifteen per cent are infants and children under the age of 5 and the remaining 8 per cent are elderly above the age of 60. The percentage of female population in the communities assessed is 49.1 per cent compared to 50.9 per cent male population.



KEY INFORMANTS (KI)

Field enumerators collect data at the settlement level, predominantly through discussions with community key informants. Key informants were representatives from the community who had been referred by the local government officials or members of the village who could give information concerning internal and international mobility in each village.



INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY



INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY

Migration can be both international and national and it is generally associated with development and it has socio-economic impacts in both the country of origin and the country of destination. Migrants are often expected to contribute to the development of the host countries and their countries of origin, as well as assist their families and communities back home through remittances and business activities. Migration can also help provide opportunities for poverty reduction, income generation, social status and better livelihoods.

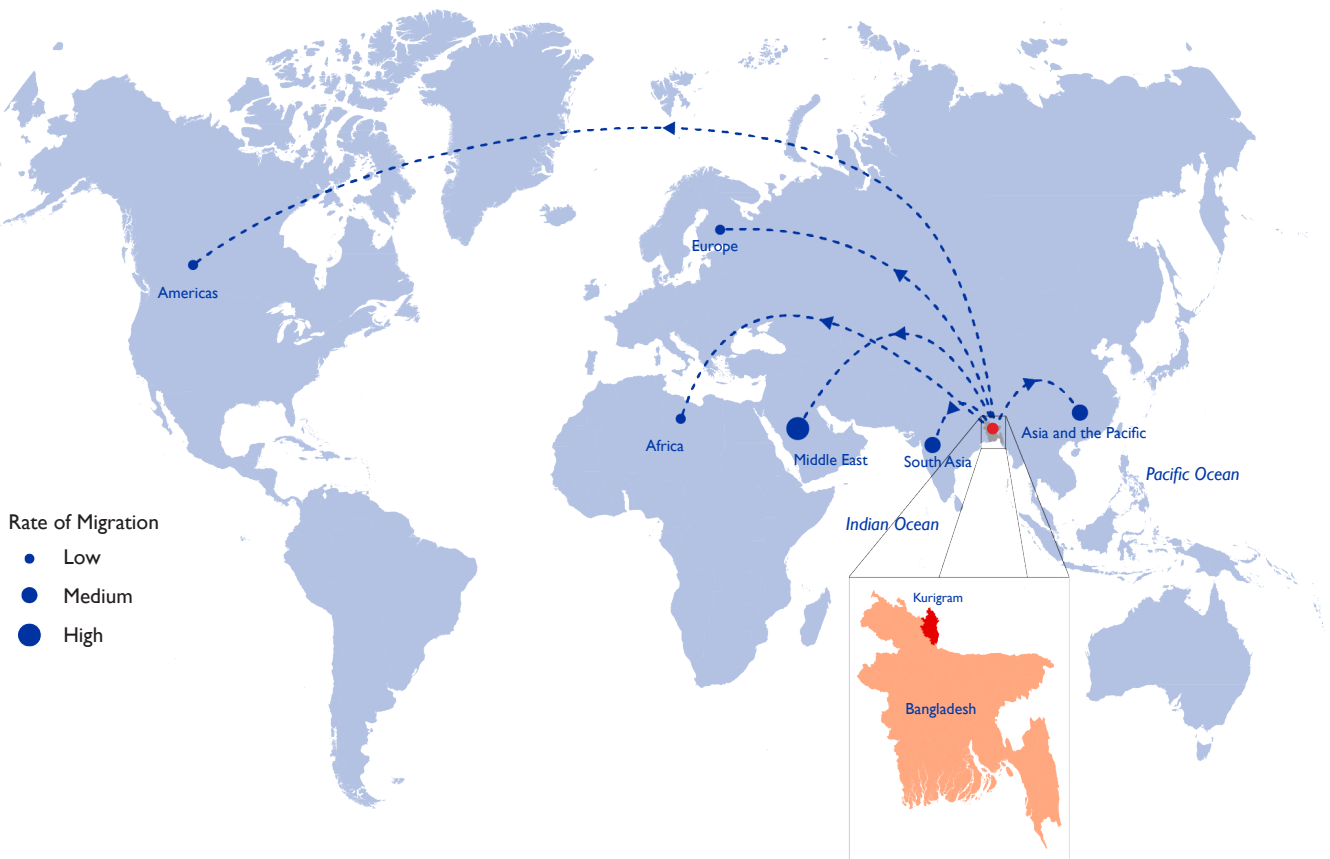
However, in the context of Kurigram district, which is an agricultural district and the geographic location of Kurigram district, in particular riverine areas; the Brahmaputra river enters Bangladesh through northeast of Kurigram district, makes it more vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters which contributes to the worsening of living conditions, poverty, healthcare services and loss of livelihoods. Therefore, the drivers of migration from Kurigram district could be more diverse which requires further study and assessments.

Based on the Baseline Mobility Assessment (BMA) data, the majority of international migration and return happened to and from the middle East during 2020 and 2021.

Based on the key informants' estimates, the majority (1,683 individuals) of international migrants have moved to the middle East, followed by Asia and the Pacific (536 individuals), South Asia (175 individuals), the Americas (23 individuals), Africa (17 individuals), Europe (11 individuals) and other countries (8 individuals).

Moreover, 1,090 international returnees returned from the middle East, followed by Asia and the Pacific (558 individuals), South Asia (149 individuals), Africa (23 individuals), the Americas (19 individuals), Europe (15 individuals) and other countries (15 individuals).

This section is divided into three parts. The first part will present an overall summary of international migration from Kurigram district and international return to Kurigram district from abroad, including the overall numbers and regions of destination. The second part of this section will exclusively present information about international migration from Kurigram district, which will include disaggregation of migration numbers by upazilas and years of migration. Similarly, the next part of this section will present information about international returnees, including disaggregation of migration numbers by upazilas and years of return.



INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS

International migrants are Bangladeshi nationals who have moved abroad from an assessed location. DTM REMAP enumerators recorded a total of 2,453 international migrants who moved abroad during 2020 (32%) and 2021 (68%) from the assessed villages in Kurigram district.

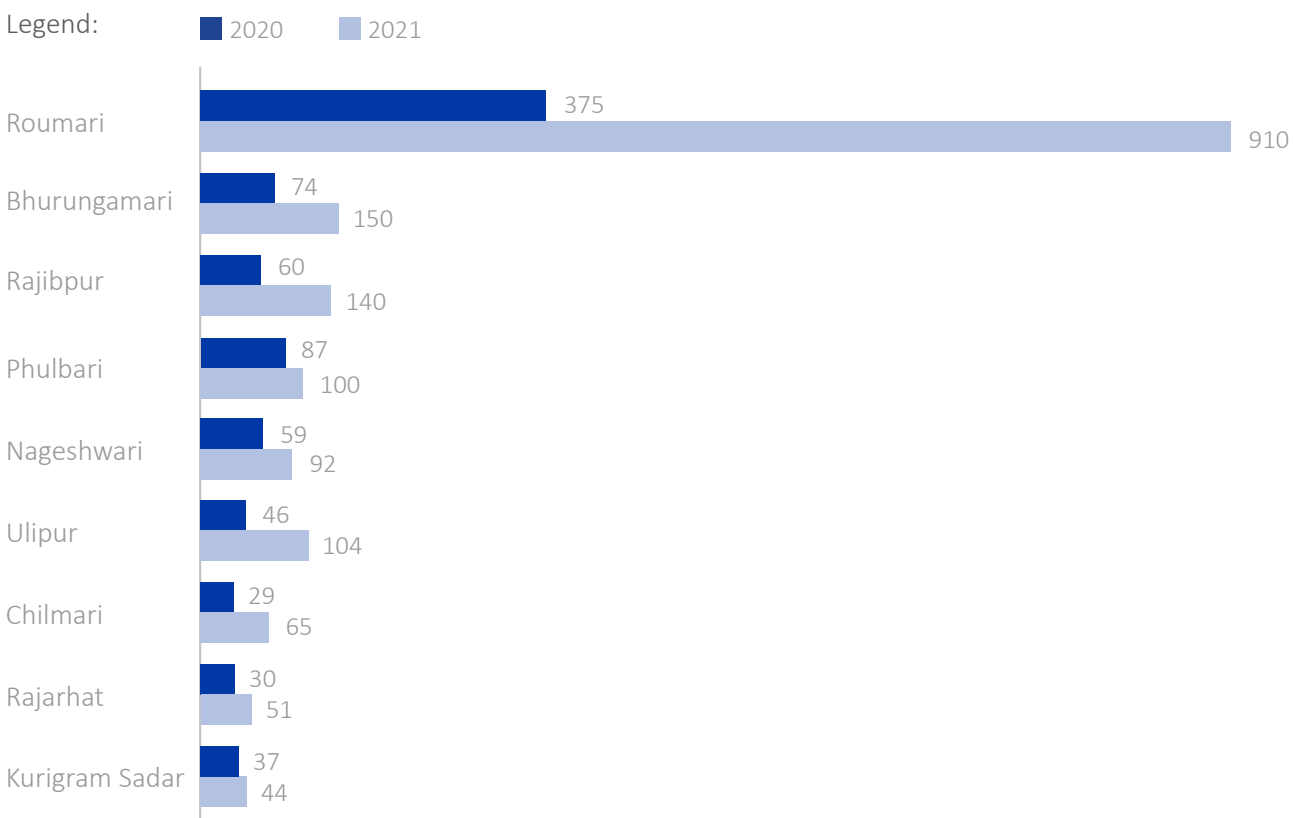
The total number of Bangladeshi nationals who migrated abroad in 2021 (1,656 individuals) shows almost two times increase compared to the total number of international migrants in 2020 (797).

Based on the key informants' estimates, the majority (69%) of international migrants have moved to the middle East, followed by Asia and the Pacific (22%) and South Asia (7%).

REGIONS	MIGRANTS IN 2020	MIGRANTS IN 2021	TOTAL BY REGION
Middle East	526	1,157	1,683
Asia and the Pacific	174	362	536
South Asia	81	94	175
Americas	2	21	23
Africa	8	9	17
Europe	3	8	11
Other	3	5	8
TOTAL BY YEAR	797	1,656	2,453

INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS BY UPAZILA

Key informants estimate that over half (52%) of the international migrants migrated from only Roumari upazila (1,285 individuals) in Kurigram district during 2020 and 2021 followed by Bhurungamari (224 individuals), Rajibpur (200 individuals), Phulbari (187 individuals), Nageshwari (151 individuals), Ulipur (150 individuals) Chilmari (94 individuals), Rajarhat (81 individuals) and Kurigram Sadar (81 individuals).





INTERNATIONAL RETURNEES

International returnees are Bangladeshi nationals who have returned to Bangladesh in the assessed location after having spent at least three months abroad.

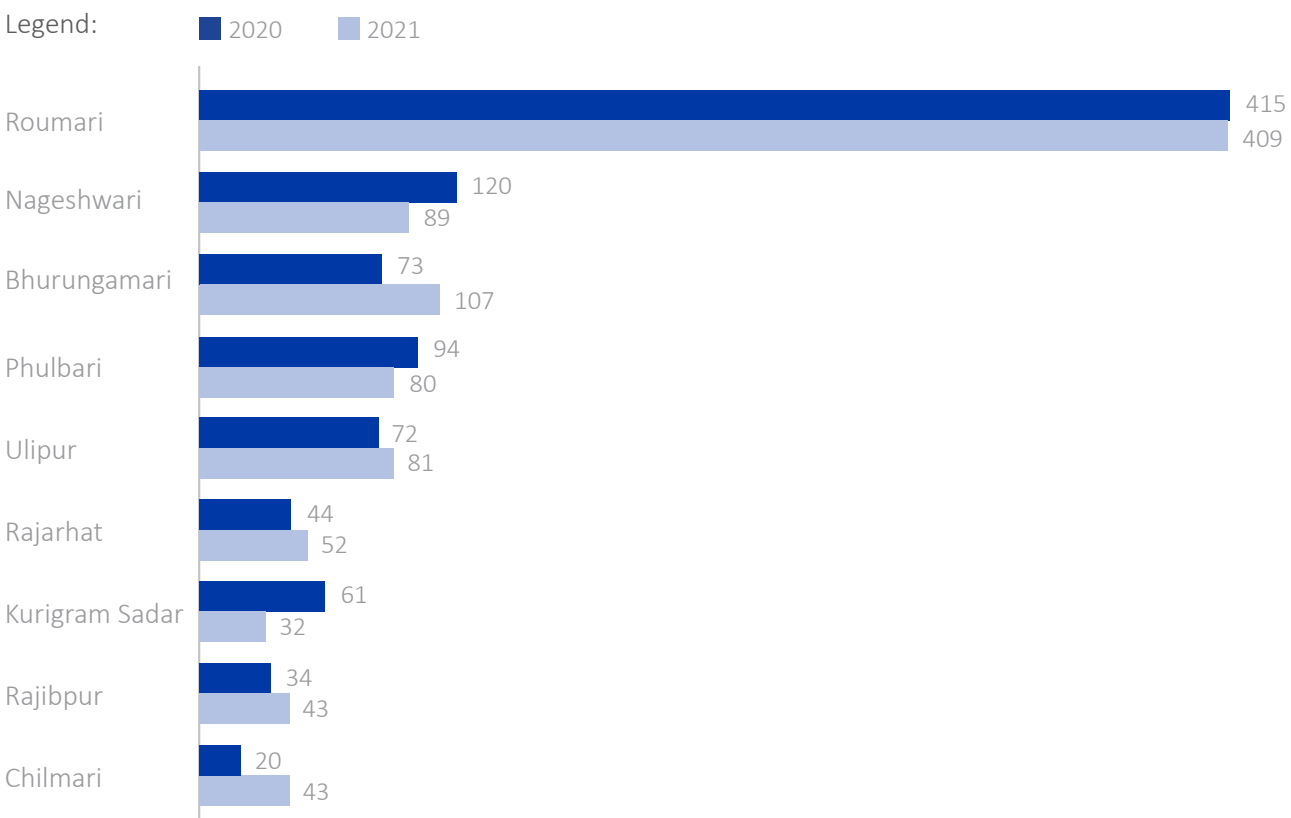
During the reporting period, DTM REMAP enumerators recorded a total of 1,869 international returnees. Fifty per cent of respondents returned to the assessed villages in Kurigram district in 2020 and 50 per cent in 2021.

The majority (58%) of international returnees returned from the middle East, followed by Asia and the Pacific (30%) and South Asia (8%).

REGIONS	RETURNEES IN 2020	RETURNEES IN 2021	TOTAL BY REGION
Middle East	509	581	1,090
Asia and the Pacific	304	254	558
South Asia	80	69	149
Africa	13	10	23
Americas	10	9	19
Europe	5	10	15
Other	12	3	15
Total by year	933	936	1,869

INTERNATIONAL RETURNEES BY UPAZILA

Roumari upazila hosts the highest number (824) of international returnees who returned from abroad during 2020 and 2021: 50 per cent of them returned in 2020 and 50 per cent returned in 2021. Nageshwari Upazila is the second top upazila which hosts 209 returnees returned during 2020 and 2021; 57 per cent of these returnees returned to Nageshwari in 2020 and (43%) returned in 2021. Bhurungamari hosts the third highest number of international returnees in the district: 41 per cent have returned in 2020 and 59 per cent returned in 2021.



INTERNAL MOBILITY



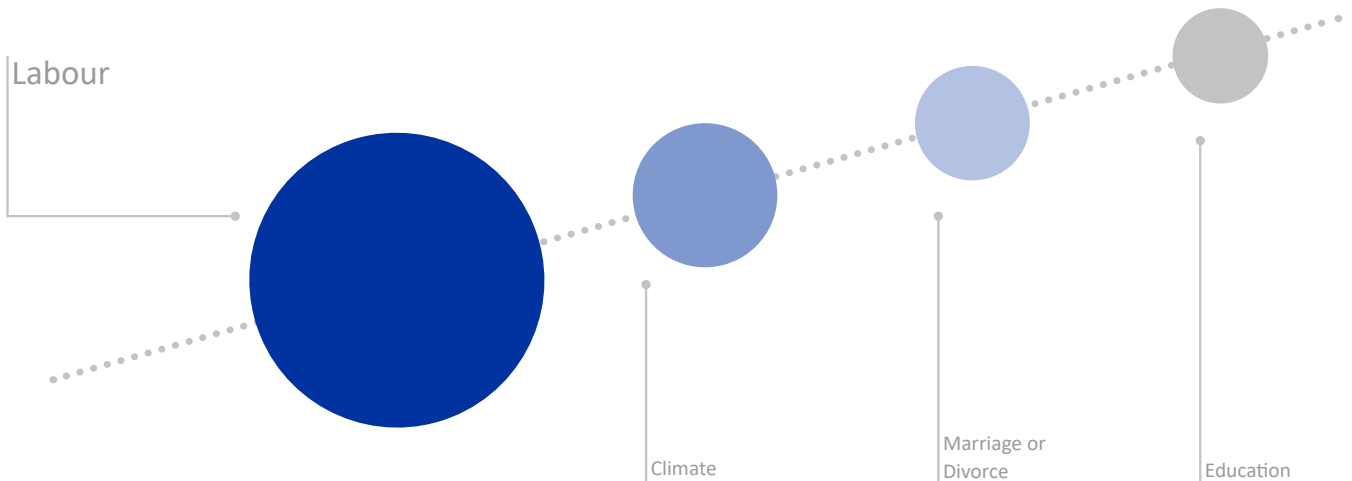
INTRODUCTION TO INTERNAL MOBILITY

Internal migration can be a driver of economic expansion and modernization but also a means to avoid natural or man-made disasters. As Kurigram is a riverine district which is prone to flood and river erosion, internal migration is influenced by a plethora of socio-economic and environmental factors. This section will analyze internal migration, by reasons of migration, type of migration and upazila.

This section will present three categories of internal mobile population which includes Bangladeshi nationals who have migrated from their areas of origin and currently reside in an assessed settlement, Bangladeshi nationals who have migrated from the assessed settlements and currently reside elsewhere within Bangladesh and Bangladeshi nationals who had previously migrated from their areas of origin but have now returned to their areas of origin in the assessed settlements.

TOP 4 REASONS OF INTERNAL MOBILITY

Internal mobility in district is significantly affected by four factors which are employment opportunities or labour followed by climate reasons, education opportunities and marriage or divorce.



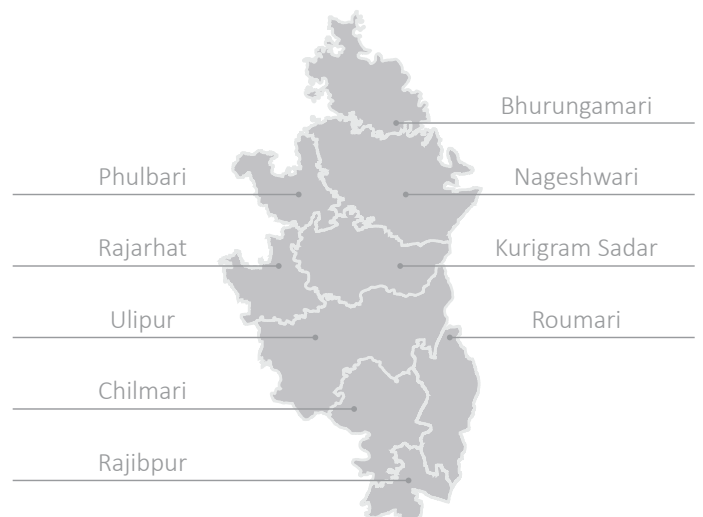
INTERNAL MOBILITY BY UPAZILA

Urbanization, socio-economic factors, natural disasters and access to opportunities can be significant in decisions to move as an internal migrant from one location to another or to return back to the area of origin after spending a period of time as an internal migrant.

Ulipur upazila has the highest number of internal migrants who arrived from other areas within Bangladesh during 2020 and 2021 and still reside in Ulipur upazila.

Additionally, Ulipur upazila hosts the highest numbers of internal returnees who had previously left their areas of origin to live elsewhere inside Bangladesh but returned back home during 2020 and 2021.

However, Nageshwari upazila has the highest numbers of internal out-migrants who left their areas of origin during 2020 and 2021 and have not returned back to their areas of origin.



Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

INTERNAL MIGRANTS

Internal migrants are Bangladeshi nationals who have left other villages in Bangladesh and arrived and presently reside at the assessed location - host community. DTM REMAP key informants estimate that the main reasons for internal migrants who had left their areas of origin and migrated to assessed settlements in 2020 and 2021 were marriage or divorce (52%), environmental and climate factors (36%), labour (6%), education (3%) and other reasons (3%).

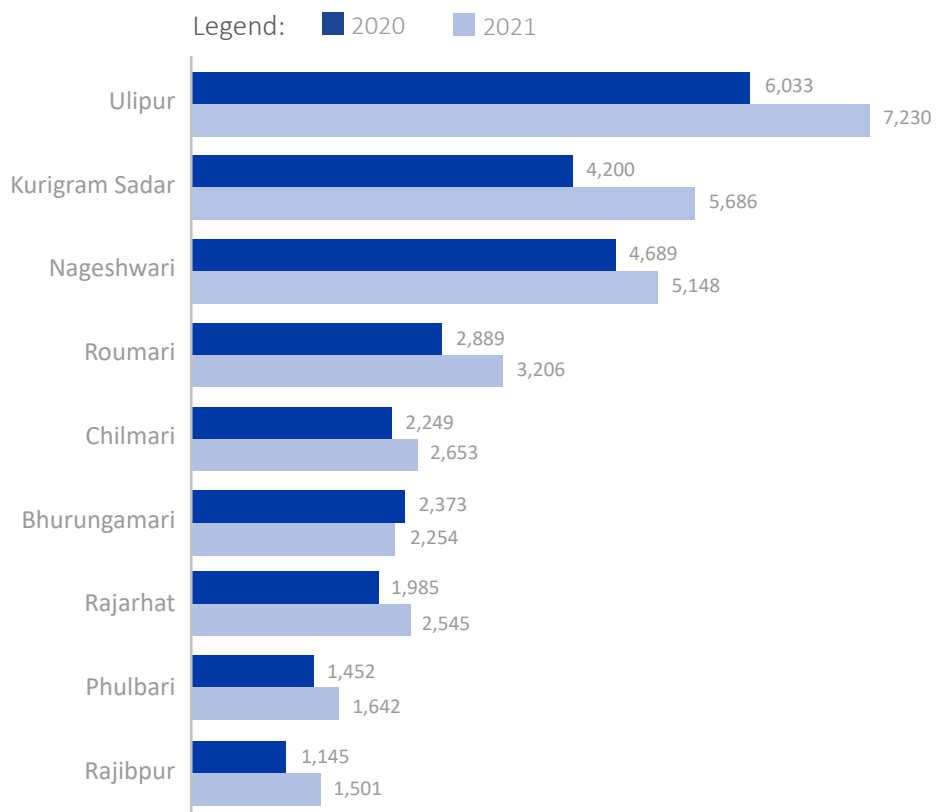
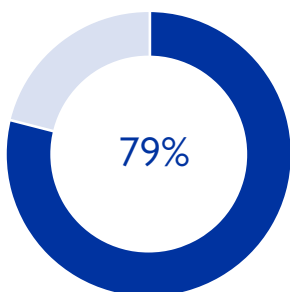
The total number of internal migrants who migrated due to marriage or divorce in 2021 (15,555) shows a four per cent increase compared to the total number of internal migrants in 2020 (14,996). However, the total number of internal migrants who moved due to environmental and climate factors is 43 per cent higher in 2021 (12,487) compared to 2020 (8,758). Moreover, data shows a 39 per cent increase in the number of internal migrants who migrated for labour in 2021 (2,046) compared to those who migrated in 2020 (1,476). In addition, the number of internal migrants who migrated for education is 31 per cent higher in 2021 (974) than the those who migrated in 2020 (743).

REASONS	INTERNAL MIGRANTS IN 2020	INTERNAL MIGRANTS IN 2021	TOTAL
Marriage or Divorce	14,996	15,555	30,551
Climate	8,758	12,487	21,245
Labour	1,476	2,046	3,522
Other/ Not Known	1,042	803	1,845
Education	743	974	1,717
Total	27,015	31,865	58,880

INTERNAL MIGRANTS BY UPAZILA

Four in five (79%) of all internal migrants migrated within Kurigram district. Key informants estimate that 23 per cent of all internal migrants migrated to only Ulipur upazila which hosts 13,263 internal migrants from other areas. Over half (55%) of these internal migrants migrated to Ulipur upazila in 2021. Kurigram Sadar upazila hosts the second highest number of internal migrants (9,886). Moreover, Nageshwari is the top third upazila hosting 17 per cent (9,837) of internal migrants.

Percentage of internal migrants moved within the same upazila



INTERNAL RETURNEES

Internal returnees are former internal migrants who had left their areas of origin and migrated to other areas within Bangladesh but have now returned home and presently reside at the assessed location.

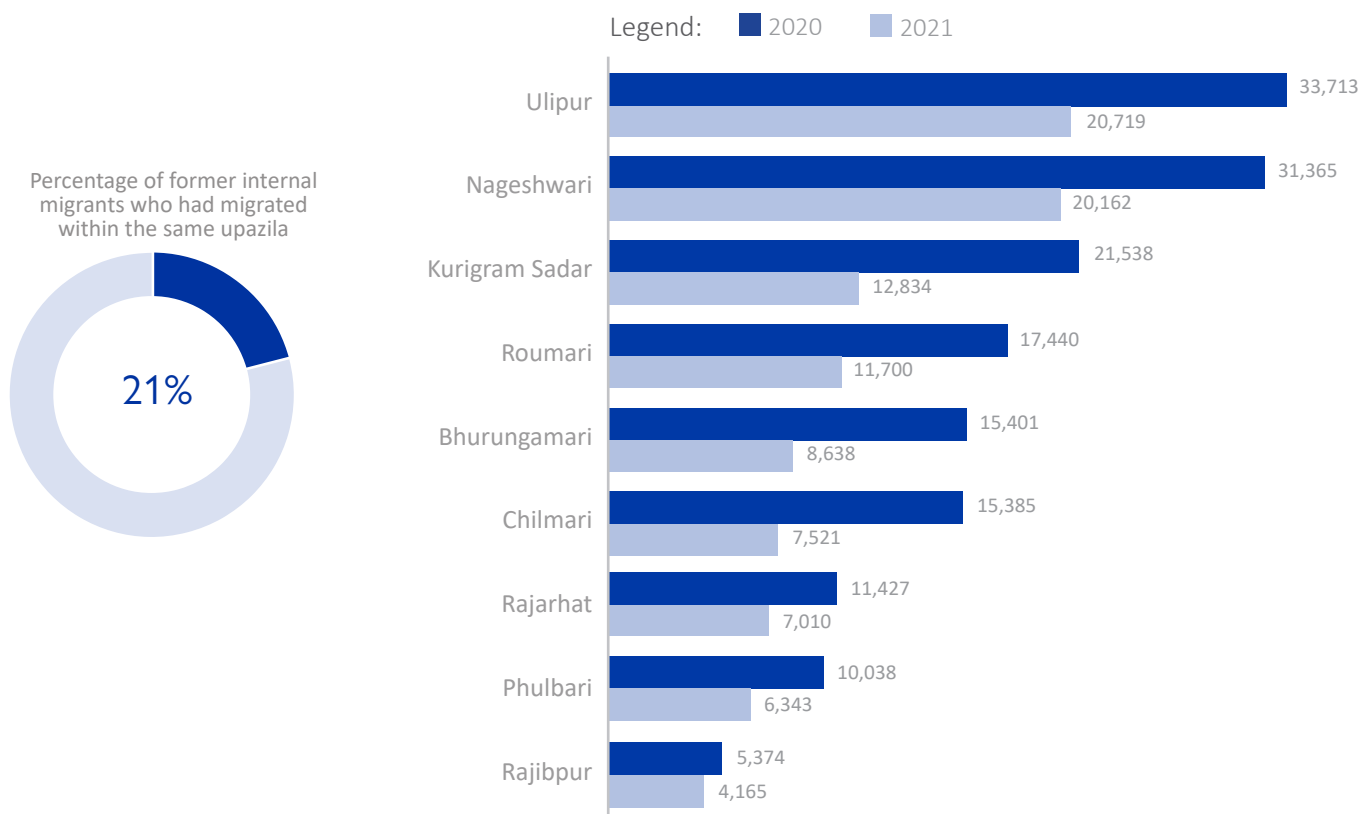
DTM REMAP key informants estimate that the total number of internal returnees who returned during 2020 and 2021 to their areas of origin in Kurigram district is 260,773. The main reasons of return are estimated as return from labour (73%), environmental and climate reasons (19%), education (6%) and marriage or divorce (2%).

Data shows 42 per cent lower labour induced internal return migration in 2021 (70,090) compared to 2020 (120,754). Additionally, environmental and climate induced internal return migration is 26 per cent lower in 2021 (21,008) compared to 2020 (28,390). Moreover, internal return migration due to education shows a decrease of 48 per cent in 2021 (5,050) compared to 2020 (9,711).

REASONS	INTERNAL RETURNEES IN 2020	INTERNAL RETURNEES IN 2021	TOTAL
Labour	120,754	70,090	190,844
Climate	28,390	21,008	49,398
Education	9,711	5,050	14,761
Marriage or Divorce	2,752	2,868	5,620
Other/ Not Known	74	76	150
Total	161,681	99,092	260,773

INTERNAL RETURNEES BY UPAZILA

Key informants estimate that 21 per cent of internal returnees had previously migrated within the same upazilas and the rest had migrated to other upazilas, districts or divisions within Bangladesh. Ulipur upazila hosts the highest numbers of internal returnees (21% of all internal returnees) who returned to their areas of origin during 2020 and 2021. Nageshwari upazila hosts the second highest numbers of returned migrants (20% of all internal returnees) who returned during 2020 and 2021. Moreover, Kurigram Sadar is the third top upazila hosting 13 per cent of all returned migrants in Kurigram district.



INTERNAL OUT-MIGRANTS

Internal out-migrants are Bangladeshi nationals who have left the assessed villages and currently reside elsewhere within Bangladesh. DTM REMAP key informants estimate that the main reasons for internal out-migration from Kurigram district during 2020 and 2021 were labour (69%), environmental and climate reasons (13%), marriage or divorce (11%) and education (7%).

Based on DTM REMAP key informants' estimates, internal out-migration from the assessed villages to other areas within Bangladesh due to labour shows a 39 per cent increase in 2021 (135,843) compared to 2020 (97,492). Climate-induced internal out-migration from assessed villages to other areas within Bangladesh shows a six per cent increase in 2021 (21,970) compared to 2020 (20,782). On the other hand, internal out-migration due to marriage or divorce increased two per cent in 2021 (18,570) compared to 2020 (14,255). In addition, education-induced internal out-migration from the assessed villages shows a significant increase of 93 per cent in 2021 (16,460) compared to 2020 (8,542).

REASONS	OUT-MIGRANTS IN 2020	OUT-MIGRANTS IN 2021	TOTAL
Labour	97,492	135,843	233,335
Climate	20,782	21,970	42,752
Marriage or Divorce	18,255	18,570	36,825
Education	8,542	16,460	25,002
Other/ Not known	413	918	1,331
Total	145,484	193,761	339,245

INTERNAL OUT-MIGRANTS BY UPAZILA

Twenty-one per cent of all internal out-migrants from Kurigram district are displaced within the same upazilas. One in five (21%) Bangladeshi nationals who left their homes in Kurigram district during 2020 and 2021 and have not returned are from Nageshwari upazila. Ulipur is the second top upazila of origin for internal out-migrants in Kurigram district. 69,033 internal out-migrants left their houses in the mentioned upazilas during 2020 and 2021 and still live in other areas within Bangladesh.

