



RAPID ASSESSMENT ROUND 3

NEEDS AND VULNERABILITIES OF INTERNATIONAL RETURN MIGRANTS IN BANGLADESH

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



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The International Organization for Migration

Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

18th Floor, Rajanakarn Building
3 South Sathorn Road, Bangkok, Thailand
Email: ROBangkok@iom.int

Bangladesh Office

House #13/A Road No. 136,
Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh
Email: iomdhaka@iom.int

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For further information:

DTM REMAP Support Team
Email: dtmremapsupport@iom.int

DTM Bangladesh:
Email: REMAPBD@iom.int

DEFINITIONS

Returnee: The term “returnee” in this document refers to former Bangladeshi migrants who returned from abroad to their point of departure within Bangladesh shortly before Round 1 of this study (May- June 2020).

ACRONYMS

BDT: Bangladeshi Taka

DTM: Displacement Tracking Matrix

IOM: International Organization for Migration

MOEWOE: Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment

NPM: Needs and Population Monitoring

REMAP: Regional Evidence for Migration Analysis and Policy

USD: United States Dollar

Statistical Notes:

When the label "Top 3 answers" or "Top 5 answers" appears above a graph, it means that the graph only visualizes the top three or top five most common answers/responses for a certain variable.

When the label “Multiple answers possible” appears above a graph, it means that a single respondent was allowed to provide more than one answer to a single question.

Numbered superscripts correspond to the Works Cited page at the end of this document. Greek letter superscripts correspond to footnotes at the bottom of each page.

The exchange rate used in this report is USD 1 = BDT 87.606 according to the UN official exchange rate as of 1 June 2022.

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 Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq and 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 Government of Bangladesh, 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.

This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of IOM and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union, the Ministry of Expatriates’ Welfare and Overseas Employment or the Government of Bangladesh as a whole.



BACKGROUND

Two years after the first cases of COVID-19 emerged in Bangladesh, the impacts of the pandemic continue to be felt in the country, albeit in smaller waves. The virus' most recent spike occurred around the start of July 2022, prompting health officials to encourage social distancing and mask wearing again¹. Lockdowns and other stricter restrictions, however, were not entertained due to their potential impact on an already strained economy². Despite the number of cases having decreased overall since the beginning of 2022, primarily due to a 70 per cent vaccination rate in the country as of May 2022³, the longitudinal economic effects of the pandemic persist among Bangladesh's vulnerable populations, including migrant returnees.

In May and June 2020, IOM, supported by the European Union under the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Regional Evidence for Migration Policy and Analysis (REMAP) project and in coordination with the Research and Policy unit of the Bangladesh Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment (MOEWOE), along with the NPM team based in Cox's Bazar, conducted a data collection exercise among 2,765 Bangladeshi international and internal return migrants in order to rapidly assess their immediate needs and vulnerabilities in the wake of COVID-19. This sample was made up of 1,486 international return migrants and 1,279 internal return migrants. Based on the findings of this first data collection exercise (Round 1), IOM conducted a second round of data collection (Round 2) in August and September 2020 among the same respondents to further enhance the understanding of the pandemic's economic impacts and challenges using longitudinal analysis. This sample included 875 international return migrants and 709 internal return migrants who had also participated in Round 1 (the sample size reduced due to participant drop out). A third round of data collection (Round 3) was initiated in May 2022 to assess the current socioeconomic situation and challenges of international return migrants in Bangladesh from an extended longitudinal perspective. Like in Round 2, the sample for Round 3 was drawn from the list of Round 1 respondents, however, enumerators only re-contacted respondents who had participated in both Round 1 and 2 and who were international return migrants. Every respondent who met these criteria was contacted via phone and asked to participate in a third interview. Enumerators had a limited number of attempts to reach each potential respondent, after which the respondent would be dropped from the Round 3 sample. Respondents who were both reachable by phone and who consented to being interviewed for Round



3 were then asked whether they currently resided in Bangladesh or not. If the respondent was currently residing in Bangladesh, they would be interviewed about their current experiences as a returnee in Bangladesh. If they were not residing in Bangladesh, they would be interviewed about their current experiences abroad as a returnee who has re-migrated. The first part of this report focuses exclusively on returnees who were residing in Bangladesh at the time of the interview (359 individuals). The last section of this report, titled "Returnees Who Have Re-migrated", focuses exclusively on returnees who were living abroad at the time of the interview (155 individuals).

Any comparative analysis included in the following report compares the exact same respondents across Rounds 1, 2 and 3 of this study. This means that the data analyzed from Rounds 1 and 2 in this report only includes the participants who also took part in Round 3 of this study. As a result, statistics presented in this report from Round 1 and Round 2 data may differ slightly from statistics presented in the published reports focusing exclusively on [Round 1](#) and [Round 2](#), since the sample sizes are different. This report uses comparative analysis between all three rounds on variables related to socioeconomic conditions, challenges experienced by respondents and future migration aspirations to understand changes in the needs and conditions of return migrants in Bangladesh during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Analysis on international returnees in Bangladesh in Round 3 highlights that, although employment and income situations have improved overall since Round 1 and Round 2, macro-economic situations related to inflation have created new challenges for respondents while perpetuating financial and debt challenges. At the same time, respondents were less likely to want to re-migrate in Round 3 compared to Rounds 1 and 2.

Analysis on international returnees who have re-migrated suggests that most respondents are not facing critical needs abroad and do not plan to return to Bangladesh soon, but still face large amounts of migration-related debt.

RETURNEES IN BANGLADESH





DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIOECONOMIC PROFILE OF RETURNEES

KEY DEMOGRAPHIC FIGURES

| | |
|--|-----|
| Total number of women | 17 |
| Total number of men | 342 |
| Average number of household members | 5.6 |
| Average number of household breadwinners | 1.3 |

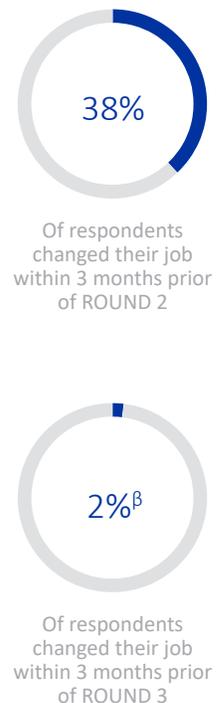
The majority of the 359 international returnees currently residing in Bangladesh were men (95%). Households among returnees included an average of 5.6 members and each household had an average of 1.3 breadwinners (people who earn money for the household).

The unemployment rate among returnees decreased considerably since the Round 1 assessment. Unemployment in Round 1 reached 68 per cent, but dropped sharply to 52 per cent by the time Round 2 was conducted three months later. These percentages reflect the immediate and short-term impacts of return to Bangladesh during the COVID-19 pandemic. In Round 3, the unemployment rate dropped to 14 per cent among respondents, demonstrating a degree of recovery among respondent job situations. It should be noted, however, that this percentage is still nearly triple the average unemployment rate of Bangladesh, which stood at 5.2 per cent as of 2021⁴. Meanwhile, job stability has increased since Round 2^a. Thirty-eight per cent of respondents in Round 2 had switched jobs in the preceding three months, compared to two per cent^b in Round 3. Respondents mainly cited employers not having work for them and COVID-19 concerns as reasons for changing jobs during Round 2.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE



JOB STABILITY^a

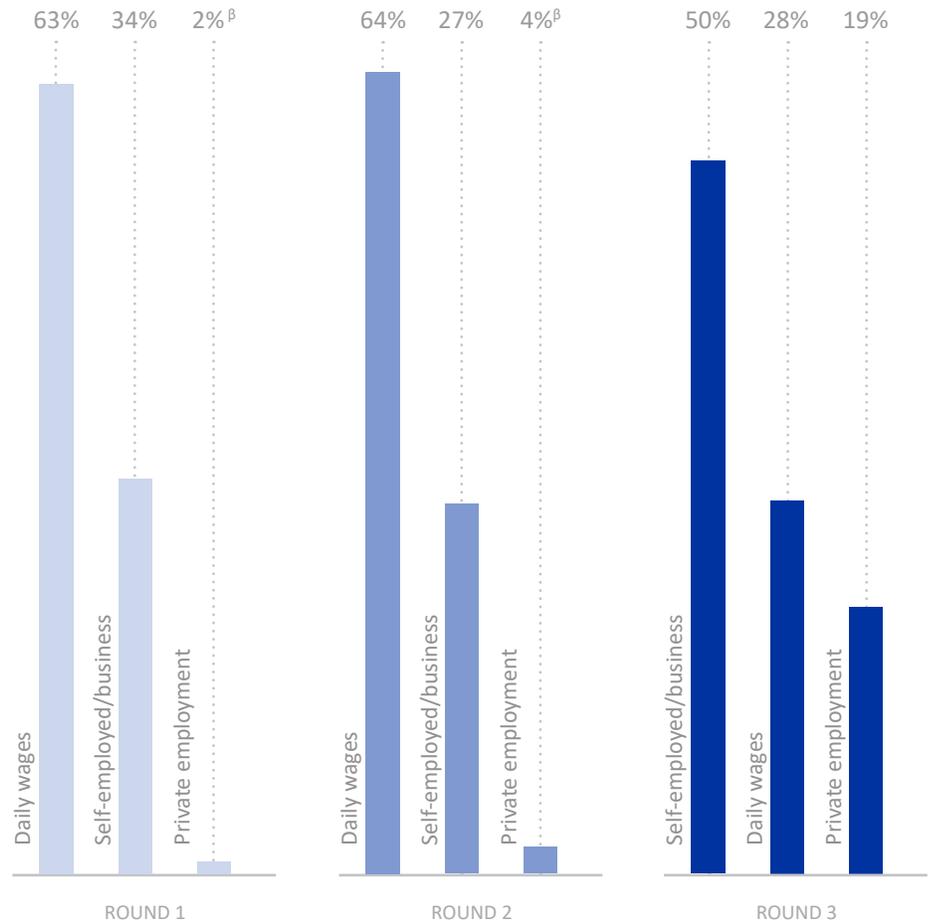


^a This question was not asked during Round 1.
^b Statistic represents less than 10 individuals.



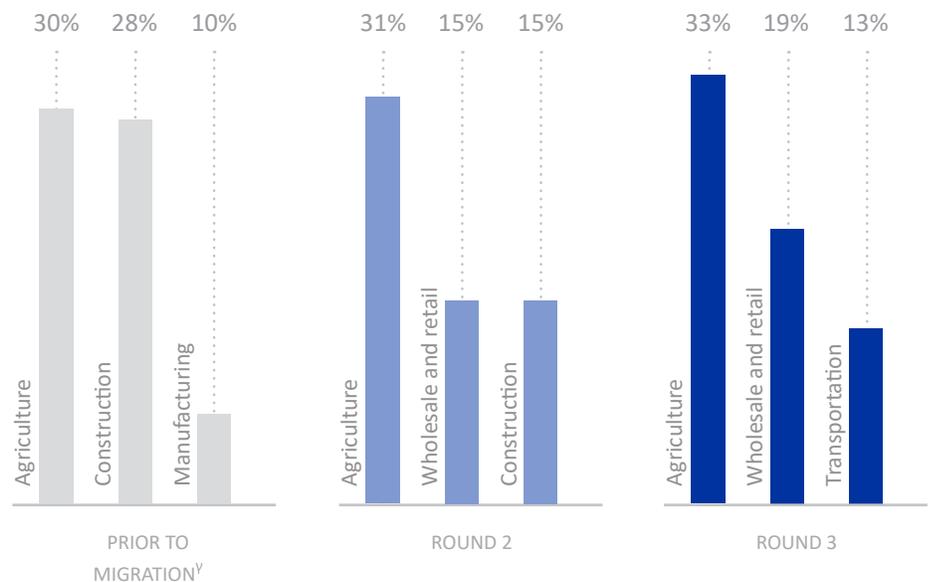
Among employed returnees, the main types of employment have shifted between Rounds 1 and 2 and Round 3. In particular, daily wages used to be the most common type of employment among employed respondents by a large margin. Working for daily wages is an inherently insecure method of income earning, with daily wage workers often facing an unpredictable work schedule, work type and weekly or monthly income estimate. Over 60 per cent of employed returnees worked as daily wage earners during Rounds 1 and 2 (63% and 64%, respectively), followed by returnees who were self-employed or ran a business (34% in Round 1 and 27% in Round 2). A handful of returnees in both rounds were privately employed (2% in Round 1 and 4% in Round 2). In Round 3, however, the most common type of employment was self-employment (50%). The percentage of international returnees working for daily wages dropped to 28 per cent while the percentage of those privately employed rose to 19 per cent. These changes represent a stabilization trend among work situations of respondents.

TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT AMONG EMPLOYED RETURNÉES (TOP 3 ANSWERS)



Prior to migrating abroad, most employed respondents worked in agriculture, construction or manufacturing^γ. By Round 3, the most common occupational sectors were agriculture, wholesale and retail trade and transportation. Twelve per cent of respondents in Round 3 also worked in construction. Daily wage workers in Round 3 were more likely to work in agriculture and construction compared to respondents who were self- or privately employed. Notably, while the service industry is the most common occupational sector in Bangladesh⁵, agriculture dominated the economy among returnees.

OCCUPATIONAL SECTOR AMONG EMPLOYED RETURNÉES (TOP 3 ANSWERS)

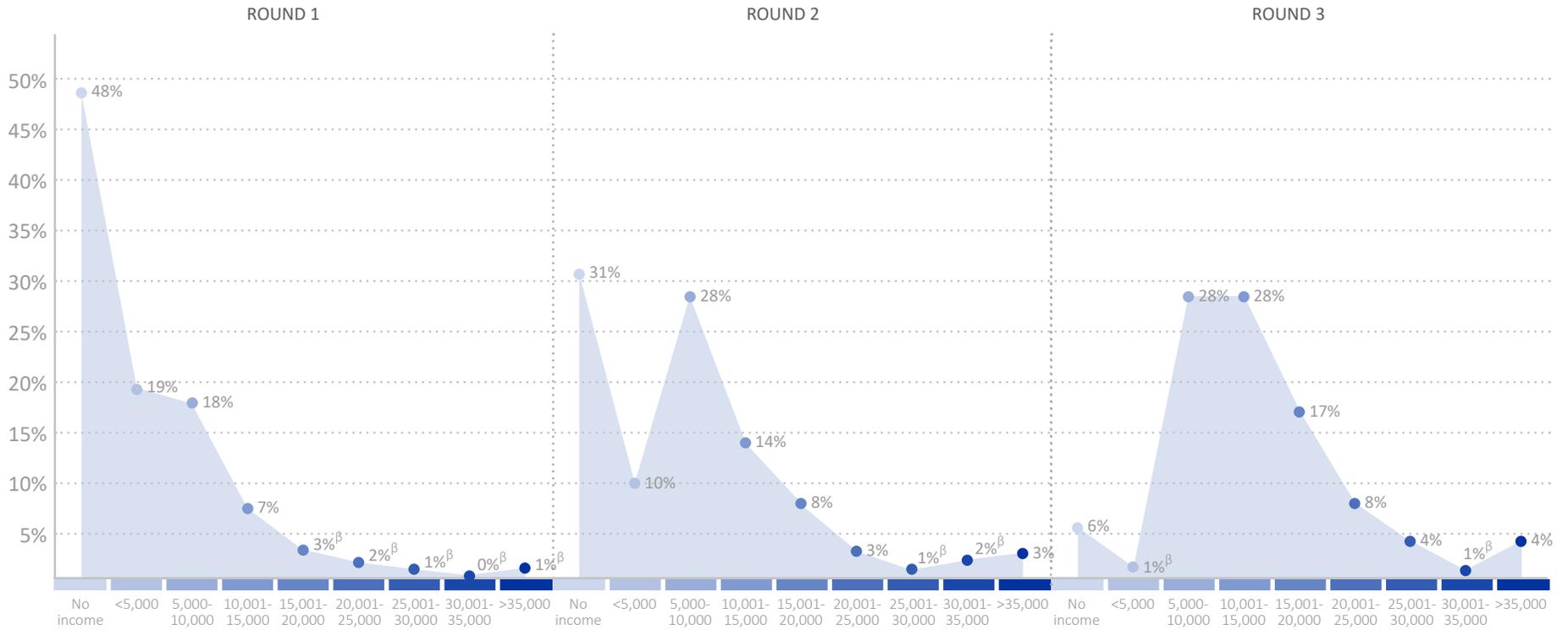


^β Statistic represents less than 10 individuals.

^γ Current occupational sector was not asked during Round 1. Instead, participants were asked about their occupational sector prior to migration and their preferred occupational sector.



AVERAGE TOTAL HOUSEHOLD MONTHLY INCOME IN BDT[†]



Respondent households in Rounds 1 and 2 were most frequently earning no income (48% and 31%, respectively). However, there was a noticeable upward shift in income levels between Rounds 1 and 2. This trend continued in Round 3, during which respondent households were most frequently earning between 5,000 and 15,000 BDT (57.07 and 171.22 USD) per month (56%). The proportion of respondent households not earning any income dropped to six per cent in Round 3. Returnees in Round 3 were also asked whether their household’s monthly income was enough to provide for their basic needs, to which 82 per cent responded that it was not. In addition to the majority of respondent household income levels being lower than the national average throughout all three rounds⁶, the high percentage of households not being able to sustain themselves correlates with rising inflation rates since the beginning of 2022⁷. Some respondents from households earning no income noted that they were able to support themselves using savings, loans and assistance from friends and neighbors.

IS YOUR AVERAGE MONTHLY HOUSEHOLD INCOME ENOUGH TO PROVIDE FOR YOUR HOUSEHOLD’S BASIC NEEDS?



^β Statistic represents less than 10 individuals.



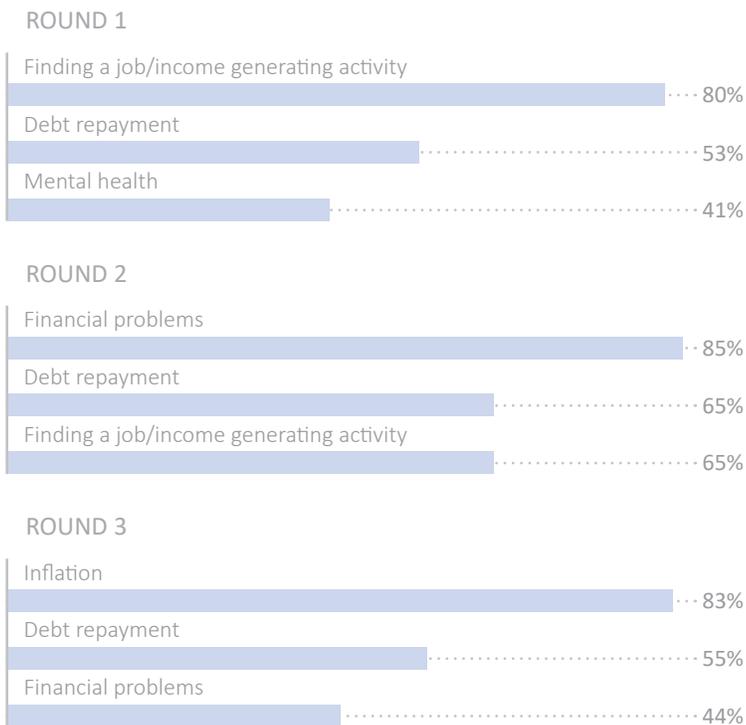
CHALLENGES

HAVE YOU FACED ANY CHALLENGES IN YOUR COMMUNITY IN THE LAST 3 MONTHS?



Despite the lack of lockdowns and mobility restrictions for several months prior to the implementation of Round 3, challenges among respondents not only persisted but increased in frequency. Nearly all respondents reported facing challenges in their communities in Round 3 (93%), as opposed to 76 per cent in Round 2 and 54 per cent in Round 1.

MAIN CHALLENGES (TOP 3 ANSWERS, MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)



The reason for this jump in challenges is most likely due to the country-wide inflation that has affected Bangladesh since early 2022. In May, the national inflation rate achieved an eight-year high of 7.42 per cent⁸. This is reflected in respondent answers to, "What are your main challenges?" for Round 3, for which 83 per cent of respondents cited inflation as one of their top challenges. Respondent answers to questions about price changes of food, rent, utilities and public transportation depict a similar story. For nearly every item, almost all respondents report a price increase. Nineteen per cent of respondents answered, "I do not know" when asked about price changes regarding rent because they lived in villages or towns where most residents do not rent their housing.

Debt repayment and financial problems were persistent challenges throughout all three rounds, while the challenge of finding a job became less prominent in Round 3. This is reinforced by the reduced unemployment rate among respondents in Round 3.

HOW HAVE THE PRICES OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS CHANGED OVER THE LAST 3 MONTHS?

| ITEM | INCREASED | STAYED THE SAME | DECREASED | I DO NOT KNOW |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| FOOD | 100% | 0% ^β | 0% ^β | 0% ^β |
| PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION | 96% | 3% | 1% ^β | 0% ^β |
| UTILITIES | 95% | 3% ^β | 2% ^β | 0% ^β |
| RENT | 75% | 5% | 1% ^β | 19% |

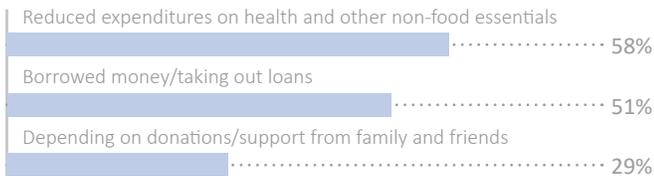
^β Statistic represents less than 10 individuals.



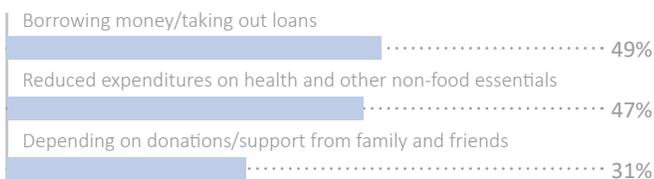
COPING MECHANISMS (TOP 3 ANSWERS, MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)^α

ROUND 2

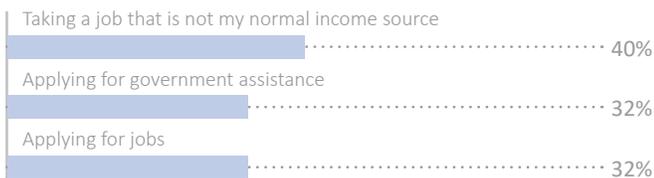
COPING MECHANISMS FOR FINANCIAL PROBLEMS



COPING MECHANISMS FOR DEBT REPAYMENT



COPING MECHANISMS FOR FINDING A JOB



ROUND 3

COPING MECHANISMS FOR INFLATION



COPING MECHANISMS FOR DEBT REPAYMENT



COPING MECHANISMS FOR FINANCIAL PROBLEMS



In Rounds 2 and 3, respondents were asked to identify the most common coping mechanisms they used to address the main challenges they experienced. Coping mechanisms in response to financial problems and debt repayment stayed somewhat consistent between Rounds 2 and 3, with similar coping mechanism appearing in slightly different proportions across rounds. In response to both of these challenges, respondents most commonly reduced expenditures on health and other non-food essentials as well as borrowed money or took out loans. Despite a positive change in respondent employment and income situations by Round 3, the persistence of needing to reduce expenditure on critical items and reinforce debts by taking loans suggests an enduring state of vulnerability among respondents. While the above visualization only illustrates the top three most common coping mechanisms to the top three most common challenges, using earnings and savings was another important coping mechanism in response to financial challenges and debt repayment in both Round 2 and Round 3.

Meanwhile, the most common coping mechanisms for inflation included buying fewer units of items affected by inflation (79%), buying cheaper/poorer quality items affected by inflation (different brand, same item) (67%) and reducing spending on other goods in order to afford items affected by inflation (44%). Other important methods that respondents used to address inflation were buying alternative items to replace items affected by inflation (28%) and buying items affected by inflation less frequently (16%).

While finding a job was not a common challenge during Round 3 (10%), seven per cent of respondents specified that they were employed already but were facing the challenge of seeking a better or more stable income generating activity. The coping mechanisms used to address this challenge were similar to those used to address finding a job, particularly: applying for jobs and taking jobs that were below the respondents' skills or standards.

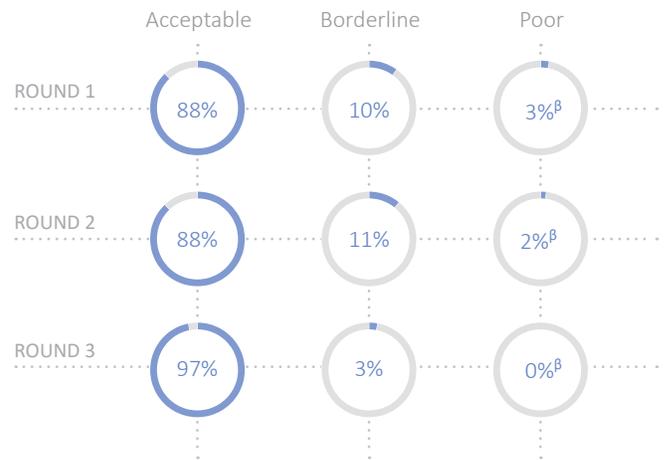
^α This question was not asked during Round 1.



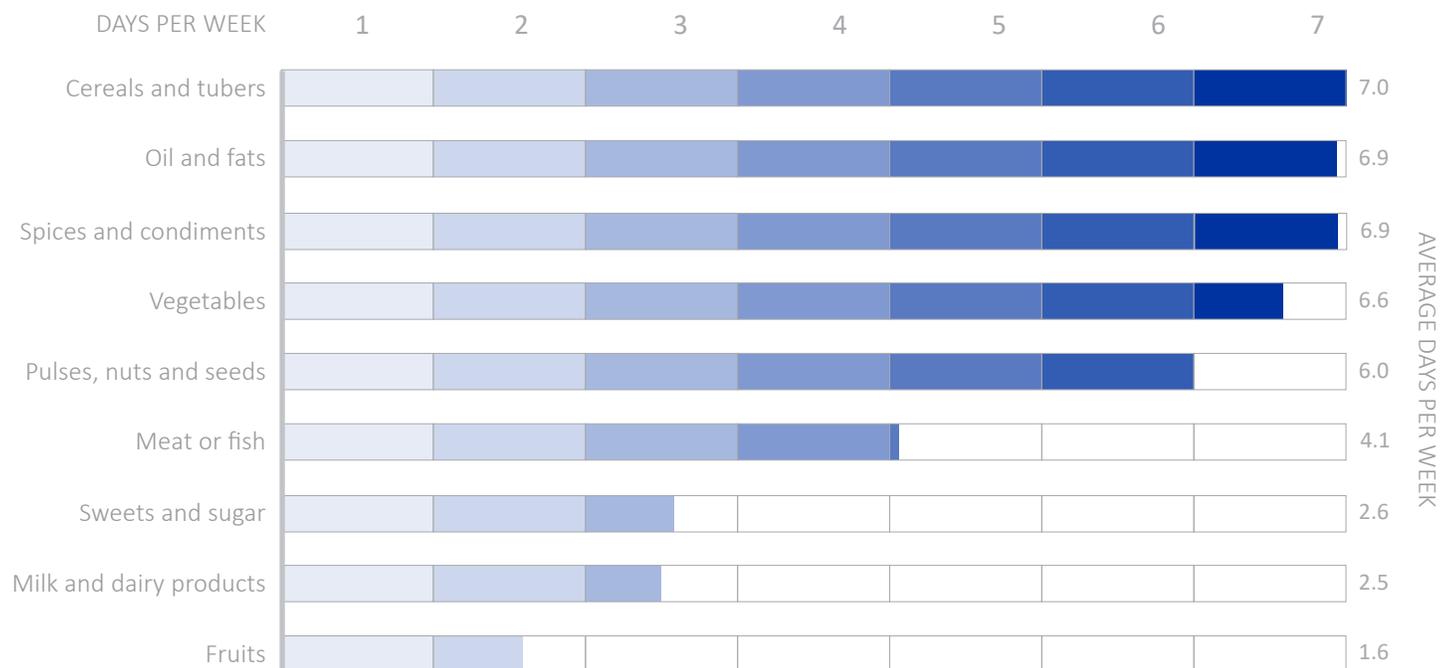
The Food Consumption Score (FCS), a measure used to indicate households' dietary diversity and nutrition intake, was calculated for each round based on the frequency of consumption of various food groups. While the majority of returnees have fallen into the "Acceptable" FCS category throughout all rounds, that proportion increased in Round 3 to 97 per cent. The percentage of respondents in the "Borderline" category dropped from 10 per cent in Round 1 and 11 per cent in Round 2 to 3 per cent^β in Round 3. Additionally, only one respondent fell into the "Poor" category in Round 3 (amounting to 0.3%^β of the sample).

Despite many respondents noting the large increase in the price of cooking oil in recent months, oil and fats were still consumed nearly daily (6.9 average days per week). As discussed in the Challenges chapter, this is most likely made possible by coping mechanisms used to reduce the amount or price of purchased oils. Staples in Bangladeshi diets like cereals and tubers, spices and condiments and vegetables were consumed most frequently (7.0, 6.9 and 6.6 average days per week, respectively). Fruits, dairy products and sugar were consumed least frequently (1.6, 2.5 and 2.6 average days per week, respectively).

FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE



FOOD CONSUMPTION BY TYPE



^β Statistic represents less than 10 individuals.

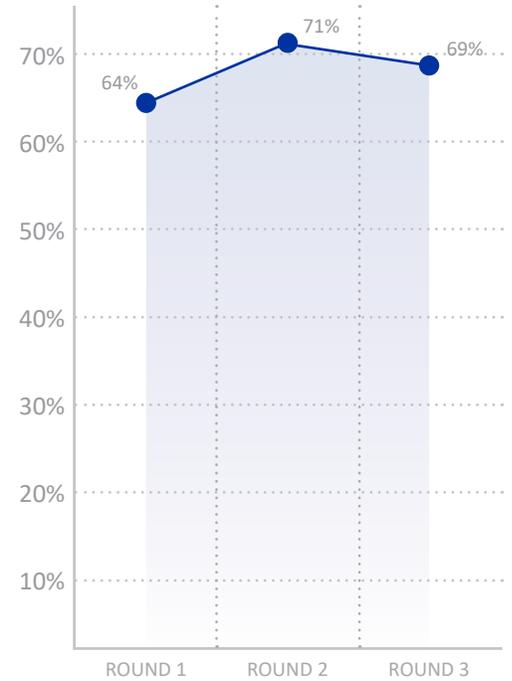


DEBT

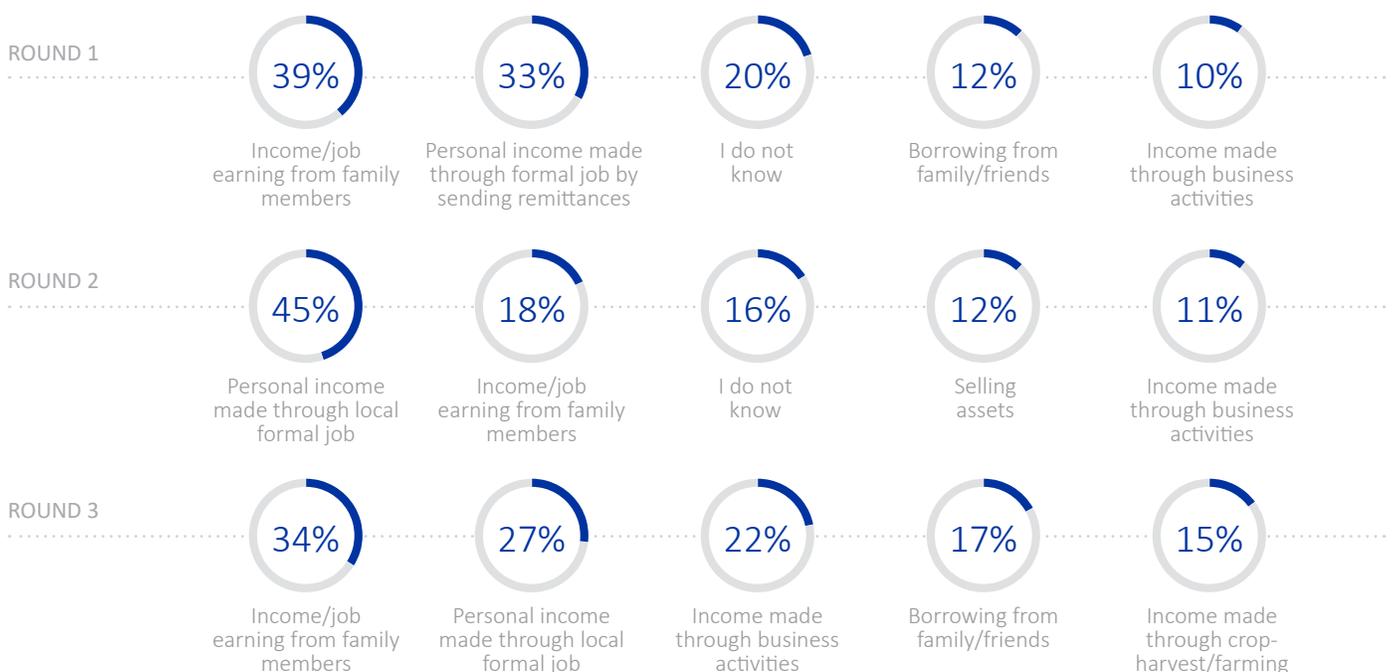
The percentage of returnees who reported having debt increased between Rounds 1 and 2 from 64 per cent to 71 per cent, but Round 3 saw a minor drop to 69 per cent. Average debt amounts among respondents followed a similar pattern across rounds. The average debt amount in Round 1 was 170,469 BDT (1,945.86 USD), which increased to 214,430 BDT (2,447.66 USD) in Round 2. This number decreased slightly in Round 3 to 207,000 BDT (2,362.85 USD).

Debt repayment methods shifted between the three rounds. Respondents in Round 1 planned to rely most heavily on earnings from family members (39%), followed by their own personal income from remittances (33%). The latter method suggests that respondents anticipated re-migrating relatively soon in order to begin re-generating remittances. By Round 2, 45 per cent of respondents planned to pay their debts with their personal income, not from remittances, but rather, from their local formal jobs. This method is once again prominent in Round 3 (27%), as are other methods involving self-generated income, such as business activities (22%) and crop-harvesting or farming (15%). In addition, using social networks for support was a common method for debt repayment throughout all rounds. Four per cent of returnees in Round 3 planned to re-migrate in order to repay their debts.

PERCENTAGE OF RETURNEES WITH DEBT



HOW DO YOU PLAN TO REPAY YOUR DEBT? (TOP 5 ANSWERS, MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)





FUTURE MIGRATION ASPIRATIONS OF RETURNEES

DO YOU WANT TO RE-MIGRATE?



YES
ROUND 1



YES
ROUND 2



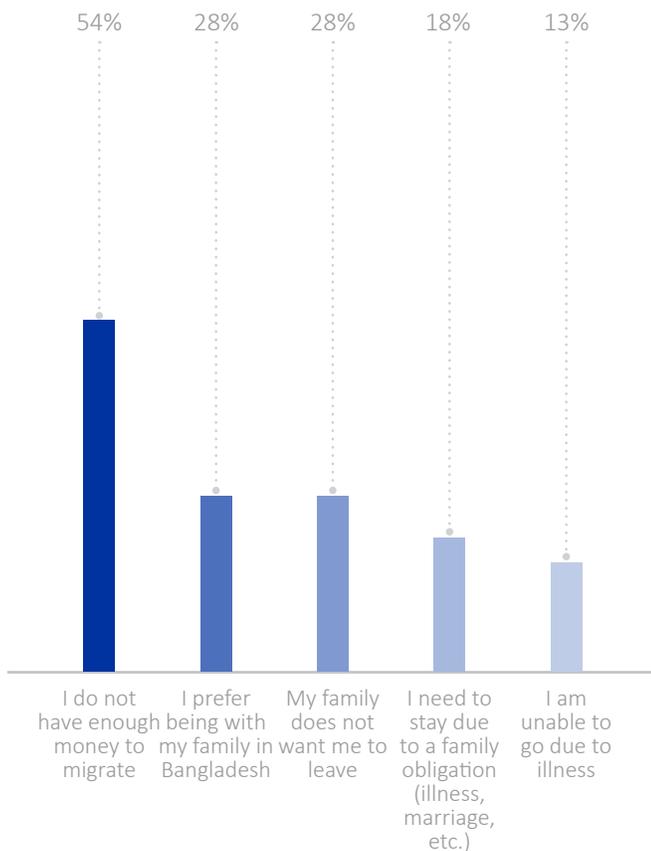
YES
ROUND 3

Compared to Rounds 1 and 2, a significantly smaller proportion of respondents wanted to re-migrate internationally during Round 3. Round 1 saw 67 per cent of returnees wanting to re-migrate abroad, a proportion that increased to 71 per cent in Round 2 and dropped to 43 per cent in Round 3.

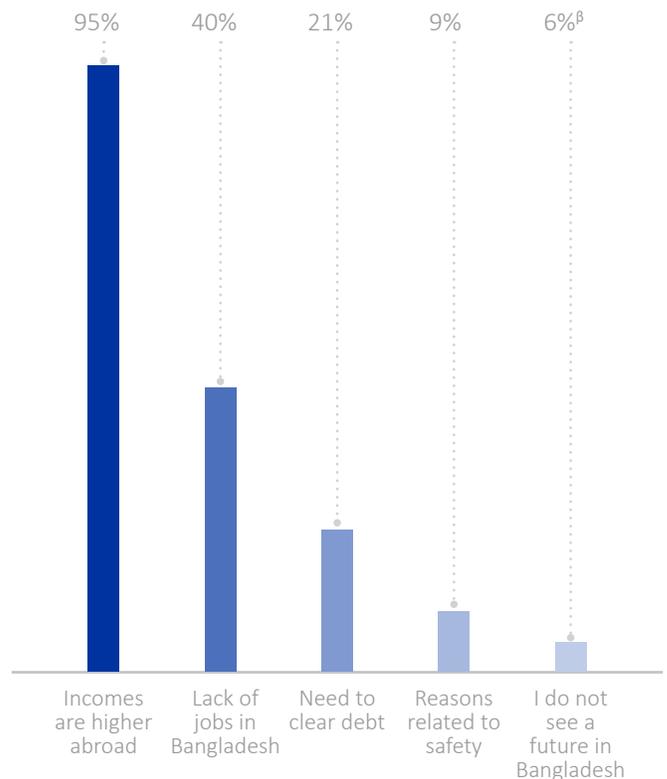
Respondents who did not want to re-migrate abroad were asked to identify their main reasons for not wanting to re-migrate. According to their answers, 54 per cent did not have enough funds or other means to migrate. Additionally, 74 per cent of respondents referred to a family-related reason when asked why they did not want to re-migrate. Thirteen per cent cited having an illness that made them unable to re-migrate.

Respondents who did want to re-migrate abroad were asked for their main reasons for wanting to do so. The most common motivating factor was incomes being higher outside of Bangladesh (95%). This was followed by the lack of jobs in Bangladesh (40%) and the need to clear remaining debt (21%).

IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO RE-MIGRATE, WHY NOT? (TOP 5 ANSWERS, MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)



IF YOU WANT TO RE-MIGRATE, WHY? (TOP 5 ANSWERS, MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)



^β Statistic represents less than 10 individuals.



WHERE DO YOU WANT TO RE-MIGRATE?

| REGIONS | ROUND 1 | ROUND 2 | ROUND 3 |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| South Asia | 43% | 43% | 20% |
| Middle East | 38% | 36% | 39% |
| Southeast Asia | 11% | 13% | 8% |
| Europe | 6% | 5% | 12% |
| Other | 2% ^β | 2% ^β | 1% ^β |
| I do not know | 1% ^β | 0% ^β | 20% |

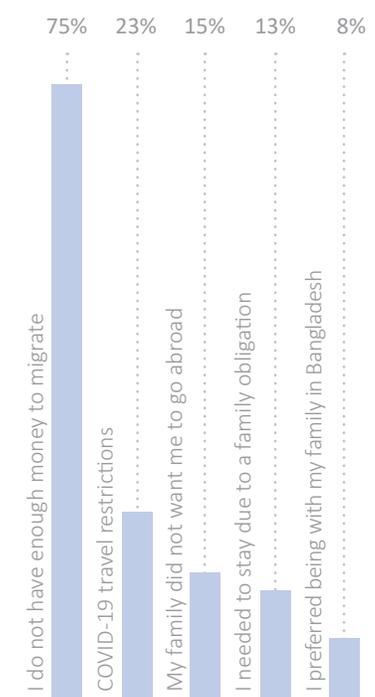
WHEN DO YOU WANT TO RE-MIGRATE?

| TIMELINES | ROUND 1 | ROUND 2 | ROUND 3 |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Within four weeks | 1% ^β | 3% ^β | 7% |
| Within two to three months | 3% ^β | 8% | 20% |
| Within four to six months | 2% ^β | 5% | 24% |
| After more than six months | 1% | 2% ^β | 14% |
| After COVID-19 ends | 86% | 58% | 1% ^β |
| I do not know | 8% | 24% | 35% |

CHANGES IN RE-MIGRATION PLANS



69% of respondents had planned to re-migrate in Round 2, but had still not re-migrated by Round 3.



If you wanted to re-migrate in Round 2, but still did not re-migrate by Round 3, why didn't you re-migrate? (top 5 answers, multiple answers possible)

Intended destinations among respondents who wanted to re-migrate abroad were most popularly Middle East and South Asian countries in all three rounds. However, Middle East countries were more popular than South Asian countries in Round 3, whereas South Asian countries were more popular than Middle East countries in Rounds 1 and 2. Likewise, respondents cited European countries more frequently than Southeast Asian countries in Round 3 while the opposite was true for Rounds 1 and 2. Another notable difference between rounds is that 20 per cent of respondents in Round 3 said they did not know where they want to re-migrate. In Rounds 1 and 2, this percentage was zero.

Intended timelines for re-migration changed considerably. Rounds 1 and 2 saw the majority of respondents (86% and 58%, respectively) intending to migrate "After COVID-19 ends," whereas one per cent of respondents intended the same during Round 3. Instead, larger proportions of respondents in Round 3 had more concrete timelines, with 20 per cent wanting to re-migrate in two to three months, 24 per cent in four to six months and 14 per cent after six months. This may be due to the gradual global reduction of mobility restrictions and lockdown measures in the last year. However, the proportion of respondents who did not know when they wanted to re-migrate continued to increase from 24 per cent in Round 2 to 35 per cent in Round 3.

Respondents were also asked about changes in their plans regarding re-migration. Sixty-nine per cent of respondents had reported wanting to re-migrate during the Round 2 survey, but had not yet re-migrated by the Round 3 survey (2% of respondents wanted to re-migrate in Round 2 and did re-migrate abroad after Round 2, returning to Bangladesh before Round 3. 29% did not want to re-migrate during Round 2 and did not re-migrate by Round 3). The top two reasons for not re-migrating despite the former desire to do so were lack of funds to migrate (75%) and COVID-19 travel restrictions (23%). Over one third of respondents also referred to a family-related reason for remaining in Bangladesh, such as family desires for the respondent to stay in Bangladesh (15%), family obligations such as getting married or taking care of elderly parents or children (13%) and respondent desires to stay with their family in Bangladesh (8%).

^β Statistic represents less than 10 individuals.

RETURNEES WHO HAVE RE-MIGRATED





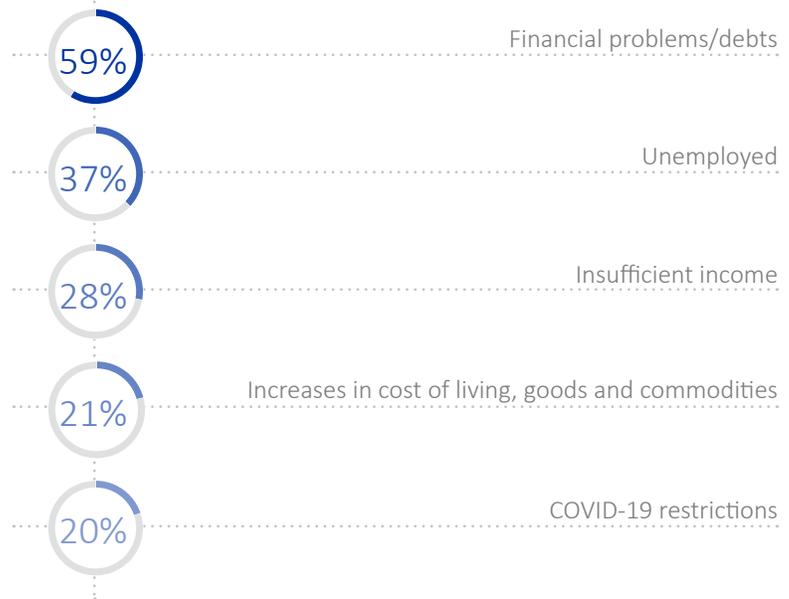
REASONS FOR RE-MIGRATION

During the implementation of data collection for Round 3 of this study, interviews were conducted with both returnees who were residing in Bangladesh and returnees who had re-migrated since Round 2 and were living abroad. The following pages of this report will focus on the needs, conditions and drivers of migration of the 155 respondents who were living abroad at the time of the interview.

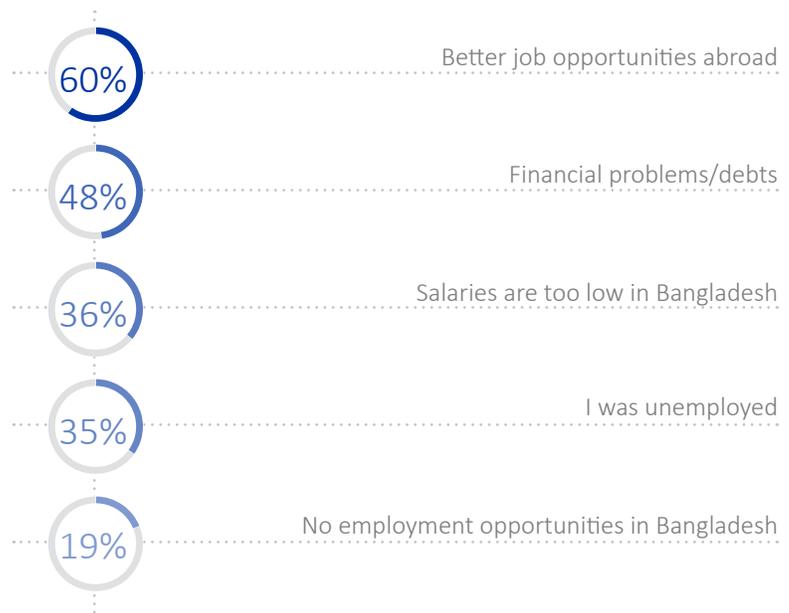
Respondents were asked to identify the main challenges they faced prior to re-migrating from Bangladesh. Fifty-nine per cent of respondents cited financial problems and debts as one of their main challenges, followed by unemployment (37%), insufficient income (28%), increases in the cost of living including goods and commodities (21%) and COVID-19 restrictions (20%). It should be noted that 76 per cent of respondents who re-migrated since Round 2 did so between seven months and 1.5 years prior to the Round 3 interview (May-June 2022), during which Bangladesh was still implementing COVID-19 restriction measures. Bangladesh's last major lockdown ended nine months prior to the initiation of Round 3.

Respondents were also asked about their main reasons for deciding to leave Bangladesh. These aligned closely with the challenges they were experiencing prior to migration, with top answers including better job opportunities abroad (60%), financial problems and debts (48%), low salaries in Bangladesh (36%), unemployment (35%) and a lack of employment opportunities in Bangladesh (19%). These answers are consistent with IOM's Bangladesh Survey on Drivers of Migration, which highlighted the lack of livelihood opportunities in Bangladesh and financial problems as major motivating factors to migrate⁹.

WHAT WERE YOUR TOP CHALLENGES PRIOR TO RE-MIGRATION? (TOP 5 ANSWERS, MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)



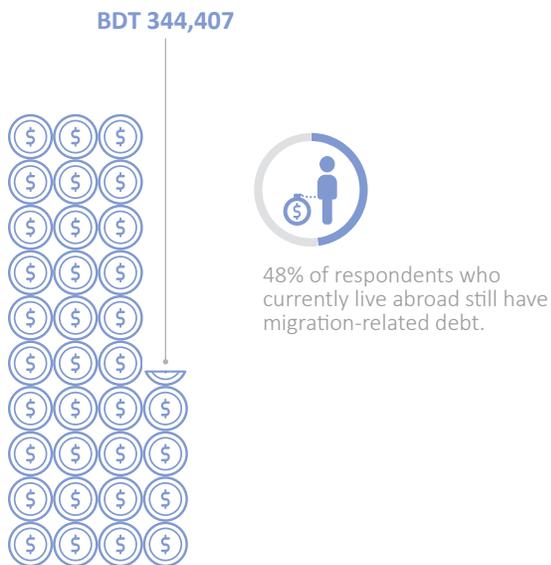
WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO LEAVE BANGLADESH? (TOP 5 ANSWERS, MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)





AVERAGE COST OF MIGRATION AMONG RETURNEES

⌘ = 10,000 BDT

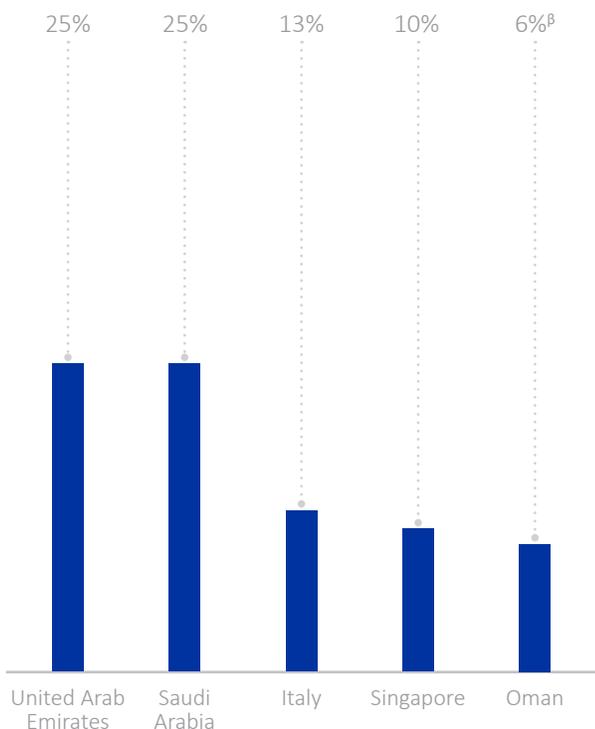


Respondents paid an average of 344,407 BDT (3,931.32 USD) for migration-related costs such as transportation, visas, mediation fees, registration fees and lodging. At the time of interview, nearly half of respondents still had migration-related debt.

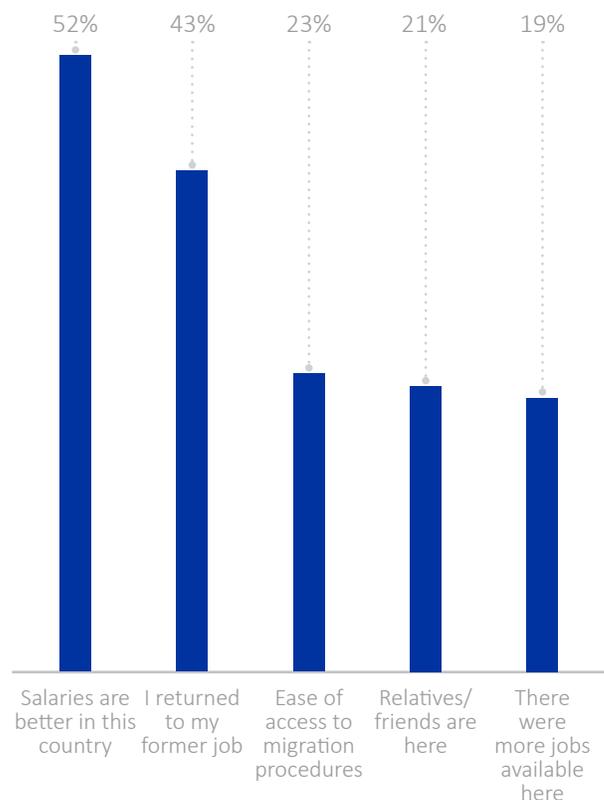
Half of all respondents were residing in the United Arab Emirates or Saudi Arabia at the time of the interview. Thirteen per cent were living in Italy, 10 per cent in Singapore and six per cent^β in Oman. These destinations generally align with intended destinations cited in Round 2, for which Middle East countries and Southeast Asian countries were popular choices. However, re-migrations to South Asia were notably absent at the time of interview, despite the popularity of the destination in Round 2.

When asked why they chose their country of re-migration, respondents' most common answer was that salaries were higher there than in Bangladesh (52%). Forty-three per cent of respondents also cited returning to their former jobs, demonstrating the use of existing job networks to facilitate re-migration.

COUNTRIES OF RE-MIGRATION
(TOP 5 ANSWERS)



WHY DID YOU CHOOSE YOUR COUNTRY OF RE-MIGRATION?
(TOP 5 ANSWERS, MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)



^β Statistic represents less than 10 individuals.



Respondents were asked to identify their most urgent needs in their current situations, to which nearly half reported that they had no needs. This suggests a degree of satisfaction with re-migration situations among returnees who re-migrated. Better working conditions, including shorter hours, better provision of food and water and better management, were cited by 18 per cent of respondents as their most urgent need in their current locations. Payment of agreed salaries was cited by 12 per cent of respondents, meaning they were experiencing late or reduced payments.

The majority of returnees who re-migrated had lived in their country of re-migration for more than six months prior to being interviewed during Round 3 (May-June 2022) (76%). Almost all were employed (98%), with most working in the formal sector (72%) and about a quarter working in the informal sector (26%). The most common occupational sectors among employed returnees who re-migrated were construction (32%), manufacturing and factory work (15%) and hospitality and restaurant work (13%). Construction and factory work were more common among respondents living

in the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Singapore, while work in the hospitality industry was more common among respondents living in Italy. Most respondents reported sending remittances to Bangladesh (89%). Those not sending remittances were more likely to have re-migrated abroad for less than 6 months prior to being interviewed.

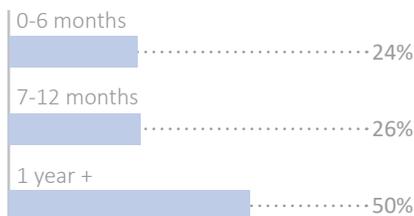
The majority of respondents living abroad did not want to return to Bangladesh within 6 months (86%). Among those who did want to return to Bangladesh, 65 per cent had the means, including travel documents and funds, to do so.

URGENT NEEDS (TOP 3 ANSWERS, MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)



CONDITIONS

How long have you been living in the country of re-migration?



Employment status



Occupational sector among employed respondents (top 3 answers)



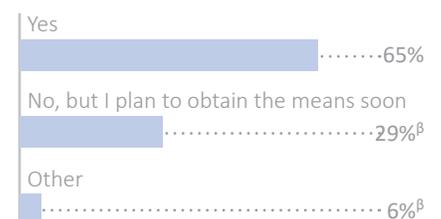
Are you sending remittances?



Do you want to return to Bangladesh in the next 6 months?



If you want to return, do you have the means (travel documents, funds) to do so?



^β Statistic represents less than 10 individuals.



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