

MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT:

A WORLD IN MOTION

Fieldwork Report Afghanistan:

Methodology and Sampling

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Project background

The migration and development project in Afghanistan is part of the *Migration and Development: A World in Motion* project, financed by the Dutch ministry of Foreign Affairs (IS Academy on Migration and Development) and carried out by the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance, Maastricht University, the Netherlands. This project focuses on migration and development processes in four migrant-sending countries: Afghanistan, Burundi, Ethiopia, and Morocco. The Netherlands is chosen as the migrant-receiving country. The main aim of the research project is to better understand the relationship between migration and development processes in order to stimulate new approaches to development. This project will contribute to existing knowledge on the migration and development nexus by collecting innovative data and providing evidence-based policy advices for the both the Dutch government and policy makers in migrant-sending countries. For more details see:

www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/web/Schools/MGSoG/ProjectPages/ISAcademieMigrationDevelopment.html



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1. Introduction

The Migration and Development project in Afghanistan is part of the *IS Academy: Migration and Development: A World in Motion* project. This project is implemented by the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance, Maastricht University (and its partners) and financed by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This five-year project, which was launched in 2009, investigates the relationship between migration and development through the collection of data in Afghanistan, Burundi, Ethiopia, and Morocco as well as data on migrants from these countries currently living in the Netherlands. The information collected will help guide more robust, evidence-based migration and development policy in the future. Within this project there are five key focal areas:

- a) Remittances, development (local economic growth) and poverty alleviation;
- b) Brain drain and development policy;
- c) Return migration in the life cycle of migrants;
- d) The Migration – Development Nexus in EU External Relations;
- e) EU Mobility partnerships: a comparative policy evaluation.

The Migration and Development Project in Afghanistan specifically addresses focal areas a, b and c. To achieve this, the research explores different types of migration and their impact on development outcomes through the use of survey tools. Key aspects of this research include developing an understanding of who migrants are; reviewing the determinants of both migration and remittances; identifying those who are returning to the country and how their skills distribution may have different developmental impacts and so forth.

In order to collect data useful for investigating these key issues, the survey used included a number of different modules that addressed these themes. The survey modules address key thematic areas such as migration, remittances and return while simultaneously gathering key contextual data on, for example, education, shocks and health. This allows for critical reflection on the relationships between different aspects of migration and development, where development is also largely viewed in terms of human development. For a detailed discussion of definitions and modules used in the survey please see Chapter 5 of this report.

The IS Academy Survey in Afghanistan

The fieldwork in Afghanistan was completed between mid-March and mid-May 2011. A total of 2000 Household Surveys were completed in five provinces of Afghanistan. The surveys were conducted in partnership with Samuel Hall Consulting.

This report describes the methodology that was applied for the fieldwork in Afghanistan and discusses the sampling procedures. First, a brief country context is presented in Chapter 2. In Chapter 3 the sampling procedures are discussed as well as the intra-household selection of respondents. Chapter 4 gives an overview of the preparations for the fieldwork, such as the training of the enumerators, the pilot survey and practical issues such as asking permission from local authorities. Chapter 5, finally, gives an overview of the measurement tools that were used in this study.

2. Country Context

2.1 Geography and population

Afghanistan is a low-income country covering approximately 650,000 square kilometres. It is located in South Asia and has borders with the Islamic Republic of Iran (hereafter Iran), Pakistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and a small enclave borders with China. In 2011 the population of Afghanistan was approximately 35 million (World Bank 2011), although this number has seen many fluctuations in recent decades.



2.2 Migration statistics

Mobility has been a key feature of Afghan history, involving migration for both seasonal and permanent employment and, at times, to seek refuge. These transient populations have been shown to contribute economically and socially to both host and origin countries. Records show that Afghans have been migrating primarily to neighbouring countries Iran and Pakistan for centuries, though more recently have also been travelling further afield, including to North America, the European Union and Australia. Unwilling migration of Afghans occurs largely due to natural disasters and conflict, but also occurs through the trafficking of persons, especially children, either within Afghanistan for labour and the sex industry, or in significant numbers to Iran and Pakistan. A long history of poppy production in Afghanistan and associated experience

of smuggling of narcotics across the border has contributed to the existence of cross-border networks also used for human trafficking operations. Moreover, human rights violations like domestic violence, forced marriages, child marriages and child abuse commonly occur in Afghanistan. This creates an environment where human trafficking is tolerated and may even be fostered.

The first large wave of outmigration from Afghanistan was caused by the Soviet invasion in 1979. In the ten years that followed, the resistant mujahedeen fought against the Soviet forces causing large-scale emigration flows throughout the decade (Stigter, 2006). Pakistan and Iran were the main destination countries of these Afghan refugees due to their geographic proximity, as well as similarities in language, culture and religion (Ashrafi & Moghissi, 2002). The majority of refugees originated from rural areas and tried to escape bombing and combat (Monsutti, 2006). Between 1979 and 1989 about 2.6 million Afghans crossed the border to Iran. At that time, the Iranian government welcomed their Afghan neighbours and handed out “blue cards” which provided Afghan refugees in Iran with access to education, healthcare, food and granted permission to engage in low-wage labour. Of the 2.6 million Afghans that came to Iran during the Soviet occupation, only 5-10 per cent lived in refugee camps, while most settled in rural and urban areas in eastern Iran (Abbasi-Shavazi et al., 2005). The Soviet occupation in 1979 also triggered a mass movement of Afghans across the border to Pakistan. Over 1.5 million Afghans are known to have crossed this border between 1979 and 1980 (Government of Pakistan & UNHCR, 2005). The large numbers can mainly be explained by the strong cross-border ties among Pashtun tribes in the south and east of Afghanistan that fled to their tribal kin across the border in Pakistan. Most Afghans in these areas were Sunni, as was a large share of the Pakistani population across the border. Shia Hazaras also crossed the border to Pakistani cities with large Shia populations via routes that had been used by labour migrants for decades (International Crisis Group, 2009). Between 1981 and 1985 the war in Afghanistan intensified and caused many to flee the country to Pakistan.

The victory of the mujahedeen in 1992 caused the second migration wave out of Afghanistan. At this time, especially the urban and educated middle class fled Afghanistan towards Iran and Pakistan (Stigter, 2006). Between 1991 and 2000 over 300,000 Afghan refugees fled to Pakistan. In contrast to the first migration wave following the Soviet occupation in 1979, Afghans were no longer welcomed by the Governments of Pakistan and Iran. Afghanistan also failed to receive as much attention from the international community, causing a significant decrease in financial support for Afghan refugees in Pakistan. The third and most recent large-scale migration wave was caused by the war and associated bombing campaigns between the Taliban and United States-led coalition forces in 2001. The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 caused increased attention from the international community towards Afghanistan (Turton & Marsden, 2002).

Changes in the Afghan government after 2001 and the worsening economic condition in neighbouring countries Iran and Pakistan, further contributed to a change in attitude towards refugees from Afghanistan. The Governments of Pakistan and Iran have attempted to decrease the number of Afghans living in their respective countries despite conditions in Afghanistan. Towards the beginning of 2002, UNHCR began its assisted voluntary return programme for Afghan migrants living in Iran and Pakistan. Between 2002 and 2005, Afghanistan observed an unexpectedly large wave of repatriation. With the assistance of UNHCR, 2.7 million refugees returned from Pakistan and more than 800,000 from Iran. During the same period (2002-2005), the number of spontaneous returns¹ (known to UNHCR) amounted to almost 300,000 from Pakistan and about 570,000 from Iran. This level of repatriation shows a degree of confidence in the nascent state, but also reflects expectations created by donor pledges to rebuild the country, and the deterioration of living conditions in the places of refuge (Monsutti, 2006).

The high numbers of Afghan returnees represented for various stakeholders (namely Pakistan, Iran, UNHCR and the donor community) a reduction in the burden of hosting and supporting a large refugee population. However, given the context in which these large return movements took place, it is questionable how sustainable this return migration of Afghan refugees shall be. Security, a lack of economic opportunities (employment) and access to social services (health and education) impose considerable barriers on Afghan returnees and their reintegration. Additionally, Afghanistan faces significant issues of poverty. In 2009, the average per capita monthly expenditure of Afghanistan's nine million inhabitants was less than USD 66 cents a day, and in 2010 the World Bank reported that in 2007/08, 36 per cent of the population lived under the poverty line of AFN 1,255 (about USD 25) per person per month. At the same time, the Afghan Central Bank reported inflation to have accelerated to a peak of 43.2 per cent in May 2008. The unemployment rate in Afghanistan was 7.1 per cent in 2007/08, however this relatively low rate disguises high underemployment. In 2010, Afghanistan's HDI was 0.349, which gives the country a rank of 155 out of 169 countries with comparable data, and sets it below the regional average. The national average of poverty is (36 per cent), with the highest poverty incidence observed within the Kuchi population with over 50 per cent.

Moreover, channels of pre-established transnational networks exist between Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran and are likely to continue to exist in the future (Monsutti, 2006). Today, some 1.7 million registered Afghans remain in Pakistan and about one million in the Islamic Republic of Iran (UNHCR 2012a, 2012b). The profile of these Afghans is rather different from those refugees who have returned since the fall of the Taliban regime. The great majority of these individuals remaining in Pakistan and Iran

have been there for more than 20 years. Furthermore, almost half of the registered Afghan population in Iran and Pakistan were born outside of Afghanistan. After two decades in these countries, the decision to return constitutes a major undertaking. Most returnees depend on their relatives and other social networks for their social and economic reintegration. However, most of the poorer families do not have these resources and thus depend on the assistance provided by local and international organizations, particularly with regard to water and shelter in their country of origin (UNHCR, 2008).

3. Sampling of Households & Intra-Household Selection

This section will detail the sampling strategy used in Afghanistan.

3.1 Survey Sampling in Afghanistan

The Migration & Development research methodology was developed with particular attention being paid to the sampling of different socio-economic status considered to be fairly representative of the country. As such, elements of ethnicity, literacy and income levels, professional activity, and experiences of migration were taken into account in developing a purposive sampling methodology for the pilot phase. However, the actual survey was developed with a random sampling methodology in mind, as will be detailed below.

Given the constraints inherent to any fieldwork in Afghanistan (lack of available household listings, lack of up-to-date statistics or census information on the actual population etcetera), however, a purely random sampling methodology was not feasible. However, steps were taken to ensure the reliability of the sampling methodology.

Based on lessons learned from other large-scale surveys such as the National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (NRVA) survey, the *Samuel Hall* research team developed a sampling methodology for five provinces and areas of high-return without household listings. The information below outlines the typical procedure followed by our field teams in Kabul, Nangarhar, Herat, Balkh and Kandahar in April and May 2011.

3.2 Methodology

The Primary Sampling Units (PSUs) were selected using a random sampling methodology and in collaboration with the Central Statistics Organization (CSO) of Afghanistan. A Memorandum of Understanding was established between the University of Maastricht, *Samuel Hall Consulting* and CSO, signed in April 2011. The MoU provides the basis for the sampling methodology for the *Migration & Development* research project by focusing on how to build a random sampling methodology.

The scope of the agreement includes the involvement of the CSO in Kabul, presided by H.E. Abdul Rahman Ghafoori, and of the Field Operations and Sampling Department, led by Mr. Mohammad Sami Nabi. This department and its staff provided technical support to *Samuel Hall Consulting* research staff.

3.3 Sampling of communities and households

The research utilized a three-stage sampling strategy. The first stage identified the Provinces, Districts and Primary Sampling Units for selection. Within the PSU, households were selected. See below for more details on the process.

Step 1: Selection of Provinces

The five provinces of Kabul, Balkh, Herat, Kandahar and Nangarhar were sampled. They were selected because they are the main urban populated provinces and represent about one third of the population of Afghanistan. Second, they account for a geographical dispersion across the 5 main regions of the country, allowing for a greater representativeness of socio-demographic profiles (such as ethnicity or language) as well as the influence of contextual or environmental factors on migration (including conflict, natural disasters, proximity to border areas). Third, each of these provinces represents different profiles of return. In each province, the target number of questionnaires was set at 400.

Table 1: Number of households in the most urban populated provinces

Province	Urban HHs	Centre Urban HHs	Urban domains 2005	Urban domains 2007
KABUL	313,680	313,136	√	√
HIRAT	76,423	66,760	√	√
BALKH	71,151	61,227	√	√
KANDAHAR	54,378	54,378	√	√
NANGARHAR	31,800	31,289	√	√
BAGHLAN	23,727	16,532	√	√
KUNDUZ	25,685	16,219	√	√
JAWZJAN	19,187	14,379	√	√
HELMAND	13,907	12,859		√
FARYAB	16,870	11,235	√	√
TAKHAR	17,201	10,508	√	√

Source: CSO/UNFPA pre-census household listing 2003-2005

Step 2: Selection of Districts within Each Province

In each province, a three-fold stratification of urban (district capital), semi-rural (one common border with the capital), and rural areas (no common border with the district capital) was established to allow for a representation of different socio-economic groups. These districts were selected for their overall representativeness of the province, their security levels and accessibility for data collection. As such, time and distance were important factors in the selection of districts.

Step 3: Selection of Primary Sampling Units

A list of Primary Sampling Units (PSUs) was established, through a random sampling methodology detailing specific sites for enumeration on maps provided by CSO. A site was defined as a PSU from the list provided by the CSO. Within each district, the PSUs eligible for enumeration were selected randomly by assigning all of the PSUs a number in Microsoft Excel. Ten PSUs were identified for each urban area, followed by five PSUs in each of the rural areas. Based on this random selection, the field teams were then equipped with maps and coordinates, and other location identification resources (street names, monuments, locations of mosques and schools) to facilitate the fieldwork process.

Step 4: Selection of households

The MoU did not cover a provision of household listings; as a result, this method was not used. Instead it was agreed that in each of the PSUs, the team leaders would report to the community leader or elder, to gather a list of households in their area. This initial list, prepared by the team leader based on the information shared by the community leader, was then split into current migration, return migrant or zero migrant households, to reflect the distribution and breakdown of migration profiles within the local population. This breakdown was then duly respected throughout the fieldwork, to be as representative as possible, in the numbers of interviews, with the migration profile of each community. On this basis, a reliable and simple methodology of random starting point and fixed interval sampling methodology, also used by the World Bank in districts where there are no listings, was implemented for each household interview selection. Table 2 provides an overview of the distribution of households by province.

Table 2: Breakdown of household categories (percentages)

Household Type by Province (%)	Kabul	Nangarhar	Balkh	Herat	Kandahar
Current Migrant Household	11.2	8.7	17.3	12.0	2.8
Return Migrant Household	60.4	69.7	41.5	54.4	48.4
Non Migrant Household	28.4	21.6	41.2	33.6	48.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

3.4 Household Payment and Non-Response

No financial compensation was offered to participants in either the household or community survey to avoid potential bias entering the data. The research team at Samuel Hall followed its usual procedure and policy of zero payment to interviewees. Small in-kind gifts (such as telephone credit cards, or hygiene kits) were provided to focus group participants as they were requested to dedicate half a day to the research team.

In cases where households were not available, or whether they refused to answer questions, the team was instructed to record the non-response in their observations and to move on to the next household. Non-response rates were recorded for less than one per cent of the surveyed households.

3.5 The community survey

The community survey took place simultaneously to the household survey. In most cases the team supervisor would conduct the community survey during the time that the team members would conduct the household surveys. A community representative was the respondent for the community survey. This community representative was a senior person in the community and preferably the community leader (see Table 3).

Table 3: Definition of main respondent for the community survey

SURVEY	UNITY OF ANALYSIS	WHOM TO INTERVIEW	SELECTION OF INTERVIEWEE
Community survey	Community	Community representative	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- senior person in the community- preferably the community leader- knowledgeable on history and current state of the community

4. Practicalities

This chapter describes the practical side of the IS Academy survey implementation in Afghanistan.

4.1 Survey translation

A professional translator in Kabul translated the survey tools into Dari and Pashto, the two official languages of Afghanistan. Both versions were then crosschecked through a back-translation process whereby two reviewers in Dari and two reviewers in Pashto compared the translation to the English version. They were then piloted in Kabul.

Teams of interviewers were provided with both Dari and Pashto versions of the questionnaires in all provinces covered to account for minorities in each location and to allow them to adapt to the preference of the respondent. Field teams were therefore composed of both Dari and Pashto speakers in all regions, although the distribution of languages within the team reflected that of the different regions surveyed, with more Pashto interviewers for the South and East and more Dari interviewers for the North and West of Afghanistan, for example.

4.2 Fieldwork preparation in Afghanistan

Local partner & IS Academy team

In Afghanistan, the local survey partner was Samuel Hall Consulting. Samuel Hall (<http://www.samuelhall.org>) is a research and consulting company with headquarters in Kabul, Afghanistan, specialising in socio-economic surveys, private and public sector studies, monitoring and evaluation and impact assessments for governmental, non-governmental and international organisations. Samuel Hall's teams of field practitioners, academic experts and local interviewers have years of experience leading research in Afghanistan. This has enabled them to acquire a firm grasp of the political and socio-cultural context in the country, design data collection methods and statistical analyses for monitoring, evaluating, and planning sustainable programmes and to apply cross-disciplinary knowledge in providing integrated solutions for efficient and effective interventions.

The IS Academy Survey team trained representatives of Samuel Hall Consulting who in turn provided training to the field team. Samuel Hall, in provided its expertise of the country and its migration dynamics, which is one of their core areas of research expertise, having published numerous research studies on migration, return and

internal displacement since 2007, becoming the leading in-country reference on migration in Afghanistan. Additionally, Samuel Hall researchers ensured proper data management, sampling strategy advice, as well as continuous management of the project and field crews throughout the survey implementation in Afghanistan.

In addition, official authorization from the Government of Afghanistan was sought with an authorization from the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSAMD), as well as a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Central Statistics Organization (CSO), the University of Maastricht's Graduate School of Governance and Samuel Hall Consulting to ensure a proper sampling throughout the provinces surveyed.

Enumerators

The enumerator team consisted of 24 enumerators and three supervisors. The enumerators were split into three teams of seven enumerators and one supervisor. Each team was composed of four male and three female interviewers to ensure that female interviewees were reached in all areas. Specifically, only female interviewers were authorized to interview female respondents. All team members were selected for their experience leading surveys in Afghanistan for at least three years, with a focus on migration surveys. All of the interviewers were selected from the five regions targeted in this survey. Each team member was expected to complete an average of three surveys per day.

Training of the enumerators

As the recruited interviewers have had less experience with household surveys than with individual surveys, a week-long training was scheduled (which included piloting the survey) at the beginning of the project, followed by an additional 2 days training after the pilot test, to take into account the novelty of the survey tools, the lessons learned in the field from the pilot test, and the feedback from interviewers and team leaders.

The initial 6-day training took place between April 2nd and April 7th, 2011). This included:

- i. 3 days of training to review the methodology and household questionnaire,
- ii. 2 days of pilot test in Kabul, supervised by the team leaders and project director,
- iii. 1 day of feedback, lessons learned and planning for the actual survey.

Following the pilot test and the first few days of fieldwork in Kabul, recurrent mistakes were spotted during the daily checking of questionnaires by the project supervisors. As a result, an additional 1-day of training was scheduled to highlight the most common

mistakes, clarify misunderstandings (morning session), and re-call all the interviewees from questionnaires that had been set aside due to them containing mistakes (afternoon session).

During the trainings all enumerators and supervisors received a detailed training manual, consisting of an explanation of the project and its goals, an introduction to the surveys and a guide to approach households. The training manual also contained a trouble shooting section, in which potential difficult situations were discussed, and a safety protocol. These issues are discussed in Chapter 5 of this fieldwork report.

Pilot of the survey

The survey was pilot tested by the three supervisors and an international research team member from Samuel Hall Consulting in December 2010 in Kabul to verify both the content of the questionnaire, the duration of the survey and the translation of the research tools. The pilot test lasted one week with a target of 45 completed surveys.

The pilot test confirmed the difficulty in implementing anthropometric measurements in Afghanistan. Afghan households were reluctant to allow research team members, even of the same gender, to record the height and weight of mothers and children in each family. To respect cultural norms, these indicators had to be set aside during the research phase.

Permission from local authorities

The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled provided a letter of authorization hence adding further credibility and legitimacy to this survey.

The Central Statistics Organization (CSO) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Maastricht's Graduate School of Governance and Samuel Hall Consulting to cooperate, assist and support the sampling methodology. Support was notably provided by CSO's ArcGIS team and its sampling unit.

4.3 During the data collection: Logistics and supervision

Data collection mode

The data collection was done on paper in Afghanistan. Although electronic data collection can enhance the quality of the data, facilitate data management and eliminate the need for data entry, it was deemed to be too risky from a security perspective within the Afghan context. Once the data was collected, the paper surveys were returned to Samuel Hall Consulting where a different team entered the data into a SPSS database using Epidata software. To check for data accuracy, double entry of the data was completed. The database was then checked and cleaned by a database manager and the project director.

This was then cross-checked by the IS Academy team in the Netherlands and any discrepancies were discussed although no major problems arose.

Logistics

The research team was divided in three – with one supervisor for each team. The supervisor's responsibility was to check on the quality of the questionnaires, monitor the work of interviewers, and facilitate all logistics. The supervisor therefore planned transportation from Kabul to the provinces – by air whenever possible (Kandahar, Herat, and Mazar) and by road for other provinces. Within each province, two vehicles were rented for the duration of the field stay. Field teams stayed at local guesthouses and hotels. No incidents were reported except in Kandahar, as detailed below in the safety and security sub-section.

Supervision and field visits

Each province was supervised in person by one of the two project directors – Nassim Majidi and Hervé Nicolle. Nassim Majidi covered the Central, Eastern and Southern regions, while Hervé Nicolle supervised the Northern and Western regions of the country. These field visits were also an opportunity for the two project directors to implement qualitative interviews to support the quantitative research process – namely through key informant interviews, focus group discussions or individual case studies.

4.4 Challenges of data collection in Afghanistan

Safety and security

The duration of the survey was met with a deteriorating security situation in all regions. First, the attack on the UN guesthouse in Mazar-e-Sharif (Balkh) on April 1, 2011, while field teams were in Kabul for a one-week training, set the tone for worrying security trends and led to the cancellation of a planned visit by MGSoG researchers. Secondly, the escape of hundreds of prisoners from the main prison in Kandahar, as well as a 3-day shooting inside Kandahar city, just metres away from the main guesthouses used by field teams and project director, in May 2011, halted the data collection process for two days. The team still carried on its work with the highest quality standards, notwithstanding the challenging security context.

5. The Surveys

The main measurement tools for this study in Afghanistan were a household survey and a community survey. The household survey gave us information about the whole household that was interviewed. The community survey was conducted with a community representative in each community in which at least one household survey was done and was used to map the community in which the households live. Both surveys are split up in an introductory part and the survey modules. The household survey and community survey are discussed in detail below. Key definitions used within the surveys are also listed in paragraph 5.1.

5.1 Key Definitions

Key definitions used within the surveys are listed in the table below:

Key Definitions

Children: All household members under the age of 18.

Community: A social group of any size whose members reside in a specific locality, share government, and often have a common cultural and historical heritage. In the case of this research we will focus on the smallest administrative unit in each country.

Elderly: All household members 65 and over.

Household: All individuals who are living together and have communal arrangements concerning subsistence and other necessities of life and inclusive of all individuals presently residing elsewhere (in the country or abroad) whose principle commitments and obligations are to this household. Households can thus contain people that currently live abroad. Households can also consist of one person.

Household Members: Includes all members of the household regardless of age, country of birth, or maternal/ paternal ties and current location.

Internal migration: A move between cities or villages within the same country for a stay of at least three months.

International migration: A move across international borders for a stay of at least three months.

Main Respondent: A person that is a member of the household, at least 18 years old, and the most knowledgeable person on financial and social matters of the household. Preferably the main respondent is the head of the household. If the head of the household is not at home at the time of the interview, the spouse of the head of the household would be a good alternative.

Migrant: A person who currently lives in a country other than the one he/she was born in and has lived there for at least three months.

Monetary Remittances: Money transfers.

Return Migrants: An individual who has returned to the country of origin either voluntary or forced to live fulltime after a minimum of three consecutive months living in another country.

Social Remittances: The ideas, knowledge, behaviours, identities, and social capital that flow from receiving to sending country communities.

To 'live' in a country: To reside in a country for a *continuous period* of three months or more.

5.1 The household survey in detail

The household survey refers, as its name implies, to all members of a household that was interviewed. This means that we did not just focus on individuals in Afghanistan, but on the whole household in which the individuals lives. The household survey was conducted with a main respondent, who was preferably a senior member of the

household who was most knowledgeable about the economic and social situation of the household and its members.

The survey contained some questions that were to be answered for all household members, and some questions that were answered only by and for the main respondent. The final module of the household survey focused specifically on possible return migrants in the household. The household survey is divided into different modules, each of which has a different subject:

IS Interviewer sheet

The Interviewer sheet was filled in by the enumerator. This sheet contains questions on when the interview was conducted, where the household is located, and some questions on the characteristics of the household that can be answered by observing the household.

A Household roster

This module gives an overview of who lives in the household and the characteristics of these household members such as their age, their level of education and whether or not they ever migrated.

B Children

The questions in this module deal with the household's younger members, under the age of 18. The questions are about schooling and work or tasks that the children do, either in the household or outside the household.

C Migration

The migration module asks about the migration experiences of the household members and about future migration plans.

D Remittances

This module asks for information on money and goods that were sent *to* the household in the past 12 months and money and goods that were sent *from* the household to other households living abroad.

E Household assets

In this module we are interested in the assets a household owns. The questions focus both on the present time and on the assets a household owned five years ago.

F Expenditures

This module is about the household expenditures on, for example, food, education, healthcare, etc.

G Income

In this module we asked for the income of the household in the past year. What were the main sources of income, and how much did each source of income contribute to the total household income in the past year?

H Shocks

For this module we asked the households whether or not they had experienced any shocks that significantly impacted their economic status and whether or not they experienced certain types of conflict. Shocks include weather-related events such as drought or excessive rain, but also losses of assets due to violence, or the death or serious illness of a household member.

I Borrowing and saving

The borrowing and saving module asks whether or not the household currently has any debts or savings.

J Usage and access to facilities

This module is about the access the household has to certain facilities, such as healthcare and education.

K Subjective wealth

After all the modules that deal with the economic position of the household, this module contains subjective questions on wealth.

L Formal and informal networks

This module asks about the formal and informal networks the household currently has, both in the country itself and abroad.

M Opinions

This module contains questions on certain personal opinions of the main respondent.

N Safety and security

This module is about the feelings of safety the main respondent experiences.

O Return migration module

As described earlier, this module focused specifically on possible return migrants in the household. It asks about their experiences during migration and upon return.

5.2 The community survey in detail

The community survey was designed to create an overview of the history of the community, its culture and the current situation of the community. The community survey consists of the following modules:

IS Interviewer sheet

The Interviewer sheet was filled in the enumerator. This sheet contains questions on when the interview was done, where the community was located, and some questions on the characteristics of the respondent of the community survey.

A Basic characteristics

This section contained questions on the community history, language, culture and current population.

B Community issues

The community issues section asks about the main problems the community is currently affected by.

C Infrastructure

This section deals with the availability of infrastructure in the community, such as

roads and transportation, water and sanitation, housing and land, and different facilities such as health care centres and schools.

D Economic situation

The economic situation section contains questions principal economic activities for men and women, questions about working age (child labour) and employment, subjective well being, and inequality.

E Shocks

Section E asks about both economic and conflict shocks that the community experienced in the past five years.

F Safety and security

Section F deals with the current safety and security situation in the community.

G Social ties

The social ties section asks about levels of trust, participation in community projects, and the availability of community associations.

H Children

This section focuses specifically on the children in the community and mainly deals with the availability and quality of schooling in the community.

I Health

Section I asks about the main health problems that men, women, and children experience in the community, and the availability and quality of healthcare.

J Migration

The migration section in the survey contains questions on both historic and current migration patterns, such as return migration, forced migration, labour migration, etcetera. It also contains a section on how the different migration dynamics are experienced by the community members.

K Children left behind

This section focuses specifically on children that are left behind by parents that migrate. The section contains questions on coping mechanisms and perceptions on children left behind.

L Remittances

This section deals with the international transfers of money and goods that are present in the community.

M Migrants' investments and charitable activities

Section M explores the activities of diaspora members in the community through investments or charitable activities, such as working in or contributing to NGOs.

5.3 Types of questions

The surveys contained different types of questions. Below the different types of questions are introduced and explained.

Closed versus open questions

Most questions in the questionnaire are closed questions. These present the respondent with a set of possible answers to choose from. See the following example below. This question (A.A.5) needs to be answered for all household members. So, you indicate a '1' if the person is single, and '2' if the person is married. . Only the main respondent answers question M.3.

ID	A.A.5
	What is this person's marital status?
	1. Single 2. Married 3. Divorced 4. Widowed
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

	M.3
Please respond to the following statements	
	1. Strongly disagree 2. Disagree 3. Neutral 4. Agree 5. Strongly agree
1. Only men should make decisions about big spending	
2. Only women should take responsibility for the household	

A small number of questions in the questionnaire are open questions. These questions do not present the respondent with a set of possible answers to choose from. Instead, the respondent is asked to come up with her/his own answer or explanation. The enumerator filled in the answer given by the respondent in either English or French in the PDA.

Questions with ranking

Some questions asked the respondent to rank the answers in order of importance. Usually, the top three answers are ranked. (see question D.B.3 on the right). In box I (Good 1) the most important answer was noted, in box II (Good 2) the second most important answer was noted, etc. As you can see, the instructions for the question are indicated between brackets, below the question.

Questions with the option to specify

For some questions, there is an option to specify a response that is not listed yet, as you can see in the example here on the right (question C.A.10). In case the respondent gives an answer that is not already listed, '5' is recorded, which means 'Other'. The response the respondent gives is then recorded in either English or French.

Questions with "choose all that apply"

Sometimes you will find the instruction (choose/mark all that apply). In those cases it is likely that the answer contains more than one of the categories listed and *all* answers given by the respondent are listed.

The 77, 88, and 111 answer categories

As a general rule, 88 is the code for the answer "don't know". The code 77 applies when the respondent does not want to answer the question, for whatever reason. The answer category 111 is chosen when the question is not applicable to the respondent.

D.B.3		
What kind of goods did this household receive from this person in the past 12 months?		
(Rank top 3: 1, 2, 3)		
1. Food	6. Other electronics	
2. Clothing/shoes	7. Medication	
3. Mobile phone	8. Books/CDs/DVDs	
4. Television	9. Other (specify)	
5. Computer/laptop		
Good 1	Good 2	Good 3
C.A.10		
In order to migrate to a country, people commonly acquire documentation before leaving. Did this person acquire any of the following documents before migrating?		
1. Tourist visa		
2. Work visa		
3. Student/ study visa		
4. Refugee status (UNHCR)		
5. Other (specify)		

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