

# Migration Interview Guide

October 2019

**Purpose:** to better understand the impacts of migration on relations among household members (gender relations) and the ability of sending households, specifically the women who remain, to manage the farm and take up restorative practices. These interviews used a timeline approach adapted from Petesch et al. (2018) to discuss changes in labour, decision-making, finance, and well-being before and after migration and in relation to other life events

*Petesch, P., Badstue, L., Prain, G. (2018). Gender norms, agency, and innovation in agriculture and natural resource management: The GENNOVATE methodology. Mexico: CIMMYT.*

The main interview topics will include:

- Information on those who have migrated
- How life was before and after they started migrating, in relation to economic well-being, farming and household workload and decision-making
- Knowledge flows and ability to innovate and try new things

## Interviewee details

Before starting the interview, make note of the farmer's name, HHID, village and migrant type using the participant list provided.

***\*Make sure the voice recorder is working before proceeding with interview\****

### 1. Migrant details [20 mins]

First, we would like to ask some questions about household members who leave for some months of the year to earn income or those who have permanently left the household in the last five years to find work.

1. In the past you told us that [*look up who has migrated using participant list*] leaves for some months of the year to earn income/has permanently migrated from your household. Is this correct?

*[If correct proceed to the next questions, if the information we have is incorrect, make a note of this and who migrated/leaves. If they have no migrants, apologise for the confusion and end the interview]*

*[For each economic migrant ask the following questions]*

2. When did they migrate/start leaving? [*take note of the year for use in the timeline exercise*]
3. Why did they leave/start migrating? [*income, drought/crop failure, illness/death, a birth*]
4. Where do they go and what do they do there?
5. What did they do before they left/started leaving?
6. How often do they return and why do they come back? [*weekly, monthly, which months & why*]
7. Who was involved in the decision for them to migrate? Did you discuss it as a household?
8. Can you think back to how life was for you before X left, and now? How are things now? And how were they before? Can you see any differences?

*[If they mention other migrants than those on the interview list provided, take a quick note of who within the household leaves, but you do not have to repeat the previous set of questions for these members]*

9. Does anyone else in the household leave for several months of the year to earn income? Who?

## 2. Life events [10 mins]

[Use the provided template to draw a timeline from five years before the point of migration until the present day – the length of this timeline will vary depending on when the migrant left. If they have more than one migrant, indicate both points of migration on the timeline]

1. Within this period [refer to the timeline] are there other important events or experiences that have changed your wellbeing and how you live your life? [drought, birth/death, illness, buying livestock, loans, joining women's savings groups, projects etc.]

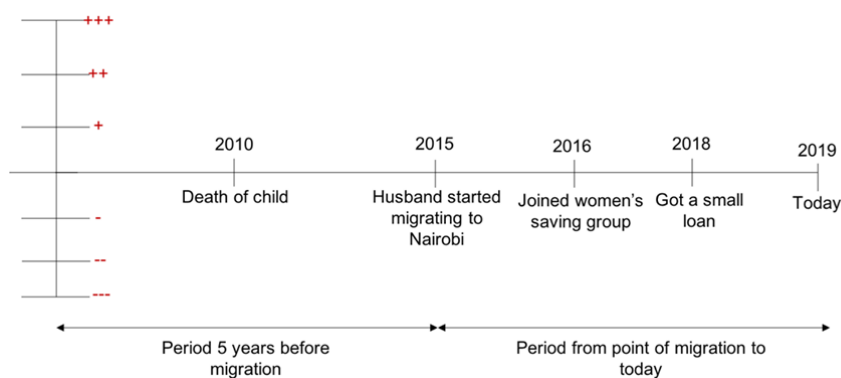


Figure 1. Example timeline centred around the point when household member left/started leaving.

## 3. Decision-making (farming and household) [20 mins]

Now, thinking about these events, we would now like to ask you about how each event may have impacted your involvement in decisions about the farm and within the household.

[Using the same timeline and events, briefly ask how each of the events affected their involvement in farming and household decisions. Then return to the migration event and explore in detail how their involvement changed from when the migrant first left up till today - Remember to probe into both day-to-day and strategic decisions, we want to know how strategically important the migrant was/still is]

1. Has X's absence affected how important issues are discussed and decided upon in your household? Are there some farming/household decisions you have become more/less involved with? If so, which and why? [day-to-day, long-term, farm income, selling livestock, what to plant, when to plant etc.]
2. Are there decisions that the migrant is still involved with when they are away?
3. Why are they still involved in these decisions? [knowledgeable, authority, gender norms]
4. How often do you communicate with them when they are away?
5. Has this changed since they first migrated?
6. How do you communicate?
  - a. Is it easy to explain and make decisions that way?
  - b. Are there decisions that are difficult to make?

- c. If you disagree on something what do you do? How do you resolve the argument?
7. Do they provide farming advice when they are home? Is it helpful?
8. What about when they are away?
9. Do you make decisions with other household members? Was this the case before the migrant left?
10. Do you feel confident in your ability to make day-to-day farming decisions on your own?  
[When to plant, where to plant, when to weed, when to harvest etc.]
11. Do you feel confident in your ability to make longer-term farming decisions on your own?  
[large investment decision, buy livestock, dig farm pond, change crops grown, buy water tank]

We would now like you to indicate how each event affected your involvement in farming decisions and household decisions, separately. [Refer to the scale] The top most step represents a very large increase in your involvement due to this event; and the bottom most step represents a very large decline in your involvement. Please place a sticker on the timeline to show what impact each event had on your involvement in farming decisions and then repeat the exercise for involvement in household decisions.

#### 4. Knowledge & innovation [15 mins]

1. Who usually decides to try our new farming practices in your HH?
2. Did this change since X began migrating? If so, how?
3. Have you ever tried a new farming practices while [the migrant] was away?
4. Did you discuss this with them? Were they supportive? Did you have to persuade them?
5. Do you think X is pleased with the way the farm is managed while they are away?
6. Do you think any of the new farming practices/technologies you have implemented would disappear if X returned home permanently?
7. Who in your household do you consider most knowledgeable about farming? Why is that?
8. Do X ever bring back knowledge about markets or new farming technology? Do you think their knowledge of farming has increased (or decreased) since they left?
9. Do you think you have become more knowledgeable about farming since they left? Why?  
[attending training, through experience, increased responsibility]

#### 5. Workload (farming & household) [20 mins]

Next, we would like to ask you about how each event impacted your workload on the farm and in the home.

[Using the same timeline and events, briefly ask how each of the events affected their household and farming workload (separately). Then return to the migration event and explore in detail how their farming and household workloads changed from when the migrant first left up until today]

1. What were X's main household/ag tasks before they left?
2. When X comes back home, has X's involvement in household/farming activities changed since they left? Why?
3. Do they participate in farming when they come back?
4. Are there some farming activities/household chores with which have you become more/less involved in? Why?
5. Did anybody else have to take on their household chores/farming responsibilities?
6. Is labour availability on the farm an issue? Was it an issue before they left?
7. If so, how do you cope with the lack of labour? [reduced crop area, different crops, hire labour]

8. Do you typically hire labor? Has this changed since they left?
9. Is hiring labour expensive? Difficult during the peak season?
10. Do you produce more or less from the farm since they left/started leaving? Why?
11. Do you produce any different crops since then? If so, which and why?
12. Do you still farm the same areas? If so, which and why?
13. Do you use any different farming techniques? If so, which and why?

*[Lastly, ask them to rate how each event impacted their farming and household workloads (separately) using the scale as before, but using a different colour than used for the decision-making timeline]*

## **6. Economic well-being [20 mins]**

Now I want you to think about each of these events and how they impacted your economic well-being. For example, whether the event increased or decreased your ability to buy and pay for things, such as food and school fees.

How would you say that X's migration affected the economic wellbeing of your household? And yours personally?

*[Using the same timeline and events, briefly ask how each of the events affected their economic well-being. Then return to the migration event and explore in detail how economic well-being changed from when the migrant first left up until today]*

For example, if they mention remittances:

1. Did your household have to save money to see XX off? Who contributed to this? How did you save this up/acquire this?
2. Do they leave only when they have work already?
3. Did they start sending money straight away? Did/do you have to send them money?
4. Do they still send money? Do they send more money now or less?
5. Do they always find work when they leave? Is it reliable? Has this changed since the first left?
6. Today, how often do they send money? [*weekly, monthly, yearly*]
  - a. Do you have to ask for the money? Who decides how it is used?
  - b. Does it come with conditions? Do they ask how it was spent?
  - c. What is it usually used for? What is prioritized?  
*[savings, buying assets, food, inputs, hire labour, school fees, etc.]*
  - d. Have these remittances improved your ability to manage of the farm? How?
7. Do you feel less pressure to produce food from the farm because you have remittances?

*[Lastly, ask them to rate how each event impacted their economic well-being using the scale as before – use a different colour of sticker and pen than used before to join the points]*

## **7. Aspirations for the future [15 mins]**

1. What would you like to do in the future? Do you plan on staying here on the farm? Why?
2. What about X? Do you know what he plans to do? Why?
3. Does X have plans to return here and stay permanently in the future?
  - a. How do you think this will impact the farm?
4. OR Do you plan on moving and joining them in [*location where migrant moved*]?
5. Do you think opportunities in agriculture have improved in the last 5 years? Why?
  - a. Do you think this differ for men and women?

## 8. Consolidation

1. Based on our discussion today, do you think the overall impact of migration on your household's overall well-being has been positive or negative? What about for you personally?

*\*Thank them and make sure you save the voice recording using the hhid and name of the interviewee \**

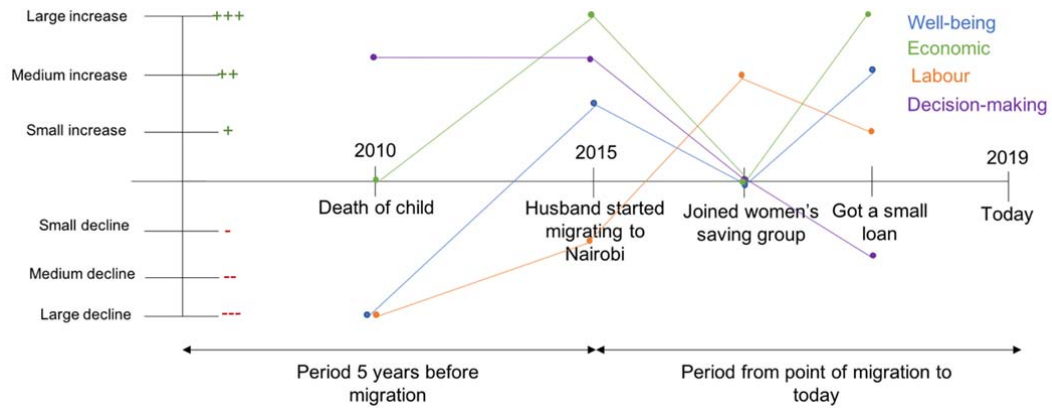


Figure 2. Example of what the final timeline might look like.