

Migration focus group guide

October 2019

Purpose: To discuss patterns of migration and its consequences on farm management, uptake of restorative practices, and intra-household decision-making. Main discussion topics include:

- Patterns of migration within the community and changes over the past 5 and 10 years
- Impact of migration on sending households (labour, capital, knowledge and decision-making)
- Impact of migration on sending community and attitudes towards migration/those who remain

1. Introduction [5 mins]

[Ask the farmers to introduce themselves by giving their name and each writing a name tag]

2. Patterns of migration [20mins]

First, we would like to talk about the types of migration within your community: who leaves, where they go and why they go.

1. Does anyone here know someone who has migrated or has migrated themselves and returned?
[ask if anyone would like to tell us more about this – who left, where did they go and why]
2. What types of migration are common in this community? Who within the community usually leaves?
[probe for different types of migrants - gender, age, children, whole households]

[using a large piece of paper and pen, create a matrix displaying each type of migrant and their characteristics.]

Migrant type	Where they go?	What do they do there?	When do they come back & Why?	Change over the last five years?
Young men, child of head	Nairobi	Look for casual work	Rarely – maybe once a year	Increased – many young men leaving

For each type of migrant, they mention ask the following questions and fill in the matrix – see Figure 1]

- a. Where do they usually go?
 - b. What do they do there? Is it easy to find work? How reliable is this work?
 - c. How often do they come back? *[weekly, monthly, yearly]*
 - d. Why do they come back at these times? Do they plan to return permanently one day?
3. Has the number of people leaving changed over the last 5 years? Why?
 4. Has the type of people leaving changed in the last 5 years? Why?

[If they report no changes, extend the period to the last 10 years]

Middle aged men, often the head	Mombasa	Self-employed - e.g., shoe maker, small shop	Monthly for a few days. Often plan to retire back in the village	Increased but not as much as for younger men
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Figure 1. An example migrant matrix that might be produced during the group discussion.

3. Characterising sending households [15 mins]

Next, we would like to discuss, what types of household migrants come from and their characteristics. Imagine three types of household: the poorer households, the average households and the well-off households within your community.

1. Which types of household do migrants usually come from?

[Drawn three circles on a large piece of paper and label: poor, average and well-off. Give the group 100 beans and ask them to decide as a group how to distribute the beans across the three categories based on how migration differs across these household types – see Figure 2]

[record any discussion or debate among the group while they are deciding. Once they have finished probe why they decided to distribute the beans this way]

2. Does it differ for different types of migrant? What are these households like?
[access to resources, family/farm size, connections, younger families]

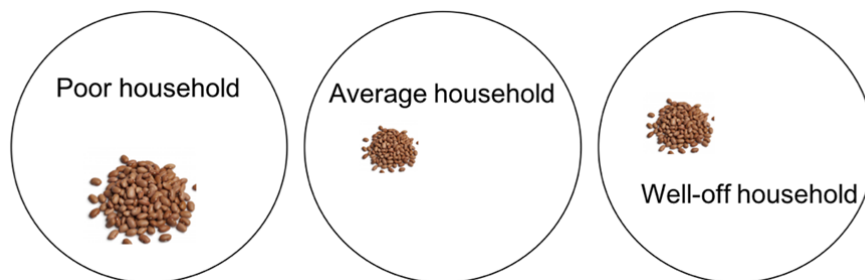


Figure 2. Example of how to lay out the household characterization exercise using pen, paper and how a group might decide to distribute their beans (more beans = more likely to have migrants).

[take a photo and/or count the beans before clearing away the paper and recollecting the beans]

4. Impact on household and remaining members

For the next exercise, we would like to discuss the impact of migration on the household and those who stay.

Benefits and burdens ranking [40 mins]

1. What are the benefits to having migrants from your household?
[write all of the suggestion on separate cards and place on the ground]
2. Do these benefits differ depending on who leaves?
[refer to the migrant types previously identified in the matrix and make notes of the differences]

[Then, give the group 100 beans and ask them to discuss and distribute them onto the cards, placing more beans on the benefits they think are most important/valuable to sending households, and fewer beans on those that are less important/valuable]

3. Why did you decide to distribute the beans this way?
4. Do you think the benefits differ for different types of women who are left behind? *[young or old]*

[take photo of the cards or count the beans before clearing away the cards and recollect the beans]

Now, we would like you to think about the burdens having a migrant has on a household.

5. What are the burdens of having migrant members?
[write all of the suggestion on separate cards and place on the ground]
6. Do these burdens differ depending on who leaves?
[refer to the migrant types previously identified in the matrix and make notes of the differences]

[Then, give the group 100 beans and ask them to discuss and distribute them onto the cards, placing more beans on the benefits they think are most important/valuable to sending households, and fewer beans on those that are less important/valuable]

7. Why did you decide to distribute the beans this way?
8. Do you think the burdens differ for different types of women who are left behind? *[young or old]*
9. How do households with migrant members cope with these burdens? What do they do differently?
[hire labour, change crops, reduce area under cultivation, enlist other members]

[Take photo of the cards or count the beans before clearing away the cards and recollect the beans]

Labour [15 mins]

Next, we would like to ask some specific questions about the impact of migration on farm labour. From the information we have collected so far, we see that labour is often an issue in migrant households but very few people report hiring labour.

1. Does this reflect how things are in your community?
2. Why do you think households with migrant members don't hire labour?
[hiring labour expensive? Difficult during the peak season?]
3. If men leave, do women's responsibilities change? Is this good or bad? Why?
[If an increase in women participating in male-dominated roles, is there stigma around this?]

[Show them the graphics AFTER the discussion, so as to not influence the discussion too much]

Knowledge & decision-making [15 mins]

From the information we have collected, we also see that migrants are usually still involved in farming decisions when they are away.

1. Does this reflect how it is in your community?
2. What types of decision are migrants still involved in? Why?
[big investment decisions or day-to day decisions?]
3. What decisions might they be less involved in when they are away?
4. Are women in households with male migrants more or less likely to attend trainings/take part in projects than those without migrants? Why?

[Show them the graphics AFTER the discussion, so as to not influence the discussion too much]

5. Community attitudes [15 mins]

[Take note if opinions of older and younger participants, perhaps ask specific young/old individuals]

1. Do you think migration is good or bad for the community? Does this depend on who leaves?
[breakdown of family, community and traditional institutions, changes in social norms]
2. Do you think migration is good or bad for the families of migrants? Does it depend on who leaves?
3. Do you think migration is good or bad for the migrants themselves? Does this depend on who leaves?

6. Aspirations [20mins]

Lastly, we would like to discuss the drivers and motivations for people leaving and staying and whether this might differ for men and women.

1. Why do you think people leave? Does this differ for men and women?
[money, employment, aspirations, lack of land inheritance, land availability]
2. Why do people stay in the community? Does this differ for men and women?

Now, let's say for some reason a [sex of FGD] in this community really wants to find better work, and they decided that they need to move away to live and work in a city where there were more opportunities.

3. How easy would this be for them? What would they need in order to be able to migrate?
4. Do you think men and women have the same opportunities to migrate?

Next, let's say for some reason a [sex of FDG] in this community migrates to work and then returns to live in the village.

5. How often does this happen in this community?
6. Why might they return? [retirement, unsuccessful migration, buy land, marriage/start a family]
7. Is it common for the rest of the household to join the migrant in the place they have moved to?
8. Would any of you like to migrate? Why or why not?

****Bring groups together for final discussion, thank everyone for their time and invite them to the community dialogues next year, encouraging them to bring their family members****