

Preface

For years at INDEPTH sites, counting migrants has been viewed as part of the demographic accounting required to know exactly who is living in a community. The Migration and Urbanization Working Group (MUWG) was established by a group of INDEPTH researchers who believed that migration was much more than that, convinced that understanding migration was key to some of the most critical issues communities face. This book is a result of that collaboration.

Migration is defined as people moving into and out of the HDSS study sites. The book therefore presents a different view from most other migration literature due to the different data structure employed in the analyses. Features of the data include the ongoing registration of a whole district population (or an area of similar size) so that accurate rates can be computed, based on verified moves that occurred in the population. Longitudinal analytic methods, such as event history analysis, pay special attention to the exposures related to migration.

Migration plays a key role in the shaping of family livelihoods and well-being, but discerning those linkages has proved difficult, precisely because of the dynamic nature of migration, which involves people moving in and out of households over widely varying time frames. There is a scarcity of datasets adequately equipped to examine these dynamic relations. Furthermore, different parts of the world have emphasized different aspects of migration. Countries experiencing high immigration are concerned with the impact of international migration and the adaptation of in-migrants in host communities. Internal migration is more of an issue in developing countries where the proportion of rural population is larger and the economic transition associated with internal migration is higher. But, it is precisely these poorer countries where the least data is available to examine internal migration. New data and scholarship are thus urgently needed on internal migration in developing countries. This book focuses on internal migration and how it impacts on health and education patterns and the dynamics of poverty at household level. With this we hope to add to the trend that INDEPTH multi-country data provides new insight into population variables.

This volume is a peer-reviewed collection of twelve chapters prepared by the INDEPTH Migration and Urbanization Working Group. The first four are introductory and overview chapters, followed by seven site chapters from Health and Demographic Surveillance System (HDSS) sites and an epilogue. The site chapters are divided into two themes. The first theme is Migration and Livelihoods, containing chapters from two Asian sites (Kanchanaburi and Matlab) and one African site (Agincourt); and the second theme is Migration and Health, with one Asian site (Filabavi) and three African sites (Kisumu, Nairobi and Manhica).

The settings represent six countries, namely Thailand, Bangladesh, South Africa, Vietnam, Kenya and Mozambique. A diversity of settlement types is included from urban to peri-urban to rural. A range of economic levels is covered however the settings generally represent the impoverished parts of poor countries. To summarize the book structure: after introducing the topic and explaining what we can hope to gain from the surveillance approach to tracking migration, a methods chapter provides a detailed reflection on the HDSS methods and how these pertain to the study. The second chapter also includes a comparative table of migration definitions used in the different sites. The third chapter presents the community contexts, an overview of the study settings and explains how the characteristics of a place help to shape the outcomes of migration. To see who actually migrated, Chapter 4 shows the comparative age–sex migration profiles from the participating sites. The book then proceeds to the site chapters grouped into the two themes where site-by-site evidence is presented on the population, health and socioeconomic consequences of migration.

We hope that you will read this volume with interest and that the research presented here will stimulate a re-examination in your own community about where migration fits into that complex puzzle of health and livelihoods.

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