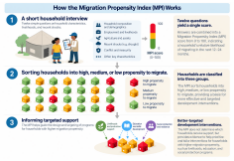
Migration Propensity Index (MPI): A scoring tool to anticipate domestic and cross-border migration



Twelve simple questions that predict which households are most likely to migrate, for smarter development decisions

The Migration Propensity Index (MPI) estimates the likelihood of domestic and cross-border migration at household level. Weighted responses generate a score from 0 to 100, converted into an estimated migration probability and classified as low, medium, or high propensity. This classification can inform public programme targeting and geographic prioritization using household survey or census data.

International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
Francisco Ceballos

This technology is pre-validated.

9·9 Scaling readiness: idea maturity 9/9; level of use9/9

Inclusion assessment 8 12 8

Climate impact 2

Problem

- **Limitations of existing targeting:** Poverty and geographic criteria may miss households at risk of migration.
- **Unreliable migration intention data:** Direct questions can produce refusals and under-reporting.
- **Misallocation of public resources:** High-risk households may be missed by programmes.
- **Overlooked climate-related risks:** Drought-exposed households may be missed by poverty-based targeting.

Solution

- **Identify households at risk:** Estimate migration propensity using observable household characteristics.
- **Avoid sensitive direct questions:** Assess migration propensity without asking directly about migration intentions or attempts.
- **Inform programme targeting:** Use validated scores to distinguish households with different levels of migration propensity.
- **Support geographic prioritization:** Apply MPI scores to existing census or large-survey data to identify areas for programme prioritization.

Key points to design your project

The Migration Propensity Index (MPI) helps improve the targeting of programmes addressing rural livelihoods, climate adaptation and youth employment by identifying households with different levels of migration propensity.

- Use existing household survey or census data where suitable, and contact IFPRI for updates, adaptation or country-specific calibration where necessary.
- Budget for data collection, with costs below USD 2 per household when added to an existing survey, or approximately USD 2 to 6 per household for a dedicated telephone survey.
- Support continued use by leveraging the freely accessible methodology and questionnaires and maintaining access to suitable data and technical support.

<2 USD per household
Estimated additional cost when MPI questions are integrated into an existing household survey.

2–6 USD per household
Estimated cost of administering the MPI through a standalone phone survey.

IP
Open source / open access

See details ›

Commodities

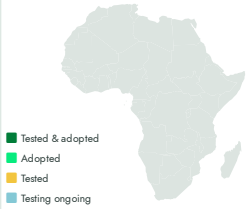
Sustainable Development Goals



Categories

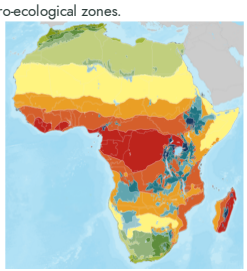
Pre-production, Digital applications, Decision-support and targeting tool

Tested/adopted in



Where it can be used

This technology can be used in the colored agro-ecological zones.



Target groups

Development institutions, Governments, Researcher center, Advisory and Extension Services, Cooperatives and Agribusinesses, Banks and lenders, + 2 more