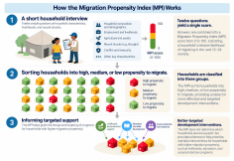
Migration Propensity Index (MPI): A scoring tool to anticipate domestic and cross-border migration



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 using observable household characteristics rather than directly asking about migration intentions. Weighted responses generate a score from 0 to 100, converted into an estimated migration probability and classified as low, medium, or high propensity. Validated in Honduras, the MPI can help development programmes identify households with different levels of migration propensity and inform beneficiary targeting.

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

- **Beneficiary identification gaps:** Poverty-based targeting may miss households likely to migrate.
- **Unreliable migration intention data:** Direct questions can lead to refusals and under-reporting.
- **Ineffective programme targeting:** Interventions may fail to reach households most at risk.
- **Overlooked climate-related risks:** Highly drought-exposed households may not be the poorest.

Solution

- **Measure migration propensity indirectly:** Use observable household characteristics rather than direct questions about migration intentions.
- **Integrate assessment into surveys:** Add the 12 to 15 questions to existing household data collection.
- **Target households using validated evidence:** Use migration propensity scores to identify households with different likelihoods of migration.
- **Inform geographic programme planning:** Use existing census or large-survey data to estimate migration propensity across geographic areas.

Key points to design your program

The Migration Propensity Index (MPI) helps development programmes targeting rural livelihoods, climate adaptation and youth employment identify households with different levels of migration propensity. It complements poverty-based and geographic targeting and contributes to SDGs 1, 2, 8, 10 and 13 by informing the targeting of development interventions.

- Integrate MPI results into programme targeting and intervention planning.
- Contact IFPRI for country-specific calibration where required.
- Budget for data collection, with costs below USD 2 per household when added to an existing survey, or approximately USD 2 to 6 for a dedicated telephone survey.
- Reuse the freely accessible methodology and questionnaires to facilitate application across programmes and contexts.

<2 USD per household

2–6 USD per household

IP

Open source / open access

International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
Francisco Ceballos

Commodities

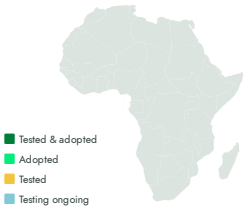
Sustainable Development Goals



Categories

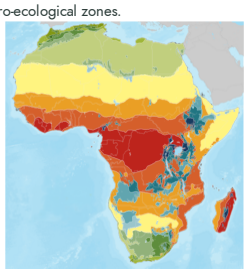
Pre-production, Digital applications, Decision-support and targeting tool

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, Social protection…

+ 2 more

Estimated additional cost when MPI questions are integrated into an existing household survey.	Estimated cost of administering the MPI through a standalone phone survey.

See details ›