Migration and COVID-19: Uttar Pradesh and Bihar

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- Historically, Uttar Pradesh (UP) and Bihar are the two highest out-migration states with a net migration rate of -1.9 to -1.
- Data from our telephone survey suggests that 28% (n=1237+) of the households in the two states have a migrant worker living/working outside; with 37% among rural households and 18% among urban households.
- Migration from these two states is mostly to metros in the states of Maharashtra, Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat.

The return migration before or potentially with relaxation in the lockdown, makes households and the rural healthcare systems highly vulnerable, because of 3 critical factors of concern

So far, migrant households in UP and Bihar are largely adhering to social distancing guidelines

However, some migrant households are facing challenges

About 2 percent of migrant households in Bihar and UP currently have someone close to them who has tested positive for Covid-19.

We need to act now, unitedly, to win the war against Covid-19

Support workers in receiving communities

Intensify social security/net programs in Bihar and UP

Monitor migration within India so that it can be done safely.

Promote adherence to social distancing behaviors

73% migrant households report they’ve lost their job or main income source. Identify ways to help them return to work.

Household needs:
- Ration: 89%
- Cash: 46%
- Medicines: 24%
- Cooking gas: 8%

Survey shows that migrant workers stranded in other parts of the country; their needs must be addressed.

Survey Methodology: Details can be accessed at: https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataset.xhtml?persistentId=doi:10.7910/DVN/8ZVOKW

To know more about UDAYA longitudinal surveys, please visit at: https://www.projectudaya.in/

Note: This brief includes preliminary findings and results will be updated as more data comes in. As of the preparation of this brief, a total of 1237 interviews completed.