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Migration and COVID-19: Uttar Pradesh and Bihar

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

- Started using masks
- Washing hands frequently
- Keeping 2 meters distance
- Staying at home

However, some migrant households are facing challenges

- Will the migrants likely to return?
  - Percent migrants who came back due to lockdown
  - Percent who report that their family members are stranded elsewhere

- How long are finances of migrant households likely to last?
  - Urban
  - Rural

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

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.


*Historically, Uttar Pradesh (UP) and Bihar are the two highest out-migration states with a net migration rate of -1.9 to -1.9.*
*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

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

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