

Could migration mean the same thing everywhere?
Getting to the who, what, when and where in the
FAMELO project.



Jennifer Glick, Hoffman Professor of Sociology and Demography
Population Research Institute, Penn State University
2023 Summer Institute for Migration Research Methods

FAMELO –

Family
Migration and
Early **L**ife **O**utcomes



FAMELO is supported by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver Institute for Child Health and Human Development (NICHD; P01HD080659)



Research Questions

How does migration at the household level shape children's developmental trajectories in origin communities?

- Does migration timing, type and duration matter for children in origin households?
- Does migration have the same association with children's pathways across contexts?
 - Resources in sending households and communities?
 - Diversity of destinations?
 - Maturity of the migration system??



FAMELO – A set of related projects with shared research infrastructure and definitions of migration

- Project 1: Family Migration Context and Socio-emotional competence, Dr. Natalie Eggum, Arizona State University, PI
- Project 2: Family Migration Context, Aspirations and Children's Schooling, Dr. Jennifer Glick, Pennsylvania State University, PI
- Project 3: The Impact of Family Migration on the Transitions to Adulthood, Dr. Sarah Hayford, Ohio State University, PI



Definitions the team needs to consider before we begin:

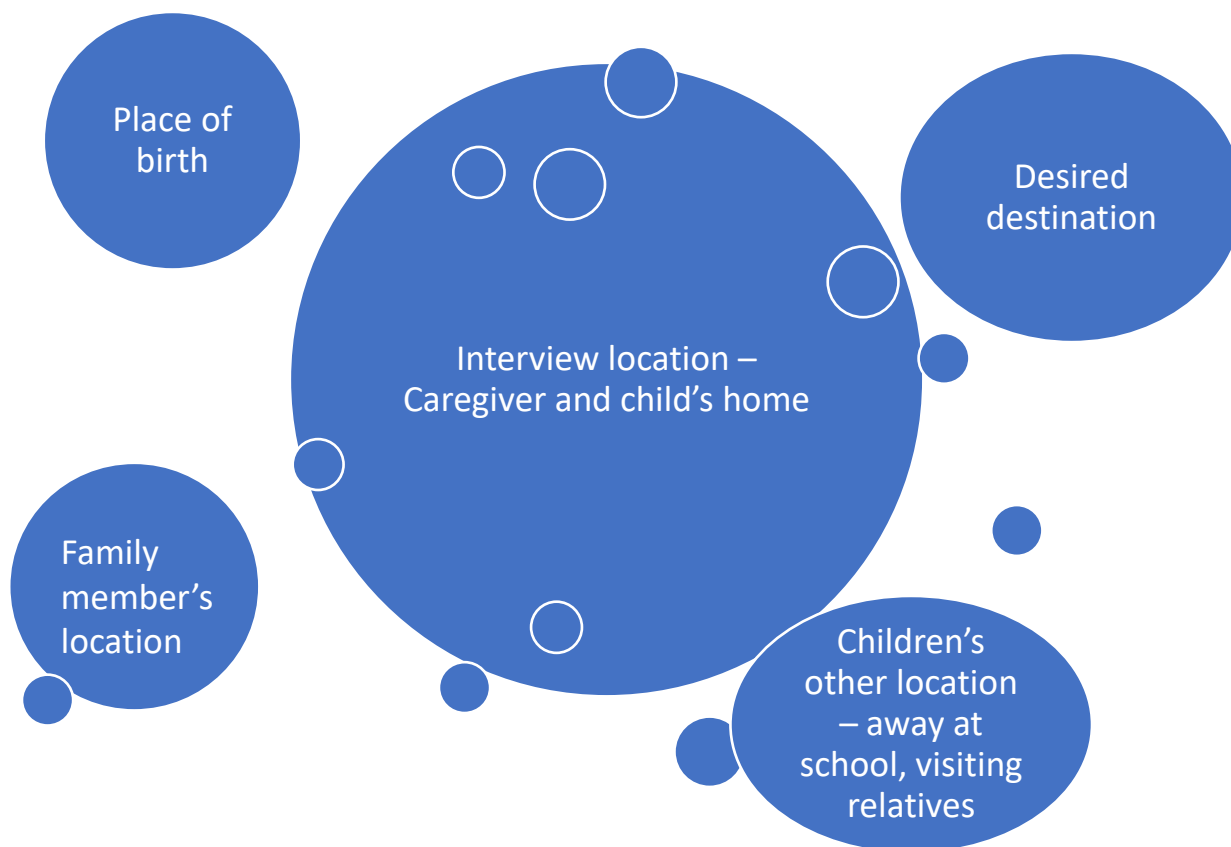
- Migration?
 - Labor migration
 - Voluntary migration
 - Residential mobility
- Migrant?
 - Place of birth vs. current location
 - Place of birth vs. Intended location (in transit?)
- “Left Behind” vs. child of migrants?

Three sites:



Migration definitions are relative....

The view of migration depends on
where we are at the time of data
collection...



FAMELO learned important lessons from prior studies:

Examples: Sending household focused

- CHAMPSEA – International comparative project
 - Transnational migration in south-east Asia and the health of children left behind
 - Migration = current parental migration
 - Focus on 'left-behind' with more limited attention to migration life course of the family
 - Detailed data on child development and well-being
- MAFE – Migration between Africa and Europe Survey
 - Unique for focus on sending households but children in schools (African countries – Senegal, DR Congo & Ghana) **and** connections to migrants (European countries – France, Spain, Italy, Belgium, UK and Netherlands)

Examples: Household based surveys

Surveys

- Mexican Family Life Study (MxFLS) http://www.ennvih-mxfls.org/english/assets/hh02q_bc.pdf
http://www.ennvih-mxfls.org/english/assets/hh02q_b3a.pdf
- Indonesia Family Life Study (IFLS)
- “Transnational migration in south-east Asia and the health of children left behind” (CHAMPSEA),
- Chitwan Valley Family Study (CVFS),
- Matlab Bangladesh HDSS (MCH/FP)

Highlights

1. All longitudinal studies with some data on migration.
2. Focus on family/household relationships offers opportunity to trace migration process across family members.
3. Variable information on specific context of migration (i.e., labor, family reunification, forced, etc.)

Migration specific examples:

- Mexican Migration Project and Latin American Migration Project
 - Ethnosurvey approach
 - Detailed information on migration
 - **Migration incorporated in life history calendars**
 - Different approaches across countries
 - Focus on migration and livelihoods
 - Less information on children's development or change over time.

FAMELO Design

- Sample:
 - ~ 2,000 households.
 - 2,000 'caregivers'
 - 3,000 children ages 5 – 17
- Data collection:
 - Interviewer administered questionnaire (tablets)
 - Translated in 4 languages
 - All local interviewers

FAMELO

A longitudinal comparative study of children's social development, educational pathways and transitions to adulthood in three diverse settings

COVID-19
mitigation

Pilot study
2015-2016

Wave I
2017-2018

Re-contact
survey
2019

Wave II
2020; 2021-
2022

Measuring Migration – Survey design

- Retrospective:
 - First and last ‘trip’ by everyone in the ‘household’
- Prospective:
 - Moves between wave I and re-contact survey by everyone in the ‘household’ at wave I
 - Moves between re-contact and wave II
 - Moves into the ‘household’ –
 - new and returning folks



Measuring Migration – Questionnaire design

- Has the child experienced migration from their household?
 - Timing of migration in the child's life course
 - before child was born, before child entered school, after child is an adolescent?
- Does the child become a migrant?
 - For school?
 - For work?
 - To join family?
 - For marriage?
(gendered process)



Survey design constraints unrelated to migration

- Reduce respondent burden on the caregiver:
 - All caregivers answer all questions about focal child 1
 - The caregivers selected to report about two children answer a shorter set of questions about focal child 2
- Keep child interviews developmentally appropriate:
 - Very few questions for 5-7 year olds
 - Questions then added by age group: 8-10, 11-13 and 14-17 year olds.

Taking the interviews to the field:

- Writing the Protocol and Programming for computer assisted interviews:
 - SURVEY TAB – Program created “in house” (S. Yabiku, Penn State University)
 - ‘Designer’ program allows researchers to create complex surveys.
 - Requires manual creation of ‘loops’ and ‘skips’

Interviewer Training

- Program used by interviewer:
 - Prompts interviewer
 - Prohibits 'out of range' responses
 - Automates skips through very complex survey
- Training varies but some common practices:
 - Explanation of project goals & human subjects protections
 - Practice and troubleshooting
 - Specialized explanation for interviewing children (when to repeat items, when to prompt, when to move on or abort interview)



Challenges of household visits

- When possible – more than one interviewer per household
- Finding privacy without compromising safety
- Technical challenges – Cell phones, Tablets



Results?



- LOTS of variation in migration across the three sites and even across households within sites.
- More internal migration than anticipated

Prevalence of migration from the household, Children ages 11-17, FAMELO Wave I

	JALISCO, MEXICO	CHITWAN, NEPAL	GAZA, MOZAMBIQUE
At least one person living abroad	3.9%	35.9%	29.9%
Parent is abroad	3.1%	28.2%	20.2%
Sibling is abroad	< 1%	6.7%	5.2%
At least one person living elsewhere in the country	7.5%	17.7%	17.6%
Parent is elsewhere	2.9%	9.3%	8.1%
Sibling is elsewhere	4.3%	8.4%	6.7%
Sample Size	1,476	1,861	1,119

Examples of relationships between migration and children's own aspirations?

- International migration is associated with lower educational aspirations in less resourced contexts.
- Family and household resources are positively associated with educational aspirations.
- Children with higher educational aspirations *are also* more likely to aspire to migrate.
- Differences by gender are small in all contexts.



Additional activities for the FAMELO projects...

- Adapting to COVID-19 mitigation
 - Delays and changes in mode of data collection
 - Questionnaire additions
 - New research questions we should address!

Additional activities for the FAMELO projects...

- Related data collections in Nepal
 - REALM – Nepal (Ghimire, University of Michigan, PI)
 - FAMELO-FUN (Eggum, Arizona State University, PI)
- New proposed sites



Thank You

