

## Are past experiences of forced labour associated with future migration intentions and planning?

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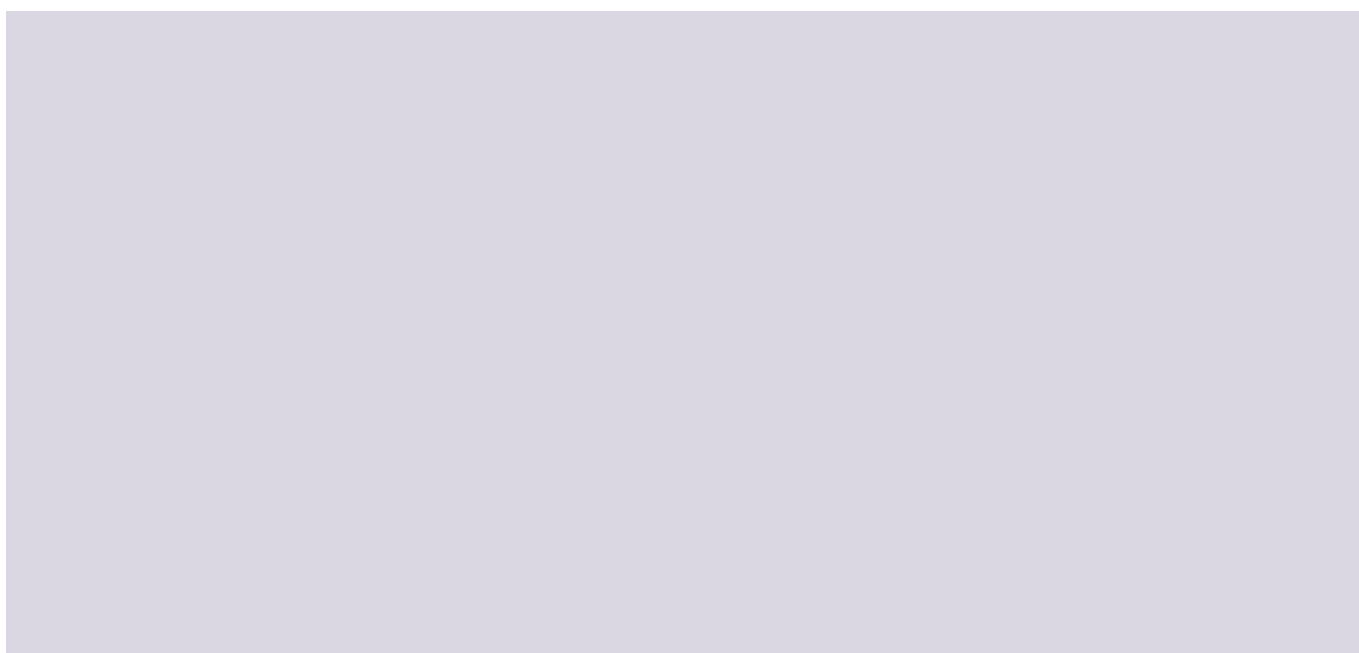


who had migrated more than once had experienced forced labour during their most recent migration.<sup>23</sup>

This briefing note considers how past experiences of migration-related exploitation among female returnee migrants might influence their re-migration decision-making.

## Past forced labour experiences and remigration intentions

Among the 653 women who completed the returnee survey, 122 (23%) reported that they intended to migrate again, with a further 26 (5%) saying they didn't know whether they would migrate again. We cross-tabulated their remigration intentions against their experiences (or not) of forced labour during their most recent migration to examine associations between





## IMPLICATIONS FOR PROGRAMMING

Amidst increasing donor investments in community-based programming to help female labour migrants reduce their risks of exploitation and abuse,<sup>25</sup> evidence on migration planning processes is increasing. However, we still have relatively little understanding of the migration planning processes, both for first-time and for repeat migrants. Moreover, our evidence-base is still scant on how negative labour migration experiences might influence future migration and what we need to know for pre-migration support to both returnee and first-time migrants. For instance, although evidence highlights significant risks of trafficking and forced labour among repeat migrants,<sup>26</sup> there seems to be implicit assumptions that women with negative experiences will not want to re-migrate. Yet, for those women who opt to migrate again, their previous experience will help them know what to expect and perhaps be better equipped to manage adversity. Our findings suggest that past exploitative experiences or elements of forced labour will not necessarily deter women from re-migrating. And, importantly, just because women have migrated once, they may not be more informed about practical migration planning processes. Our findings indicate that returnee migrants should not be excluded from pre-migration information programmes because even those with negative experiences are likely to consider re-migrating. Moreover, women who report previously having migrated, particularly those who cite elements of forced labour, may not be any better informed about pre-migration planning needs than first-time migrants. However, returned migrants are very likely to be able to offer descriptions of their experiences,

help set expectations about work conditions, individual emotional responses and risk around various forms of abuse, especially sexual abuse.

## MAIN FINDINGS

- Approximately one-quarter of women who migrated and experienced forced labour are likely to have plans to re-migrate.
- Women who have exploitative experiences, such as unfree recruitment or work and life under duress, may plan to re-migrate to the same location or for a job in the same sector.
- Women reporting experiences of

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