Migration Data through Labour Force Surveys

the Philippine and Thailand experiences

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Different Perspectives

I. Philippines – mainly sending country
   - Get picture of people who left

II. Thailand – mainly receiving country
   - Get picture of people who entered
   - But also with questions on remittances to Thai households from Thai overseas migrants

Philippines

- Migration module first added in 1982
- Since then, either
  - separate migration module, or
  - column indicator for migrants in LFS,
  - or both (since 1991)
- Module a rider in October round of LFS
- But even in other rounds (Jan, Apr, Jul), migrant indicator column included

Survey on Overseas Filipinos

2 Objectives

Estimates of

1. # of overseas Filipinos and their socioeconomic characteristics
2. Remittances in cash and in-kind and mode of remittance

Who are OFWs?

- Left within last 5 years, and
- Have temporary contract to work overseas but (including those in Philippines for vacation), or
- With valid working visa or work permit, or
- With other types of visa, but presently employed or working full time.

Not OFWs

- Work in embassies, missions, consulates abroad
- Abroad for training
- Working as advisers/consultants in international organizations, such as UN
- Permanent immigrants

25 Questions in Migration Module

On

- Personal characteristics of migrants (age, sex, education, occupation prior to departure)
- Country of destination and length of time abroad
- Kind of work abroad
- Remittance amount – in cash and in kind – and channel used

SOF FORM 1

Republic of the Philippines

National Statistics Office

Manila

SURVEY ON OVERSEAS FILIPINOS

October 2006

Q1	What is the name of the family member who is/was abroad? *(Take note that the reference period is from October 2001 to September 2006)* _____ Line No. in ISH Form 2 [ ][ ]
Q2	What is _____'s relationship to the head of this household? [ ][ ] 01 Head; 02 Spouse; 03 Son/Daughter; 04 Brother/Sister; 05 Son-in-law/ Daughter-in-law; 06 Grandson/ Granddaughter; 07 Father/Mother; 08 Other Relative; 09 Non-Relative
Q3	Is _____ male or female? [ ] 1 Male 2 Female
Q4	How old is _____on his/her last birthday? [ ][ ]
Q5	How many times did _____ leave for abroad during the last five years (Oct. 2001 to Sept. 2006)? [ ][ ]
Q6	Now, I would like to ask some information about the time of his/her (last) departure. When did _____ last leave? Month . . . . [ ][ ] Month _____ Year _____ Year . . . . . [ ][ ][ ][ ]

Q7	What is _____'s marital status as of his/her (last) departure? 1 Single 3 Widowed 5 Unknown 2 Married 4 Separated/Divorced
Q8	What is the highest grade completed by _____ at the time of his/her (last) departure? 00 No Grade Completed 03 High School Undergraduate For College Graduate 01 Elementary Undergraduate 04 High School Graduate or Higher, specify 02 Elementary Graduate 05 College Undergraduate _____
Q9	What was _____'s usual occupation in the Philippines before he/she (last) left? _____
Q10	What was _____'s reason for leaving the country (last time)? 1 Contract Worker 5 Student 2 Work with Phil. Embassy/Consulate Abroad 6 Immigrant 3 Worker other than Contractual 7 Official Mission 4 Tourist 8 Others (specify) _____
Q11	In what country did _____ stay / intend to stay when he/she (last) left? _____
Q12	For how many months did _____ stay / intend to stay abroad (last time)? No. of Months _____ Not Expected to Return 88

Q13	Did _____ work or had a job/business at anytime during his last stay abroad? 1 YES 2 NO, **(SKIP TO Q16)** ☐
Q14	What kind of work did _____ do abroad? _____ ☐☐☐☐
Q15	How many months has _____ worked/been working abroad during the last 5 years (Oct. 2001 to Sept. 2006)? No. of Months _____ ☐☐
Q16	Has _____returned home since his/her (last) departure? 1 YES 2 NO, **(SKIP TO Q18)** ☐
Q17	When did _____ return home? Month _____ Year _____ **(SKIP TO Q19)** Month . . . . ☐☐ Year . . . . . ☐☐☐☐
Q18	When is _____ expected to return home? Month _____ Year _____ Not Expected to Return ……. 888888 Month . . . . ☐☐ Year . . . . . ☐☐☐☐
Q19	Now, I would like to ask about the cash remittance received by the family from _____. By cash remittance, I mean money/checks sent either thru local or foreign source or both. Did the family receive any cash remittance from _____ during the period April to September 2006? 1 YES 2 NO, **(SKIP TO Q22)** ☐

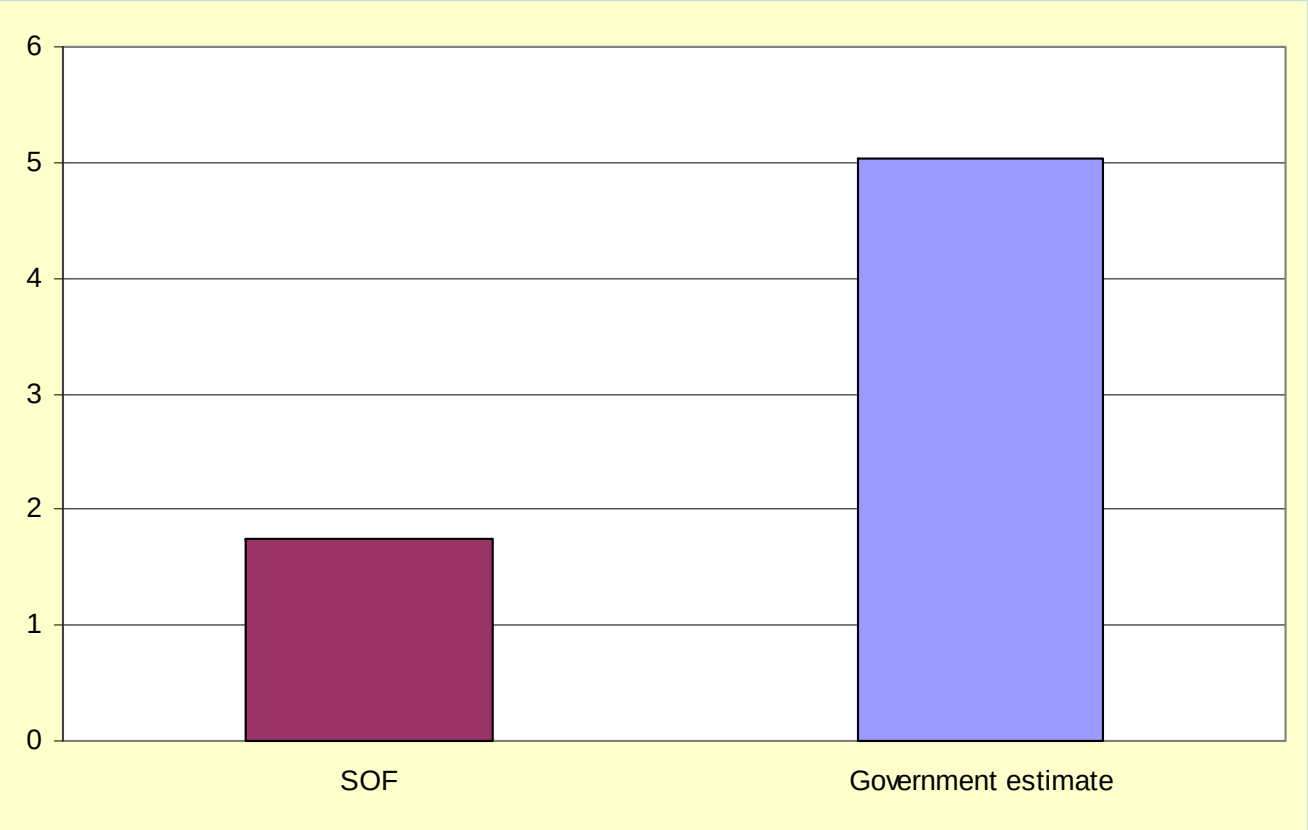
Q20	How much cash remittance was received by the family during the month of (ENTER AMOUNT AND CURRENCY) APRIL _____ MAY _____ JUNE _____ JULY _____ AUG. _____ SEPT. _____
Q21	How do you usually receive the remittance during the period April to September 2006? 1 Bank 3 Friends/Co-worker 5 Others (specify) _____ 2 Agency/Local Office 4 Door-to-door
Q22	**CHECK Q17 AND Q18:** Did the person return during the period April to September 2006? 1 YES 2 NO, **(SKIP TO Q24)**
Q23	How much cash did he/she bring home during the period April to September 2006? (ENTER AMOUNT AND CURRENCY) _____
Q24	Did the family receive goods/products (e.g. Appliances, jewelry, etc.) from _____ during the period April to September 2006? 1 YES 2 NO, **(END INTERVIEW)**
Q25	What is the total imputed value of these goods/products? (ENTER AMOUNT IN PESOS) A. Appliances _____ E. Cigarettes _____ B. Jewelry _____ F. Personal Care C. Chocolates and & Effects _____ Canned Goods _____ G. Clothing and D. Alcoholic Beverages _____ Other Wear _____ H. Others _____

Use of SOF Results

- Results on remittances in kind and remittances through informal channels used by Central Bank to adjust official estimates of remittances for Balance of Payments report

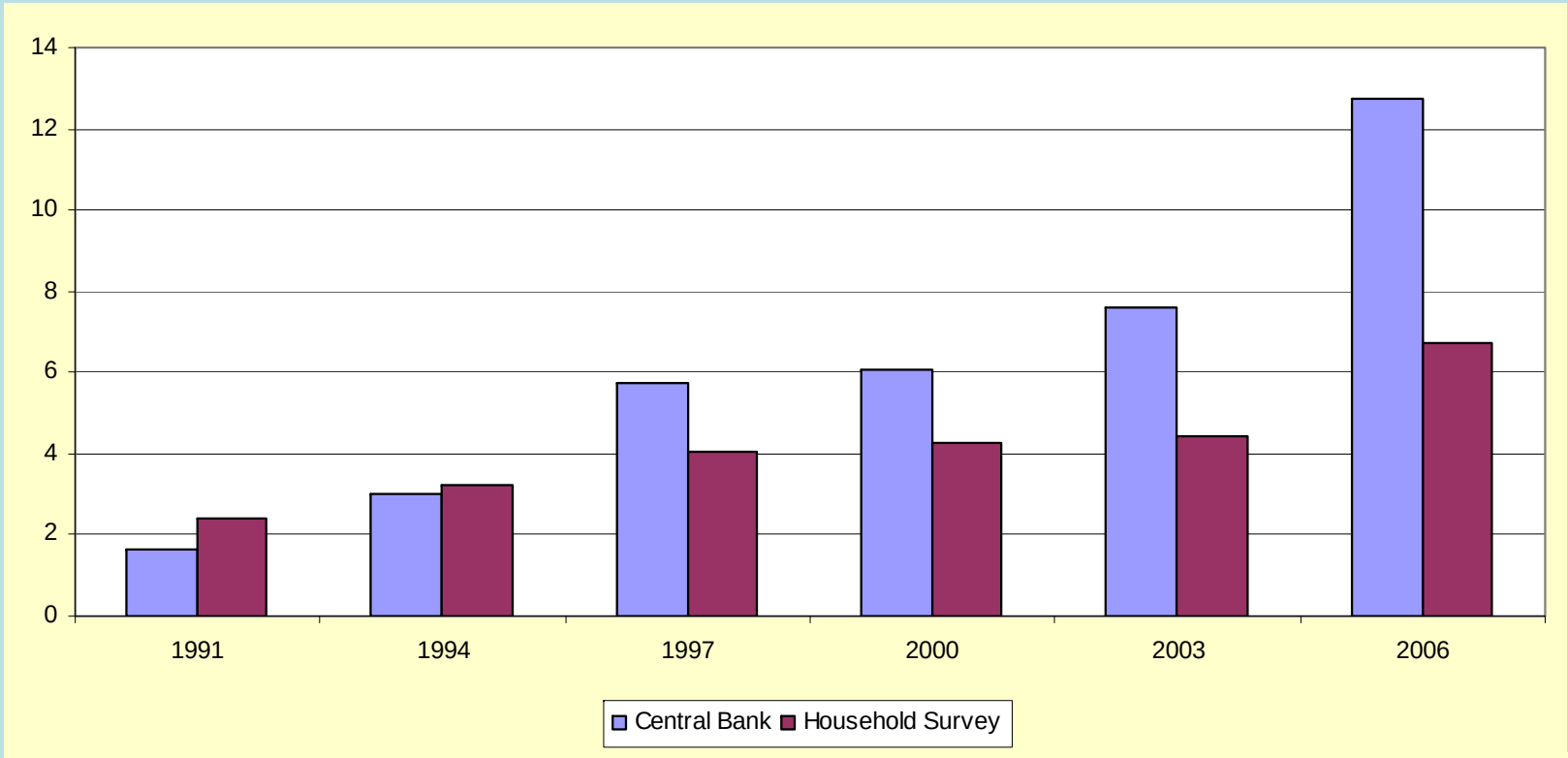
Reliability Issues: Underestimates # of Overseas Filipinos

Estimate of Temporary Workers Overseas (Mn) in 2007 : HH Survey vs. Government Estimate



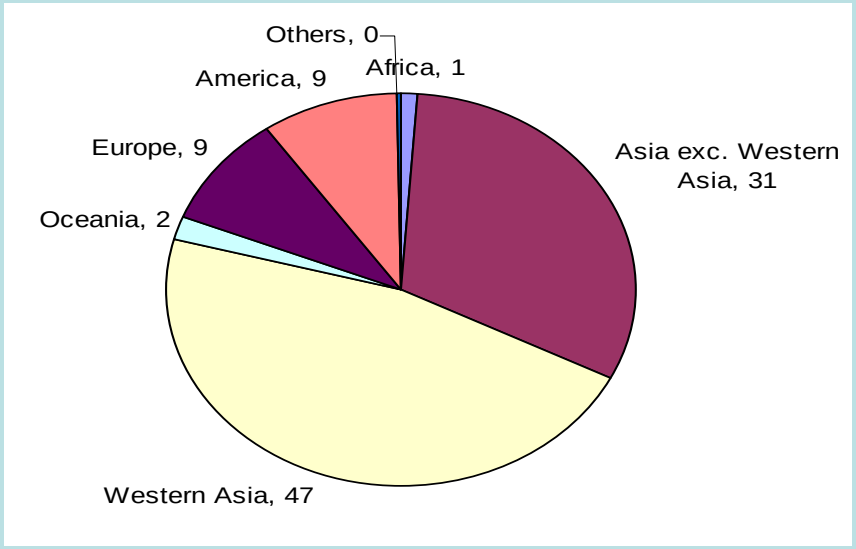
Reliability Issues: Underestimates volume of remittances

Remittances to Philippines ($Bn): Central Bank vs HH Survey

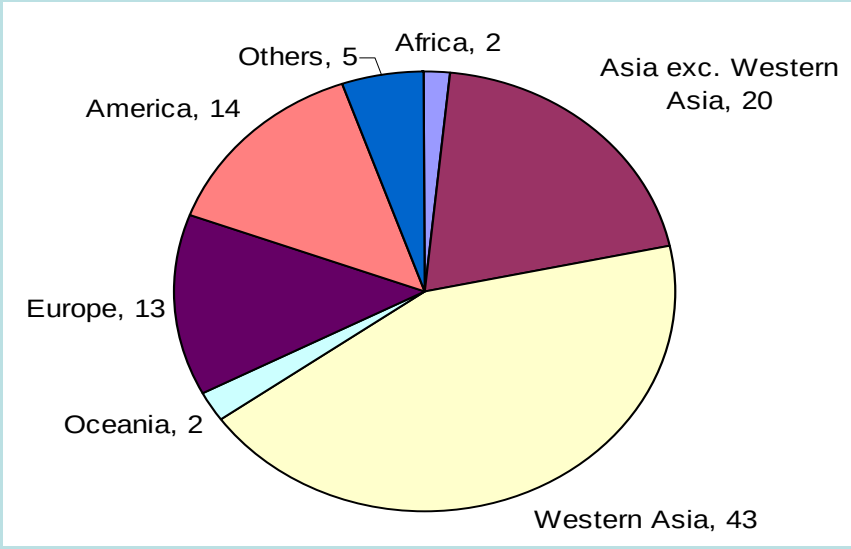


Reliability Issues: Estimates of share by destination is off but relative order is ok

Survey of Overseas Filipinos



Government Estimates



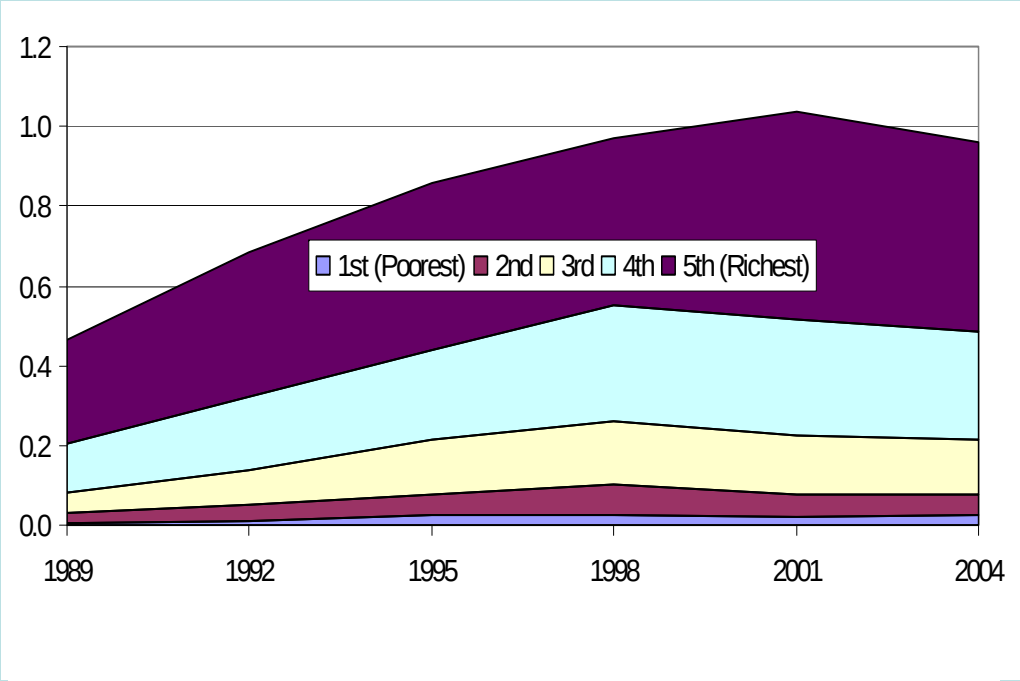
- Another issue is comparability across years – changing sampling frames because sampling frames based on Census

Advantage of LFS-based Migration Statistics

- Link migration with other LFS-based data
  - Income and expenditures of family
  - Enrolment of children
  - Employment decisions of other HH members

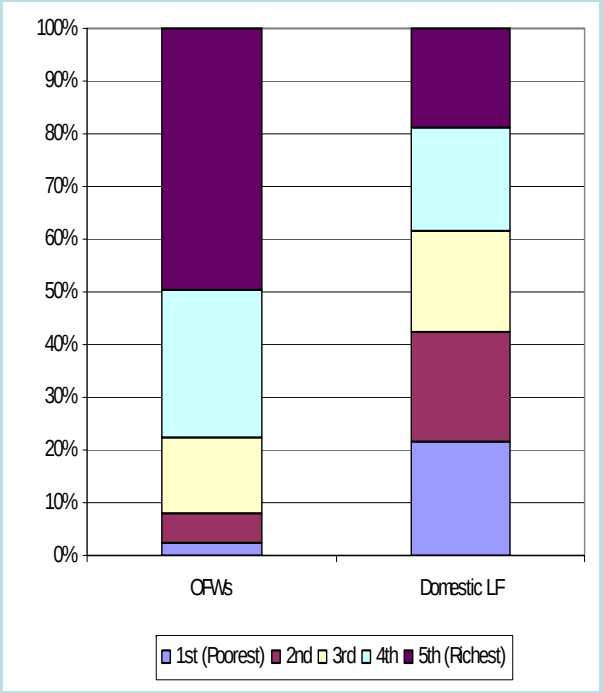
Impact of Overseas Workers: Inequality

Figure 3.4. OFWs by per capita income of family, 1988-2004



Source: LFS and FIES various years.

OFWs vs. Domestic Labour Force, 2004



Impact of Overseas Workers: Poverty

Table 4.2. Household Poverty Incidence by Presence of OFW

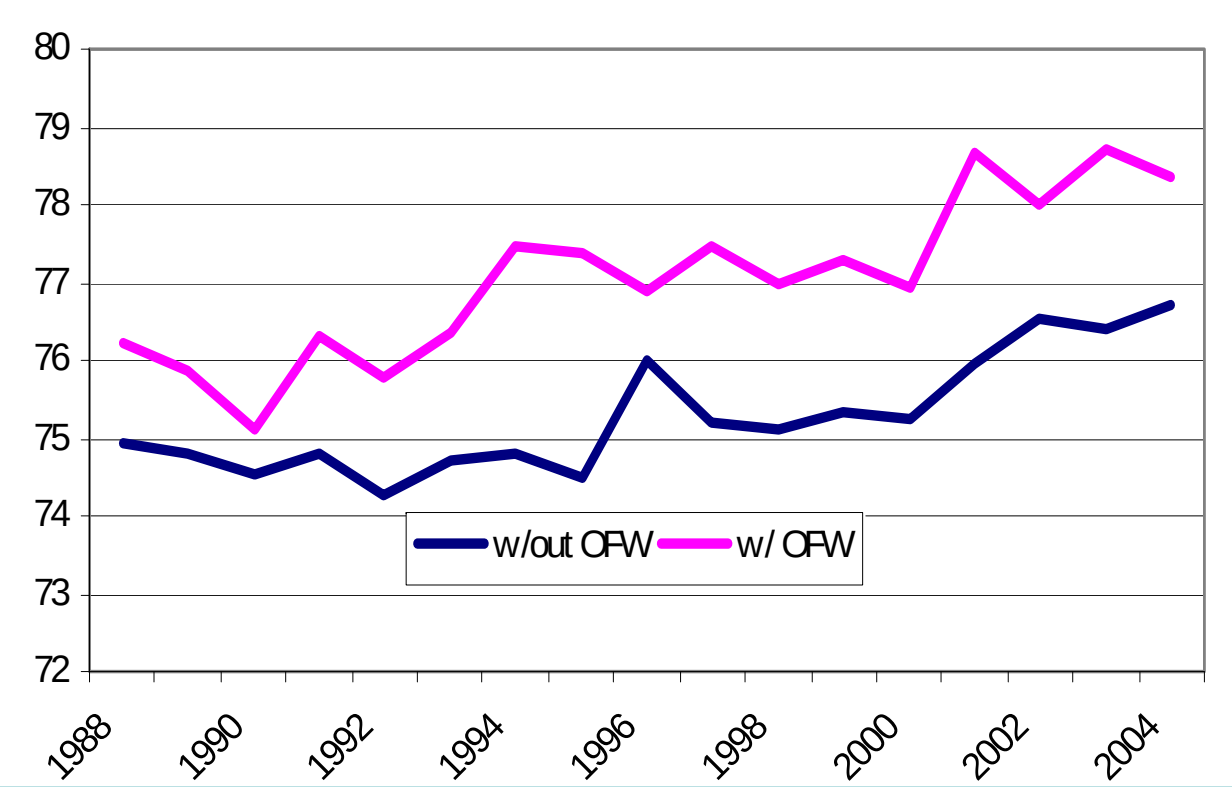
	Income-based		Expenditure-based		
OFW Presence	1997	1998	1997	1998	# of HHs
No OFW					
No OFW in 1997 and 1998	32.1	32.1	32.0	32.2	12,983,801
Long-term OFW					
With OFW in 1997 and 1998	5.2	5.3	6.0	5.0	610,546
Short-term OFW	*10.2*	*9.3*	*10.1*	*8.1*	*598,115*
W/ OFW in 1997, W/out in 1998	10.1	11.9	9.7	11.7	255,480
W/out OFW in 1997, W/ OFW in 1998	**10.4**	**7.3**	**10.4**	**5.4**	**342,635**
Total	30.0	30.0	30.0	30.0	14,192,463

*Based on FIES 1997 and APIS 1998, which contain a panel of 27,321 Philippine households from July 1997 to October 1998.

**Poverty incidence is defined in the relative sense of belonging to the poorest 30% in per capita terms.

Impact of Overseas Workers: Household Employment Decisions

Figure 4.2. LFPR by presence of OFW in Household, inc. OFW and exc. Students



Source: LFS 1988-2004; Annex Table 2

Thailand

- ILO (led by Jason Schachter) and NSO of Thailand piloted Migration Module in LFS in 4th quarter of 2006

22 Questions

For migrants to Thailand,

- Previous residence and citizenship, and date of arrival to Thailand
- Education and employment prior to arrival
- Reason for going to Thailand

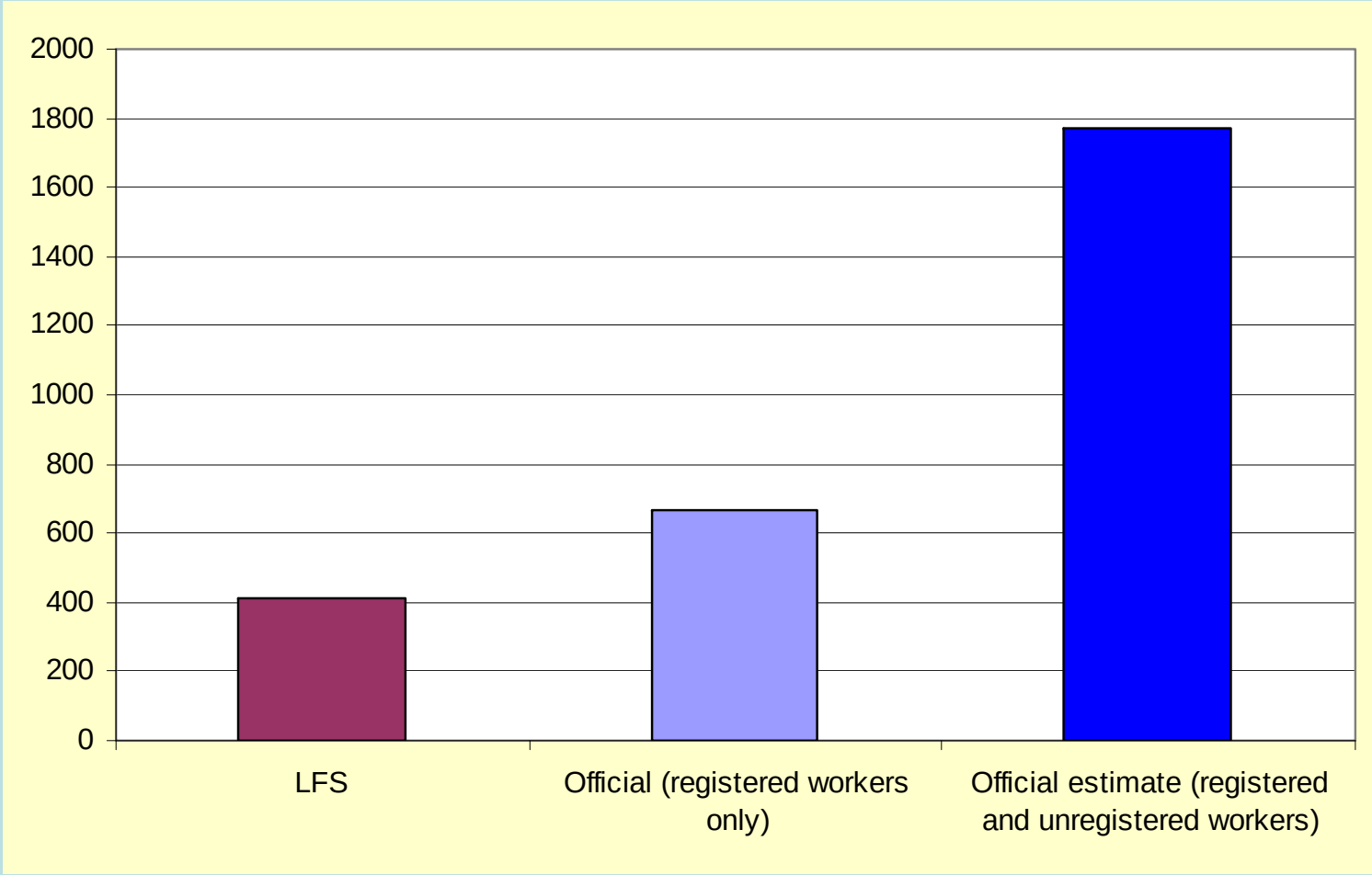
For Thais working overseas,

- Amount of remittances received by HHs, channel, and what they are used for

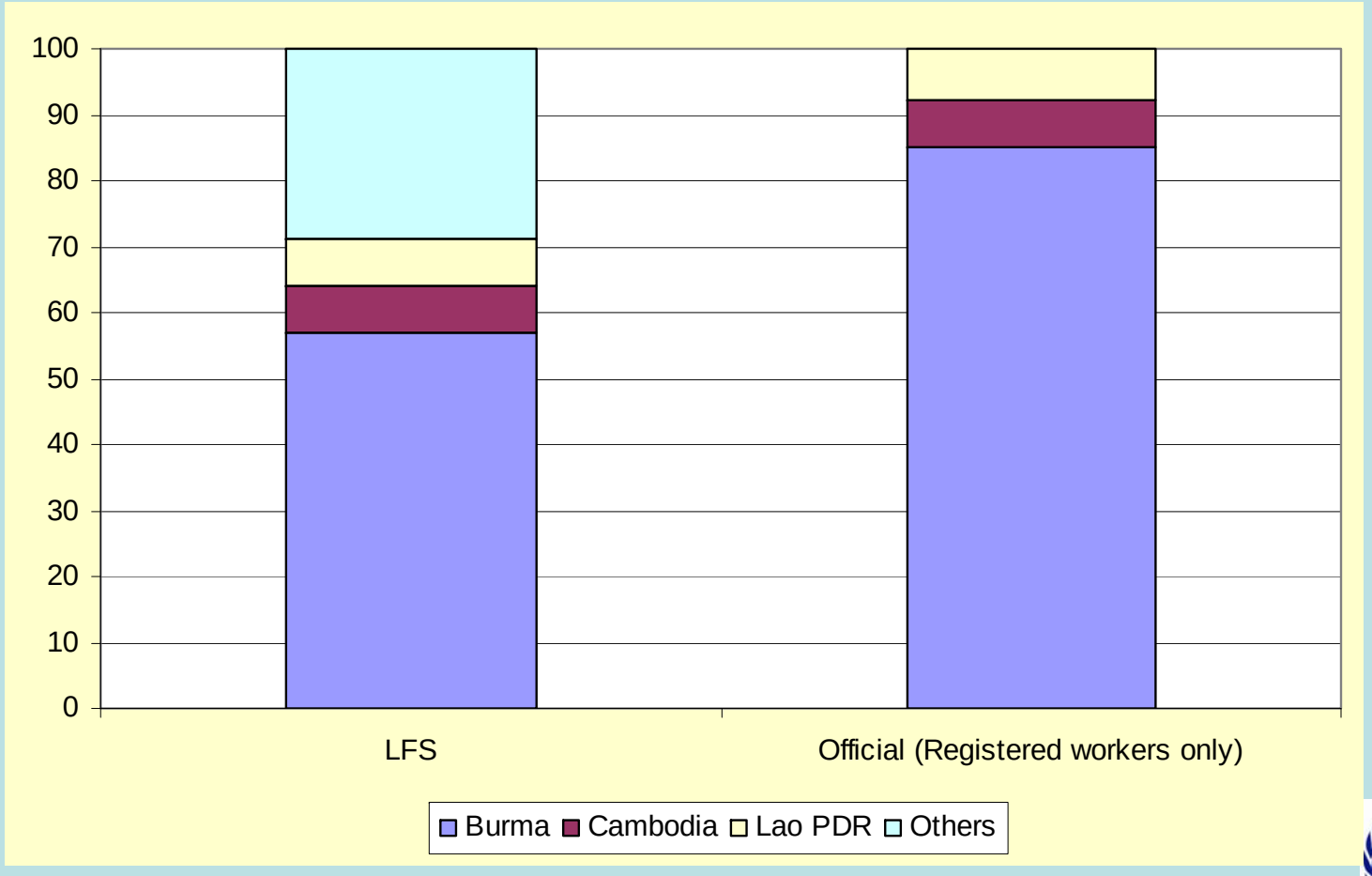
Problems encountered

- Difficult to get data for irregular migrants. They, their employers, or those who give them shelter hide them. And when found, give vague answers.
- Communication problems. Most migrants were from Myanmar, Laos, and Cambodia but no questionnaires in those languages.

Estimate of Migrants in Thailand, 2006



Distribution of Migrants in Thailand by Source Country, 2006



Suggestions by NSO for improvement

- Increase translated versions of questionnaire to include languages that migrants speak
- Hire local translators in areas where communication is really difficult
- Find way to have establishments or households with migrants (especially irregular) cooperate on survey

In sum,

- Origin and Destination countries face very different operational issues in incorporating migration module in LFS
- LFS-based based migration data very useful as they can be linked with other LFS-based statistics
- In receiving country with diverse migrants and large number of irregular migrants, the additional costs of adding module maybe very high