

Migration Data through Labour Force Surveys

the Philippine and Thailand experiences

Geoffrey Ducanes

Technical Officer

ILO Asian Programme on the Governance of
Labour Migration



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



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



Q13	Did _____ work or had a job/business at anytime during his last stay abroad?	<input type="checkbox"/>
	1. YES _____ 2. NO, (SKIP TO Q14)	
Q14	What kind of work did _____ do abroad?	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>
	1. YES _____ 2. NO, (SKIP TO Q18)	
Q17	When did _____ return home?	
	Month _____ Year _____ Month _____	
	(SKIP TO Q18) Year _____	
Q18	When is _____ expected to return home?	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Month _____ Month _____	
	Year _____ Year _____	
	Not Expected to Return 888888	
Q19	Did the _____ receive any money/allowance from _____ during the period April to September 2006?	<input type="checkbox"/>
	1. YES _____ 2. NO, (SKIP TO Q20)	



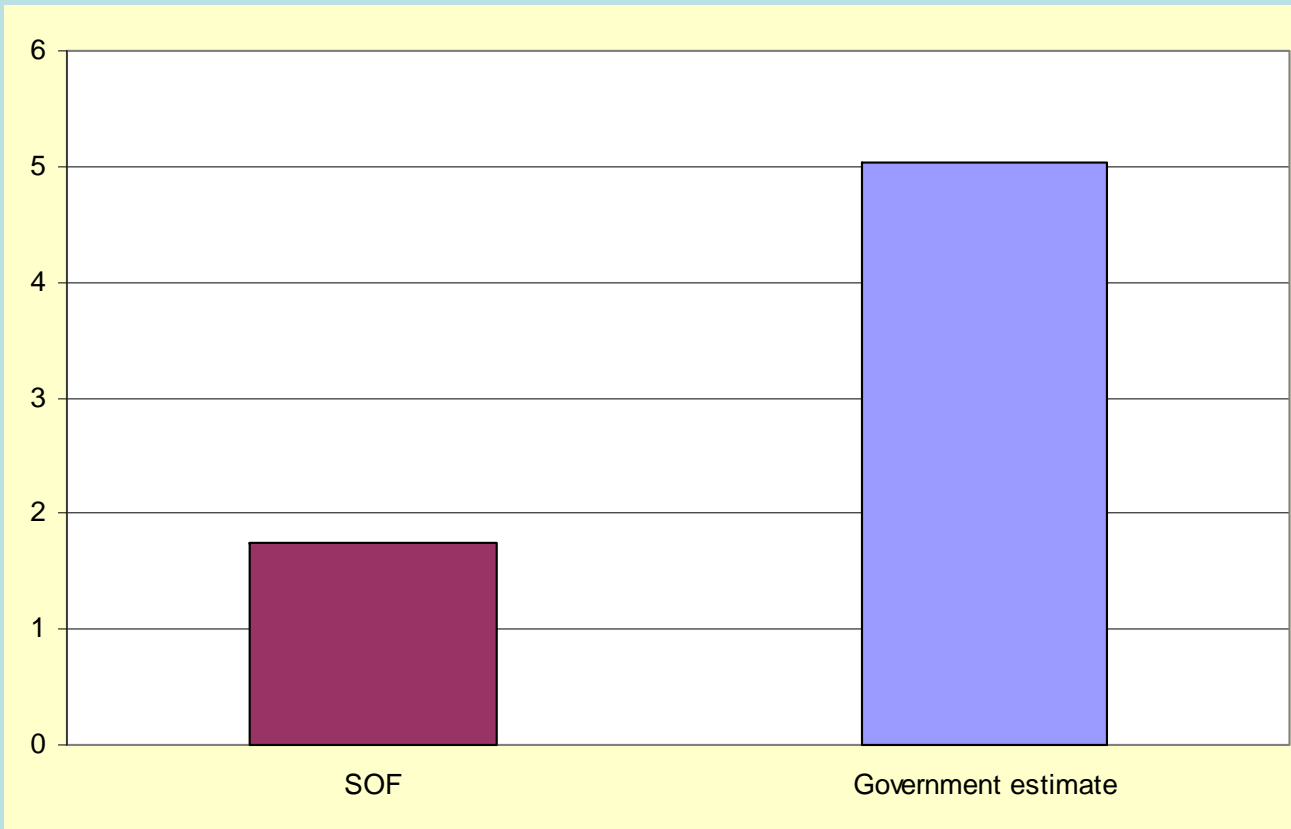
Use of SOF Results

- 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



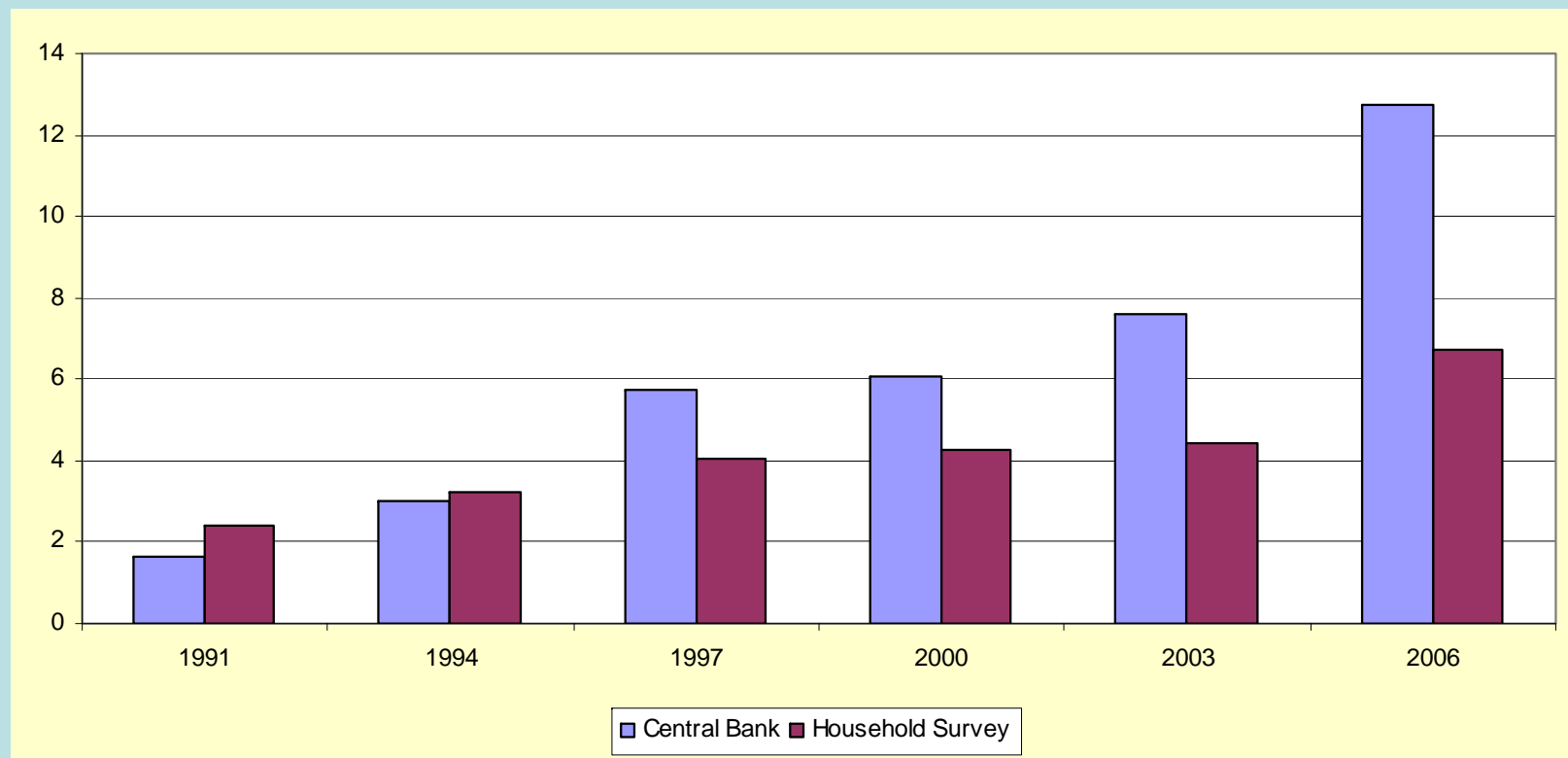
Reliability Issues: Underestimates # of Overseas Filipinos

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

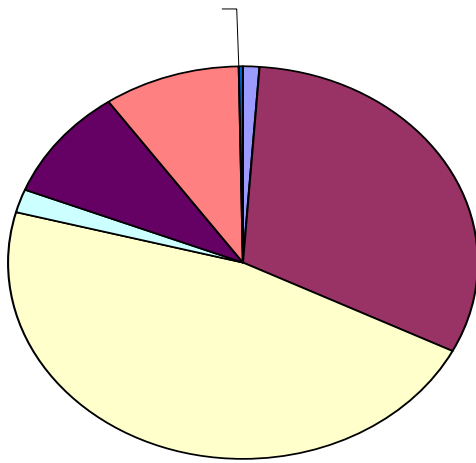


Reliability Issues: Underestimates volume of remittances

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



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



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

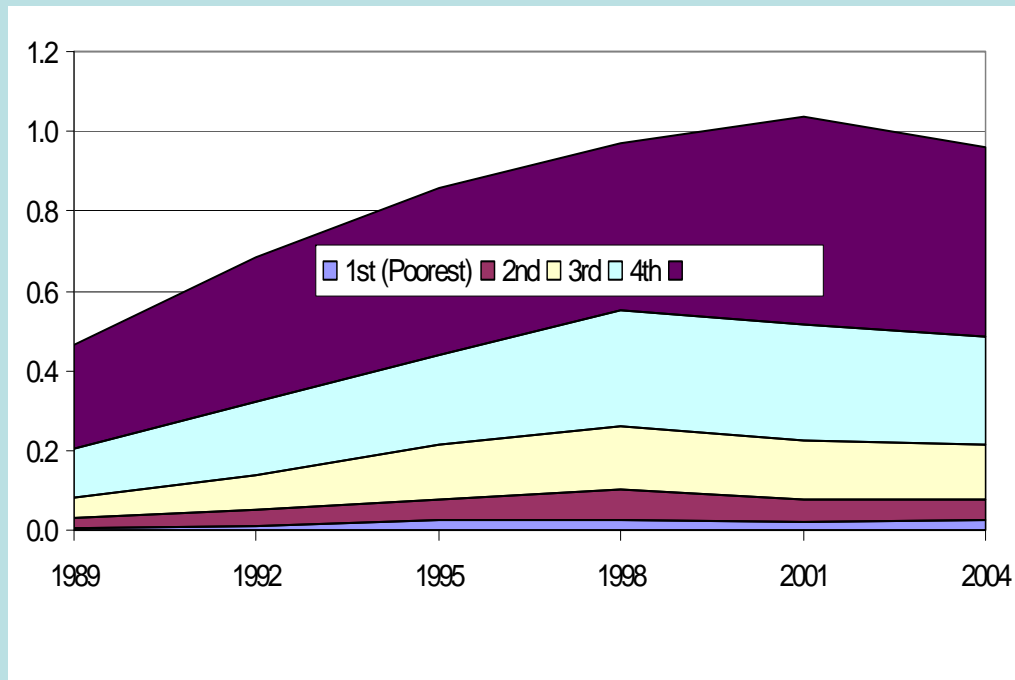


Advantage of LFS-based Migration Statistics

- 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



Impact of Overseas Workers: Poverty

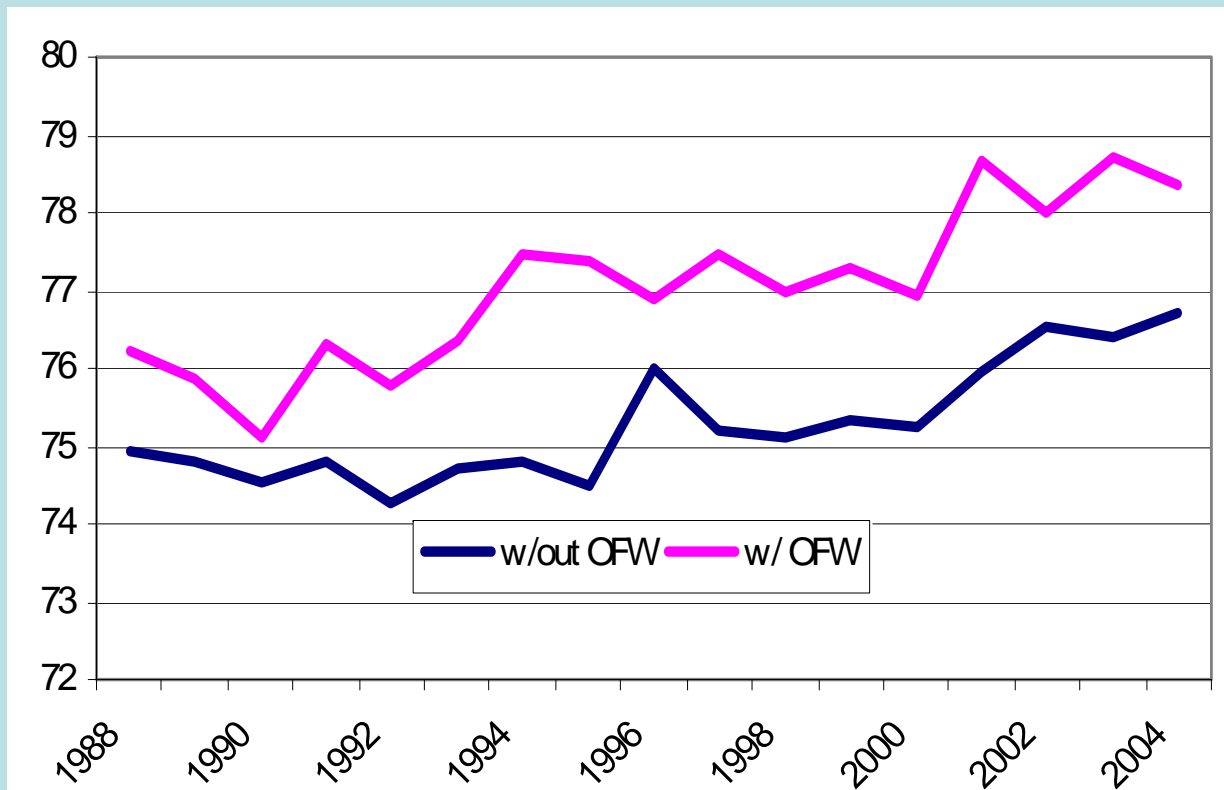
Table 4.2. Household Poverty Incidence by Presence of OFW

OFW Presence	Income-based		Expenditure-based		# of HHs
	1997	1998	1997	1998	
<i>No OFW</i>					
No OFW in 1997 and 1998	32.1	32.1	32.0	32.2	12,983,801
<i>Long-term OFW</i>					
With OFW in 1997 and 1998	5.2	5.3	6.0	5.0	610,546
<i>Short-term OFW</i>					
W/ OFW in 1997, W/out in 1998	10.1	11.9	9.7	11.7	255,480



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,

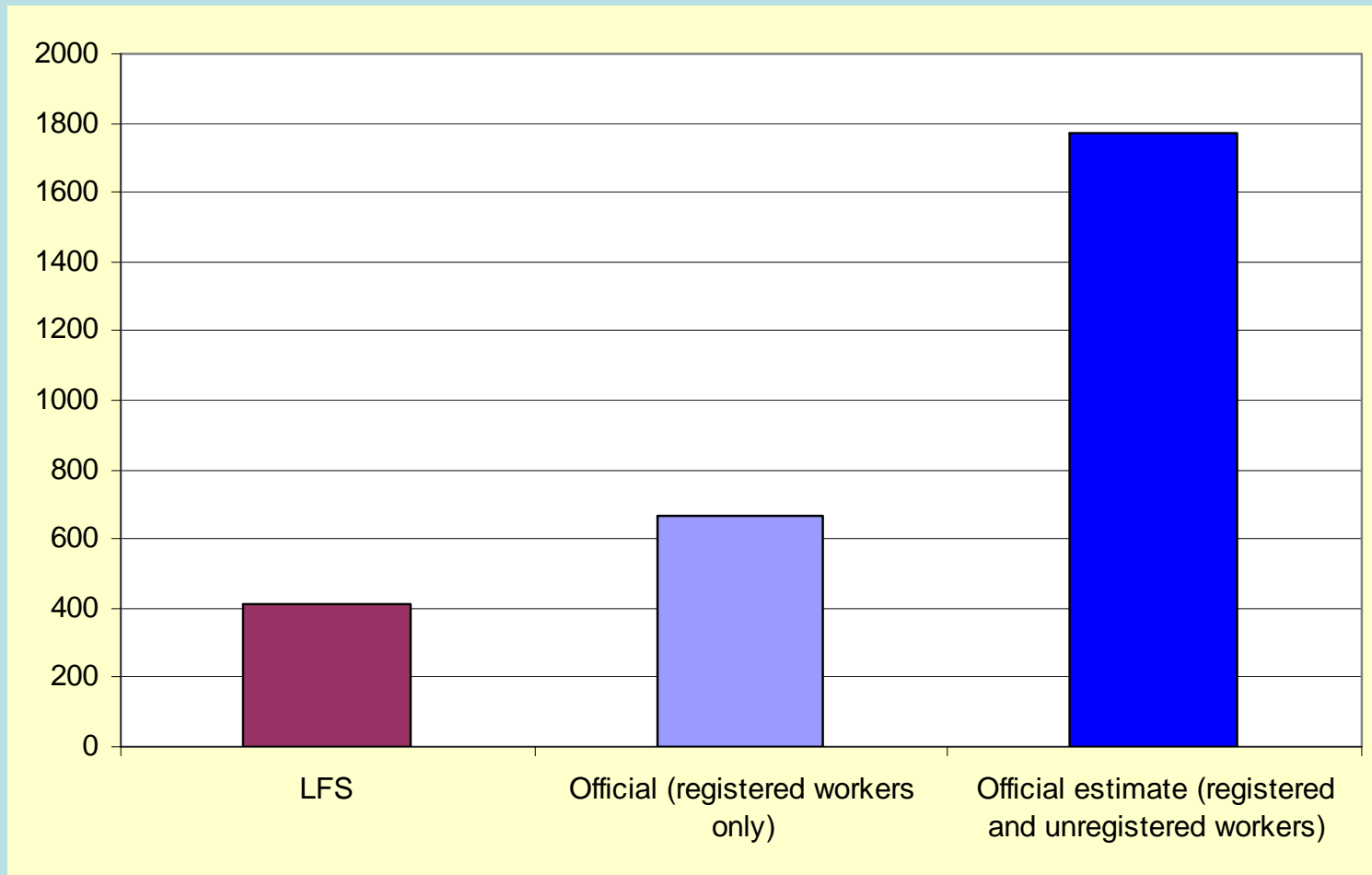
- Amount of remittances received by HHs, channel, and what they are used for



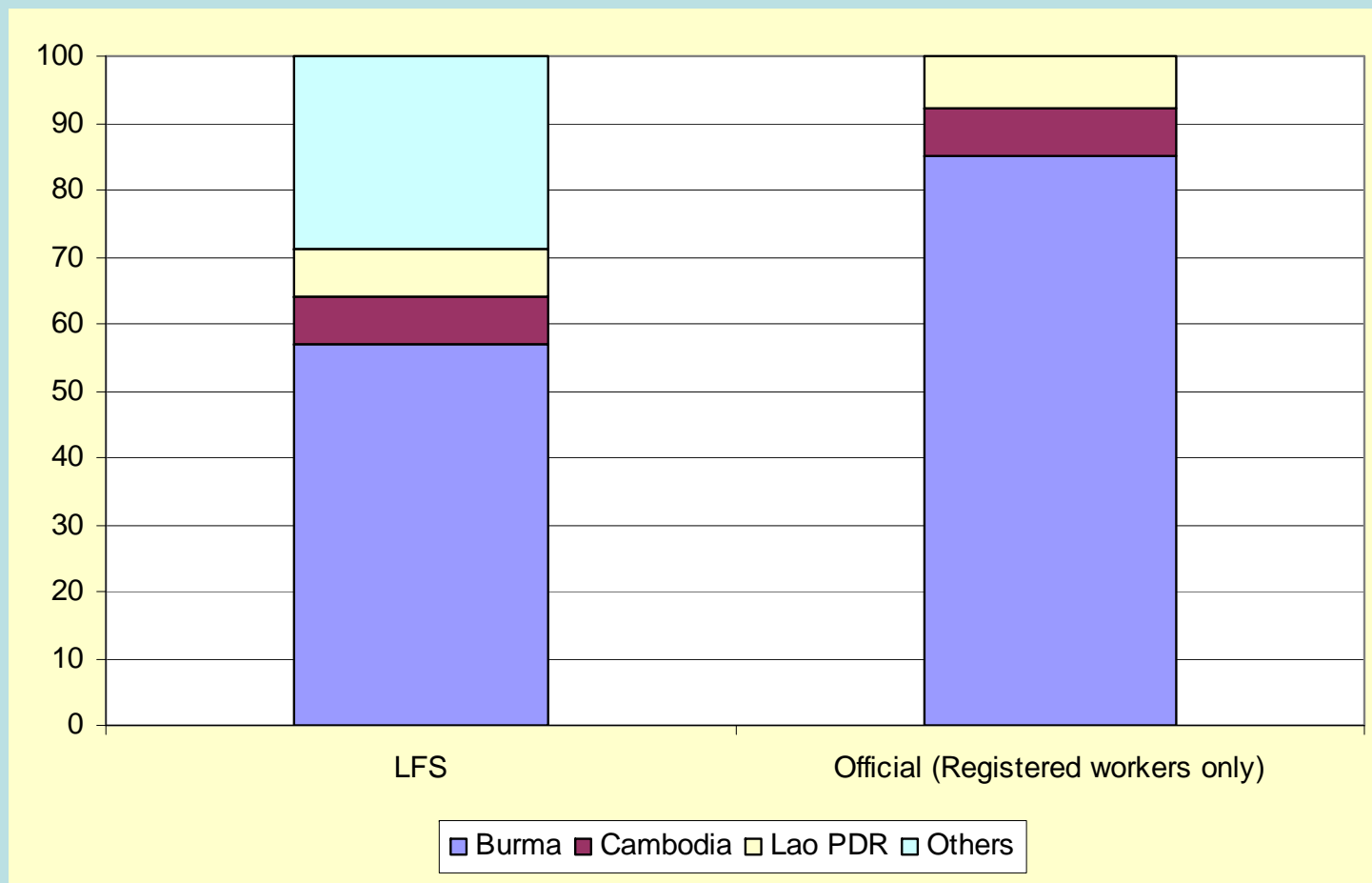
Problems encountered



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

