# 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

- 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



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	LADOL ADMINISTRA SI DELL'ADDINA SI D	Peroter 2006
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October 2001 to September 2	2006)	
		Line No. in ISH Form 2
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c)?				Q12	For how many month	s did	stay / inter	od to stay abroad (last tim
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Q14	What kindrof work-sidso-abcead?	_				
Q15	How many months has worked/be	en working abroad during the la	st 5 years (Oct. 2001 to Sept 20	)06)?		
	No. of	f Months _				
Q16	Has retirmed home since bis/her (la	asi) departure?		ı		
	1 YES	2 NO,	(SKIP TO Q16)			
Q177	When did return home?					
	Month	Year	Month			
		(SKIP TO Q18)	<b>Үент</b>			
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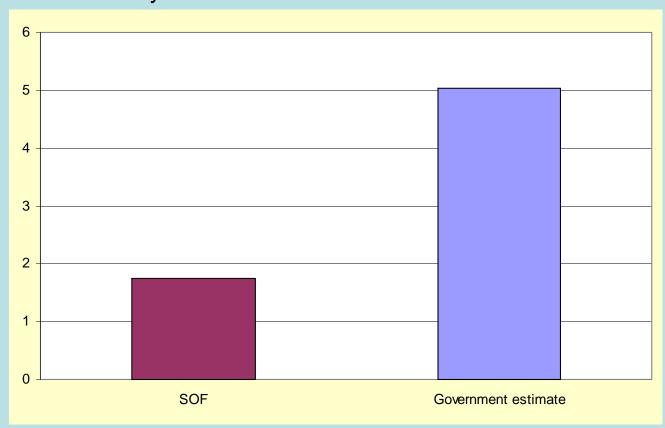
#### Use of SOF Results

 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

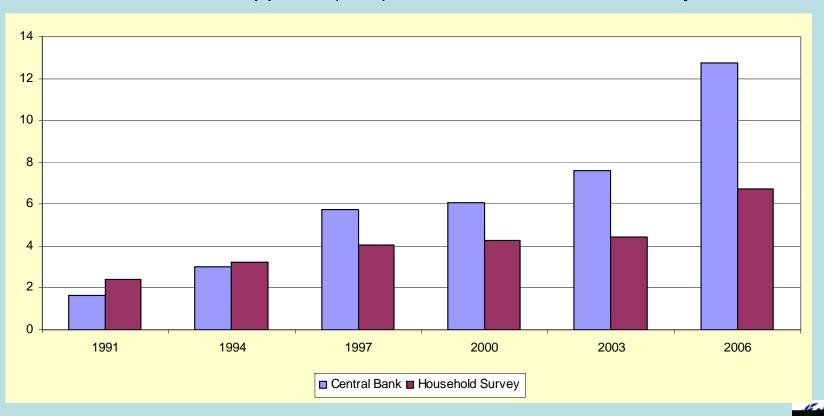
Estimate of Temporary Workers Overseas (Mn) in 2007 : HH Survey vs. Government Estimate



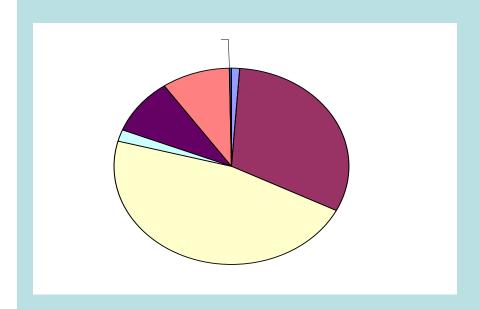


## Reliability Issues: Underestimates volume of remittances

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

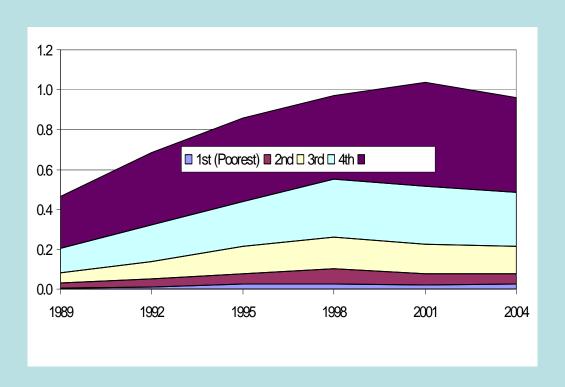


## Advantage of LFS-based Migration Statistics

- 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

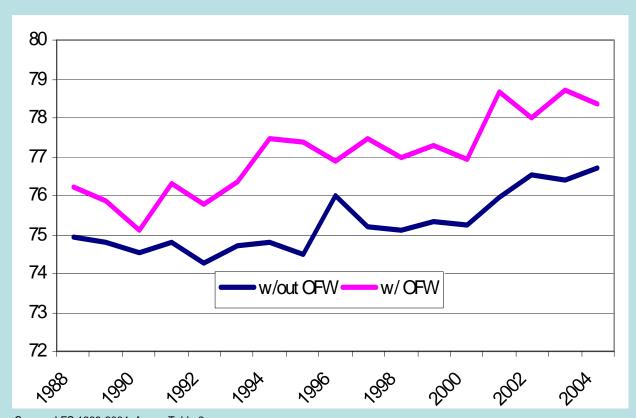
Table 4.2. Household Poverty Incidence by Presence of OFW

	Income-	Income-based		ure-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



# 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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,

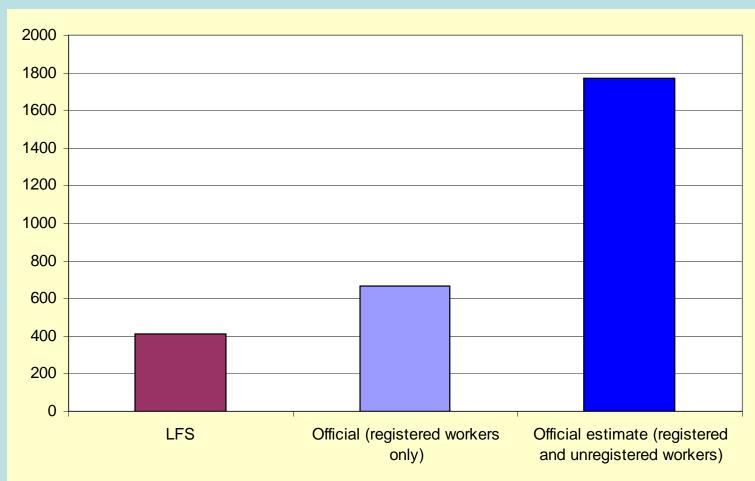
 Amount of remittances received by HHs, channel, and what they are used for



### Problems encountered

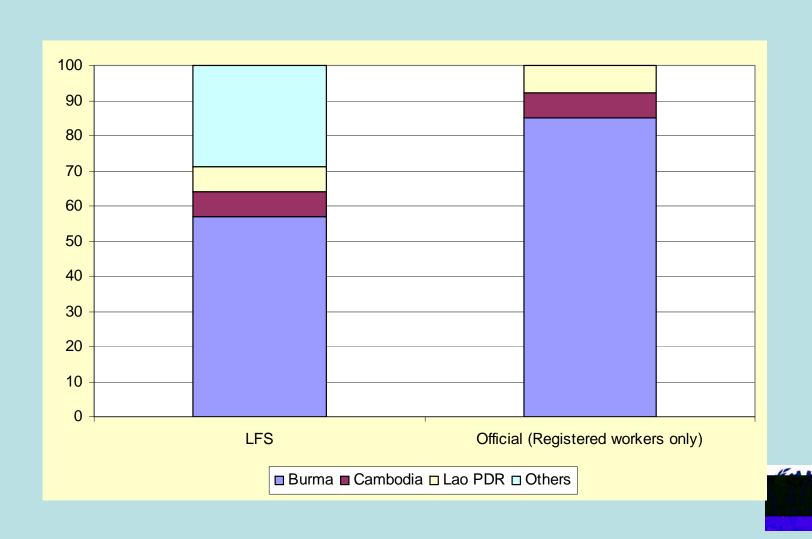


# Estimate of Migrants in Thailand, 2006





# 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

