



SOUTH ASIA LABOR MOBILITY
CONFERENCE & WORKSHOP

Support to Prospective Migrants

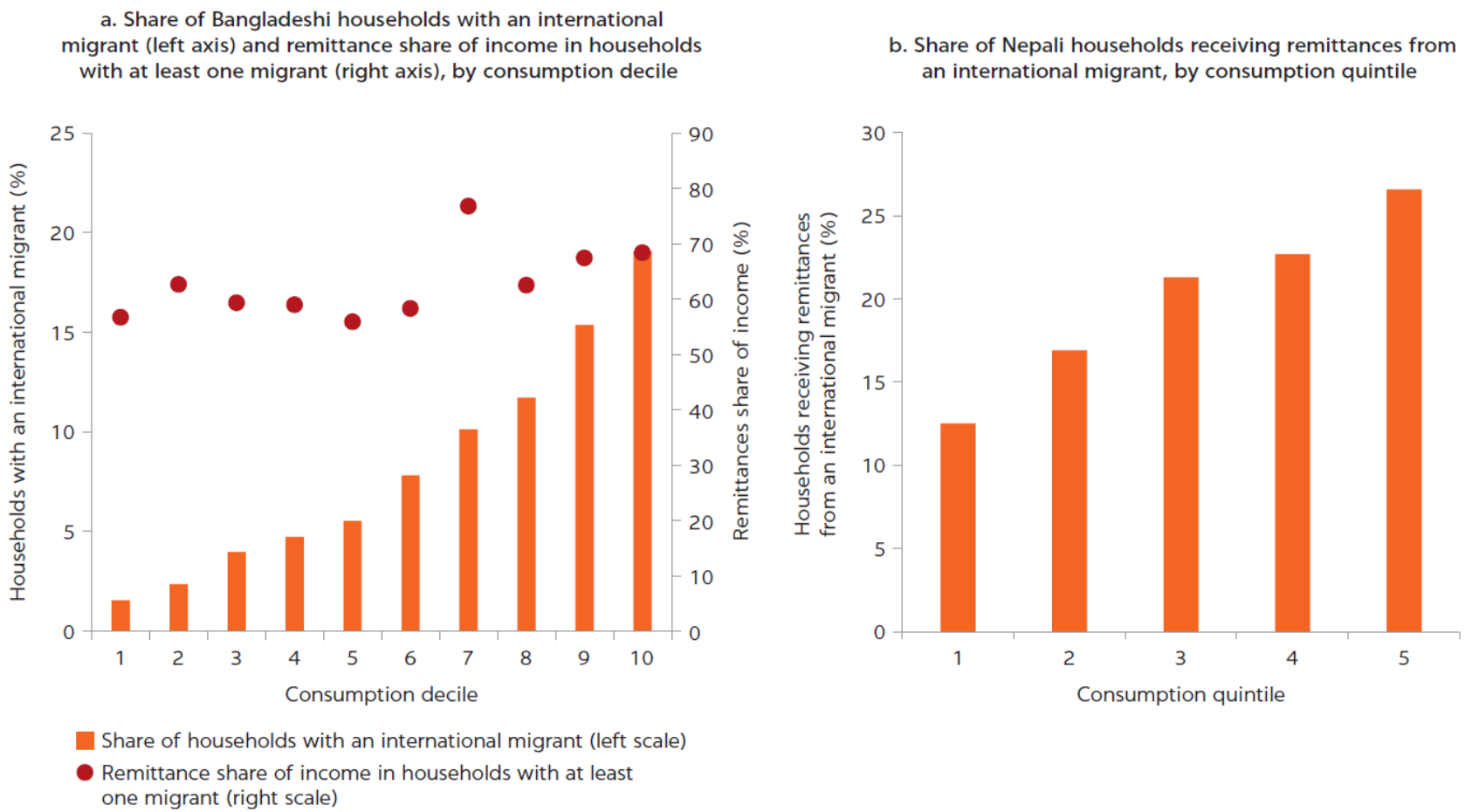
Cem Mete

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World Bank



Remittances are important for households, but not all households can send a migrant



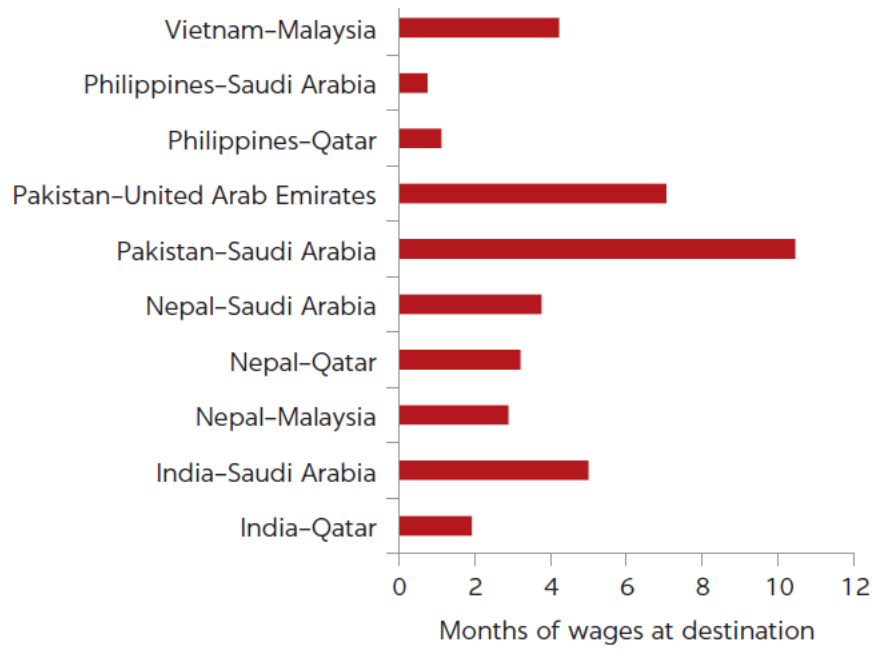
Source: Ahmed and Bossavie 2022



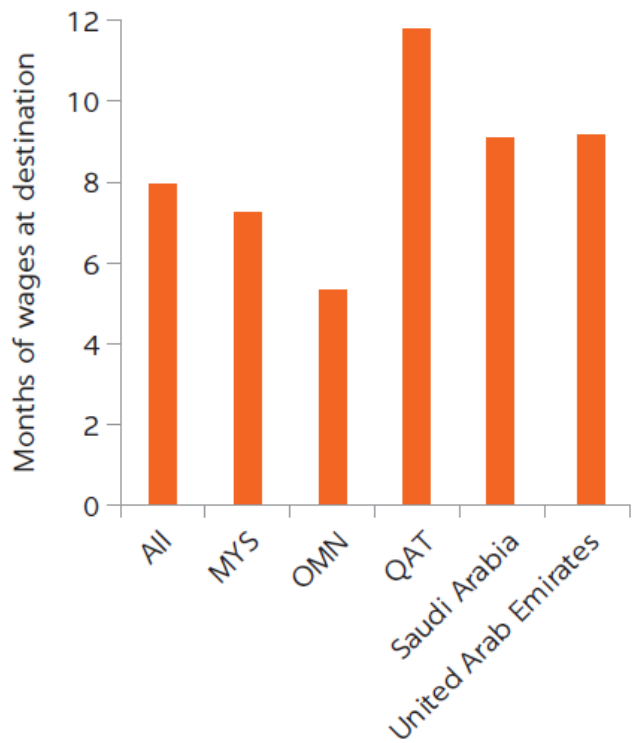
Migration costs tend to be very high for South Asian migrant workers



Costs for select corridors, months of wages at destination



Costs for Bangladeshi migrants for select corridors, months of wages at destination



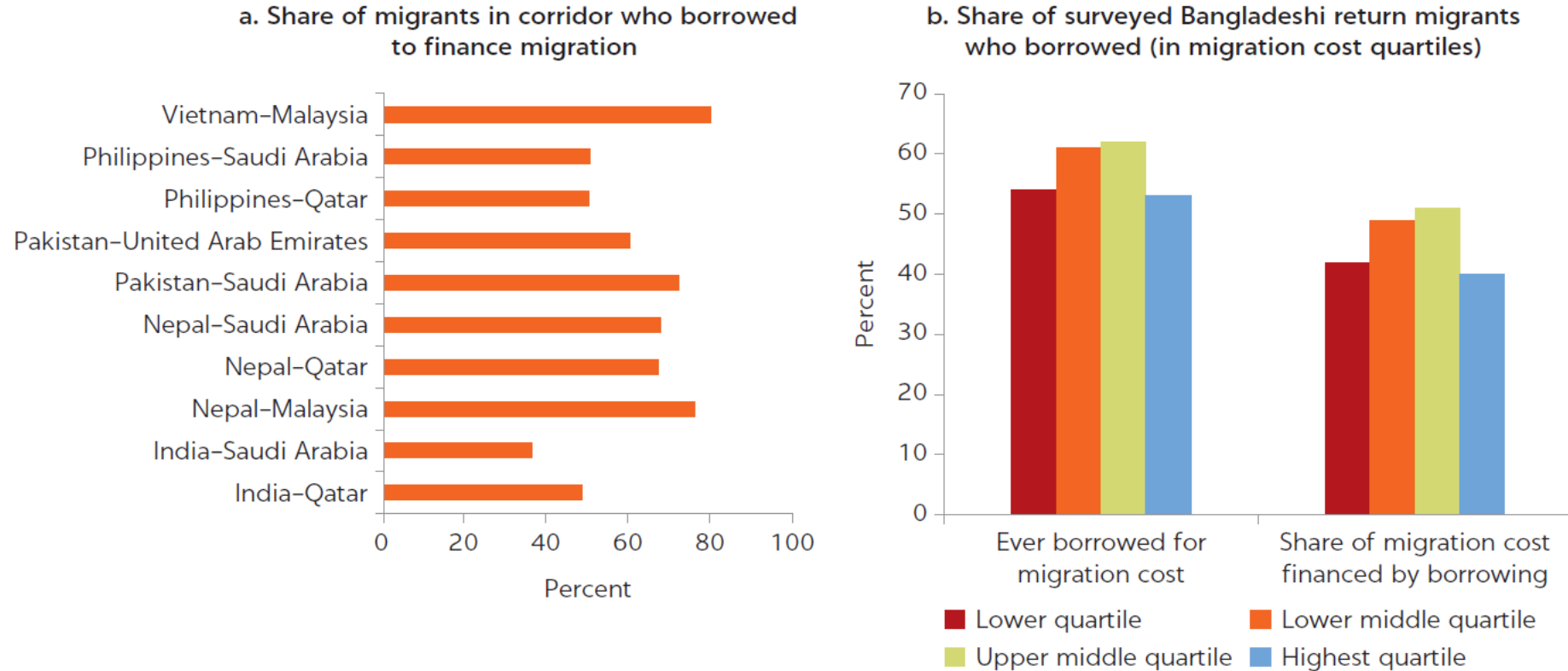
Source: Ahmed and Bossavie 2022



High costs and over-indebtedness



Borrowing to finance temporary economic migration



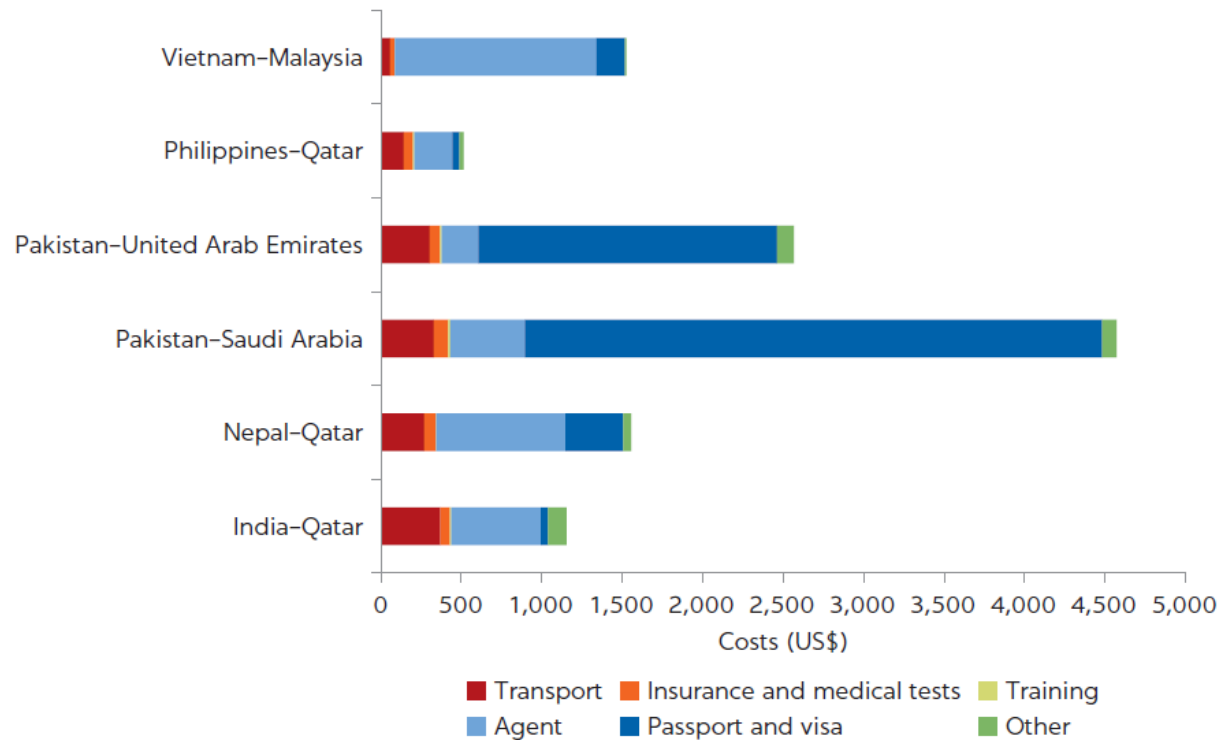
Source: Ahmed and Bossavie 2022



Inefficiencies in systems often contribute to these high costs



Migration cost breakdown for select corridors



Source: KNOMAD-ILO Migration Costs Surveys 2015 and 2016.

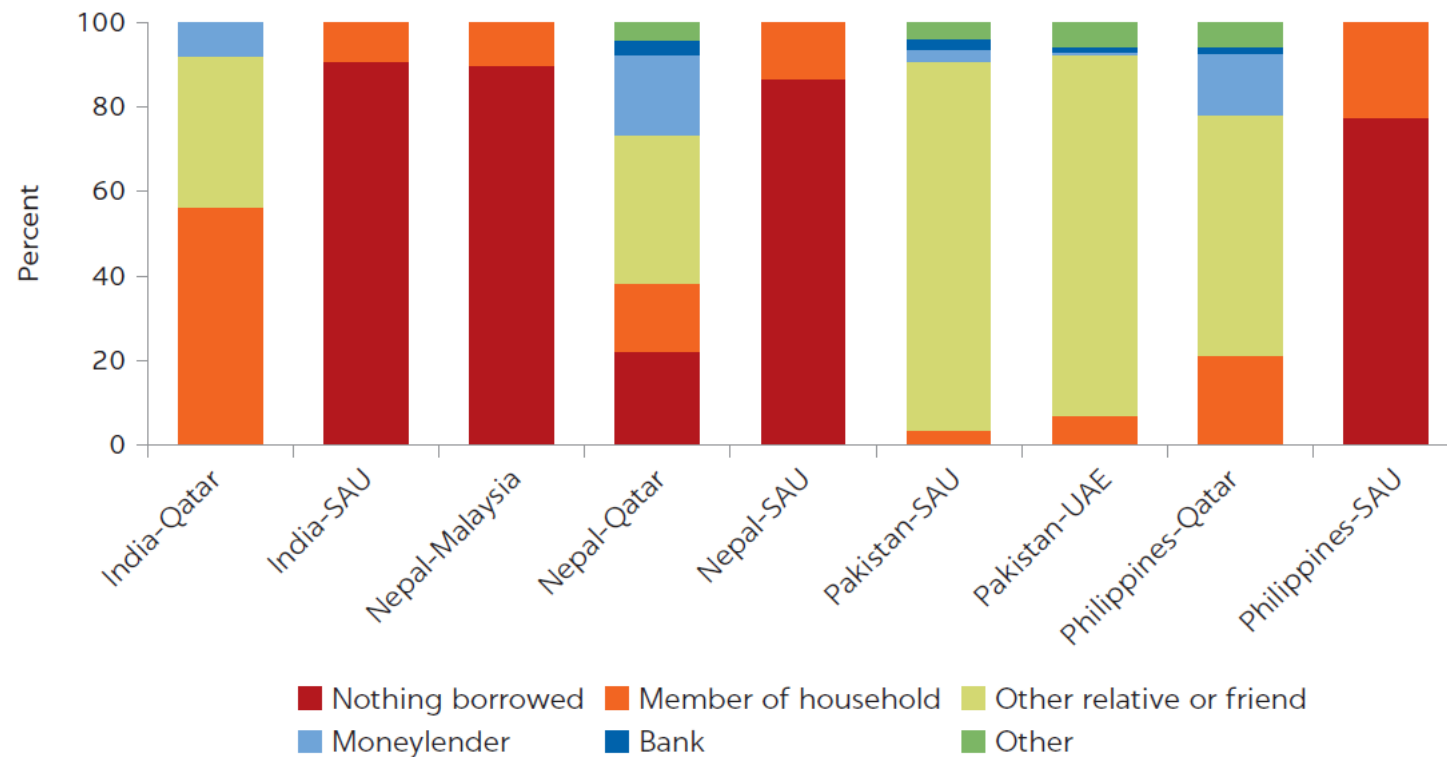
Note: Costs that constitute less than 1 percent of total expenditures are dropped.



Access to finance can be a binding constraint for migrant workers from South Asia

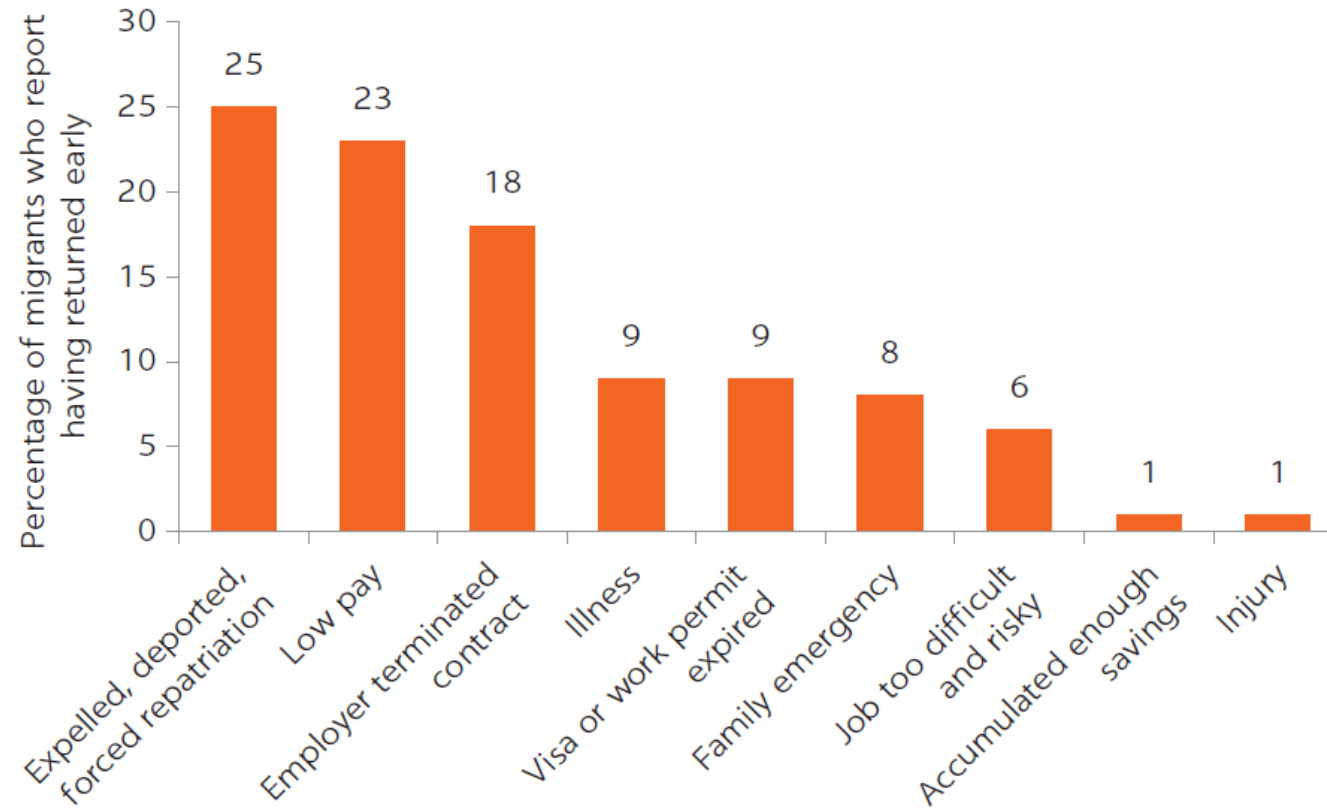


Migrant costs by source of financing, select corridors



Migrant workers often face a range of challenges that affect their employment status

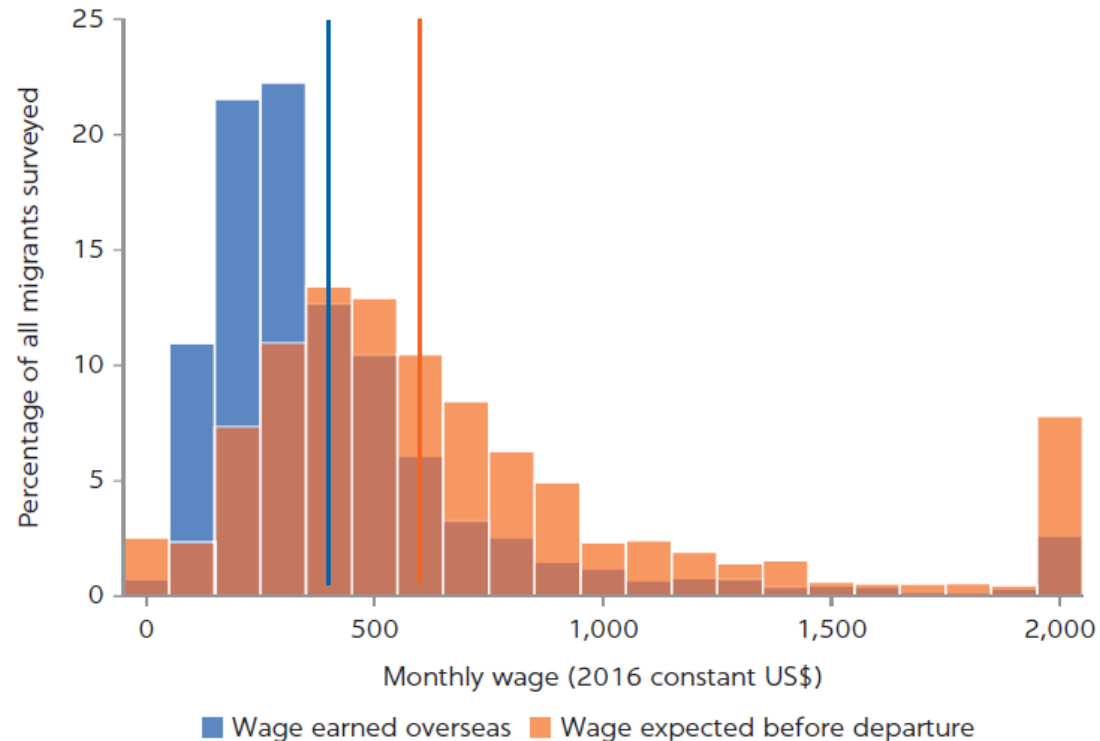
Primary reason for returning earlier than planned among Bangladeshi migrants



Source: Ahmed and Bossavie 2022

Expectations around wages often inflated

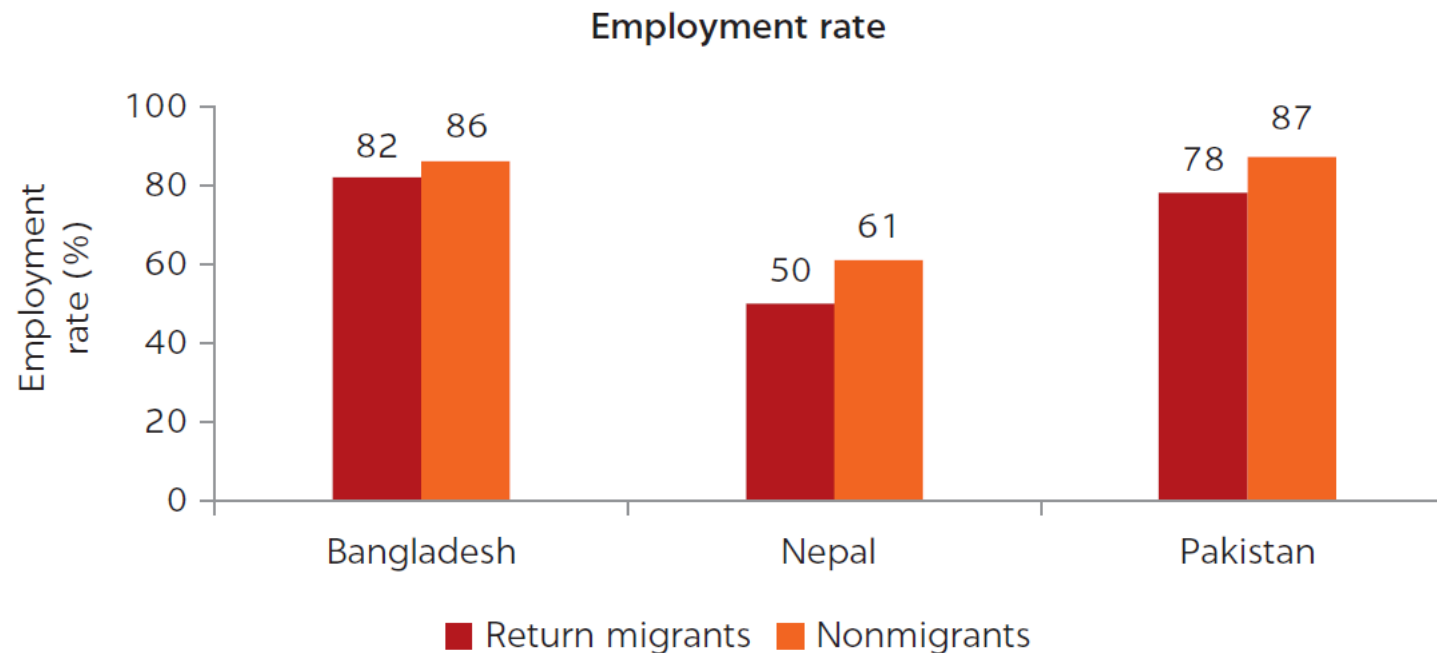
Wage expectations before departure vs actually earned overseas by temporary migrants from Bangladesh



Sources: Bossavie et al. (2021) based on the Bangladesh Return Migrant Survey 2018/19.
Note: Statistics are for males ages 18–59. The y-axis shows the percentage of migrants who earned or expected the corresponding wage values overseas (on the x-axis). Vertical lines represent median values.

- Among surveyed Bangladeshi returnees
 - 22% not satisfied with experience
 - 46% left before end of contract
 - 32% currently unemployed – 43 percent left before the end of their contract

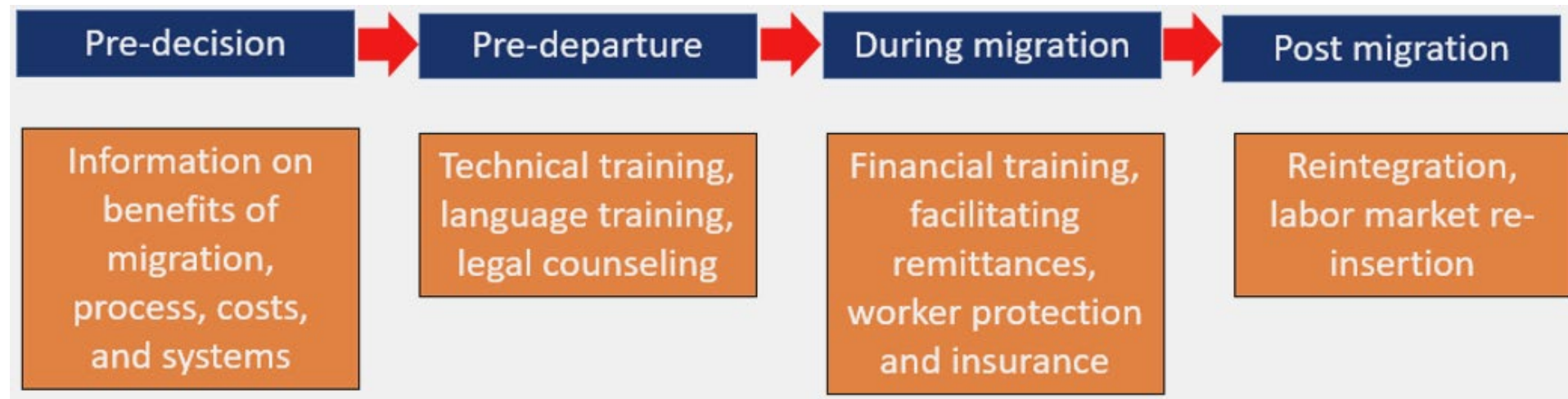
Returning migrants may need more time and support to reintegrate



Source: Ahmed and Bossavie (2022)



Migrant workers need a range of services, and not necessarily in isolation





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Thank you!