

## Supplementary Guidelines for Covid-19 Migrant Survey

### Introduction

The purpose of these guidelines is to assist interviewers in the conduct of the telephone interviews of migrant household members of those households who were interviewed during November and December 2020. There are two types of migrants: a) those who came back during the lock down but meanwhile have returned to their migrant destination (most of them will be in the Bangkok area) and b) those who did not return to their village and are expected to be in their migrant location now.

The reference period of the migrant survey covers the period since 05/2019 until 03/2021. The reference period is split into four parts: 1) 05/2019 – 02/2020; 2) 03/2020 – 05/2020 (lockdown); 3) 06/2020 – 10/2020 (end of reference period Covid 19 HH survey); and 4) 11/2020 – 03/2021 (post HH survey period)

The following guidelines offer explanations to the questions to be asked during the interview. The explanations follow the steps of the program (questionnaire).

### Cover

You are supplied with an information sheet about each migrant. On the cover page, please enter the information from the sheet and resolve any error messages. Please be aware, that the questions are validated with the database, which is why an error signals an incorrect entry in almost all cases.

The information entered here is crucial to assigning the migrants to the household data in the later use of the data, which is why no error in this section will be tolerated.

### Section 1 - Start of Questionnaire

In this section you introduce yourself to the respondent, inform her/him about the interview and ask for her/his agreement with the interview. The interviewer reads out the introductory text displayed in the program. If the respondent really does not want to be interviewed, despite encouragement and assurance of the confidentiality of the information given, no interview will be carried out.

In section 1 we also ask some basic information about the migrant, the financial standing and the circumstances of the life of the migrant. This is structured into three subsections: 1.1 Personal Information, 1.2 Financial Situation and 1.3 Household and Assets.

#### 1.1 Personal Information

**Category(ies) of migrant:** This is a filter question for later sections, in which we want to know what the migrant did at any point since the Covid-19 crisis started in 03/2020. It is a multi-select question, therefore several options may apply, e.g. a migrant first returning home for a few weeks and later on deciding to return permanently home.

**Does %name% live in Greater Bangkok?:** This is a filter question for the following location questions, to make entering the province and district easier. Note that the migrant may mention the district where she/he is living first. Unless you know it, ask the migrant to which province the district belongs. Note that Greater Bangkok includes the

Provinces of Nakhon Pathom, Pathum Thani, Nonthaburi, Samut Prakan, Samut Sakhon and Bangkok

**v10003 - Which of the following occupations did %name% pursue at any time during 02/20 to 03/2021 (including unemployment)?:** This question aims to capture all the categories of occupations the migrant engaged in from 02/2020 to 03/2021 for filtering purposes later on. Please be aware that we want to know all occupations, the migrant had, starting with 02/2020 (the month before the crisis) to 03/2021. Example: The migrant worked as a cook before Covid-19, then lost his job in 04/2020 and was unemployed for 2 months. Then he started his own street food business in 07/2020. The appropriate codes here would be: “Wage employed”, “Unemployed” and “Self-Employed”.

**v10005 - Did %name% at any point in the last year regularly drink alcohol and/or smoke?:** We are asking this question because Covid 19 may cause a change in smoking and drinking behavior of the respondent. The question aims at those who practice regular smoking/drinking. For example: in case the respondent says she/he smokes/drinks only rarely but not regularly, the interviewer will tick “no”.

### **Financial Situation**

**v12001 - How does %name% rate the impact of the Covid-19 crisis on his/her financial situation?:** This question is intended to give a perceived direction in which the Covid-19 crisis impacted the financial situation of the migrant. The interviewer should remember the answer for future reference, e.g. the migrant stating that the crisis had no impact, but later recording, that he lost his job and made a big loss.

**v12003/4/5/6 - Please estimate %name%'s average monthly income between 05/19 - 02/20 (before Covid-19)/Lockdown/Postlockdown/Postsurvey.:** These questions serve as an estimate of the average monthly income of the migrant during the indicated timeframes. There is no need for the respondent to do calculations, just give an estimate. Please mind that the unit is “THB/month”, not the total for the indicated period. So, the respondent should estimate the average. Also do not include any public transfers (Government support) as these will be captured in more detail later in the questionnaire. (Here we do it differently from the Covid-19 HH survey). If the migrant stays with his/her wife/husband, he/she may ask if this is their combined income, in which case you tick “yes”.

### **1.3 Household and Assets**

**v13000 - Does %name% live together with anyone in %v10002%?:** This question asks if the migrant shares his/her living space with other people. This could be either roommates (friends, co-worker), family or wife/husband and/or children.

**v13006 - Please select the major assets that %name% possesses at his/her migrant location:** When asking this question, you must exercise caution, as possessions are a sensitive topic, that could trigger a negative response with the migrant. If the migrant is

concerned, assure him, that this is a standard question with only details for each category asked in the next questions. Note, we do not ask for all items, like jewelries, to avoid any suspicion by the respondent. In case the respondent does not want to give this information we must accept it..

## Section 2 - Impact of Covid-19

**This section is designed to capture the various impacts, Covid-19 may have had on the life of the migrant. It is one of the core sections of the questionnaire and will take longest. Nevertheless, precision and accuracy are key to capture the “story” of the migrant.**

### 2.1 Job History

**v21001 - Please list all occupations that %name% pursued including unemployment during 02/20 to now (uninterrupted work):** This question is intended to record the occupation history of the migrant. Please note that everything must be recorded in the order the occupations were pursued and that the question asks for uninterrupted periods of work. This might even lead to the same occupation being recorded twice, as explained in the following example.

Example 1: Migrant worked as a cook, during the lockdown he lost her/his job and after the lockdown started working as a cook again at the same company. The proper way to record this would be:

1. Cook 1
2. Unemployed
3. Cook 2

When recording details about “Cook” for the second time, an option is given to link it to the first entry and skip details about the job.

**v21004 - Is %rostertitle% the continuation of previously recorded occupation?:** As previously described, this question allows you to link interrupted occupations and therefore skip questions about the details.

**v21011 - How does %name% assess the prospects for %rostertitle%:**

In this question, the migrant is asked to assess how his occupation might develop in the future and what perspectives he/she may have in the coming years in her/his job.

**v21103 - Net wage in cash (including regular, irregular bonuses and in-kind benefits):**

Please pay attention that this only refers to the wage of a particular occupation. For example, if the migrant has several jobs at the same time, be aware, that this question asks for one job at a time and not an overall income. To calculate the net wage, please add up all payments received after deducting any charges, fees, taxes kept by the employer. In addition, all bonuses and in-kind benefits must be valued and included, e.g. free meals worth 2000THB per month.

**v21205 - Average monthly profit of %rostertitle%:** This question is asking for the average monthly profit of the business. Profit is calculated as the revenue – cost,. Example: a street

food shop sells noodles for 5000THB per month, but has to buy the noodles for 2000THB and also pay his hired worker (do not value own labor!) for 1000THB. The profit would thus be 2000THB. Since profit can vary over the year, the respondent should give an answer for an average or a “normal” month.

### 2.3 Migration

Please note the distinction in this section between “temporarily” and “permanently” returning home. Permanently returning home means, that the migrant is still present in the village at the time of survey.

**v23001 - When did %name% temporarily go back to his/her village due to Covid 19?:** In this question, please select all the months in which the migrant traveled home. Note that it is not about the period, the migrant stayed home, but about the months in which the travel home was made.

**v23010 - Did %name% want to return home but could not?:** Some migrants wished to go home, but were unable to due to restrictions or other circumstances. This questions thus does not ask for an action of traveling home, but rather for the intention.

### 2.4 Remittances and Dynamics

In this section we ask for any transfers, monetary and non-monetary that the migrant made and/or received. In the first part of the section we refer to transfers made to and from the household of the migrant, e.g. did the migrant send home any money?

Please pay attention that in this first part, the unit is “THB/month”, as we expect migrants to make rather regular transfers. Therefore we ask for average. Please also pay attention to the reference period.

In the second part of the section, transfers to non-household members are recorded. Since these usually do not occur on a regular basis, the unit changes to “THB” (not per month!), now asking for a total in the respective period.

### 2.5 Living Conditions

This section asks for changes in the living conditions of the migrant.

**v25001 - How did Covid-19 affect %name%'s living conditions?** – lists a number of ways in which the living conditions may have been affected, be it the rental cost for an apartment or room, accommodation size, the need to share with people, etc. Once selected, two questions will be displayed for each of these affected areas. The first question is asking for the “before” condition and the second one is asking for the “now” condition, reporting the change in sufficient detail.

**v25016 - How did life in %v10002% change due to Covid-19?:** This question is about the area (district/subdistrict) where the migrant lives. The migrant should imagine how life used to be in the area where he lives, e.g. lively streets with lots of people and then compare it to the situation now.

## 2.6 Loans, Disinvestment, Savings

**v26001 - What effect did Covid 19 have on %name%'s borrowing, lending, savings and selling of assets?:** This is an introductory filter question, to enable further questions, if applicable. Subsequently details on all selected items will be asked.

**v26008 - Where the loan conditions for %rostartitle% better or worse than before March 2020 (05/19 - 02/20), due to the Covid-19 crisis?:** This question refers to the conditions, related to a loan, e.g. the interest rate, payback period, etc. The respondent is asked if taking the same loan in non-Covid times, would the conditions of the loan have been the same, better or worse.

**v26009 - Please indicate the total amount of financial penalties for defaulting loans/paying back late:** This question refers to the usual penalty payments, that occur, if someone defaults a loan or pays back late. If there were no penalties, please just enter "0".

**V26009/10/11/12/13:** Please mind the unit "total THB". E.g., if the respondent used his savings on more than one occasion, the individual withdrawals must be added up to total.

## 2.7 Consumption

**v27001/3 - Since march 2020, did %name% reduce/increase expenditures for any items in comparison to 05/19 - 02/20 (before Covid-19)?:** These questions are intended to be answered freely. Please do not read out the codes to the respondent, but rather "convert" the answer into the specific codes. Please note the reference period "since March 2020". If the respondent increased or reduced consumption for an item at any point during that time it needs to be recorded. **v27002** and **v27004** then follow up and ask if the expenditures for the selected items are still reduced in 03/2021.

## 2.8 Smokers and/or consumers of alcohol

In this section, we want to capture the impact of Covid-19 on the drinking/smoking behavior of the migrants. None of the questions asks for a specific value, e.g. "how many cigarettes", or cc of alcohol but instead we ask for an assessment, e.g. "Smoke/drink rarely". If the respondent is confused, you may have to assist by asking how much alcohol/ cigarettes he/she consumes and then propose a code, that the respondent may agree on. Example: respondent says every day he drinks a bottle of beer/ smokes half a pack of cigarettes then you choose "drink/smoke regularly".

## Section 3 – Compliance

During the Covid-19 pandemic, various restrictions and rules were imposed. In this section we want to assess to what extent the migrant has followed these rules and if he/she is actually aware of their existence. Also we want to assess information flows and if the migrant was personally affected in regards to his/her health and possibly contacts to infected people.

### 3.1 General effects of Covid-19

**v31001 - Did %name% show symptoms of Covid-19?:** This question is only asking for symptoms, not a confirmed infection. If the respondent is confused, please provide examples such as “coughing, fever, problems with breathing”. In the next question options are given to report an actual infection.

**v31004 - How many persons that were infected with Covid-19 does %name% personally know?:** This question is asking for people that were infected (positive test) and are personally known to the migrant, such as family, friends, neighbors, etc. We are not interested in people that e.g. the migrant heard about on the news, but has no personal connection to.

**v31006 - Did %name% buy any Covid-19 related health insurance since the outbreak of the pandemic?:** During the pandemic, extra insurances against Covid-19 were offered. This question asks if the migrant bought any such policy.

**v31007 - In what situations was %name% wearing a mask during %lockdown%?:** The options for this question are to be understood as typical user behaviors of mask-users. You have to choose the option that is closest to the respondent’s answer. While the first option “indoors and outdoors” implies that a mask was worn all of the time outside the own living space, the last code “Only when it is mandatory” would imply that the migrant would only wear a mask where it was inevitable, or he/she would be ordered to do it.

### **3.2 Use of Tracking System**

Thailand introduced a tracking App called “Thai Chana”, that is supposed to be used to check into stores, by scanning a QR-Code at the entrance. The use of this app should be mandatory; however, it is usually not strictly enforced. In this section we want to assess how widespread the use is and if the app is in fact used as intended.

**v32002 - Does %name% use %trackingapp% correctly every time he/she enters a building/store/etc.?:** This question enquires about a habit of people to pretend to scan a QR Code or to forget to check out of store and thereby in essence not using the app as intended.

**v32005 - How many warnings for encounters with risky persons did %name% get from %trackingapp% since %v32004%?:** The app is able to give warnings, If the migrant was in the same location as an infected person. In this question we want to know how many such warnings the migrant has received since he/she started using the app.

### **3.3 Behavior**

**v33003/5 - Did %name% take/stop eating/drinking any substances (liquid, pills, drugs, etc.) to protect himself/herself from or reduce Covid-19 symptoms/to protect himself/herself from getting infected with Covid-19?:** During the Covid-19 crisis, various rumors spread, suggesting that certain substances would prevent/increase the risk of an infection with Covid-19, e.g. some herbal potion. At the given state of medical research, none of the things listed here would have an actual effect. These questions therefore seek to assess superstition and the impact of it on consumer behavior.

## Section 4 - Public Transfers

During the Covid-19, the Thai government provided various support programs, ranging from direct money transfers to indirect subsidies, e.g., a 50% co-payment for purchases in certain stores. In this section we want to assess what support the migrant has received and how it was used.

**v41000 - Did %name% apply for support from any Covid-19 related support schemes?:**

Note, that this questions asks for schemes the migrant applied for, which also includes schemes that were not granted.

**v41002 - Is %rostartitle% support from any of the following Covid-19 related government schemes?:** The schemes listed are the two largest and with the highest financial volume. To make it easier for us to trace the transfer later, we ask for this.

**v41006 - In how many transfers did/will %name% receive the money?:** Some schemes were not payed in one payment, but e.g. over the course of three or more months. After recording the number of payments, details will be asked for each payment. In case the scheme is related to an available credit to spend, such as in the 50%-co-payment scheme, one payment is to be recorded with the details of when that credit was received.

**v41010 - %name% indicated that he/she did not apply for any available government support programs. Was there a particular reason for that?:** Some migrants may not have applied for any government support, despite being eligible. This question seeks to find out why that may have been the case.

## Section 5 - Perceptions, Satisfaction and Psychological Impacts of Covid-19

The impact of the restrictions and hardships caused by Covid-19 may go beyond monetary issues. This section therefore gauges the perceptions and opinions, as well as the psychological impacts on the migrant.

### 5.1 Perceptions

**v51001 - Which among the Covid-19 restrictions did bother %name% most (select up to 3, start with the one that bothered %name% most):** Due to Covid-19, the government introduced a lot of restrictions, to limit the outbreak of the virus. The effect of these restrictions may be perceived differently by the people. That is why we are asking for the up to 3 of the measures that bothered the respondent the most.. In case the respondent is confused, you may provide examples such as: “wearing a mask”, “Check into stores with Thai chana”, “Measure temperature when entering stores, malls, etc.”, “Entry restrictions for foreigners”.

**v51004 - How does %name% assess the prospects for his/her migration?:** In the previous sections, we have learned what the migrant did during the past months, since the outbreak. Since this crisis is not yet over, the migrant may have future plans or intentions or at least a premonition of what is to come in the future, that may be recorded here. Example: the

migrant might consider to return to her/his village permanently due to the economic slowdown in the city.

**v51005 - What is %name% afraid of most?:** This question asks in general, what the migrant is afraid of most and does not have to be related to Covid-19. Note, that this is an open question, therefore you may enter a text answer.

**v51006 - How does %name% compare Covid-19 to other crises now or before? :** Thailand had other crises before. In this question, the migrant should think about the given codes and assess if any of these was worse than Covid-19, or if indeed, Covid-19 had the biggest impact on his/her life.