FIELDWORK BRIEF

HOUSEHOLD SURVEY IN KONYA

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Within the scope of the MIGRADEMO project, this brief presents selected descriptive findings from a household survey conducted with 1237 respondents in the province of Konya, Türkiye. The survey focused on the topics of migration experiences, migration history in the family, financial and social remittances, and socio-political attitudes and behaviours. The goal is to analyse the effect of remittances and migration experiences on outlooks and behaviour on a variety of socio-political issues.

Our preliminary analysis shows that a vast majority of respondents (90.3%) have at least one immediate family member who is living out of Türkiye. We also find that migrant links have an impact on the respondents' voting behaviour, outlook on gender equality and recycling habits. Respondents belonging to "migrant households" – households with family abroad or returned – turn out at a higher level in local and national elections than those who do not. They also think gender equality should be promoted, as do respondents who frequently receive social remittances. Finally, respondents who lived abroad in the past and those who frequently receive social remittances recycle more often than the others.

INTRODUCTION

Both international migration and democratic development are important contemporary academic and policy concerns. Recent studies of transnational migrant practices have uncovered how migrants influence democratic participation in their homelands through the remittance of both money and newfound ideas about democracy from afar or through return. The MIGRADEMO project seeks to unpack these processes at the level of the political elite, civil society, and among households in regions of high outmigration. This brief deals with the analysis of a household survey that was conducted in the context of this project, making an initial assessment of how migration experiences and the reception of financial and social remittances impact socio-political attitudes and behaviour.

THE SURVEY

Methodology

This survey took place in 8 villages located in the province of **Konya**, Türkiye, in **November 2022**, after a pilot study conducted in October 2022.

The sample design was based on **social network analysis**. The villages in the province were randomly selected and all of their households were surveyed. The survey was carried out by the Frekans Research company, in collaboration with the MIGRADEMO team. Enumerators made sure to make three return visits to households where there was no initial response.

Fig. 1. Empty houses in one of the villages where the survey took place.

Questionnaire

The questionnaire was developed by the MIGRADEMO team to cover an array of topics related to migration. These include the **migration history of the respondent**, **their household**, **and their family**, besides questions related to **financial and social remittances and socio-political attitudes and behaviours**. It also includes **one vignette experiment** on the impact of financial and social remittances and destination country and

and destination country and a battery of variables related to outlook on migration.

PRELIMINARY OUTCOMES

Socio-demographic profile of the respondents

A total of 1237 individuals took part in the survey, with an average interview duration of 28 minutes. The profile of the respondents is **balanced in terms of gender** (48.8% are men and 51.2% women) and age (51.2% are below the median age of **50 years old**, and 48.8% above. The **level of education is low**, with 80.4% of the respondents having completed an education level below high school. Most of the respondents – 71.4% – are unemployed, and 58.3% declare a **household income above the range of 5,001 to 7,000 TL per month**, which corresponds to approximately 260 to 360 euros per month.

Migration profile of the respondents

The vast majority of the respondents (90.3%) have at least one member from their immediate or extended family abroad. In contrast, the figures for returned migration are lower – only 25.5% of the respondents have at least one member from their immediate or extended family who has returned from abroad.

Altogether, **most of the respondents (73.2%) belong to what we define as a "migrant household"**, that is, **a household in which an immediate family member is living out of Türkiye or has returned from abroad**. Nevertheless, most of respondents have not had a migration experience themselves –

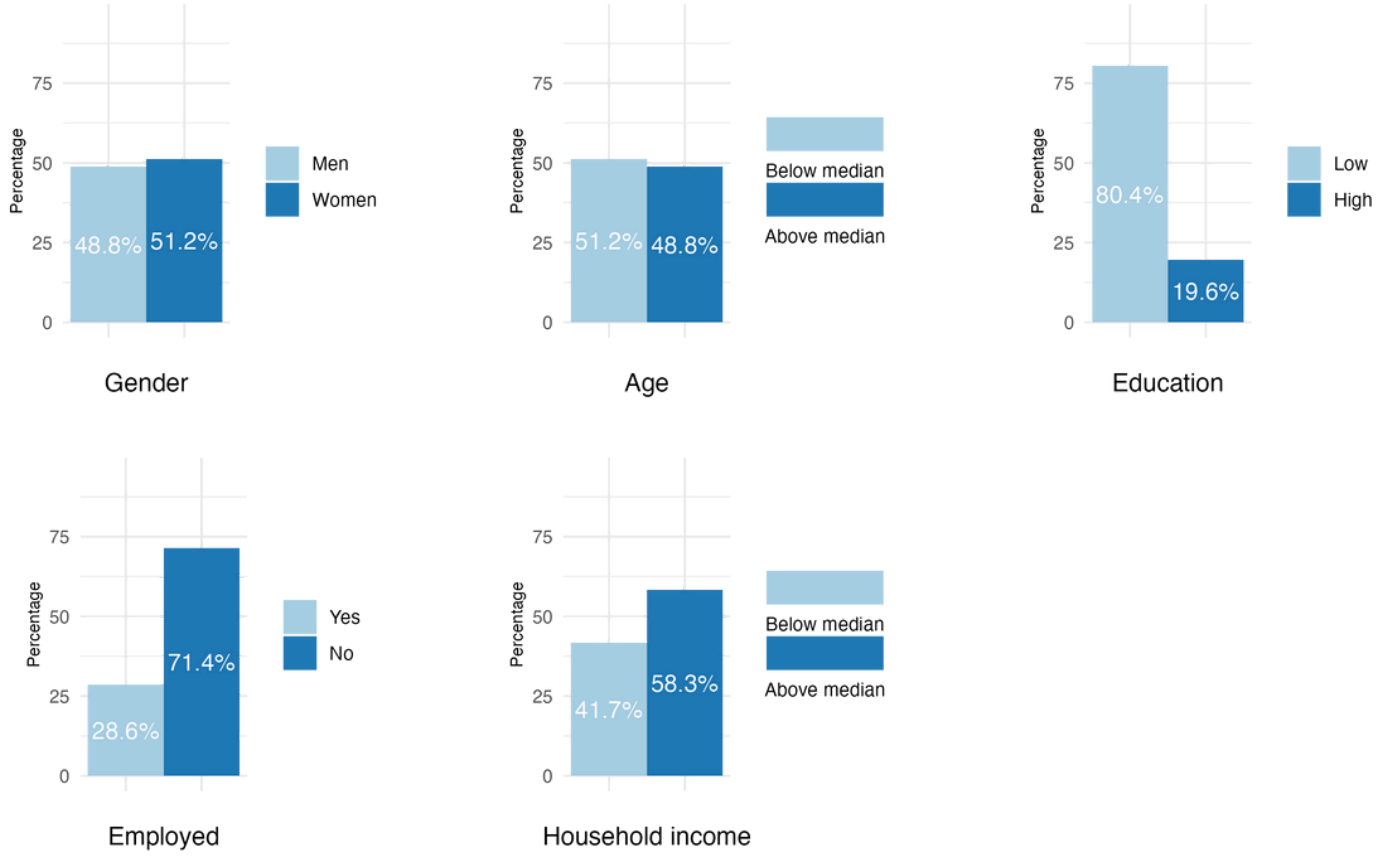

Fig. 2. Demographic characteristics of the respondents.

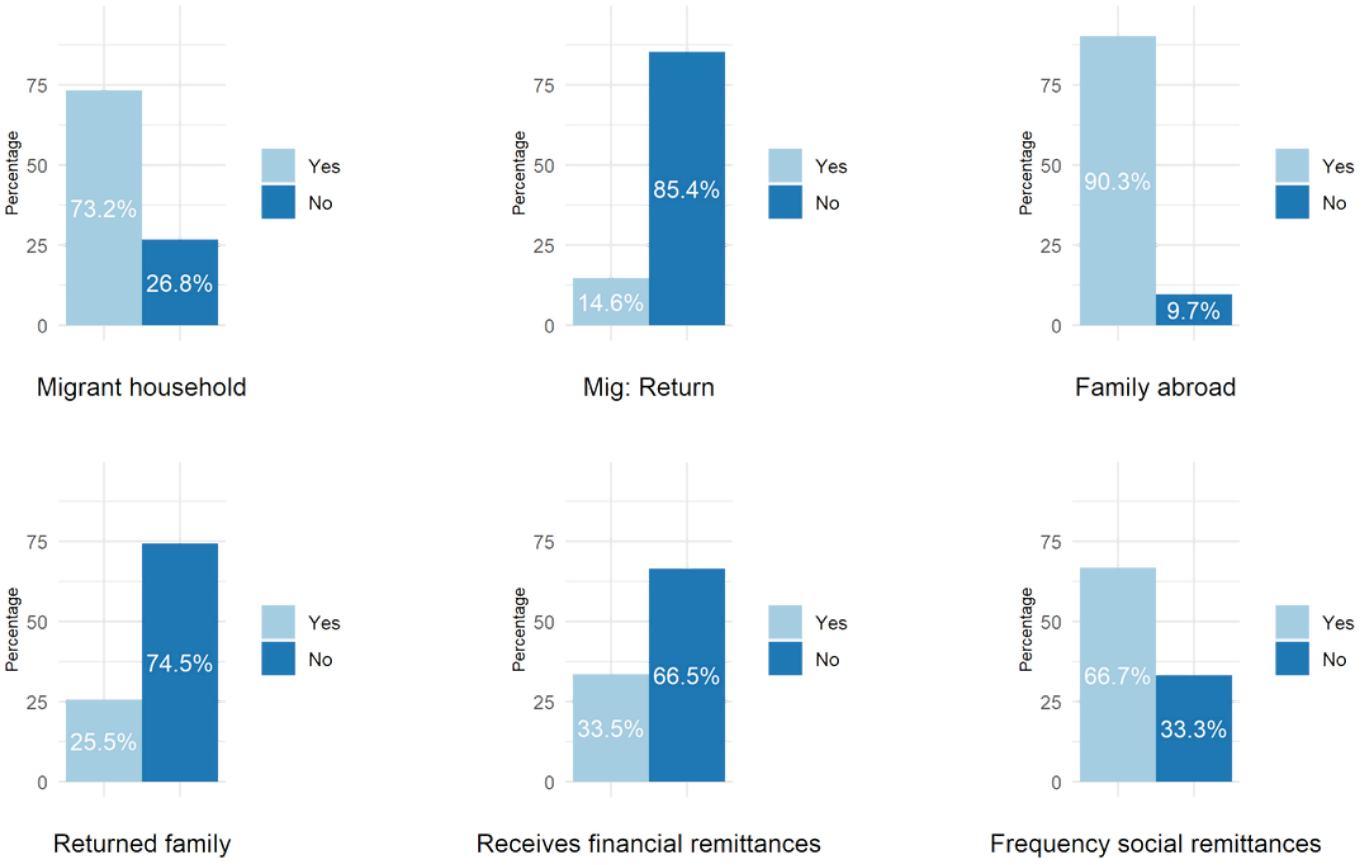

Fig. 3. Migration profile of the respondents.

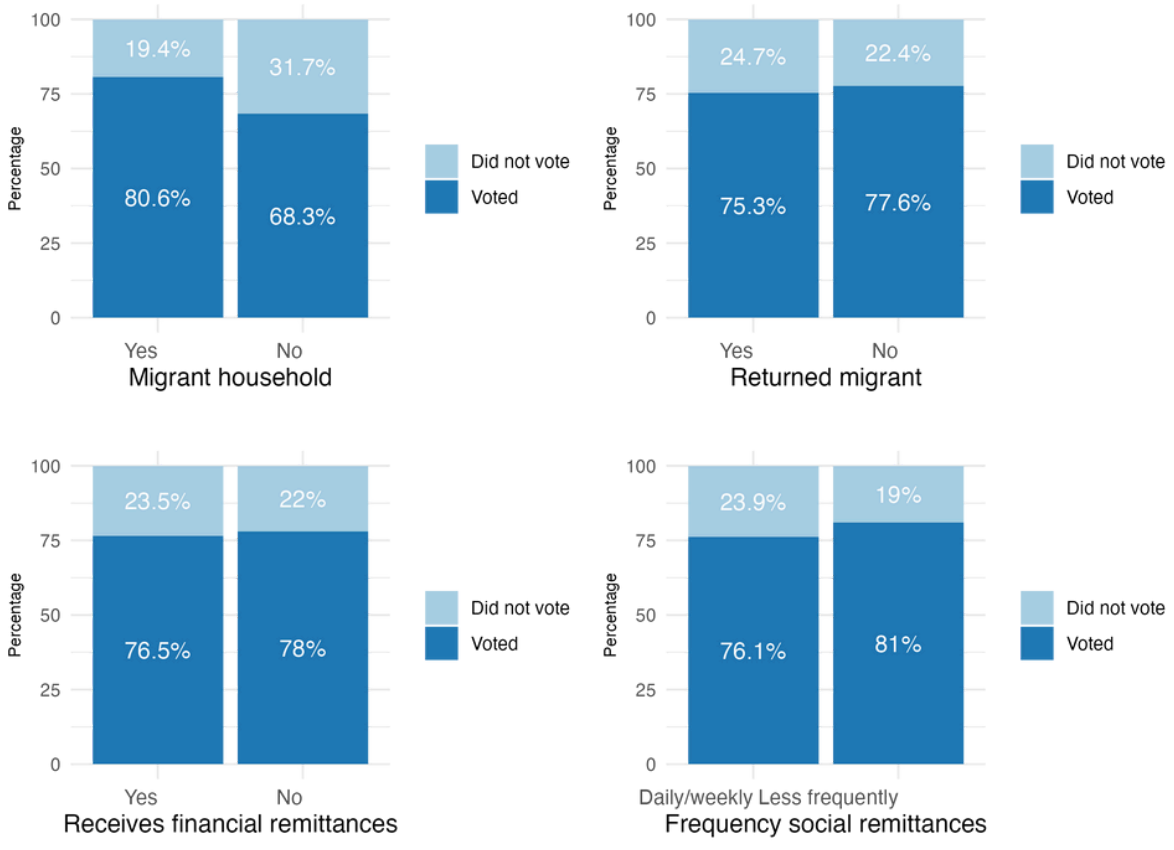

Fig. 4. Group differences in tunrout in the 2019 Turkish local elections.

20.3% have lived in another town in Türkiye in the past, and only 14.6% have lived abroad.

Financial remittances are not so prevalent in the relationships that the respondents keep with their family abroad. Among those respondents with family members out of Türkiye, 33.5% declare to receive money from them. In turn, social remittances are quite present. 67.8% of the respondents with family abroad keep in touch with them either daily or weekly.

Fig. 5. An interview being conducted over a cup of tea.

Social-political attitudes

When analysing the relationship between the respondents' experiences with migration and their social and political attitudes and behaviours, there are some differences between those who have migration links and receive remittances and those who do not. We present some examples at a descriptive level.

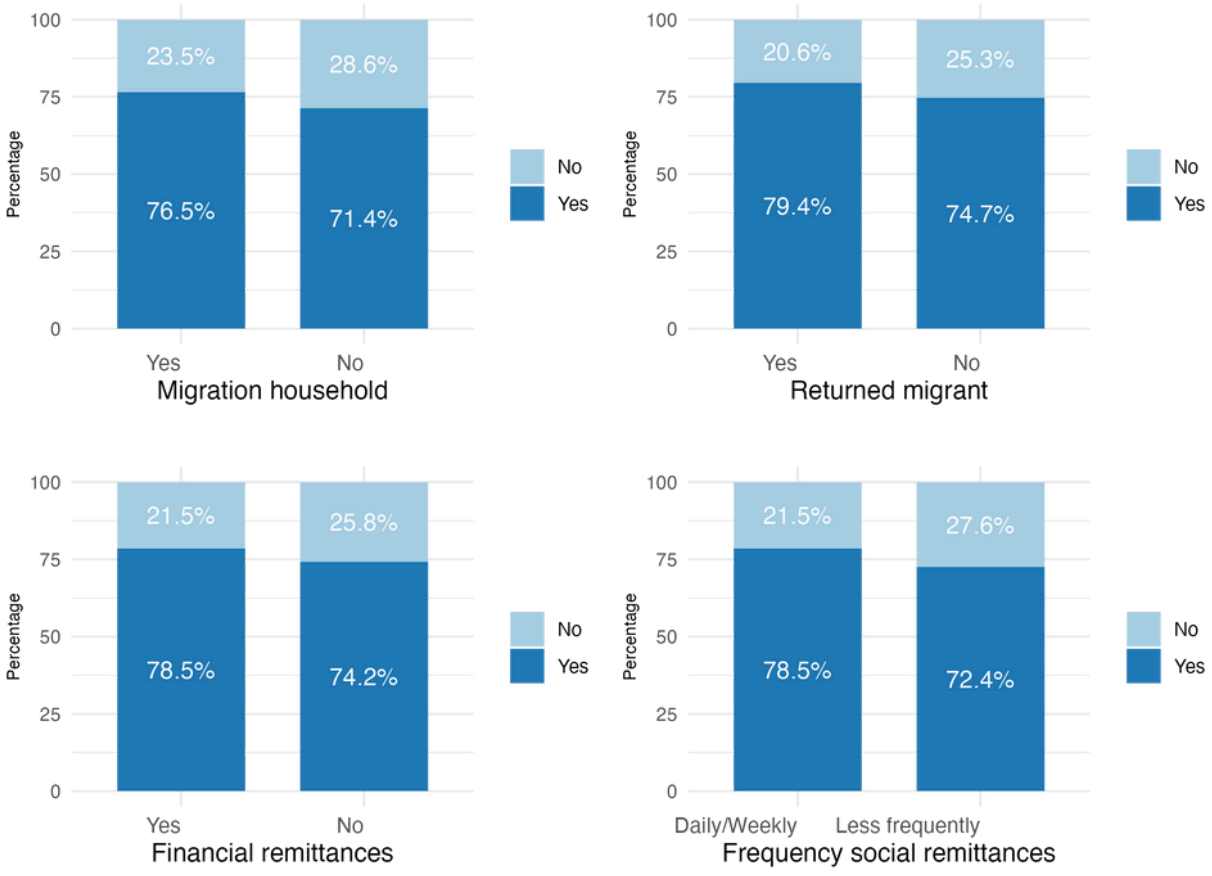

Fig. 6. Group differences when asked whether the promotion of gender equality is important.

First, migration experiences seem to play a role in the respondents' voting behaviour. Respondents who belong to a "migrant household" turned out in the 2018 parliamentary elections at a higher rate than those who do not - 86% of those from a "migrant household" voted in these elections, respondents from "migrant households" turned out in these elections, versus 68.3% of those not belonging to them.

The relationship between having migration links and receiving remittances and the respondents' outlook on gender equality is not so straightforward. When asked whether the promotion of gender equality is an important issue, respondents who belong to "migrant households" and who frequently receive social remittances agree with the statement to a higher extent than those who do not. 76.5% of the respondents belonging to migrant households" think that gender equality should be promoted, compared to 71.4% of those who do not, and 78.5% of recipients of social remittances agree with it, in comparison with 72.2% of non-recipients. However, when asked whether men are better political leaders than women, respondents with migrant links tend to agree with the statement as well. "While 56% of those belonging to "migrant households" think that men are better leaders than women, only 46.4% of those not from "migrant households" have the same opinion.

Lastly, respondents who themselves have migration experiences and those who frequently receive social remittances seem to recycle at a higher rate than those who do not. When asked how often the respondent recycles, 20.7% of respondents who have lived abroad in the past declare that they "always" or at least "frequently" do it, compared to 3.4% of those who have never lived in another country.

Fig. 7. A lot of interviews were conducted on house porches.

Then, 17.5% of those who often receive social remittances "always" or "frequently" recycle, versus only 9.6% of those who do not.

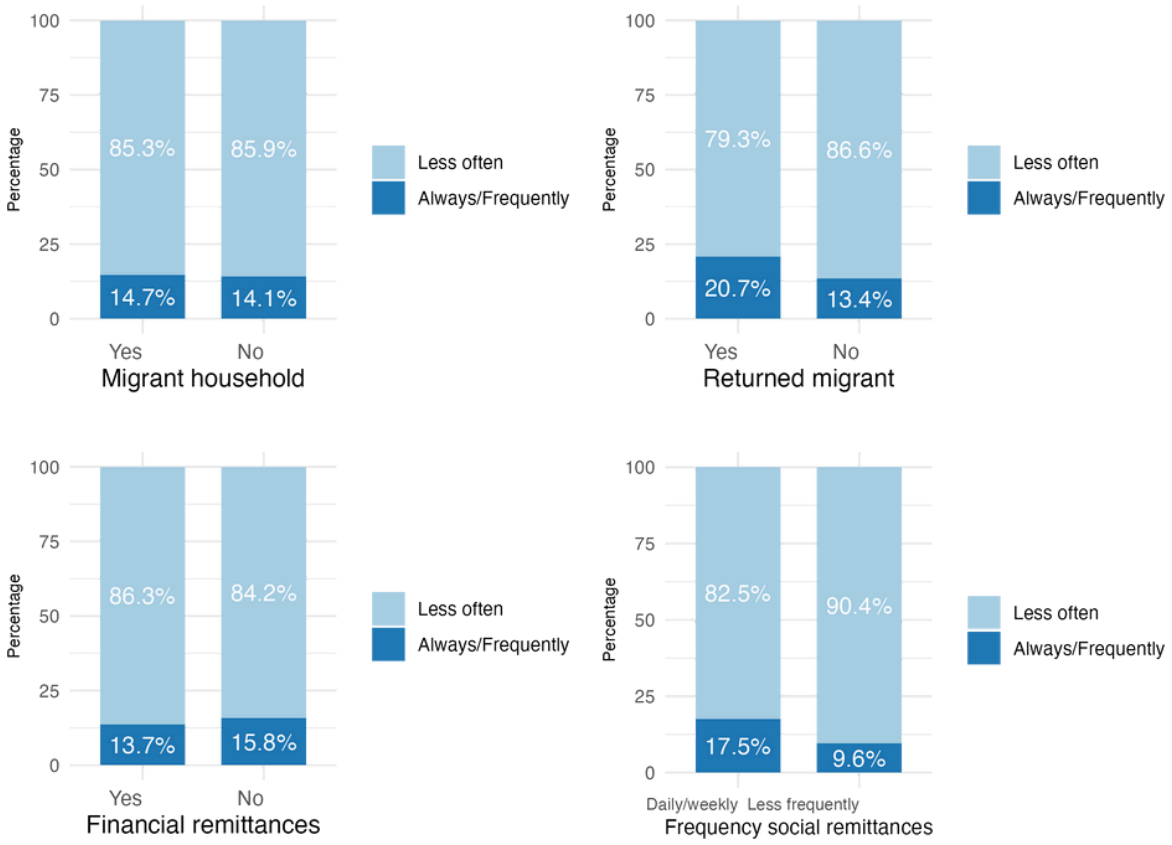

Fig. 8. Group differences when asked how often the respondent recycles.

MIGRADEMO is a European Research Council (ERC) funded project which examines the impact of migration on democratic participation and processes in countries of origin. It is hosted by the Department of Political Science at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona.

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