

Briefing note: Migration risk index scoring methodology

1. Introduction

This note provides an overview of the methodology and sources behind the 'Migrant Risk Index' used as a score within the vulnerable worker element of Radar, the Sedex risk assessment tool.

This Index represents an assessment of the likelihood that migrant workers, both internal and international, in a given country will be more vulnerable to conditions of labour exploitation. It is based on two components. The first component provides an indication of vulnerability for international migration, based on an assessment of labour and governance conditions in both the origin and destination country that would increase the risk of labour exploitation for migrants. The second component represents the likelihood of internal migrants being more at risk of labour exploitation.

2. Scoring methodology

2.1 Selection of higher-risk sending countries

The Index uses a list of higher risk sending countries. These include the most significant recruitment fee charging countries based on desk research, past Ergon work and known high risk sending countries that are relevant to various relevant supply chains. Additional countries were selected using indicators of contextual risks for migrant workers: the overall significance and scale of migration, the quality of labour governance and the level of poverty in the sending country. These higher risk sending countries are:

- Afghanistan
- Albania
- Algeria
- Angola
- Argentina
- Azerbaijan
- Bangladesh
- Belarus
- Bolivia
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Brazil
- Bulgaria
- Burkina Faso
- Cambodia
- Cameroon
- China
- Colombia
- Congo, The Democratic Republic of the
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Cuba
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- Egypt
- Lebanon
- Liberia
- Lithuania
- Macedonia, The former Yugoslav Republic of
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Malaysia
- Mali
- Mauritania
- Mexico
- Morocco
- Mozambique
- Myanmar
- Nepal
- Nigeria
- Pakistan
- Palestine, State of
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Philippines
- Romania
- Russian Federation
- Serbia

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- El Salvador
- Eritrea
- Ethiopia
- Ghana
- Guatemala
- Guinea
- Haiti
- Honduras
- Hungary
- India
- Indonesia
- Iran, Islamic Republic of
- Iraq
- Italy
- Jamaica
- Jordan
- Kazakhstan
- Kenya
- Korea, Republic of
- Lao People's Democratic Republic
- Slovakia
- Somalia
- South Africa
- South Sudan
- Sri Lanka
- Sudan
- Syrian Arab Republic
- Thailand
- Togo
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Turkey
- Uganda
- Ukraine
- Uzbekistan
- Venezuela
- Viet Nam
- Yemen
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

2.2 Indicators

2.2.1 International migration

Based on the selection of high-risk sending countries, a database was developed to link the number of migrants from selected sending countries with all possible destination countries. Using the [United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs \(2017\)](#) 'international migrant stock' data, the total number of migrants to each receiving country is aggregated and compared to the receiving country's labour force (extracted from the World Bank's 'World Development Indicators', [Labour Force, total,2018](#)).

2.2.2 Internal migration

The internal migration component has been developed on the basis of three factors that, combined, are representative both of the significance of internal migration in a country and the risks they face. The three factors that form this index are:

1. Level of poverty: this is a proxy indicator of the level of vulnerability internal migrants face.
2. Geographical surface: this indicator represents the likelihood of workers migrating a significant distance internally (and therefore further from social support networks) to reach better employment prospects.
3. Average urban population growth (between 2013-2018): the rate of urbanisation may indicate a higher level of internal migration as urban growth is driven by rural-urban migration, leading to higher vulnerability for internal migrant workers, particularly in densely-populated urban centres.

2.3 Aggregated score methodology

Indicators are weighted according to their significance as drivers of risks for migrant workers. The indicators from sections 2.2.1 and 2.2.2 were aggregated along with a third component, the strength of the rule of law in the destination country..

3. Limitations

Data sources: While we consider that the data sources we have used are credible and have been compiled by experts, there may be distortions or incompleteness in the data sources used, some of which are collected sporadically or which incorporate judgements by the expert agencies concerned.

Interpreting and using findings: The Migration Risk Index provides an indication of where the highest contextual risk has been identified within countries, but this should not be equated with certainty. The Index should be regarded only as the country component for the 'migrant workers' score within the vulnerable worker element of Radar.. It does not factor in regional or sectoral variations or data about individual suppliers or workplace performance.