



International
Labour
Organization

ILO International Labour Migration Statistics Database in SAARC

Technical Working Level Meeting:
Colombo
28-29 November

Vision for SAARC ILMS

Generating statistics for better migration policies in SAARC

- ❖ Openly-available, comprehensive and tractable information source
- ❖ Map the existing data sources countries collect
- ❖ Standard reference-point for future data collection and reporting in SAARC

Overview of SAARC ILMS

Country coverage and data sources sought...

- ❖ **Eight countries, 1997 – 2017**
- ❖ Obtained exclusively from official **Government sources** and data provided by **international organizations** that collect global-level data

Population and Housing Censuses (UNDESA)

Administrative records (e.g. *Civil registers, records from Ministries, border agencies...*)

Other surveys (e.g. *Economic Censuses, Socio-Economic Surveys, Migration Surveys...*)

Official estimates (*where they exist...*)

IMF/World Bank Data (*remittances*)

❖ Criteria for choice of tables:

- **Availability**
- **Relevance**
- **Constraints**
 - Political
 - Structural/infrastructural
 - Relevance

ILMS Structure

Scope of the data collection – the 12 tables sought...

Table 1: Stock of nationals abroad by country of destination (1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010, 2015)

Table 2: Total annual inflow of SAARC nationals to OECD countries (2000 – 2015)

Table 3: Annual outflow of nationals for employment abroad by sex and country of destination (1997 – 2017)

Table 4: Annual outflow of nationals for employment abroad by skill level and economic activity (1997 – 2017)

Table 5: Annual outflow of nationals for employment abroad by occupation (1997 – 2017)

Table 6: Annual outflow of nationals for employment abroad by method of recruitment (1997 – 2017)

Table 7: Annual outflow of nationals for employment abroad by province/state of origin (1997 – 2017)

Table 8: Annual returns of nationals employed abroad to country of origin by country of previous residence (1997 – 2017)

Table 9: Annual inflow of remittances/ODA/FDI (1997 – 2017)

Table 10: Remittance transaction costs for US\$200 and US\$500 transfers from select destination countries to South Asian origin countries (Q3 2013 – Q3 2017)

Table 11: Annual fatalities of migrant workers employed abroad by country of destination (1997 – 2017)

Table 12: To be determined

Timeline

An iterative process involving numerous stakeholders

- Phase 1: Design the ILMS Questionnaire (October 2017)
- Phase 2: First round of data collection (November 2017) – **SEE HANDOUT**
 - ✓ *Found out the extent and sources of the available data*
 - ✓ *Found out the indicators already being collected at country-level*
 - ✓ *Found out the key users of the data and the present needs and priorities...*
- Phase 3: Consultations with ILO focal points
 - ✓ *Evaluated existing sources*
 - ✓ *Gathered feedback on potential indicators and discussed additional options for the SAARC ILMS Database*
 - ✓ *Produced several options for what to collect under the ILMS Database...*
- Phase 4: **Technical Meeting** and prelaunch
- Phase 5: SAARC data collection, validation, and review
 - December Programming Committee Meeting
- Phase 6: Review of phase 5's data collection outcomes
- Phase 7: Database launch and publication



Final Goal

Make data possible for users online to view and download as of Mid - 2018 through a special collection hosted on ILOSTAT

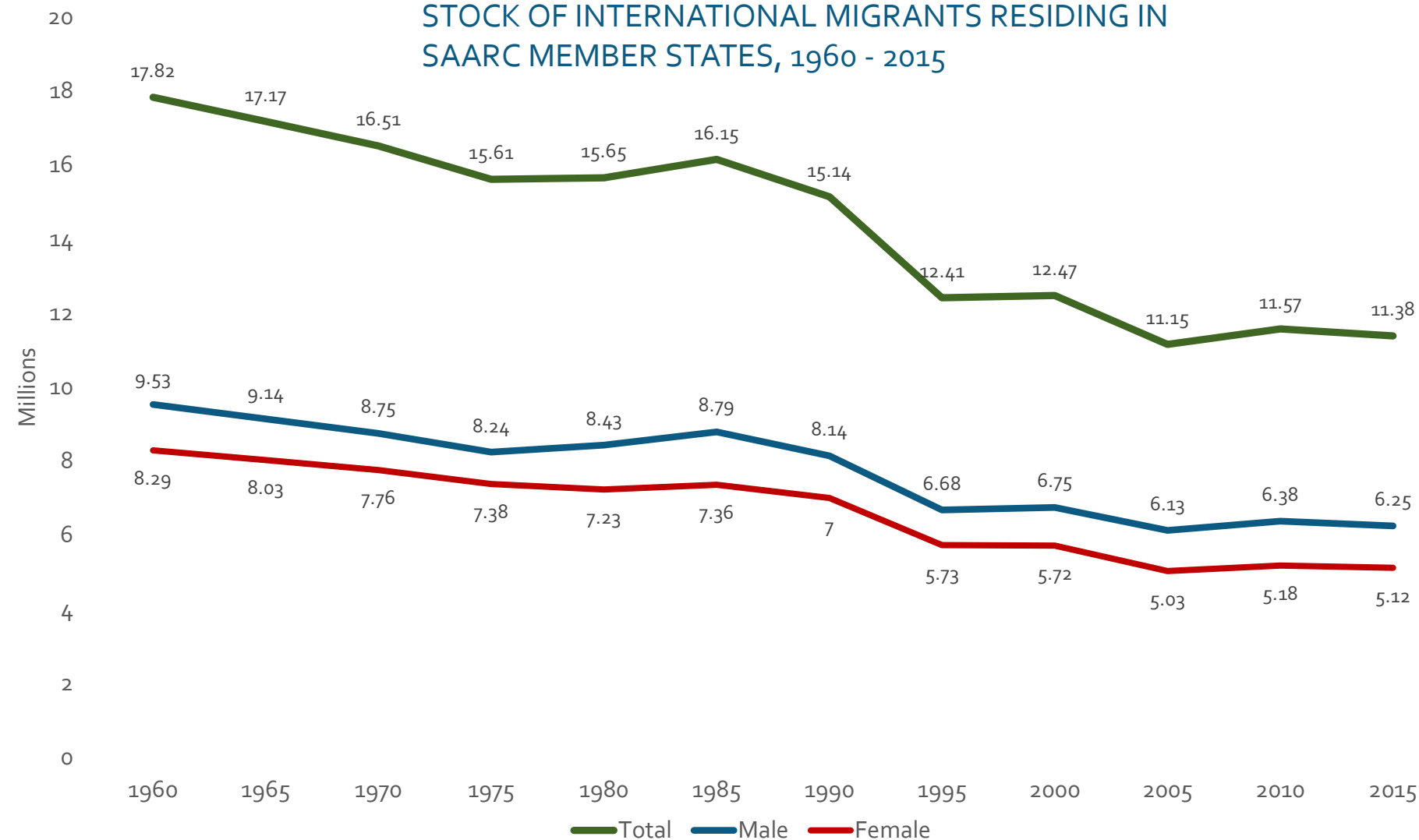
Ongoing work

- Production of analytical publication(s)
- Additional rounds of data collection and tables added
- Data sharing and mainstreaming into countries' reporting
- Capacity building activities
- Additional technical meetings
- Expansion to other regions
- Finding new ways to represent statistics in order to inform policy-makers

ILMS Database in SAARC

SAARC intra-regional migration is decreasing

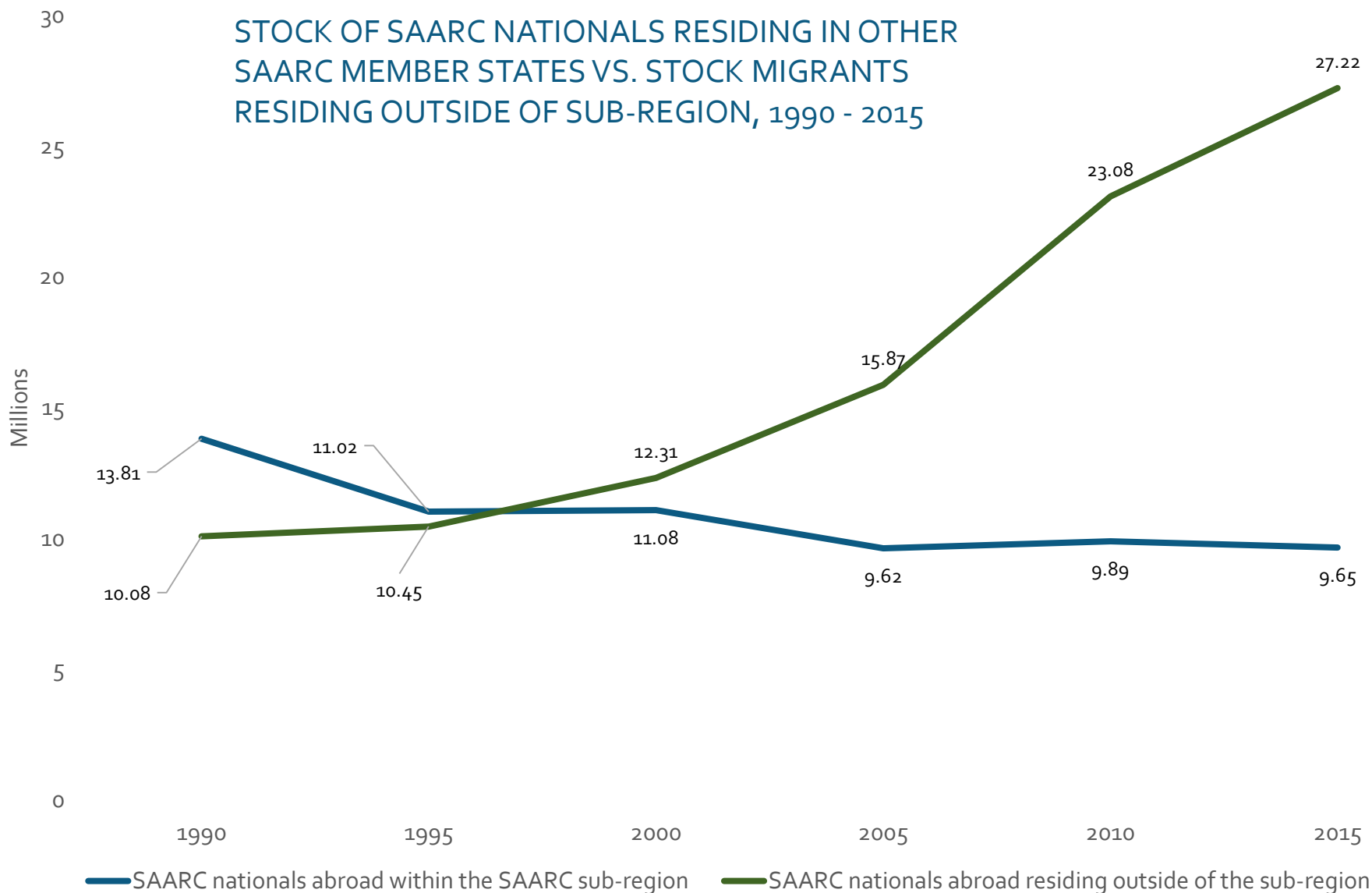
STOCK OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS RESIDING IN SAARC MEMBER STATES, 1960 - 2015



Source: UNDESA, *Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2015 Revision*. Datasets for the 2015 Revision available at <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/data/estimates2/estimates15.shtml>

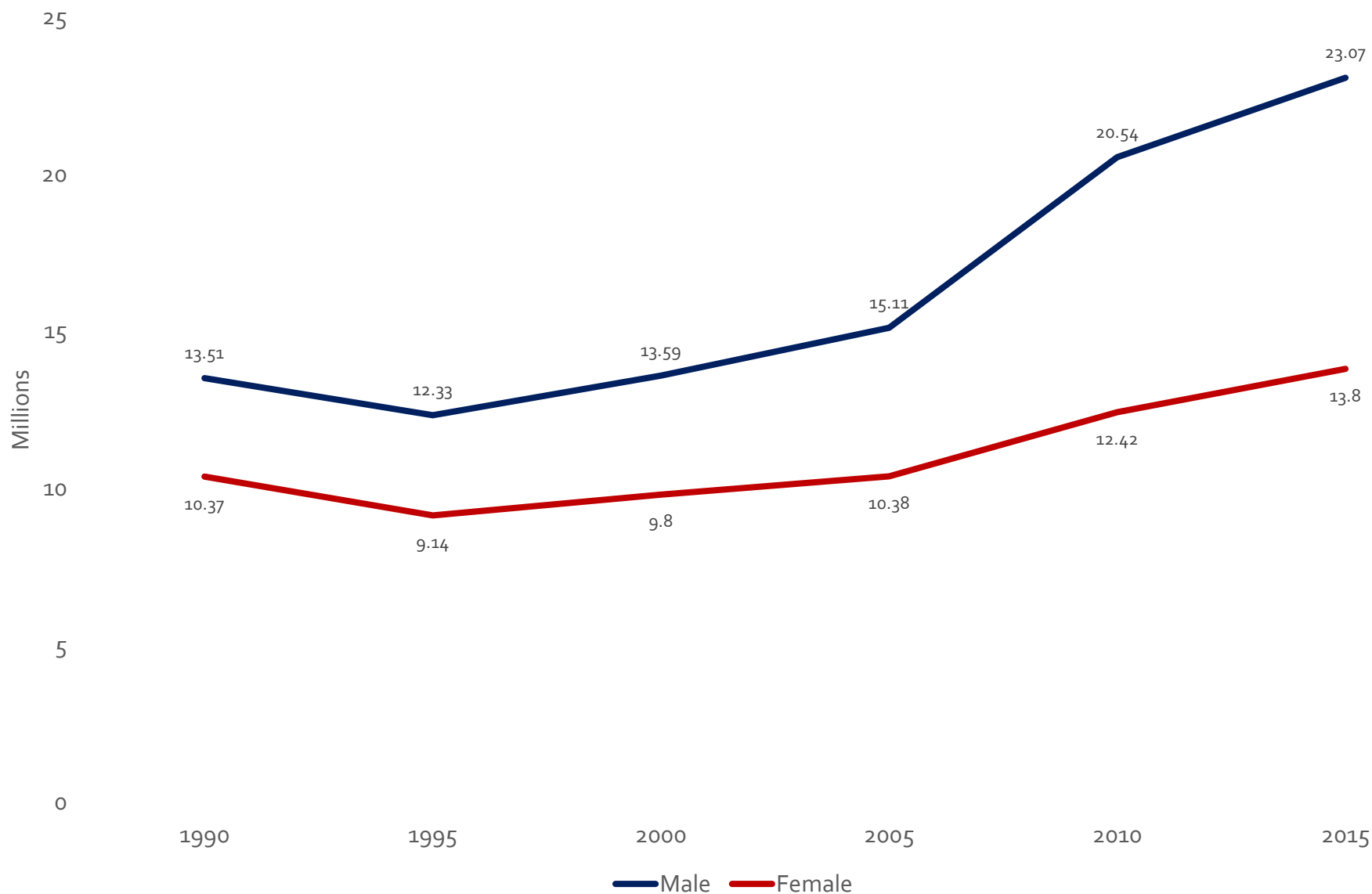
... While out-migration of SAARC nationals inter-regionally is increasing

STOCK OF SAARC NATIONALS RESIDING IN OTHER
SAARC MEMBER STATES VS. STOCK MIGRANTS
RESIDING OUTSIDE OF SUB-REGION, 1990 - 2015



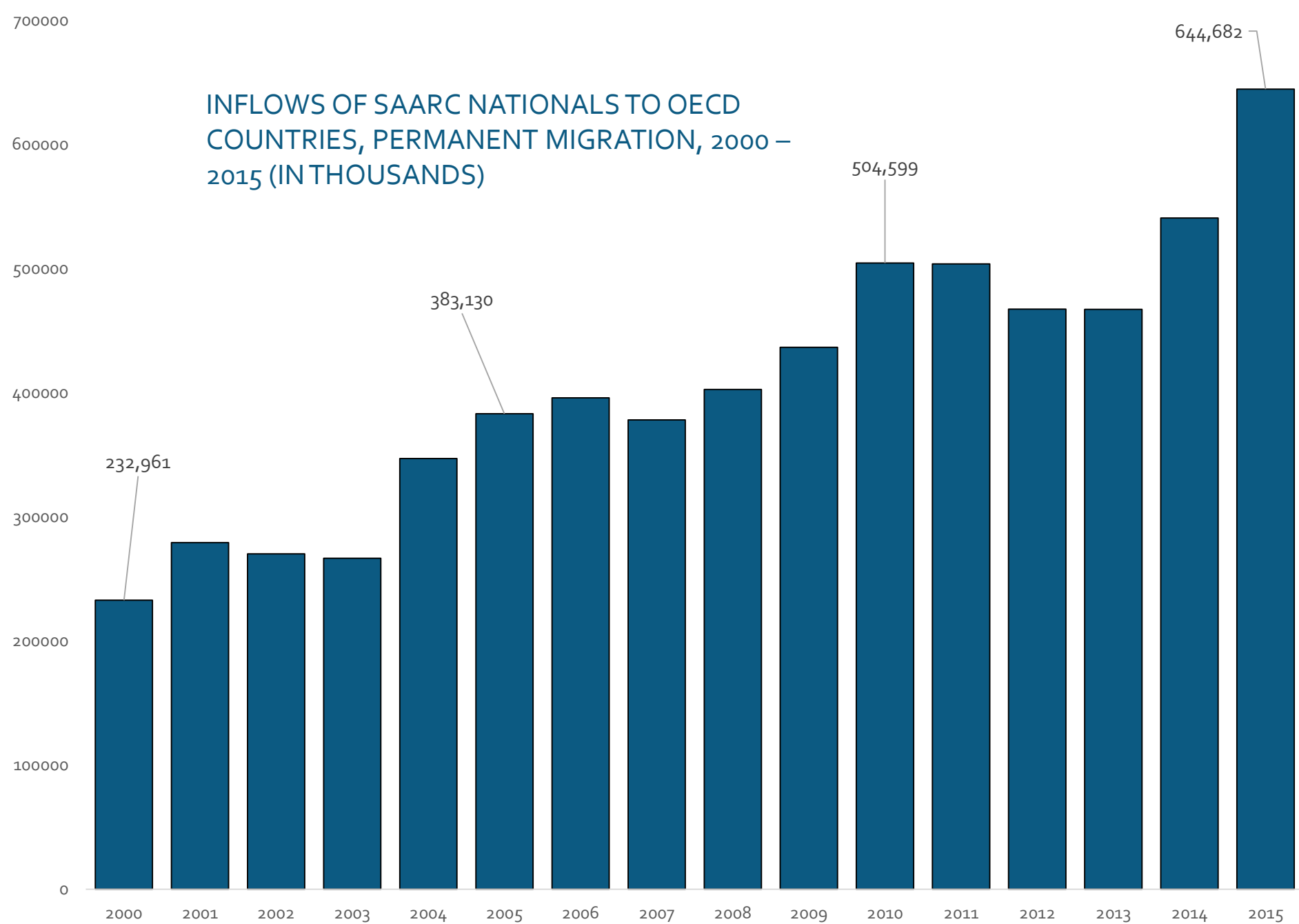
Source: UNDESA, Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2015 Revision. Datasets for the 2015 Revision available at

STOCK OF SAARC NATIONALS ABROAD, BY SEX, 1990 - 2015



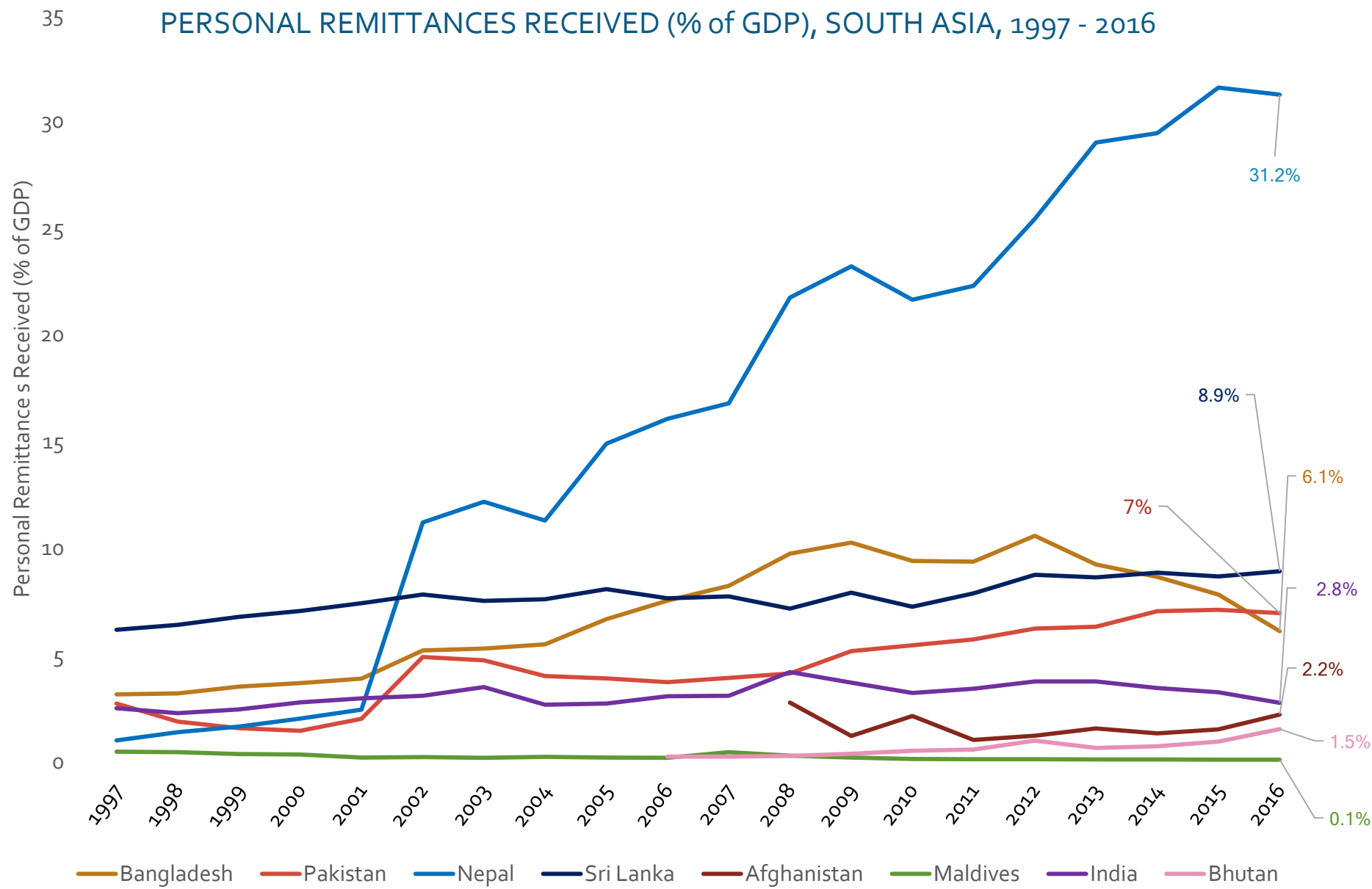
Source: UNDESA, *Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2015 Revision*. Datasets for the 2015 Revision available at <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/data/estimates2/estimates15.shtml>

INFLOWS OF SAARC NATIONALS TO OECD COUNTRIES, PERMANENT MIGRATION, 2000 – 2015 (IN THOUSANDS)



Source: OECD International Migration Database (accessed on 13 November 2017). Dataset available from <https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=MIG>.

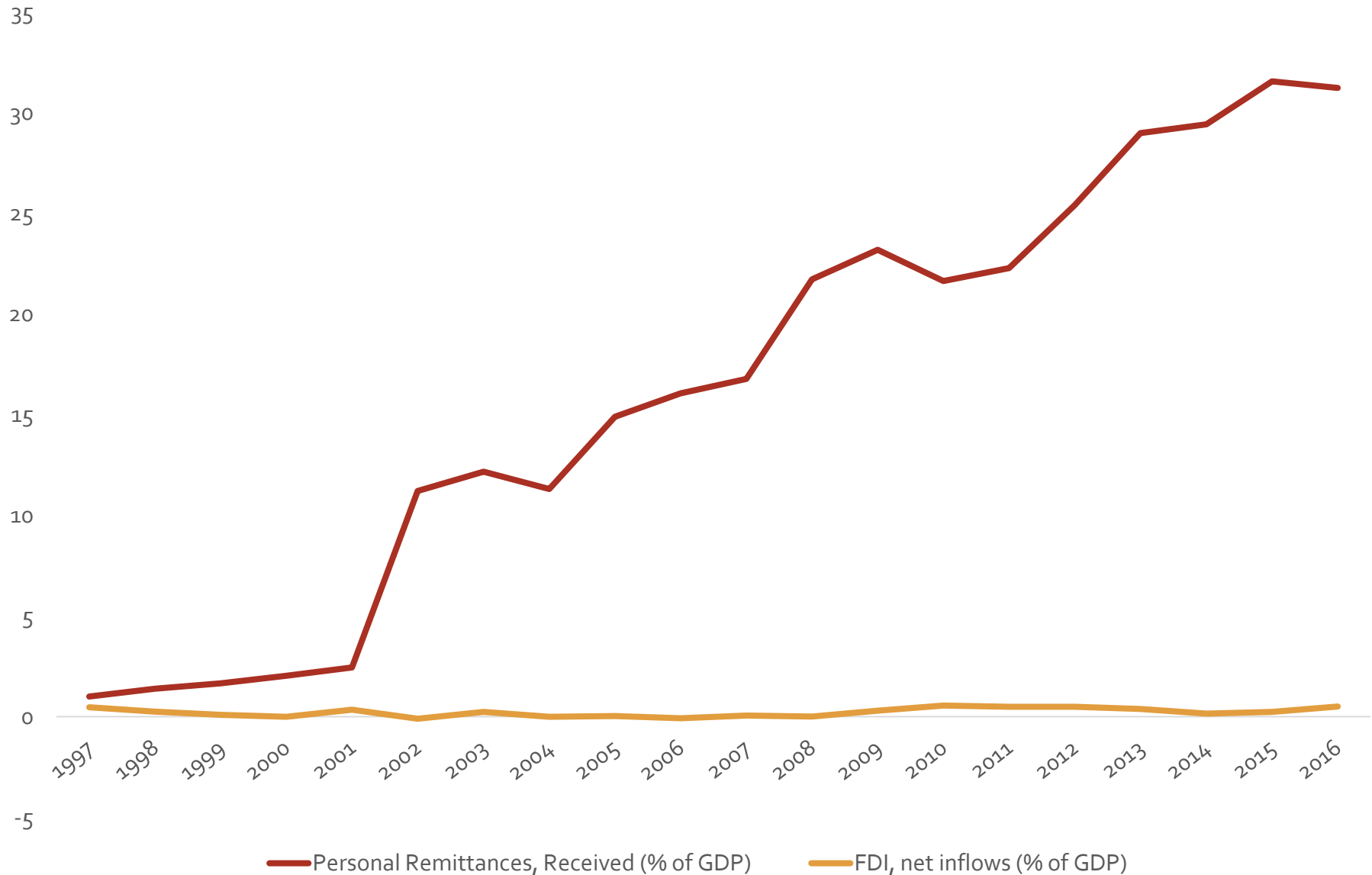
PERSONAL REMITTANCES RECEIVED (% of GDP), SOUTH ASIA, 1997 - 2016



Source: World Bank Remittance Outflows and Inflows Data:

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/migrationremittancesdiasporaissues/brief/migration-remittances-data> (updated as of April 2017, accessed 13 November 2017).

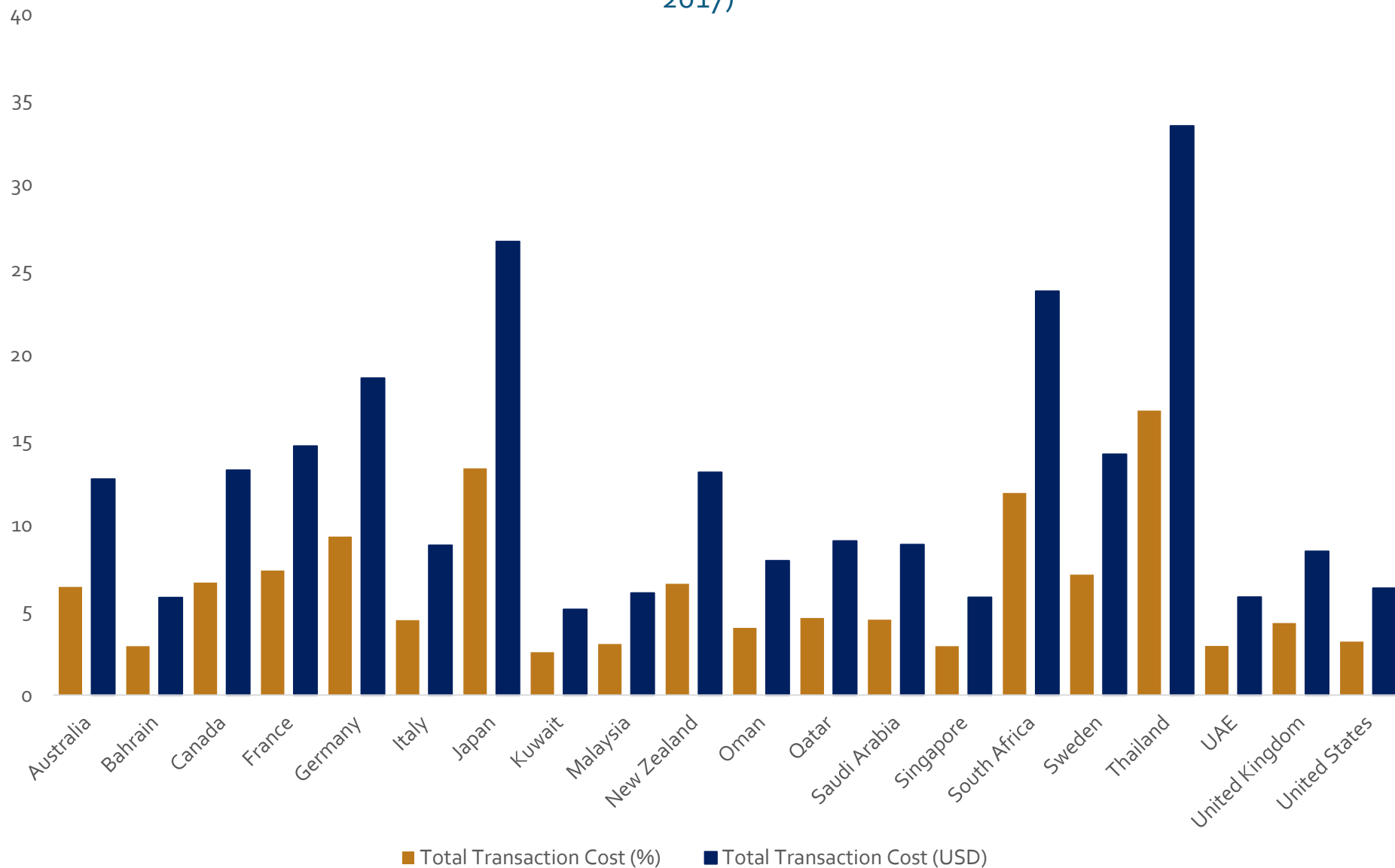
PERSONAL REMITTANCES RECEIVED VS. NET INFLOWS OF FDI, NEPAL, 1997 - 2017 (% OF GDP)



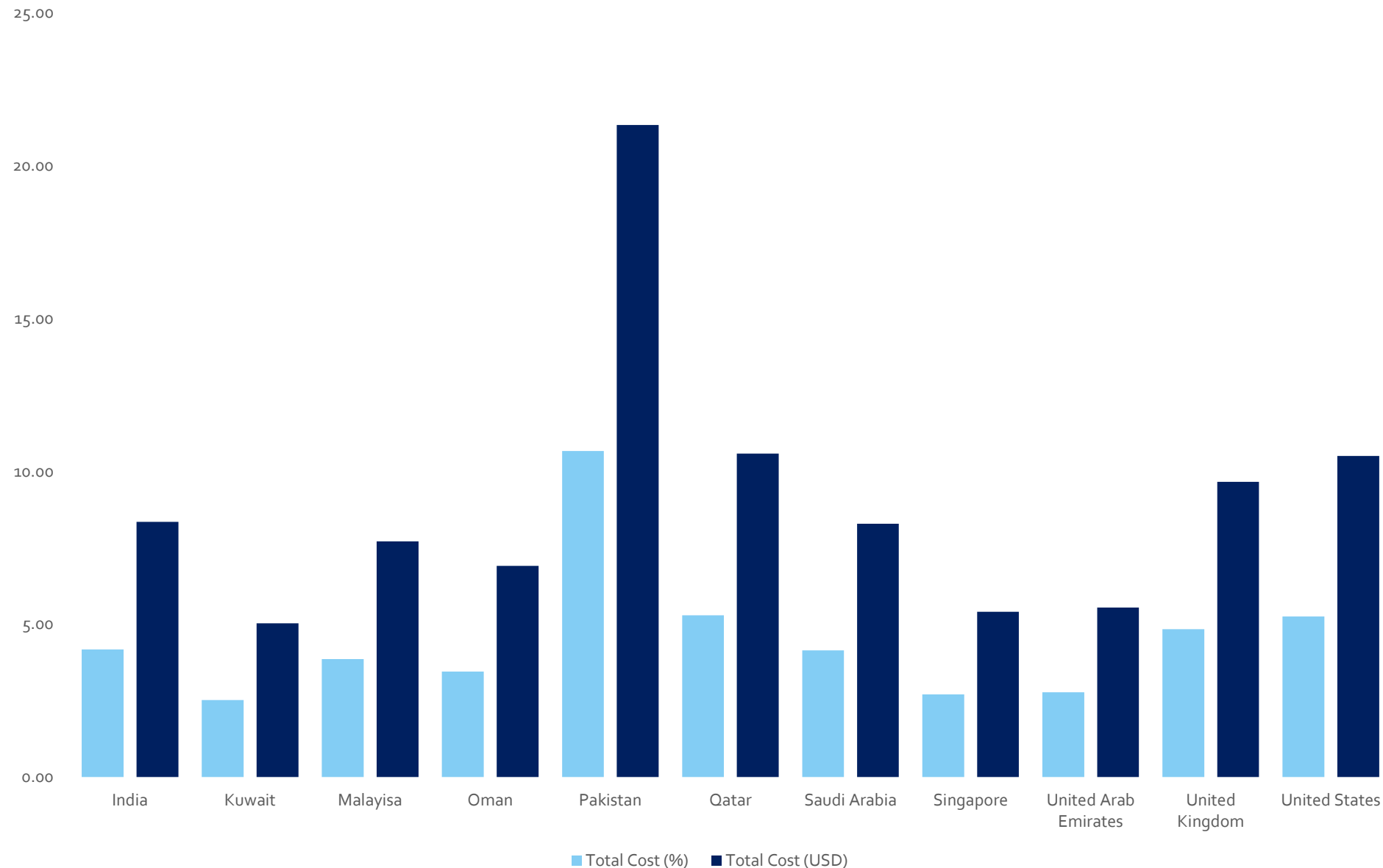
Source: World Bank Remittance Outflows and Inflows Data:

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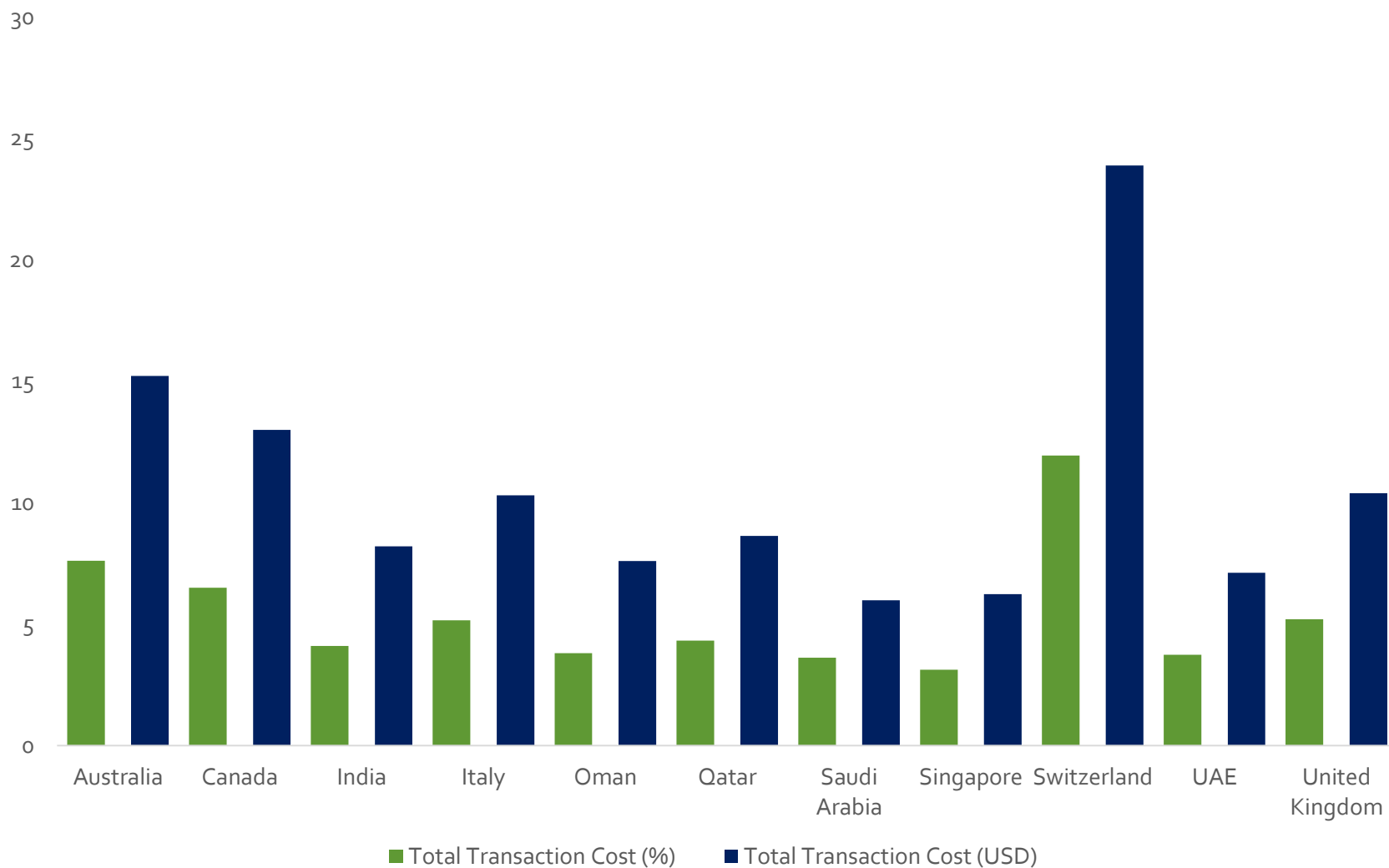
AVERAGE REMITTANCE TRANSACTION COST FOR US\$200 TRANSFER FROM SELECT MIGRANT LABOUR DESTINATION COUNTRIES TO **INDIA** (Q3 2016 - Q3 2017)



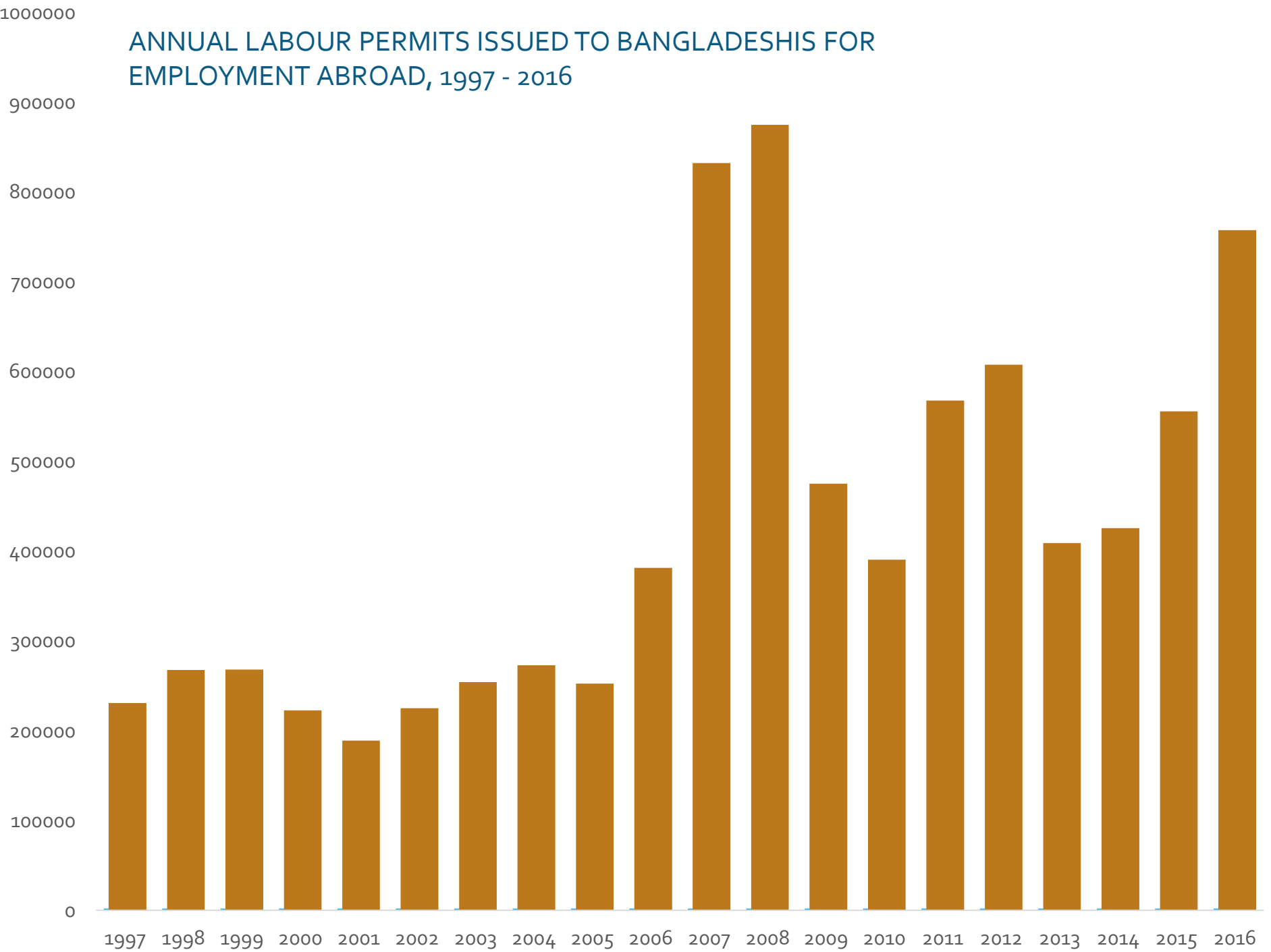
AVERAGE REMITTANCE TRANSACTION COST FOR US\$200 TRANSFER FROM
SELECT MIGRANT LABOUR DESTINATION COUNTRIES TO **BANGLADESH** (Q3 2016
- Q3 2017)



AVERAGE REMITTANCE TRANSACTION COST FOR US\$200 TRANSFER
FROM SELECT MIGRANT LABOUR DESTINATION COUNTRIES TO SRI
LANKA (Q3 2016 - Q3 2017)



ANNUAL LABOUR PERMITS ISSUED TO BANGLADESHIS FOR
EMPLOYMENT ABROAD, 1997 - 2016



Data collection: Key gaps and constraints

Summary of the data available and those collected...

1. Definitional
2. Uniformity
3. Overlooked populations
4. Dissemination and public availability
5. Responses

Towards more effective data collection and sharing

Observations for SAARC based on the work already carried out...

- ❖ Regularly publish the data already collected
- ❖ Expand the collection of administrative records
- ❖ Strategies to document irregular migrants and other overlooked migrant populations
- ❖ Establishing common definitions and methodologies

Your involvement... the ABC's

- **A)** add any missing sources or unclear definitions provided
- **B)** be attentive to possible inconsistencies
 - E.g. where figures seem too large or small, or where there might be a series break or some other such inconsistency
- **C)** (S)eeK any additional sources or individual tables known to exist but missing from the responses

Questions for discussion

- ❖ Are there amendments to the proposed tables, or additional tables that have not been included that should be?
- ❖ Are there data that are available that have not been covered?
- ❖ Should the scope of the SAARC ILMS database be expanded to include intra-regional dynamics?
- ❖ How can this tool be implemented and utilized by SAARC Member States ?
- ❖ Are the expectations we've outlined regarding the participation of your respective agencies fair and manageable?



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Thank you!

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