



Reviewing Internal Migration Data for  
India & Ghana: The missing link in  
the migration-development story?

Andy McKay and Adriana Castaldo  
DFID seminar, London, 20 July 2011

## Outline

- Importance of internal migration
- Patterns of internal migration
- Migration-poverty interactions
- The importance of internal remittances
- Data problems
- Policy lessons



# Migrating out of Poverty

## Data Sources, Ghana

- 2000 Population and Housing Census of Ghana: 10% sample by IPUMS International;
- 5<sup>th</sup> Round of Ghana Living Standards Survey (GLSS 5), 2005/06

## Data Sources, India

- 2001 Population and Housing Census of India (published migration tables: D series)
- 64<sup>th</sup> Round of National Sample Survey (NSS), 2007/08, Schedule 10.2: 'Employment & Unemployment and Migration Particulars'



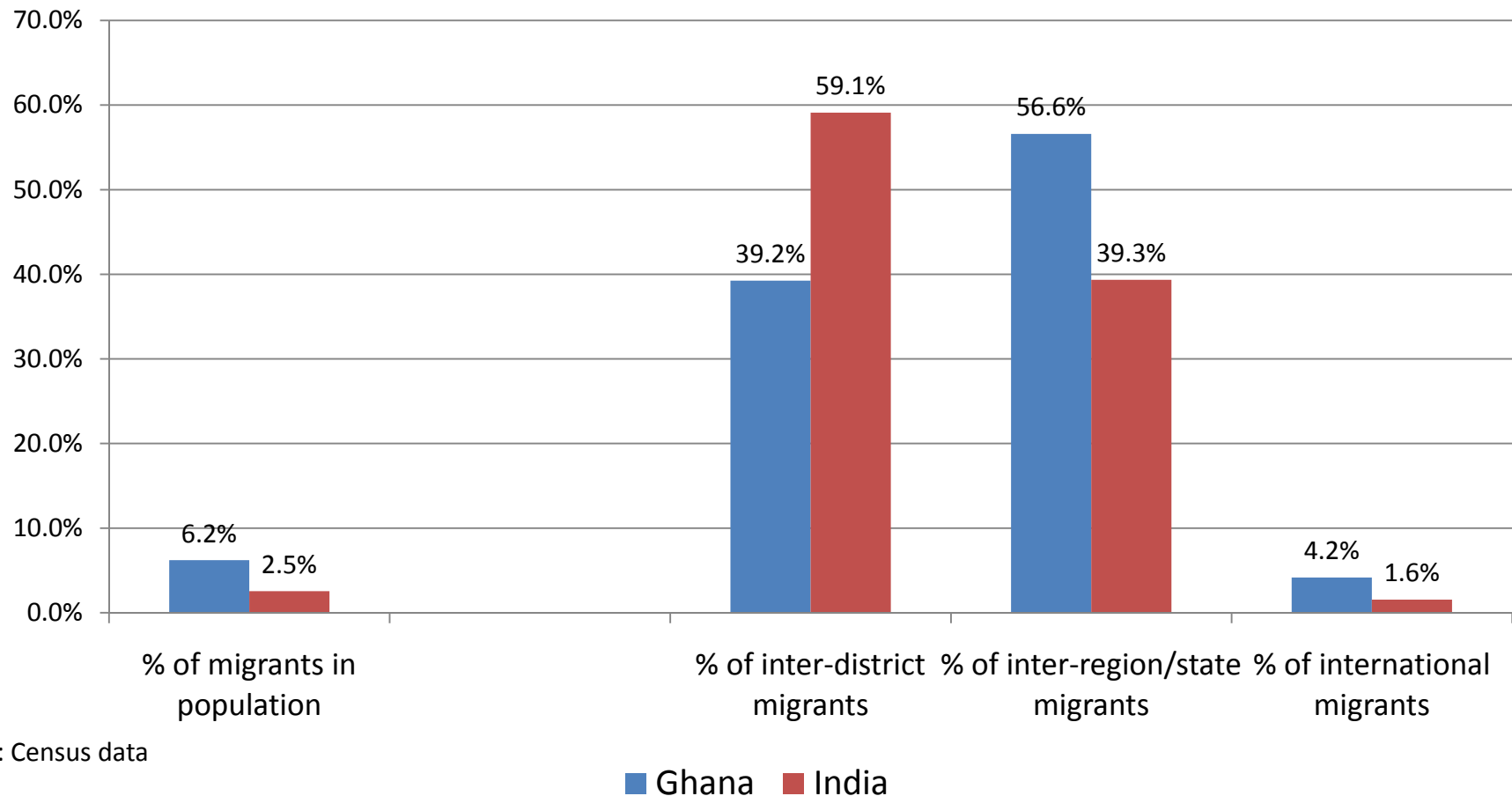
## Definition of Migrants, Ghana

- *Census-based*: anyone of age 5+ who lived in a different district of Ghana, or abroad, five years before the census
- *Survey-based*: any household member of age 7+ who moved to current village/town of residence any time in the past & intends to stay for one year or more
- *Survey-based, remitters*: any absent household member or other person who sent transfer payments to households in past 12 months

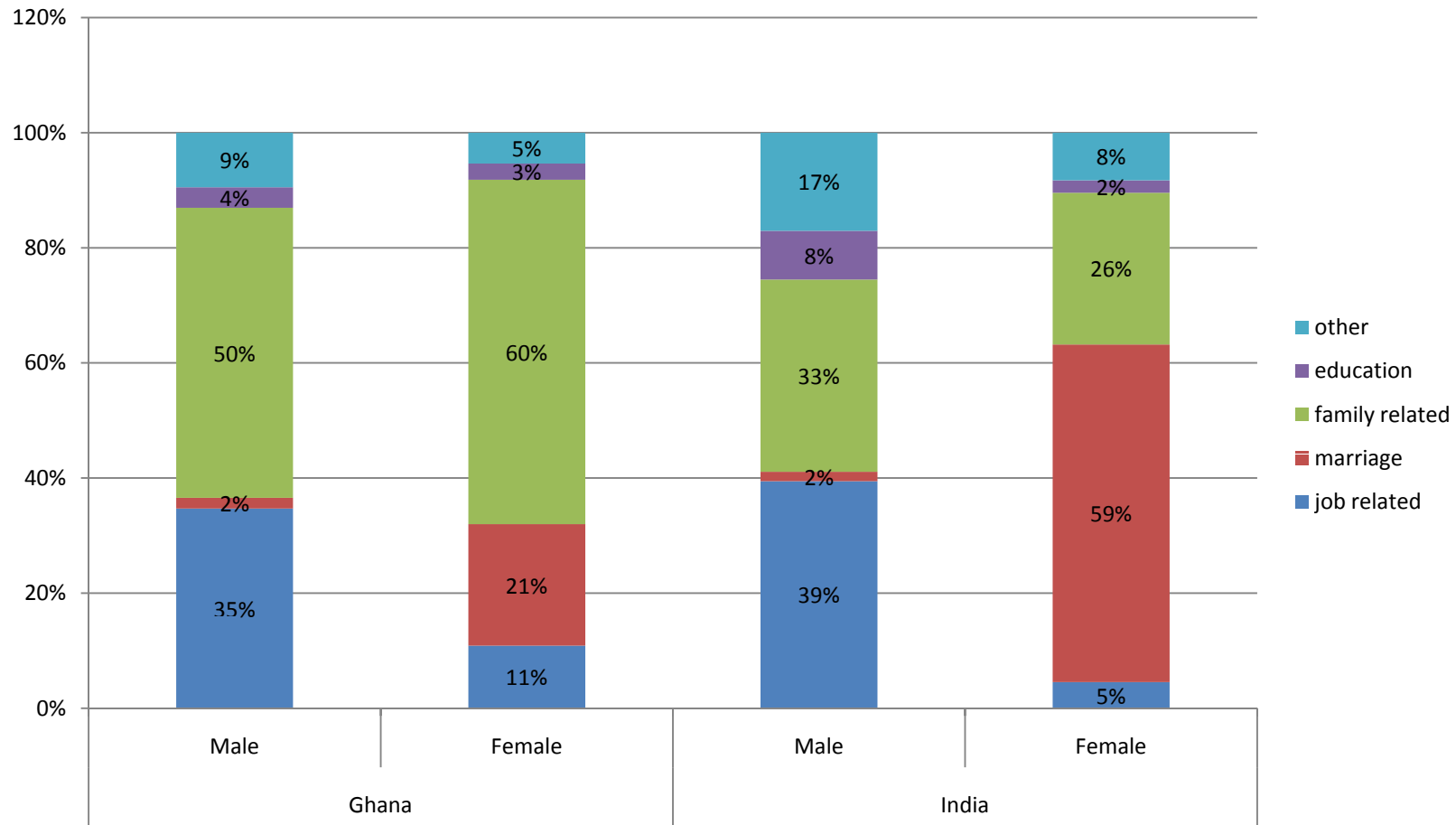
## Definition of Migrants, India

- *Census-based*: anyone who lived in a different district of India, or abroad, before coming to place of enumeration, and duration of residence 0-4 years
- *Survey-based*: any household member whose place of enumeration differs from last usual place of residence
- *Survey-based, remitters*: any former household member who left the household, any time in the past, for stay outside the village/town, and sent remittances in past 12 months

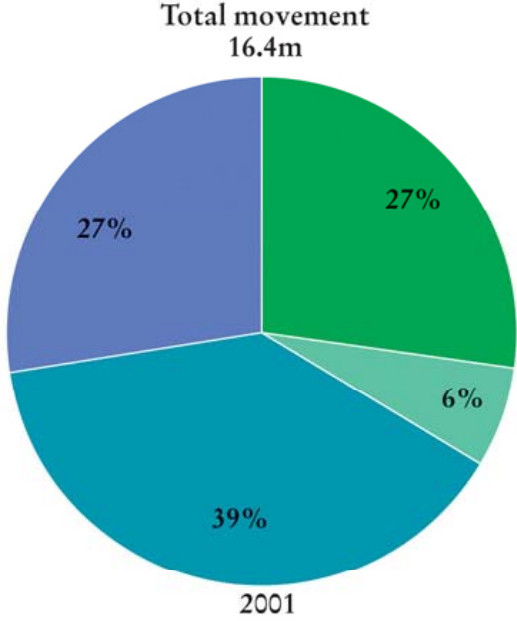
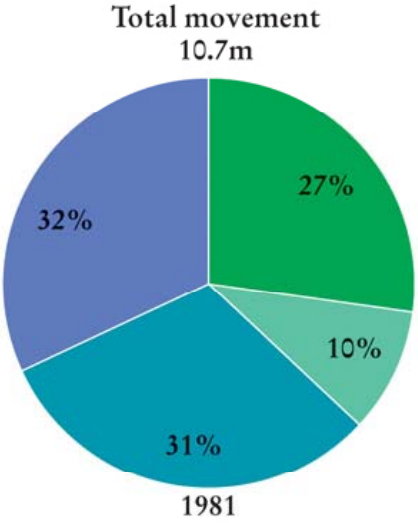
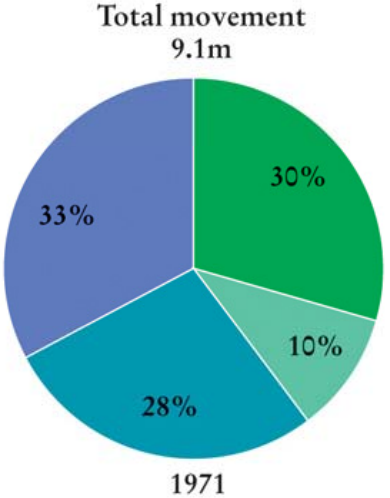
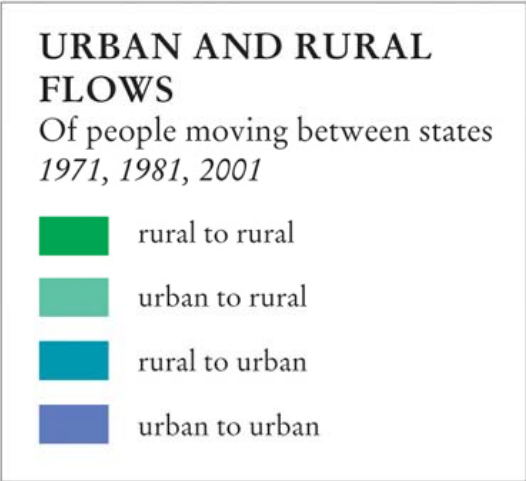
## Internal migration is substantially greater than international migration



# Reasons for migration (incl. Intra-district) are often differentiated by gender: job related for men, often marriage for women



Source: GLSS 5, Indian census



**INDIA**

In India rural to urban migration predominant among inter-state migrants, but rural to rural predominant among other internal migrants

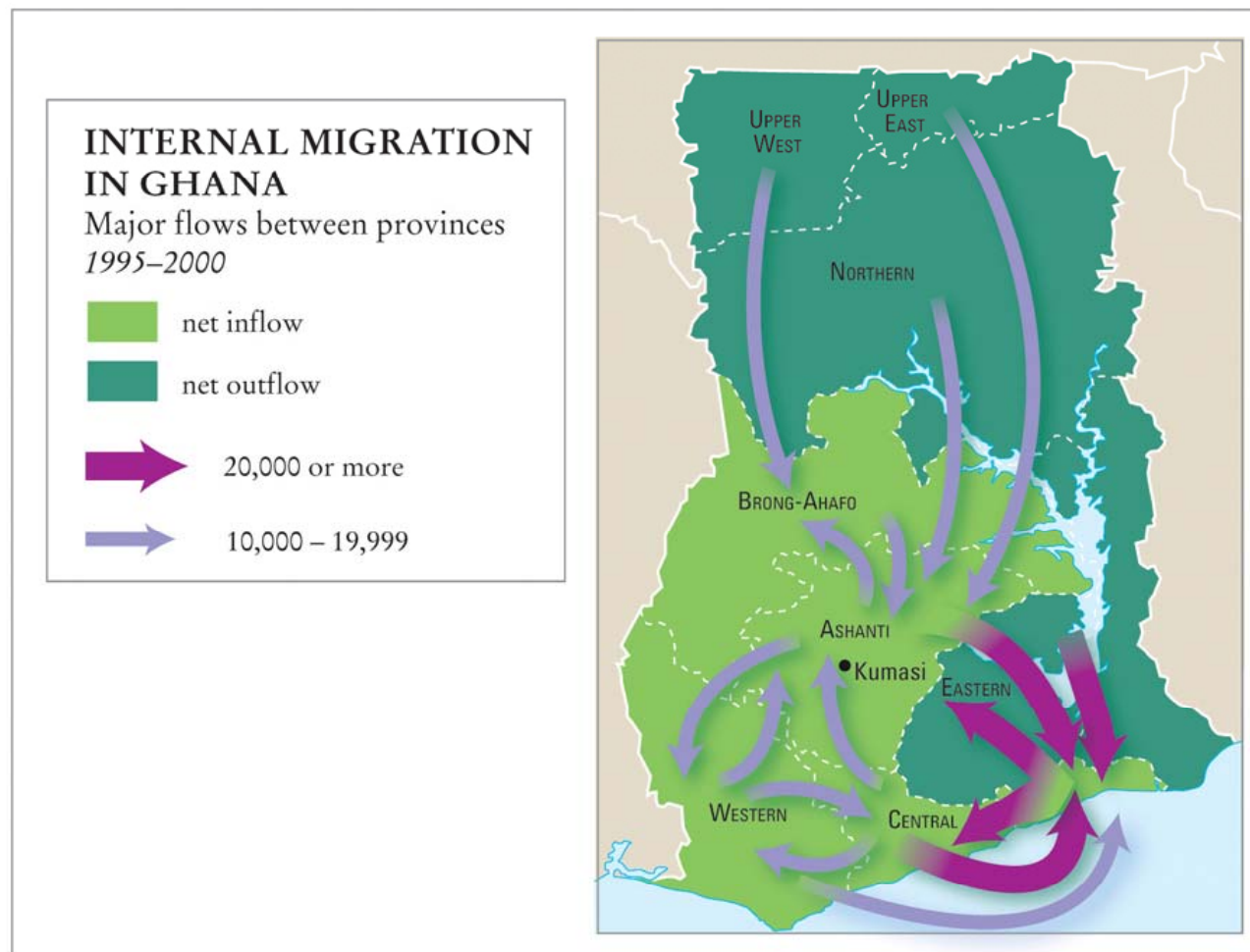
Three-quarters of rural to rural migration is by women

Rural to urban is more important for men

**GHANA**

In Ghana surveys suggest that rural to urban is less important than other streams

In Ghana patterns of internal migration have become established over time, with high numbers within the south east and north to south



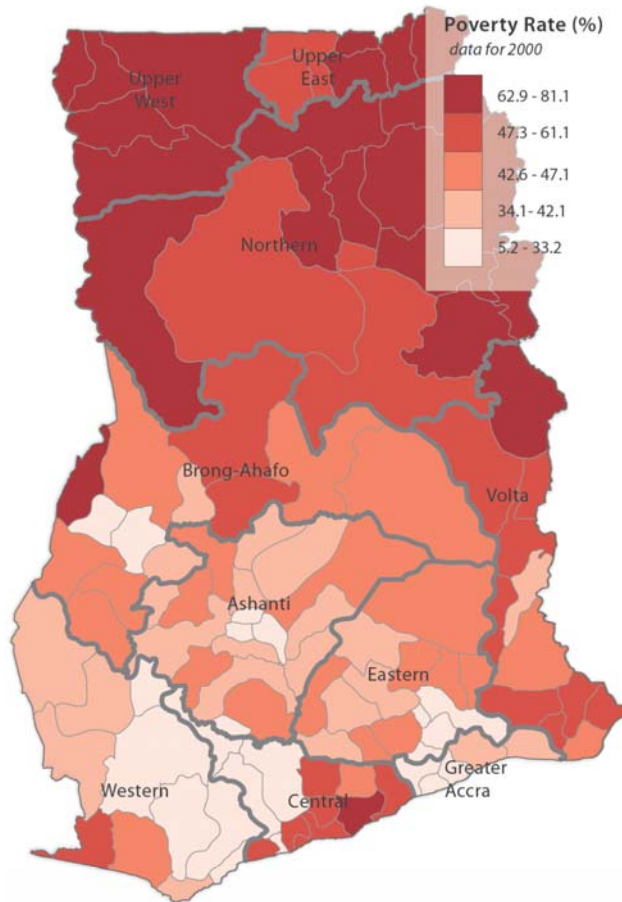
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Sources: Census data,  
University of Sussex

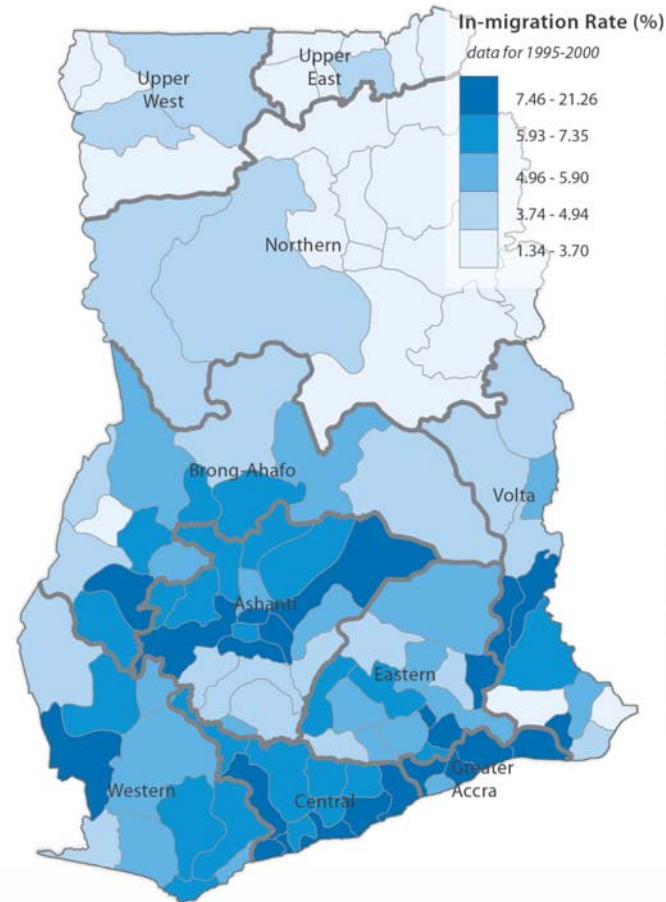


# The data on internal migration show that people move from areas of poverty to areas of relative wealth

## Migration and Poverty in Ghana: District-level

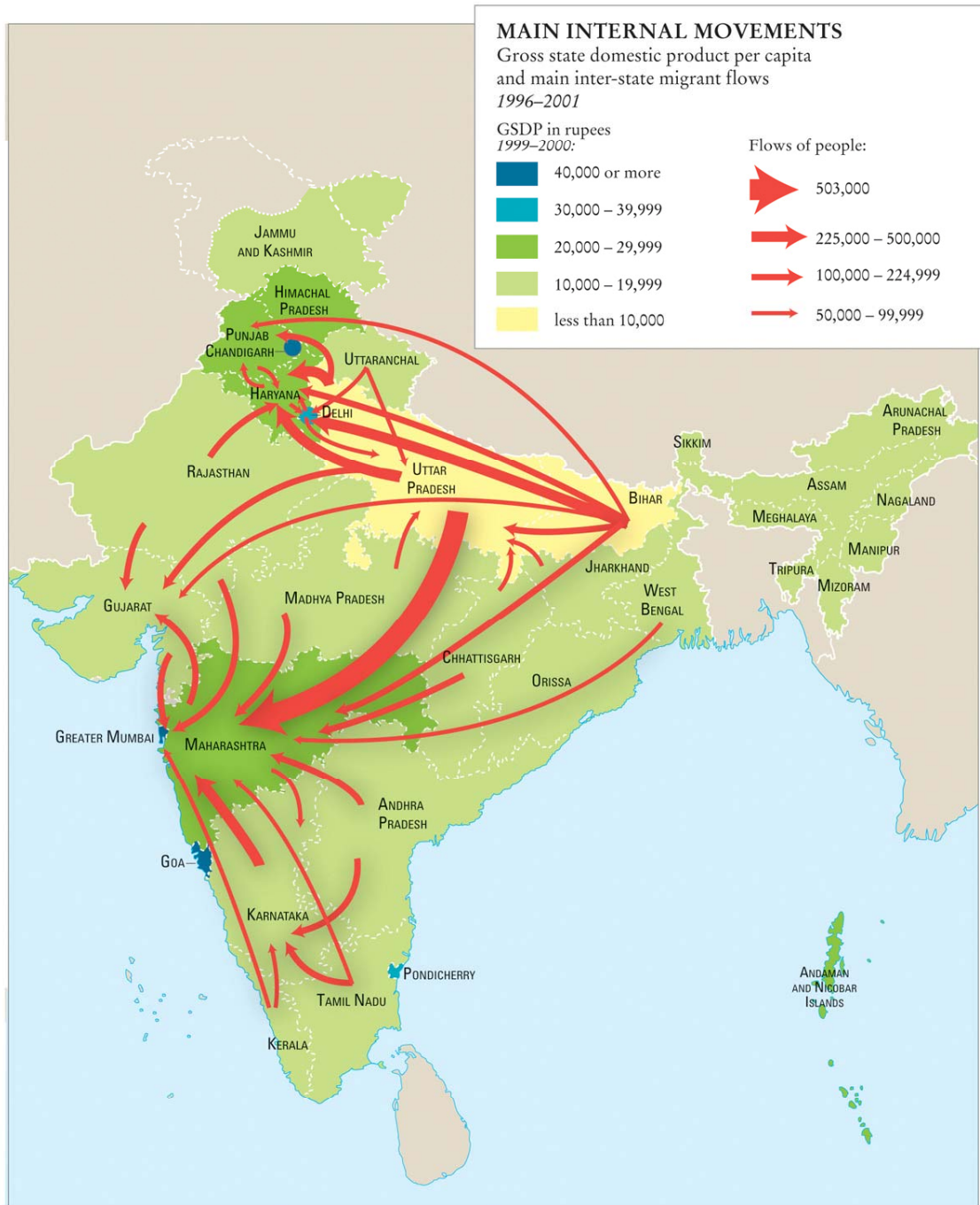


Source: 2000 Census of Ghana and GLSS4 (Couloumbe 2005)



Source: 10% sample of 2000 Census of Ghana (IPUMS International)

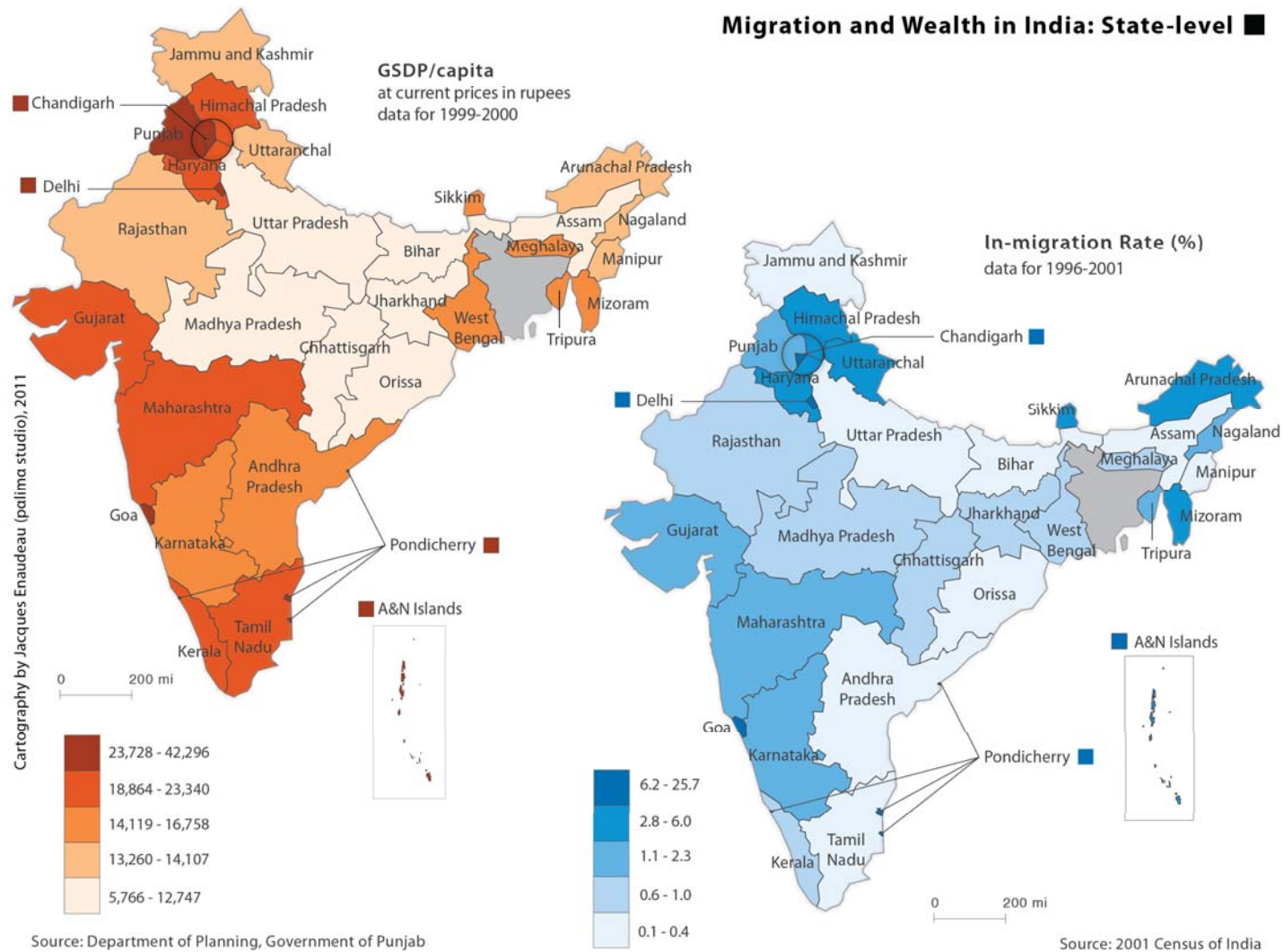
Cartography by Jacques Enaudeau (palima studio), 2011



In India,  
 internal  
 migration  
 patterns are  
 more complex,  
 but much to  
 Delhi and  
 Maharashtra

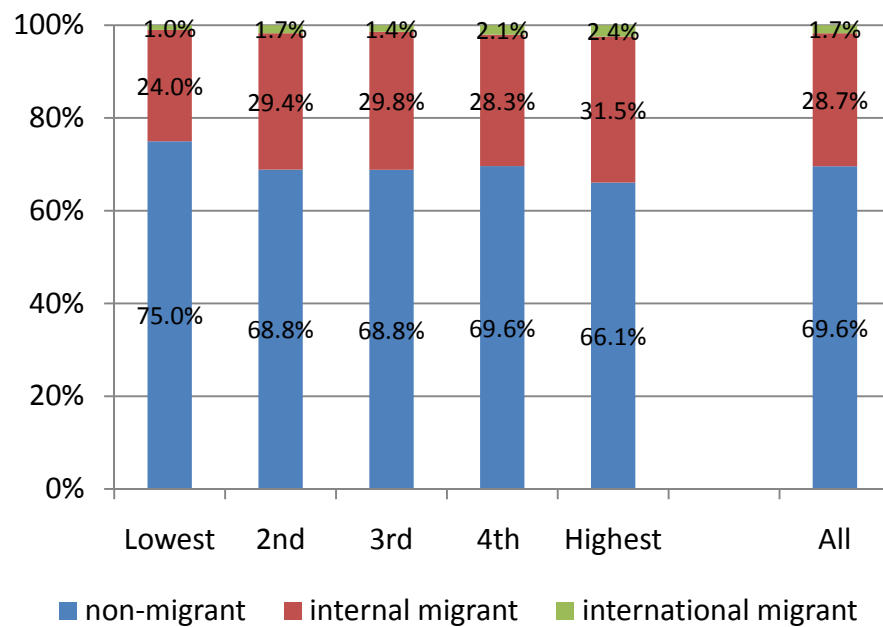
Source: Census data,  
 University of Sussex

The data on internal migration show that people move from areas of poverty to areas of relative wealth

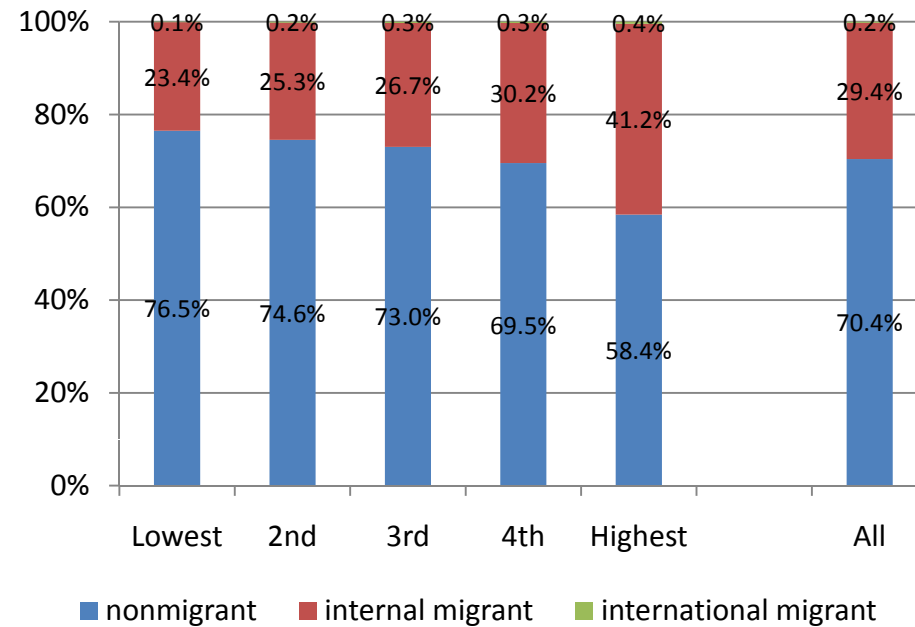


The poor DO migrate, almost all internally, and quite a lot

## Ghana



## India



Source: GLSS 5, NSS 64<sup>th</sup> round

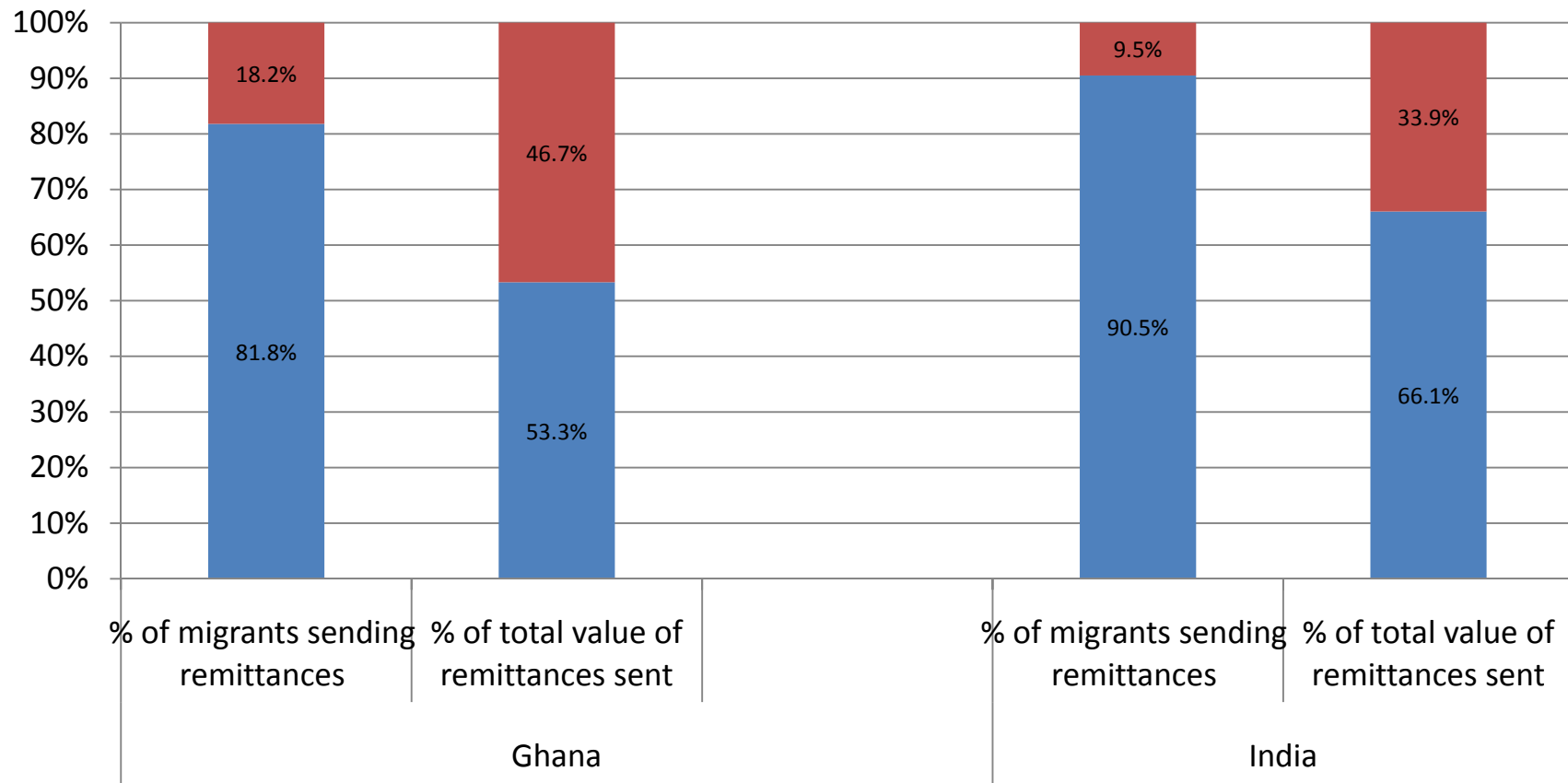
## Migration and Poverty

- While (now) non-poor households migrate more the poor also migrate
- Much migration from poorer to less poor locations
- International migration disproportionately among richer households
- But we CANNOT say anything about causality (e.g. migration reduces poverty) from this evidence
  - need to know outcomes in absence of migration
  - there is some existing evidence of migration reducing poverty



# Migrating out of Poverty

Value of internal remittances exceed international remittances, despite lower volumes



Source: GLSS 5, NSS 64<sup>th</sup> round

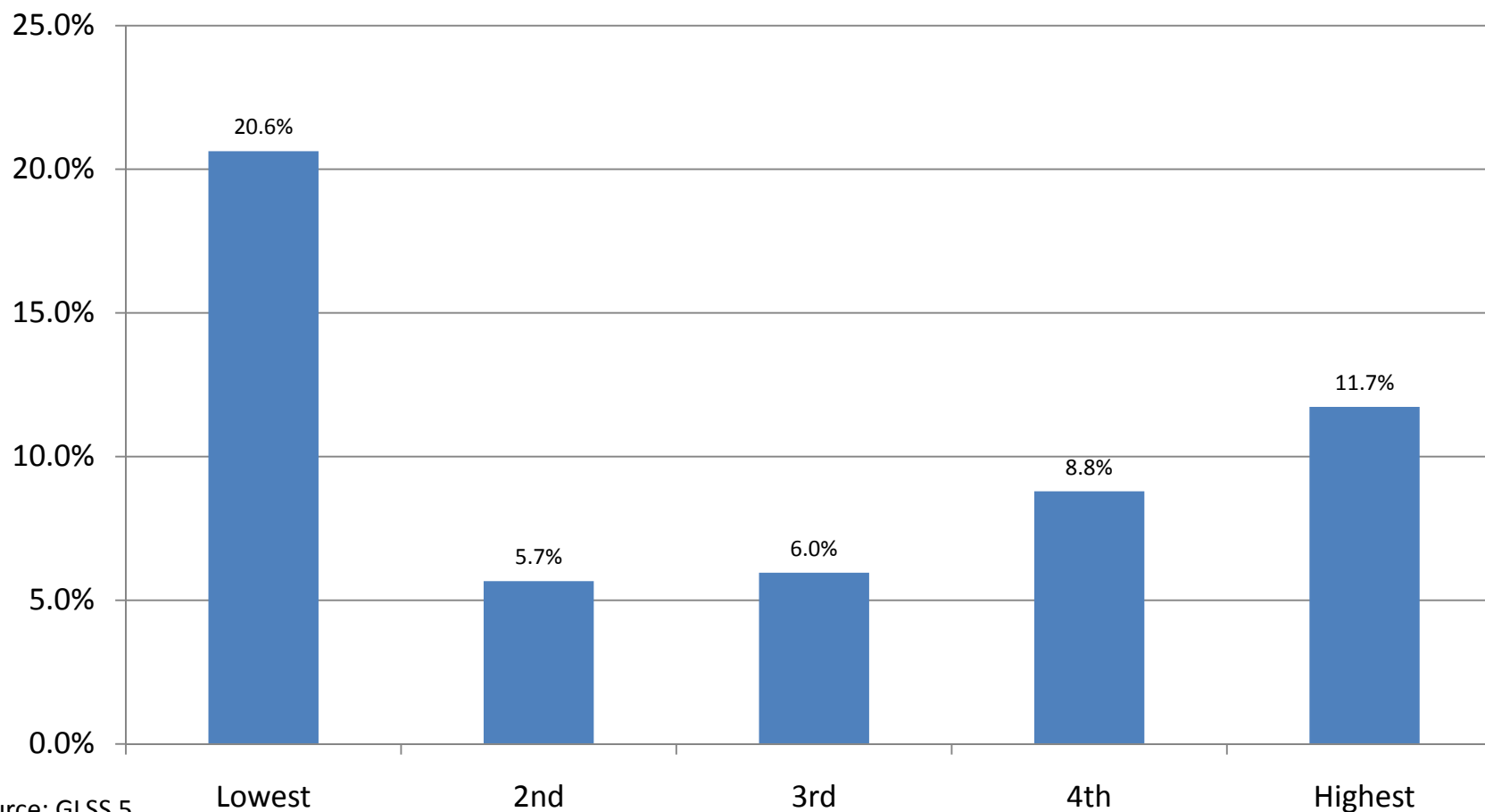
■ internal ■ international





# Migrating out of Poverty

Remittances can be important for poorer households e.g. remittances relative to household consumption level in Ghana



Source: GLSS 5

## Data Problems

- Why data is not used more
- What RPC will do to counteract that tendency
- Censuses and surveys tell us about longer term, more formal migration
- Many other forms not captured: seasonal, temporary, circular, illegal
  - These types of migration likely to be more important for poor
- Evidence from other studies of role of internal migration for poverty reduction, but need to strengthen evidence base



## Policy Lessons

- Attention needs to be paid to internal migration in development planning
- Need to facilitate internal remittances
- Tackle policy and cultural barriers to create opportunities for internal migration (work and other)
  - Including perhaps for girls and young women
- Importance of migration for urbanisation which should be good for growth, but needs to be planned for

## Poverty and Internal Migration Summary

- Internal migration is far more important, numerically, than international migration
- Many more instances of internal remittances, results in higher total for internal remittances
- Poor both migrate and receive remittances (chiefly internal)
- Gender differences in reasons for migration, work vs. family factors