PROPOSAL: "RESEARCH ON MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT."

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This position will support research on migration, both domestic and international, as a tool for poverty alleviation. There are various migration-related projects to which the RA may contribute.

One project builds on a randomized experiment to incentivize farmers in rural Bangladesh to move to cities during the annual, pre-harvest "lean season." The experiment generated causal evidence of welfare gains to migration in response to the $8 incentive to migrate. Based on these results, the seasonal migration program is now being scaled up by NGOs and donors.

Seasonal migration may also be useful in other regions of the world that experience seasonal income depravation. I am currently working on another project to identify areas in the world that suffer from seasonal deprivation, a first step to understand if seasonal migration is applicable as an anti-poverty strategy outside of the context of rural Bangladesh.

In addition, I work on understanding the effects of international migration. One project, in particular, partners with the government of Bangladesh to understand the causal effects of international migration on migrants and their families. The project uses data from a government lottery used to allocate work visas for Bangladeshi citizens to work in Malaysia temporarily.

The RAs may help analyze the effects of the scale-up of migration in Bangladesh, patterns in seasonal deprivation across the developing world, or the migration lottery in Bangladesh. The specific task will depend on the projects' needs at the time, but will be designed to ensure a good learning experience for students interested in international development and/or research. With the multiple related projects on migration, we have the ability to support multiple RAs working together as a research team.

The ideal candidate will have taken coursework in econometrics and will have experience programing in Stata. Experience with other statistical software and programming languages (MatLab, Python, etc.) is also a plus.