



THE 2015 NATIONAL INTERNAL MIGRATION SURVEY

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Factsheet 3: Migration process and determinants

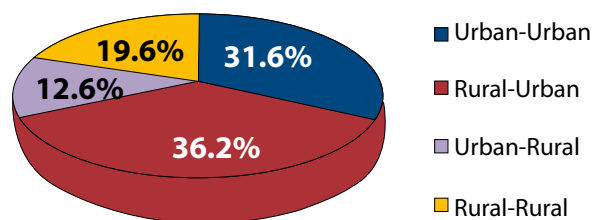
This factsheet provides information on the migration process and its determinants in Viet Nam, based on the data analysis from the 2015 National Internal Migration Survey. In addition, the factsheet will present policy recommendations to accommodate migration status in Viet Nam.

At the macro-level, migration occurs because of differences in opportunities between places of origin and destination areas. At the micro-level, the migration decision of a person does not only depend on the migrant themselves but also on social factors and the social network that connects places of origin and destination. Understanding those factors and networks can assist in developing effective migration policies.

KEY FINDINGS

The survey results show that 13.6 per cent of the population (around 12.4 million out of total 91 million people) was migrants in the last five years (2010-2015). Of those aged 15-59, migrants account for 17.3 per cent, of which 19.7 per cent of migrants are in an urban population and 13.4 per cent are in a rural population.

Figure 1: Percentage distribution of flows of migration for the last move



Among four migration flows (rural-urban, urban-rural, rural-rural, and urban-urban), the flow from rural to urban accounts for the largest proportion (36.2 per cent) and is three times as high as the flow from urban to rural (12.6 per cent) (Figure 1).

1. Employment/economic reasons are the main factors for migration

Figure 2: Main reasons for migration



Similar to previous studies, the 2015 National Internal Migration Survey finds that employment and economic reasons remain the leading factors for migration.

The same results are observed in both male and female migrants, as well as in all regions (except the North Central and South Central Coast Areas and the Central Highlands, where having high percentage of people migrate for family-related reasons). The percentage of men migrating for employment and economic reasons (38.4 per cent) is higher than that of female migrants with the same reasons (31.8 per cent) demonstrating a seven points difference. In contrast, female migrants are more likely to migrate for family reasons (29.5 per cent) than male migrants (20.5 per cent).

Compared with the results of the 2004 Viet Nam Internal Migration Survey, the percentage of migrants who moved for study purposes increased from 4.5 per cent in 2004 to 23.4 per cent in 2015. That reflects the development of Vietnamese society in which education has become more important for accessing highly paid jobs.

2. Movement decisions of migrants are more likely because of “pull factors” at the destinations rather than “push factors” in the departure areas.

The survey results show that reasons related to current place of residence as the pull factors (such as “finding a job in the new place of residence”, “study”, “to be near family members”, etc.) are the main reasons selected rather than others related to the place of origin. An inability to find employment in the place of origin, or no remaining relatives in the place of origin (push factors), are hardly mentioned at all by migrants.

“After graduating from college, I would not think about returning home or staying in Dong Hoi City (current place). I would move to any place providing me with a nice job. I would go to Saigon [Ho Chi Minh City] where there are more job opportunities. I would work for a small business or for a manufacturing business”.

(Male in-migrant, urban, Quang Binh province)

Southeast and the Northern Midlands and Mountain Areas are the three regions with the highest rates of migrants moving for work, with the equivalents of 45.6 per cent, 42.4 per cent and 37.7 per cent, respectively. Migrants moving to Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh City for new jobs account for the highest percentage among reasons migrants move at the rates of 40.2 per cent and 32.6 per cent, respectively.

Results from in-depth analysis demonstrate that economic and social factors are typically combined as the reasons for migration, although economic factors tend to dominate in the final migration decision.

“I think when I come here [industrial zone], I will be able to work and earn more money than if I was back home. I can have fun working with my friends here while I can support my family. My friends are working now and can earn some money now. They asked me to go so I decided to go.”

(Female in-migrant, rural, Hai Duong province)

3. Most migrants make the decision to move by themselves

About 90 per cent of migrants make their own migration decisions. The process of decision-making for movement involved the participation of family members, friends or teachers, yet migrants still made the final decisions for their move.

There is a difference between male and female migrants in making migration decisions. In this regard, the percentage of male and female migrants is respectively 92.2 per cent and 87.9 per cent. The data shows that female migrants compared to male migrants seem to depend on others to a larger degree when making decisions on whether to migrate.

“At that time, I finished the 9th grade, and then I dropped out of school. I found staying at home was boring and my friends told me to work. Before moving for work, I discussed it with my parents. The whole family discussed together. I would only go if they allowed me to go.”

(Female in-migrant, urban, Quang Binh province)

61.7 per cent of migrants moved by themselves in their last move. Of the remainder, the majority migrated with family members such as spouses, children and parents (31.4 per cent), and less than seven per cent migrated with their relatives, friends, persons from the same place of origin or other people.

Men tend to migrate on their own or with their friends, while women are more likely than men to migrate with family members. In comparison with the 2004 Viet Nam Migration Survey, the 2015 National Internal Migration Survey reveals that the percentage of migrants moving alone has increased by 20 points. That reflects a change in the independence of decision making and an increased willingness to move on their own.

4. Most migrants were aware of the difficulties in the destination area before migration

3 out of 4 migrants facing difficulties in the destination area said that they were aware of the difficulties before migration



Of the migrants who did not foresee the difficulties, 71.3 per cent said that they would still have decided to migrate even if they were aware of them beforehand. This is similar among male and female migrants, both in urban and rural areas. This indicates that the difficulties faced by some migrants in the destination area are clearly not a barrier to migration. Attraction to migration destinations is still the main motivation for migrants who show readiness to confront difficulties in their decision to migrate.

5. The social networks play an important role for migrants. These networks make migration easier and reduce risks arising during the migration process.

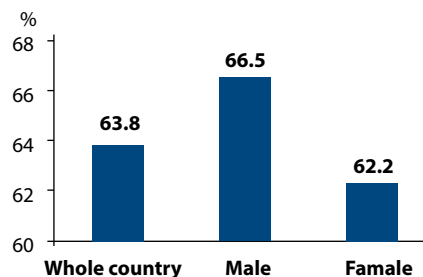


46.7%
of migrants know about their current place of residence through “relatives/friends”

Most migrants knew about their current place of residence via informal information sources. About 46.7 per cent of migrants knew about their current place of residence through “their family members, and friends”. 22 per cent of migrants reported that they “have lived here” previously. The percentage of migrants who know about their current place of residence via mass media accounts for 13 per cent. Only 2.8 per cent of migrants know about it through labour-contracting companies and hardly anyone knows about the destination through employment

centers. This suggests employment centers have not worked efficiently in providing information to migrants, particularly in cases of movement for employment and economic reasons.

Figure 3: Percentage distribution of migrants who have relatives, family members or people that they know in their current of residence



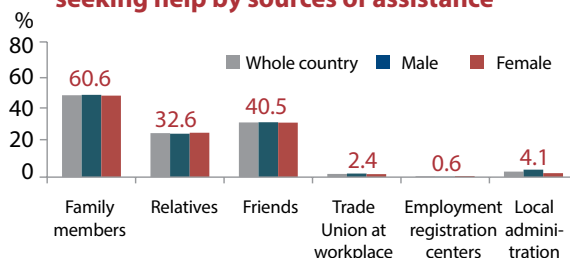
Social networks play an important role for migrants. About 64 per cent of migrants report that they have family members, relatives or other people they know in their current place of residence. There is little difference between rates for men and women (66.5 per cent and 62.2 per cent, respectively) (Figure 3). This suggests migrants, in the migration process, create personal relationships and link to people through a social network. These networks make migration easier and reduce risks arising during the migration process. There are no regional differentials in terms of connecting migrants with their acquaintances in destination places, except for the two big cities of Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh City. In those two cities, about half of migrants did not know anybody before their migration.

The advantages of social networks migrants use also reveals from whom migrants will seek assistance when they face difficulties.

Approximately one third of migrants report that they faced difficulties after migration, especially in the Central Highlands, where the percentage of migrants who faced difficulties is 60.6 per cent. Housing problems, specifically, are mentioned most frequently by migrants (accounting for 42.6 per cent).

Migrants facing difficulties seek help from their “family” (60.6 per cent), “relatives” (32.6 per cent) or “friends” (40.5 per cent). There is little difference in these rates between male and female migrants. Very few migrants seek support from organizations, trade unions, local government (less than 4 per cent), employment registration centers (less than 1 per cent) (Figure 4).

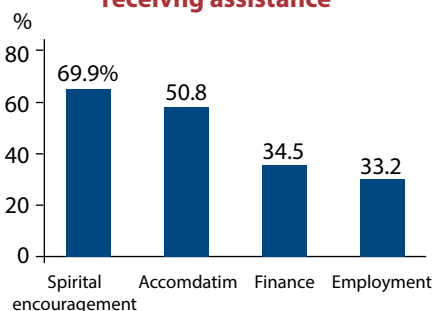
Figure 4: Percentage distribution of migrants seeking help by sources of assistance



Most of migrants (69.9 percent) received spiritual or motivational encouragement. Over half reported that they received housing assistance. One third are assisted with financial support and another third of migrants are assisted with employment.

Migrants in rural areas (40.6 per cent) received employment assistance more than those in urban areas (28.1 per cent). Female migrants received more spiritual encouragement and accommodation assistance as compared to male migrants.

Figure 5: Percentage distribution of migrants receiving assistance



POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

1 Migration needs to be integrated into socio-economic development policies and plans at the national, sub-national and sectoral levels

Migration is an indispensable factor of the development process. Therefore, during the formulation of socio-economic development policies and plans at each level, it is necessary to take into account migration populations in order to ensure taking full advantage of the benefits of migration for development, as well as responding to migration status in localities, ensuring the right to equality in access by migrants to basic social services (such as housing, education, health, etc.).

2 It is necessary to enhance sustainable development programs, infrastructure investment, job creation, improvement of people's living conditions and the environment. This must be done, especially in rural areas, with an aim to reduce gaps between rich and poor, and living conditions between urban and rural areas. This will help ease the pressure on

the migration flow from rural to urban areas and at the same time lead to a redirection of migration patterns (instead of migration from rural to big cities, migration can be encouraged more from rural to towns and small urban centers).

3 Continue to expand information sources, and formal and informal social networks to support migrants

Migrants access information and seek support mainly from informal social networks. The role of the formal sector in providing information and assisting migrants is underdeveloped. Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen the roles of agencies and organizations that utilize migrant labor, as well as job placement centers, so they can effectively support migrants in the migration process and help them to overcome initial difficulties at places of destination.

REFERENCE

1. General Statistics Office and United Nations Population Fund (2016). "The 2015 National Internal Migration Survey: Major findings". News Agency Publishing House.
2. General Statistics Office and United Nations Population Fund (2016). "The 2015 National Internal Migration Survey: Key indicators".

Note:

In this survey migrants are defined as people who have moved from one district to another district in the five years prior to the survey and who meet one of the following three conditions:

- a. Have resided in their current place of residence one month or more;*
- b. Have resided in their current place of residence for less than one month but intend to stay for one month or more;*
- c. Have resided in the current place for less than one month but within the past one year have moved from their usual place of residence to another district with the accumulated period of time of one month or more to earn a living.*

The survey focuses on migrants and non-migrants aged 15-59



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