

A case study from Hai Lang District, Quang Tri

A joint research project of UNDP and Oxfam



Outline

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 - Gender
 - Climate change
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Research objective

To understand the **nexus between migration trends and patterns, climatic changes/stresses and gender aspects**; in order to:

- make **recommendations for climate change and resettlement policies and programmes**, which simultaneously can tackle poverty, gender inequality and enhance climate change adaptive and mitigation capacities; and to
- offer adequate **protection** and enhance **opportunities** (and capacities) of those who are migrating and those that stay behind in a gender sensitive manner

Research questions

- ✓ Who decides who migrates?
- ✓ Why do people migrate?
- ✓ Who are left behind?
- ✓ What impact does migration have on the security of those left behind?
- ✓ What impacts does the migration have on the security of recipient communities?
- ✓ What impact does migration have on the migrants themselves?
- ✓ What support do the left behind people need in out migration households?
- ✓ What support do people in receiving communities need?
- ✓ What support do migrants need?

Research areas

- ❑ Ba Du and Phuong Lang villages of Ha Ba commune, Hai Lang district, Quang Tri province (**sending area**)*
- ❑ A Doi commune, Huong Hoa district, Quang Tri province (**resettlement area**)
- ❑ Ho Chi Minh City (**receiving area**)

* *These areas were surveyed in 2009*

Informant groups

- ❑ Technical officials from provincial departments in Quang Tri
 - ❑ District, commune and village officials in sending area
 - ❑ Grade 8 students in sending communes
 - ❑ People from sending and receiving communes
 - ❑ People in resettlement areas
 - ❑ Migrants in Ho Chi Minh City
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- ❑ A total of 118 people, of whom 49 were women and 69 men
 - ❑ The majority of the HH interviewed had children who had migrated permanently to southern provinces

Research methodology

- ❑ Desk review
- ❑ Analytical framework
- ❑ Workshops including focus group discussions with commune, district and provincial officials and mass organisation staff and school children
- ❑ In-depth interviews with migrants and their family members
- ❑ Household ranking

Main findings - permanent migrants

Who they are..

- Age ranging from **20-35 years old**
- In **new location for over 3 years/** or had no intention of returning to home villages
- **Young members** of HHs (*after finishing secondary school, or school drop-outs, some staying on after university or vocational training*)
- Did **not contribute significantly to HH workload** as were too young/in school
- **Working as:** majority in factories, domestic helpers, babysitters, mechanics, drivers, workers in garment, textile and wood processing

Main findings - permanent migration

What the impacts have been..

On HH left behind:

- **Not as significant** as might be expected
- **Children were now independent**
- **Remittances**, if sent at all, often did **not have any impact on the HH financial situation**
- **Extra workload** created by migration was minimal, as prior to migration children were studying
- **Disadvantage** cited - there was **no one to take care of them/or share HH responsibilities**

On migrants:

- **Poor living conditions**, high costs, could not save much, hard working conditions – long hours, no time for socialising

Main findings - seasonal migrants

Who they are...

- Migrate on **seasonal basis** during off-farming season
- Often married, between ages of **40-60** - thus hold more substantial amount of HH responsibility while at home
- **Working as:** casual labourers in harvesting season, e.g. coffee; preparation of land for next crop



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Main findings - seasonal migrants

What the impacts have been...

On HH left behind:

- **More significant** than those permanently migrating
- **Remittances** tend to **impact on the HH financial situation**
- **Extra workload is notable**

On migrants:

- Able to **save more money to send home** as do not have to pay for accommodation/sometimes meals

Main findings - for both seasonal and permanent migrants

What the impacts have been...

- Migrants and those HH members remaining behind - experienced **emotional impacts**
- Children also accepted their parents' decisions to migrate as a fact of life; **mothers' migration had more negative impact** on them

Main findings – reasons for migration

Push factors:

- *Permanent migrants:* **lack of employment opportunities** in their villages; difficult living conditions at home
- *Seasonal migrants:* **need to earn additional income**, which could not be earned in their villages

Pull factors:

- *Permanent migrants:* most left their villages with the expectation of finding **more permanent employment opportunities** in the new locations
- *Seasonal migrants:* drawn to various locations because of **employment opportunities**

Main findings – reasons for migration

- **Additional pull factors** for a number of both permanent and seasonal migrants were:
 - **Connections** in the new locations - many migrated because they had a friend/or family member there
 - ‘Lured’ by **better services/career** development opportunities
 - **Peer pressure** from relatives/or friends, especially amongst the young
- Appeared (*compared to 2009 survey in same area*) that more **women migrating**

Gender

- **Not appear to influence** who would migrate (similar number of men and women)
- Does appear to **influence the type of work** both permanent and seasonal migrants can find and how easily they can find it
- Many believe that women have more **job opportunities** in garment and textile factories but considered 'women's jobs' - although men not excluded from these opportunities
- No significant change in **traditional gender roles** within HHs of permanent migrants left behind

Gender

- **Female seasonal migrants** often faced additional considerations and social pressures when deciding to migrate
- Women confronted with **gender stereotypes** and considered “bad” wives or mothers for not tending to their traditional responsibilities within the HH
- **Traditional gender** roles become blurred and growing level of acceptance of the need for both women and men to migrate seasonally to supplement existing incomes

Climate change

- Permanent and seasonal migrants **did not clearly identify climate change or environmental conditions as important push or pull factors** for their migration
- Migrants focused on the **economic incentives**
- **Climate stresses do appear to be an indirect push factor** in the decision to migrate:
 - Poor soils, **unpredictable weather** patterns and disasters - linked to an increase in the frequency of crop failures
 - Clear impact on **livelihood security** (most notably the food and economic security) of the HH

Needs of migrants and migrant households

- **More information about the various migration destinations** - migrants are migrating to new locations **without clear understanding of the various living and working conditions**
- Migrants and migrant HHs did **not have a clear idea of what support was available**
- Greater **access to loans** with lower interest rates would be useful for left behind HHs
- **Job creation within the region could act as an incentive for the youth to stay within the area** - most believe that if opportunities existed locally, fewer people would chose to migrate

Resettlement – Government programmes

- **P193** under MARD/DARD to move people out of disaster prone areas within Quang Tri
- Combined with other on-going development programmes, i.e. **P178** and **P135** that support poor and difficult areas along the border with Laos
- **Support** planned for resettlers:
 - Support HH residential registration and management
 - Demonstration of HH economic model
 - Support residential land (1ha/HH)
 - Building house
 - Support rice for 6 months
 - Training in agriculture extension
 - Improve school conditions

Resettlement – selection criteria

- ✓ District authorities prepare receiving plans
- ✓ People registered with commune authorities
- ✓ Priority given to poor HHs
- ✓ Selection and prioritization procedures undertaken but not fully participatory
- ✓ HHs were voted
- ✓ Two resettlement phases: 2002/2003 and 2005/2006
- ✓ Since early 2010 the district has no longer supported resettlement from other districts

Resettlement – reasons to join programme

- Newly separately HHs without land
- Few employment opportunities and low economic status
- Families relatively poor, in difficulty, have many HH members
- Some had previously migrated to cities
- Informed about resettlement programme (by family members/indirectly through commune/village leaders) - encouraged to apply
- Peer pressure: *“they saw everybody register to leave, so they also decided to do the same thing”*
- HH decisions made after judging overall the economic and livelihood opportunities in the resettlement areas
- Decisions made mostly by husbands; under phase two both men and women visited the new site before deciding
- Depended on information sources about the resettlement areas
- HH rely on information sources to determine their decision

Resettlement – experiences of resettlers

- HHs (2002/3) did not have much information about the new location; arrived had no choice of land; had to find a place and build house
- HHs (2005/6) received information via local authorities; had chance to visit new site; some support (house frame and some food)
- Little support was provided for moving
- Some HHs reclaimed lands for farming but experienced conflicts over land use
- Many HHs did not receive as much land as they were informed
- Causes of these problems were partly due to lack of land use planning by local authorities
- Most HH resettled although some family members still stayed in home villages; resettlement option helped to increase land area for farming and livelihoods

Resettlement – experiences (contd.)

Positive

- HHs feel more secure on farmland
- Right decision to resettle; happy with current situation/their choice as better economic condition; fewer disasters than in original home villages
- Local ethnic minority people learn some things from resettled people
- Women's income sources have improved significantly

Negative

- Some women in resettlement areas have to work much harder - many jobs all year around
- Reduction in quality of education and healthcare and living conditions much lower
- Loss of connection with their children (who remained in home villages)
- Local transportation in the mountainous areas a challenge
- Limited socialization, exchange, relationships with ethnic minority groups; conflicts exist

Future perspectives and support needed – *for migrants and migrant HHs*

- Provide local people/youth **more information** about different job opportunities
- More **competitive labour costs**
- Government to **provide credit with lower interest** to pay for education for children, or to buy agricultural machinery for small agriculture business
- Local authorities in the receiving sites need to **provide temporary residential registration and legal support** to migrants
- Local **government and CFSC to support migrants during flood and storm season**
- Establish “***Hoi dong huong***” (association/group of migrants) from same home villages - link their support to the local needs/social activities of the sending areas

Future prospects and support needed – *for resettlement*

- More **comprehensive land use planning** prior to resettlement
- Better **healthcare and education facilities** established in resettlement areas
- **Livelihood, job/skills/vocational training opportunities** for HHs in resettlement areas
- Improvement in '**resettlement package**' (housing construction materials/support; food supply for several months, etc.)
- **Movement of entire families** away from disaster-prone area (to ensure safer environment for at-risk HHs)
- **Low interest loans** for business and for farming
- Improved **general infrastructure**

