

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Assessing the impact of rural-urban migration on rural area development in Viet Nam

Research

1 Background

Internal population mobility is a pillar of Viet Nam's economic development model. The easy flow of people to meet labour demand in growing cities and industrial zones has supported nearly a decade of astounding economic growth, with six years topping 7 per cent growth from 2002-2007.¹ Despite its role in fuelling economic development, labour migration is not adequately integrated in the core development strategies and is even perceived as a depletive phenomenon in the context of rural development. There is a basis for the negative perception of rural-urban migration, as social and economic problems have been attributed to migration, like rural talent flight and poor integration in destination cities. The 2009 Census conservatively counts internal migrants at 6.6 million (some estimates add 12-16 million undocumented migrants to this figure²) and shows they are younger and include more women than previous years. The concentration of investment in urban centres and industrial zones has led to pockets of job opportunities and attracted migrants from slow-growing, mostly rural areas. Internal migration in Viet Nam is estimated to have risen by 47 per cent over the past decade, but the increase in mobility is not necessarily linked to greater income distribution between rural and urban provinces.³ There are numerous indicators that migration has not been effectively harnessed. According to the Vietnam Household Living Standard Survey, 88.5 per cent of Vietnamese households received domestic remittances in 2006, however, only 23 per cent received remittances equal to 10 per cent or more of their total income.⁴ A second and disconcerting indicator is that the average income of migrants is much lower than non-migrant counterparts in the destination area, and among those who migrate, women and migrants from ethnic minority groups are particularly disadvantaged.⁵ Related to these indicators is widely gathered evidence that rural-urban migrants in Viet Nam overwhelmingly work in the informal sector, often in difficult or dangerous jobs with limited social protection.⁶

1 World Bank 2012.

2 United Nations Viet Nam. 2010. Internal Migration: Opportunities and Challenges for Socio-Economic Development in Viet Nam, 23.

3 Abella, Manolo and Geoffrey Ducanes. Draft. The Economic Prospects of Vietnam and what it means for Migration Policy.

4 Abella, Manolo and Geoffrey Ducanes. Draft. The Economic Prospects of Vietnam and what it means for Migration Policy, 19.

5 United Nations Viet Nam. 2010. Internal Migration: Opportunities and Challenges for Socio-Economic Development in Viet Nam, 29.

6 Le Bach Duong et al. 2011. Social Protection for Rural-Urban Migrants in Vietnam: Current Situation, Challenges and Opportunities.

Assessing the role of rural-urban migration in development is a challenge for policy makers in Viet Nam in part because there is limited evidence on the real (or potential) impact of internal labour migration on rural households. There is therefore inadequate policy attention on interventions that would maximize the benefits of migration for rural development.

National Target Program on New rural development 2010-2020 (NRD Program)

The NRD Program is an overarching integrated development program of the Government of Vietnam for socio-economic development, politics and security in rural areas. It includes 11 sub-programs which address: Rural Development planning; Socio-economic infrastructure; Economic restructuring, production and income generation; Poverty reduction and social welfare; Enhancing organisation of production in rural areas; Education and training; Health care; Culture, Information and Communication; Clean water supply, sanitation and environment; political and social organizations and administration; Security and public order in rural area.

2 Objectives of assessment

Under the Joint Programme, IOM will conduct a study on rural-urban labour migration and develop recommendations on key issues, policies and strategies on maximizing the benefits of migration for rural development. The main objective is to assess the contribution of migration for key areas of concern to the New Rural Development Program such as rural development planning, economic restructuring, the rural labour force, income generation, education and health, etc..

Specific objectives:

1. To explore implications of migration for rural labour forces, livelihoods and rural economy,
2. To identify migrants and migrant households' needs and support that can be provided to maximize the benefits of migration for rural development,
5. To assess potential impact of the rural development progress on migration trends, especially under consideration of the NRD programme.

3 Scope of assessment

To assess the impact of migration on the social-economic development of the rural areas under consideration of the NRD program as well as the impact of the NRD program on the migration trends, the research will focus on outmigration movements driven by social-economic factors and exclude those that are triggered by other reasons (family, marriage or external factors such as natural disaster). Analyses will be addressing both positive and negative impacts of outmigration, taking into account different types of migration, and include a focus on health issues in the migration process.

The migrants and migrant households' needs will be analysed as part of a whole cycle (before,

during and after the migration movement) under consideration of the NRD program and its achievements/direction, with a view to developing recommendations for maximizing the potential benefits of migration.

Fieldwork will focus on sites in the Southeast or Mekong Delta regions as the sites of major rural-urban migration flows, and will gather data from returned labour migrants, migrant-sending households, government stakeholders, and service providers.

4 Roles and responsibilities

4.1 IOM: in close consultation with the MARD, through the Coordination Office under the One UN Joint Programme Tam Nong, on the overall research direction, methodology and outputs and with its logistical support on the survey implementation and consultation workshop organization, IOM will

- Recruit the consultants;
- Monitor the overall research progress;
- Provide input, review, and final approval of the detailed research protocol and data collection tools/methodology;
- Participate in data collection as informants, as necessary;
- Review key outputs;
- Support writing of the draft and final research reports;
- Design and support delivery of the consultation meeting and of the dissemination workshop;
- Provide timely support, feedback and guidance on substantive and operational issues.
- Close coordination with FAO, IFAD, ILO, UNESCO, UN HABITAT, UNIDO, UNV and other relevant Vietnamese partners throughout the project's duration.

4.2 Research Consultant team

- Deliver a research protocol, plan and tools (in consultation with the international consultant) agreed by IOM and validated by CO-NRD;
- Pilot and refine research methodology, questions and sites (in consultation with the international consultant);
- Undertake primary data collection;
- Undertake data entry and analysis;
- Inform IOM as soon as possible of any issue that may negatively impact on the progress of the research. Recommend solutions and implement corrective actions as validated by IOM.
- Regularly update IOM on research progress to ensure good coordination of the project's activities.
- Provide IOM with clean data files;

- Draft a report outline containing key findings (in consultation with the international consultant);
- Revise and draft report to incorporate comments from IOM, and from other relevant stakeholders through the consultation meeting (in consultation with the international consultant);
- Submit the final report.

4.3 International consultant

- Regularly review the research progress and report production with the research team to provide inputs for re-adjustment of the research methodology/direction if necessary
- Edit the draft report and final report

5 Methodology

5.1 Research site: Because the reference unit of the NRD Program is the commune level, the research will take into consideration this same administrative level as research site. In order to analyse the impact of migration on the implementation of the NRD programme, especially those areas targeted by it, the research will look at communes (preferably within one province for ease of logistic arrangement) with high and low outmigration but similar progress on NRD to analyse how much migration disrupts the implementation of the NRD programme in these particular areas.

The research sites will be defined after an inception report delivered by the research team.

5.2 Research questions

Focus areas and strategic direction include:

1. What are the different types of migration from rural areas and how does this migration impact (whether positively or negatively) on the following aspects of rural development:
 - Rural labour forces at origin in terms of available workforce, education and skill level, sectors/structure of labour force,
 - Transfer of skills/technology/knowledge (social network, market access...) to rural areas
 - Productive investment (e.g. of remittances); economic development, restructuring or organization
 - Social development of sending communities
 - The National Program for Vocational Training for Rural Labourers
 - Health status and quality of life of migrants, sending households, including the social determinants of migrant health,
2. Do migrant conditions and quality of life at destination affect their contribution to the development of rural areas – remittances, skills transfer, post-migration processes (health, social, economic factors)? What are the factors affecting positive or negative outcomes of

migration for rural development, (types of migration, types of remittance use, training, health services)? What can be done by all relevant stakeholders to allow migrants (and potential migrants) to better optimize their contribution to the social-economic development of their home country while minimizing the negative outcomes (before, during and after migration movement) ?

3. What are the key driving factors for rural-urban migration and how are they being affected by rural development? What can be done by relevant stakeholders to promote beneficial migrations while encouraging potential migrants to consider other alternatives before taking a decision in situation when migration is likely to generate negatives outcomes than positives ones.

The research must provide sex-disaggregated data and incorporate a gender perspective throughout the research.

Data collection methods

- Desk review
- Group discussions
- Questionnaires
- Other qualitative assessments (field assessment, situational analysis, discussions with Government stakeholders and NGOs, UNs)

5.3 Sampling

5.3.1 Target population

- Potential migrants;
- Labour force migrants at origin and destination
- Returned migrants who experienced living and working in urban areas
- Migrants and potential migrants' households
- Relevant local authorities and service providers at origin

5.3.2 Sampling method

A sampling method will be developed in consultation(s) with key stakeholders. It is likely that a mixture will be used of purposive sampling (drawing especially on the knowledge of local leaders, authorities and service providers) and respondent-driven sampling.

5.3.3 Sample

- Surveys questionnaires: returned migrants; migrant sending households
- In-depth interviews: migrants of labour force in rural and urban areas; local authorities and representative of sending companies.

- Government consultations/provincial workshops
- Qualitative assessments

5.3.4 Key informants

Key informants include (but are not limited to): male and female labour force migrants and their household's members, officials and personnel from relevant ministries at national, provincial and other levels, service providers, community collaborators, UN staff, IOM staff and other organisations involved in labour force in rural areas

6. Expected outputs

- One inception report outlining the research team's understanding of the issues;
- Monthly research team meeting report that highlight progress, challenges and actions/solutions to be taken;
- A presentation with preliminary findings to be shared for validation in a stakeholders consultation meeting;
- A draft report (in English and Vietnamese) for circulation and identification of factual corrections from stakeholders and IOM;
- A final evaluation report (in English and Vietnamese) which includes:
 - o assessment of the implications of the identified impacts of migration for rural development objectives,
 - o assessment of potential impact of NRD on migration trends,
 - o recommendations for policy makers to address challenges and harness benefits of migration for rural development while minimizing the negatives impacts of it,
 - o recommendations on key indicators/measures for monitoring migration impacts on rural development.

7. Skills and qualifications

Research leader:

- Advanced (Masters or above) academic qualifications is required in a relevant discipline;
- Strong experience in quantitative and qualitative research as well as in team leading (relevant experience to the Vietnamese context) and proficiency in technical and report writing;
- Demonstrated ability to effectively communicate and work with government agencies and other relevant stakeholders
- Knowledge of migration-related issues, specifically on labour economics and rural development is an advantage
- Knowledge of human rights based approaches and gender analysis;
- Good presentation skills;
- Demonstrated ability to deliver quality results while committing to respect deadlines;
- Objectivity and ability to operate systemically.

- Proficiency in English (communication and report writing skills)

Researcher (team members):

- Good experience in quantitative and qualitative research and in data collection
- Knowledge of migration-related issues, specifically on labour economics and rural development is an advantage
- Demonstrated ability to deliver quality results while committing to respect deadlines;
- Objectivity and ability to operate systemically.
- Proficiency in English (communication and report writing skills) is an advantage

The core research team must include specialists with various backgrounds (social, economic, educational, development)

Researcher (health)

- Advanced (masters or higher) academic qualifications in a relevant discipline
- Minimum 5 years relevant experience in public health, migration health, or related research
- Knowledge of migrant health issues
- Knowledge of human rights based approaches and gender analysis
- Demonstrated ability to deliver quality results while committing to respect deadlines;
- Objectivity and ability to operate systemically.
- Proficiency in English (communication and report writing skills) is an advantage

Field interviewers

- Experience in quantitative and qualitative research and in data collection
- Knowledge of migration-related issues, specifically on labour economics and rural development is an advantage
- Demonstrated ability to deliver quality results while committing to respect deadlines;
- Objectivity and ability to operate systemically.
- Preferably based in the research site

International consultant

- Advanced (Masters or above) academic qualifications is required in a relevant discipline;
- Excellent experience in quantitative and qualitative research (relevant experience to the Vietnamese context) and proficiency in technical and report writing;
- Demonstrated ability to effectively communicate and work with government agencies and other relevant stakeholders
- Strong knowledge of migration-related issues, specifically on labour economics and rural development
- Knowledge of human rights based approaches and gender analysis;
- Preferably based in Vietnam

8. Timeline:

| Milestone | Deadline |
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| TOR finalization | 20 Dec 2013 |
| Signing agreement if any | 27 Dec |
| Recruitment of consultant team | 31 Dec |
| Research technical proposal and tools finalization | 20 Jan 2014 |
| Inception mission | 10 Feb |
| Inception report submission | 28 Feb |
| Inception report and technical proposal validation | 15 Mar |
| Field work preparation & Questionnaire validation (including questionnaire testing among researchers' network) | 30 Mar |
| Field work 1 | 30 Apr |
| Data cleaning and preliminary finding | 30 May |
| Field work 2 | 30 June |
| 1 st report draft | 30 July |
| IOM and MARD comments and inputs | 10 Aug |
| 2 nd report draft | 30 Aug |
| Consultation meeting | 15 Sep |
| Final report | 30 Sep |
| Editing, approval and printing of publication of report | 30 Oct |
| Dissemination workshop and distribution of publication | 20 Nov |