

# **SOCIAL PROTECTION & RURAL-TO-URBAN LABOR MIGRATION**

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# OBJECTIVES

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- To understand the needs for social protection of rural-to-urban migrants
- To identify issues related to social protection from the perspective of migration
- To suggest effective policy measures to address and promote social protection for labor migrants

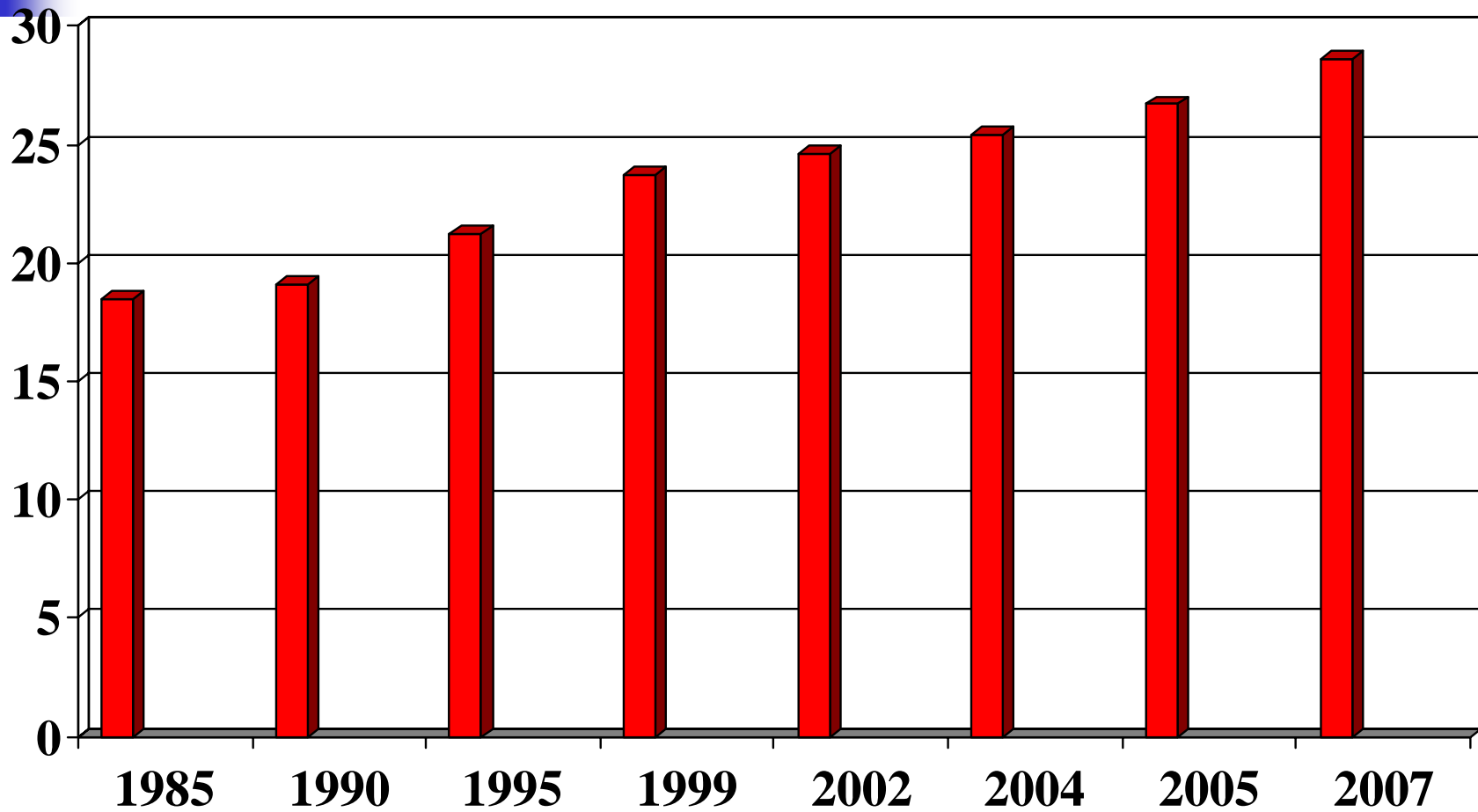


# BACKGROUND

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- *Doi Moi* policies promote economic growth, forming labor market and informal sector
- Urbanization takes place rapidly at the costs of farming and land loss, increasing disparities which propels migration
- Better transportation, tele-communication that help link remote regions to urban centers and major cities.

# TREND OF URBANIZATION: 1985-2007





# MIGRATION

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- Population Census: 4.5 million changed residence (6.5% population), amongst, 53% migrated to urban.
- These figures do not include short-term temporary migration, seasonal and circular migration.
- Migration accounts for 40% population growth in many regions.



# MIGRATION TO MAJOR CITIES

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- HCM City: in average, increase 250,000 migrants every year (31% of KT3 and KT4). Among 7/24 districts, 50% of the populations are migrants.
- Ha Noi: 10% population
- Da Nang: 6.4% population
- Can Tho: 5.7% population



# KEY FEATURES

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- Rural-to-urban migrants are mostly young unmarried.
- Female migrants account for a bulk of urban labor flows (feminization of migration)
- Ethnic minority peoples are significantly moving from region to region.
- Main destinations include HCM city, Ha Noi, the Southeast and Central Highland.



# FACTORS

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- Poverty, unstable income, fluctuation of prices, natural calamity, drought, diseases, etc.
- Reduction of cultivation land lead to redundancy of labors.
- Increase in cost of education, health care, and community contribution.
- More opportunities attracting rural farmers go for cash earning in major cities
- Migrant networks are formed and developed.



# ROLE OF MIGRANT WORKERS

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- Labor supply and human resource.
- Develop professions, services, and economic growth.
- Promote exchange between regions, encourage eliminate hungry and reduce poverty
- Forming new urban areas



# MIGRATION – SOURCE OF SOCIAL PROTECTION AT PLACES OF ORIGIN

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- Migration is poverty-driven and in search for a better life.
- Labor migration as a strategy for multi-local livelihoods and diversification.
- Poverty may encourage outmigration, migration can contribute to eliminate hunger and reduce poverty at origin place.



# **SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR MIGRANTS AT PLACES OF DESTINATION**

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- Manual jobs, multi-jobs, or carry out any jobs in the cities
- No/poor housing provision in IPs & EPZs
- Low/unstable income, low skills
- Weak legal status, being isolated and discriminated.
- Vulnerable to difficulties, risks and shocks



# LABOR MIGRANTS

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- Willing to work in bad conditions, do all kinds of work, including dangerous and dirty jobs
- Low wage and poor payment not corresponding to risks and hardships
- Make ends meet, curb basic expenses to remit home



# MAIN DIFFICULTIES

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- Housing 48 %
- Electricity, water supply 21 %
- Income 39 %
- Jobs 28 %
- Health/health care 26 %
- Schooling (children) 30 %

Source: Vietnam Migration Survey 2004



# SOCIAL PROTECTION

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- Most of them do not have labor contract.
- 99% without social insurance or insurance against sickness or accidents.
- Over 70% has no welfare at work.
- Too low wage to cope with inflation, basic living expenses and to remit home
- The Labor Law is seriously violated.



# SUPPORT IN DIFFICULTIES

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- 51% looked for assistance in difficulties, but only 1/3 actually received support.
- Forms of supports are mainly: housing, money borrow, encouragement.
- No support from local authorities, police, or mass organizations.



# HEALTH CARE

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- 95% migrant workers never go for health checking or examinations
- When being sick, they choose self-treatment, or wait for self-recovery, or returning to home villages
- Unmet needs for reproductive health and HIV/AIDS prevention among female migrant groups



# CONCLUSION [1]

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- Poverty and migration linkage is not new, but social protection for labor migrants is quite a recent issue
- Migration brings positive interests but also contains risks and vulnerabilities
- Legal barriers and difficulties make migrant workers reluctant in seeking formal social assistance which is indeed unavailable to migrants



## CONCLUSION [2]

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- Labor migrants are vulnerable, migration is unsafe and at high risks in Viet Nam
- **Severe lack of a mechanism on social protection for migrant workers**
- Migrant networks provide an informal source of necessary social protection in the hard living and working conditions

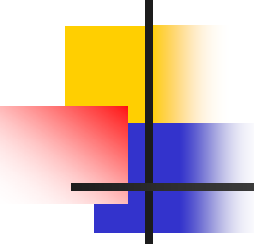


# CONCLUSION [3]

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- Not utilize social assistance measures after things happened
- Actively prevent shocks, reduce risks and build capacity for migrant workers
- Avoid direct intervention on migrant workers which expose them to more vulnerability (e.g banning street vendors)

# Sustainable Development ??

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- Labor migrants make a great contribution to growth
  - Growth at the expenses of migrant workers (social costs of growth)
  - Migration reduces the costs of public sector obligations (decent housing, education, medical care, etc)
  - “Growth with equity” cannot be ensured. Running a risk of creating a ‘new urban poor’ class



# Implications [1]

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Social protection is key to make migration work for the poor

It is immediately necessary to support migrant workers in improving minimum wage, and secure basic living conditions



## Implications [2]

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Create a friendly environment and reduce the costs of migration to help migrant workers' stability and adaptation

**Local authority, employers and workers join together to ensure work contact, social and health insurance.**

**Promote business social responsibility**



# Implications [3]

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Provide accessible and affordable services on reproductive health and HIV prevention for migrant workers.

Fill in their unmet needs on RH services



# Implications [4]

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People can access to basic services regardless of their migrant and residential status to achieve social equity goals

Simplify and gradually abolish the *KT* residential system. Disconnect *Ho Khau* from accessibility to social services and policy benefits



*Thank You*

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