
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

LABOR MIGRATION RATES

- o Extrapolation of the survey results allows estimating the number of households that were involved in labor migration process in the discussed period of time as 95,000-122,000 (or 12.2-15.6% of the total of 778,667 households). In the overwhelming majority of cases (78%), one member of the family had left to work abroad; 15.4% of the families had two labor migrants and only 6.6% had three or more migrants.
- o According to the survey, the absolute number of labor emigrants over the last three years has been 116,000 – 147,000 people, or 3.6-4.6% of Armenia's de jure population. This is to say that in the period of 2002-2005, 7.3 - 9.2% of the economically active population of Armenia was involved in labor migration process. The survey suggests that 73,500-93,000 migrants from those who departed in 2002-2005 should have returned and 42,500-53,800 labor migrants should still be working abroad [by March, 2005].
- o The highest rates of household involvement in labor migration were recorded in Shirak and Lori, where accordingly each third and each fifth household was involved in labor migration. Average rates were observed in Kotayk, Gegharkunik, Ararat, Vayots Dzor and Yerevan, and the lowest rates in Aragatsotn, Tavush, Syunik and Armavir. At the same time, arranging the marzes according to the actual migration rates (i.e. ratio of labor migrants to total population aged 15 and above) we observed a different picture with Shirak, Lori, Yerevan, Gegharkunik and Kotayk showing the highest migration activity as compared to the other marzes.
- o The survey reported that the migration rate in urban locations is almost twice as high as in rural ones. At that, the highest migration rate was recorded in urban areas of Lori, Gegharkunik and Shirak, and the lowest rate in rural areas of Armavir.

COUNTRIES OF DESTINATION

- o The most popular country of destination for labor migrants was, and still is, Russia: 87.6% of labor migrants have visited this country at least once during the last three years. Transferred to absolute numbers this would mean that 87,600-143,600 Armenians have left to work in Russian Federation in the period from 2002-2005.
- o In total, 90.1% of the labor migrants have worked in the CIS countries, including (besides Russia) Ukraine (2.2%) and Kazakhstan (0.3%). About 12,000 labor migrants left Armenia to search for jobs in the EU countries (mainly France) and the USA.

SOCIAL-DEMOGRAPHIC STRUCTURE OF THE MIGRANTS

- o According to the survey, 85.9% of labor migrants are male, and 14.1% are female. At that, the ratio of male labor migrants to the total male population aged 15 and above is 9.2%, whereas in case of females the same ratio is more than seven times lower (1.3%). Extrapolation of these results to the general population allows us to estimate the absolute numbers of men and women migrants over the last three years: 92,000-118,000 men and 11,300-22,300 women. If we narrow the universal set to the economically active population, this data would mean labor migration of 10.9-14.0% of economically active men and 1.5-3.0% of economically active women.
- o The overwhelming majority of labor migrants are of age 21-50 with the age group of 41-50 having the largest share. Analysis of migration activity of different age groups showed that starting from age 21 labor migration rates constantly increase and reach their peak in the age group of 46-50: each sixth Armenian of this age was involved in labor migration in the last three years. After 51, however, the proportion is cut in half for almost all subsequent age groups.
- o The overwhelming majority of migrants are married and in most cases, the migrant is either the head of the family (male) or his son.
- o The majority of labor migrants have either secondary or secondary special education. Approximately one-fifth of the migrants have higher education or post-graduate degree.

EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME IN ARMENIA

- o Approximately half of the labor migrants were involved in some paid activity before their first trip abroad. Of this group, 64.6% had permanent jobs, and 35.4% were employed occasionally. This allowed us to assume that at least for each third Armenian labor migrant the act of migration could not be conditioned on lack of workplaces in general.
- o According to the respondents, the average monthly income of their migrant relatives hardly exceeded 100 USD at the time they worked in Armenia (80.3% of cases). Another 15.5% of the migrants earned incomes of 100-200 USD, and only 4.2% were earning more than 200 USD a month. The calculated mean of the migrants' monthly income in Armenia is 97.5 USD.

PLANNING OF THE TRIP

- o A minority of migrants had a concrete preliminary agreement regarding the nature of the work, the remuneration and the housing conditions prior to arriving in the host country. Each second migrant did not have any idea about

the salary he/she would get, each third did not know what type of job he would be doing, and each fourth migrant did not even have an agreement regarding the housing conditions.

- o Results of the survey speak for the fact that labor migration is in most cases a seasonal phenomenon. The majority of migrants have left the country either in the beginning or in the end of spring and returned to Armenia by the end of autumn/beginning of winter.
- o Due to limited information about the job and the remuneration, a significant number of migrants (40.3%) did not plan the duration of their business trip at all. Those who eventually managed to secure necessary information were mostly planning to stay in the host country for 6-12 months. Only a small number of the migrants were planning to stay in the country for less than three months or longer than a year. The average planned duration of the trip was estimated as eight months, whereas the mean actual duration of the trips was somewhat longer (nine months).

EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME IN THE HOST COUNTRY

- o The majority of migrants started working almost immediately or within a maximum of 30 days after arrival in the host country. 9.1% of the migrants found jobs in 1-3 months, and the process took a longer time in only 2.9% of cases.
- o The type of employment of the migrants in the host countries was mostly temporary in nature. The most popular sphere of employment of Armenian labor migrants is construction: two-thirds of them are engaged in this field. Next, though six times smaller, are the trade/public food and services spheres.
- o The mean duration of the migrants' working day is 10.5 hours. The majority of migrants were/are working full-time (8-10 hours) or in 12-hour shifts, 5.6% worked part-time (1-7 hours) and 8.0% claimed to work more than 12 hours a day. Only 43.9% of the labor migrants had regular days off. Each fourth migrant did not have any days off, and 22.5% had days off only rarely.
- o Only 11.5% of the labor migrants had a written agreement (employment contract) with their employers in the host country. In the overwhelming majority of cases (72.3%) relations with the employers were based solely on oral agreements. Moreover, 11.9% of migrants stated that the labor relations were not regulated at all [not even with an oral agreement] and hence the parties did not assume any liabilities towards each other.
- o The mean monthly income of the migrants in the host country was 410 USD with minimum and maximum of 100 and 1500 USD respectively.

REMITTANCES

- o 18.8% of the respondents stated that their migrant relatives have never sent monetary remittances to the household. The majority of migrants who could find ways to support their families financially have sent money 2-6 times during their stay in the host country.
- o A majority of the migrants (70.9%) could first send money to their households in the period of two months or less after the departure. Each fifth migrant managed to produce the first savings in 3-6 months, and only for 4.6% it took more than half a year. The mean period of time reported by the survey was 2.4 months.
- o The most popular method of transferring money to the households has been bank transfer: 84.8% of the migrants have used the bank services during their last trip abroad. In contrast only 21.0% of the households have received cash transfers through individuals.
- o According to the respondents, the average amount of money sent (brought) by each migrant to his/her family during the last trip totals 1540 USD.
- o Considering the average number of trips conducted by the migrants during the last three years (1.8), the mean amount of the remittances received by each of the households would total 2772 USD. This allowed us to estimate if not the exact but the minimum financial inflow to Armenia from the labor migrants in the period of 2002-2005: 260-330 million US dollars depending on the absolute number of migrants (excluding the 18.8% of “unsuccessful” trips), or in average about 100 million dollars a year.

MAIN PROBLEMS IN THE HOST COUNTRY

- o The main problems that Armenian migrants have faced in the host countries can be divided into three groups: a) bureaucratic problems (registration process, demand of bribes by the police and documents being checked very often); b) problems with employment (general difficulty to find a job and being paid less than it was initially agreed); and c) negative attitudes of State bodies and native population.
- o Migrants of age 51-65 mostly faced problems with employment, while younger migrants encountered bureaucratic obstacles more frequently.

CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF LABOR MIGRATION

- o The research showed that the main reasons behind the decision to migrate for economic reasons were connected with employment problems in Armenia (96.9%). Of this group, 51% of the respondents mentioned lack of jobs in general, 43.0% considered the lack of jobs that pay sufficient for normal living

and 2.9 % stated that the main reason for their migration was the absence of profession-specific jobs in Armenia.

- o As far as the consequences of labor migration are concerned, the majority of the respondents think that the fact that some of their family members are temporarily working abroad positively influences the financial sustainability and moral-psychological atmosphere in the family, somewhat negatively affects the family's social network, but does not influence the family structure.

INTERNAL MIGRATION POTENTIAL (PROJECTIONS FOR 2005)

- o 5.1% of the members of surveyed households would like to move from their current place of residence to live or work in another settlement of the RA and mostly in Yerevan (3.0%). Of this group, 1.3% of the household members already plan to migrate in 2005 and 0.6% among those would settle in Yerevan. Converted to absolute numbers, this means that about 13,000 residents of the regions of Armenia will most probably settle in Yerevan this year. According to the survey, the migration flow to Yerevan will mostly involve migrants from regions situated close to the capital - Aragatsotn, Ararat and Kotayk (66.7%) and a smaller percentage of migrants from the disaster zone - Lori and Shirak (33.3%).

EXTERNAL MIGRATION POTENTIAL (PROJECTIONS FOR 2005)

- o In total, according to our projections, 105,000-140,000 labor migrants from Armenia (3.3-4.3% of the total population of the country aged 15 and above) will try their luck in foreign countries in 2005. In addition, 0.5-0.9% of Armenia's population (16,000-30,000 people) will permanently emigrate from the country this year. Hence, the labor migrants will comprise about 87% of the total volume of external migration estimated as 121,000-170,000.
- o Most probably the gender and age structure of departing migrants will be similar to that recorded for 2002-2005. 88.4% of those who are planning to work abroad are men and 11.6% are women; and the majority of migrants will be of age 25-54 (73.5%). Unlike labor migrants, those who will migrate from the republic permanently are mostly older than 45 and the majority of them are women.