Internal migration in PNG: 2009-2010

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Why is internal migration important?

- Internal migration is a natural part of the development process
  - Supply of labour away from low productivity production to high productivity production.
  - Enabling economic growth and higher incomes (and better income diversification) for internal migrants.

- But internal migration is a symptom of unequal economic growth or access / quality of service delivery across geographic areas.
  - Rural to urban migration driven by poor opportunities and service delivery in remote areas

- Need to understand the drivers of urban migration in order to manage the inflow of people to cities and towns.

- Urban poverty is likely to become more of a problem in PNG.
Research questions

• How to define internal migrants?

• What is the prevalence of internal migrants across PNG?
  • Where they reside
  • Where they come from

• What are the characteristics of internal migrants?
  • Age, years since migration, education, health, welfare

• Is there evidence of internal migrants contributing to urban poverty?

• What can we say about the drivers of internal migration?
  • Difficult to say much with cross-section data but there are indicators.
Two definitions of internal migrants:

1) **Narrow definition**: Individuals that reside in a province that is different to their province of birth.

   Example: an NCD resident born in the Eastern Highlands is defined as a migrant.

2) **Broad definition**: Narrow definition **PLUS** all blood relatives in the same household of the family Head if the family Head is a migrant (based on the narrow definition).

   Example: if this same NCD resident (born in the Eastern Highlands) has children living in the same household then the children are defined as migrants, even if they were born in NCD.
Data: PNG Household Income and Expenditure Survey, 2009-10 (HIES)

• Nationally representative survey covering 4,191 households

• Household level information:
  • Housing, ownership of consumer durables, non-food consumption, access to public services

• Person level information:
  • Age, sex, education, health, employment status, income, consumption expenditure, personal security, as well as anthropometric data for children under 7 (height, weight).

• Two-stage stratified cluster sample design
  • Strata: NCD, Lae, Southern Urban, Southern Rural, Highlands Urban, Highlands Rural, Momase Urban, Momase Rural, Islands Urban, Islands Rural
Share of migrants by current residence

- National: 11% (Narrow), 16% (Broad)
- Urban: 61% (Narrow), 37% (Broad)
- Rural: 7% (Narrow), 9% (Broad)
- NCD: 44% (Narrow), 46% (Broad)
- Lae: 78% (Narrow), 70% (Broad)
- Southern Urban: 23% (Narrow), 36% (Broad)
- Southern Rural: 8% (Narrow), 13% (Broad)
- Highlands Urban: 29% (Narrow), 43% (Broad)
- Highlands Rural: 8% (Narrow), 9% (Broad)
- Momase Urban: 51% (Narrow), 32% (Broad)
- Momase Rural: 4% (Narrow), 7% (Broad)
- Islands Urban: 33% (Narrow), 33% (Broad)
- Islands Rural: 6% (Narrow), 10% (Broad)

Legend: ■ Narrow defn.  ■ Broad defn.
Migrant population by province of birth

- Narrow defn.
- Broad defn.
Share of migrants across current residence by years since migration (narrow definition)
Share of literate population (read and write) by area of current residence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Migrants (narrow definition)</th>
<th>Non-migrants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National</td>
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<td>49</td>
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<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
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</tbody>
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Share of literate population (read and write) by province of birth

Migrants (narrow defn.)  Non-migrants
Share of people who have completed primary school and above by province of birth

Migrants (narrow defn.)  Non-migrants
Share of stunting (0-6 years of age) by province of birth
Weekly income per adult equivalent (kina) by area of residence

Kina

- National
- Urban
- NCD
- Lae
- Southern Urban
- Highlands Urban
- Momase Urban
- Islands Urban

Migrants (broad definition)  Non-migrants
Kernel density of weekly consumption expenditure per adult equivalent at the national level
A national poverty headcount rate of 40% implies a poverty headcount rate of 26% for migrants.

Poverty line of 50 kina per week implies a national poverty headcount rate of 40%.
Kernel density of weekly consumption expenditure per adult equivalent in NCD
National headcount poverty at 40% implies headcount poverty at 16% for migrants in NCD and 11% for non-migrants in NCD.
Poverty headcount rate by region of birth (based on a national rate of 40%)
Kernel density of household wealth index at the national level

Migrant mean = 0.30
Non-migrant mean = 0.11
Distribution of household wealth index for NCD residents

Non-migrant mean = 0.44

Migrant mean = 0.46
Conclusions

• The prevalence of migrants in urban areas is high (61%)

• Evidence of strong demand for rural to urban migration
  • Income, consumption and wealth is higher for the majority of migrants compared to non-migrants
    • When measured by area of current residence and province of birth
  • Health – stunting rates are much lower for migrants (in all but three provinces)
  • Education outcomes tend to be much better for the children of migrants

• Likely constraints on abilities to migrate
  • Distance to urban area
  • Education

• As constraints are relaxed then we may see much more migration taking place
  • Free education → general improvements in education → more urban migration (?)