



Migration Intentions of Non-migrants in Egypt

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Abstract

This paper presents an analysis of data gathered in the 2013 Egypt Household International Migration Survey (Egypt-HIMS) on the characteristics and migration intentions of non-migrants in Egypt. The Egypt-HIMS was conducted by the national statistical office of Egypt (CAPMAS) as a part of the 'Mediterranean Household International Migration Survey Programme' (MED-HIMS). A nationally representative probability sample of 11,703 non-migrants aged 15-59 years was successfully interviewed. The sample included 3,030 non-migrants residing in non-migrant households (to be referred to as "pure" non-migrants) and 8,673 non-migrants residing in migrant households (to be referred to as "mixed" non-migrants). The analysis highlights the migration intentions of non-migrants, the main characteristics of prospective migrants, main reason for preference to move abroad, intended destination, time of intended migration, and source of financing the migration. Around 11 percent of non-migrants intend to move abroad, while a majority of 70 percent intend to remain in Egypt with the remaining 19 percent being undecided. Most of potential migrants are well educated. Substantial differences in migration intentions are, however, observed according to age and sex of non-migrants. By gender, 17 percent of males but only 5 percent of women intend to migrate abroad. The proportion of men intending to migrate is highest among those aged 20-29; 30 percent in the 'mixed' non-migrant group and 25 percent in the 'pure' non-migrant group. Among prospective migrants, 85 percent intend to migrate for economic reasons, 8 percent for social reasons (mainly to obtain more education), and 7 percent for other reasons. The economic motives include income-related reasons (54 percent) and work-related reasons (31 percent). Two-thirds of prospective migrants prefer to migrate to one of the countries in the Arab region, particularly the Gulf States. This is followed by preference to migrate to Europe (11 percent) and North America (6 percent), while 15 percent of prospective migrants are unsure about their intended destination. Twenty percent of prospective migrants have a specific time for their plan to move abroad, with nearly a third intending to migrate within a year from the date of the survey. The vast majority of potential migrants expect to receive financial support for the intended migration from the household and/or various types of relatives.

Keywords: reason for intended migration; preferred destination; financing the migration

1. Introduction

This paper presents an analysis of data gathered in the 2013 Egypt Household International Migration Survey (Egypt-HIMS) on the characteristics and migration intentions of non-migrants in Egypt. The Egypt-HIMS was conducted by the national statistical office of Egypt (CAPMAS) as a part of the 'Mediterranean Household International Migration Survey Programme' (MED-HIMS).

Non-migrants are defined as members of Egyptian households who never moved to another country, or have last returned from abroad to Egypt before the beginning of the year 2000, or have last returned from abroad to Egypt since the beginning of the year 2000 but were under 15 years of age on last return. A total of 11,969 non-migrants aged 15-59 were identified as eligible to be interviewed with the individual questionnaire for non-migrants in the 2013 Egypt-HIMS. Out of these non-migrants, 11,703 were successfully interviewed, which represents a response rate of 97.8 percent. The sample of 11,703 non-migrants included 3,030 non-migrants who were residing in non-migrant households (to be referred to hereafter as "pure" non-migrants), and 8,673 non-migrants who were residing in migrant households (to be referred to hereafter as "mixed" non-migrants), Farid et al. (2016).



2. Migration Intentions of Non-migrants

Overall, nearly 11 percent of non-migrants intend to migrate abroad, while a majority of 70 percent intend to remain in Egypt with the remaining 19 percent being undecided (Table 1).

Gender patterns: The results show substantial differences in migration intentions according to gender. Among the mixed non-migrant males, 21 percent intend to migrate abroad and a high of 37 percent are undecided. The corresponding percentages for non-migrant females are 3 percent and 9 percent, respectively. Further, the proportion of men intending to migrate is higher in the mixed non-migrant group (21 percent) than in the pure non-migrant group (17 percent).

Age patterns: Substantial differences in migration intentions are also observed according to current age of non-migrants. A majority of young non-migrant males under the age of 30 years either intend to migrate or are being undecided. The proportion of men intending to migrate is highest among those aged 20-29; 30 percent in the mixed non-migrant group and 25 percent in the pure non-migrant group. This is followed by males at ages 15-19 with the proportion being at 22 percent in the mixed group and 18 percent in the pure group. Among men aged 30-39, 20 percent intend to migrate in the mixed group compared with 14 percent in the pure group. This pattern indicates that 'mixed' non-migrant men are more likely to have the intention to migrate abroad than 'pure' non-migrant men. The opposite pattern is observed among female non-migrants. A striking feature of the figures in Table 1, however, is seen in the exceptionally high proportion of young men who are 'undecided' about their migration intentions.

Table 1. Migration intentions of non-migrants according to age						
Percent distribution of non-migrants aged 15-59 years by migration intentions, according to type of non-migrant, sex and age, Egypt-HIMS 2013						
Type of non-migrant	Sex	Age	Migration intention			
			Remain in Egypt	Migrate abroad	Undecided	Total
'Pure' non-migrant	Male	15-19	39.4	18.0	42.6	100.0
		20-29	38.8	25.2	36.0	100.0
		30-39	57.8	14.2	28.0	100.0
		40-49	73.1	11.2	15.7	100.0
		50-59	89.7	3.9	6.4	100.0
		Total	54.6	16.5	28.9	100.0
	Female	15-19	70.7	10.1	19.3	100.0
		20-29	81.5	7.1	11.4	100.0
		30-39	85.0	4.0	10.9	100.0
		40-49	94.3	3.1	2.5	100.0
		50-59	88.2	0.7	11.1	100.0
		Total	82.9	5.6	11.4	100.0
'Mixed' non-migrant	Male	15-19	33.3	21.5	45.2	100.0
		20-29	28.0	30.3	41.7	100.0
		30-39	57.7	20.1	22.2	100.0
		40-49	88.6	0.8	10.7	100.0
		50-59	93.1	1.1	5.8	100.0
		Total	41.9	21.0	37.1	100.0
	Female	15-19	83.2	3.7	13.1	100.0
		20-29	85.9	3.1	11.1	100.0
		30-39	89.6	2.4	7.9	100.0
		40-49	94.6	1.2	4.2	100.0
		50-59	94.8	0.6	4.6	100.0
		Total	88.7	2.5	8.9	100.0
Total	Male		54.0	16.7	29.3	100.0
	Female		83.5	5.3	11.2	100.0
	Total		70.0	10.5	19.5	100.0



Other Differentials. Reported differences in the proportions intending to migrate by urban-rural residence are generally small and, for the most part, insignificant (Table 2). By level of education, the highest proportion intending to migrate is found in men aged 15-29 with secondary education (33 percent in the mixed group and 27 percent in the pure group). For men aged 30-44, the highest proportion is found in those with higher education (25 percent in the mixed group and 22 percent in the pure group). Among women, the highest proportion intending to migrate is found in those with higher education (12 percent in the pure group and 11 percent in the mixed group).

Overall, 13 percent of those currently working intend to migrate while only 8 percent of those not currently working intend to do so. There are, however, significant differences in the intention to migrate by work status between the two types of non-migrants considered. For young non-migrant males aged 15-29, the proportion intending to migrate amongst those currently working is much higher in the mixed group (31 percent) than it is in the pure group (22 percent), while this proportion amongst those not currently working is about the same in both types of non-migrant.

The sex-differentials in the intention to migrate are much wider in the mixed non-migrant group than in the pure non-migrant group. This pattern may be explained by the fact that the majority of women in the mixed group are married to out migrants working in the Gulf on single status visas.

Table 2. Percentage intending to migrate												
Percentage of non-migrants who intend to migrate abroad, according to type of non-migrant, sex and selected background characteristics, Egypt-HIMS 2013												
Characteristic	Males				Females				Total			
	15-29	30-44	45-59	Total	15-29	30-44	45-59	Total	15-29	30-44	45-59	Total
Pure non-migrant												
Residence												
Urban	19.9	14.7	5.8	15.5	10.4	6.7	1.1	7.6	14.8	9.7	3.6	11.1
Rural	23.8	14.8	4.5	17.4	6.3	1.8	0.6	3.8	15.3	7.6	2.7	10.5
Education												
Below primary	23.2	14.2	3.1	12.3	3.6	0.0	0.0	0.7	4.6	1.1	0.3	1.9
Primary+Preparatory	16.3	16.5	8.3	15.5	7.0	6.1	0.0	6.2	12.7	2.0	1.7	11.1
Secondary	27.2	11.8	6.4	18.9	9.1	5.2	0.6	6.8	12.8	3.3	1.0	9.2
Higher	22.6	21.9	3.9	16.5	14.3	9.2	10.0	11.8	16.4	11.9	3.2	13.4
Works status												
Working	21.5	14.7	5.6	14.4	7.8	8.8	4.1	7.4	19.5	13.3	5.4	13.2
Not working	22.5	17.9	0.0	21.1	8.4	3.2	0.2	5.4	13.6	3.5	0.1	9.3
Total	22.1	14.8	5.1	16.5	8.4	4.3	0.9	5.6	15.1	8.6	3.1	10.8
Mixed non-migrant												
Residence												
Urban	26.1	15.3	0.0	22.5	4.4	3.6	0.9	3.3	14.3	4.3	0.7	9.1
Rural	24.7	16.9	1.3	20.5	3.0	1.9	0.5	2.2	10.9	2.5	0.7	7.2
Education												
Below primary	24.4	17.3	0.8	11.9	0.4	0.6	0.2	0.4	4.6	1.1	0.3	1.9
Primary+Preparatory	21.2	16.2	3.9	20.1	4.0	1.3	0.0	3.3	12.7	2.0	1.7	11.1
Secondary	32.8	12.2	0.0	27.2	2.7	2.7	1.7	2.6	12.8	3.3	1.0	9.2
Higher	24.4	24.9	0.0	20.7	11.7	10.6	4.9	10.6	16.4	11.9	3.2	13.4
Work status												
Working	30.8	16.6	0.4	20.7	3.0	3.5	2.8	3.1	22.3	6.4	1.4	13.0
Not working	22.0	0.0	5.0	21.3	3.3	2.1	0.1	2.4	9.1	2.0	0.3	6.1
Total	25.1	16.4	1.1	21.0	3.3	2.3	0.6	2.5	11.6	2.9	0.7	7.6

3. Demographic Characteristics of Potential Migrants

Of the total number of 1,233 potential migrants aged 15-59 years covered in the survey, 73 percent are males and 27 percent are females. Table 3 shows the distribution of these potential migrants by selected demographic characteristics, according to type and sex of potential migrant. The main features of the table may be summarized as follows:



Age: Most of potential migrants are young; the proportion of males in the age range 15-29 is 70 percent in the pure group and a high of 96 percent in the mixed group.

Urban-rural residence: A majority of male potential migrants are residing in rural areas in both the pure and mixed groups, while most of the female potential migrants reside in urban areas in the pure group and in rural areas in the mixed group.

Education: The majority of potential migrants have completed secondary education (46 percent); the respective proportion of those with primary/preparatory education is somewhat lower (28 percent), while those with higher education accounted for 17 percent. This pattern applies to both men and women in the pure group, whereas a majority of men in the mixed group (46 percent) have completed only primary/preparatory education. There are also indications that female potential migrants are better educated than male potential migrants, particularly among those residing in migrant households.

Table 3. Selected demographic characteristics of potential migrants									
Percent distribution of potential migrants, by selected demographic characteristics, according to type and sex of potential migrant, Egypt-HIMS 2013									
Characteristic	Type and sex of potential migrant								
	Pure potential migrant			Mixed potential migrant			All potential migrants		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Age									
15-29	70.3	72.2	70.8	96.1	66.3	89.2	71.9	71.9	71.9
30-44	23.0	25.1	23.6	3.0	29.2	9.1	21.8	25.3	22.7
45-59	6.7	2.7	5.6	0.9	4.5	1.7	6.3	2.8	5.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Type of place of residence									
Urban	41.2	66.3	48.1	25.8	28.4	26.4	40.3	64.4	46.8
Rural	58.8	33.7	51.9	74.2	71.6	73.6	59.7	35.6	53.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Educational status									
Below primary	12.6	3.2	9.9	8.5	6.7	8.2	12.2	3.5	9.8
Primary/Preparatory	26.3	29.2	27.1	46.2	28.9	42.2	27.5	29.2	28.0
Secondary	48.2	40.5	46.1	37.8	33.1	36.7	47.6	40.1	45.6
Higher	13.0	27.0	16.8	7.5	31.3	13.0	12.6	27.2	16.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

4. Economic Characteristics of Potential Migrants

This section provides information on four aspects of the economic situation of potential migrants, namely—work status of all potential migrants, and— for those currently working, occupation, economic activity, and benefits provided by employers.

Work status: The first relevant results are presented in Table 4 which shows the work status of all potential migrants according to sex. The results may be summarized as follows.

- Overall, most of male potential migrants (59 percent) are currently working whereas most of female potential migrants (55 percent) are not currently working and not seeking work.
- The proportion of potential migrants who are not working and seeking work is:
 - much higher among women (28 percent) than among men (10 percent);
 - among women: much higher (28 percent) than the proportion currently working (17 percent);
 - among men: higher in rural areas (13 percent) than in urban areas (6 percent);
 - much higher among women with higher education (33 percent) than among men with higher education (17 percent).
- Among potential migrants with higher education, the proportion not working and not seeking work is much lower among men (2 percent) than it is among women (18 percent).

Occupation: Overall, approaching a quarter of currently working potential migrants are currently crafts or related trades workers, followed by those in 'professional occupations' (18 percent), th



skilled agriculture workers (16 percent), service and sales workers (12 percent), and land and machine operators (10 percent) (Table 5). Significant differences in the occupational structure of potential migrants by urban-rural residence are shown by the results. Half of currently working potential migrants from rural areas is skilled agriculture workers or craft and related trades workers. Currently working potential migrants from urban areas display more diversity in their occupations.

Economic activity: The economic activity sectors of potential migrants are rather diverse, though not always matching their skills and areas of specialization. Most potential migrants in urban areas are found in the whole sale retail trade (19 percent), followed by manufacturing (11 percent), education (11 percent), construction (9 percent), and human health and medical (8 percent), while those in the two sectors of professional, scientific and technical services and in public administration account for 6 percent. In rural areas, most potential migrants are found in agriculture (28 percent), followed by construction (18 percent), whole sale retail trade (13 percent), transportation and storage (8 percent), education (8 percent), and manufacturing (6 percent).

Benefits provided to potential migrants by current employers. Most potential migrants are not provided with any form of benefits by current employers which they are entitled to as stated in Egyptian labour laws. Only 27 percent are covered with health insurance, 24 percent receive paid sick leave, 23 percent have retirement pension, 23 percent are given paid annual leave, 20 percent receive payment for overtime work, and 19 percent get compensation for work accidents. Other forms of benefits are provided to even fewer numbers of potential migrants.

Table 4. Work status of potential migrants					
Percent distribution of all potential migrants by current work status, Egypt-HIMS 2013					
Characteristic	Working	Not working and:		Total	Number
		Seeking work	Not seeking work		
A. Males					
Residence					
Urban	55.1	5.9	39.0	100.0	361
Rural	60.7	13.0	26.3	100.0	536
Education					
Below secondary	54.9	3.6	41.5	100.0	357
Secondary	55.6	13.9	30.6	100.0	427
Higher	80.6	17.0	2.4	100.0	113
Total (Males)	58.5	10.1	31.4	100.0	897
Females					
Residence					
Urban	19.2	28.3	52.5	100.0	217
Rural	13.9	27.7	58.4	100.0	119
Education					
Below secondary	0.2	24.6	75.2	100.0	207
Secondary	10.1	27.5	62.5	100.0	135
Higher	48.7	33.3	18.1	100.0	92
Total (Females)	17.3	28.0	54.6	100.0	336
Total					
Residence					
Urban	41.6	14.3	44.0	100.0	578
Rural	52.2	15.7	32.2	100.0	655
Education					
Below secondary	41.9	8.5	49.6	100.0	466
Secondary	44.6	17.1	38.2	100.0	562
Higher	66.3	24.3	9.4	100.0	205
Total	47.2	15.0	37.7	100.0	1233

Table 5. Occupation of currently working potential migrants			
Among all potential migrants who are currently working, the percent distribution by occupation, according to urban-rural residence, Egypt-HIMS 2013			
Occupational groupings	Residence		Total
	Urban	Rural	
Legislators, senior officials & managers	5.1	4.4	4.7
Professionals	24.5	12.5	17.5
Technicians & associated professionals	10.2	4.6	7.0
Clerical support workers	5.4	5.3	5.3
Service workers	17.1	8.4	11.8
Skilled agriculture & fishery workers	2.2	25.7	16.1
Craft & related trades workers	20.5	24.1	22.6
Land & machine operator / assemblers	11.1	10.0	10.4
Elementary occupations	3.9	5.0	4.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of all currently working potential migrants	241	342	583



5. Motives for Intended Migration

Among potential migrants residing in non-migrant households, around 85 percent intend to migrate for economic reasons, 8 percent for social reason, and 7 percent for other reasons. The corresponding figures for those residing in migrant households are: 78 percent 15 percent and 7 percent, respectively. The two most important economic reasons for the intended migration are 'to improve standard of living' followed by 'better business opportunities' in preferred destination. The main social reason for the intended migration is 'to obtain more education for self' among men and women in the 'pure' group, while 'reuniting with family' is the main social reason among women in the 'mixed' group.

The results suggest that there are two main types of economic reasons for the intended migration of potential migrants from Egypt: the first is '**migration out of necessity**' mainly due to poverty, low salaries, high cost of living and lack of employment opportunities, and the consequent difficulties in sustaining the family; and the second type is '**migration out of choice**' where migration represents an attractive alternative mainly associated with the desire for livelihood diversification. Potential migrants in Egypt are more likely to migrate for economic reasons out of choice than for economic reasons out of necessity; migration out of choice applies to 52 percent of potential migrants in the 'pure' group and 47 percent of those in the mixed group, where intended migration appears to represent an attractive opportunity to improve living standard. The corresponding figures for migration out of necessity are 34 percent and 31 percent, respectively, where intended migration represents an important strategy to cope with poverty and unemployment.

Migration for social reasons accounts for only 8 percent for men, and 6 percent for women, residing in non-migrant households, whereas the corresponding figures for those residing in migrant households are 8 percent for men and a high of 37 percent for women. This pattern indicates that for women residing in migrant households, marriage and reuniting with family are the leading drive for the intention to migrate.

6. Preferred Destination

Around two-thirds of potential migrants prefer to migrate to a country in the Arab region, mainly in the Gulf, 11 percent prefer to migrate to Europe, 6 percent to North America, and fewer than two percent to other countries, while nearly 15 percent were undecided about their preferred destination. By type of potential migrant, those residing in migrant households are more likely to prefer to move to a country in the Arab country (79 percent) than those residing in non-migrant households (66 percent). Meanwhile, the proportion of potential migrants who prefer to move to Europe and North America is higher in the pure group (17 percent) than in the mixed group (10 percent).

7. Financing Intended Migration

The survey enquired into the expected source of financial support to cover the cost of the intended migration. Overall, only five percent of potential migrants reported they do not need financial support while four percent expect to borrow money to finance the migration move. The vast majority of potential migrants expect to receive financial support from various types of relatives: 76 percent from the household and 12 percent from other relatives. By type of potential migrant, those residing in migrant households are more likely to expect to receive support from the household (80 percent) than those residing in non-migrant households (68 percent). It thus appears that financing the intended migration move would impose heavy financial cost to the families of most potential migrants.

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