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Determinants of international migration in Egypt: Results of the 2013 Egypt-HIMS survey

Note by Central Agency of Public Mobilization and Statistics, Egypt*

Abstract

This paper presents an analysis of the determinants and consequences of international migration in Egypt, using data collected in the 2013 Egypt Household International Migration Survey (Egypt-HIMS). The survey was implemented by the Central Agency of Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) as part the MED-HIMS programme which is a joint initiative of the European Commission/Eurostat, the World Bank, UNHCR, UNFPA, ILO, IOM, and the League of Arab States.

Following a brief description of the design of the Egypt-HIMS, the paper provides a demographic and socioeconomic profile of the survey households and population according to the migration status of the household. Four types of households are considered: households with current migrants, households with return migrants, households with non-migrants, and households with forced migrants.

The analysis highlights who migrates, why, to where and how; with what characteristics, and with what impacts. Main findings and key indicators are presented on the following aspects of international migration: migration patterns and trajectories; year and length of migration; motives for migration; the migration process; admission documents; the role of networks, economic situation of migrants; return migration intentions, remittances; perceptions about the migration experience; intentions of non-migrants to migrate, intended destinations and planned time of intended migration of prospective migrants, and main reason for intention to migrate; and the causes, consequences and experiences of forced migrants.

* Prepared by Samir Farid (MED-HIMS Chief Technical Advisor) and Rawia El-Batrawy (Egypt-HIMS Executive Manager).

I. Survey Design and Implementation

A. Objectives and Scope of the Study

1. The Egypt Household International Migration Survey (Egypt-HIMS) was conducted in 2013 by the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) of the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt. The survey was carried out as part of the 'Mediterranean Household International Migration Survey Programme' (MED-HIMS), which is a joint initiative of the European Commission, the World Bank, UNFPA, UNHCR, ILO, IOM and the League of Arab States, in collaboration with the National Statistical Offices of the Arab countries in the southern and eastern Mediterranean region.

2. The Egypt-HIMS methodology is designed to provide information on why, when, where and how migration has occurred, and to deal with various dimensions of international migration and mobility by the collection of representative multi-topic, multi-level, retrospective and comparative data on out-migration from Egypt, return migration to Egypt, intentions to migrate, and forced migration of citizens of other countries residing in Egypt.

B. The Sample

3. The sampling frame for the 2013 Egypt-HIMS was the nationally representative Master Sample (MS) covering 5024 enumeration areas (EAs) and selected with probabilities of selection proportional to the expected population size (PPES) of the primary administrative units in Egypt, governorates. The sample was selected in two stages. In the first stage, a sample of 1000 EAs was drawn from the MS, with these EAs constituting the PSUs. This comprised 440 urban PSUs and 560 rural ones, proportional to the 44% urban distribution of the population. In the second stage, within each sample EA, a sample of over 80 households (88 in urban areas and 84 in rural areas, to allow for likely non-response of 10% in urban areas and 5% in rural areas) was selected at random from existing lists of households in selected sample EAs.

4. To meet the survey objectives, the number of households selected in the 2013 Egypt-HIMS sample from each cluster was not proportional to the size of the population in the cluster. As a result, the 2013 Egypt-HIMS sample is not self-weighting, and weights have to be applied to the data to obtain national-level estimates.

5. The Master Sample included only Egyptian households and it, therefore, did not cover forced migrants residing in Egypt. A targeted sample of 3,554 forced migrants was selected from the records of forced migrants registered with UNHCR Office in Egypt.

6. It should be pointed out that since the survey is carried out only on households residing in Egypt, it cannot collect data on *whole households that moved*, since there is no one left to report on the migrants and the circumstances of their departure. This is an inherent limitation of *all migration surveys carried out only in countries of origin*.

C. The Questionnaires

7. The Egypt-HIMS questionnaires provide the core set of questions needed to obtain population-based estimates of the determinants and consequences of international migration and mobility from Egypt. The target population includes four groups: current migrants, return migrants, non-migrants, and forced migrants. The Egypt-HIMS utilized the following six questionnaires:
 1. Household Questionnaire
 2. Individual Questionnaire for Current Migrant
 3. Individual Questionnaire for Return Migrant
 4. Individual Questionnaire for Non Migrant
 5. Individual Questionnaire for Forced Migrant
 6. Household Socio-economic Characteristics Questionnaire

8. Among the topics covered in the main sample of Egyptian households are: the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of migrants; behaviours, attitudes, perceptions and cultural values of people with regard to international migration; migration histories and the migration experiences and practices; the processes leading to the decision to migrate; migration networks and assistance; work history and the impact of migration on labour dynamics; circular migration; migration of highly-skilled persons; irregular migration; type and use of remittances and their impact on socioeconomic development; migration intentions; the skill-level of return migrants; barriers to migration; and the overall awareness of migration issues and practices. Information on socio-economic status of the household was also gathered.

9. The main topics covered in the targeted sample of forced migrants residing in Egypt are the demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of forced migrants; the mixed migration (migration asylum nexus) and secondary movement of refugees.

10. Questionnaires 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 were utilized in the main sample of Egyptian households, while questionnaires 1, 5 and 6 were administered to the targeted sample of forced migrants residing in Egypt.

D. Coverage of the Main Sample

11. Fieldwork for the 2013 Egypt-HIMS was implemented in two phases, the first covered the main sample of Egyptian households, starting on April 1, 2013, and ending on July 31, 2013; while the second phase covering the targeted sample of forced migrants residing in Egypt was implemented in November-December 2013.

12. Out of 90,012 households selected for the 2013 Egypt-HIMS, 83,741 households were found to be occupied. Interviews were successfully completed in 83,358, or 99.5 of occupied households.
 - Of this number, 5259 households reported to having 5855 of their members residing abroad, of whom 5847 were successfully interviewed;
 - 4,695 households were identified as having 5135 of their members as return migrants, who last returned to Egypt since the beginning of the year 2000 and who were 15 years of age or more on last return, of whom 5085 were successfully interviewed;

- A total of 11,969 non-migrants aged 15-59 were identified as eligible to be interviewed with the individual questionnaire for non-migrants, of whom 11,703 were successfully interviewed.

13. These results indicate that 6.3 percent of Egyptian households are "households with current migrants", and 5.6 percent of Egyptian households are "households with return migrants".

E. Coverage of the Targeted Sample of Forced Migrants

14. Among the forced migrants registered with the UNHCR in Egypt, 3,554 were selected from among those residing in the Greater Cairo Region and 1,692 households were found and agreed to be interviewed. These households included 6,813 individuals, with 4,309 (63.4%) being 15 years of age or more. Of this number, 1,793 forced migrants aged 15 years or more were selected and successfully interviewed with the 'Individual Questionnaire for Forced Migrant'.

II. Characteristics of Households and Population

A. Introduction

15. This section provides a demographic and socioeconomic profile of Egyptian households interviewed in the 2013 Egypt Household International Migration Survey (Egypt-HIMS). Information is presented on households and household population according to household migration status.

16. In the 2013 Egypt-HIMS, information was collected from 83,358 households residing in Egypt. Of this number, 5259 households reported to having 5847 of their members residing abroad and 4,695 households were identified as having 5,085 of their members as return migrants. These two types of households will be designated hereafter as 'current migrant households' and 'return migrant households', respectively. Information is also available on a sub-sample of 3,135 'pure non-migrant households'. Listing of household members was done on a *de jure* basis.

B. Composition of Households

1. Residence

17. Table 1 shows the distribution of households and the *de jure* population enumerated in the household survey by urban-rural residence, according to the household migration status. According to the non-migrant household survey, 47.5 percent reside in urban areas and 52.5 percent reside in rural areas. Most of the migrant households, however, reside in rural areas; 80 percent of the current migrant households and 74 percent of the return migrant households.

18. The regional distribution of current migrant households indicates that 20 percent reside in urban areas, 50 percent reside in rural Upper Egypt and 30 percent in rural Lower Egypt. A

similar regional pattern is also observed for return migrant households.

19. Around 45 percent of the population of non-migrant households reside in urban areas compared with only 26 percent and 20 percent among the urban population of the return migrant households and the current migrants households, respectively. These results indicate that emigration of members of households residing in Egypt is much more common in the rural than it is in urban regions of Egypt.

Table 1. Survey households and population						
Distribution of the households and the <i>de jure</i> population by urban-rural residence, according to household migration status, Egypt-HIMS 2013						
Residence	Households			Population		
	Household migration status			Household migration status		
	Current migrant	Return migrant	Non migrant	Current migrant	Return migrant	Non migrant
Urban-rural residence						
Urban	19.7	25.8	47.5	18.5	23.6	45.3
Rural	80.3	74.2	52.5	81.5	76.4	54.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Region of residence						
Urban Governorates	6.1	10.8	28.1	5.8	9.5	26.2
Lower Egypt	36.7	41.3	42.1	31.3	37.7	41.3
Urban	6.9	8.6	10.8	5.9	7.7	10.3
Rural	29.8	32.7	31.3	25.4	30.0	31.0
Upper Egypt	57.1	47.6	28.2	62.8	52.6	31.0
Urban	6.6	6.2	7.5	6.8	6.3	7.8
Rural	50.4	41.4	20.7	56.0	46.3	23.2
Frontier Governorates	0.1	0.3	1.6	0.1	0.3	1.5
Number of households/population	5,259	4,695	3,135	23,013	22,713	13,567

2.

Population by age and sex

20. Table 2 shows the percent distribution of the *de jure* population enumerated in the survey by broad age groupings, according to sex, urban-rural residence and household migration status. The *de jure* population in the households selected for the survey included 23,013 individuals in the current migrant households, 22,713 in the return migrant households, and 13,567 in the non-migrant households. In both the non-migrant households and the return migrant households, males slightly outnumbered females, whereas the opposite was observed in the case of current migrant households where females outnumbered males.

21. Differences in the proportions of persons in the five broad age groups are found in urban and rural areas according to household migration status. Thus, among the non-migrant households, nearly one-third of the population are less than 15 years of age, compared with around 40 percent among migrant households. The proportion under age 15 was greater in the rural population than in the urban population. This difference is an outcome of lower fertility over the past several decades in urban areas compared with rural areas. There is a larger proportion of persons aged 60 and older in urban households.

Table 2. Household population by age, sex, residence and migration status									
Percent distribution of the <i>de jure</i> household population by age, according to urban-rural residence, sex, and household migration status, Egypt-HIMS 2013									
Migration status & age	Urban			Rural			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
A. Current migrant households									
<15	33.5	29.7	31.5	46.2	38.8	42.3	43.8	37.1	40.3
15-29	34.3	28.8	31.5	29.1	27.9	28.3	30.1	28.1	29.1
30-44	11.6	18.1	15.1	9.5	17.1	13.5	9.9	17.4	13.8
45-59	12.1	17.4	14.8	9.3	11.8	10.7	9.9	12.8	11.4
60+	8.5	6.0	7.1	5.9	4.4	5.2	6.3	4.6	5.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,021	2,240	4,261	8,851	9,901	18,752	10,871	12,142	23,013
B. Return migrant households									
<15	35.4	36.8	36.0	41.6	43.2	42.3	40.1	41.7	40.8
15-29	23.7	24.6	24.2	22.2	25.9	24.0	22.5	25.6	24.0
30-44	21.7	21.9	21.8	21.4	19.0	20.4	21.6	19.7	20.7
45-59	14.4	12.0	13.3	11.1	8.5	9.8	11.9	9.3	10.7
60+	4.8	4.7	4.7	3.7	3.4	3.5	3.9	3.7	3.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,802	2,560	5,362	8,900	8,451	17,351	11,702	11,011	22,713
C. Non-migrant households									
<15	30.9	28.1	29.5	34.6	36.0	35.4	32.9	32.5	32.8
15-29	28.3	28.7	28.5	29.3	26.3	27.7	28.9	27.2	28.1
30-44	17.4	21.6	19.5	17.4	20.8	19.1	17.4	21.2	19.3
45-59	16.1	15.5	15.9	13.7	12.0	12.9	14.7	13.7	14.2
60+	7.3	6.1	6.6	5.0	4.9	4.9	6.1	5.4	5.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,091	3,055	6,146	3,735	3,686	7,421	6,825	6,742	13,567

22. The most striking feature of the figures in Table 2 is seen among the current migrant households where women in the broad age group 30-44 outnumber men by seven percentage points, in both urban and rural areas. This feature is also found in the age group 45-59 but to a lesser extent; women outnumber men by about 5 percentage points in urban areas and by three percentage points in rural areas, reflecting the effects of the migration of male members of the households considered.

3. Headship of households

23. Table 3 presents information on the distribution of households by sex of head of household, and by household size, according to urban-rural residence and household migration status. The household size distributions are aggregated into three groups: small households with 1 or 2 members, medium households with 3 to 5 members, and large households with 6 or more members. It should be noted that the household size distributions for the 'current migrant households' are based on members of the households residing in Egypt.

24. Among the non-migrant households, the traditional pattern of male-headed households is most intact in both urban and rural areas. The overall percentage of male-headed households is 85 percent. The tendency toward female-headed households is slightly more prevalent in urban

areas (16 percent) than in rural areas (14 percent). Female headship is customarily associated with a wide range of circumstances, among which are widowhood, internal migration of men, and marital instability.

25. A similar pattern is also shown for the ‘return migrant households’ but with a higher proportion of households headed by males (92 percent). The urban-rural pattern is also similar to that shown for the non-migrant households; the percentage of female-headed households is slightly higher in urban areas (9 percent) than in rural areas (7 percent).

Table 3. Household headship and composition									
Percent distribution of the households by sex of head of household and household size, according to urban-rural residence and household migration status, Egypt-HIMS 2013									
Characteristic	Current migrant households			Return migrant households			Non- migrant households		
	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total
A. Household headship									
Male	57.1	49.6	51.0	90.6	93.1	92.4	83.9	86.3	85.2
Female	42.9	50.4	49.0	9.4	6.9	7.6	16.1	13.7	14.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
B. Household size									
Small (1-2)	15.2	13.2	13.6	11.8	6.6	8.0	15.2	11.0	13.0
Medium (3-5)	67.9	63.3	64.3	66.5	62.1	63.3	68.2	64.5	66.4
Large (6+)	16.9	23.5	22.1	21.7	31.3	28.7	16.6	24.5	20.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Mean size of households	4.1	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.9	4.8	4.1	4.5	4.3
Number of households	1036	4223	5259	1210	3485	4695	1488	1647	3135

4. Size of households

26. Mean household size is larger in rural areas than in urban areas. It varies between 4.1 persons among urban current migrant households and 4.9 persons among rural return migrant households. Taking into consideration that the distributions of current migrant households by size exclude—by definition, members of the household residing abroad, it is clear that current migrants come from larger households than non-migrants in both urban and rural areas. Detailed tabulations indicate that return migrants come from larger households than current migrants in all regions.

27. The results suggest that larger household size increases the probability that a household member emigrates and remains abroad. This relationship may simply reflect the fact that among a larger number of household members, it is more likely that someone had the desire and ability to migrate. It is also consistent with the view that, often, migration is a decision made by households to diversify their income sources and potentially increasing household well-being.

5. Education of the Household Population

28. The educational attainment of household members is closely associated with other

socioeconomic determinants of migration. Table 4 shows the percentage of the *de jure* population by level of education achieved at selected age groups, according to household migration status. There is a gap in level of literacy between males and females aged 10 years or more, reflecting the lack of educational opportunities in the past among the older cohorts, particularly for women. A substantial improvement in educational attainment is observed as we approach the more recent and younger cohorts of both men and women. Thus the proportion with no education among boys and girls aged 10-14 years indicates that illiteracy among this young cohort has virtually disappeared. The results also indicate that the more recent cohorts of men and women have advanced in education at all levels.

Educational attainment	Current migrant households		Return migrant households		Non-migrant households	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Percentage with no education at age 10 or more	14.2	32.4	13.1	26.9	9.6	20.8
Percentage with no education at age 10-14	1.2	2.7	1.6	2.6	1.3	1.3
Percentage with completed primary education or above at age 15-19	91.8	86.0	92.0	87.3	92.6	94.8
Percentage with completed secondary education or above at age 20-24	75.1	61.3	71.6	59.6	76.2	75.1
Percentage with completed higher education at age 25-29	27.1	13.9	16.9	15.0	21.8	21.1

29. Women in non-migrant households are more likely to have completed preparatory, secondary and higher education than women in either the current or return migrant households. Among men, there are small differences in the proportions completing preparatory and secondary education according to household migration status. The proportion of men completing higher education is highest in the current migrant households (27 percent), decreasing to 22 percent in the non-migrant households and 17 percent in the return migrant households.

6. Housing Characteristics

30. In the 2013 Egypt-HIMS, information was collected on environmental conditions and socio-economic status of the sample households. Generally speaking, migrant households appear to have better housing characteristics than non-migrant households in both urban and rural areas.

- Tenure: Migration is associated with ownership of the dwelling among households residing in urban areas. The percentage of households owning their dwelling in urban areas is lowest among the non-migrants (55 percent), and it increases to 61 percent among the return migrants and to 69 percent among current migrant households. In rural areas, about 8 in ten households own their dwelling.

- Crowding: Urban households are somewhat less crowded than rural households.
- Virtually all households have electricity, and over 98 percent of urban households compared with around 96 percent in rural areas use an improved source of water for drinking. In most cases, the source is piped connection (98 percent in urban areas and 93 in rural areas).
- 97 percent of urban households compared with around 92 percent in rural areas have access to an improved toilet facility, for the sole use of the household, which flushes into a sewer, tank flush or a septic system, with little variation by migration status of the household.

7. Household Possessions

31. **Household appliances.** Most households in Egypt own most modern household appliances with little variation by residence and migration status.

- Around 99 percent of the sample households have television and almost all are connected to a satellite dish.
- More than 97 percent own refrigerator and gas/electric stove; around 96 percent own a washing machine, and 93 percent have an electric fan.
- Nine in ten households have a mobile telephone.
- More than half of urban households own a computer compared with only one-fifth of rural households.

32. **Ownership of assets.** Rates of ownership of most assets are generally higher among the return migrant households than among the current migrant or non-migrant households.

- In urban areas, around a quarter of migrant households compared with only 15 percent of non-migrant households have a bank or post office account. In rural areas, only 9 percent of current migrant households have a bank or post office account, and this percentage decreases to 7 percent among the return migrant households and 5 percent among the non-migrant households.
- More than one-fifth of urban migrant households have savings compared with 15 percent of urban non-migrant households. In rural areas, the percentage of households having savings is lowest among the non-migrant households (6 percent), rising to 8 percent among the return migrant households and 10 percent among the current migrant households.

III. Current Migrants

33. This section presents the main findings of the survey on members of Egyptian households who were residing abroad at the time of the survey (hereafter, designated as 'current migrants'). The average number of current migrants aged 15 years or more at the time of the survey per household is 1.11.

A. Characteristics of Current Migrants

1. Age-sex composition

34. Table 5 shows the percent distribution of current migrants according to age and sex. As may be seen, the population of current migrants is heavily distorted demographically. The age composition of current migrants shows an inverted U-shaped pattern with respect to current age. It begins with a low level among young migrants aged 15-19 years (2.5 percent), then sweeps upward forming a broad peak extending over the age range 20-39 years which includes almost 70 percent of current migrants.

35. The age group with the largest number of migrants is 25-29 years (23 percent), followed by the age group of 30-34 years (18 percent), 35-39 years (15 percent), and 20-24 years (14 percent). The lowest proportion of current migrants is observed for persons of retirement age (60 percent).

Table 5. Age-sex composition of current migrants

Percent distribution of current migrants according to current age and sex, Egypt-HIMS 2013

Age	Males	emales	Total
15-19	2.4	5.8	2.5
20-24	4.1	8.3	14.0
25-29	23.0	20.2	22.9
30-34	17.8	15.1	17.7
35-39	14.6	12.2	14.6
40-44	10.9	11.6	10.9
45-49	9.0	8.3	9.0
50-54	4.7	8.2	4.8
55-59	2.3	3.9	2.4
60-64	0.9	4.2	0.9
65+	0.3	2.2	0.3
Total	00.0	00.0	00.0
Number	723	24	847

36. The results also show that migration from Egypt is predominantly male— only two percent of current migrants aged 15 years or more are females. Thus those who migrate from Egypt are mainly young working-age males, with very few younger than 20 or older than 60. The median age at first migration was 25.1 years for males and 25.6 years for females.

2. Other characteristics

37. Among the other characteristics of current migrants are the following:

- Virtually all current migrants were born in Egypt;
- Migration of members of Egyptian households is much more common in rural than in urban areas; 80 percent of current migrants come from households residing in rural areas;
- A majority of current migrants are well educated. Overall, 86 percent of current migrants had ever attended school, and more than three-fifths have completed secondary education or more, including 48 percent who completed secondary education and 15 percent who have university education;
- Nearly three-fifths of current migrants were never-married at the time of the first migration compared with 65 percent who were married at the time of the survey. The median age at first marriage of current migrants is 28.9 years for males and 27.6 years for females.

B. Who and Where: Migration Patterns and Trajectories

38. The vast majority of current migrants from Egypt (95 percent) go to Arab countries mainly

in the Gulf and Libya, while only less than 5 percent go to destinations outside of the Arab region, predominantly Europe (3%), and North America and Australia (1%). This pattern indicates that in Egypt South-South migration is far more prevalent than South-North migration.

1. Age at migration

39. The age distribution of current migrants by age at first migration has a similar inverted U-shaped pattern as that with respect to current age and last destination, yet it varies by destination in terms of two dimensions, namely: the early-late dimension, expressed by the age at which the number of migrants reaches its maximum, and the rapid-slow dimension, which reflects the speed with which the age of maximum migration is approached from younger ages and the subsequent rate of decline until the intensity of first migration reaches its minimum (Table 6).

Table 6. Current migrants by age at first migration, current age and destination									
Percent distribution of current migrants by: (i) age at first migration, and (ii) current age, according to destination, Egypt-HIMS 2013									
Age at first migration	First destination			Total	Current age	Current destination			Total
	Arab region	Europe	Other countries			Arab region	Europe	Other countries	
15-19	10.7	12.1	9.2	10.7	15-19	2.4	1.2	10.2	2.5
20-24	33.6	28.5	20.4	33.3	20-24	14.3	8.3	8.7	14.0
25-29	28.6	31.1	33.3	28.7	25-29	23.1	19.3	24.1	22.9
30-34	13.3	13.1	7.4	13.2	30-34	17.6	22.3	14.4	17.7
35-39	7.2	9.2	11.1	7.3	35-39	14.5	18.2	8.8	14.6
40-44	4.0	4.0	7.4	4.0	40-44	11.0	9.9	10.8	10.9
45-49	1.9	1.5	3.7	1.9	45-49	8.8	14.0	8.7	9.0
50-54	0.5	0.4	3.7	0.5	50-54	4.7	4.3	9.7	4.8
55-59	0.2	0.0	1.9	0.2	55-59	2.4	0.4	2.7	2.4
60+	0.1	0.0	1.9	0.1	60+	1.2	2.1	1.9	1.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	5597	197	54	5847	Number	5578	199	69	5847

40. Migrants to Europe and North America tend to be older than those moving to the Arab region. The median age at first migration, among migrants who moved abroad since the beginning of the year 2000 was 25.1 years. It was lowest for migrants to the Arab region (25.0 years), increasing to 26.3 years for migrants to Europe, and 28.8 years for migrants to North America.

2. Who migrates where?

41. Virtually all current migrants from Upper Egypt reside in the Arab region, compared with 91 percent of migrants from Lower Egypt and 89 percent of those from the Urban Governorates (Table 7). Only one percent of the migrants from Upper Egypt reside in Europe compared with 7 percent of the migrants from Lower Egypt. Among migrants from the Urban Governorates, six percent reside in North America and four percent in Europe.

Table 7. Who migrates where						
Percent distribution of all current migrants by current destination, according to selected characteristics, Egypt-HIMS 2013						
Characteristic	Current destination					Number
	Arab region	Europe	North America	Other	Total	
Current age						
15-29	96.2	2.5	0.7	0.6	100.0	2305
30-44	95.1	4.0	0.3	0.6	100.0	2524
45-59	94.5	4.0	1.0	0.6	100.0	945
60+	92.3	5.9	1.8	0.0	100.0	72
Sex						
Males	95.4	3.5	0.5	0.6	100.0	5723
Females	93.8	0.8	5.4	0.0	100.0	124
Residence of origin household						
Urban	92.1	4.4	2.6	0.9	100.0	1169
Rural	96.2	3.2	0.1	0.5	100.0	4678
Region of residence of origin household						
Urban Governorates	89.4	4.0	5.9	0.7	100.0	382
Lower Egypt	91.4	7.3	0.1	1.2	100.0	2077
Urban	89.6	8.5	0.8	1.1	100.0	398
Rural	91.8	7.0	0.0	1.2	100.0	1679
Upper Egypt	98.6	1.0	0.2	0.2	100.0	3381
Urban	97.3	0.5	1.3	1.0	100.0	387
Rural	98.7	1.0	0.1	0.1	100.0	2995
Frontier Governorates	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	7
Current educational level						
No education	99.3	0.6	0.1	0.0	100.0	806
Some primary	98.2	1.6	0.0	0.2	100.0	480
Primary (complete)	97.8	1.8	0.0	0.4	100.0	515
Preparatory (complete)	94.7	3.1	2.2	0.0	100.0	338
Secondary (complete)	94.9	4.2	0.4	0.5	100.0	2820
Higher (complete)	90.9	5.4	1.7	2.0	100.0	888
Total	95.4	3.4	0.6	0.6	100.0	5847

42. An inverse association between level of education and migration to the Arab region is shown by the results in Table 7 where the proportion residing in the Arab region decreases with rising level of education. . Meanwhile, a positive association is shown between education and migration to Europe and North America. Thus migrants to Europe and North America tend to be older and better educated. Further, the educational level of migrants of younger ages is higher than of those of older ages; the proportion of migrants with secondary education and above increased from 50 percent in the age cohort 45-49 to 80 percent in the younger cohort aged 25-29.

3. Choice of destination

43. At the country level, Saudi Arabia stands out as the leading destination for emigrants from Egypt (40 percent of total emigrants), followed by Libya (21 percent), Kuwait (14 percent), Jordan (11 percent), UAE (4 percent), with a further 6 percent residing in other Arab countries.

Europe and North America account for only 4 percent of total current migrants. Top European destinations include Italy, followed by France and Germany (Table 8).

44. The results reflect a change in the pattern of choosing the country of destination. Saudi Arabia became even more prominent destination country by 2013. It was the first destination of over 36 percent of current migrants, and attracted more than 4 percent of current migrants who moved on from other countries to reside in it. Libya was the first destination of nearly 24 percent of current migrants but currently absorbs 21 percent of current migrants. The results also show a drop in the number of Egyptian migrants in Iraq which was the country of first destination for only two percent of current migrants. Almost all of these emigrants left Iraq and are currently residing in other Arab countries.

4. Migration trajectories

45. The differences between the distribution of current migrants by country of first migration and that by county of current destination means that some individuals must have moved on for whatever reason. Around 13 percent of current migrants moved to two or more destinations. The vast majority of these emigrants (97%) returned to Egypt before moving to the current destination.

C. When: Year of Migration

46. Around 17 percent of all current migrants have moved to the current destination before the year 2000, and 32 percent during the decade 2000-2009, while a high of 51 percent have moved to current destination in the years from 2010 to the survey date in 2013. This dramatic rise in the volume of out-migration during the period from 2010 to mid-2013 coincided with the profound transformations that took place in Egypt during that period and the new realities that were forced on the fabric of Egyptian society which must have introduced factors of change across the demographic and socioeconomic scene of the country.

D. Length of Migration

47. Around 57 percent have been in current destination for less than 5 years; 18% for 5-9 years; 10 percent for 10-14 years; and 15% for 15 or more years. Migrants who moved to

Country of destination	Destination	
	First	Current
	Percent	Percent
Arab region	95.6	95.4
Iraq	2.1	0.1
Jordan	12.2	11.0
Kuwait	12.4	13.5
Lebanon	1.6	1.5
Libya	23.5	21.2
Qatar	2.9	3.2
Saudi Arabia	36.2	39.9
United Arab Emirates	4.2	4.2
Other Arab countries	0.5	0.8
Europe	3.4	3.4
France	0.5	0.6
Germany	0.2	0.2
Holland	0.3	0.1
Italy	1.8	2.0
Other	0.6	0.5
North America	0.4	0.6
Other	0.6	0.6
Total	100.0	100.0
Number of current migrants = 5847		

Europe have longer times of stay in their current destination than those migrants who moved to the Arab region.

E. Why: Motives for Migration

1. Motives for first migration

48. People migrate for various economic, social, demographic, personal and other reasons. In Table 9 the most important reasons for the first migration are separated out into three panels. The first panel includes ‘country of origin factors’ expressed as a list of the main reasons why migrants wanted to leave their origin households; followed by a list covering ‘country of destination factors’, while the third panel covers ‘country of origin compared with country of destination factors.’

49. Among current migrants who moved abroad for the first time since the beginning of the year 2000, around 87 percent migrated for economic reasons, 10 percent moved abroad for social reasons (mainly women getting married to men residing abroad), and 3 percent for other reasons.

50. The three most important economic motives for first migration from Egypt were ‘to improve standard of living’ (34 percent), followed by ‘income in Egypt was insufficient’ (25 percent), and ‘lack of employment opportunities’ (12 percent). ‘Higher wages’ and ‘better business opportunities’ in country of destination accounted for 6 and 7 percent, respectively.

51. These results suggest that there are two main types of economic motives for migration from Egypt:

- the first is ‘**migration out of necessity**’ mainly due to poverty, lack of employment opportunities, and low salaries, and the consequent difficulties in sustaining the family;
- the second type is ‘**migration out of choice**’ where migration represents an attractive alternative mainly associated with the desire for livelihood diversification.

The results indicate that the ‘out of necessity migration’ applies to around 40 percent of all current migrants, where migration represents an important strategy to cope with unemployment and poverty, while the ‘out of choice migration’ applies to around 47 percent of current migrants, where migration appears to represent an attractive opportunity to improve living standard.

52. The figures in Table 9 show that although work reasons and improving standard of living emerge as the most important reasons for migration across almost all groups of migrants, motivations for first migration are not of equal importance to all migrants, and that motivations vary across different contexts and groups of migrants.

53. For example, there are clear indications that men and women respond differently to poverty. Men are more likely than women to move abroad due to lack of work opportunities or having insufficient income. Among male migrants, economic reasons account for 88 percent

and social reasons for 10 percent, while the corresponding proportions among female migrants are 25 percent and 58 percent, respectively.

Table 9. Most important motive for first migration by current migrants							
Percent distribution of current migrants who moved to first destination since the beginning of the year 2000, by most important motive for migration, according to selected characteristics, Egypt-HIMS 2013							
Most important motive for first migration	Sex		First destination				Total
	Male	Female	Arab region	Europe	North America	Other	
Country of origin factors	41.7	11.7	41.6	31.3	20.3	34.5	41.2
Was unemployed before migration	11.6	7.1	11.4	15.2	0.0	13.4	11.5
Income in Egypt was insufficient	25.6	1.8	25.8	11.7	5.1	9.1	25.2
Work benefits unsatisfactory	3.5	0.0	3.4	2.5	15.2	2.7	3.4
Other	1.0	2.8	1.0	0.9	0.0	9.3	1.1
Country of destination factors	22.7	70.7	23.2	32.4	32.6	19.6	23.5
Higher wages abroad	6.0	7.1	5.9	10.4	4.2	3.3	6.0
Good business opportunities abroad	6.6	3.8	6.5	10.8	1.1	3.5	6.6
To obtain more education for self	0.3	0.0	0.1	2.0	18.5	12.8	0.3
To get married /Join spouse	9.0	23.0	9.5	3.0	8.8	0.0	9.2
To reunite with family abroad	0.3	34.7	0.7	6.2	0.0	0.0	0.9
Other	0.5	2.1	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5
Country of origin compared with country of destination factors	35.6	17.6	35.2	36.3	47.1	45.9	35.3
To improve standard of living	34.8	5.6	34.2	34.7	25.0	39.4	34.3
Other	0.8	12.0	1.0	1.6	22.1	6.5	1.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4735	84	4616	152	20	31	4819

54. Detailed tabulations indicate that unemployment before migration was more important reason for migration among those aged 15-29 (13 percent) than among the older migrants aged 30 years or more (7 percent), and among the highly skilled migrants (20 percent) than among migrants with low level of education (5 percent). Low/insufficient income as a reason for migration shows the opposite pattern, being cited by fewer young migrants (23 percent) than older migrants (31 percent), whereas it is shown to be negatively associated with level of education being more important among those with low level of education (30 percent) than among the highly skilled migrants (17 percent).

2. Migration decision-making

55. Overall, 94 percent of current migrants were the main decision-makers about the migration, while the decision was made by someone else in the remaining cases: 3 percent by the employer, 2 percent by parents, and one percent by the spouse of the migrant.

F. How: The Migration Process

56. People migrate because they expect the benefits of the migration to exceed the costs. The major economic costs for prospective migrants involve those relating to the job search process

and information about jobs available to the prospective migrant before migration, beginning with contacts with labour recruiters, whether from the country itself or a potential destination country, obtaining documents required to cross national borders, and travelling to the destination country. Once at destination, higher earnings are expected to more than offset these migration costs.

57. Pre-migration contact with private recruiters. Obtaining the necessary information on employment opportunities is the first economic cost of migration. Overall, around 31 percent of current migrants had contact with a private recruiter to work abroad and facilitate the migration.

58. Type of recruiter contacted. Among current migrants who had contact with a private recruiter before migration, 55 percent contacted a private employment agency in Egypt, 24 percent contacted a private recruiter from Egypt recruiting for employer in destination country, and 9 percent contacted a private labour recruiter from country of destination operating in Egypt.

59. It should be pointed out that Egyptian citizens do not need visa or work permit prior to entering several Arab countries, including Iraq, Jordan and Libya which were the first destination to nearly two-fifths of current migrants. The results indicate that virtually all of the current migrants who first moved to these three countries did not have pre-migration work permit and that they started looking for a job upon arrival through recruiters and migrant networks in the destination country.

On the other hand, virtually all the current migrants who first moved to the Gulf States had pre-migration work permits, with some of them obtaining the work permit with the help of the Ministry of Manpower and Migration and other public employment services in Egypt under the terms of bilateral agreements with public and private sectors employers in the Gulf States.

60. Pre-migration provision of written contract. Around 80 percent of migrants who had a job arranged by a recruiter were provided with pre-migration written contract.

61. Compliance of employer at destination with pre-migration contract. Only 80 percent of employers at first destination complied with the terms of the contract. The results reveal different possible ways that the contract was not fulfilled when the migrant arrived at destination, including there being no job (reported by 38 percent of those provided with contracts that were not fulfilled), the job was not what it was stated in the contract (31 percent), salary was lower (31 percent), wages were not paid on time (6 percent), and housing or other benefits were not provided (8 percent), while other ways of not complying with the terms of the contract were reported by 12 percent of the migrants considered.

62. Payment to facilitate the migration. Migrants are not supposed to pay for the cost of recruitment according to ILO Conventions. The results, however, indicate that migration agents and labour brokers organize most recruitment of Egyptian migrant workers particularly to the Gulf States and within the Arab region.

63. Payment to facilitate the migration. Around 77 percent of current migrants who moved

to first destination since the beginning of the year 2000 paid money to get a work permit or facilitate the migration. The total amount paid was more than 38 million Egyptian pounds (£E). The average amount paid per current migrant was £E 10,350.

64. **Financing the migration move.** Overall, 12 percent of current migrants did not receive any financial support while 12 percent borrowed money to finance the migration move. The majority of current migrants received financial support from various types of relatives and friends.

G. Admission Documents and Compliance with Regulations

65. Among current migrants who moved to country of current residence since the beginning of the year 2000, 95.4 percent had legal and valid admission documents, 1.1 percent did not need visa, while fewer than 3 percent had no visa or other valid document. All female current migrants entered the country of current residence with valid admission documents compared with 95 percent of male migrants.

66. Around 28 percent of current migrants who moved to Europe since the year 2000 had no valid admission documents. Most of these irregular migrants, though representing a very small proportion of all current migrants, come mainly from households residing in rural areas in Egypt.

H. The Role of Networks

67. The choice of destination country is partly influenced by the presence of relatives and friends abroad who can assist aspiring emigrants from Egypt by financing trips, facilitating legal entry, and providing information and other assistance that reduce the burden of resettlement.

- Around 65 percent of current migrants had networks in the country of destination before departure from Egypt. These migration networks were mostly composed of extended family members and close friends and mostly made of prior male migrants.
- More than four-fifths of migrants who had a network at destination received assistance from relatives or friends whether before the move and /or upon arrival in the destination country.
- The most common type of assistance was the provision of lodging and food (52 percent), followed by receiving help to find work (34 percent), obtaining a visa before travel and/or residence permit (27 percent), and receiving full support until migrant found work (21 percent), financial support (20 percent), and paying for the travel cost (10 percent).

I. Economic Situation of Current Migrants

68. **Employment status.** Around 74 percent of current migrants were employed in the 3-

month period preceding the migration, while the remaining 26 percent who did not work before migration included 13 percent who were seeking work and 13 percent who were not seeking work. One in two (54 percent) of migrants had a job waiting for them upon arrival in current destination. Nearly 98 percent of male migrants are currently working compared with only 30 percent of female migrants.

69. **Economic activity.** The activity sectors of Egyptian migrants are rather diverse, though not always matching their skills and areas of specialization. Most migrants in the Arab region are found in the construction sector (47 percent), followed by the wholesale and retail trade (12 percent), agriculture (11 percent) and manufacturing (7 percent). In Europe, approaching two-thirds of current migrants are found in two sectors: construction (36 percent) and accommodation and food service activities (29 percent), followed by 12 percent in other service activities, and 9 percent in wholesale and retail trade.

70. **Occupation before and after migration.** The results also show a significant change in labour market status following migration.

- Among migrants from rural areas in Egypt, the main occupational change has been in the form of a significant transition from farming to trading, with others being involved in unstable or casual employment.
- Migrants from urban areas in Egypt, by contrast, display more diversity in their occupations. Around 30 percent of urban migrants fill the upper level occupations in managerial, professional and technical positions, but a higher proportion is in the lower echelons of the occupational structure.

71. The results also indicate that most of the highly skilled migrants of older ages are involved in occupations similar to the ones they had before migration, while most of the young migrants are involved in craft and related trades and in services occupations, reflecting the fact that young migrants with higher education get employed in areas that are far from their specialization, resulting in skills waste.

72. This pattern indicates that the incidence of ‘overeducation’ is consistently higher for young migrants currently residing in the Arab region and Europe, reflecting a considerable level of skills mismatch, associated with a tendency on the part of receiving countries, particularly in the Gulf, to absorb Egyptian labour force in specific occupations.

73. **Benefits provided to migrants by current employer.** The majority of Egyptian migrants are not provided with any form of benefits by current employers; only 29 percent receive housing benefits, 24 percent receive payment for overtime work, 21 percent are covered with health insurance, and 18 percent are given paid annual leave.

J. Migration Intentions of Current Migrants

74. Over three-fifths of current migrants intend to stay in their current host country, 18 percent intend to return to Egypt, while 21 percent were not sure whether or not to return. The

proportion intending to remain in the current host country increases from 61 percent among migrants in the Arab region, to 67 percent among migrants in Europe, and to 88 percent among those in North America.

75. ‘Having good job and satisfactory income’ was the most important reason for intention to stay (43 percent), followed by ‘difficult to find a good job back home’ which was cited by 31 percent of migrants.

76. Among current migrants who intend to leave country of current residence, three main categories of reasons were cited by the majority of migrants. “Job-related reasons” were the most frequently mentioned reasons for intention to leave country of current residence (36 percent). “Unfavourable situation in receiving country” ranked second (31 percent), and “family-related reasons” ranked third (21 percent). “Income-related reasons” were mentioned by only 4 percent of current migrants. Among those intending to leave, 97 percent plan to return to Egypt. Those intending to leave within one year or between 1 and 2 years may be considered likely to act upon their intentions, while for others it is too vague.

K. Remittances and Transfers

1. Money taken or transferred to support the migration

77. The results indicate that 70 percent of current migrants took money or transferred funds to support the migration to current destination. The source of money taken or transferred ahead of the move to current destination was as follows: personal savings (51 percent), savings of household head or other members (33 percent), loans from friends or relatives (11 percent), other (5 percent).

2. Remittances sent by current migrants

78. Around 70 percent of current migrants did send money to their origin households in the 12-month period preceding the survey:

- 20 percent sent remittances 10 or more times,
- followed by 16 percent sent 3 or 4 times,
- 13 percent sent 5 or 6 times,
- 13 percent sent once or twice, and
- 9 percent sent between 7 and 9 times.

79. The average number of times current migrants sent remittances to origin households in the 12-month period preceding the survey was around 6, which means that origin households in Egypt received remittances once in every two months.

3. Channels used most by current migrants to send money to Egypt

80. The majority of current migrants used two channels to send remittances to Egypt, namely—bank transfers (cheques, drafts, direct deposit, etc.), used by 68 percent, and through

friends or relatives, used by 21 percent. The third most used channel was sending money through agent or courier (7 percent). Overall, around 72 percent of remittance senders and receivers were within the formal financial system in Egypt.

4. Uses of remittances

81. Remittances are usually used for multiple purposes. Among households which received remittances from current migrants in the 12-month period preceding the survey, 86 percent used remittances on daily household needs; 44 percent used remittances to pay for schooling of household members; and 30 percent used remittances to pay for medical bills. Paying off debt, and purchasing a dwelling/house rank fourth and fifth on the list of purposes for which received remittances were used. Around 12 percent of remittances were used for savings and investments.

5. Goods sent by current migrants

82. Only 20 percent of households received goods from current migrants in the 12-month period preceding the survey. The main types of goods received were clothing/shoes received by 19 percent of households, linen/blankets received by 7 percent of households, and mobile phones received by 6 percent of households. Computers/Laptops were received by 3 percent of urban households and one percent of rural households.

83. These results clearly indicate that remittances play a significant role in Egyptian household financial management and contribute to improved standards of living, better health and education, and human and financial asset formation.

IV. Return Migrants

84. This section presents the main findings of the survey on return migrants among members of Egyptian households. The analysis highlights the characteristics of the return migrants, why did they return to Egypt, from where, and with what impacts.

A. Characteristics of Return Migrants

1. Age-sex composition

85. The age composition of return migrants shows an inverted U-shaped pattern with respect to current age. It begins with a low level among young migrants aged 15-19 years (1.2 percent), and then sweeps upward forming a broad peak extending over the age range 25-49 years, which includes more than 75 percent of return migrants. The age group with the largest number of return migrants is 35-39 years (18.8 percent), followed by the age group of 30-34 years (18.2 percent), 40-44 years (14.4 percent), and 45-49 years (12.1 percent). The percent of return migrants 65+ years old comprises only two percent of the total return migration population. The data also indicate that female return migrants comprise 11 percent of the total number of return migrants. The results reflect the fact stated in Section III that migration from Egypt is predominantly male, and so is return migration.

2. Other characteristics

86. **Age at return.** Almost half of return migrants returned to Egypt between ages 30 and 44 years, about one-third returned before the age of 30 years, and 17 percent returned between ages 45 and 59 years.

87. **Place of residence.** Around 27 percent of return migrants are residing in urban areas and 73 percent in rural areas.

88. **Education.** A majority of return migrants are well educated. Overall, 82 percent of return migrants had ever attended school, and approaching three-fifths have completed secondary education or more, including 43 percent who completed secondary education and 15 percent who have university education.

89. **Marital status.** The results show a dramatic change in marital status between the date of first migration and that of the survey. More than two-fifths of return migrants were never-married at the time of the first migration, compared with only 12 percent at the time of the survey.

B. Motives for Moving Abroad

90. Two main motives were behind the first migration of male return migrants; “improving living standard” (48 percent), and “income in Egypt was insufficient” (28 percent). Unemployment was not an important reason for the first migration, being cited only by 6 percent of male return migrants. Among female return migrants, social reasons were the main motive for the first migration with 60 percent moving to reunite with the family, and 25 percent to get married and join the husband abroad.

C. Migration History

91. **Last destination.** The Arab region was the last destination of the vast majority of return migrants, (95.4 percent). Other last destinations included Europe (3.2 percent), North America (0.6 percent), and other areas (0.8 percent).

92. **Migration networks and assistance.** Overall, 51 percent of return migrants had networks in the country of last destination before departure from Egypt. These migration networks were mostly composed of extended family members and close friends and mostly made of prior male migrants.

93. Four-fifths of return migrants who had a network at destination received assistance from relatives or friends whether before the move and/or upon arrival in the last destination country. Assistance received before the migration included help to obtain a visa and/or residence permit (28 percent), and paying for the travel cost (12 percent). The most common type of assistance received upon arrival included the provision of lodging and food (52 percent), followed by help to find work (25 percent), providing full support until migrant found work (15 percent), providing financial support/loans (14 percent), and helping to find accommodation (10

percent).

94. **Length of residence in last destination.** Nearly half of return migrants stayed in last destination for a period of less than five years; 18 percent stayed for 5-9 years; 12 percent stayed for 10-14 years, while the remaining 21 percent stayed for 15 or more years.

D. Motives for Return Migration

95. Six main reasons were behind the decision to leave the country of destination. The first reason was “missing own country / the desire to return to Egypt” (14 percent), followed by “poor work conditions/poor job” (10 percent), “end of contract” (9 percent), “health related reasons” (9 percent), “low pay in the country of destination” (8 percent), and “business was not doing well” (7 percent). These six reasons comprise 57 percent of the reasons reported by return migrants. Other reasons reported include “to get married” (3 percent), “deported” (3 percent), and “to complete higher education in Egypt” (3 percent), and “got better offer from Egypt”.

E. Remittances

1. Money taken or transferred at time of move to last destination

96. Money taken or transferred by return migrants at the time of migration to last destination came from three main sources: personal savings (57 percent), savings of household head or other members (37 percent), loans from friends or relatives (25 percent), other (5 percent). Other sources included receiving financial support as a gift from relatives/friends (6 percent), and sale of land or other assets (4 percent).

2. Remittances sent by return migrants

97. Almost 80 percent of return migrants sent money to Egypt within the 12-month period preceding their return to Egypt. The majority of return migrants used two channels to send remittances to Egypt, namely—bank transfers (cheques, drafts, direct deposit, etc.), used by 60 percent, and through friends or relatives, used by 25 percent. The third most used channel was sending money through agent or courier (6 percent), while 5 percent of return migrants carried the money on visits to their families in Egypt. Overall, around 70 percent of remittance senders and receivers were within the formal financial system in Egypt.

3. Uses of money brought back

98. Return migrants reported that the money they brought back to Egypt is used for multiple purposes, the most important of which are the following:

- Meet daily household needs (87 percent);
- Buy other household goods (42 percent);
- Pay for schooling (35 percent);
- Pay for medical care (30 percent);
- Pay off debt (22 percent);

- Buy apartment (24 percent);
- Improve house (13 percent);
- Buy/Rent/Improve land (7 percent);
- Buy farm inputs/implements (5 percent);
- Invest in non-farm business (4 percent);
- Savings (bank/post office) (11.9 percent).

F. Perceptions about the Migration Experience

99. **Relative subjective well-being of household at time of first migration.** Return migrants regarded the financial situation of their households for meeting all basic needs, at the time of first migration, as follows:

- less than or not sufficient: 74 percent;
- sufficient: 23 percent;
- more than sufficient: 1 percent.

100. **Current living standard compared with that in last country abroad.** Over a quarter of return migrants reported no change between current living standard in Egypt compared to living standard in the last destination; 35 % reported slightly worse current living standard, while 32 % reported much better or better current living standard compared to that in last country of destination.

101. **Perceptions of return migrants' experience about country of last residence.** Return migrants perceive their experience in last country abroad as follows: positive (57 percent), neither positive nor negative (20 percent), negative (19 percent), or very negative (5 percent).

102. **Problems faced by return migrants since returning.** Nearly 53 percent of respondents reported that they did not face any problem since their return. Among the remaining 47 percent, the most important problem faced upon return was the low wages/salaries in Egypt, reported by 27 percent of respondents. In fact, this reason was one of the most important reasons behind the migration decision. Unemployment (no jobs) ranked second (16 percent), personal/family reasons ranked third (7 percent), while difficulties to re-adapt were reported by 5 percent of return migrants.

103. **Future migration intentions.** More than three-quarters of return migrants expressed their preference to stay in Egypt (76 percent). Only 11 percent expressed their desire to re-migrate with six percent intending to return to last country of destination and five percent intending to move to another country; while 13 percent were undecided.

V. Non-Migrants and Prospective Migrants

104. This section presents a summary of the main findings of the survey on non-migrants. A non-migrant is defined as a member of Egyptian household who never moved to another country, or last returned from abroad before the beginning of the year 2000, or last returned from abroad after the beginning of the year 2000 but was under 15 years of age on last return.

The analysis highlights the main characteristics of non-migrants and prospective migrants in terms of their current demographic and economic patterns, migration intentions, preferences for future place of residence, and main reason for preference to move abroad.

A. Characteristics of Non-migrants

1. Age-sex composition

105. More than half of non-migrants (51 percent) are concentrated in the age range 15-29 years. The highest percentage of non-migrants (22 percent) is observed among youth in the age group (15-19). This percentage drops to 16 percent among youth in the next age group (20-24), and decreases further to 13 percent among youth in the age group (25-29). Only one-fifth of non-migrants are in the age range 45 to 59 years.

2. Other characteristics

106. Among the other characteristics of non-migrants are the following:

- All non-migrants were born in Egypt;
- Around 55 percent of non-migrants reside in rural areas and 45 percent reside in urban areas;
- A majority of non-migrants are well educated. Overall, 85 percent of non-migrants had ever attended school, and half have completed secondary education or more, including 37 percent who completed secondary education and 13 percent who have university education;
- Around 43 percent of non-migrants are never-married, 53 percent are currently married three percent are widowed and one percent divorced.
- Around 38 percent of non-migrants aged 15-59 are currently working and 6 percent currently not working and seeking work, while a majority of 56 percent are not working and not seeking work.

B. Migration Intentions of Non-migrants

107. **Migration Intentions.** Only around 11 percent of non-migrants intend to move to another country, while a majority of 70 percent intend to remain in Egypt with the remaining 19 percent being undecided.

108. Among the non-migrants who intend to migrate, 20 percent said they have a specific time for their plan to move abroad. Overall, around 32 percent intend to migrate within a year from the date of the survey, 19 percent intend to migrate between 1 and 2 years, 34 percent intend to migrate more than two years from the time of the survey, while the remaining 15 percent were not sure about the time of the move.

109. **Age and time of intended migration.** Older non-migrants (those in the age group 50-59 years) are more serious in their intention to migration, where 95 percent of them have plans to migrate within a year from the time of the survey. Among youth intending to migrate (persons aged 15-29 years), 41 percent have plans to migrate after two years from the time of survey and a further 27 percent intend to migrate within a year.

110. **Type of residence.** Urban non-migrants are more likely to migrate within a year from the time of interview (42 percent) than rural non-migrants (21 percent).

111. **Educational level.** Among non-migrants who intend to migrate, a high of 84 percent of those with higher education intend to migrate within a year from the survey date; half of those with secondary and preparatory education intend to migrate in more than two years, and half of those with primary education have plans to migrate between one and two years. Among those with below primary education, nearly half were unable to determine the time for their intended migration.

112. **Employment status.** About 51 percent of currently working non-migrants and 47 percent of unemployed non-migrants (those currently not working and seeking work), plan the time of their migration to be within a year from the date of survey. About 63 percent of those not working and not seeking work plan to migrate in more than two years from the date of survey.

113. **Intended destination.** The Arab region is the most preferred destination; more than 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.

C. Main Reason for Intention to Migrate

114. Among prospective migrants, around 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 for the intention to migrate include income-related reasons (54 percent) and work-related reasons (31 percent).

115. The income-related motives for the intention to migrate include:

- 'to improve standard of living' (39 percent);
- 'income in Egypt is insufficient' (9 percent); and
- 'high cost of living in Egypt' (6 percent).

116. The work-related reasons include:

- 'lack of employment opportunities' (5 percent);
- 'work benefits are unsatisfactory' (5 percent);
- 'poor working conditions' (8 percent); and
- 'good business opportunities abroad' (13 percent).

VI. Forced Migrants

117. This section provides a demographic and socioeconomic profile of forced migrants' households interviewed in the 2013 Egypt-HIMS. Information is presented on households and household population and individual forced migrants, according to country of origin of migrants. The results of the survey provide unique insights into the causes, consequences and experiences of forced migrants, as well as aspects of forced migrants' decision making.

118. As previously mentioned in Section 1, in the 2013 Egypt-HIMS, information was collected from a sample of 1,692 forced migrant households residing in Egypt. The sample included forced migrants from seven countries, three countries from the Middle East and North Africa region (MENA): Iraq, Sudan and Syria, and four countries from sub-Saharan Africa: Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia and South Sudan.

119. The sample households included 6,813 individuals, with 4,309 (63%) being 15 years of age or more. Of this number, 1,793 forced migrants aged 15 years or more were selected at random and successfully interviewed with the 'Individual Questionnaire for Forced Migrant'.

A. Characteristics of Forced Migrants

1. Age-sex composition

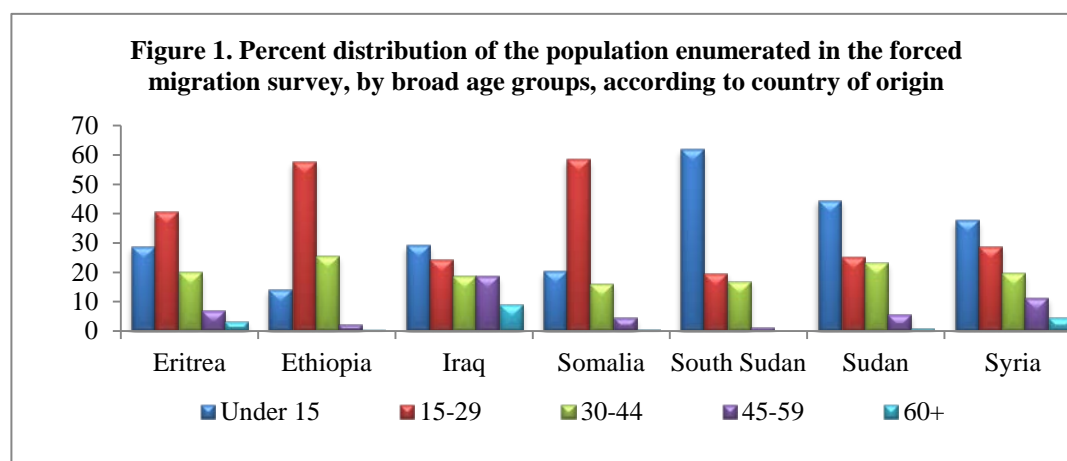
120. Around 76 percent of forced migrant households come from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, while 24 percent of these households come from sub-Saharan Africa (Table 10). In terms of population, 82 percent come from the MENA region and 18 percent from sub-Saharan Africa. At the country of origin level, approaching three-quarters of forced migrants come from two countries, namely—Syria (42 percent) and Sudan (31 percent).

Table 10. Forced migrants households and population					
Distribution of the households and population enumerated in the forced migration survey according to country of origin, Egypt-HIMS 2013					
Country of origin	Households		Population		Mean size of households
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Eritrea	96	5.7	280	4.1	2.9
Ethiopia	95	5.6	277	4.1	2.9
Iraq	151	8.9	575	8.4	3.8
Somalia	198	11.7	616	9.0	3.1
South Sudan	15	0.9	76	1.1	5.1
Sudan	532	31.4	2139	31.4	4.0
Syria	605	35.8	2850	41.8	4.7
Total	1692	100.0	6813	100.0	4.0

121. Forced migrants residing in Egypt include children, women and men (Table 11). Children under 15 years of age account for 37 percent of the total population of forced migrants. As may be seen from Figure 1, the age group 15-29 years has the largest number of forced migrants

from Eritrea (41 percent), Ethiopia (58 percent) and Somalia (58 percent), whereas the largest number of forced migrants is found in the ‘under 15 years of age’ group in Iraq, Sudan and Syria. This pattern suggests that more of the adult refugees from the MENA region, particularly those from Sudan and Syria, were accompanied by children, than was the case among refugees from sub-Saharan Africa.

Table 11. Household population by age, according to sex and nationality							
Percent distribution of the population enumerated in the forced migration survey, by broad age groups, according to sex and country of origin, Egypt-HIMS 2013							
Sex	Age					Total	Number
	Under 15	15-29	30-44	45-59	60+		
Male	37.7	31.5	18.4	9.2	3.1	100.0	3444
Female	35.4	31.7	21.2	8.5	3.2	100.0	3369
Total	36.6	31.6	19.8	8.9	3.2	100.0	6813



2. Household composition

122. **Headship of households.** Table 12 presents information on the distribution of forced migrant households by sex of head of household, and by household size, according to country of origin. The household size distributions are aggregated into three groups: small households with 1 or 2 members, medium households with 3 to 5 members, and large households with 6 or more members. Among the refugee households from Iraq and Syria, the traditional pattern of male-headed households is most intact (85 percent). The tendency toward female-headed households is more prevalent in refugee households from Sudan where only 66 percent of these households are male-headed. A very different pattern is observed among refugee households from sub-Saharan Africa where female-headed households account for 42 percent in households from Ethiopia, 50 percent in households from Somalia and 54 percent in households from Eritrea.

Table 12. Household headship and composition								
Percent distribution of households enumerated in the forced migration survey, by sex of head of household, and household size, according to country of origin, Egypt-HIMS 2013								
Characteristic	Country of origin							Total
	Eritrea	Ethiopia	Iraq	Somalia	South Sudan	Sudan	Syria	
A. Household headship								
Male	45.8	57.9	85.4	50.5	40.0	65.6	84.6	70.6
Female	54.2	42.1	14.6	49.5	60.0	34.4	15.4	29.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
B. Household size								
Small (1-2 persons)	59.4	47.4	29.2	43.4	20.0	32.3	12.3	28.4
Medium (3-5 persons)	26.0	44.2	51.7	46.0	53.3	40.3	57.1	47.3
Large (6+ persons)	14.6	8.4	19.1	10.6	26.7	27.4	30.6	24.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Mean size of households	2.9	2.9	3.8	3.1	5.1	4.0	4.7	4.0
Number of households	96	95	151	198	15	532	605	1692

123. **Size of households.** Mean household size is generally larger in households from the MENA region than in households from sub-Saharan Africa. The distribution of refugee households by size peaks at the small size only in households from Eritrea, and at the medium size in households from Iraq, Sudan and Syria, while it shows a broad peak, extending over both the small and medium sizes, in households from Ethiopia. The figures also show that households from the MENA region have more large households (6 or more members) than those from sub-Saharan Africa.

3. Level of education

124. Among the population of refugees aged 10 years or more, 10 percent have no formal education and 19 percent have some primary education. Around 71 percent have completed primary or above education, 28 percent have completed secondary or above education, and 7 percent have completed higher education.

125. There are significant differences in educational attainment between refugees according to country of origin. Literacy is almost universal among both male and female refugees from Iraq and Syria. The proportion literate is lowest among Somali refugees (61 percent), and it increases to between 87 and 90 percent among refugees from the other African countries. There is, however, a significant gap in level of literacy between male and female refugees from sub-Saharan Africa. For example, among refugees from Somalia, the proportion with no formal education increases from 20 percent among males to a high of 55 percent among females. At the other end of the educational scale, the proportion with secondary or above education is highest among refugees from Iraq (57 percent), followed by those from Ethiopia (33 percent), Sudan (28 percent), Syria (24 percent), and Eritrea (20 percent).

4. Employment status

126. Results on the current employment status of the refugee population aged 15 years or more

show that 31 percent worked in the seven days preceding the survey, while the remaining 69 percent included 20 percent who were unemployed and seeking work, 12 percent in school, 31 percent doing housework, and nearly 2 percent retired. The results also show that the proportion who worked in the week preceding the survey was much higher among male refugees (44 percent) than among female refugees (19 percent).

5. Year of Arrival in Egypt

127. The majority of forced migrants (75 percent) arrived in Egypt during the years from 2010 to the survey date in 2013, while fewer than 2 percent arrived before the year 2000, 7 percent during 2000-2004, and 17 percent during 2005-2009. Overall, the largest number of refugees moved to Egypt in 2013 (41 percent). By country of origin, the largest number of refugees from Eritrea moved to Egypt in 2012; from Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan and Syria in 2013; while the largest number of refugees from Iraq moved to Egypt in 2006.

B. The Migration Process

128. The remainder of this section will be concerned with an analysis of the data gathered in the individual survey of the sub-sample of 1,793 forced migrants aged 15 years or more.

1. Age-sex composition

129. Among this sample of refugees, 68 percent are males and 32 percent are females. The age group with the largest number of refugees is 25-29 years among males (16 percent), and 30-34 among females (18 percent).

2. Main reason for leaving country of origin

130. Table 13 shows the distribution of forced migrants by the main reason for leaving their country of origin. Overall, nearly four-fifths of the forced migrants left their country of origin because of generalized insecurity or war related reasons, 20 percent left due to persecution related reasons, while family reunification and other reasons accounted for less than one percent.

Main reason	Country of origin							Total
	Eritrea	thiopia	Iraq	Somalia	South Sudan	Sudan	Syria	
Persecution related reasons	54.9	78.1	12.4	13.9	16.7	36.2	1.2	20.4
Generalized insecurity/war	45.1	21.9	86.8	86.1	83.3	63.2	98.6	79.2
Family reunification	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.2
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	106	120	151	237	15	559	605	1793

131. Insecurity and war related reasons were the dominant reason for leaving among refugees from Syria (99 percent), Iraq (87 percent), Somalia (86 percent), and South Sudan (83 percent). Persecution related reasons were cited as main reason for leaving by 78 percent of refugees from Ethiopia and 55 percent of those from Eritrea. Among refugees from Sudan, who represent the second largest group of refugees in Egypt, insecurity and war reasons were cited by 63 percent while persecution related reasons were reported by 36 percent.

3. Who accompanied forced migrants on leaving country of origin?

132. Overall, 38 percent left country of origin alone. The majority of refugees from Somalia (77 percent), Ethiopia (73 percent) and Eritrea (55 percent) left their country of origin unaccompanied by any of their family members. In contrast, the majority of refugees from Syria (91 percent), Iraq (76 percent) and Sudan (55 percent) were accompanied by members of their families when leaving their country of origin for the first time.

4. Migratory route decision-making

133. Three reasons were reported by most refugees for choice of migratory route when they left their country of origin, namely—“fewer difficulties to move onwards”, cited by 33 percent, “less expensive route”, cited by 31 percent, and “countries with reportedly easy access”, cited by 25 percent. Other reasons included forced migrants “following others”, or that they “didn’t have choice and went to the closest border”, while one in ten refugees reported that “smugglers/traffickers decided for them” the migratory route.

134. The role of smugglers/traffickers in deciding the migratory route was dominant among refugees from Eritrea (43 percent) and Somalia (32 percent), and was one of four equally reported reasons by refugees from Ethiopia (22 percent). The role of smugglers/traffickers was minimal among refugees from Iraq, Sudan and Syria.

5. The journey to Egypt

135. Overall, four-fifths of the refugees arrived in Egypt directly from their country of origin, 18 percent arrived via one other country, and only less than two percent arrived via two or more other countries.

6. Difficulties encountered during migration journey

136. Around 19 percent of refugees were confronted with various types of difficulties during the migration journey. Among these refugees, maltreatment (including rapes) was reported by 57 percent; extortion of money by border officials by 27 percent; arrests/detention by 24 percent; and smuggling/trafficking by 23 percent. This percentage varied substantially by country of origin. It was low among refugees from Syria (6 percent), and increased to between 15 and 18 percent among refugees from Iraq, Somalia and Sudan. A much higher percentage of refugees from Eritrea (54 percent) and Ethiopia (73 percent) reported encountering difficulties during the migration journey. The most frequently reported difficulty by refugees from Eritrea and Ethiopia was maltreatment (including rapes), followed by smuggling/trafficking of people in the case of refugees from Eritrea, and extortion of money by border officials in the case of

refugees from Ethiopia.

137. Among forced migrants who encountered difficulties on their journey to Egypt, a majority of 55 percent did not report back on these difficulties to family members in their country of origin, while the remaining 45 percent included 21 percent who reported back “all details” and 24 percent who reported back “only partially” on difficulties encountered.

C. Situation of Forced Migrants in Egypt

1. Main reason for coming to Egypt

138. Overall, two main reasons were the most frequently reported by the majority of forced migrants—namely, “to ask for asylum/get refugee status” (56 percent), and “good living conditions” (31 percent), while other reasons accounted for the remaining 13 percent of the total. Asking for asylum/refugee status was the most frequently reported main reason by the majority of refugees from most countries, the only exception being reported by refugees from Syria where “good living conditions” was the leading main reason, cited by 53 percent, while asking for asylum (33 percent) ranked second as main reason for coming to Egypt.

2. Asylum applications

139. Around 98.4 percent applied for asylum to UNHCR in Egypt, including all forced migrants from Eritrea, Ethiopia and South Sudan. Ninety percent of asylum applicants received assistance for their asylum application, with 85 percent receiving such assistance from UNHCR and nearly 5 percent receiving it from NGOs.

3. Refugee status determination

140. Overall, 41 percent of asylum seekers received recognition of their refugee status, while 58 percent were still waiting for a decision on their asylum application. Only less than one percent of asylum applications were rejected. The proportion waiting for a decision was lowest among forced migrants from Iraq (38 percent) and it increased to between 45 percent and 55 percent among migrants from Somalia, Sudan, Eritrea, and Ethiopia, reaching a maximum among migrants from Syria (78 percent) and South Sudan (93 percent).

4. Assistance received since arrival

141. Almost two-thirds of refugees received assistance from persons or organizations since arrival in Egypt. The types of assistance received included financial help (46 percent), provision of health care (29 percent), food supplies (19 percent), and education (10 percent).

5. Work status

142. Overall, 53 percent of forced migrants were not working at the time of the survey, while the remaining 47 percent were working. The proportion reported to be working at the time of

the survey (47 percent) included 40 percent reported to be ‘unpaid family workers’, nearly 6 percent reported as ‘employers (hiring one or more employees)’, and one percent reported as ‘salaried employees’. The proportion of refugees who were not working at the time of the survey (53 percent) included 25 percent who were looking for work and 28 percent who were not looking for work.

D. Prospects and Intentions

143. Data were gathered on whether forced migrants intend to remain in Egypt, to return to their home countries, or to migrate to another country. Responses to questions on migration intentions are shaped by multiple, and possibly conflicting, factors and pressures. Decisions about staying or returning are not simply a personal issue as they can affect the life choices of other family members.

1. Plans for the future

144. A majority of 56 percent intend to move onwards to another country, 22 percent plan to return to their home country but under certain conditions, while 19 percent plan to stay in Egypt. The proportion intending to stay in Egypt is negligible among refugees from Eritrea and Ethiopia, and it increases to around 13 percent among refugees from Somalia and Sudan, and to 25 percent and 31 percent among refugees from Iraq and Syria, respectively.

145. The intention to move forward to another country was expressed by the vast majority of refugees from six of the seven countries covered, the only exception being the refugees from Syria, the vast majority of whom plan to move back home (52 percent) or stay in Egypt (31 percent). Thus, more than 94 percent of refugees from Eritrea and Ethiopia, 77 percent of refugees from Somalia and Sudan, and 62 percent of refugees from Iraq, plan to move onwards to another country.

2. Conditions for moving back to country of origin

146. Refugees who plan to move back home under certain conditions (22 percent of the total) were asked about the nature of such conditions. Virtually all said they would consider moving back home if safety and security are restored. Additional conditions reported by refugees include moving back home only if they can get back their belongings (housing, land, etc.), cited by 9 percent, and if schools for their children are functioning (3 percent).

3. Intention of family members left behind to move to Egypt

147. Refugees were asked if any member or relative of their families residing abroad have the intention to move in the near future to join them in Egypt. Around 21 percent said ‘yes’, 66 percent said ‘no’, while the remaining 13 percent were unsure.

4. Advice to relatives back home regarding moving abroad

148. Finally, forced migrants were asked if they would advise relatives and friends residing in

their country of origin to move to Egypt, or to another country, or not to move abroad. Nearly 45 percent of respondents would advise a move to Egypt, 54 percent would advise a move to another country, while only one percent would advise relatives back home not to move abroad.

149. By country of origin, the results reveal two tendencies among refugees with regard to advising relatives. The first is to advise a ‘move to Egypt’ that would be given by the vast majority of refugees from Syria and a majority of refugees from Iraq. The second tendency is to advise a ‘move to another country’ that would be given by the vast majority of refugees from Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan.

VII. Concluding Remarks

150. A spectrum of migration patterns in Egypt has been described. The 2013 Egypt-HIMS has imparted a sense of the breadth of the international migration experience in Egypt and of the underlying demographic and socio-economic processes as well. The differentials in these migration patterns can be broadly related to ranges in education, urbanization, work status, living standards, income distribution, and many other factors that characterize aspects of the milieu in which the people of Egypt live and function.

The findings presented here also indicate that the methodology of the MED-HIMS Programme is an important tool for assessing certain dimensions of international migration and mobility, and that the relevance of the MED-HIMS Programme lies in the provision of data on the determinants and consequences of international migration and mobility that cannot sufficiently or efficiently be collected by other methods.