

# THE LEFT BEHIND

Quantitative and  
Qualitative Study on the  
Impact of Cross-Border  
Parental Migration on  
Families Left Behind in  
Siem Reap Province,  
Cambodia.

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## Executive Summary

Within recent years, Cambodia has experienced an exponential peak in cross-border labour migration. Migration for the purpose of labour attracts many Cambodian people each year through large financial incentives, including parents, who long to reduce the financial constraints on their family but lack the skills and education to gain employment in their home country. Some countries abroad also rely heavily on labour migrants to boost their work force and improving their economy. Much research has been conducted into migrant workers experience within the host country, however little empirical research has been conducted on the impact of migration on the families left behind in their country of origin. This report contributes to filling this gap in research on the adverse effects of migration on those left behind, specifically children and the substitute caregiver in the parent's absence. This report also examines whether the initial financial incentive is actually benefiting communities at home.

This reported was formed by one main survey that captured the voice of 146 caregivers from 10 villages across Siem Reap Province, Cambodia, who care for 301 children that have been left behind. This data was collected between March-November 2018. The findings of this report are divided into three sections focusing on those involved and impacted throughout the process of migration; the child left behind, the migrant worker parent and the substitute primary caregiver. The section focused on the left behind child looks at the age of the children, their access to education and the implications of parental absence on their health and behaviour. In regard to the migrant working parent, the section analyses their family/marital status, remittance sent, the limitations on that remittance (ie. loans/debt), communication between them and the child and finally, their desire to return to Cambodia. Finally, the primary caregiver section focuses on the carers relationship to the child, age, marital status and the time period of caregiving.

This study concludes that overall, the impacts of parental migration on the families left behind are negative, with the only trade-off of financial benefit subsequently limited due to the high level of micro-finance loans and the embeddedness of 'migra-loans' into the culture of communities that lack investment and employment opportunities.

The results of this study found that all parents who had migrated for labour purposes did so to Thailand, there were no other countries recorded as a destination. The findings of this study indicated that children over the age of 15 were more likely to migrate abroad alongside their parents, with only 7 per cent of the children involved in this research being aged 15 and over. It is assumed that this is due to the legal working age of Cambodia being 15, therefore children migrated with their parents for the purposes of work. In regard to education, only a low percentage of 11 per cent were not attending school, this study also found no marginal difference between male and female school attendance rate. Female children however, were reported to not be attending school due to their need to assist with the house work. Whereas male children had predominantly stopped studying due to no longer wanting to attend, sickness and injury.

The major variable in school attendance however, was found in the age of the children. 47 per cent of those children not attending school were aged 15 years old and over, demonstrating that older children with parental absence are at higher risk of dropping out of school.

The largest impact of parental absence, was found in the child's behaviour and health. With 42 per cent of respondents reporting that the child's health was a current concern to them and children with pre-existing health conditions/illnesses (ie. diabetes) were in majority of cases going untreated. Specifically, male children were worse in regard to behaviour, with many carers reporting that once they begin to mature they are unable to be controlled.

Further, 14 per cent of parents who had migrated abroad were single mothers, with less than 1% single fathers and the remaining percentile being a married couple consisting of a father and mother. It is assumed that parents who migrate abroad for labour purposes are doing so with the purpose of easing the financial constraints placed on their family household. In some instances, there exists a trade-off between this economic benefit and the negative impact on their child's psychosocial well-being. The results from this study however, show that this trade-off is limited due to the high accumulation of debt, with 72 per cent of carers reporting that the migrant working parent was currently paying off a loan. Further to this, 83 per cent of the single mothers working abroad were currently paying off a loan.

Although 86 per cent of parents were reported to be sending remittance, much of the remittance received was sent ‘irregularly’, meaning that there was no linearity to the frequency in which they would receive money and, in some cases, over a year apart. When the irregular remittance was combined with those that never receive any money, they reach a total of 41 per cent. An encouraging amount of 35 per cent of carers receive remittance in monthly installments, with another 18 per cent receiving every 3 months.

Carers whom receive money in irregular installments have a combined average of 1,228 BAHT, which equals approximately 37.26 USD. The monthly remittance reaches the highest average of 3,328 BAHT which equals approximately 101.07 USD. Out of the 14 per cent of parents who were not sending any remittance, 73 per cent were currently paying off a loan. These results demonstrating that although some families experience some financial benefit, much of this advantage is limited due to the parents needing to pay back a current micro-finance loan. Single mothers are faced with significantly harder financial constraints as opposed to married couples.

Finally, 81 per cent of the substitute primary caregivers were found to be the grandparent of the child, with the remaining 29 per cent being either the aunt or uncle. The average age of the grandparent was 58 years old, with 95 per cent of respondents reporting their health was a current major concern to them. The average time period in which either the grandparent or aunt/uncle spent as the primary caregiver of the child whilst the parent/s were working abroad is 6.5 years. Further to this, on average, a carer looks after a total of two left behind children, the largest number of left behind children being cared for within this study was nine children and smallest, one child. Note that these numbers are inclusive of only children left behind by cross-border migration and does not include any other children within the substitute caregivers care.

Where feasible, the analysis of this report is disaggregated by gender and the individual village findings can be found within the appendix. This report concludes with some key observations and recommendations geared towards counteracting the negative impacts of cross-border migration on those left behind and reducing the unwanted need for cross-border labour migration.

## Introduction

Within the last two decades, unprecedented migration flows in many parts of the world, including South East Asia, have caused large impacts on family structures and home communities of migrants (Lam, Eee, Anh & Yeoh, 2013). Specific reasons for migrating vary, however the overarching driving factor is the potential for improved economic circumstances and the overall quest for a ‘better life’ (de Haas, 2010). Cambodia has been described as a both a source, destination and transit country for migration. Although Cambodia has experienced relatively steady economic growth, industries such as construction and tourism are experiencing the majority of development, leaving a major gap between these and other industries.

Majority of these industries are situated in Phnom Penh, which has caused major domestic migration for employment. Alternatively, many are looking towards cross-border migration due to both closer proximity and higher salaries. Over 1 million Cambodians migrate to Thailand for work, along with other destinations such as, South Korea and Malaysia (TAF, 2011).

Academics and policy makers have primarily focused on the economic impacts of migration; however, little research has been done on the effects of migration in both the families and communities left behind. Due to this unprecedented rise in work migration and separation within families, concerns are growing over the psychological and psychosocial impacts this would have on the child left behind in the home country. These children are often left in the care of others, primarily, the grandparents or other relatives (Asis, 2006). Without physical contact and communication between the child and parent, there exists a high risk of negative emotional impact on the adolescent, this in turn, leading to many other social impacts, specifically, education (Cassidy, 2008). Subsequently, the caregivers of the child while the parents are absent also face significant strain on both their financial income and health.

Migration can lead to separation within families for a number of reasons, such as, strict entry policies, financial restraints and limited access to public services in the destination country (Valtolina & Colombo, 2012). A 2017 qualitative study by UNICEF examines the impact of migration in Phnom Penh and target provinces (Battambang, Poipet of Banteay Meanchey, Prey

Veng and Siem Reap). This study stated that the most prevalent reason for migrating is for financial benefit and in many cases, it was found that the family had high accumulation of debt for various reasons. This study further reported that age was a large factor in whether children migrated alongside their parents, with children younger than 15 years old being more likely to stay behind with a family member, as opposed to children who were 15 and over, who often migrated with their parents to work with them (Creamer et al., 2017).

The effects of parental absence on children is complex, with evidence suggesting that although the economic advantages may be beneficial, families with disrupted parental care are of higher risk of different psychosocial and development issues (Zhao et al., 2017). These include, depression and anxiety, behavioural issues, injury and other health ramifications (Shen et al., 2009). Along with these major psychosocial ramifications, there exists sufficient evidence that due to lack of supervision, children left behind have lower academic performance and higher chance of dropping out of school (McKenzie & Rapoport, 2011), plus, a subsequent increase in domestic work (de la Garza, 2010).

Within Cambodia however, the prospective of reducing financial restraints on family households through the means of migrating for work is not without its own limitations. According to data presented, remittance sent to Cambodia has been overall positive. In 2015, Aceda Bank and Western Union, two of Cambodia's leading institutions for cross-border money transfers, reported a 10 per cent increase over the previous year. Despite recording a drop-in remittance from Malaysia and South Korea, the \$333.8 million USD increase was largely due to a surge in money transfer by Cambodians working in Thailand, with a 47 per cent increase of remittance from Thailand in 2015 (World Bank, 2016). Remittance is a major part of labour migration for Cambodians, however, the positive impacts of this remittance are limited by the expansion of micro-credit loans. Micro Finance Institution Loans (MFI) have incurred both unexpected and overlooked developmental consequences.

The expansion of microcredit over the past three decades has been described as 'the microfinance revolution' (Robinson, 2001), an unexpected result of this revolution however, is the way in which microcredits work in tandem with international migration. In households where

microcredit is used in combination with migration, this is referred to as ‘migra-loans’ (Bylander, 2014). Households may use MFI loans to either finance migration, borrow for immediate investment and then repay loans through remittance from working abroad, or take out a large loan with immediate investment to build a house etc. and also cover the cost of migration (Bylander, 2014).

Assets and credit at MFIs in Cambodia have risen more than 10-fold since 2010 and according to the World Bank, the average loan size in Cambodia is now among the highest in the world. This average increasing from 200 USD in 2004 to 1,000 USD in 2014, at twice the pace of per-capita income. The National Bank of Cambodia reported that at the end of 2017, approximately 2 million borrowers owed 2.8 billion USD (Heijmans, 2018).

This study offers insights into these major issues for both the migrant workers and those left behind (whose data was collected from March-November, 2018), providing deep analysis on the both positive and negative impacts of migration. This study is structured around three key stakeholders: (1) the child left behind, (2) the migrant worker and (3) the primary caregiver of the left behind child.

The objectives of this report are to:

- 1) Provide both quantitative and qualitative data on the effects of parental cross-border migration on both the left behind child and the substitute primary caregiver.
- 2) Collect data on remittance received by families in Cambodia and analyse the constraints of microcredit loans.
- 3) Identify key recommendations on how to improve the lives of families left behind and reduce unwanted migration.

## Methodology

The main survey for this study was conducted between March-November 2018 to determine the positive and negative impacts of migration on families, specifically the children left behind and the substitute caregiver, and to establish quantifiable data on remittance and micro-credit loans. This research held interviews with a total of 146 carers, who at the time of surveying, were currently caring for a total of 301 left behind children, with a total of 329 parents working abroad – 187 mothers and 142 fathers. Interviews took place in Siem Reap Province in six districts and 10 different villages. These villages being: Kouk Lhong, Kilo Ta Chhuem, Noko Kraw, Ou Kroam, Ou Trach, Plung, Prasat Cha, Praval, Totueng Tngai and Ta Yon Village.

Sampling was conducted through a mixture of respondent-driven and purposive methods with permission and support from each commune and village leader. Interviews were based on a structure instrument developed by JRS, covering questions relating to the child, migrant worker parent and the substitute carer. There was one form of interview, this being, structured interviews with carers of the left behind children.

The research team was composed of three members – two Cambodian research assistants and one expatriate research consultant. A one-day training workshop was conducted to familiarize the research assistants with the study and the technological aspects of the surveying tools. The research consultant was in charge of quality control and answering any on-site research questions. Following each interview there would be a team debrief and responses were checked in order to minimize errors and/or confusion in data.

Each interview was conducted one-on-one and began with an explanation of the research purpose and how the data was going to be used. This research was participatory in nature, with respondents having had the opportunity to terminate the interview, ask questions or raise concerns at any point and time. Before beginning each interview, the data collectors confirmed their willingness to participate in the study. These interviews were conducted in the local language, Khmer, and then translated directly into the survey form in English.

Table 1: Main Structure of the Two Surveys

<i>Main Topics</i>	<i>Caregiver Interview</i>	<i>Village Leader Interview</i>
<i>Left Behind Child/ren</i>	Education, behaviour and health of child	Knowledge of children left behind and the issues they face.
<i>Migrant Worker/Parent</i>	Remittance sent to family left behind, current migra-loans, contact/communication with child and desire to return to Cambodia.	Number of people in village working abroad. Reasons for migration.
<i>Primary Caregiver</i>	Age, relationship to child, time period of caregiving.	Health and living conditions of carer.

This study is generally disaggregated by village and district. This key variable and their sample sizes are outlined in table 2.

Table 2: Variable of Disaggregation including Sample Sizes.

<i>Districts</i>	<i>Siem Reap</i>	<i>Angkor Thom</i>	<i>Puok</i>	<i>Soutnikum</i>	<i>Krolanh</i>	
<i>Villages</i>	Noko Krav	Plung	Prasat Cha	Praval	Kouk Lhong	
<i>Interviews</i>	1	2	2	12	13	
<i>Districts</i>	<i>Chi Kreng District</i>					<i>Total</i>
<i>Villages</i>	Ta Yon	Totueng Tngai	Ou Trach	Ou Kroam	Kilo Ta Chhuem	10
<i>Interviews</i>	8	12	51	34	11	146

The sample sizes are indicated for each figure in the report. Only valid responses are considered for the sample sizes and subsequent analyses.

## Limitations

The sample size of 146 caregiver's is relatively small, with the geographical spread is limited to 10 villages, six districts and one province. The findings can hence not be taken to represent the overall numbers and experience of left behind children, migrant worker parents and substitute primary caregivers within Siem Reap. Similarly, the sample size of 146 respondents in the caregiver survey was insufficient to generate findings at 95 percent confidence level with a 5 percent margin of error.

Further limitations being that interviews were spoken in Khmer and then translated directly in written form into English on the survey. It is possible that subtleties of meaning were lost in translation, due to defining contextual use and meanings being a difficulty. Along with this, the research team relied heavily on the knowledge of village leaders to invite/gather caregivers of children left behind due to their parents migrating abroad.

Within this study there were no record of migrant worker parents migrating to countries other than Thailand. Thailand is within close proximity to Siem Reap, therefore there is far greater opportunity for workers to travel to that destination. This study was therefore unable to compare the remittance sent from contrasting countries.

Finally, a related problem in observational studies may also be one of reverse causation. Reverse causation exists where the observed outcome is actually causing the migration event, rather than the other way around. Within this study, observations were taken after migration had already occurred, thus researchers could be observing the circumstances which precipitated the migration, rather than observing the effects that the specific migration had on families left behind.

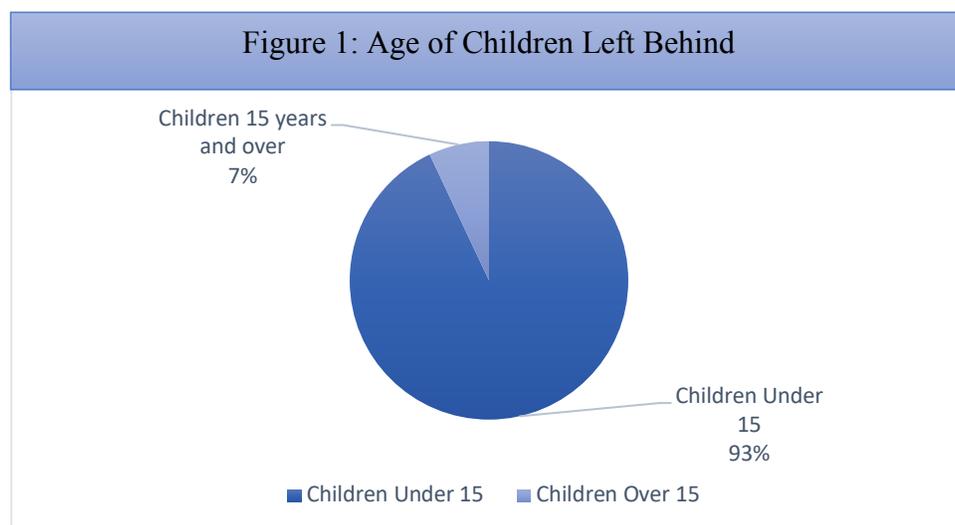
## Summary of Findings-

Within this study, all respondents reported that the parents of the child left behind migrated for labour purposes to Thailand. There was no percentage of respondents that reported any other destination country. Furthermore, villages in closer proximity to Siem Reap City displayed lower levels of left behind children, compared with villages located further away. Data on the number of left behind children according to village, commune and district can be found in the appendix.

### Children Left Behind

#### Age

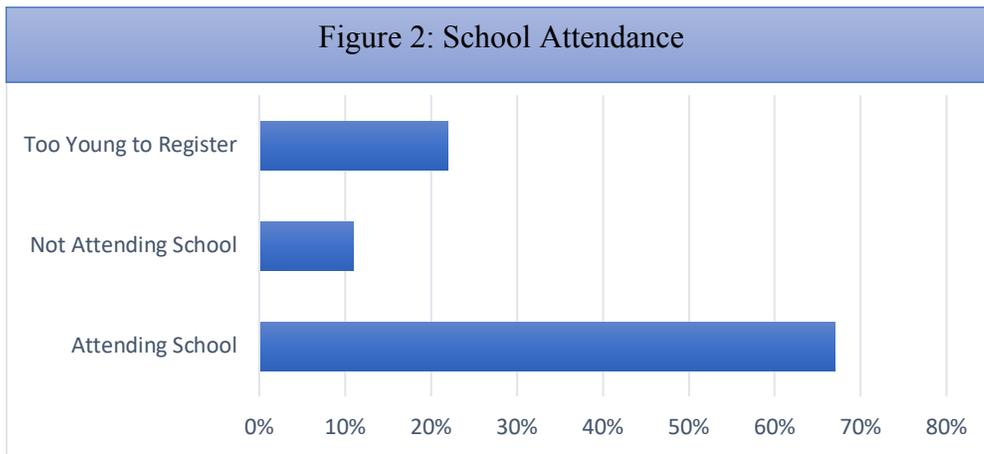
Age appears to be a key deciding factor in whether children accompany their parents in migrating for work or stay behind. A study released by UNICEF in 2017 found that children aged 15 years and over are more likely to accompany their parents, as opposed to children who are under the age of 15 who are more likely to stay behind (Creamer et al., 2017). The minimum working age in Cambodia is 15 years old and this is believed to be a causing factor in this decision-making process.



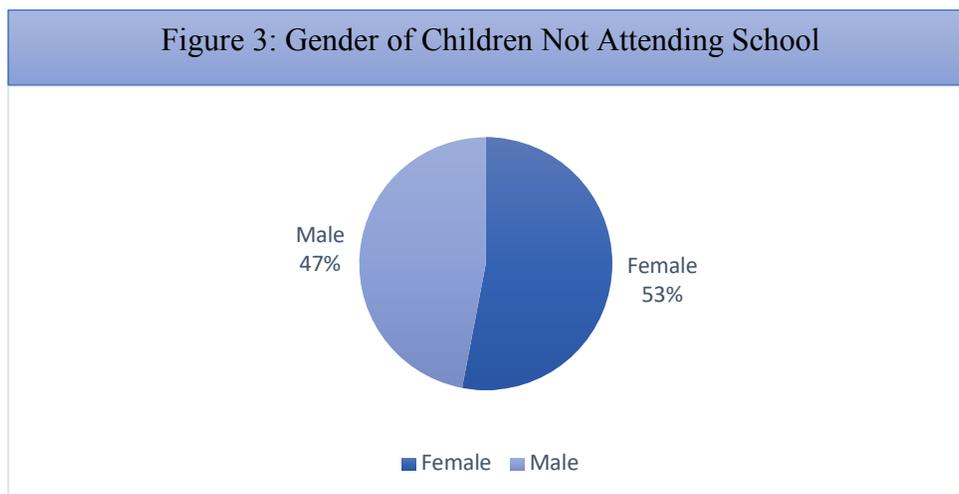
There is a marked difference between the prevalence of children under 15 left behind and children over 15. This data supports the notion that children are more likely to accompany their parents once they reach the Cambodian legal working age.

## Education

A 2014 study conducted by Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI) found that children with parents who have migrated for work are less likely to attend school and more likely to drop out (Hing et al., 2014). Children usually begin school at age 6 or 7. The constitution of Cambodia promulgates free compulsory education for nine years, along with this, as stated previously the legal working age is 15 years old.



The data indicates that 67 per cent of children involved in the study were attending school, with 22 per cent being too young to register. Only a small portion, 11 per cent were not attending school.

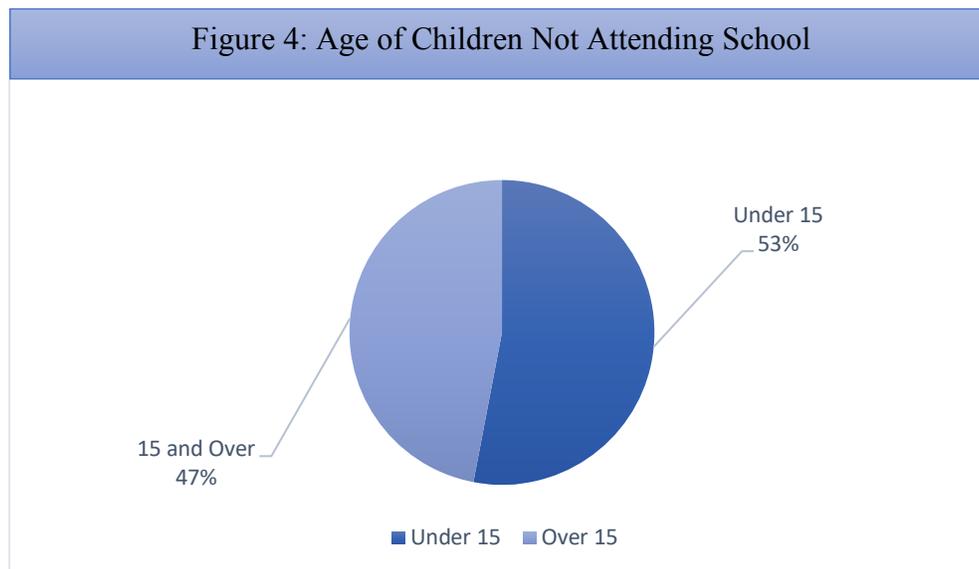


When the percentage of children not attending school is analysed according to gender, it is clear that there is no marginal difference between the two. The key difference between the two however, lies within the reason as to why they are not attending school. According to the carers, majority of male children had stopped studying because they no longer wanted to attend school and the supplementary reason being either sickness or injury. For female children however, almost all had stopped studying due to their need to assist with house work. Carers of these female children stating,

*“I am happiest with her (left behind child) when I come home from work and she has already cooked dinner”.*

Or

*“She (left behind child) needs to stay home and look after her sick aunty and clean the house. Only she can do it, girls are better at housework than boys”*



The data indicates that gender does not play a major factor in school attendance, what it does indicate however, is that age does. From the small portion of 11 per cent who are not attending school, 47 per cent of these children aged 15 and over. There is a considerably smaller amount of left behind children aged 15 and over (7 per cent), yet they make up almost half of the children not attending school. The predominant reason for children 15 years and over not attending school

was financial reasons, with the child also being expected to enter the labour force themselves or assist with household work.

## Health and Behaviour

With the absence of any parental figure in the household, it appears that both the health and behaviour of the left behind child suffers. 42 per cent of respondents reported that the child's health was a current concern to them. Children with diabetes were reportedly suffering the worst in regard to their health, with one child refusing to take their medicine causing him intense pain and limiting his ability to communicate. This child was not attending school due to his health issues, with the carer stating,

*“I do not know what to do. He (the child) does not listen to me. So I do nothing.”*

Within another family, a young child who is mute, was not receiving any education despite there being institutions for children with disabilities in the city. The carer who looks after the child, however, has no plans to enrol him in any school for people with disabilities until his parents return.

*“I will wait for his parents to come back from Thailand. They will enroll him (into the school for people with disabilities). I do not know when they will come back.”*

Finally, behaviour of left behind children, especially those 15 years and over, was a major concern and issue to carers. With carers reporting that children 15 and over were harder to control and did not listen to them. Along with this, male children were found to have far greater behaviour issues than compared with females. As stated previously, male children's main reason for not attending school was that they no longer wanted to study and the carer was not able to make the child attend school. Due to lack of parental presence, male children are seemingly struggling with both motivation and respect for authority.

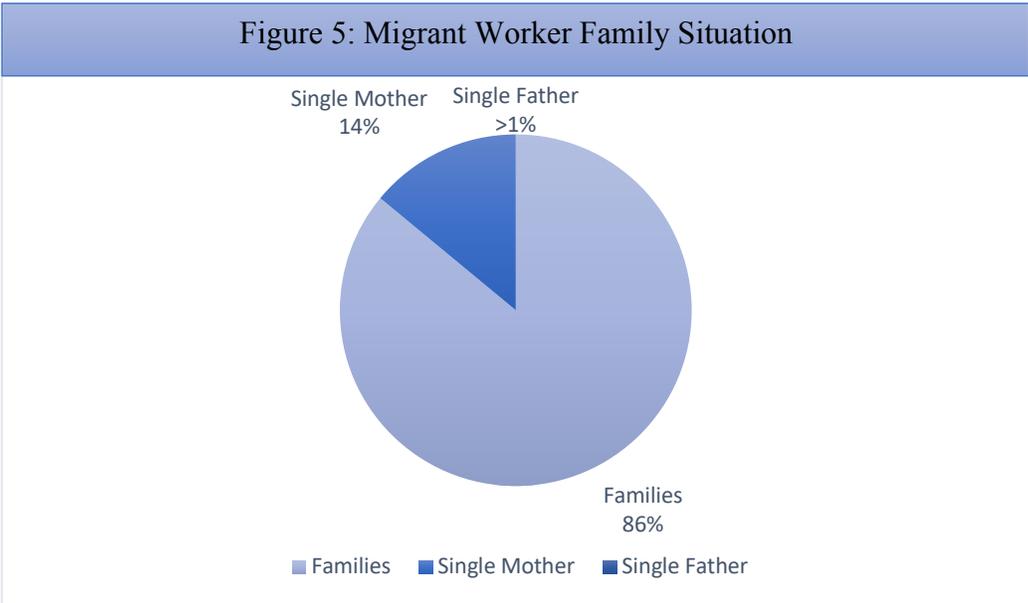
One respondent reported that the parents send money directly to the child and not the carer. The carer has no idea how much money the child has received or what they spend it on.

*“I do not know where he (the child) goes at night. He never listens to me.”*

## Migrant Worker

### Family Situation/Marital Status

The feminization of labour has grown significantly within the last two decades, thus provoking greater female migration. For many families, the reason for migrating is often financial, this theory was supported by the UNICEF report on the impact of migration on communities (Creamer et al., 2017). For women particularly, when faced with a divorce or death of their husband, they are left with minimal money, limited employable skills and more often than not, are left as the primary caregiver of the child.



The vast majority of parents migrating abroad for work are going as a couple and leaving both children behind. There is a notable trend however, in the rise of single mothers leaving their children home and migrating into the labour force. Carers of the left behind children reported that this was due to financial constraints placed on the family after the father either died or the couple separated. Carers also reported that these single mothers had very little education and employable skills, causing them to be unable to attain employment in Cambodia.

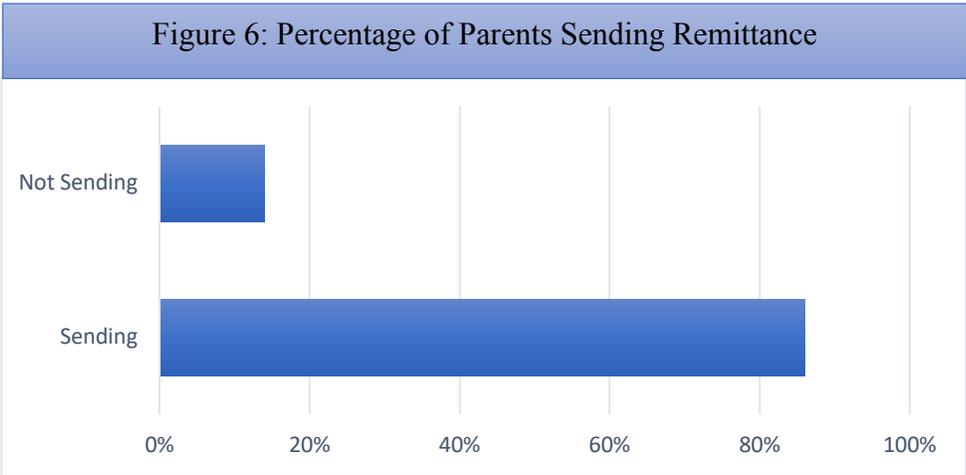
*“He (the husband) sold the land and took all the money”*

or

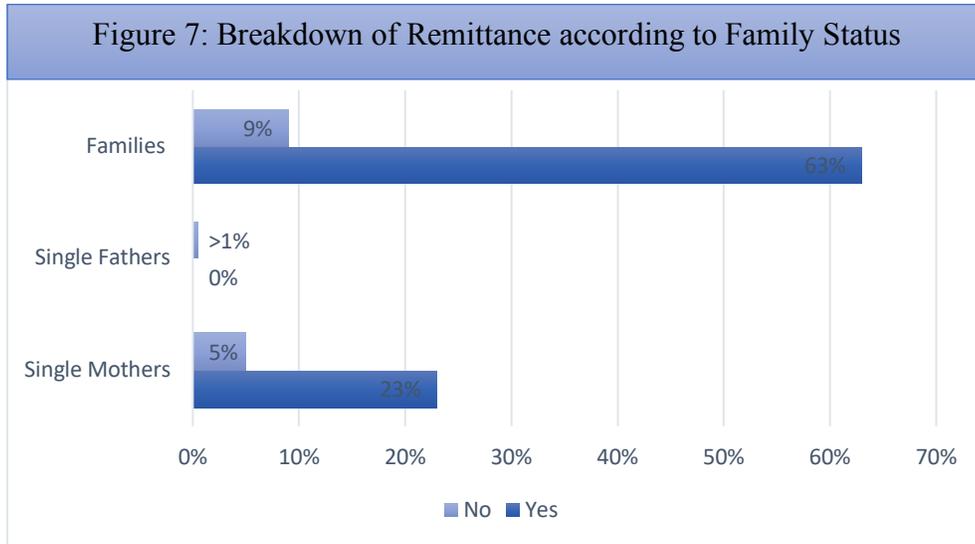
*“She (the mother) did not want to leave, but she had to”.*

Remittance:

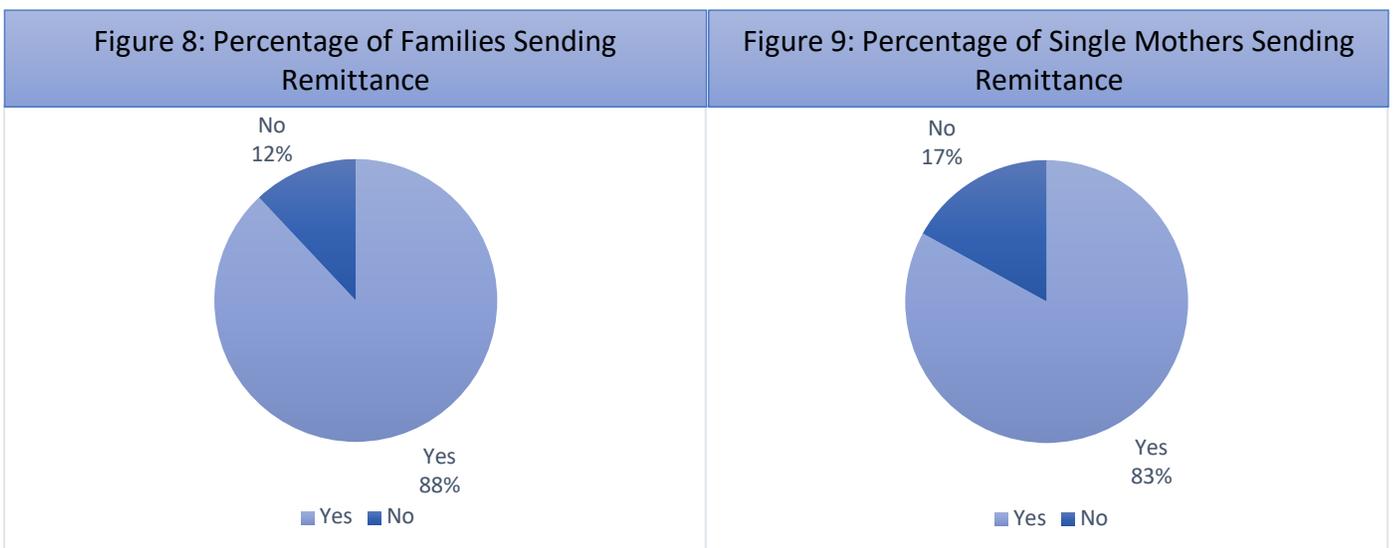
International migration can have both positive and negative effects on non-migrant children in the home country, moreover, in this recent decade there has been an increase in means of sending remittance from the migrant worker to the family left behind. This is the main goal of parents who migrate for work, to gain a large sum of money and send frequent remittance back to their children in the hopes of relaxing the household budget constraint and in turn, increasing child health and education.



It is evident that the majority (86%) of carers have been receiving some form of remittance during the time period that they have been caring for the left behind child/ren.

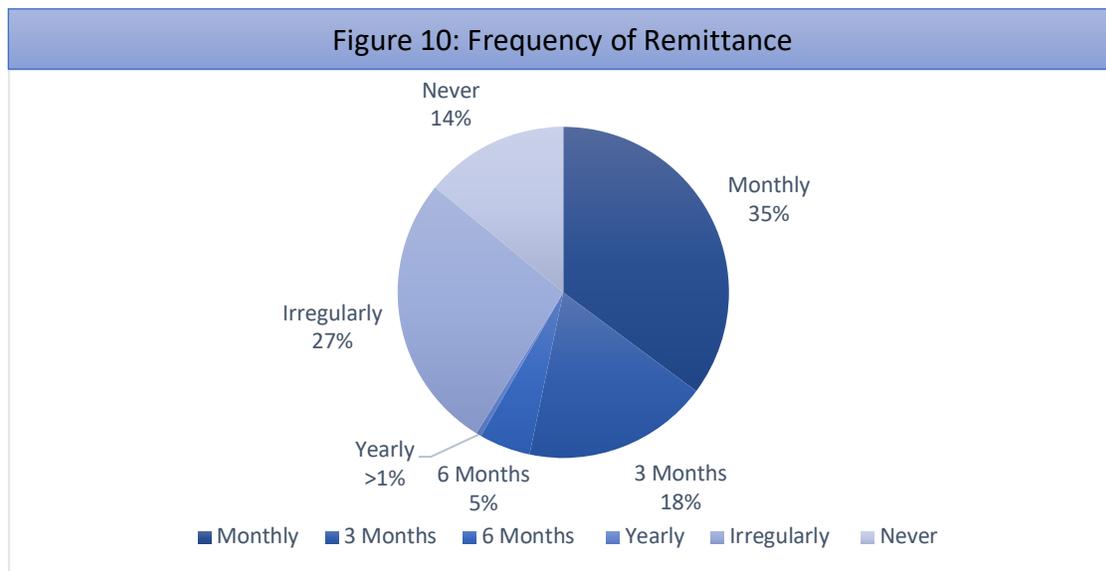


From further analysis of the data, it is evident that out of all the carers interviewed, 23 per cent were receiving remittance from single mothers, 63 per cent were receiving from both the mother and the father. The remaining 5 per cent of single mothers and 9 per cent of families were not sending any remittance. There were very minimal single migrant working fathers, yet none of which were sending remittance.



Out of all the families (mother and father) who were working abroad, 88 per cent were sending remittance, with the remaining 12 per cent never sending any money. Single mothers displayed similar results, despite the fact that a single mother only receives a singular income, with 83 per cent sending remittance and the remaining 17 per cent never sending.

The frequency in which remittance was sent and the amount, however, is an important factor when deliberating whether migration is in fact having a positive impact in reducing the financial constraints of each household.



**Table 3: Average Money Sent**

<i>Frequency of Remittance</i>	<i>Average Money Sent</i>
	<i>Sent (Thai BAHT)</i>
<i>Monthly</i>	3,328
<i>3 Months</i>	1,344
<i>6 Months</i>	857
<i>Yearly</i>	N/A
<i>Irregularly</i>	1,228
<i>Never</i>	0
<b><i>Total Average Money Sent</i></b>	<b>1,689.25 BAHT</b>

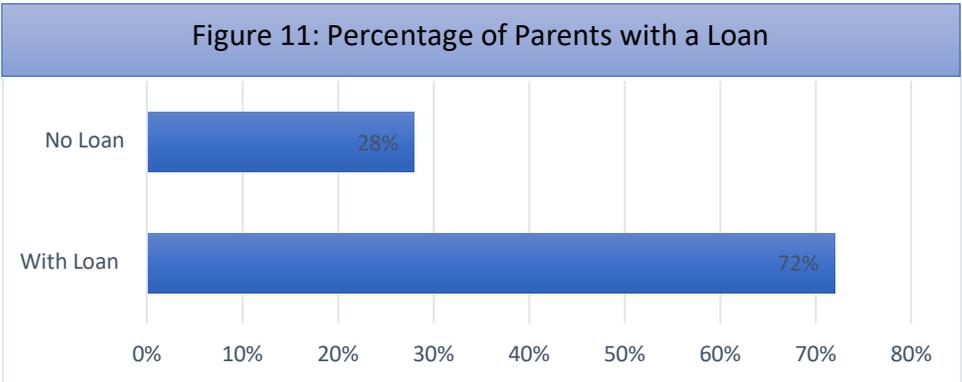
Many carers described the remittance they received to be ‘irregular’ meaning that there was no linearity to the frequency in which they would receive money. Some carers reporting that these received remittances could be over a year apart. When the irregular remittance is combined with those that never receive any money, they reach a total of 41 per cent. An encouraging amount of 35 per cent of carers receive remittance in monthly installments, with another 18 per cent receiving every 3 months.

Carers who receive money in irregular installments have a combined average of 1,228 BAHT, which equals approximately 37.26 USD. The monthly remittance reaches the highest average of 3,328 BAHT which equals approximately 101.07 USD. This is an encouraging statistic for those receiving monthly installments, it is clear however, that those receiving installments less frequently than monthly, are not receiving enough money to truly lift financial constraints in the home communities.

From this data it is clear, that for the majority of parents working abroad, the main initial purpose of migrating in order to lift financial constraints on the family is not being fulfilled for the majority.

### Migra-Loans

Many of the carers interviewed reported that the parents of the child were currently paying off a loan. Small loans have a large impact on whether parents are able to send money back to their child. For many parents migrating for financial reasons, this was brought on due to the accumulation of debt and inability to pay back their loans within Cambodia.



The data indicates that the overwhelming majority (72 per cent) of migrant workers with left behind children were currently paying off a loan. Note that a small percent within the 28 per cent of parents without current debt, were reported to have been paying off a loan in the past. It is unclear the percentage of those working abroad that migrated due to a pre-existing loan as opposed to those that came into debt due to the cost of their migration.

**Figure 12:**  
Parents who DO NOT  
Send Remittance: With  
and Without Loan



As mentioned previously, a small portion of 14 per cent of parents were sending no remittance. From further analysis of this data it is evident that within that small percentile, 73 per cent of parents who were not sending any remittance were currently paying back a loan. The remaining 27 per cent were not sending any remittance and also did not have a current loan.

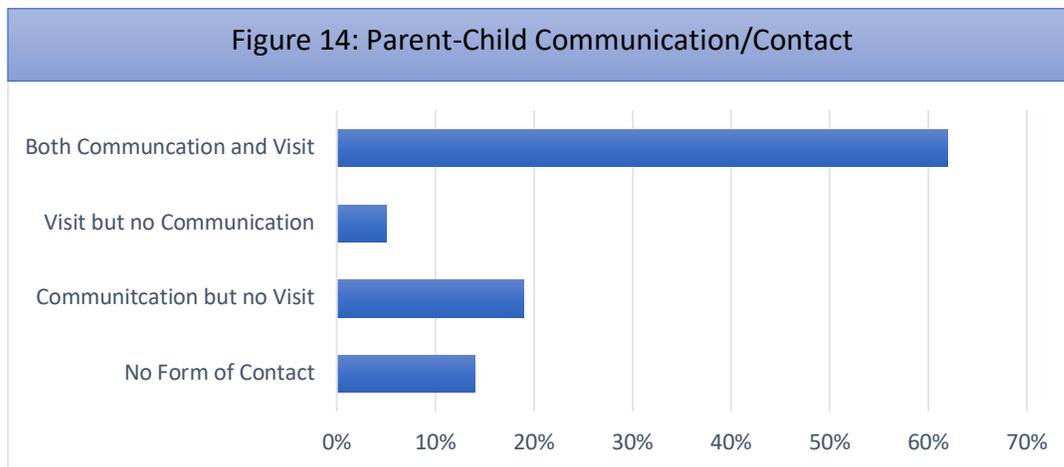
**Figure 13:**  
Percentage of Single  
Mothers with a Loan



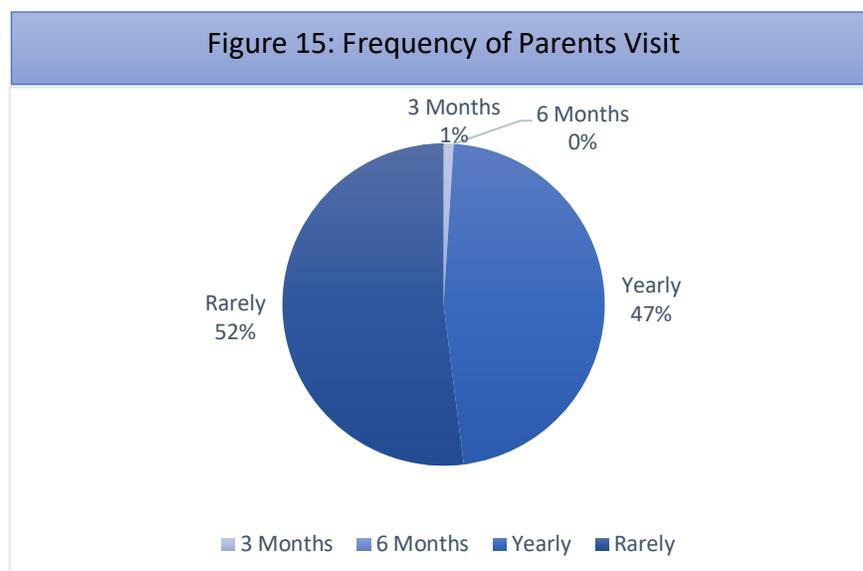
Single mothers had significantly higher levels of loans as opposed to families, with 83% of single mothers currently making repayments towards their debt. With little to no financial or employment assistance following a divorce or death of their husband, women are left in the significantly harder socio-economic situation.

## Communication/Contact between Migrant Worker and Child

The absence of both parents throughout the adolescent stages of a child's life can have detrimental effects to their development. Many children can go without seeing or communicating with their parents for long periods of time, causing children to miss out on any form of parental presence.



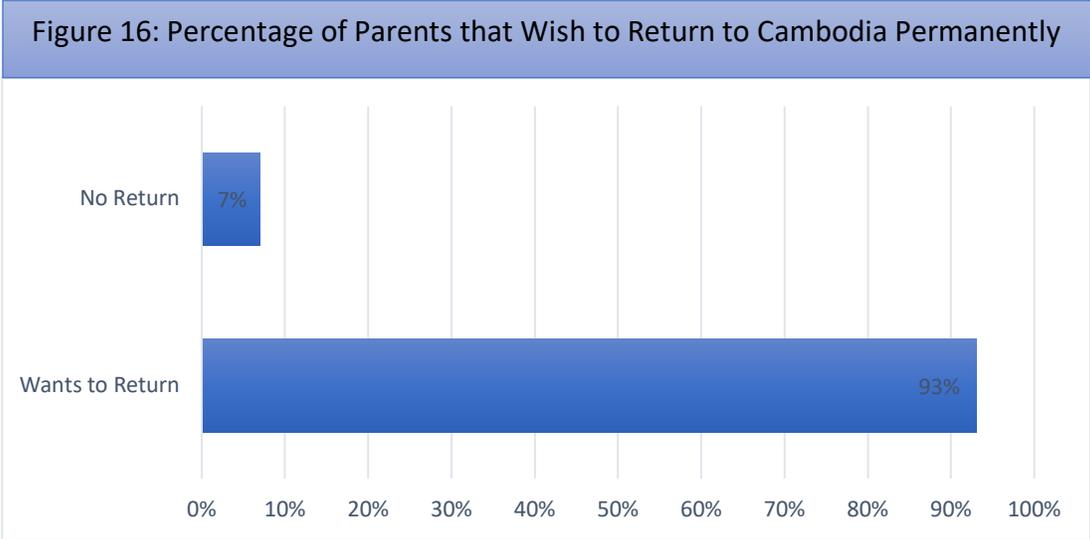
Encouragingly, 62 per cent of respondents reported that the parent/s both visit the child physically and communicate via phone call and other means. A combined total of 33 per cent of respondents reported that the child received no physical visit at any stage within the time period the parent/s have worked abroad, however, 19 per cent of this total did receive some form of communication.



A combined total of 67 per cent of carers interviewed reported that the child did in fact receive a physical visit from the parent/s at some stage. The data further indicates however, that the majority (52 per cent) of these visits happened on rare occasions, this meaning that visits were at random times and over one year apart. Second to this at 47 percent were visits taking place on a yearly basis.

Therefore, despite the encouraging evidence of 67 per cent of children receiving a physical visit, 52 per cent of these take place on rare occasion and over one year apart, with almost all of the remaining respondents reporting that the parent/s visit once a year. 14 per cent of children received no form of contact, this lack of parental presence and communication can prove detrimental to the development of a child within adolescent stages.

### Parent’s Desire to Return to Cambodia

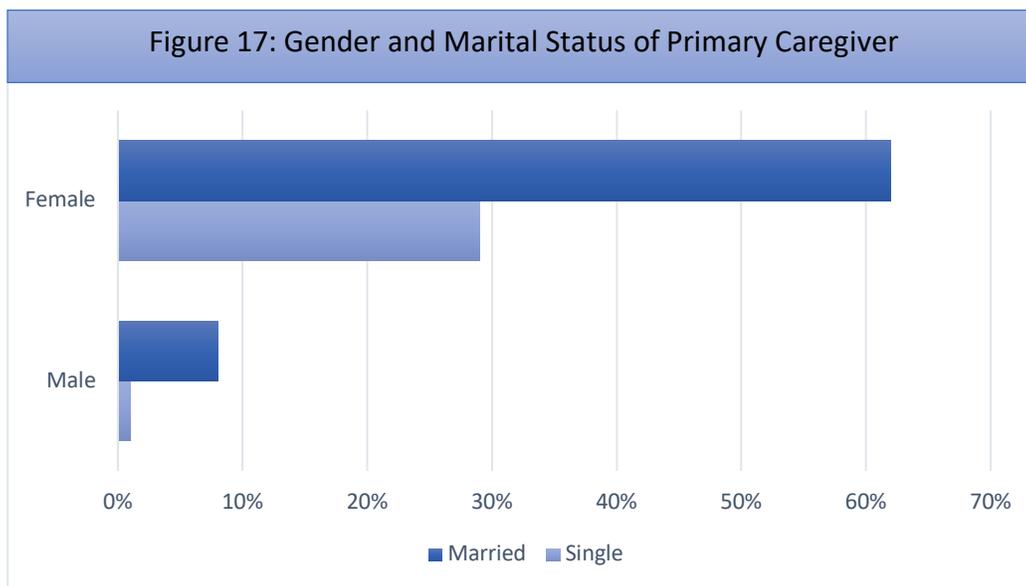


Data indicates that the overwhelming majority (93 per cent) wish to return to Cambodia permanently, stating that it is Cambodia where they want to both live and work. Only a very small percentile (7 per cent) had no plan or desire to return, permanently leaving the child in the care of either the grandparent or aunt/uncle. This desire to return permanently to Cambodia can be said to impact the parent/s decision to either take the child with them or leave them behind.

## Primary Caregiver

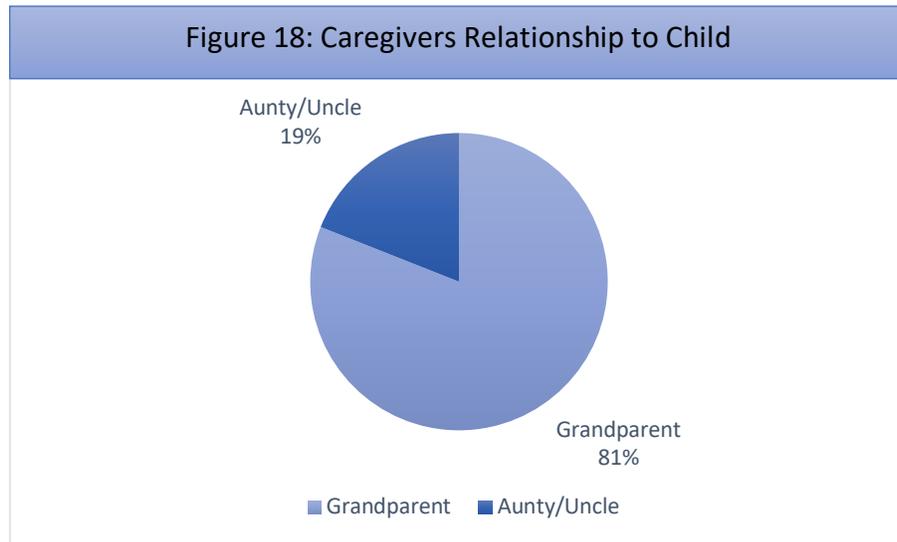
The primary caregiver of the left behind child is faced with the difficulty of not only needing to financially support the child, but also assist in their personal development. With 64 per cent of respondents reporting that they receive no assistance of any kind from anyone within their village.

### Gender and Marital Status Situation



A combined total of 30 per cent of carers were reportedly single and had no support from a marital partner. Furthermore, 91 per cent of primary caregivers to the left behind child/ren are female.

## Caregivers Relationship to Child



81 per cent of caregivers are the grandparent of the child, with a smaller percentage of 19 per cent, being under the care of an aunty and/or uncle. There were no percentage caregivers reported as neighbours or siblings.

## Age of Caregiver

**Table 4: Average Age of Caregivers**

<i>Average Age of Grandparent</i>	58 years old
<i>Average Age of Aunty/Uncle</i>	34 years old

The average age of the grandparents in this study is 58 years old, majority struggling with health issues of their own. With the Cambodian life expectancy being 69.4 years old (World Health Rankings, 2018), the average age of 58 indicates that carers are in the elderly stages of their life span. Moreover, access to health care in impoverished villages is extremely limited, increasing

their risk of fatal illness. 95 per cent of carers reported that their health was the current biggest concern to them. Often, these carers are the only person available and willing to care for the child.

*“If I die, no one will be here to look after the children”*

Or

*“If me or the child gets sick, we have no hope”*

Time Period of Caregiving

Table 5: Average Time Period of Caregiving	
Average time caregiver has been looking after child	6.5 years

Finally, the average time in which the caregiver had been caring for at least one left behind child, is 6.5 years. This is a significant time period that not only the caregiver has needed to care for the child, but also a substantial period of parental absence for an adolescent. For children under the age of 18, who are currently undergoing key developmental changes, 6.5 years is an alarmingly long-time period.

## Observations and Recommendations

### Data/Research

Evidently, there exists some qualitative data available on the impacts of migration on families left behind, however, very minimal quantitative data exists on these impacts. Within Cambodia specifically, there is little to no quantitative data available on the number of children left behind due to cross-border labour migration.

- The results of this report have demonstrated strong support for the need for more qualitative and quantitative data on this issue and promotes a strong recommendation for the continuation of research on the impacts of migration on those left behind.

### Education

The results within this study strongly supported UNICEF's theory that children who are aged 15 and over are more likely to migrate with their parents, often times accompanying them for purposes of labour. It is also evident that children who are 15 and over and are left behind, are at a higher risk of dropping out of school to either assist with the house work or join the labour workforce themselves, to help further alleviate the constraints on the household income.

- From this, it is evident that there is a need for tailor services for older migrant left behind children (15 to 18 years old), such as night classes, part-time study etc. This would help ensure that older left behind children are able to complete their basic education.

In general, this report found that only a small percentage of children who were not attending school, however, of those children who were not attending, the most common reason was the need for the child to assist with the house work. In many of these cases the child and carer were open to re-registering for school when they had some assistance to do so.

## Migra-loans

It is evident through this study that the factors triggering the decision to migrate are the same factors encouraging micro-credit loans, specifically to further their migration and explicitly not for local investment. Cambodia is facing a large problem from the influx of small loans, and within villages where labour migration has become a part of their culture, these small loans are not being used for investment purposes within the village. Instead, they are being used for the process of migration, causing the village to experience very little development and prosperity from the influx of microcredit loans.

- This research report demonstrates that a large number of migrant workers are currently paying back loans and this in turn is limiting their ability to send remittance back to their families. It is recommended that an increase in dialogue around the topic of microfinance, migration and rural development policy would be beneficial between economic ministries.

## Employment

A rising trend within the data showed that single mothers are turning to labour migration due to lack of employability skills and being unable to gain an income after either the death of a husband or divorce.

- It is recommended that social assistance programs be created targeting single parents, specifically mothers of low education and lack of vocational skills, to assist them with skill development and in gaining employment, thus, removing the unwanted need to migrate abroad and leaving their children behind. The Ministry of Women Affairs (MoWA) and the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training (MoLVT) would be best suited to lead these programs, however, NGOs could also assist in the training of single parents.

## Conclusion

The initial findings of this report provide a basis for further qualitative and quantitative research on the topic of left behind children. In general, more awareness needs to be created on the impacts of migration on communities left behind and better social services made available to those vulnerable. It is advised that policy-makers take into account the social impact of migration in national and rural development strategies and take the initiative to safeguard the psychosocial wellbeing of those left behind.

This study concludes that overall, the impacts of parental migration on the families left behind are negative, with the only trade-off of financial benefit subsequently limited due to the high level of micro-finance loans and the embeddedness of ‘migra-loans’ into the culture of communities that lack investment and employment opportunities.

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## Appendix

### Individual Village Findings

*Villages are in alphabetical order.*

#### *Kilo Ta Chhuem*

Kouk Tlouk Kraom Commune, Chi Kreng District, Siem Reap Province

<i>Number of Carers Interviewed</i>	<i>11</i>
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Kilo Ta Chhuem village was surveyed on the 4<sup>th</sup> of September, 2018.

#### *Left Behind Children*

##### **i) Number and Age**

<i>Population of Left Behind Children</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Number of Children Left Behind</i>	<b>33</b>
<i>Number of Children Under 15 years old</i>	<b>27</b>
<i>Number of Children Over 15 years old</i>	<b>6</b>

##### **ii) Education**

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Attending School</i>	20	61%
<i>Not Attending in School</i>	7	21%
<i>Too Young to Register</i>	6	18%

Out of the 27 children who are old enough to attend school, 26% of them are not attending. In the instances where a child is not attending, the main reason (71%) was that the child was needed to stay home and assist with the house work. There was a smaller percentage, 29% in which the child had recently returned from Thailand and had not re-registered into school in Cambodia.

Out of the 6 children who are over 15 years old, 5 of them (83%) do not attend school, that accounts for 71% of the total of children who are not attending school.

### *Migrant Worker*

#### **i) Destination County and Family Situation/Marital Status**

	<i>Families</i>	<i>Single Father</i>	<i>Single Mother</i>	<i>Total People</i>
<i>Number of migrant workers with left behind children</i>	17	0	3	37
<i>Number of workers in Thailand</i>	17	0	3	37
<i>Number of workers in other country</i>	0		0	0

The data indicates that all carers surveyed were caring for children whose parents have migrated to Thailand. 92% of migrant workers with children left behind are a mother and father who have migrated together for work, whilst 8% are single mothers. There is no percentage of single fathers working abroad.

#### **ii) Remittance**

<i>Do Parents Send Money?</i>	<i>Single Mothers</i>	<i>Families</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Yes</i>	3	8	11	100%
<i>No</i>	0	0	0	0%

<i>How Often do Parents Send Money?</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Average Money Sent (Thai BAHT)</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Monthly</i>	8	2,844	73%
<i>3 Months</i>	0		
<i>6 Months</i>	0		
<i>Yearly</i>	0		
<i>Irregularly</i>	3	1,660	27%
<i>Never</i>	0		
<b><i>Total Average Money Sent</i></b>	<b>2,522.72 BAHT</b>		

Data indicates that all parents are sending money back to the families, however, 27% of parents are sending this money irregularly. Irregularly implies that carers go without any financial assistance for many months within a year. The average total of money sent at any given time is 2,522.72 BAHT, this is equivalent to approx. 76.45 USD.

### iii) Loan/Debt

	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Are parents currently paying back a loan?</i>	8	3

Further to this, 73% of carers reported that parents are currently paying back a loan. All single mothers have a loan that they are currently repaying.

### iv) Communication between Parent and Child

<i>Parent-Child Contact</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>When do parents visit?</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>No form of contact</i>	0		<i>3 Months</i>		
<i>Visit but no communication</i>	0		<i>6 Months</i>		
<i>Communication but no visit</i>	0		<i>Yearly</i>	1	9%
<i>Both communication and visit</i>	11	100%	<i>Rarely</i>	10	91%
			<i>Number of Carers Reporting a Visit</i>	11	

From the 11 carers who were interviewed, 11 reported that the parents both have some form of communication with the child and visit psychically. The data further indicates that 9% of those visits take place yearly and the remaining 91% of visit take place on rare occasion, meaning that their visits were at random times and over one year apart.

v) Parents Desire to Return to Cambodia

	Yes	No
<i>Do parents want to return permanently to Cambodia?</i>	11	

Data indicates that according to the carers interviewed, all migrant workers wish to return to Cambodia permanently.

*Situation of the Primary Caregiver-*

i) Gender, Age Marital Status

<i>Gender of Primary Caregiver</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Singular caregiver</i>	0	8	8	73%
<i>Married with living partner</i>	1	2	3	27%
<i>Average Age of Caregiver</i>	57			

Data indicates that 73% of carers are the singular primary caregiver of the child, with no spouse. The average age of all carers is 57 years old.

ii) Caregiver Relationship to Child

<i>Relationship to Child</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Grandmother/Grandfather</i>	9	82%
<i>Aunty/Uncle</i>	2	18%
<i>Sibling</i>	0	
<i>Neighbour</i>	0	

82% of children are under the care of their grandparents, with the average age of all carers being 57 years. All of the 82% of grandparents report that they are concerned about their health and who would care for the children if they were to fall ill.

### iii) Time Period of Caregiving

*Average time caregiver has been looking after child* | 10 years

The average time period the carer has been considered the primary caregiver of the child whilst the parent/s are working abroad is 10 years.

#### Kouk Lhong Village

Sronal Commune, Krolanh District, Siem Reap Province

Sample size

<i>Number of Carers Interviewed</i>	13
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Kouk Lhong village was surveyed on the 4<sup>th</sup> of September, 2018.

#### *Left Behind Children*

##### i) Number and Age

<i>Population of Left Behind Children</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Number of Children Left Behind</i>	31
<i>Number of Children Under 15 years old</i>	31
<i>Number of Children Over 15 years old</i>	0

##### ii) Education

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Attending School</i>	23	74%
<i>Not Attending in School</i>		
<i>Too Young to Register</i>	8	26%

Out of the 23 children who were old enough to attend school, all of them were attending. These children were all under the age of 15 and attending primary school.

*Migrant worker*

**i) Destination Country and Family Situation/Marital Status**

	<i>Families</i>	<i>Single Father</i>	<i>Single Mother</i>	<i>Total People</i>
<i>Number of migrant workers with left behind children</i>	20	0	3	43
<i>Number of workers in Thailand</i>	20	0	3	43
<i>Number of workers in other country</i>	0		0	0

The data indicates that all carers surveyed were caring for children whose parents have migrated to Thailand. 93% of migrant workers with children left behind are a mother and father who have migrated together for work, whilst 7% are single mothers. There is no percentage of single fathers working abroad.

**ii) Remittance**

<i>Do Parents Send Money?</i>	<i>Single Mothers</i>	<i>Families</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Yes</i>	3	9	12	92%
<i>No</i>	0	1	1	8%

<i>How Often do Parents Send Money?</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Average Money Sent (Thai BAHT)</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Monthly</i>	12	5,341.65	92%
<i>3 Months</i>	0		
<i>6 Months</i>	0		
<i>Yearly</i>	0		
<i>Irregularly</i>	0		
<i>Never</i>	1		8%
<b><i>Total Average Money Sent</i></b>	<b>5,341.65</b>		

Data indicates that 92% of parents are sending money back each month. The average amount they are sending is 5341.65 BAHT which is approximately 160.60 USD.

**iii) Loan/Debt**

	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Are parents currently paying back a loan?</i>	7	6

Data indicates that according to the carers interviewed, all migrant workers wish to return to Cambodia permanently. Further to this, 54% of carers reported that parents are currently paying back a loan. All single mothers have a loan that they are currently repaying.

**iv) Communication between Parent and Child**

<i>Parent-Child Contact</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>When do parents visit?</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>No form of contact</i>	0		<i>3 Months</i>		
<i>Visit but no communication</i>	0		<i>6 Months</i>		
<i>Communication but no visit</i>	3	23%	<i>Yearly</i>	7	70%
<i>Both communication and visit</i>	10	77%	<i>Rarely</i>	3	30%
			<i>Number of Carers Reporting a Visit</i>	10	

From the 10 carers who were interviewed, 77% reported that the parents both have some form of communication with the child and visit psychically. The data further indicates that 70% of those visits take place yearly and the remaining 30% of visit take place on rare occasion, meaning that their visits were at random times and over one year apart.

**v) Parents Desire to Return to Cambodia**

	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Do parents want to return permanently to Cambodia?</i>	13	

*Primary Caregiver-*

**i) Gender, Age and Marital Status**

<i>Gender of Primary Caregiver</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Singular caregiver</i>	0	2	2	15%
<i>Married with living partner</i>	2	9	11	85%
<b><i>Average Age of Caregiver</i></b>	<b>50</b>			

Data indicates that 15% of carers are the singular primary caregiver of the child, with no spouse. The average age of all carers is 50 years.

**ii) Caregivers Relationship with Child**

<i>Relationship to Child</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Grandmother/Grandfather</i>	10	77%
<i>Aunty/Uncle</i>	3	23%
<i>Sibling</i>	0	
<i>Neighbour</i>	0	

77% of children are under the care of their grandparents, with the remaining 23% under the care of either an aunty or uncle.

**iii) Time Period of Caregiving**

<b><i>Average time caregiver has been looking after child</i></b>	<b>8 years</b>
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The average time period the carer has been considered the primary caregiver of the child whilst the parent/s work abroad is 8 years.

Ou Kroam Village  
Spean Tnort Commune, Chi Kreng District, Siem Reap Province

<i>Number of Carers Interviewed</i>	34
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*Left Behind Children*

**i) Number and Age**

<i>Population of Left Behind Children</i>	<i>Total</i>
<b><i>Number of Children Left Behind</i></b>	<b>66</b>
<b><i>Number of Children Under 15 years old</i></b>	<b>61</b>
<b><i>Number of Children Over 15 years old</i></b>	<b>5</b>

**ii) Education-**

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Attending School</i>	39	60%
<i>Not Attending in School</i>	8	12%
<i>Too Young to Register</i>	19	28%

Out of the 47 children who are old enough to attend school, 17% of them are not attending. In the instances where a child is not attending, the initial reasoning is that they do not have enough money for when the child reaches high school years. School attendance drops once children finish grade 6 and are needed to move high school, which is a greater distance from the village. Children who were not the direct biological relation to the carer were more often kept out of school to work then compared to the children who were a direct relation.

Out of the 5 children who are over 15 years old, all of them are not attending school, that accounts for 63% of the total of children who are not attending school.

*Migrant worker-*

**i) Destination Country and Family Situation/Marital Status**

	<i>Families</i>	<i>Single Father</i>	<i>Single Mother</i>	<i>Total People</i>
<i>Number of migrant workers with left behind children</i>	27	0	11	65
<i>Number of workers in Thailand</i>	27	0	11	65
<i>Number of workers in other country</i>	0	0	0	0

The data indicates that all carers surveyed were caring for children whose parents have migrated to Thailand. 83% of migrant workers with children left behind are a mother and father who have migrated together for work. A growing trend however, is the rise of single mothers working abroad following a divorce or death of their husband. 17% of migrant workers with children left behind are single mothers, yet there is no percentage of single fathers working abroad.

## ii) Remittance

<i>Do Parents Send Money?</i>	<i>Single Mothers</i>	<i>Families</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Yes</i>	10	18	28	82%
<i>No</i>	1	5	6	17%

<i>How Often do Parents Send Money?</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Average Money Sent (Thai BAHT)</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Monthly</i>	10	2,611.10	29%
<i>3 Months</i>	10	2,300	29%
<i>6 Months</i>	2	2,000	6%
<i>Yearly</i>	0	0	0
<i>Irregularly</i>	6	2583.35	18%
<i>Never</i>	6	N/A	18%
<b><i>Total Average Money Sent</i></b>		<b>2,444.50 BAHT</b>	

Data indicates that 80% of parents are sending money back, however, 18% are never sending money back and 18% of parents are sending this money irregularly. Irregularly implies that carers go without any financial assistance for many months within a year. The average total of money sent at any given time is 2,444.50 BAHT, this is equivalent to approx. 74.25 USD.

**iii) Loan/Debt**

	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Are parents currently paying back a loan?</i>	26	8

76% of carers reported that parents are currently paying back a loan. 10 out of the 11 (90%) single mothers have a loan that they are currently repaying.

**iv) Communication between Parent and Child**

<i>Parent-Child Contact</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>When do parents visit?</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>No form of contact</i>	4	12%	<i>3 Months</i>	0	0
<i>Visit but no communication</i>	1	3%	<i>6 Months</i>	0	0
<i>Communication but no visit</i>	10	29%	<i>Yearly</i>	12	60%
<i>Both communication and visit</i>	19	56%	<i>Rarely</i>	8	40%
			<i>Number of Carers Reporting a Visit</i>	20	

From the 34 carers who were interviewed, 56% reported that the parents have some form of communication with the children and physically visit the children, with 3% stating that the parents have no communication, however do visit the children. The data further indicates that from those parents that do visit their children, 60% visit yearly. 40% of parent's visits 'rarely' meaning that their visits were at random times and over one year apart.

The data also indicates that 12% of carers report the parent has no form of contact with the children, including no phone calls or physical visit.

**v) Parents Desire to Return to Cambodia**

	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Do parents want to return permanently to Cambodia?</i>	33	1

Data indicates that according to the carers interviewed, only 1 migrant worker does not plan to return to Cambodia, the remainder all wish to return permanently.

### *Primary Caregiver-*

#### **i) Gender, Age and Marital Status**

<i>Gender of Primary Caregiver</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Singular caregiver</i>	0	8	8	24%
<i>Married with living partner</i>	0	26	26	76%
<b><i>Average Age of Caregiver</i></b>	<b>52 years old</b>			

The average age of all carers being 52 years. A growing concern of carers is their age and how their health will affect their ability to care for the children, along with this, 24% of carers are the primary caregiver with no spouse.

#### **ii) Caregiver Relationship to Child**

<i>Relationship to Child</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Grandmother/Grandfather</i>	26	76%
<i>Aunty/Uncle</i>	8	24%
<i>Sibling</i>	0	
<i>Neighbour</i>	0	

Data indicates that 76% of children are under the care of their grandparents, with the remaining 24% under the care of an aunty/uncle. There was no percentage recorded of siblings or neighbours.

#### **iii) Time Period of Caregiving**

<b><i>Average time caregiver has been looking after child</i></b>	<b>4 years</b>
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The average time period the carer has been considered the primary caregiver of the child whilst the parent/s are working abroad is 4 years.

## Ou Trach Village

Speantnort Commune, Chi Kreng District, Siem Reap Province

Sample size

<i>Number of Carers Interviewed</i>	51
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Ou Trach Village was surveyed on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of March, 2018.

### *Left Behind Children-*

#### **i) Number and Age**

<i>Population of Left Behind Children</i>	<i>Total</i>
<b><i>Number of Children Left Behind</i></b>	<b>84</b>
<b><i>Number of Children Under 15 years old</i></b>	<b>76</b>
<b><i>Number of Children Over 15 years old</i></b>	<b>8</b>

#### **ii) Education**

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Attending School</i>	60	71%
<i>Not Attending in School</i>	11	14%
<i>Too Young to Register</i>	13	15%

Out of the 71 children who are old enough to attend school, 15% of them are not attending. In many instances, the carers of these children did not wish for them to attend school, so that they could instead help with the house work.

Out of the 8 children who are over 15 years old, 5 of them are not attending school, that accounts for 45% of the total of children who are not attending school.

*Migrant Worker-*

**i) Destination Country and Family Situation/Marital Status**

	<i>Families</i>	<i>Single Father</i>	<i>Single Mother</i>	<i>Total People</i>
<i>Number of migrant workers with left behind children</i>	39	0	19	97
<i>Number of workers in Thailand</i>	39	0	19	97
<i>Number of workers in other country</i>	0	0	0	0

The data indicates that all carers surveyed were caring for children whose parents have migrated to Thailand. 80% of migrant workers with children left behind are a mother and father who have migrated together for work. A growing trend however, is the rise of single mothers working abroad following a divorce or death of their husband. 20% of migrant workers with children left behind are single mothers, yet there is no percentage of single fathers working abroad.

**ii) Remittance**

<i>Do Parents Send Money?</i>	<i>Single Mothers</i>	<i>Families</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Yes</i>	9	32	41	80%
<i>No</i>	5	5	10	20%

<i>How Often do Parents Send Money?</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Monthly</i>	9	18%
<i>3 Months</i>	6	11%
<i>6 Months</i>	5	10%
<i>Yearly</i>	1	2%
<i>Irregularly</i>	20	39%
<i>Never</i>	10	20%

Data indicates that 80% of parents are sending money back, however, 39% of parents are sending this money irregularly, meaning that for many months of the year, carers can go without any financial assistance.

**iii) Loan/Debt**

	Yes	No
<i>Do parents want to return permanently to Cambodia?</i>	42	9
<i>Are parents currently paying back a loan?</i>	40	11

Further to this, 67% of carers reported that parents are currently paying back a loan. 13 out of the 19 (68%) single mothers have a loan that they are currently repaying.

**iv) Communication between Parent and Child**

<i>Parent-Child Contact</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>When do parents visit?</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>No form of contact</i>	16	31%	<i>3 Months</i>	1	3%
<i>Visit but no communication</i>	7	13%	<i>6 Months</i>	0	0
<i>Communication but no visit</i>	4	5%	<i>Yearly</i>	20	64%
<i>Both communication and visit</i>	24	49%	<i>Rarely</i>	10	32%

From the 51 carers who were interviewed, 49% reported that the parents have some form of communication with the children and physically visit the children, with 13.7% stating that the parents have no communication, however do visit the children. The data further indicates that from those parents that do visit their children, 64.5% visit yearly, with the majority (60%) of these yearly visits taking place during Khmer New Year. 32.3% of parent’s visits ‘rarely’ meaning that their visits were at random times and over one year apart.

Further to this, the data indicates an alarming rate of 31.4% of carers reporting that the parent has no form of contact with the children, including no phone calls or physical visit.

**v) Parents Desire to Return to Cambodia**

	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Do parents want to return permanently to Cambodia?</i>	42	9

Data indicates that according to the carers interviewed, 82% wish to return permanently to Cambodia

### *Primary Caregiver-*

#### **i) Gender, Age and Marital Status**

<i>Gender of Primary Caregiver</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Singular caregiver</i>	2	11	13	25%
<i>Married with living partner</i>	4	34	38	75%
<b><i>Average Age of Caregiver</i></b>	<b>52 years old</b>			

The average age of the caregiver is 52 years old. A growing concern of carers is their age and how their health will affect their ability to care for the children, along with this, 25% of carers are the primary caregiver with no spouse.

#### **ii) Caregivers Relationship to Child**

<i>Relationship to Child</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Grandmother/Grandfather</i>	42	82%
<i>Aunty/Uncle</i>	9	18%
<i>Sibling</i>	0	0
<i>Neighbour</i>	0	0

Data indicates the majority (82%) of children are under the care of their grandparents, the remaining 18% are under the care of either an aunty or uncle.

#### **iii) Time Period of Caregiving**

<b><i>Average time caregiver has been looking after child</i></b>	<b>7 years</b>
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The average time period the carer has been considered the primary caregiver of the child whilst the parent/s are working abroad is 7 years.

## Praval Village

Ta Yaek Commune, Soutnikum District, Siem Reap Province

Sample size

<i>Number of Carers Interviewed</i>	12
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Praval village was surveyed on the 24<sup>th</sup> of October, 2018.

### *Left Behind Children*

#### **i) Number and Age**

<i>Population of Left Behind Children</i>	<i>Total</i>
<b><i>Number of Children Left Behind</i></b>	<b>32</b>
<b><i>Number of Children Under 15 years old</i></b>	<b>31</b>
<b><i>Number of Children Over 15 years old</i></b>	<b>1</b>

#### **ii) Education**

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Attending School</i>	21	65.5%
<i>Not Attending in School</i>	5	15.5%
<i>Too Young to Register</i>	6	19%

The data indicates that left behind children 15.5% of children who have been left behind are not attending school.

### *Migrant Worker*

#### **i) Destination Country and Family Situation/Marital Status**

	<i>Families</i>	<i>Single Father</i>	<i>Single Mother</i>	<i>Total People</i>
<i>Number of migrant workers with left behind children</i>	10	1	5	26
<i>Number of workers in Thailand</i>	10	1	5	26
<i>Number of workers in other country</i>	0		0	0

The data indicates that all carers surveyed were caring for children whose parents have migrated to Thailand. 77% of migrant workers with children left behind are a mother and father who have migrated together for work, whilst 19% are single mothers. There only a small percentage (4%) who is a single father working in Thailand.

## ii) Remittance

<i>Do Parents Send Money?</i>	<i>Single Mothers</i>	<i>Single Father</i>	<i>Families</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Yes</i>	5	0	6	11	92%
<i>No</i>	0	1	0	1	8%

<i>How Often do Parents Send Money?</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Average Money Sent (Thai BAHT)</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Monthly</i>	5	8,500	42%
<i>3 Months</i>	2	1,250	17%
<i>6 Months</i>	0		
<i>Yearly</i>	0		
<i>Irregularly</i>	4	925	33%
<i>Never</i>	1		8%
<b><i>Total Average Money Sent</i></b>		<b>4427.27 BAHT</b>	

Data indicates that 92% of carers are receiving money from parents working abroad. 42% are sending money in monthly installments and 17% in quarterly installments. 33% are receiving money irregularly. The average amount they are sending is 4,427.27 BAHT which is approximately 134.52 USD.

**iii) Loan/Debt**

	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Are parents currently paying back a loan?</i>	8	4

67% of carers reported that parents are currently paying back a loan. 4 out of the 5 (80%) of the single mothers have a loan.

**iv) Communication between Parent and Child**

<i>Parent-Child Contact</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>When do parents visit?</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>No form of contact</i>	0		<i>3 Months</i>	
<i>Visit but no communication</i>	0		<i>6 Months</i>	
<i>Communication but no visit</i>	4	33	<i>Yearly</i>	
<i>Both communication and visit</i>	8	67	<i>Rarely</i>	8
			<i>Number of Carers Reporting a Visit</i>	8

From the 12 carers who were interviewed, 67% reported that the parents both have some form of communication with the child and visit physically. The remaining 33% receive some form of communication, however no physical visits. The data further indicates that all of those physical visits take place on rare occasion, meaning that their visits were at random times and over one year apart.

**v) Parents Desire to Return to Cambodia Permanently**

	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Do parents want to return permanently to Cambodia?</i>	12	

Data indicates that according to the carers interviewed, all migrant workers wish to return to Cambodia permanently.

## Primary Caregiver-

### i) Gender, Age and Marital Status

<i>Gender of Primary Caregiver</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Singular caregiver</i>		5	5	42%
<i>Married with living partner</i>	1	6	7	58%
<b><i>Average Age of Caregiver</i></b>	<b>55</b>			

Data indicates that 42% of carers are the singular primary caregiver of the child, with no spouse. The average age of all carers is 55 years old.

### ii) Caregivers Relationship with Child

<i>Relationship to Child</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Grandmother/Grandfather</i>	11	92%
<i>Aunty/Uncle</i>	1	8%
<i>Sibling</i>	0	
<i>Neighbour</i>	0	

92% of children are under the care of their grandparents, with the remaining 8% under the care of either an aunty or uncle.

### iii) Times Period of Caregiving

<b><i>Average time caregiver has been looking after child</i></b>	<b>5 years</b>
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The average time period the carer has been considered the primary caregiver of the child whilst the parent/s are working abroad is 5 years.

Totueng Tngai Village  
 Russei Lok Commune, Chi Kreng District, Siem Reap Province

Sample size

<i>Number of Carers Interviewed</i>	12
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Kouk Lhong village was surveyed on the 12<sup>th</sup> of November 2018.

*Left Behind Children*

**i) Number and Age**

<i>Population of Left Behind Children</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Number of Children Left Behind</i>	27
<i>Number of Children Under 15 years old</i>	27
<i>Number of Children Over 15 years old</i>	0

**ii) Education**

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Attending School</i>	21	78%
<i>Not Attending in School</i>	0	
<i>Too Young to Register</i>	6	22%

The data indicates that left behind children have a high level of attendance in school. 22% of the children are too young to register.

*Migrant Worker*

**i) Destination Country and Family Situation/Marital Status**

<i>Families</i>	<i>Single Father</i>	<i>Single Mother</i>	<i>Total People</i>
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<i>Number of migrant workers with left behind children</i>	15	0	0	30
<i>Number of workers in Thailand</i>	15	0	0	30
<i>Number of workers in other country</i>	0	0	0	0

The data indicates that all carers surveyed were caring for children whose parents have migrated to Thailand. All of the migrant workers with children left behind are a mother and father who have migrated together for work. There is no percentage of single fathers or mothers working abroad.

## ii) Remittance

<i>Do Parents Send Money?</i>	<i>Families</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Yes</i>	11	11	92%
<i>No</i>	1	1	8%

<i>How Often do Parents Send Money?</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Average Money Sent (Thai BAHT)</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Monthly</i>	2	1,000	17%
<i>3 Months</i>	5	2,290	42%
<i>6 Months</i>	1	1,000	8%
<i>Yearly</i>	0		
<i>Irregularly</i>	3	1,000	25%
<i>Never</i>	1		8%
<b><i>Total Average Money Sent</i></b>		<b>1,586.36 BAHT</b>	

Data indicates that 92% of carers are receiving money from the working parents, 17% of them are receiving money in monthly instalments, 42% in quarterly instalments and 8% in half yearly instalments. 25% however, are receiving money irregularly. The average amount they are sending is 1,586.36 BAHT which is approximately 48.13 USD.

**iii) Loan/Debt**

	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Are parents currently paying back a loan?</i>	10	2

Data indicates that 83% of carers reported that parents are currently paying back a loan.

**iv) Communication between Parent and Child**

<i>Parent-Child Contact</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>When do parents visit?</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>No form of contact</i>	0		<i>3 Months</i>		
<i>Visit but no communication</i>	0		<i>6 Months</i>		
<i>Communication but no visit</i>	2	17%	<i>Yearly</i>	3	30%
<i>Both communication and visit</i>	10	83%	<i>Rarely</i>	7	70%
			<i>Number of Carers Reporting a Visit</i>	10	

From the 12 carers who were interviewed, 83% reported that the parents both have some form of communication with the child and visit physically. The remaining 17% receive some form of communication, however no physical visits. The data further indicates that 30% of those visits take place yearly and 70% take place on rare occasion, meaning that their visits were at random times and over one year apart.

**v) Parents Desire to Return to Cambodia**

	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Do parents want to return permanently to Cambodia?</i>	12	

Data indicates that according to the carers interviewed, all migrant workers wish to return to Cambodia permanently.

## Primary Caregiver

### i) Gender, Age and Marital Status

<i>Gender of Primary Caregiver</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Singular caregiver</i>	0	3	3	25%
<i>Married with living partner</i>	1	8	9	75%
<i>Average Age of Caregiver</i>	57			

Data indicates that 25% of carers are the singular primary caregiver of the child, with no spouse. The average age of all carers being 57 years old.

### ii) Caregivers Relationship to Child

<i>Relationship to Child</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Grandmother/Grandfather</i>	10	83%
<i>Aunty/Uncle</i>	2	17%
<i>Sibling</i>	0	
<i>Neighbour</i>	0	

83% of children are under the care of their grandparents, with the remaining 17% under the care of either an aunty or uncle.

### iii) Time Period of Caregiving

<i>Average time caregiver has been looking after child</i>	5 years
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The average time period the carer has been considered the primary caregiver of the child whilst the parent/s are working abroad is 5 years.

## Ta Yon Village

Spean Thnoat Commune, Chi Krenng District, Siem Reap Province

Sample size

<i>Number of Carers Interviewed</i>	8
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Kouk Lhong village was surveyed on the 26<sup>th</sup> of October, 2018.

### *Left Behind Children*

#### **i) Number and Age**

<i>Population of Left Behind Children</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Number of Children Left Behind</i>	17
<i>Number of Children Under 15 years old</i>	17
<i>Number of Children Over 15 years old</i>	0

#### **ii) Education-**

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Attending School</i>	10	59%
<i>Not Attending in School</i>	1	6%
<i>Too Young to Register</i>	6	35%

The data indicates that left behind children have a high level of attendance in school. All children that are attending school are in primary school, there are no children in high school.

### *Migrant Worker*

#### **i) Destination Country and Family Situation/Marital Status**

<i>Families</i>	<i>Single Father</i>	<i>Single Mother</i>	<i>Total People</i>
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<i>Number of migrant workers with left behind children</i>	8	0	2	18
<i>Number of workers in Thailand</i>	8	0	2	18
<i>Number of workers in other country</i>	0		0	0

The data indicates that all carers surveyed were caring for children whose parents have migrated to Thailand. 91% of migrant workers with children left behind are a mother and father who have migrated together for work, whilst 11% are single mothers. There is no percentage of single fathers working abroad.

## ii) Remittance

<i>Do Parents Send Money?</i>	<i>Single Mothers</i>	<i>Families</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Yes</i>	2	6	8	100%
<i>No</i>	0	0	0	0

<i>How Often do Parents Send Money?</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Average Money Sent (Thai BAHT)</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Monthly</i>	4	1,000	50%
<i>3 Months</i>	2	3,000	25%
<i>6 Months</i>	0		
<i>Yearly</i>	0		
<i>Irregularly</i>	2	1,250	5%
<i>Never</i>	0		
<b><i>Total Average Money Sent</i></b>	<b>1,562.50</b>		

Data indicates that all carers are receiving money from the working parents, half of them are receiving money in monthly instalments. Half of the remaining carers receive money every 3 months and the final half receive money irregularly. The average amount they are sending is 1,562.50 BAHT which is approximately 47.15 USD.

**iii) Loan/Debt**

	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Are parents currently paying back a loan?</i>	4	4

Further to this, 50% of carers reported that parents were currently paying back a loan. All single mothers have a loan that they are currently repaying.

**iv) Communication between Parent and Child**

<i>Parent-Child Contact</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>When do parents visit?</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>No form of contact</i>	0		<i>3 Months</i>		
<i>Visit but no communication</i>	0		<i>6 Months</i>		
<i>Communication but no visit</i>	4	50%	<i>Yearly</i>	2	50%
<i>Both communication and visit</i>	4	50%	<i>Rarely</i>	2	50%
			<i>Number of Carers Reporting a Visit</i>	4	

From the 8 carers who were interviewed, 50% reported that the parents both have some form of communication with the child and visit physically. The remaining half receive some form of communication, however no physical visits. The data further indicates that 50% of those visits take place yearly and the remaining half taking place on rare occasion, meaning that their visits were at random times and over one year apart.

**v) Parents Desire to Return to Cambodia**

	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Do parents want to return permanently to Cambodia?</i>	8	

Data indicates that according to the carers interviewed, all migrant workers wish to return to Cambodia permanently.

## Primary Caregiver

### i) Gender, Age and Marital Status

<i>Gender of Primary Caregiver</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Singular caregiver</i>	0	4	4	50%
<i>Married with living partner</i>	1	3	4	50%
<b><i>Average Age of Caregiver</i></b>	<b>58</b>			

Data indicates that 50% of carers are the singular primary caregiver of the child, with no spouse. The average age of all carers being 58 years old.

### ii) Caregivers Relationship to Child

<i>Relationship to Child</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Grandmother/Grandfather</i>	7	88%
<i>Aunty/Uncle</i>	1	12%
<i>Sibling</i>	0	
<i>Neighbour</i>	0	

88% of children are under the care of their grandparents, with the remaining 12% under the care of either an aunty or uncle.

### iii) Time Period of Caregiving

<b><i>Average time caregiver has been looking after child</i></b>	<b>4 years</b>
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The average time period the carer has been considered the primary caregiver of the child whilst the parent/s are working abroad is 4 years.

## Prasat Cha Village, Noko Krav Village and Plung Village

Sample Size - Prasat Cha Village  
Duon Keo Commune, Puok District, Siem Reap Province

<i>Number of Carers Interviewed</i>	2
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Prasat Cha Village was surveyed on the 9th of August, 2018.

Sample Size - Noko Krav Village  
Kok Chak Commune, Siem Reap District, Siem Reap Province

<i>Number of Carers Interviewed</i>	1
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Noko Krav Village was surveyed on the 15th of August, 2018

Sample Size - Plung Village  
Leang Dai Commune, Angkor Thom District, Siem Reap Province

<i>Number of Carers Interviewed</i>	2
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Plung village was surveyed on the 16th of August, 2018.

### *Left Behind Children*

#### **i) Number and Age**

	<i>Total</i>
<i>Number of Children Left Behind</i>	<b>11</b>
<i>Number of Children Under 15 years old</i>	<b>10</b>
<i>Number of Children Over 15 years old</i>	<b>1</b>

Data indicates that the majority of children who have been left behind are under the age of 15 years old.

#### **ii) Education-**

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Attending School</i>	8	73%

<i>Not Attending in School</i>	0	0
<i>Too Young to Register</i>	3	27%

The data indicates that left behind children have a high level of attendance in school. There is one child over 15 and attending high school, the remainder are in primary school.

### *Migrant Worker*

#### **i) Destination Country and Family Situation/Marital Status**

	<i>Families</i>	<i>Single Father</i>	<i>Single Mother</i>	<i>Total People</i>
<i>Number of migrant workers with left behind children</i>	5	0	3	13
<i>Number of workers in Thailand</i>	5	0	3	13
<i>Number of workers in other country</i>	0	0	0	0

The data indicates that all carers surveyed were caring for children whose parents have migrated to Thailand. 77% of migrant workers with children left behind are a mother and father who have migrated together for work, whilst 23% are single mothers. There is no percentage of single fathers working abroad.

#### **ii) Remittance**

<i>Do Parents Send Money?</i>	<i>Single Mothers</i>	<i>Families</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Yes</i>	1	2	3	60%
<i>No</i>	1	1	2	40%

<i>How Often do Parents Send Money?</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Average Money Sent (Thai BAHT)</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Monthly</i>	1	2,000	20%
<i>3 Months</i>	1	570	20%
<i>6 Months</i>	0		
<i>Yearly</i>	0		
<i>Irregularly</i>	1	3,500	20%
<i>Never</i>	2		40%
<b><i>Total Average Money Sent</i></b>	<b>2,023 BAHT</b>		

Data indicates that 60% of parents are sending money back each month. The average amount they are sending is 2,023 BAHT which is approximately 61.55 USD.

### iii) Loan/Debt

	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Are parents currently paying back a loan?</i>	3	2

Further to this, 60% of carers reported that parents were currently paying back a loan. 66% of parents who are currently paying back a loan do not send money back to their child. All single mothers working in Thailand are currently paying back a loan.

### iv) Communication between Parent and Child

<i>Parent-Child Contact</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>When do parents visit?</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>No form of contact</i>	0		<i>3 Months</i>		
<i>Visit but no communication</i>	0		<i>6 Months</i>		
<i>Communication but no visit</i>	0		<i>Yearly</i>	2	40%
<i>Both communication and visit</i>	5	100%	<i>Rarely</i>	3	60%
			<i>Number of Carers Reporting a Visit</i>	5	

All 5 carers who were interviewed reported that the parents both have some form of communication with the child and visit physically. The data further indicates that 40% of those

visits take place yearly and the remaining 60% taking place on rare occasion, meaning that their visits were at random times and over one year apart.

v) **Parents Desire to Return to Cambodia**

	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Do parents want to return permanently to Cambodia?</i>	5	

Data indicates that according to the carers interviewed, all migrant workers wish to return to Cambodia permanently.

*Primary Caregiver*

i) **Gender, Age and Marital Status**

<i>Gender of Primary Caregiver</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Singular caregiver</i>	0	1	1	20%
<i>Married with living partner</i>	1	3	4	80%
<b><i>Average Age of Caregiver</i></b>	<b>50</b>			

Data indicates that 20% of carers are the singular primary caregiver of the child, with no spouse. The average age of all carers being 50 years.

ii) **Caregivers Relationship to Child**

<i>Relationship to Child</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Grandmother/Grandfather</i>	3	60%
<i>Aunty/Uncle</i>	2	40%
<i>Sibling</i>	0	
<i>Neighbour</i>	0	

60% of children are under the care of their grandparents, with the remaining 40% under the care of either an aunty or uncle. There is no record of any children under the care of either a neighbour or sibling.

**iii) Caregiving Time Period**

*Average time caregiver has been looking  
after child* | 7 years

The average time period the carer has been considered the primary caregiver of the child whilst the parent/s are working abroad is 7 years.