

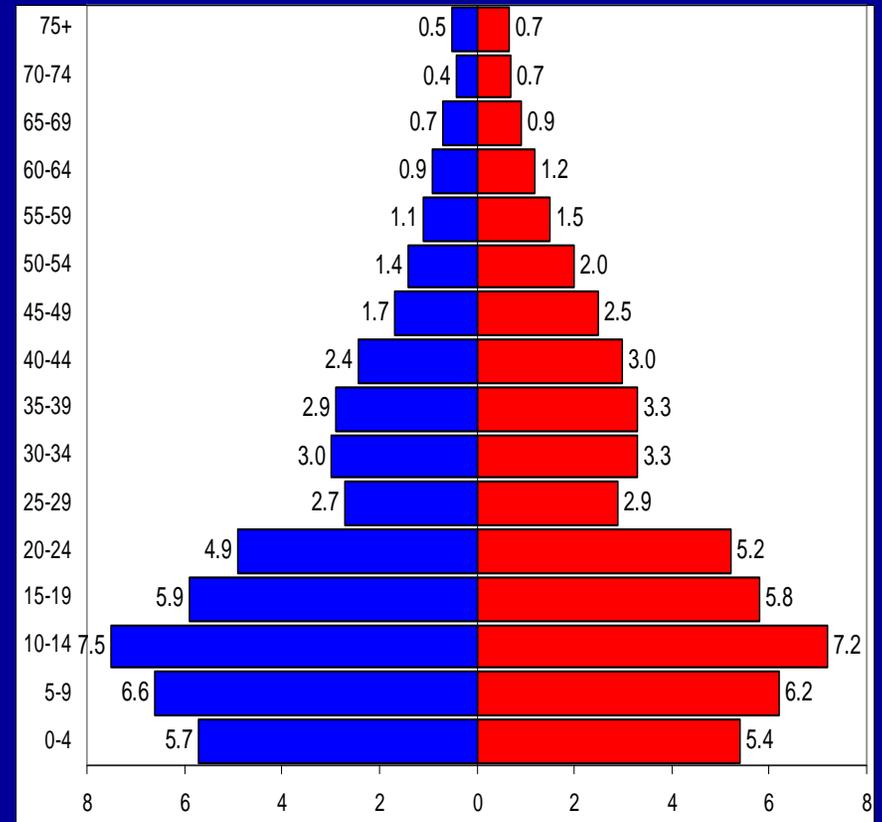
Mekong Migration Network's Workshop  
on  
"Migration Trends and Responses in the GMS  
and Beyond "

30-13 August 2010  
Chiang Mai, Thailand

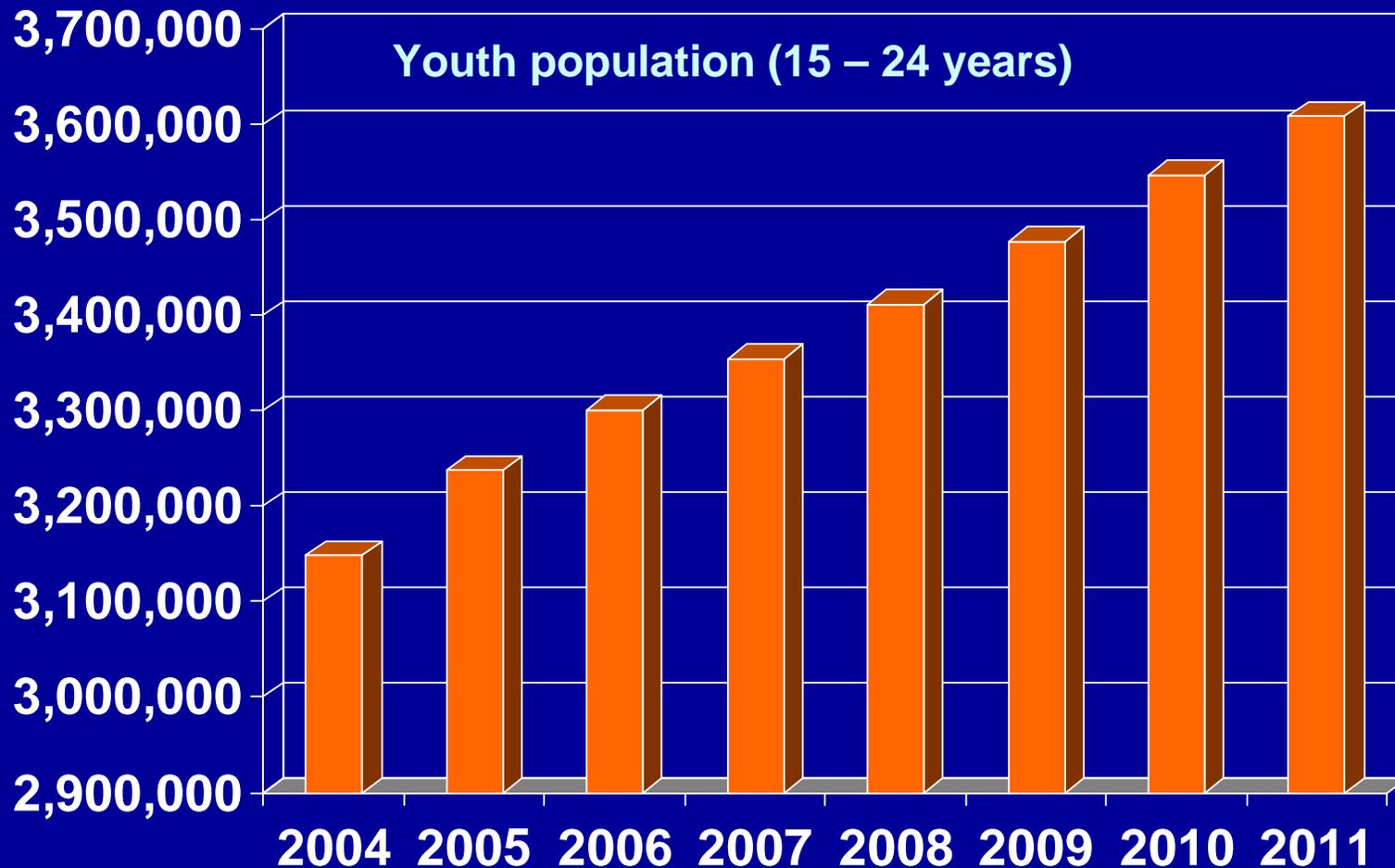
**Migration in Cambodia**

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**Cambodia has a young population: 60% are under 25 years old. Population growth recently declined from 2.4% to 1.9% per annum, but it is still high.**



Population growth is 1.96% but the youth is growing at 3.2%.



## Determinants of migration: The Push Factors

- **Employment creation does not keep pace with the population increase.**
- High economic growth but it is urban centric and captured by a few.
- Poverty rate remains among the highest in the region although it declined from 47% in 1993 to 30.1% in 2008.

# Determinants of migration: The Pull Factors

- **Wages in destination countries (Korea, Malaysia, Thailand...) are higher than those in Cambodia.**
- **Unskilled, tedious, risky, low paid or 3Ds jobs are unwanted by workers in receiving countries.**
- **There is employment year round in neighbouring countries, especially Thailand, while employment in rural Cambodia is mainly seasonal.**

# **From the Perspective of Cambodia**

- Given the push and pull factors, cross-border out-migration has been inevitable.**
- Migration is now a way of life for some households in many provinces.**
- Cross-border migration is one of the few options available for rural people to pursue their livelihoods despite the high risks surrounding it.**

## **Findings from community level research**

- About half the migrant workers benefit from working overseas. They send remittances to feed their families at home, purchase durables and assets, and build houses. So it is a pathway out of poverty.**
- However, some migrants only survive themselves or even become poorer mainly due to the “illegal nature” of the cross-border migration.**

# Opportunities

- Sub-decree 57 on “Sending Khmer Migrants to Work Abroad”, being revised
- Sub-decree 70, issued in July 2006 on “The Creation of the Manpower Training and Overseas Sending Board”.
- Sub-Decree 195, issued in November 2008 on Passport issuance to Cambodian workers to work legally in abroad.
- Prokas 108 issued in May 2006 on “Education of HIV/AIDS, Safe Migration and Labour Rights for Cambodian Workers Abroad”
- Travel Smart – Work Smart : Guide book for Cambodian people who wish to work abroad

- Notification on oversea employment
- Guideline on the use of registration book (2010)
- Labour Migration Information System (2008)
- Pre-departure orientation manual (processing)
- Labour migration policy (2010)
- Standarded contract (2009)
- Guideline for recruitment agencies (2009)
- Association of Cambodia Recruitment Agencies  
- ACRA (2008)

## Bilateral Agreements: MoU with Thailand

- With the principles enshrined in the “The Bangkok Declaration on Irregular Migration of 1999”, the Royal Government of Cambodia signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Employment of Workers with the Royal Government of Thailand on May 31, 2003.
- This MOU aims not only at the management of labor migration between the countries, but at the identification and return of irregular migrants.
- One of the main aims of the MOU is to minimize the negative social and economic impacts caused by illegal employment.
- By 31 June 2004, there were 181,579 Cambodian migrants (Male: 123,998 and Female: 57,581) registered by Thai authority.

- As a result of this MoU, the Royal Government of Cambodia assigned in January 2005, an Inter-Ministerial Working Group to Thailand to identify the nationality of Cambodian irregular migrant workers and issue them with the Certificate of Identity (CI) in order to legalize them.
- So far, the Inter-Ministerial Working Group had identified nationality and issued CI to about 84,000 workers.
- Meanwhile, we have send new workers to work in Thailand via legal channel (19,246 workers – female:6,969): by July 2010

# Labour Migration Policy

- Published in June 2010 with the support of ILO/Japan Regional Project on Managing Cross-border Movement of Labour in Southeast Asia
- Its key components:
  - 1-Governance of Labour Migration
  - 2-Protection and Empowerment of Migrant Workers
  - 3-Harnessing Labour Migration for Development

# Challenges

- Lack of adequate dissemination of information on safe migration, principles and significance of MOU and legal migration, labour migration policy
- Growth in irregular migration
- Long porous borders
- Low cooperation of authorities and employers in receiving countries
- Mass deportation of undocumented migrant in regard of human rights.
- Government control of migration process
- Expanding and improving legal channels (limited) : high fee and long time
- Lack of action to promote productive investment of remittance
- Lack of migrant-focused NGOs
- Lack of mechanism to follow up the development of returnees
- Lack of program to support the reintegration of returnees
- Lack of Vocational Training and
- Migrant labor markets are overcrowded-competition-3D jobs <sup>13</sup>

# Solution

- Dissemination, training, and implementation on labour migration policy
- Database on labour migration both in and out.
- Capacity Building for Government and recruitment agencies.
- Establishment of legal framework and strategies to protect migrants' rights and benefits.
- Strengthening the capacity of embassy officials in charge of labour affairs in receiving countries.
- Good Cooperation between origin and destination countries in eliminating illegal recruitment and employment, and protecting the basic human rights of irregular migrants, particularly women and children.

**Thank you!**