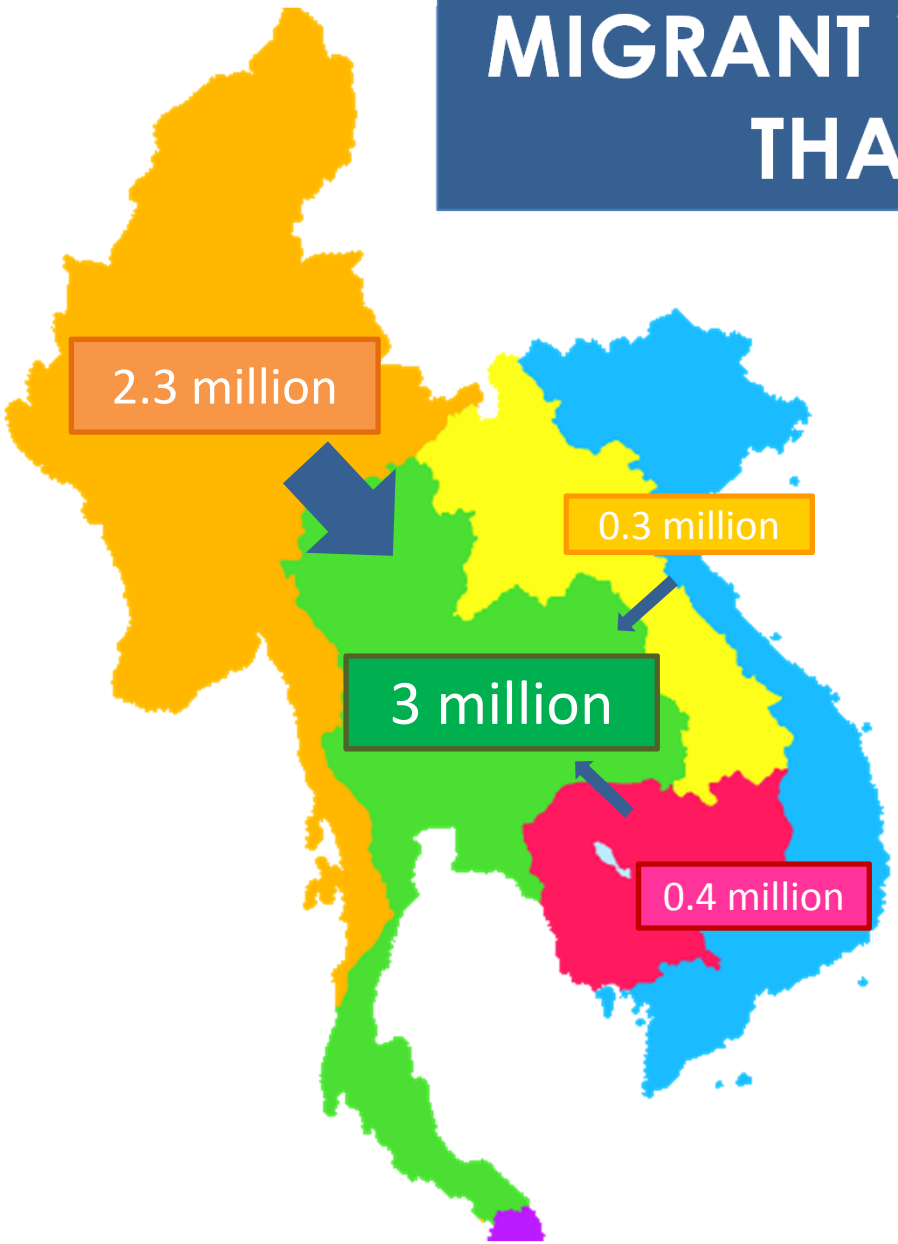
MIGRANT WORKERS TO THAILAND



	Population (million)	GDP per capita (USD, current)	Unemployment rate
Thailand	67.59	$ 5,679	0.1%
Myanmar	60.38	$ 848	N/A
Cambodia	14.52	$ 944	0.2%
Lao PDR	6.39	$ 1,476	1.3%

Source: ASEAN, 2013

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FUTURE LABOUR DEMANDS

Myanmar

By 2030

10 million new non-agricultural jobs

Thailand

By 2025

5.36 million jobs need to be filled

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Limitations of the data

- Migration from Myanmar to Thailand
- Sampling bias
- Reliability of the secondary data

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Migration Hot-spots

- **76.4%** of surveyed migrants came from **4 states/regions** bordering Thailand
- **68.7%** came from **30 townships** out of 247 townships
- Out-migration rate: **3.8% nationally**, but up to **36% in some areas**

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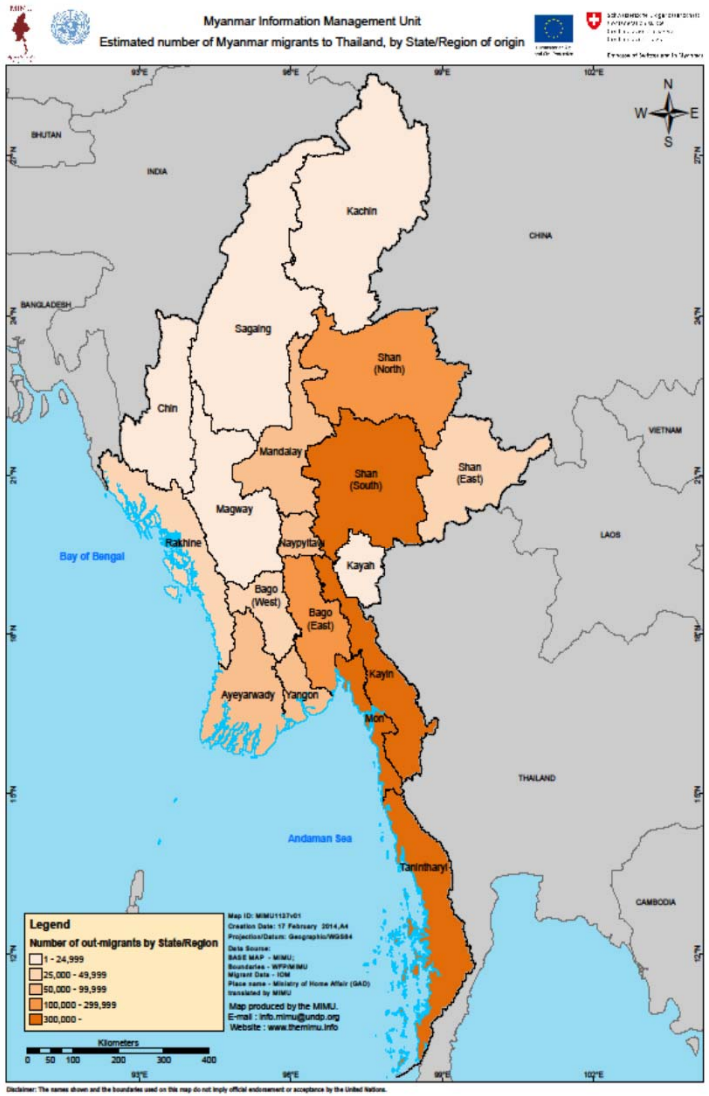
Origin states/regions of surveyed migrants and estimated numbers of migrants



State_Region	Estimated number
Mon	689,954
Tanintharyi	399,801
Kayin	378,078
Shan (South)	359,459
Bago (East)	214,124
Shan (North)	102,407
Yangon	86,374
Ayeyarwady	81,719
Mandalay	55,341
Rakhine	42,411
Shan (East)	33,101
Bago (West)	31,032
Magwe	23,274
Kachin	16,033
Sagaing	11,379
Chin	8,275
Kayah	2,069
Total	**2,600,000**

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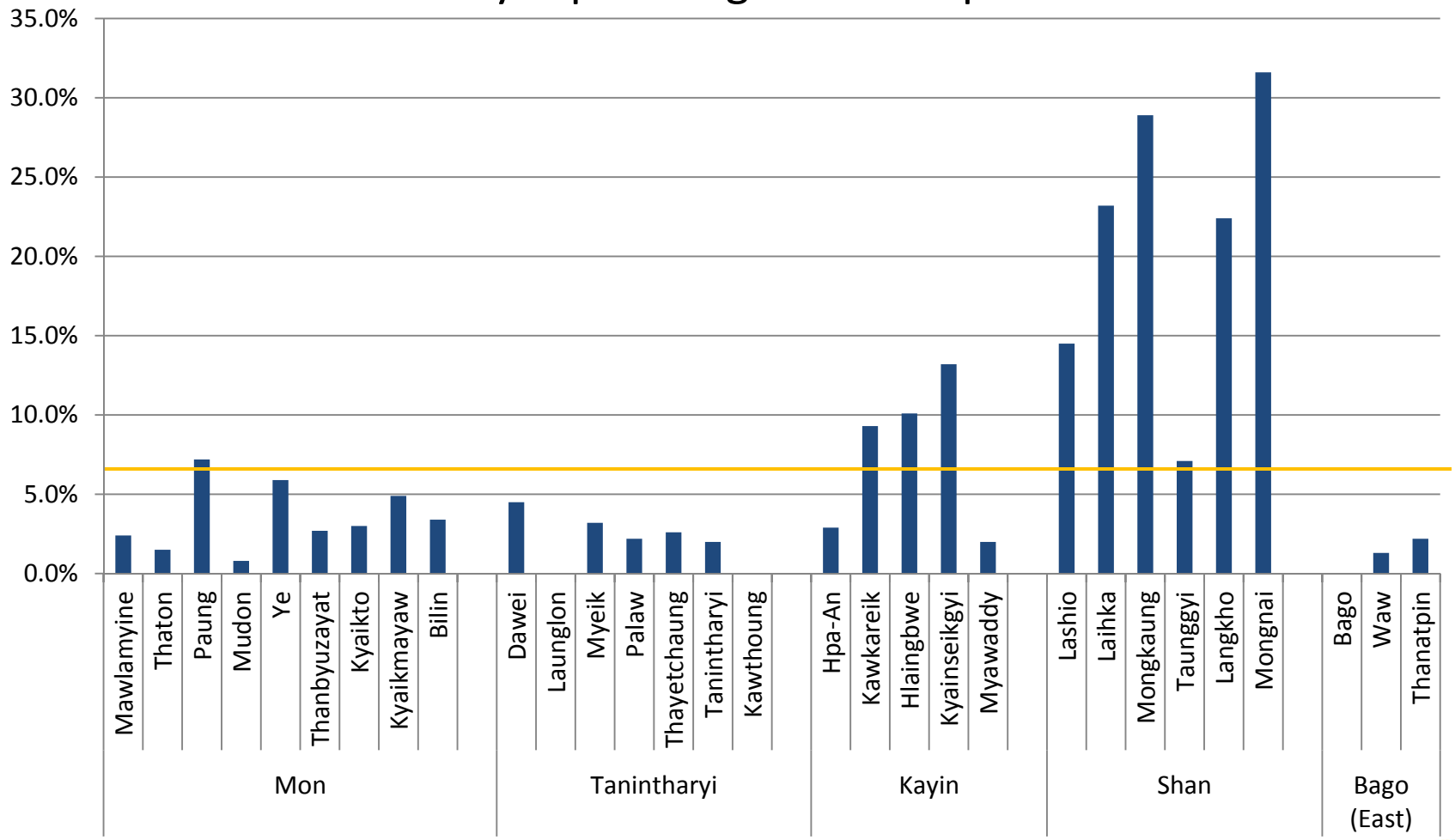
Percentage of migrants with displacement background

by top 30 origin townships



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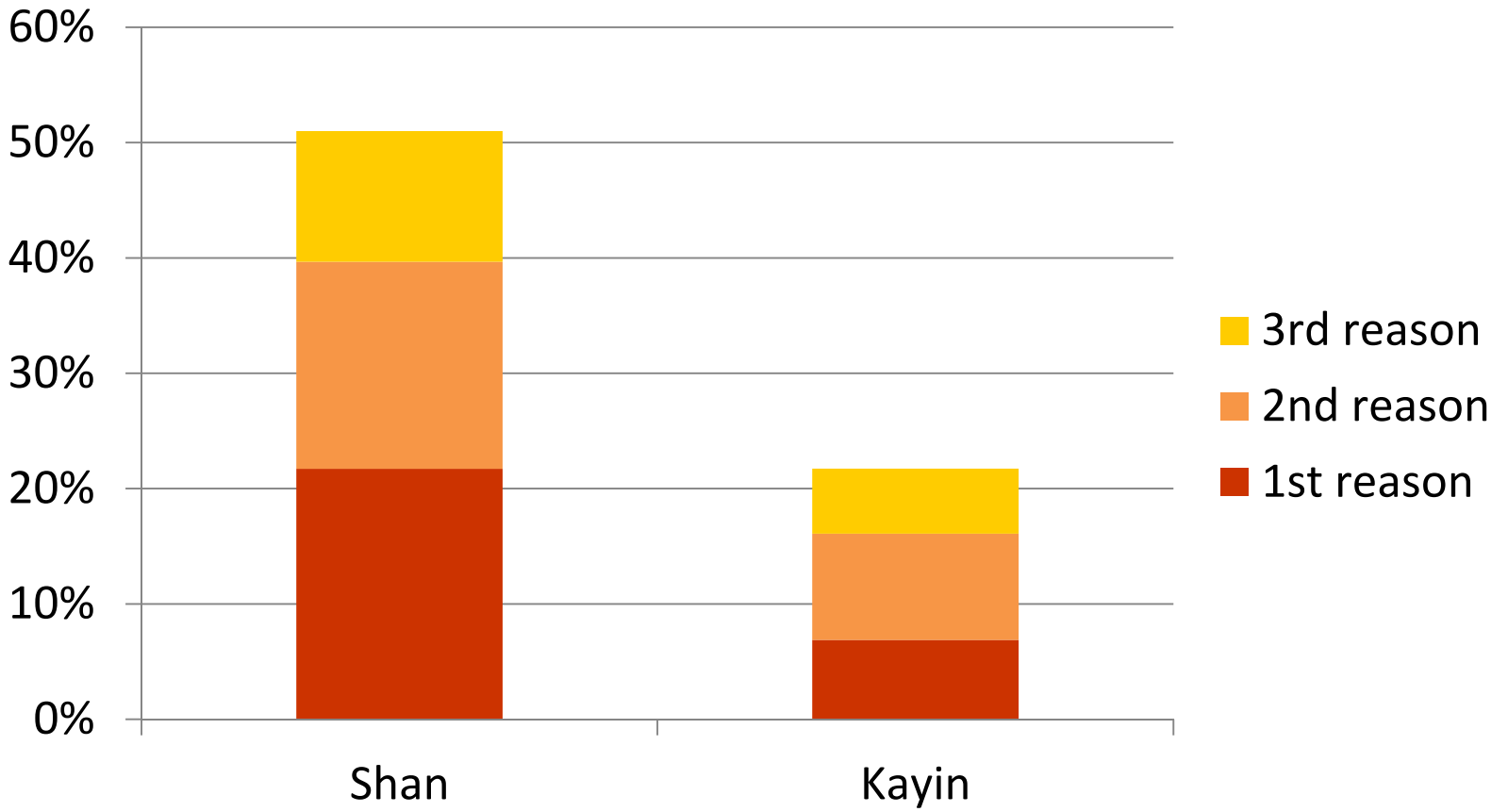
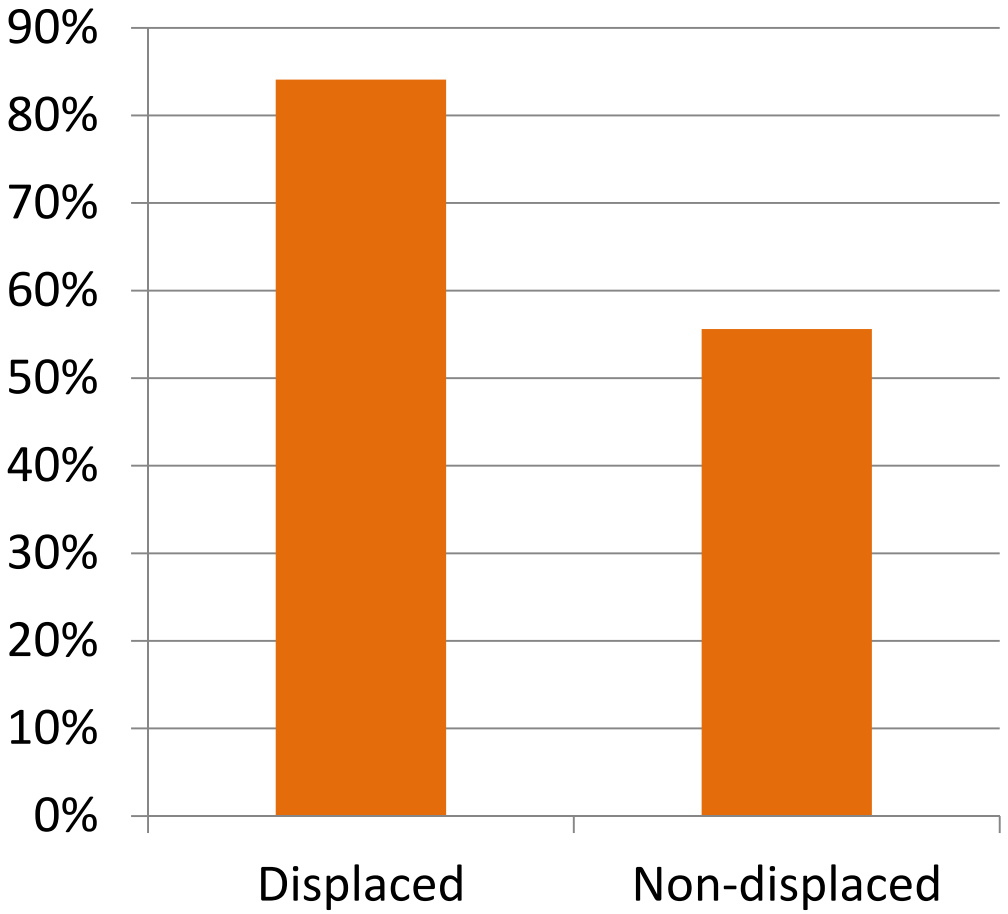
Percentage of Shan and Kayin migrants who cited insecurity and lack of safety as reasons to migrate to Thailand



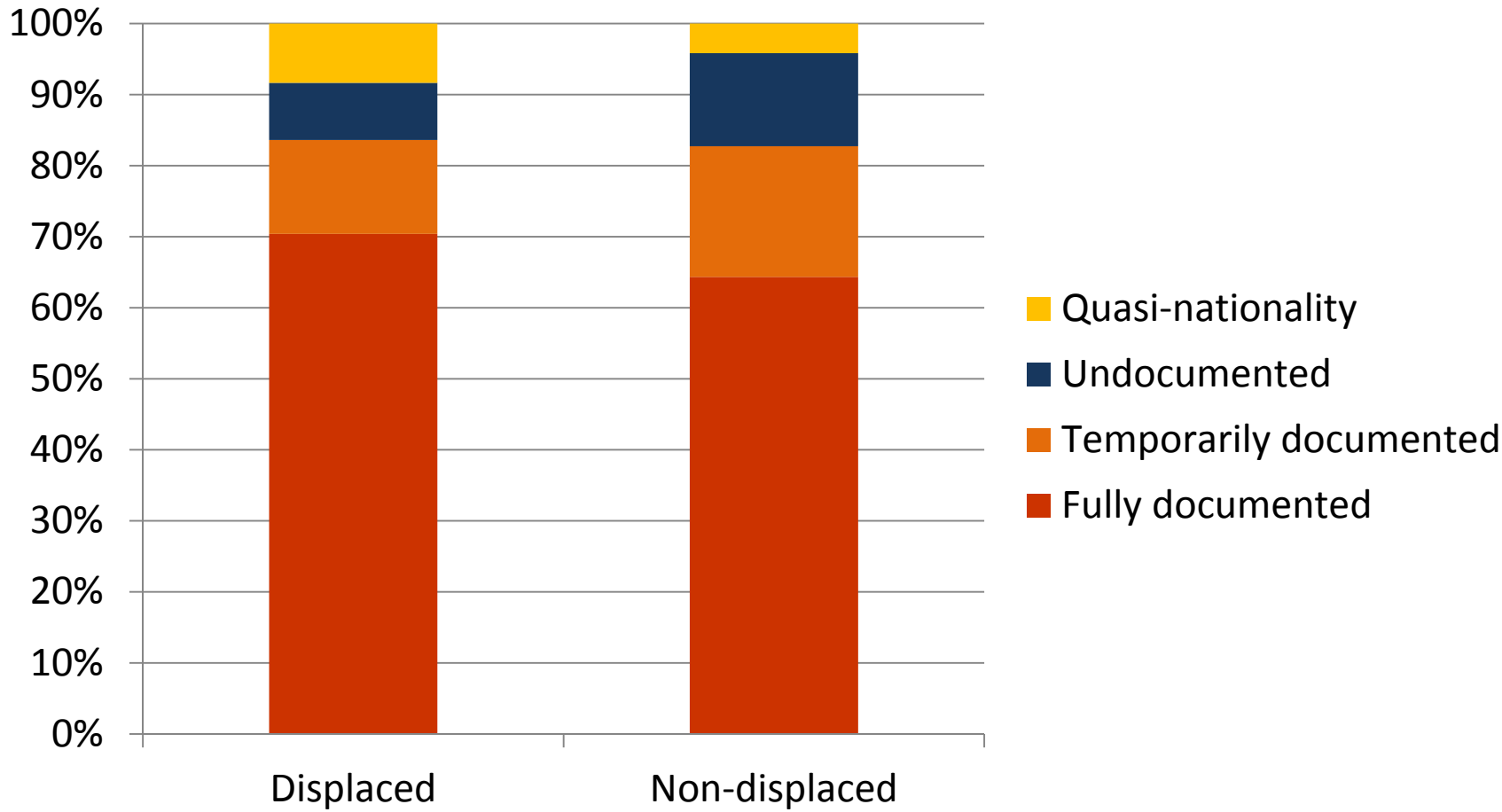
Percentage of migrants with children whose children are living in Thailand

by displacement background



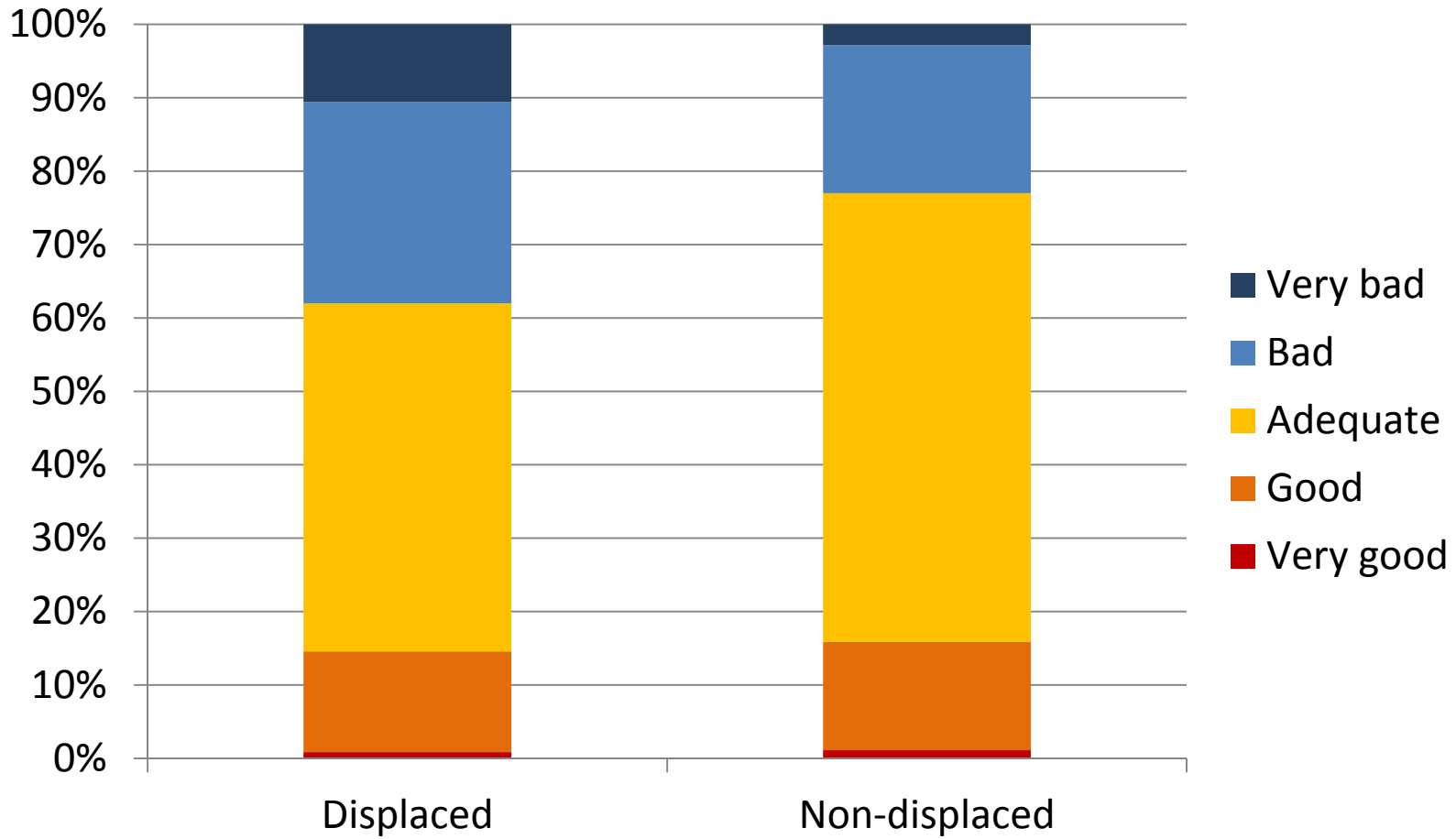
Documentation statuses of migrants

by displacement background



Living conditions of migrants in Myanmar prior to migration

by displacement background



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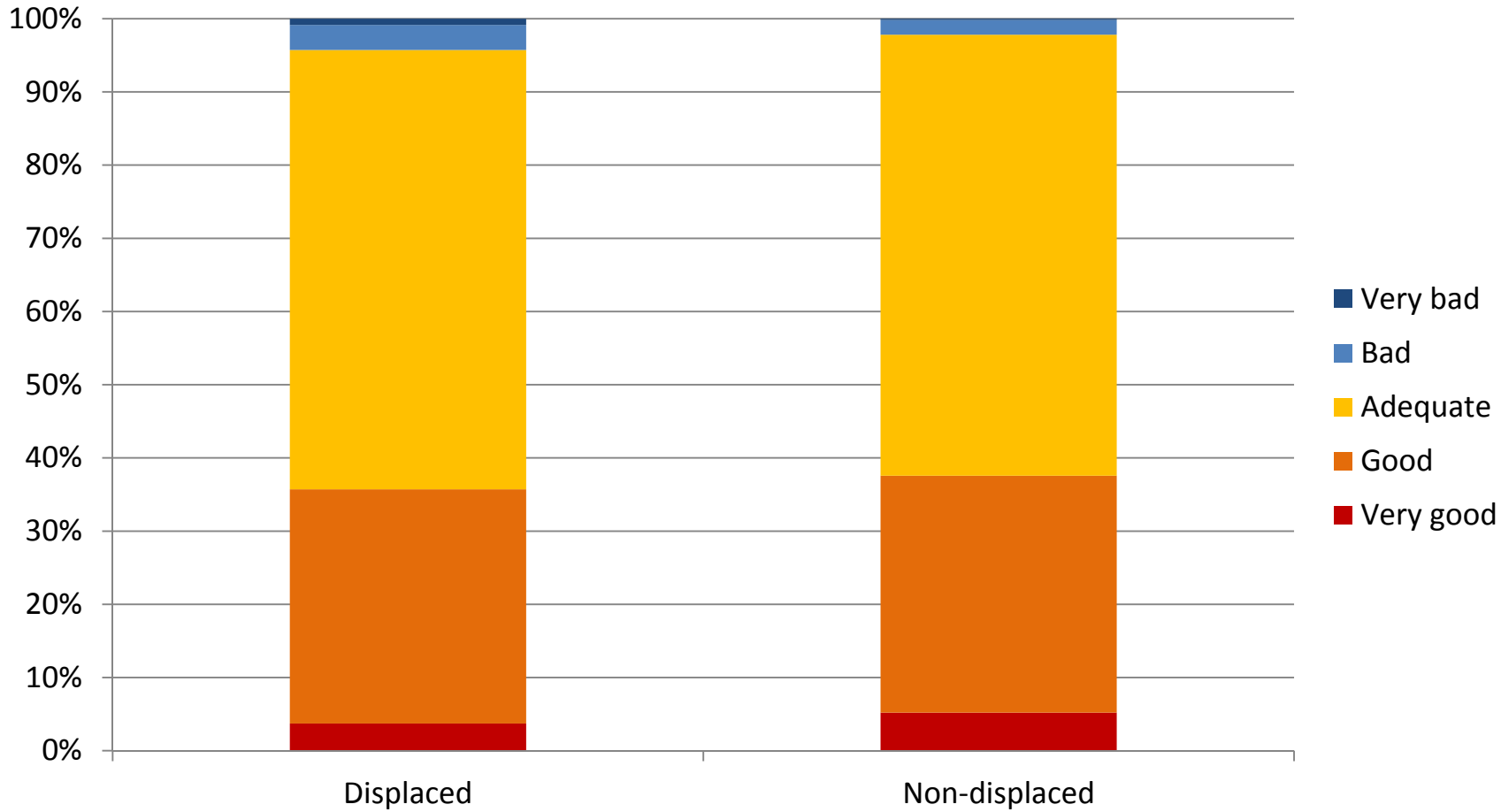
Living conditions of migrants in Thailand

by displacement background



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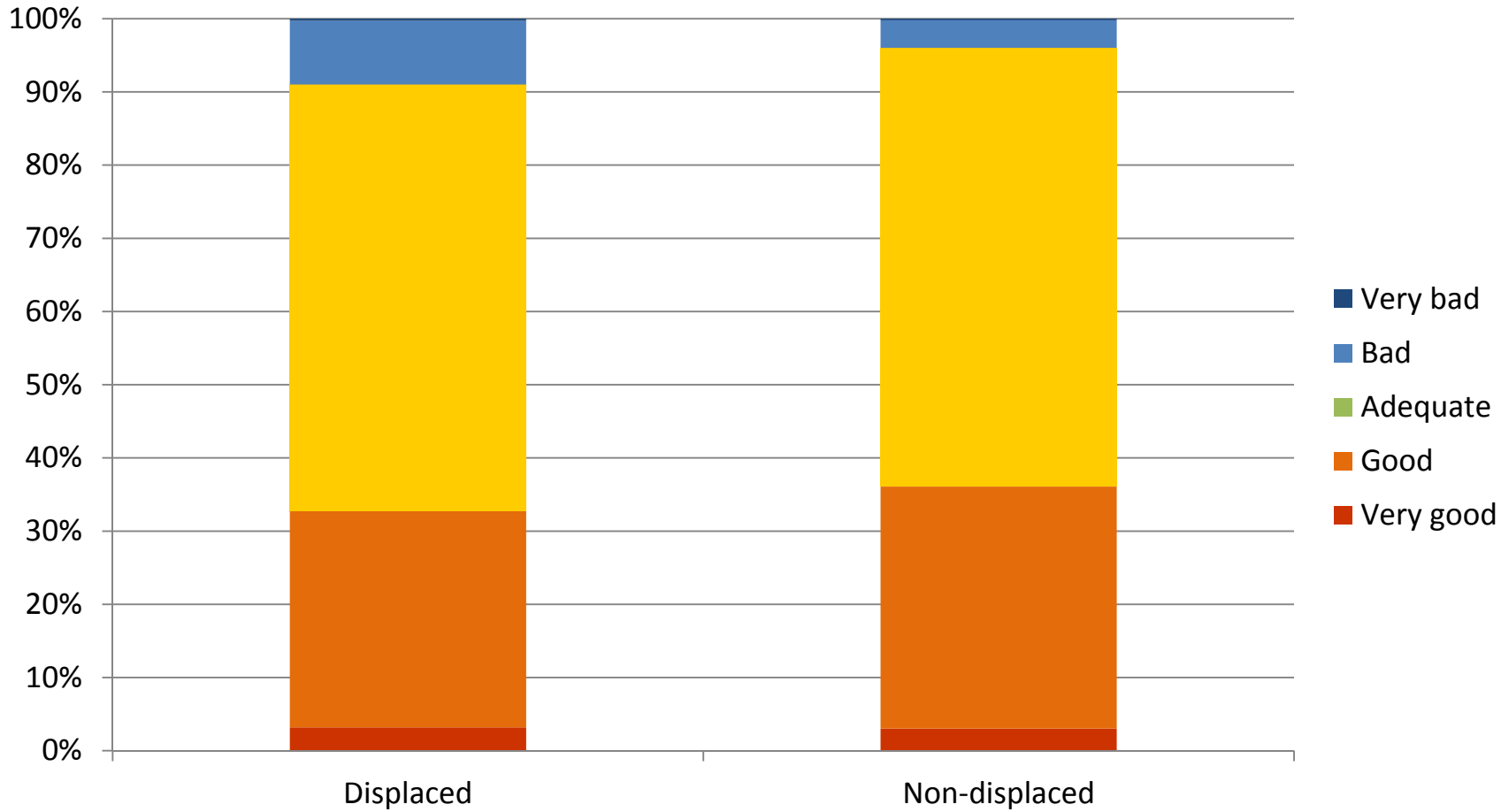
Working conditions of migrants in Thailand

by displacement background



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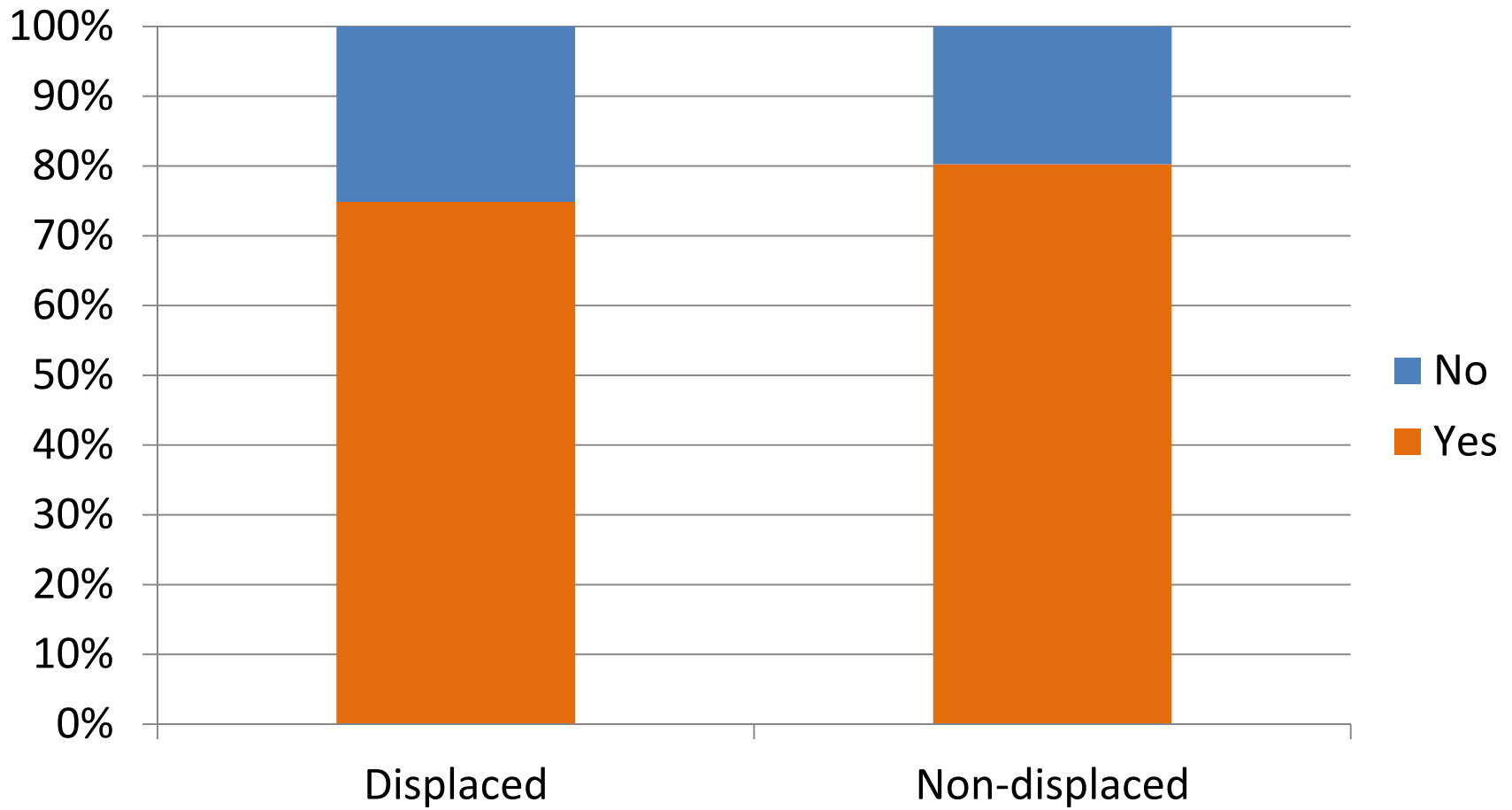
Level of annual remittances in USD

by displacement background

	Average (those who send)	Median (those who send)	% non-senders
Displaced	586	333	36%
Non-displaced	1,034	1,000	24%

Willingness to return

by displacement background



Primary reasons to return to Myanmar

by displacement background

Primary reason	Live with family and friends	Stayed long enough in Thailand	Enough savings now	Could not save money	Greater security in Myanmar	More opportunities in Myanmar	Problems living in Thailand
Displaced	57%	4%	13%	4%	5%	4%	11%
Non-displaced	62%	6%	11%	5%	3%	8%	5%

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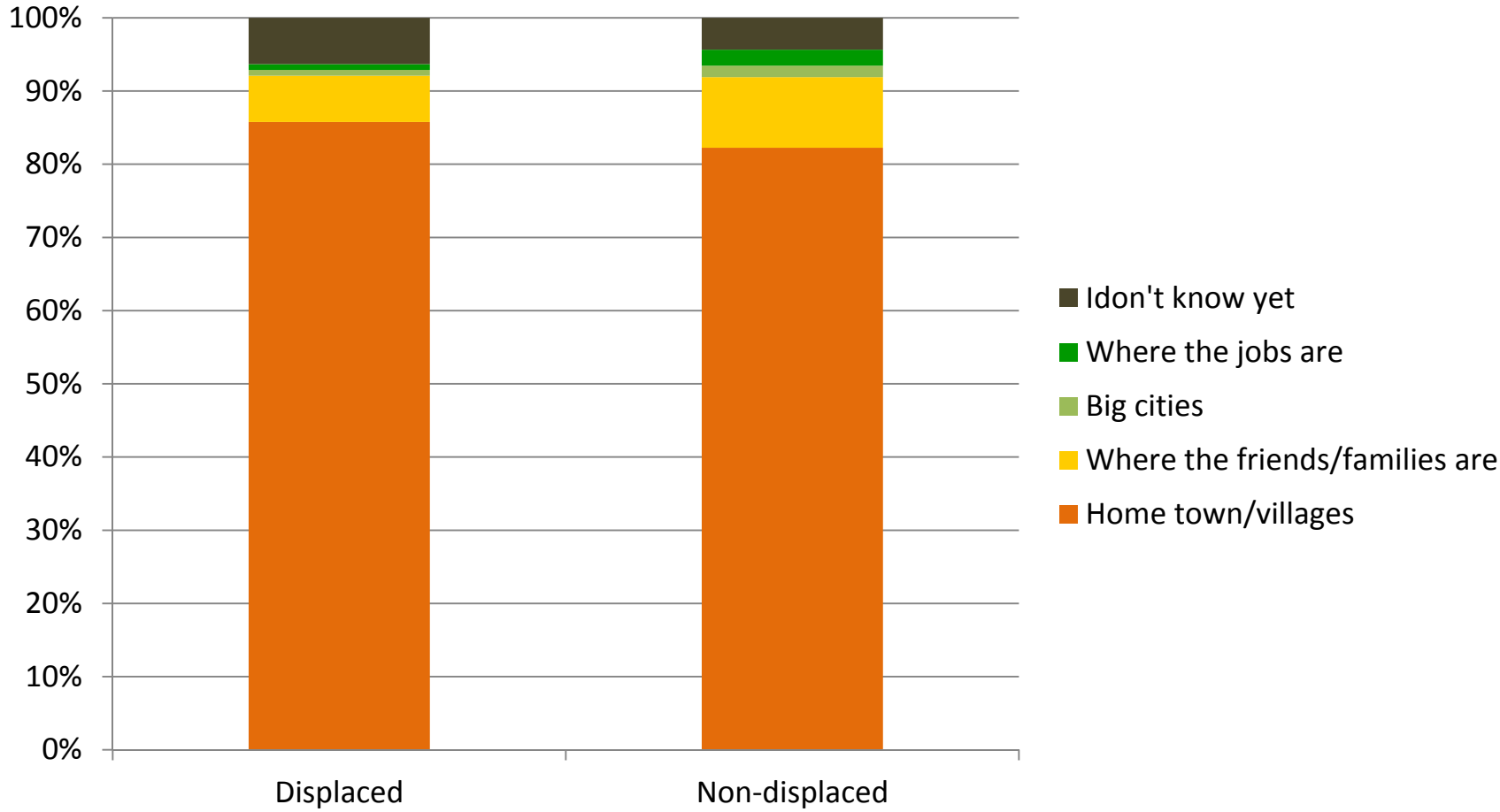
Preferred destination of return

by displacement background



Livelihoods in Myanmar

- **High % of unemployed** in both urban and rural areas, lower in Shan rural areas
- **Lower % of farmers** in Mon, Thanintharyi and Kayin
- **Higher % of landless farmers among farmer populations** in Mon, Thanintharyi and Kayin

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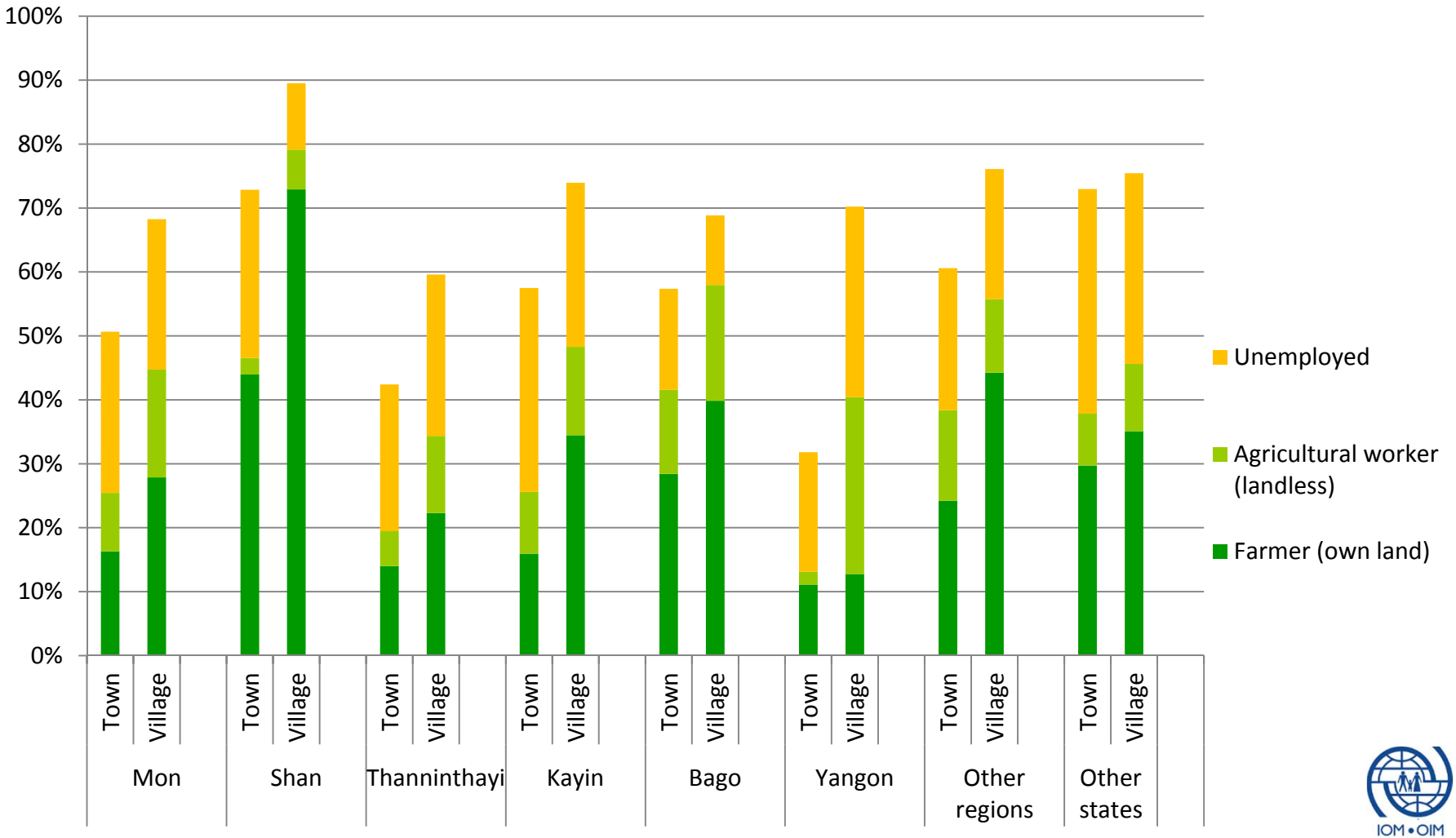
Employment prior to migration

by origin state/region



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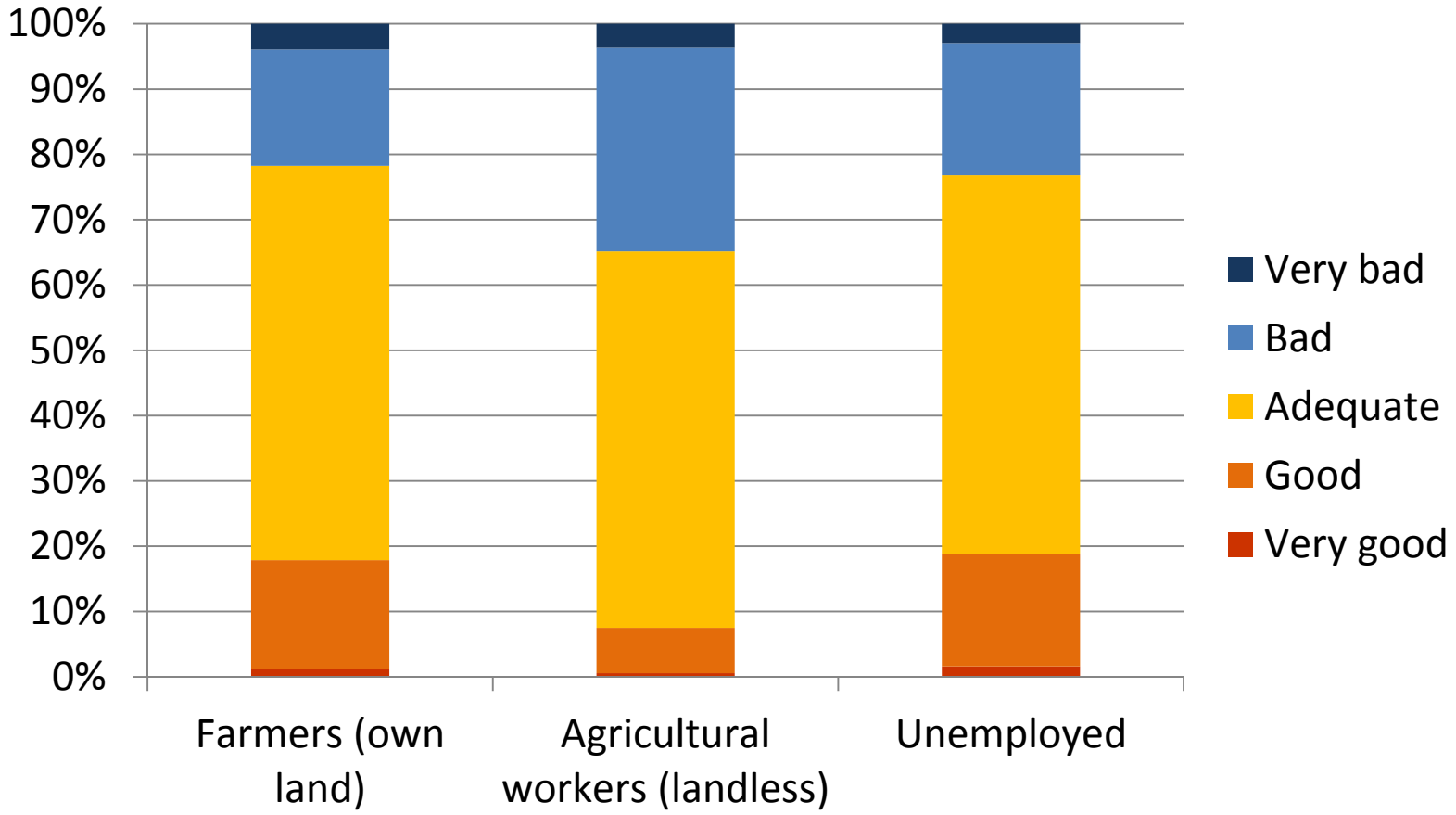
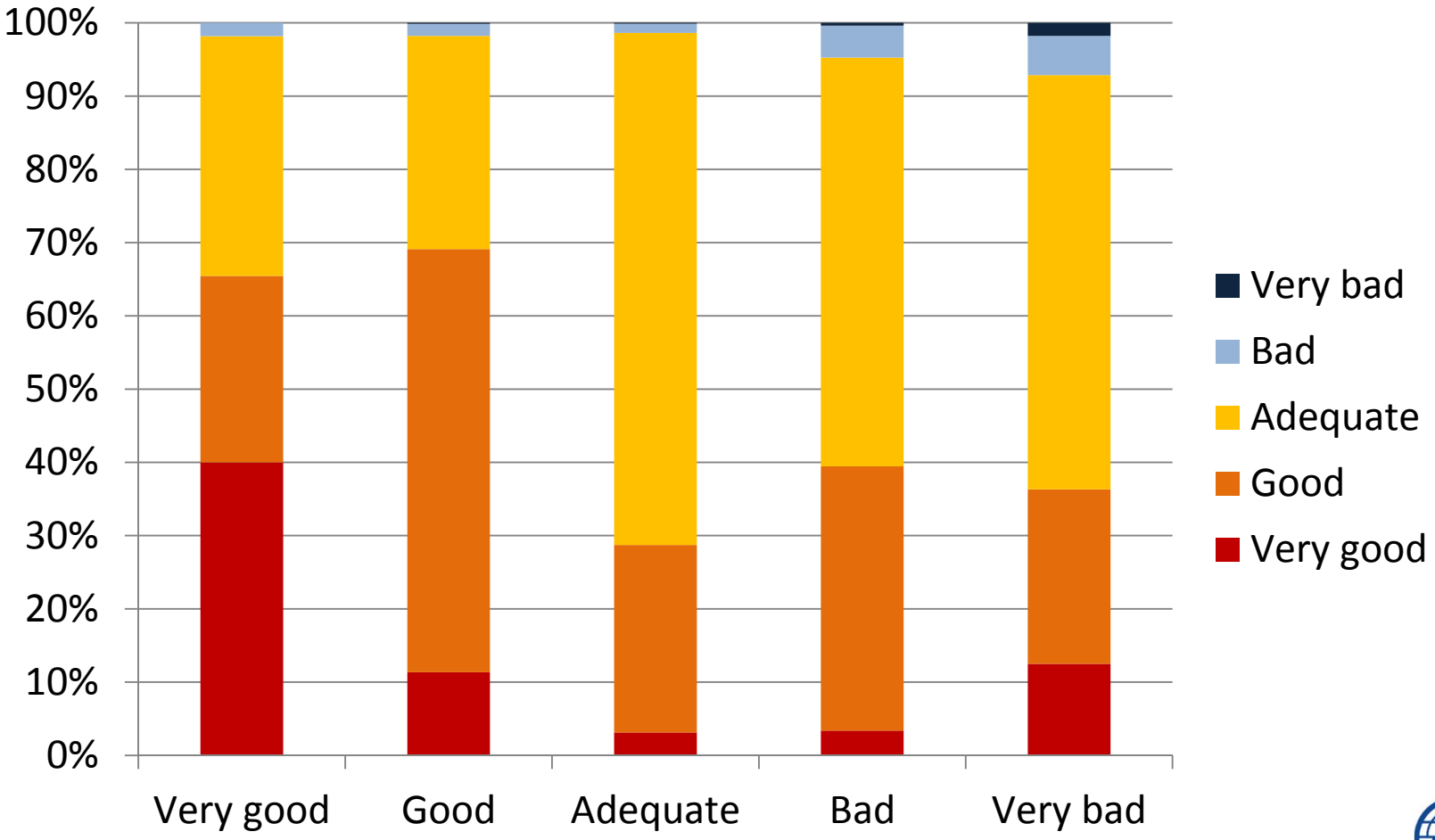
Standard of living prior to migration

by previous employment



Living conditions in Thailand

by living conditions in Myanmar prior to migration



Remittances flow

- Average **962 USD/annum**, median **781 USD/annum**, migrants from **Shan** send **less**
- Nationally **1.7 billion USD/annum**, but **1.4 billion** goes to the **South East and Shan**
- **83%** of remittance flow is **through unofficial channels**

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Annual remittances flow

by origin state/region (in USD)

State/region	Average (those who send)	Median (those who send)	% non-sender	Total amount sent (estimate)
Mon	1,185	938	24%	588,953,193
Shan	545	313	22%	197,668,444
Tanintharyi	973	938	31%	265,578,726
Kayin	1,134	938	18%	328,152,346
Bago	824	625	29%	133,694,687
Yangon	1,019	938	30%	87,017,505
Others	987	875	27%	139,228,494
All	**962**	**781**	**25%**	**1,740,293,396**

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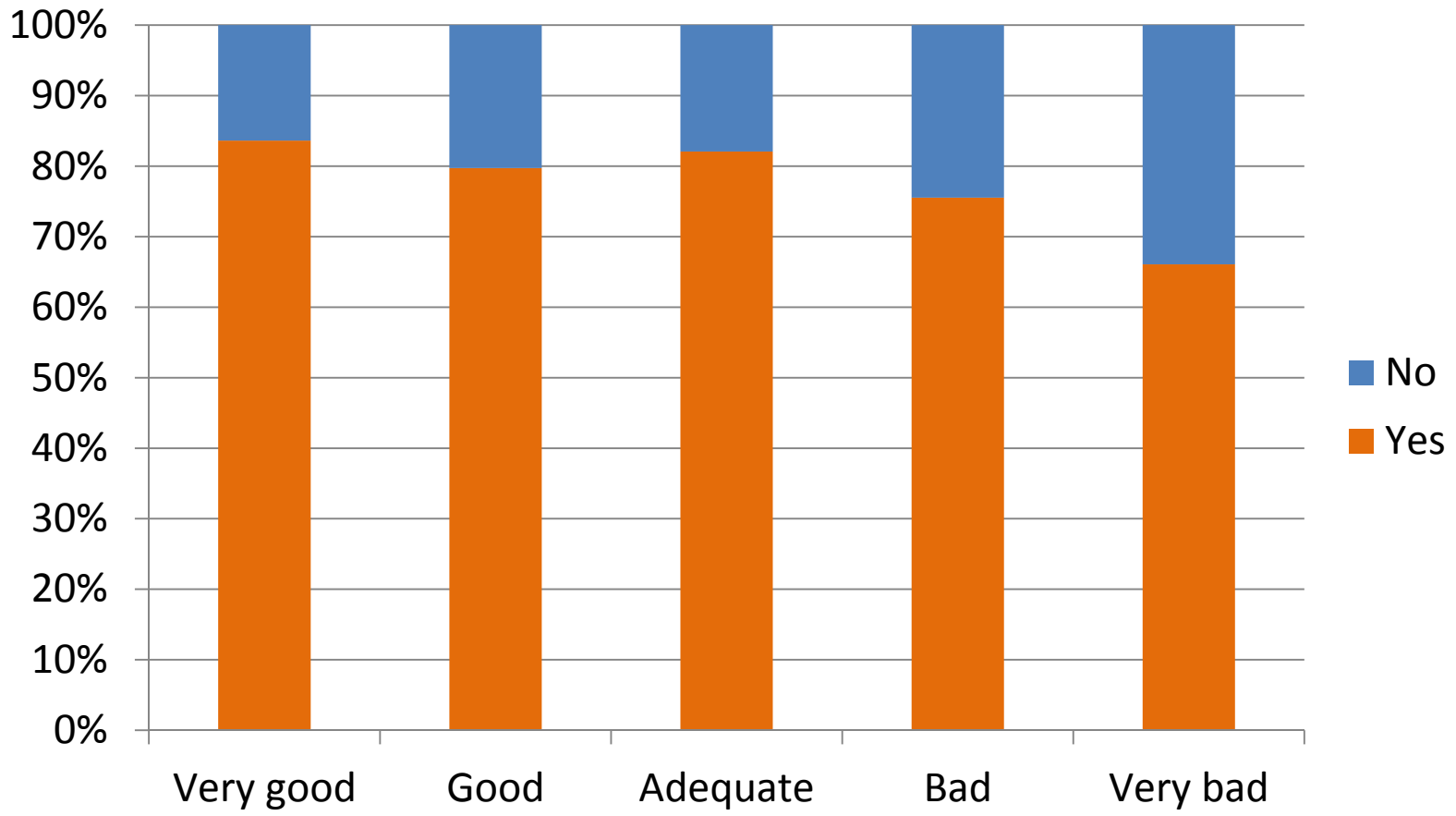
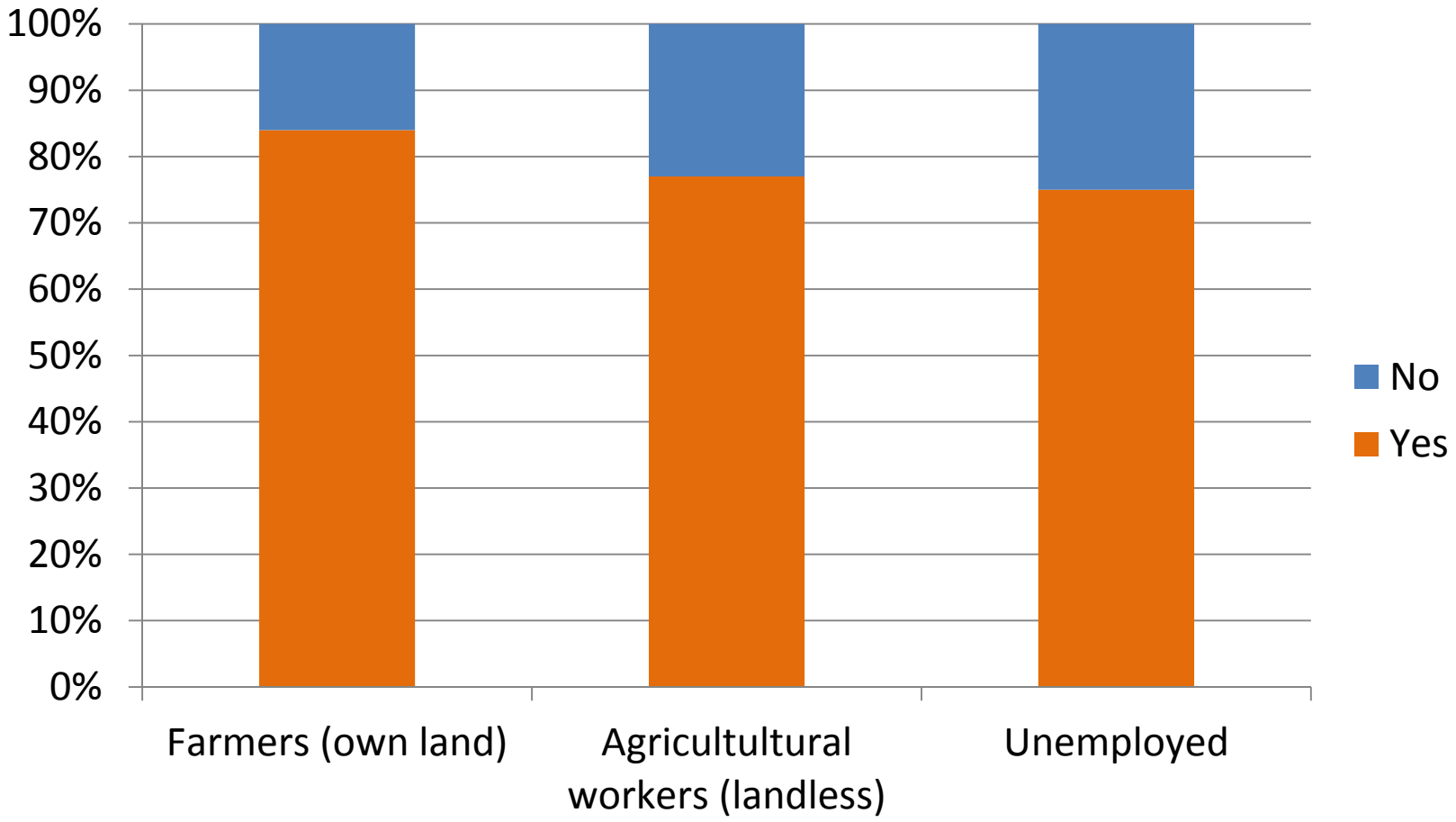
Willingness to return

by standard of living prior to migration



Willingness to return

by employment prior to migration



Skills gained during migration

- **74% female** and **72% male** gained technical skills
- Variety of **attitude skills** including self-confidence
- **48%** thinks the skills gained will **help them find jobs** in Myanmar, **27%** not sure

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Skills gained during migration

by gender

Technical skills

	Language	Mechanical	Agricultural	Business	Manufacturing	Management	No skills gained
Female	26%	16%	14%	16%	9%	3%	26%
Male	22%	24%	16%	13%	8%	4%	28%

Attitudes

	Self-confidence	multicultural environment	Work under pressure	Familiarities with technologies	Services attitude	Familiarities with industrial system
Female	59%	43%	40%	13%	11%	8%
Male	57%	45%	42%	13%	10%	8%

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Top-3 preferred employment upon return

by previous employment in Myanmar

Previous employment in Myanmar	1	2	3
Farmer (own land)	Farm own land 53%	Open business 20%	Food and beverage 14%
Farmer (landless)	Farm (landless) 22%	Farm own land 20%	Open business 12%
Unemployed	Open business 17%	Food and beverage 16%	Farm own land 13%

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Recommendations

- Take **mobility into consideration** for humanitarian/development programming
- Better use of **diasporas** and **remittances**
- Be prepared for **accelerated mobility**

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