Turkey Migration and Internally Displaced Population Survey (TMIDPS) has been carried out by the Hacettepe University Institute of Population Studies between December 2004 and June 2006 under the coordination of T.R. Prime Ministry State Planning Organization in order to estimate the numerical size of internally displaced persons originated from East and Southeast Anatolia Regions in the last twenty years, and to determine their socio-economic characteristics before and after migration, and reasons for migration and their expectations.

The survey was carried out in three stages: In the first stage related literature was reviewed, in the second stage a qualitative survey with internally displaced persons was conducted in 5 provinces, and in the third stage a quantitative survey was conducted. The quantitative survey was conducted on a sample of about 6000 households which is nationally representative, chosen from 14 migrant giving provinces*, 10 migrant receiving provinces** and the urban and rural areas of other 57 provinces. The migration section of the questionnaire for the quantitative survey was prepared in the guidance of United Nations’ Internally Displaced Persons Guiding Principles.

Data was collected from the sampled households about general socio-demographic characteristics and if exists, lifetime migration information. Additionally, by interviewing at most two persons one male and one female between the ages 18-69 per household, data on their migration in the last twenty years, and especially for internally displaced persons, their experiences before and after migration and expectations was collected.

It is seen that 48,9 percent of the household population live at places other than their place of residence at birth. In urban areas, 56,7 percent of the household population live at places other than their place of residence at birth. In urban places, urban to urban migration (39,4 percent) and in rural places rural to urban migration (45,7 percent) takes place more often.

Among the household population involved in migration process, it is seen that 43,5 percent have migrated due to family related reasons. About one third of migrants migrated due to individual, and one fifth migrated due to economic reasons. The share of those migrated due to security reasons is 3,3 percent and the share of those who are return migrants is 0,3 percent.

If previous migrations are generally evaluated in the context of Turkey’s total population , it is seen that about 1,8 percent of Turkey’s population has migrated due to security reasons. The share of security related migration originating from the 14 provinces in Turkey’s population is 1,53 percent. This proportion for security related migration is found to be 1,19 percent for the rural areas of these 14
provinces. These findings show that a significant part of the security related migration is originated from the 14 provinces, and especially the rural areas of these provinces.

When the estimates of the numerical size of migrants originating from the urban areas of the 14 provinces are taken into account as well, it is seen that the size of the migrant population originating from the 14 provinces due to security related reasons may be between 953,680 and 1,201,200. These results indicate that 80 percent of the security related migration that took place in twenty years between 1986-2005 is rural originated, and 20 percent is urban originated.

Among the security related migration originated from the rural areas of the 14 provinces in the last twenty years, 61,3 percent has taken place between 1991-1995 period when terrorist acts were most frequent, and 31,6 percent between 1986-1990 period, 5,0 percent between 1996-2000 period and the remaining 2,1 percent between 2001-2005 period, which is the five year period before TMIDPS.

TMIDPS’s data show that at least 91,000 and at most 101,200 of the security related migrants of the last twenty years originating from the 14 provinces may have returned to their origins. When the migrants originating from the urbans are taken into account as well, the estimation of the numerical size of the return migrants increases to the interval 112,000-124.00. The numerical size of the return migrant population is estimated to be between 10,9 and 12,1 percent of the population migrated from the 14 provinces in the last twenty years due to security reasons.

Among the security related migration in the last twenty years, 87 percent occurred without the migrants’ will and 13 percent occurred with the will of the migrant or her/his family’s will. It is stated that about half of security related migration was unreported. In the case of reporting, it is stated that almost all were verbal reports. 55,0 percent of those who have migrated due to security reasons but have not returned to their origins are willing to return to their origins.

According to the results of TMIDPS, among the security related migrants in the last twenty years originating from the 14 provinces who were at least fifteen years old at the time of migration, 50,1 percent claimed to be aware of RVRP***; 53,4 to be aware of Compensation Law; and 79,0 percent to be aware of ECHR. To those persons claimed to be aware of RVRP, Compensation Law and ECHR, it was asked whether they have applied to this application/law or court; 25,1 percent of the respondents stated they have applied to RVRP, and 37,1 percent to Compensation Law and 8,9 percent to ECHR.

In Turkey, 10,7 percent of the population at the age group of 18-69 have a tendency to migrate in the future. The share of those stated they do not wish to migrate in the future is 84,5 percent, and the share of those undecided is 4,7 percent.

*14 provinces: Adıyaman, Ağrı, Batman, Bingöl, Bitlis, Diyarbakır, Elazığ, Hakkari, Mardin, Muş, Siirt, Şırnak, Tunceli and Van.

**10 provinces: İstanbul, Ankara, İzmir, Adana, Mersin, Bursa, Antalya, Malatya, Manisa and Kocaeli.

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