

A Quantitative Analysis on Human Trafficking

The Case of An Giang Province

A Report by An Giang University

SIREN Trafficking Estimates



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UNIAP Trafficking Estimates

A Quantitative Analysis on Human Trafficking:

The Case of An Giang Province, Vietnam

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Foreword

The problem of human trafficking may be well defined, but less well understood is the scale of human trafficking. The glaring gap in our knowledge of the prevalence of human trafficking in different areas and industries affects responses at all levels and makes identifying the impact of counter-trafficking work nearly impossible.

Further, counter-trafficking responders are rightly being asked to show how efforts in programming help people. It is therefore crucial for them to understand exactly how their contributions and efforts are making a difference.

With no empirical starting point, however, how can results be measured or demonstrated?

In 2007, UNIAP held a competition with the ambitious goal of driving innovation and rigour in human trafficking research. NGOs, academics, and government and non-government research institutions were invited to submit proposals for methodologies that could estimate the numbers of trafficking victims in a given geographic area and/or industry.

The methodologies were required to be comprehensive, relevant to the information priorities in the sector, technically sound, practical, original and replicable in other regions.

The initiative had two purposes:

First, to address the need for accurate estimates of trafficking victims.

Second, to create a competitive format aimed at attracting quality statistical and research expertise to the field of human counter-trafficking – a field where the lack of reliable quantitative statistics has been widely acknowledged as an inhibiting factor in counter-trafficking programming.

The competition's many impressive entries went through two rounds of review and a shortlist of six proposals was selected to present and defend their methodologies before an audience of UN, NGO and donors engaged in counter-trafficking in the region. The final reports were selected by a panel of three judges including David Feingold, from UNESCO; Lisa Rende Taylor, from UNIAP, and Jiang Jie from the Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences.

As hoped, the approaches set out in the proposals were diverse, innovative, and most importantly, locally specific, practical, and feasible.

In 2008, UNIAP provided direct funding and technical support to the top three selected methodologies. Their resulting reports are presented here with an expectation that sharing them will encourage replication and further innovation in other regions.

It is our hope that initiatives like this further the development of reliable systems for quantifying human trafficking not just in the Mekong Region, but in many regions of the world.

UNIAP would like to thank the authors for their contributions to human trafficking research. Their findings are not only innovative, but may give counter-trafficking practitioners the means to respond more precisely and more effectively to the sale and exploitation of human beings.

United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking (UNIAP)
Regional Management Office
Bangkok, Thailand

Acknowledgements

From the conception, this research has been both pioneering and ambitious in its scope. The research includes interviews conducted in 98% of the hamlets in An Giang Province. This effort would not have been made possible without the permission and the cooperation of People's Committee, Department of Police, and Department of Labour, Invalids, and Social Affairs of An Giang Province. The survey was completed on target and on time due to the tireless efforts of the research team at An Giang University. The survey received the financial assistance from United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking (UNIAP). Special thanks to Dr. Lisa Rende Taylor and Paul Buckley for providing the technical and logistics support. Linda Tran and Anita Kumar provided comments on the initial draft. Lily Phan collaborated with Tran Minh Hai to design the survey methodology and compile this report.

August 2009

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ABSTRACT

Using a quantitative survey of 98% of all the hamlets in An Giang Province- Vietnam, this research has estimated the number of suspected and identified victims of human trafficking (VoT), excluding domestic trafficking cases, to be 58 cases for the period 2006-2008¹. This total number included 10% of cases of foreign marriages that exhibited signs of deception, 44% of cases of deceiving women and selling them, 31% cases of women who left to Cambodia and their current whereabouts are unknown, and 15% cases of women leaving town and their current whereabouts are unknown.

The results of the survey reveal a heat-map of hotspots within An Giang Province. Using this data, the research team found that there is no evidence to suggest that border communes are at higher risk of trafficking than non-border communes. In addition, there is also no evidence to suggest rural hamlets are at more risk than urban hamlets. The research does show that rural hamlets have a higher incidence of human trafficking; however this is because they also hold a high concentration of the population. Controlled for population density, the rural residents face the same proportion of risk as their urban counterparts. The study then makes a preliminary investigation into the networks of traffickers to gain an understanding of why certain areas are more vulnerable than other areas, given that they share a similar socio-economic background.

The survey has found that there has been a steady decrease in the number of trafficking cases within the three years in 2006, 2007 and 2008. Interviewees have also reported that they have observed less cases of trafficking after the year 2006 as compared to the preceding years. Based on these findings, the paper includes recommendations made by hamlet leaders on what can be done to reduce trafficking in their areas. Finally, the study concludes with recommendations for future research that can build from the findings of this survey.

¹ As with any survey on human trafficking, this number stated here is aggregated based on the actual knowledge of the interviewees. There are certain cases where the interviewees truly did not know of certain trafficking cases. In these situations, no case was reported. As such, the actual figure of trafficking incidence is believed to be somewhat larger than the number stated here. This undercounting bias is unavoidable due the highly secretive nature of this field. Consequently this figure should not be quoted by itself without explaining the derivation process and what it reveals about micro hotspots within An Giang province.

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SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION TO THE RESEARCH

1.1 The need for human trafficking statistics in Vietnam

Vietnam's success story of rapid economic development and growth has earned it international recognition. A lesser-known fact is that Vietnam is an origin, and to a lesser extent a transit and destination country for human trafficking activities. Traffickers target vulnerable populations in both rural and urban communities across the country, often preying on those who are willing to make risky migration decisions in the pursuit for a better life.

The most established routes of human trafficking in Vietnam are from Vietnam to China in the north, and Vietnam to Cambodia in the south. In the Vietnam to China cases, young girls/women are commonly being trafficked to work in brothels and/or sold as wives to rural Chinese farmers. There has also been some reported cases of children trafficked to China to meet the adoption demand and men trafficked for labor exploitation purposes. In the Vietnam-Cambodia case, young girls/women are being trafficked primarily for sexual exploitation purposes. Once in Cambodia, some women are further trafficked to a third destination such as Thailand and Malaysia. To a lesser extent, Vietnamese women and men are also being trafficked to other countries for labor and sexual exploitation purposes as well.

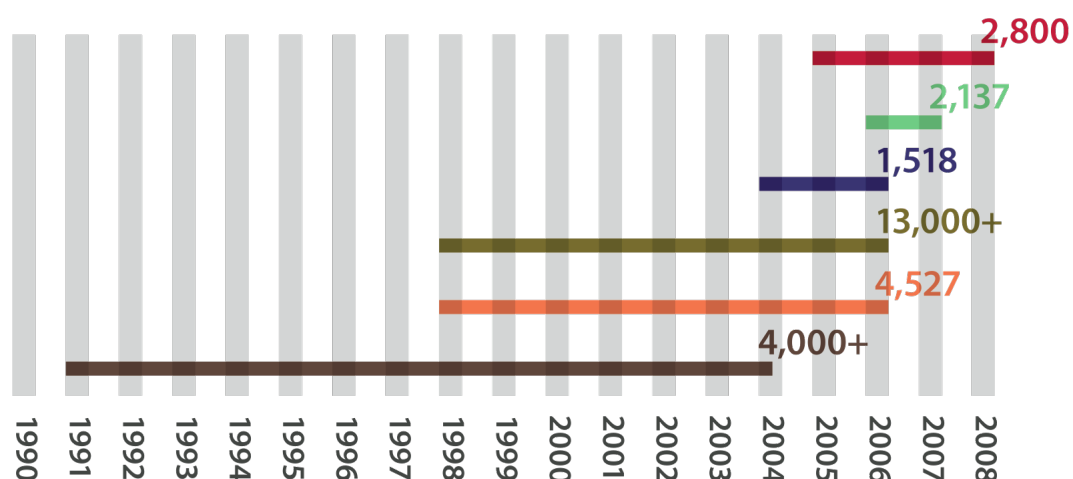
While the general destinations of trafficking activities can be traced, the actual figures on trafficking cases, trafficking victims, and traffickers are much harder to identify. Figure 1 below demonstrates some of the difficulties in finding reliable statistics. Analyzing news articles from 1991-2007, Figure 1 shows the different and varied numbers of total trafficking cases that have been cited in popular Vietnamese newspapers². Vietnamese newspapers, owned and run by the Vietnamese government, were chosen for analysis because they provide the best "official" estimates of trafficking incidence. And yet, Figure 1 shows conflicting data, that often renders it confusing for the mass public to obtain a clear understanding of the size and scope of human trafficking activities in Vietnam.

² Source of newspapers included articles from Tuoi Tre, VnExpress, Women's Union, VnChannel.

Figure 1: Statistics of Trafficking Incidence in Vietnamese News from 1991-2007

Year	# of VoT	Where newspaper cited source
1991- Sep 2004	4,000 ⁺ⁱ	Unclear
1998- 2006	4527 ⁱⁱ	Unclear
1998-2006	5,746 VoT + 7,940 suspected VoT ⁱⁱⁱ	Ministry of Security (MPS)
2004-2006	1,518 ^{iv}	Unclear
2006-2007	2,137 ^v	MPS
2005-2008	2,800 ^{vi}	Unclear

Numbers of trafficking cases as reported in Vietnamese newspapers (figures drawn from table above)



The different numbers of victims of trafficking (VoT) listed in Figure 1 highlight the difficulty in measuring the incidence of human trafficking. The police might have a different set of figures than the Vietnam Women's Union (VWU), the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA), and the Border Guards due to the different ways each organization comes in contact with the victims. The police might reach a final count of victims through their involvement in criminal cases. The Border Guards have their own set of numbers based on those who are detained at the border or get repatriated back to Vietnam. Similarly, the estimates of the VWU would be based on their extensive network that allows them direct contact with official and unofficial returnees at the village level³.

³Unofficial returnees are those who return home after a trafficking situation without assistance, and would generally fall outside the reach of police (unless they come forward to file criminal charges).

Policy-makers need and depend on reliable data and accurate trend analyses to effectively design counter-trafficking legislation and response. Meaningful data can also help policy-makers and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to stay on top of the current trends and design successful preventative programs for targeted high-risk populations. It was with this intention that the architects behind this survey participated in the United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking (UNIAP)'s unprecedented "Trafficking Estimates Competition"⁴. According to the original proposal, UNIAP called for:

"Even after nearly ten years of attention to human trafficking, estimates of the number of human trafficking victims are very limited and generally lack empirical merit.... Trafficking is a complex issue and it is reasonably argued that accurately estimating the extent of such underground criminal activity is a difficult task. UNIAP is looking for innovative, creative methodologies to estimate the number of trafficking victims in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region (Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam) that are also logical and defensible. We are hoping to find a way to get the numbers that the anti-trafficking community so desperately needs."

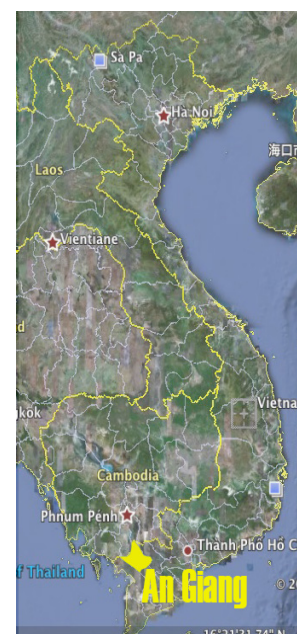
1.2 Objectives of the Survey

In line with the purpose and criteria of the UNIAP's *Trafficking Estimates Competition*, the objectives in this survey include:

- Creating a heat map of An Giang province highlighting micro areas that have numbers of suspected and identified victims of human trafficking and also includes time trends for the years 2006, 2007, and 2008
- Provide an analysis of what the surveyed numbers mean as an effort to assist policy-makers and counter-trafficking organizations to make more informed decisions

1.3 Choosing a sampling site: An Giang Province

An Giang province has commonly been sited as a hotspot for trafficking activities in the Vietnam-Cambodia transit route. It shares a 104 km border with Cambodia and has five official border-crossing points^{vii}. Of the other provinces in the Mekong Delta, An Giang offers the shortest route to the bustling capital of Cambodia, Phnom Penh. As such, An Giang province is a logical place to conduct a survey on trafficking incidences. In addition, it has been the site of strong efforts to combat human trafficking both from government agencies and assistance from international NGOs. For example, the An Giang Women's Union conducted 175 awareness-raising sessions for 5,000 educators who in turn pass on the preventative message to their local communities^{viii}.



⁴The design of this survey was among the top three winning methodologies after it went through a judging and presenting process by UNIAP.

Figure 2: Map of An Giang province, Vietnam

Table 1 provides some key statistics on An Giang province. A quick glance at these statistics reveals that An Giang province is densely populated, rural, and economically disadvantaged. It also has the highest school dropout rate among junior high students in the country^{ix}. In addition, it is also relatively easy to cross the border into Cambodia for local residents that know their way around. All of these conditions play an important role in explaining why An Giang is a feeding ground for traffickers. This location is perceived as a high-risk area as it has the potential source to satisfy the demand for Vietnamese sex workers in Cambodia.

Table 1: Key statistics in An Giang province^x

Key Statistics	
Population	2.1 million
Percentage living in rural	77%
Ethnics Vietnamese (Kinh)	94%
Ethnics Khmer	4.2%
Total land coverage out of entire country	1.02%
Literacy Rate	97%
GDP per capita (2002)	400 USD

SECTION 2

METHODOLOGY

2.1

Methodology.

The difficulty of measuring trafficking incidence in source areas lies in the 'ghost-like' characteristic of the targeted population where the majority of trafficking victims no longer reside in the origin areas. In addition, the definitional issue of 'human trafficking' has a lot of gray areas making it difficult to extract the exact information that researchers are looking for. The illegal and clandestine nature of trafficking itself also makes the accurate tracking, confirmation, and documentation of trafficking incidence elusive and difficult. These reasons help explain why there has been no attempt to systematically and comprehensively collect numerical data on suspected VoT from any specific hotspot within Vietnam.

This survey employs the method of sending trained interviewers to each hamlet in An Giang province to conduct face-to-face interviews with local administrators and leaders on how many cases of suspected VoT have they observed during 2006-2008. The design of this survey takes advantage of the governmental breakdown of Vietnam into minuscule, easily manageable administrative units. The rationale behind the survey is that the smaller the administration unit, the tighter the control, and thus the higher the probability that the administrative head will have a specific estimate of suspected and identified trafficking cases. Collecting data on all the known cases of trafficking at the hamlet level may provide a basis to more accurately estimate trafficking incidence within the entire province.

Vietnam is comprised of 64 provinces. Each of these 64 provinces is further broken up into districts, then communes, and next hamlets and finally *Tổ*-- each delineation progressively becomes smaller in size and in administrative control (see Figure 3 below). In An Giang province, there are 11 districts and 154 communes. Each commune further divides into about 4-5 hamlets with 500 households on average per hamlet. Each hamlet is further broken down to about 10-25 *Tổ* with about 25 households per *Tổ*. A *Tổ* is the smallest unit of administration in Vietnam, so small that it has no equivalent term in countries like the United States.

A total of 18 trained Vietnamese interviewers from An Giang University (AGU) participated in conducting the survey. The AGU research team went through training sessions to clearly grasp the profiles of suspected victims that the survey was looking for. The AGU team also received training on ethics in order to ensure that this study

abided by the ‘do no harm’ approach. This study implemented the principles outlined by the UNIAP’s *Guide to Ethics and Human Rights in Counter-Trafficking*^{xi}.

The interviewers covered 845 hamlets out of 860 hamlets in An Giang province (a 98% coverage). Some of the hamlets were not accessible due to poor road conditions or difficulty in scheduling meetings. Figure 3 below illustrates the sampling frame.

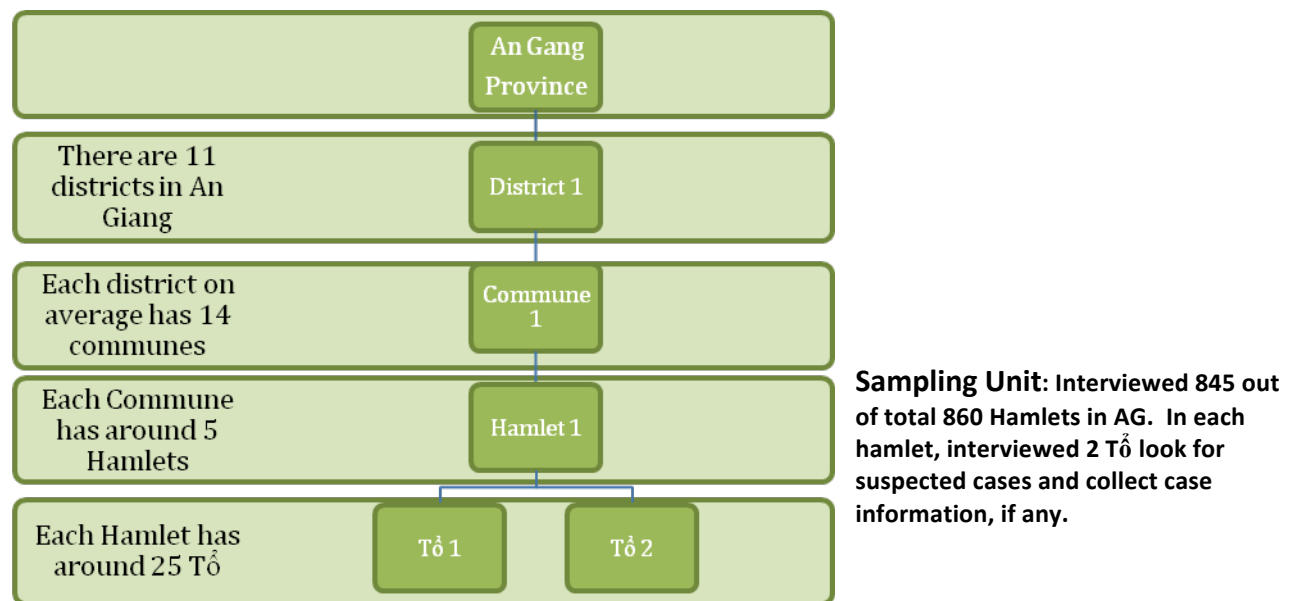
WHY INTERVIEW AT THE HAMLET AND *TỔ* LEVEL?

The heads of hamlets and *Tổ* have verified information about the comings and goings of their residents. In Vietnam, residents are required to register their residency with the hamlet police when they come to town and when they leave. Due to the fact that the heads of the hamlets have to keep track of the residents’ whereabouts, the survey chose the sampling unit to be at the hamlet level.

In addition, by having access to official, systematic, and confirmed statistics within the hamlet, heads of hamlets can cut down the noise from unconfirmed rumors of trafficking cases because they are required to do background checks to judge the validity of rumors. Interviewing local residents might result in false positives, leading to an overestimation of trafficking incidence.

The hamlet head is in charge of approximately 500 households; the head of a *Tổ* is in charge of only about 25 households. Since both of these administrative units are quite small in size, the hamlet heads should know of general information on suspected and identified trafficking cases in their areas. The heads of the *Tổ* should know the details of these cases by the virtue of living right along side these families. (For a discussion of what the hamlet heads and *Tổ heads* do and do not know about certain trafficking scenarios, see page 14). The survey interviewed at the hamlet for the breadth of their knowledge and at the *Tổ* level for the depth on trafficking cases.

Figure 3: Different Administrative Levels in An Giang Province



There are 11 districts in An Giang province. Each district was assigned a team leader that was responsible for arranging introduction letters to conduct interviews. There are 154 communes within the 11 districts. After securing permission to conduct interviews, research teams were dispatched to the communes, where a pre-identified gatekeeper met and took the interviewers into the hamlets. A gatekeeper, typically a police officer, was either a member of the government or a member of the Women's Union. Once at the hamlet level, the interviewer proceeded to conduct a 30-minute interview with the head of the hamlet (or with the deputy head if the head was not available). Through the gatekeepers' introduction, the interviewers were generally well received.

On arrival at the hamlet, the interviewer asked the hamlet head about residents who have engaged in international migration between the years 2006-2008. Interviewer first asked about non-sensitive types of migration such as labor export, foreign marriages, and reunion with family in foreign countries. After that, the interviewer proceeded to ask about suspected and identified cases of human trafficking as defined below.

SUSPECTED CASES OF TRAFFICKING DEFINED:

- **Type 1:** Cases of foreign marriages that had any exhibited signs of deception
- **Type 2:** Cases of women being deceived and sold
- **Type 3:** Cases of women leaving to Cambodia and their current whereabouts are unknown
- **Type 4:** Cases of women leaving town and their current whereabouts are unknown

It should be noted here that the scope of the research does not cover the following cases:

- Cases of domestic trafficking
- Cases of labor exploitation through migrant workers signing an export labor contract. We decided not to cover such cases because the exportation of labor from 2006 to 2008 was not a common phenomenon in An Giang province⁵.

In the event that the hamlet head said there were no suspected cases, the interviewer then picked two random *Tổ* located far apart from the current location of the hamlet office. As Figure 4 points out, the goal was to pick 3 points in a hamlet that would allow for the most uniform distribution across the hamlet's geographical layout. Upon arriving at the 2 different *Tổ*, the interviewer asked the same set of questions to the head of the *Tổ*. The purpose of visiting the administrative leaders at the *Tổ* level was to try to uncover cases that the hamlet head may not be aware of. It was hypothesized that the administrative leaders of the *Tổ* may be privy to information on residents by being in charge of much smaller administrative units.

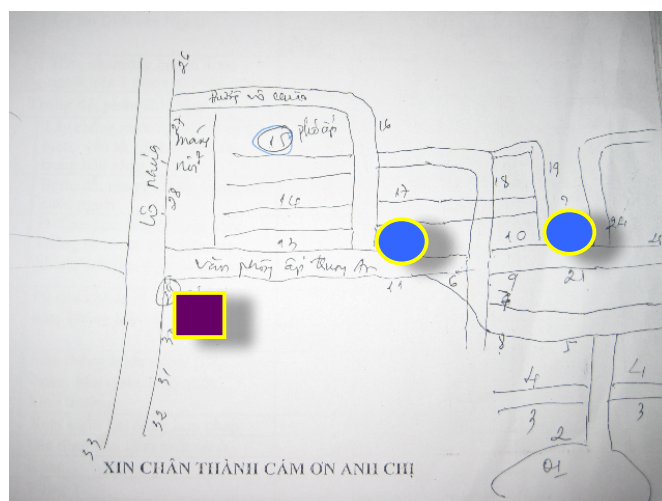
PROFILES OF INTERVIEWEES:

The interviewees are heads of hamlets and head of *Tổ*. Their general profiles are as follow:

- The majority of them are men.
- Their jobs as heads of hamlets and *Tổ* are part-time. As such they only receive a small stipend. They make up of a wide variety of economic classes from near poverty to wealthy status.
- Their age ranges widely from 30s-60s.

In meeting with hamlet leaders, interviewers were also required to draw a map of the hamlet to better understand the community layout and determine directions to individual *Tổ*. In Figure 4, the purple square denotes the location of the hamlet office. From there, the interviewer picked two *Tổ* that were the most spread out from the hamlet office. The two blue circles denote the location of the chosen *Tổ*. The main goal was to pick uniform locations across the hamlet.

Figure 4 : A hand-drawn map of a hamlet to decide which 2 *Tổ* to visit



⁵ From 2003-2007, An Giang has 2,993 legal labor migrants going abroad. However, in the first six months of 2007, only 49 migrants left to work abroad. Tuổi Trẻ. An Giang: Thành lập quỹ xuất khẩu lao động(An Giang: Establish export fund). 7/17/2007
<<http://www3.tuoitre.com.vn/ViecLam/Index.aspx?ArticleID=211155&ChannelID=269>>

In the event that the head of the hamlet confirmed that there were suspected cases of trafficking in the *Tổ* under their jurisdiction, the interviewer would go to these *Tổ*'s and collect information on the case. If upon arriving and the administrative leader of the *Tổ* claimed that no trafficking cases have occurred, it was left to the judgment of the interviewer to determine which data from the hamlet or *Tổ* to record.

In the event that there were more than 2-affected *Tổ*'s in a particular hamlet, the interviewers were required to visit the two *Tổ*'s with the highest incidence.

2.2 Undercounting bias

Given the highly hidden and complex nature of human trafficking, any surveys that seek to measure incidence of human trafficking are bound to have possible bias. There are a few possible reasons for an undercounting bias: (1) interviewees' understanding of the definition of 'human trafficking', (2) willingness to answer, (3) recollection of trafficking cases (4) actual knowledge of trafficking cases, (5) tendency to conceal information, and (6) possibility of governmental officials being involved in trafficking cases

The design of this survey has aimed to control for these types of possible undercounting bias.

(1) Interviewees' understanding of the definition of 'human trafficking'. The definition issue of 'human trafficking' terminology is a highly contested issue even among experts in international NGO's and multi-lateral institutions. The survey took the effort to clearly define four scenarios to be considered suspected cases of human trafficking, as listed above on page 11.

(2) Willingness to answer. As for the willingness to answer, this survey was approved by the An Giang Department of Police. In addition, government officials at the commune level have provided key introductions to the hamlet heads. As such, the hamlet heads were willing to share information since the survey had the support from higher up authorities.

(3) Recollection of trafficking cases. As for the issue of memory constraint, the survey only asked for cases that have left in the past three years. Furthermore, cases of human trafficking tend to have unsettling details that often stand out in a person's memory, which made it easier in the collection of such information.

(4) Actual Knowledge of Trafficking Cases. The final issue of how much a hamlet head actually knows about trafficking cases in their area proved to be the main source of the undercounting bias. The hamlet head would have a higher chance of known trafficking cases that have generated a lot of publicity. Figure 5 below offers insights into why certain cases of suspected VoT are more likely to pick up than other cases. This survey is only able to pick up the top three types: cases that went through court trial, cases where family show public grievances, cases where the traffickers were well known. The bottom four types have very little publicity; hence they were very hard to pick up unless there was some sort of hard evidence that showed up by chance.

(5) Tendency to Conceal Information: A common concern that has been raised is that interviewing government officials would lead to an undercounting bias because some government officials might want to downplay trafficking incidents in order to show that

they have done a good administrative job. While this is a valid concern, this survey was designed to minimize this source of undercounting bias. The survey interviewed 845 hamlet heads and 1690 administrative leaders of *Tổ*'s. These administrative leaders all have outside jobs and only received a nominal fee, if at all, for their administrative duties. At this level, they have very little influence on bringing about policy change that could result in positive developments for their residents. While they are the administrative units that directly receive the daily complaints from the residents on social and economic problems in their area, they are severely limited in their capacity to provide solutions. It is very rare that the hamlet heads receive opportunities to get interviewed. Therefore, they were forthcoming with their responses, as they seemed to view this as an opportunity to voice some of the social and economic constraints their hamlets face. With equal importance, the questionnaire was designed to be non-judgmental and did not include accusatory questions that might discourage interviewees to answer honestly. In addition, this survey took advantage of the rule of large numbers. The total sample size is 2,532 interviewees. Some interviewees might still feel the need to downplay trafficking incidents in their areas; however, interviewing a large sample size help to increase accuracy and reduce bias.

(6) Possibility of government officials being involved in trafficking cases: In addressing the issue of human trafficking, it is important to discuss the possibilities of government officials being involved in trafficking cases. In Vietnam, there has been very little research on this topic. In the design of our methodology, we interviewed at two administrative levels: the heads of the hamlet and the *Tổ*. In each hamlet, we interviewed 3 candidates. Therefore, we have a crosschecking mechanism to control for discrepancies between the interviewees, incase one was involved with the trafficking case. While it is possible that all three interviewees were complicit in a case, we have chosen the interviewees at the *Tổ* level by a random selection (see Figure 4). For all three interviewees to be involved with a trafficking case, it would be the case that the traffickers would have to buy out most of the *Tổ* heads in the hamlet. Since there are approximately 10-25 *Tổ* per hamlet, this scenario of involving the entire hamlet in corruption was unlikely to have taken place.

Figure 5: Levels of publicity in trafficking scenarios

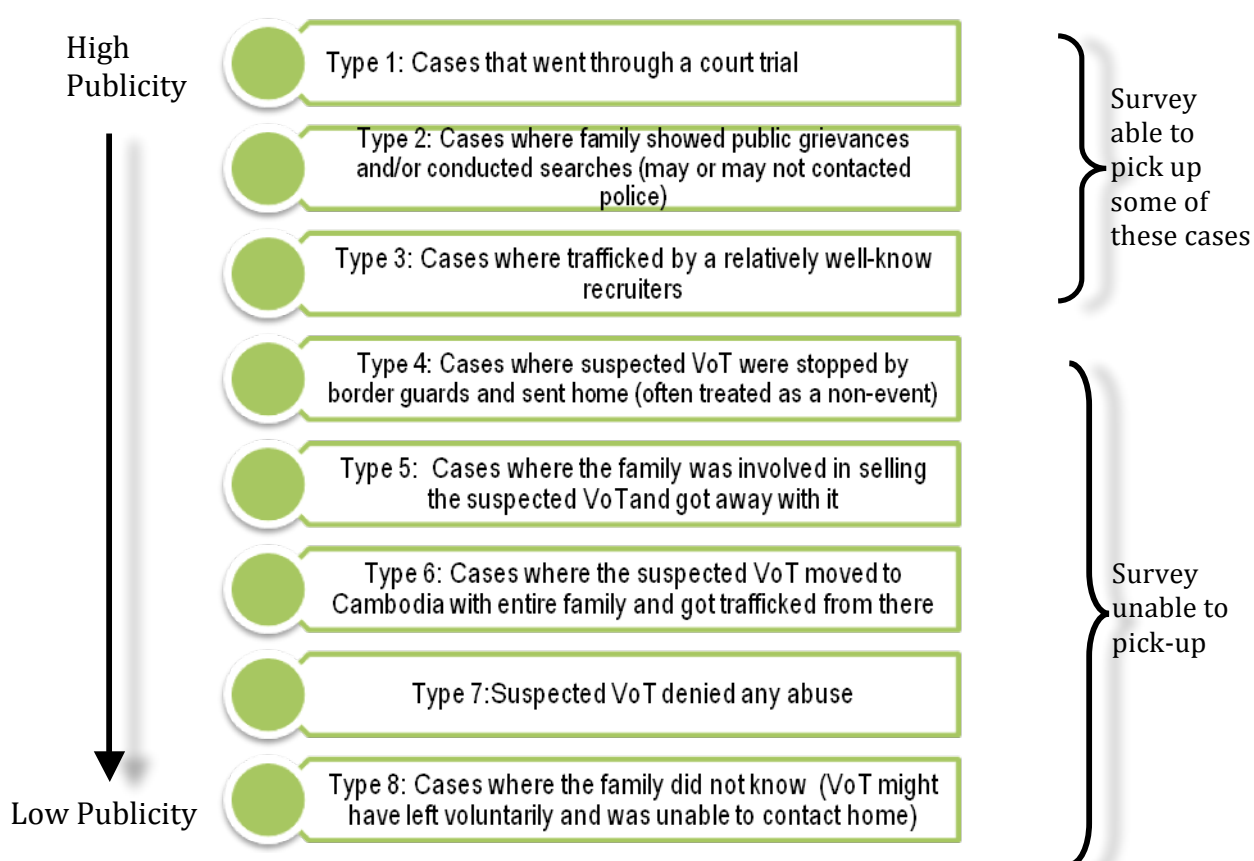


Figure 5 above highlights the difficulty of detecting information on certain trafficking cases. The results of this survey have found 58 suspected and identified cases of human trafficking. The nature of the majority of cases have a relatively high level of publicity (Type 1-3). While it is not possible to estimate the scope of the low-publicity cases (Type 3-8), we believe that they represent a significant percentage of the total trafficking cases. Take Type 7 for example. A key challenge that NGOs have encountered in reintegration assistance is that some suspected victims denied any past abuse for fear of being stigmatized. NGOs in Cambodia who have assisted Vietnamese trafficked victims have reported, “Trafficking victims, especially those exploited sexually, face societal discrimination, particularly in their home villages and within their own families, as a result of having been trafficked. Difficulties faced by legal protection NGOs are similar: Vietnamese women/girls do not want to make complaints against perpetrators and not willing to return home^{xii}.”

Even though such undercounting bias exists, its existence should be universal across An Giang Province. This means we do not expect any specific area within An Giang to have special reasons that would make the undercount problem bigger or smaller in any one specific area. With this assumption, we can still use the composition of the total counts to gain key understanding about micro-hotspots within An Giang Province. Specifically, we used the data to study the relationship between rural versus urban areas and border versus non-border areas. We also studied time-trends from 2006-2008. The results are elaborated in Section 3 below.

2.3. Ethical considerations

In carrying out this survey, the research team was trained by UNIAP in Ethics and Human Rights in Counter-Trafficking Research. The principles outlined by UNIAP were implemented in this study to ensure the study upheld the principles of ethical conduct and respected the human rights of each individual participant.

- ***Guiding Principle 1: Do no harm. Be Compassionate but Neutral.*** We anticipated that there would be emotional and security risks in interviewing on the topic of human trafficking. However, our survey did not directly interview victims and their families; as such, we expected the risks to be at least one level removed. Our interviewers conducted the interviews at the hamlet offices and in the houses of the *Tổ's* heads. In such physical setting, the interviewees were either alone or in the presence of people they trusted, such as colleagues and family members, which helped to ensure that the shared information were kept to a circle of trust.
- ***Guiding Principle 2 : Prioritize personal safety and security: identify and minimize risks.*** Rural areas in Vietnam have been known to be relatively safe. In addition, the interviewers went into the field often in a team of 3-4 people. They conducted the interviews separately but were always in close proximity of each other. All interviewers carried cell phones. Gatekeepers, who had local knowledge of the area, also accompanied the interviewers. The main safety issue in the survey was actually trying to cross-rivers through flimsy wooden bridges on motorbikes, driving down unpaved roads, or getting lost in the mountain.
- ***Guiding Principle 3 : Get informed consent, with no coercion.*** All interviews started with an introduction that asked for a verbal consent to conduct the interviews. We did not offer the interviewees any financial compensation. We paid for the interviewees' drinks to facilitate a more comfortable setting. In some cases, they insisted in covering our drinks thanked us for visiting their hamlets.
- ***Guiding Principle 4: Ensure anonymity and confidentiality to the greatest extent possible.*** We maintained the confidentiality of information that was revealed to us through the interviews, in order to protect the interviewees, reputations and the safety of victims and their families. We have worked out with the provincial government that we will only be discussing trends and data analysis in our report, without releasing any name of victims or people we have interviewed.
- ***Guiding Principle 5: Adequately select and prepare interpreters and field teams.*** There were 17 researchers at AGU that participated in the survey. These researchers have done other interviews before were capable of collecting information from of hard-to-reach populations. The difficulty in training the research team was to ensure that everyone understood the definition of 'human trafficking' as outlined by the survey. The survey has completed a pilot study and also had weekly discussion to answer new questions.

- ***Guiding Principle 6: Prepare referral information, and be prepared for emergency intervention.*** Since the survey did not interview directly the victims and their families, we only encountered a few cases that request referrals and/or information on how to report cases. The research team designated 1 person in charge of handling referral services. When the team encountered those cases, they used their cell phone to call this designated person. This person then reports the cases to the authorities upon the interviewees' request, while protecting the identities of the interviewees.
- ***Guiding Principle 7: Do not hesitate to help others: put your information to good use.*** This report will be published through UNAIP with distribution in Vietnam and beyond. AGU also plans to hold a conference with NGOs in Vietnam to discuss the findings. The first goal is to inform the trends human trafficking in An Giang Province. The second goal is to discuss a statistical methodology to measure trafficking incidence with lessons learned from implementing this survey. Another important goal is raise awareness on human trafficking in the Mekong Delta through a comprehensive and accurate mapping survey.

SECTION 3

SURVEY RESULTS

Section 3: Survey Results

The results section includes two parts. One gives descriptive statistics of areas in An Giang with suspected and identified cases. The second part provides an analysis of what the numbers mean.

31. Descriptive Statistics

The heat map in Figure 6 is useful for policy-makers and counter-trafficking programs to gain better understandings of affected communities in An Giang Province. The communes that are highlighted in red have more than one suspected cases of human trafficking from 2006-2008. The communes highlighted in orange have only one reported case for the same time period; hence, the orange communes are presented as illustrative points rather than being the central focus. A quick glance at the heat map reveals that the communes that are highlighted in orange and red tends to be located close together. This suggests that trafficking networks in An Giang likely to have operated in targeted and contained areas, perhaps from where the traffickers have the best personal ties and connections.

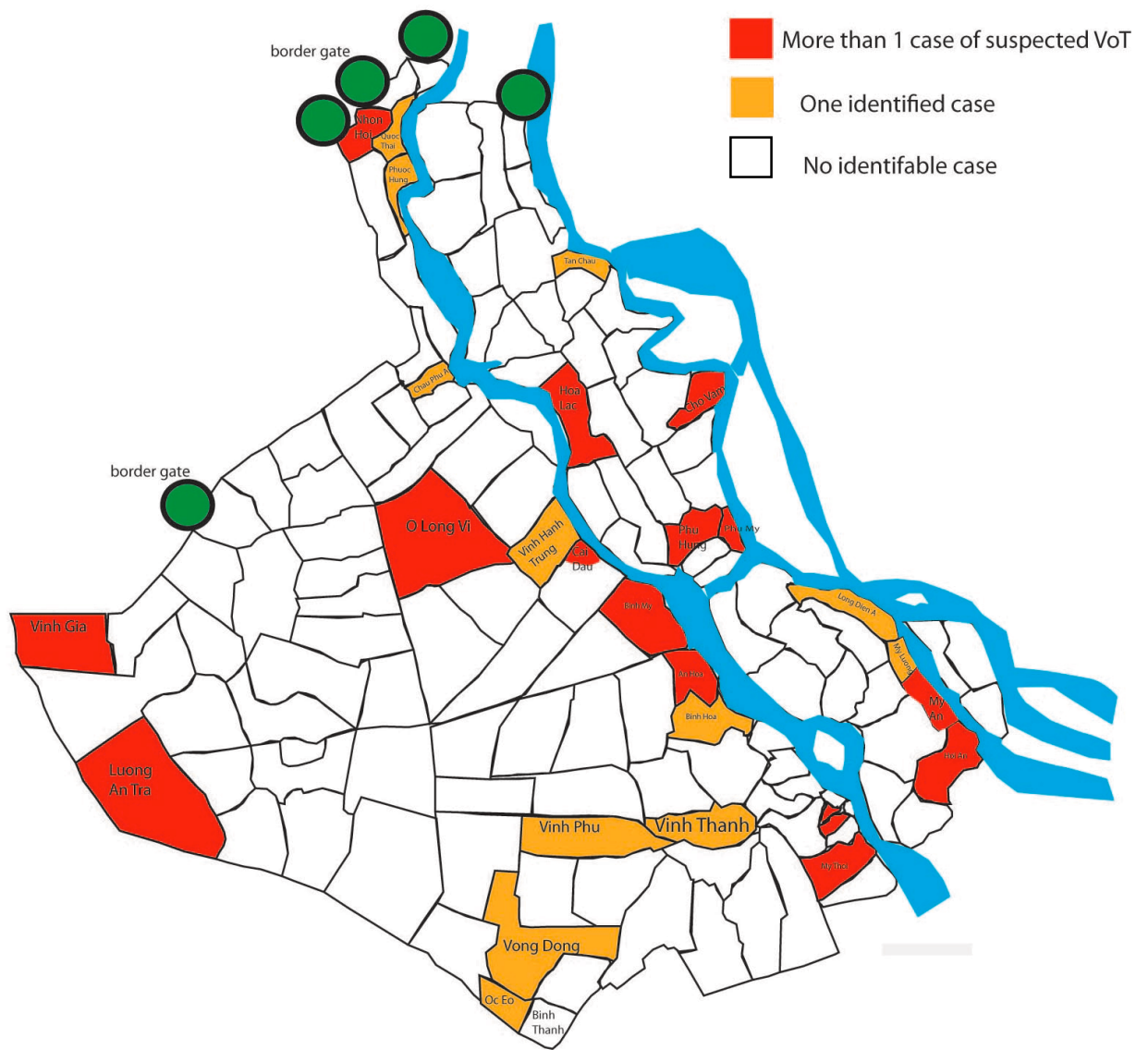
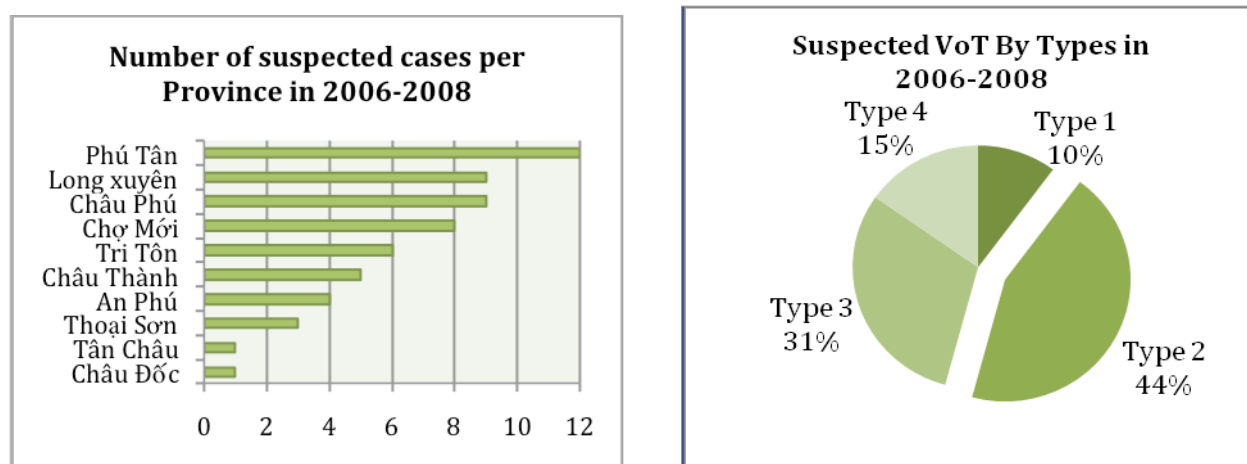


Figure 6: Heat map of An Giang Province of identified and suspected trafficking cases 2006-2008

Figure 7 below provides the ranking of districts in An Giang province with Phu Tan district having the highest number of suspected and identified VoT. This does not come as a surprise since Phu Tan already has a legacy of young women who have left to work in Cambodia's sex industry in the late 1990s and early 2000s. As such, Phu Tan district has close ties to Cambodia with many migrants who are both comfortable traveling between the two countries and can potentially recruit new people to go with them. It should be noted that the number of Phu Tan women who were involved in sex work in Cambodia had significantly dropped by 2006 after an increase in police's efforts and assistance from Terres Des Hommes^{xiii}.

Figure 7: Number of suspected and identified cases from 2006-2008, by district

Figure 8: Suspected and identified cases of trafficking, by case type



Across the 845 hamlets in An Giang and total population of 2.1 million, 58 cases, from the 4 types of trafficking scenarios on page 12, of suspected trafficking were identified to have left from 2006-2008.

Figure 8 above shows that out of 58 cases of suspected VoT, the group with the highest number was Type 2-- those who have been identified by the interviewees as being deceived and sold across the border (most often to Cambodia and Malaysia). The smallest group is Type 1, composed of those who have married foreign husbands and have experienced deception. The survey was only able to identify six such cases in 2006-2008 out of the 1,313 cases of foreign marriages identified. This could be due to the fact that some families are reluctant to disclose the unhappy details in their daughters' marriages because of shame.

3.2 What do the raw numbers above mean?

As stated in the objective, the first goal of the survey is to gain a better understanding about the profile of a hotspot. The results of this survey found that some of the conventional wisdom about human trafficking trends does not apply in An Giang province. In trying to pinpoint the key determinants of what makes an area a hotspot, the survey looks at the relationship between border versus non-border communes and rural versus urban hamlets. The survey found no evidence to suggest a correlation exists between these factors, suggesting that it is very difficult to create a set of common themes that would predict human trafficking activities in an area. Instead, the results in this survey highlight the need to studying the networks of brokers and traffickers in understanding how an area becomes vulnerable to trafficking activities.

3.3 Border versus non-border communes

Communes with suspected cases of human trafficking in An Giang Province do not seem to be clustered right at the border areas. According the heat map in Figure 7, there are only 2 border communes that have been identified with suspected cases out of a total of 18 border communes. To look at it another way, border communes make up 12% of total communes in An Giang; however, they only represent 7% of total suspected trafficking cases, suggesting border communes in An Giang province were not any more at risk than non-border areas. The results suggest that proximity to the border alone cannot explain trafficking incidence. The traffickers need to have a good understanding of the route between Vietnam and Cambodia *and* have close ties with communities in order to do recruitment.

The finding that border areas are not more at risk than non-border areas is surprising since it is a common belief that proximity to the border is a key contributing factor in human trafficking activities. Being close to the border with convenient crossing points have helped earn An Giang the reputation of being a hotspot. Certainly, An Giang has a nontrivial number of human trafficking cases; however, there have been little quantitative and standardized research that shows An Giang province indeed has a higher trafficking incidence than some of its neighbor provinces, such as Dong Thap, Can Tho, and Tay Ninh.

It is possible that An Giang has received a high level of publicity partly because many trafficking cases have used its crossing points. An Giang province has a 104 km border along Cambodia with five official border-crossing gates, and some of the most convenient and shortest routes to reach Phnom Penh. The crossing through Cambodia from An Giang is not a new phenomenon. A 2001 report by IOM, in which 70+ Vietnamese women involved in the sex industry in Cambodia were interviewed, found that “in particular, An Giang Province in the Mekong Delta was identified as the main point of departure for most of the Vietnamese women sex workers in Phnom Penh, whether they were trafficked or chose to enter Cambodia as irregular migrants in search of work^{xiv}.”

The case of Tinh Bien District and Soc Trang Province demonstrate the danger of making sweeping assumptions about trafficking incidence. Both areas have a relatively high concentration of ethnic Khmers. Tinh Bien is located right on the border with Cambodia, while Soc Trang is located 2 provinces away from the Cambodian border. In an interview with the representative from the Soc Trang’s Women’s Union, it was revealed that the majority of the trafficking cases from there to Cambodia have been young women from the ethnic Khmer population going through the An Giang crossing points^{xv}. Tinh Bien on the other hand was the only district in An Giang Province that has zero identified cases of trafficking from 2006-2008. Again, further research to study the networks of traffickers is needed to understand why ethnic Khmers in Soc Trang are being targeted, while the ethnic Khmers in Tinh Bien District are being overlooked while they live right on the border.

3.4 Rural versus urban hamlets

Another common assumption about trafficking trends is that rural areas are more likely to be affected by human trafficking because traffickers would intentionally target naïve, unsophisticated, illiterate, poor, and uninformed populations, who are assumed to be in rural areas. The survey results do not support such an assertion in An Giang province.

The survey shows that 83% of total suspected trafficked cases occur in rural hamlets. On the first glance, one can mistakenly interpret it to mean that rural residents are at higher risk than urban residents. However, as it turns out, rural hamlets comprise 83% of total hamlets in An Giang. This means that rural hamlets have a higher incidence of trafficking than urban hamlets because this is where the majority of the population lives, not necessary because rural residents have less awareness on trafficking situations. Consequently, in An Giang province, there is no evidence to expect that rural residents to be at a higher risk of trafficking than urban residents.

3.5 A preliminary look at the networks of traffickers in An Giang Province

As stated in the objectives, the main goal of this survey is to provide a systematic mapping of trafficking incidence and explore some common themes to bring us one step closer to understanding the trafficking situation along the An Giang-Cambodian border. The above section shows that there is no evidence of higher trafficking prevalence in rural areas and border areas. Even though an in-depth analysis of the networks of traffickers is beyond the scope of this survey, this paper makes an attempt to highlight the need to study these networks. These findings could help to explain why areas with similar locations, literacy rate, poverty level, and economic development have seen a different concentration of human trafficking incidence.

Table 2 provides additional insights to trafficking networks. It lists out trafficking cases that made national news in an attempt to record the relationship between the number of victims and the destinations. Earlier in this paper (see page 6), it was pointed out that overall large-scale statistics quoted from Vietnamese newspapers are conflicting and not reliable since they do not provide references. The following analysis on networks of traffickers is also based on newspaper accounts. However, we specifically only looked at individual cases of trafficking to extract the traffickers' profiles. These newspapers, reporting on individual cases, should be more reliable than those that provide overall sweeping statistics on nationwide trafficking occurrence because they only provided information of individual cases with the names of traffickers for reference and fact checking. Cases listed in this table are not only from An Giang province but also include those from the larger area of the Mekong Delta.

Table 2: Trafficking Destinations and Number of Victims as listed in newspaper articles

	Trafficking Destination	Origin Within Vietnam	#of victims	Year operated
1	Cambodia ^{xvi}	Bac Lieu	25	91-96& 06-08
2	Cambodia ^{xvii}	An Giang	40	2000-2002
3	Cambodia ^{xviii}	Vĩnh Long, An Giang, Bình Phước	15	2002-2003
4	Cambodia ^{xix}	An Giang	8	2004-2006
5	Cambodia ^{xx}	An Giang	2	2006
6	Cambodia ^{xxi}	An Giang	8	2005-2007
7	Cambodia ^{xxii}	An Giang	>6	2003-2007
8	Taiwan & Malaysia ^{xxiii}	Mekong Delta ^{xxiv}	126	2001-2006
9	Malaysia ^{xxv}		7	2002-2003
10	Malaysia ^{xxvi}	Mekong Delta	99	2003-2007 ^{xxvii}
11	Malaysia ^{xxviii}	Mekong Delta	30+	2004-2007
12	Malaysia ^{xxix}	Mekong Delta	11	2005-2007
13	Malaysia and MaCau ^{xxx}	Mekong Delta	18	2004-2008
14	Malaysia , Taiwan, and South Korea ^{xxxi}	Mekong Delta	~100	2006-2008
15	Malaysia an other countries ^{xxxii}	Mekong Delta	~100	Up to 2009

Table 2 shows that trafficking to Cambodia from Southern Vietnam tends to be smaller in size as a compared to trafficking to Malaysia, measured by numbers of victims per ring. In addition, trafficking to Malaysia tends to be larger in scale as trafficking rings target multiple provinces in the Mekong Delta; whereas, trafficking to Cambodia tends to be location-specific and generally operate only within one province. This observation provides further evidence to support the inference that traffickers of the Vietnam-Cambodian route take advantage of loose pockets of opportunity and generally target within their immediate circle of personal relationships. This observation is also being supported by the findings in Figure 6. The Figure 6 illustrates that communes with trafficking cases tend to be located close together. This suggests traffickers do not target random areas but rather tap into their networks of targeted localities where they likely already have existing relationships.

Trafficking networks to other destinations such as Malaysia, Taiwan and Korea have a different set of characteristics.

An Giang to Malaysia. Trafficking cases to Malaysia tends to be recruiting in large numbers and more organized in operation. They also tend to recruit girls from several provinces across the Mekong Delta. Trafficking cases to Malaysia have been known to

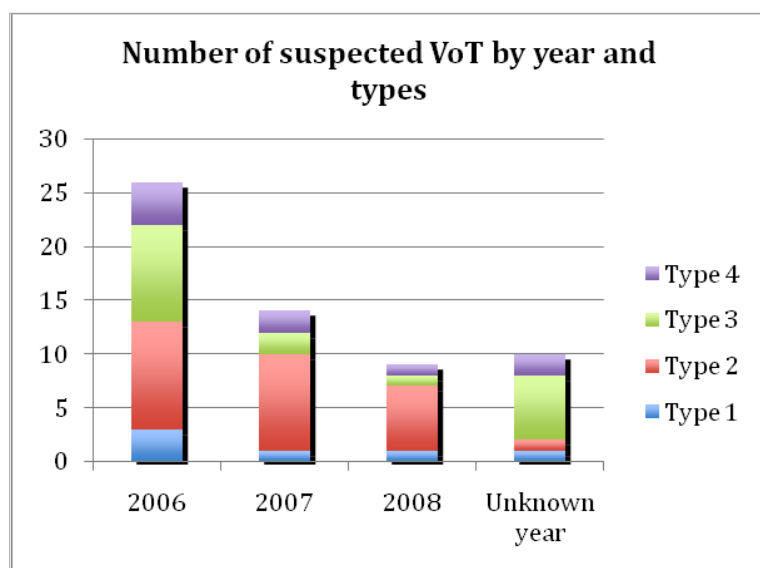
crossed both by land and by air. Purchasing airplanes tickets and organizing both fake and real passports take a higher degree of sophistication and capital investment. There is another key difference between the Cambodia and Malaysia routes. In the An Giang routes, traffickers tend to approach their victims and lure them with employment promises. In the case of Malaysia, some of the trafficking victims expressed that they found the brokers themselves to help secure marriage introductions in Malaysia. In these cases, some women actually paid money to the brokers to get an introduction.

An Giang to South Korea. There is yet a different trend for the trafficking route from An Giang province to South Korea through marriages. Obviously, not all of these marriages are trafficking cases. The main theme to note here is that these recruiters operate on a different scale and style. In Ho Chi Minh City, recent years have seen a number of large-scale and well-organized illegal marriage brokers. There have been cases of introduction meetings where a few Korean men were choosing and inspecting from 100 plus potential brides^{xxxiii}. These introduction meetings tend to take place in restaurants or hotels where hundreds of girls were convened for display. The brokers “raised” these young women for months in their homes in Ho Chi Minh City until they find a husband or give up. Sometimes, friends and neighbors are the recruiters. Other times, the potential brides directly seek out these brokers in their hometown.

Even in a small province like An Giang there are already competing trends of human trafficking activities. Poverty level, the lack of awareness, and proximity to borders all has important influences in causing an area to be more vulnerable to human trafficking activities. However, these factors alone do not fully explain why some areas with similar backgrounds have seen different levels of trafficking incidence. Trafficking networks to different countries have different levels of organization and scale based on whom the traffickers know and the available resources they have (for example, plane versus boat tickets). For example, a recent phenomenon in Vietnam is that some young men are able to lure college students to be their girlfriends, with the intent of selling them in China. A Save the Children report in 2008 has found that out of the 691 trafficked victims to China from Vietnam it has interviewed, 53 victims have a college and university level education, accounting for 7.5% of the total victims^{xxxiv}. In general, college students tend not to fall into the category of a typical victim: being illiterate, in extreme poverty, living in remote areas, and have little awareness. Further research into the different trafficking networks and their characteristics will help the policy-makers be better prepared to combat human trafficking.

3.6 Time trends of trafficking cases in An Giang Province from 2006-2008

Numbers of suspected VOTs by year, 2006-2008



Despite the lack of data, it is quite a common practice to speculate on the time trends of trafficking incidence in Vietnam. Newspapers have reported an increase in the number of trafficking cases in recent years^{xxxv}. Even this statistics is reliable, it is unclear whether trafficking cases did take place more often or the police have gotten better at discovering more cases and hence the increase in reported figure.

Figure 9: Numbers of suspected VOTs by year, 2006-2008

Our survey found that suspected and identified cases of trafficking have decreased during the period 2006-2008. As Figure 9 points out, we found 26 cases of suspected and identified victims in 2006, but only 13 in 2007 and 9 in 2008. These were also 10 trafficking cases during the 2006-2008 period where the hamlet heads did not remember the exact year. Even though the data has an unavoidable undercounting bias (as discussed on page 15), those cases of trafficking that this survey is unable to pick up should be universal throughout in all of the years. There should be no reason to expect why some cases are easier to detect in some years when compared to other years. As such, the observed trends that the trafficking cases have been on the decrease from 2006-2008 should still be valid, despite the undercounting bias.

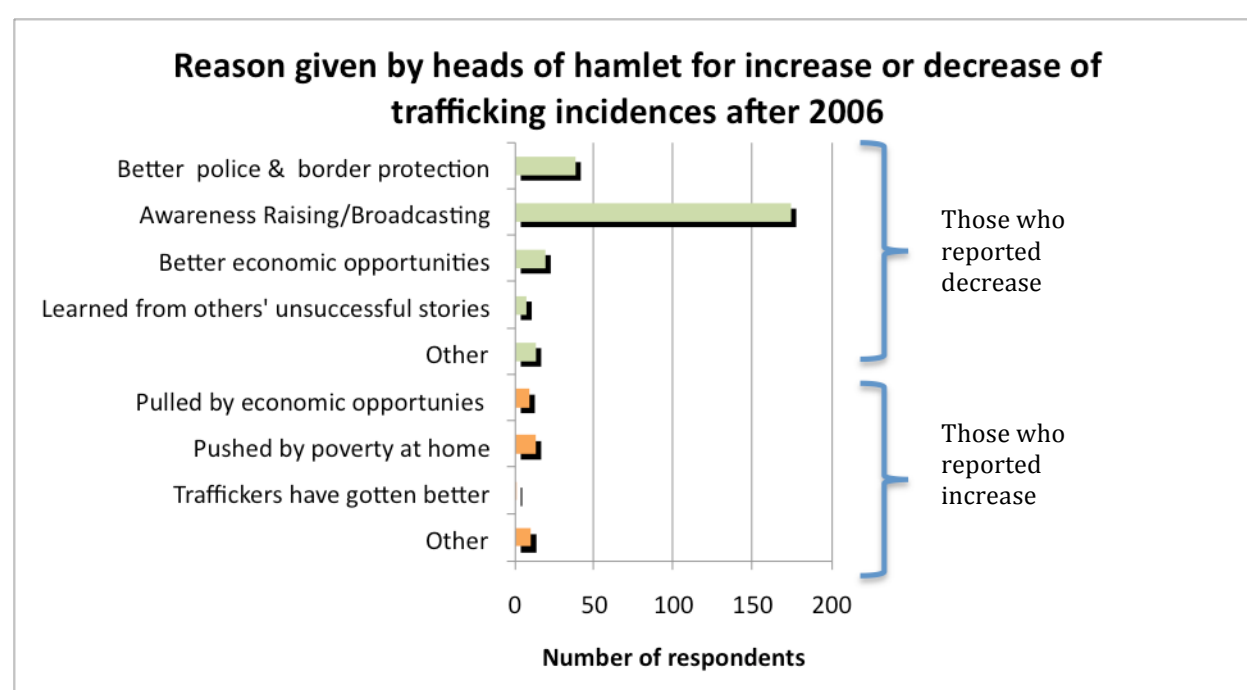
The trend in Figure 9 is consistent with another identified trend in the survey. The survey asked the hamlet heads whether trafficking incidence in their area increased or decreased after 2006. 34% of hamlet heads said they had observed trafficking incidence to be on the decrease in their area for the time period after 2006 as compared to before 2006. Only 6% said that they thought trafficking incidence was increasing in their area in the period after 2006. The remaining 52% answered they did not know, or observed no change before and after 2006. Combined these two trends, we can infer that trafficking incidence in An Giang has been on the decrease from before 2006 and during the 2006-2008 period according to the hamlet heads and administrative leaders of *Tổ's*.

The hamlet heads were also asked why they think trafficking incidents have changed before and after 2006. Figure 10 below reports their answers. The green group makes up those who have observed a decrease in trafficking incidence after 2006 as compared to before 2006. Among this group, there were 178 hamlet heads that cited successful awareness raising efforts as a reason for a decreasing in trafficking incidence. The hamlet heads stated that such success from the Women's Union and other government

agencies' broadcasting and educational sessions. 38 hamlet heads have also answered that police surveillance and border guards played a key role in the decrease of trafficking incidence.

The same chart below also gives the numbers of those who thought that trafficking incidents have increased after the year 2006 (in orange). As reported above, this group is much smaller when compared to the green group. Among this group, 13 hamlet heads thought that the lack of economic opportunity was the key factor for an increasing trend. The different observations made by the hamlet heads suggest that there exist micro-areas that have seen different trends in trafficking incidents even within a province. This is an important fact for policy-makers and NGOs to consider when designing programs and activities specific to certain areas.

Figure 10: Responses of hamlet heads on reason for increase or decrease trafficking incidences after 2006



3.7 Data Validity: Cross-checking with other available statistics

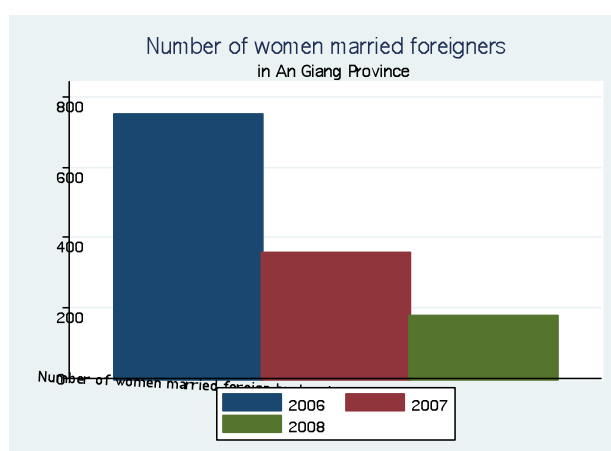
Since we know that the final count of 58 suspected and identified trafficking cases from 2006-2008 has an undercounting bias, it is important to estimate the scope of the undercounting situation. This sections lists out other statistics to benchmark against the survey data collected from this study. Looking into reported data by the Police and the Border Guards could provide a way to triangulate the findings of the survey. However, Table 4, even when it is only confined to only one province, reports conflicting numbers. This highlights the difficulties of benchmarking and cross checking our survey data with other existing statistics.

Table 4: Other reported statistics on trafficking incidence for An Giang Province

	Statistics on trafficking incidence in An Giang Province	Year
1	Discovered 6 cases, investigated 3 cases, caught 5 traffickers, identified 30 traffickers, rescued 2 VoT, received 9 officials and 16 unofficial returnees ^{xxxvi}	Up to 2007
2	96 cases of women trafficked abroad. 33 cases of suspected trafficking cases. 23 cases of women tricked in foreign marriages ^{xxxvii} .	1998-2007
3	Border Guards have caught 31 cases including 47 traffickers and 185 victims ^{xxxviii}	2007-2009
4	UNIAP-AGU Survey: 58 suspected and identified trafficking victims	2006-2008
5	The Border Guards in An Giang reported that they have caught 25 traffickers, 50 victims, and 60 cases that are considered high-risk ^{xxxix}	Up to 2009

Since statistics in the Table 4 make it hard to compare across data, the paper tries a different approach. The survey has also measured reported numbers of foreign marriages. These figures are less controversial and are more likely to be reported with a higher accuracy; therefore, we use our finding on foreign marriages to cross check with the official data.

The official report figure that we could find was where the Department of Justice in An Giang has granted 500 marriage licenses to women to marry foreigners in the year 2007. In our survey, we found 358 cases of foreign marriages (Figure 12).^{xl} According to this comparison, our survey has a 72% accuracy rate of extracting information on foreign marriage from the hamlets. Here our survey number is less than the official data. This could be partly due to the memory constraint we mentioned above. In addition, the foreign marriage cases were only collected at the hamlet level, whereas the suspected and identified cases of trafficking were collected at the hamlet and then verified at the *Tổ* level, which would include more cases. What the 72% means is that in



migration data collection that are not too sensitive, for example foreign marriages, our survey at the hamlet level has a 72% accuracy rate. However, this accuracy rate should not be read as a direct translation for the suspected and identified trafficking cases.

Figure 11: Number of foreign marriages in An Giang 2006-2008

SECTION 4

RECOMMENDATIONS

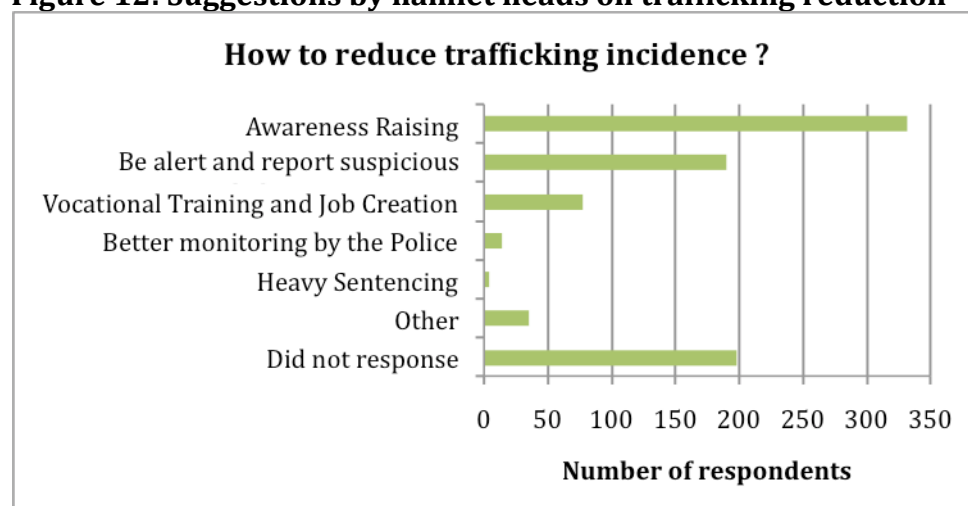
4.1 Recommendations by hamlet heads

Awareness raising efforts on counter trafficking has been reported to have a positive result in An Giang. In our survey, 332 hamlet heads (39%) have attributed it as the main reason for a decreasing trend from 2006-2008. As Figure 13 points out, awareness-raising component received the highest vote among heads of hamlets on what they consider to be effective in human trafficking reduction.

The hamlet heads also viewed their residents as an important layer of protection against trafficking. 190 of them believe that their residents should play an active role in monitoring suspicious activities and proactively reporting these cases to the police (22%). Rural communities in rural areas tend to have a hand-off approach in what they considered to be other people's "family's matters." For example, even if they suspect a mother to be selling her daughters, they may not report it to the police since they would prefer not to meddle in another family's business. Some residents prefer to keep silent for fear of reprisals. Further preventative programs should have a component to mobilize community residents to be on high alert and create safe and anonymous reporting channels.

The safe and anonymous components are of crucial importance. One research studying the selling of ethnic Vietnamese girls living in Cambodia has found that "the so-call 'conspiracy of silence' makes it difficult to obtain detailed information about various actors in this sordid drama: everyone knows, but few people talk openly about the details actual sale for fear of reprisals from those involved, or fear that their lives and precarious situation may be irreparably upset^{xi}." As in the case of Cambodia, the fears of reprisal in Vietnam are very real in close-knit communities where everyone knows of their neighbors' actions. As such, creating safe and anonymous channels for reporting is of the highest priority.

Figure 12: Suggestions by hamlet heads on trafficking reduction



The hamlet heads were also asked to describe vocational trainings that their communities need. The trainings listed in Figure 13 are not specific only to women. Job creation for both women and men provide key alternatives to the false employment prospect promised by traffickers.

Figure 13: Suggestions by hamlet heads on type of vocational training



Based on the recommendations of the hamlets heads and other findings in the survey, the following recommendations are proposed for counter-trafficking initiatives in the region:

- **Maintain and promote awareness Raising Programs.** Evidence from this survey suggests that awareness-raising programs in An Giang province have contributed as the main factor for the observed decreasing trend in trafficking incidence. Future counter-trafficking efforts in An Giang should maintain the awareness-raising component. It is important to make sure that the disseminated materials to be both easy to understand and reflect the current needs in the communities. For example, the provincial government of An Giang is aiming to export 10,000 people to work in foreign countries by 2010^{xlii}.

Awareness raising materials should include up-to-date safe migration practices and emergency contacts.

- ***Promote Vigilance and Alertness Among Residents.*** Awareness raising component delivers the first protective layer since it helps communities to recognize risky decisions and suspicious activities. However, awareness-raising has only a limited effect when the residents are reluctant to report suspicious behaviors to the authorities. In the situation where residents know of potential cases of trafficking, community members should take a proactive stand and report these behaviors in a discreet and secure manner. Community leaders should create a safe and anonymous mechanism for reporting procedures.
- ***Stay On Top of Emerging Trends.*** This paper has shown that different trafficking networks to various destinations have distinctive characteristics due to the local context and the availability of resources. For example, trafficking networks to Cambodia and to Malaysia operate on different scales and designs. There are also evolving trends within the same topic. For example, marriages to Taiwanese husbands have seen a decrease in numbers in recent years mainly due to stricter visa requirement^{xliii}. On the other hand, marriages to South Korean husbands have seen an increase in numbers.

4.2 Recommendations on research methodology and future direction

Replication Matters

The goal of this research is to provide a comprehensive mapping exercise to layout the geographical locations of suspected and identified cases. As such, the scope of this research is to provide the breadth of information for future studies to build upon. The results of this survey are intended assist policy-makers and NGOs to better target their limited resources. As such, this type of research should be replicated for areas that have been known to be hotspots but little information about the areas have been recorded. As for hotspots where some preliminary research has been done, new research should focus directly on the networks of traffickers for an in-depth analysis.

Future Research Building on From This Survey

This survey is one of the few available studies that employ a quantitative method to measure trafficking incidence in Vietnam. The advantage of this design is that it provides a systematic count of suspected and identified trafficking incidents in 98% of the hamlets in An Giang Province. From here, we have generated a heat map and with micro hotspots. In addition, we have a database of key variables to run regression analysis. The disadvantage of this design is that the sampling size is large and data collection is time consuming; hence, it does not allow the interviewers to extract detailed information.

Future research on trafficking should explore the networks of traffickers based on the identified micro hotspots from this survey. Studying how traffickers target certain vulnerable populations could provide key explanations to why areas with similar geographical features, economic development, and literacy rate have reported different trafficking numbers. Study on networks of traffickers should look into trafficking

routes, number of traffickers per ring, the different tiers of traffickers, number of victims, and whether the traffickers have done repeat recruitment in an area. Studying networks of traffickers will also confirm whether trafficking rings along the Cambodia – Vietnam border are mostly small-scale or involve highly organized crime in its operation. The results from this type of survey would provide valuable information to devise appropriate response mechanisms.

Another important topic for future research is the impact of employment opportunities on trafficking incidence. It is reasonable to expect that areas with economic zones, factories, and affordable vocational training schools would have a lower rate of trafficking than other areas. This assumption has not been tested in Vietnam. In addition, the result of this survey reported decreasing trends in the years 2006-2008 and even the time period before 2006. Some interviewees have expressed that they believe residents are less likely to migrate abroad and take on risky decision because the economic situation has improved in An Giang. Indeed, An Giang's GDP per capital reportedly has jumped 12% from 2005 to 2007^{xliv}. Testing for the effect of employment opportunities and a higher earning potential on reducing trafficking incidence would certainly have important policy implications.

4.3 Suggested Do's and Dont's in a Quantitative Survey on Trafficking

Table 5 below draws out key lessons that we have observed in the data collection process.

Table 5: Suggested Do's and Dont's in Human Trafficking Surveys

Questionnaire Design	Don't ask any undefined question such as: "How many girls/women do you know that have been trafficked?" In Vietnam, the term 'human trafficking' is defined by the current penal code that is somewhat restricting and hence might not cover cases that the international community would consider to be trafficking^{xlv}. Do ask clearly defined questions. For example, in this survey we defined suspected VoTs as: - Type 1: Cases of foreign marriages that had any exhibited signs of deception - Type 2: Cases of women being deceived and sold - Type 3: Cases of women leaving to Cambodia and their current whereabouts are unknown - Type 4: Cases of women leaving town and their current whereabouts are unknown Don't start out with a sensitive question that could make interviewees feel defensive. We started out with asking about migration in general, then eased into marriage to foreigners, and then eased into suspected cases of trafficking.
Pilot Survey	Do conduct pilot survey and test terminology and questionnaire design. For example: we found that some administrative leaders of <i>Tổ</i> did not understand the term 'Di Cư' (migration) and in its place we use the term 'left town'
Training Interviewers	Do conduct thorough trainings. This research employed 17 interviewers who all had different ways of asking questions. After rounds of interviews, we had discussion sessions to share experiences and answered new questions that the interviewers came upon. Make sure they understand their ethical responsibilities as well.
Data Cleaning	Do a thorough job of checking on data-entry errors. This research study employed 2 data entry staff that entered more than 2,500 forms into excel. The error-checking process took 4 days but significantly increased the data validity. Don't have too many people do the data-entry job. Small data entry/cleaning teams help to control for errors (2-3 people).

ACRONYMS

AGU: An Giang University

GDP: Gross Domestic Product

IOM: International Organization for Migration

NGO: Non Governmental Organization

MOLISA: Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs

MPS: Ministry of Security

UNIAP: United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking

USD: United States Dollar

VoT: Victims of Human Trafficking

VWU: Vietnam Women's Union

SECTION 5

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