

STATUS OF NEPALI MIGRANT WORKERS IN RELATION TO COVID-19

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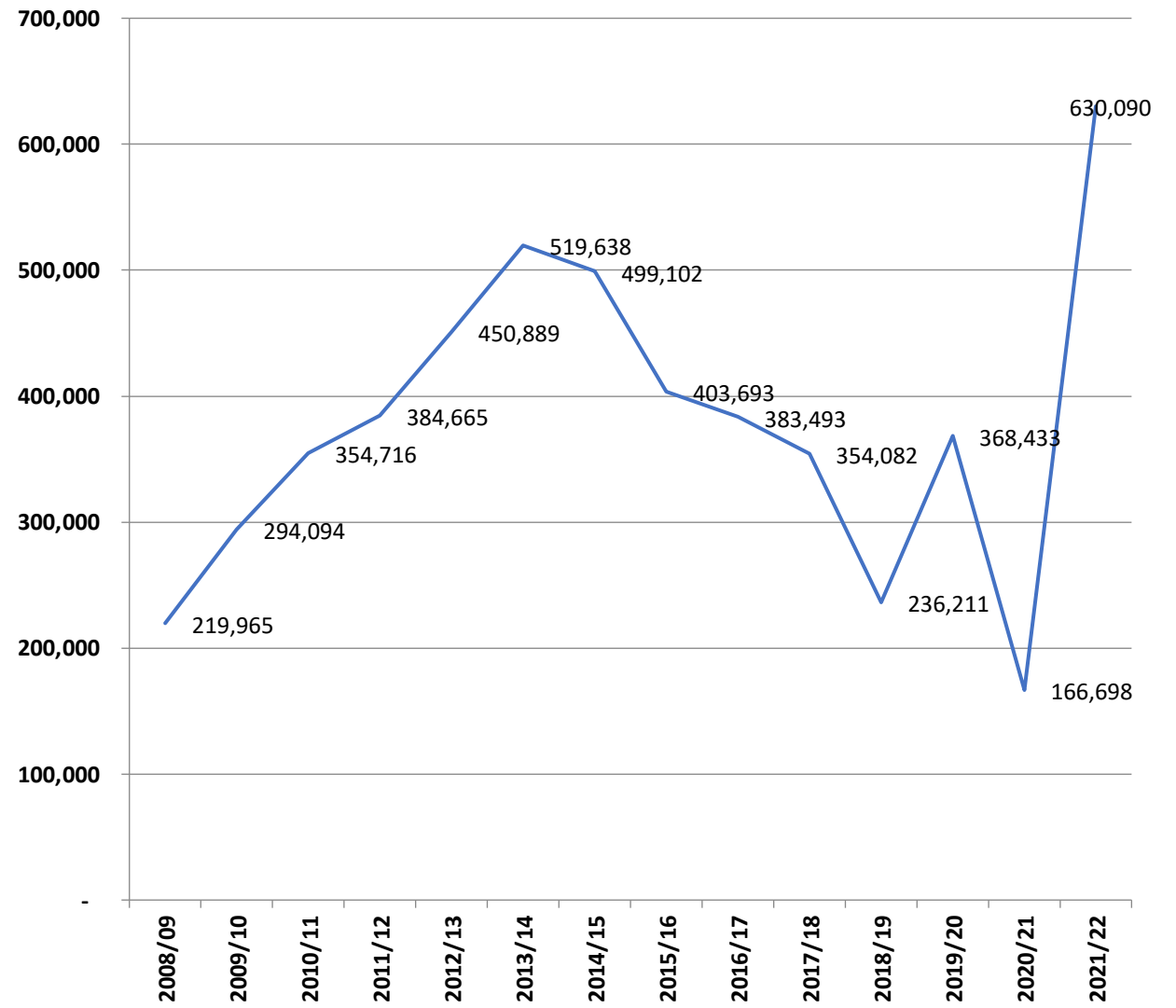
RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduction

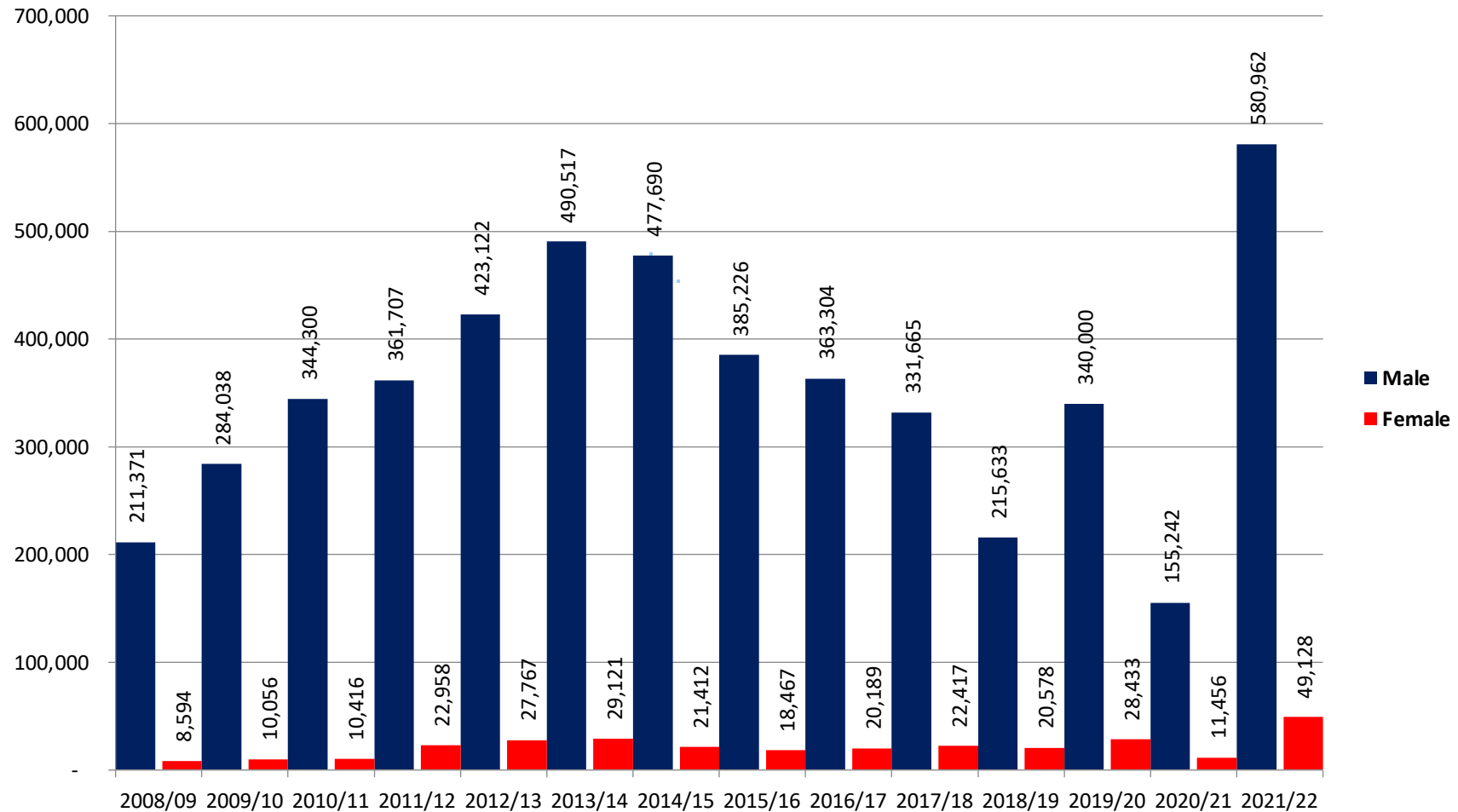
- COVID-19 has had an enormous impact on Nepali migrant workers.
- The immediate return of Nepalis from Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries is not only limited to the COVID-19 pandemic but also economic shocks and disruption in supplies of goods and services.
- The crisis in labour migration has consequences on remittance inflow — the main economic lifeline for Nepal's national and household economy.



Labour migration outflow, Nepal, 2008/09 – 2021/22



Labour migration ... male female ratio



Objectives of the study

Overall objective: To identify the overall conditions of the Nepalese migrant workers in time of COVID-19.

Specific objective: To undertake an assessment of migrant workers, especially in relation to their return intention, labour rights and social protection mechanism and changes in social perception.

Methodology

Research design and approach : Quantitative approach

Sampling method: Purposive sampling identified in 7 holding centres of ktm followed by randomization

Sampling procedure: Mainly the snowball sampling

Study tools: Structured questionnaire administered through Viber, messenger, WhatsApp etc.

Data collection and analysis: Excel, SPSS and STATA



Sample Size - 3,000



Current Migrants - 501

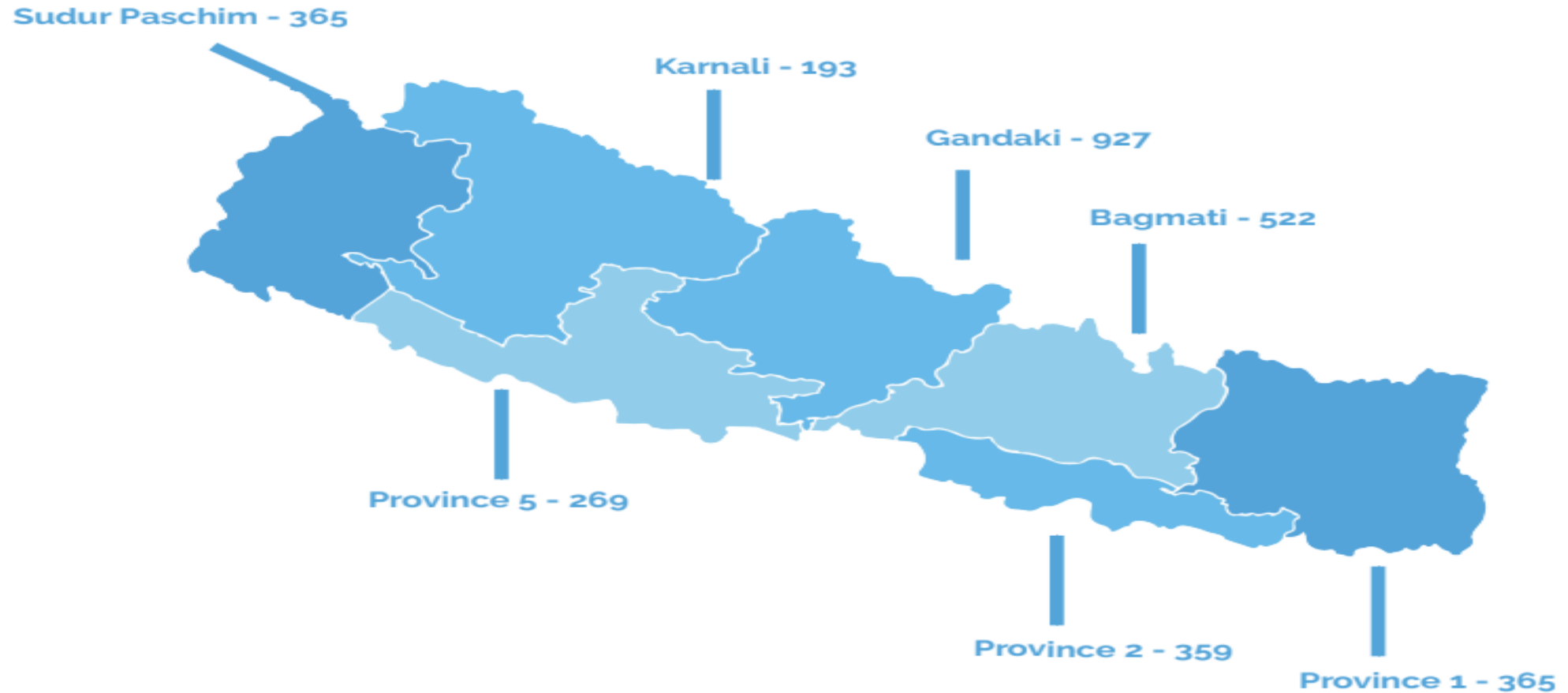


Returnee Migrants - 1,999



Aspirant Migrants - 500

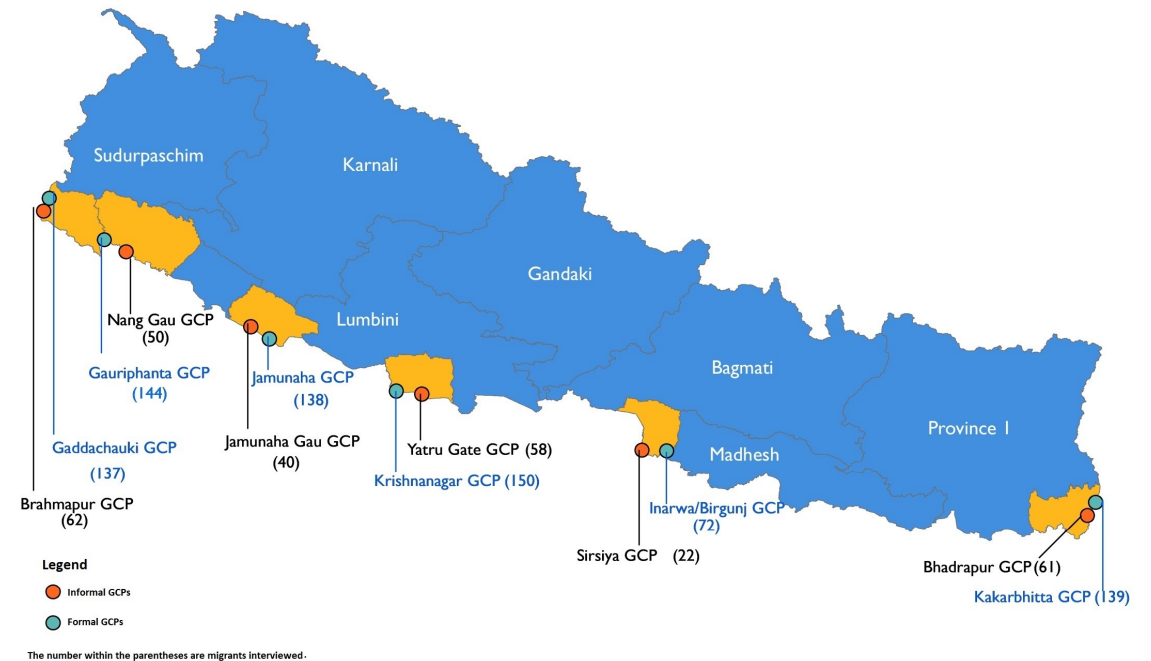
Respondents by 7 provinces, Nepal



Migrant characteristics

- Most of the migrant workers had low educational backgrounds.
- Those with higher education were found to remain in jobs as compared to migrants with low education.
- Majority of returnees from India were residents of Karnali and Sudurpaschim provinces.

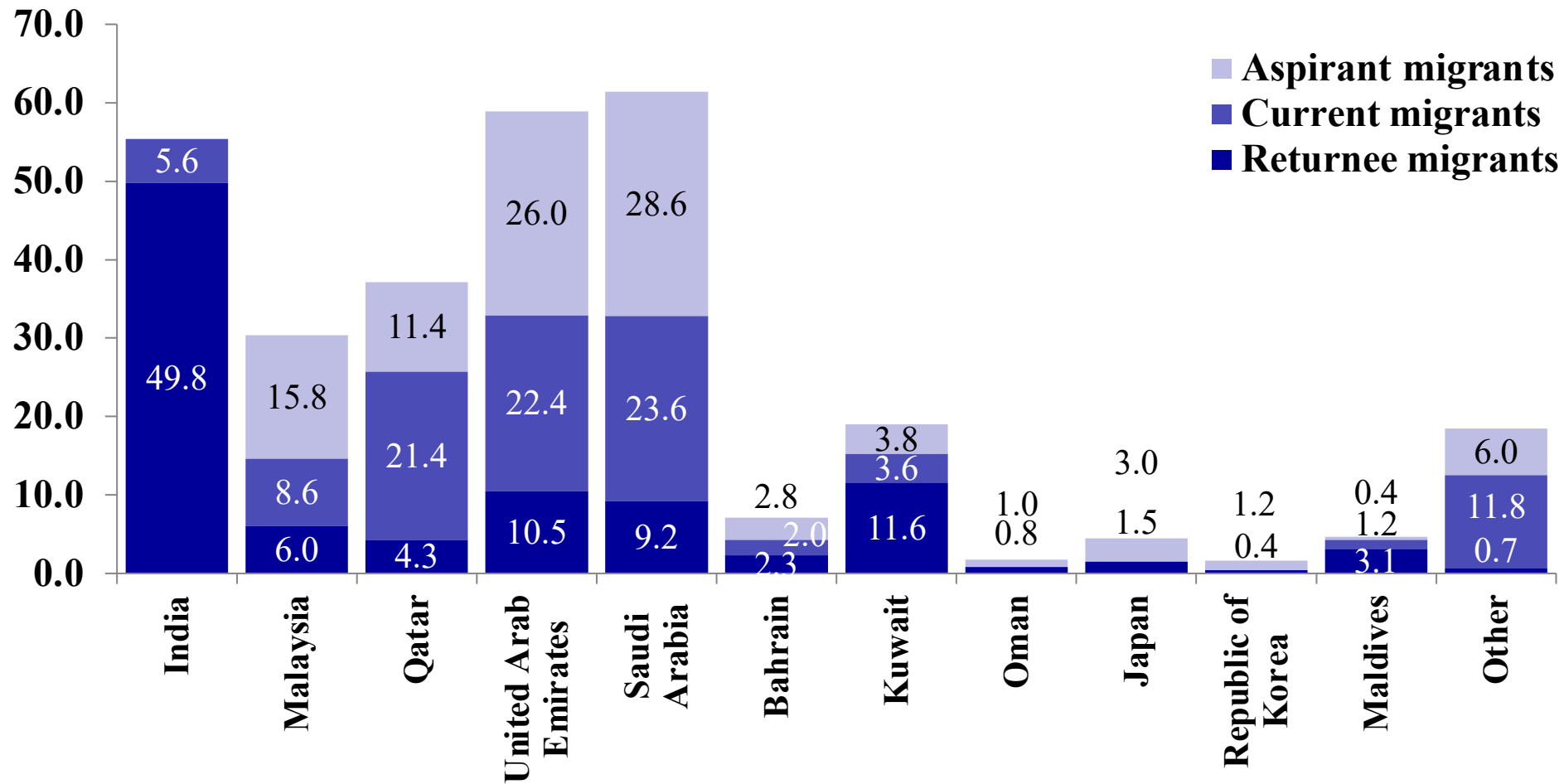
Border crossing points to India



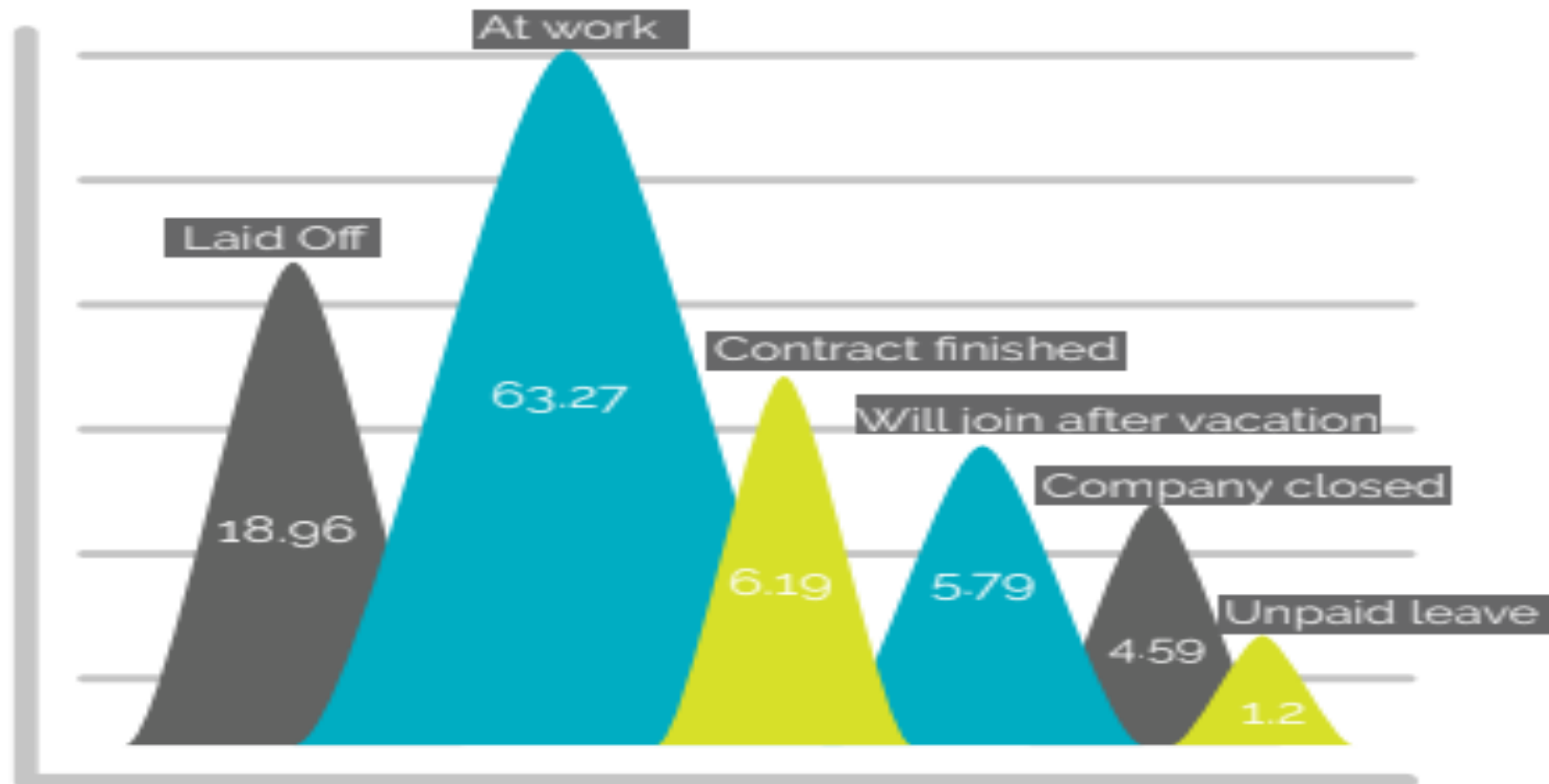
Source:

https://nepal.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl1116/files/documents/DTM_Flow%20Monitoring%20Report_Round%20One_August%202022.pdf

Migrants by types (N=3,000)



Migrants by situation during COVID-19

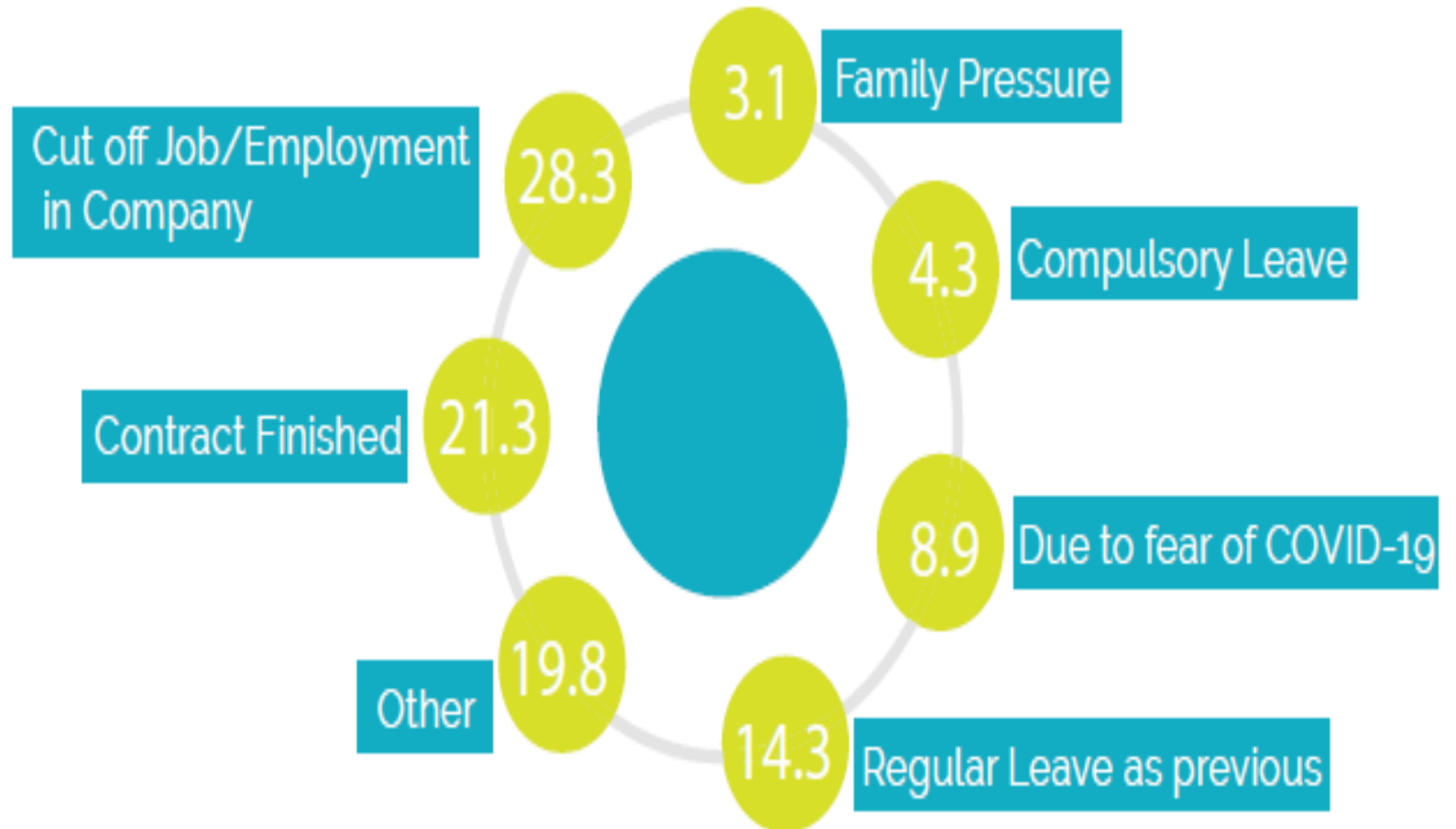


Migrants by situation during COVID-19...

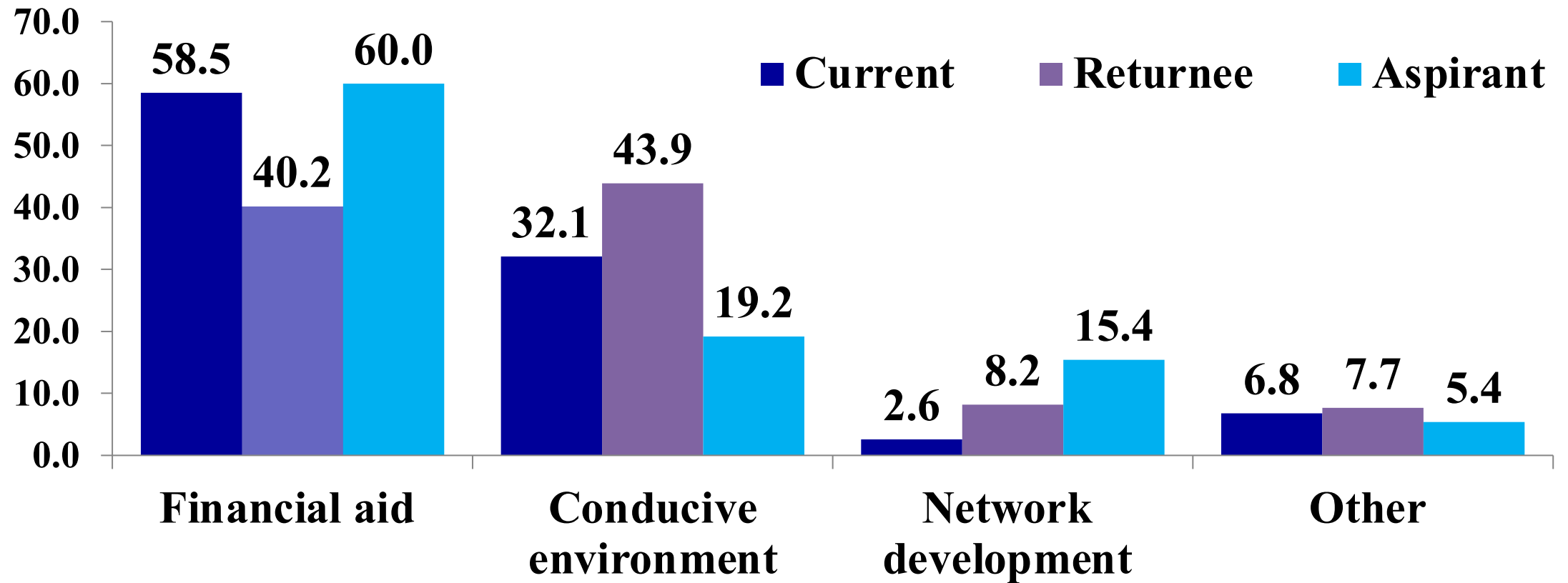
- Most of the respondents in this study were affected by COVID-19 both in countries of destination and at home.
- The current migrants experienced job losses and were laid off and on unpaid leave.
- Many migrants still at work faced a reduction in work hours or pay or both. Contracts were not renewed.
- Many of those unemployed still had to support themselves or received supports from friends, relatives or welfare agencies.

RETURN AND REINTEGRATION PLAN

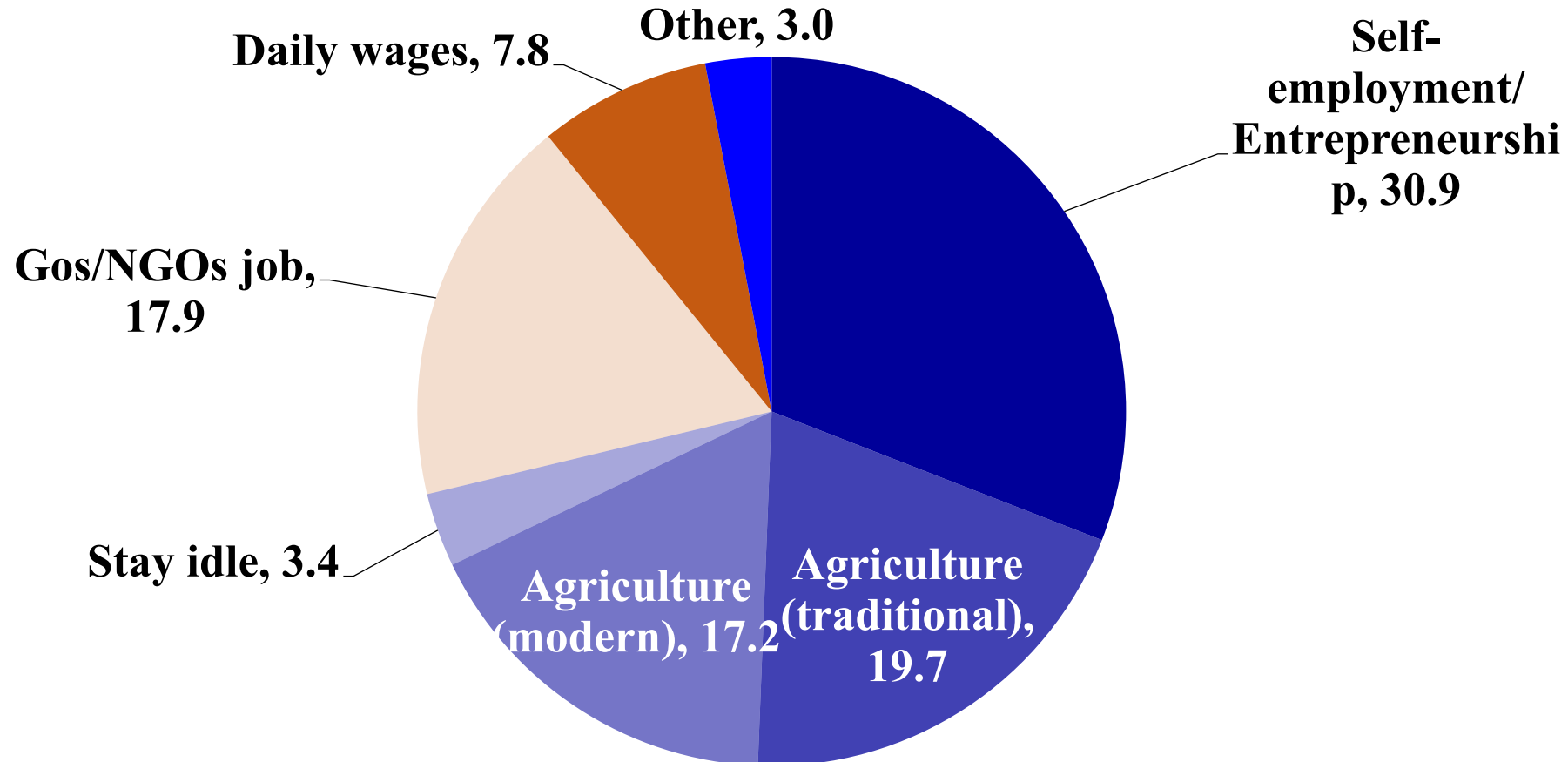
The majority of the migrants in countries of destination had intended to return.



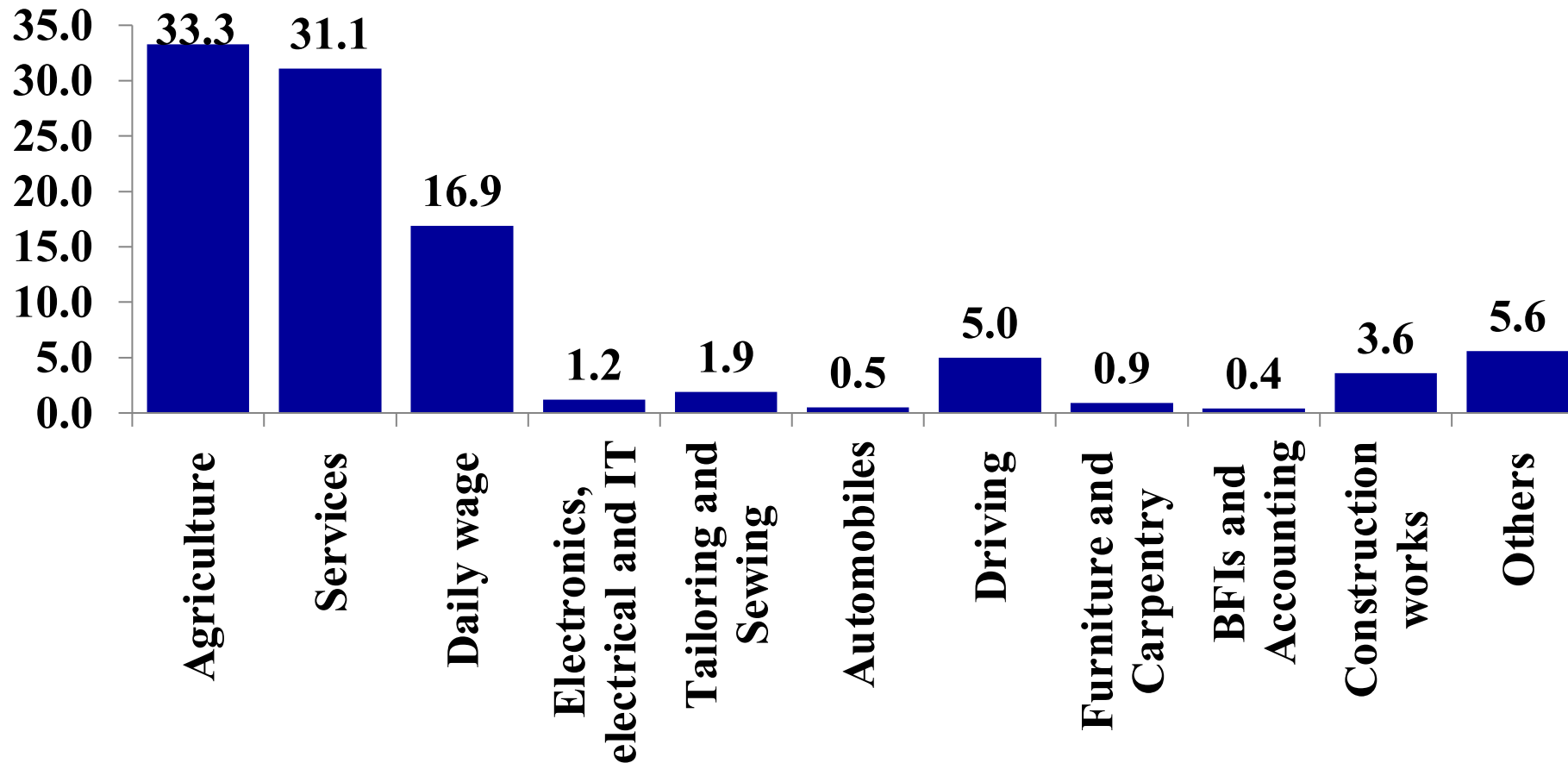
Main expectations from the Government



Main aspirations of returnee migrants who do not have remigration plans



Major priority sectors of returnee migrants to involve in Nepal



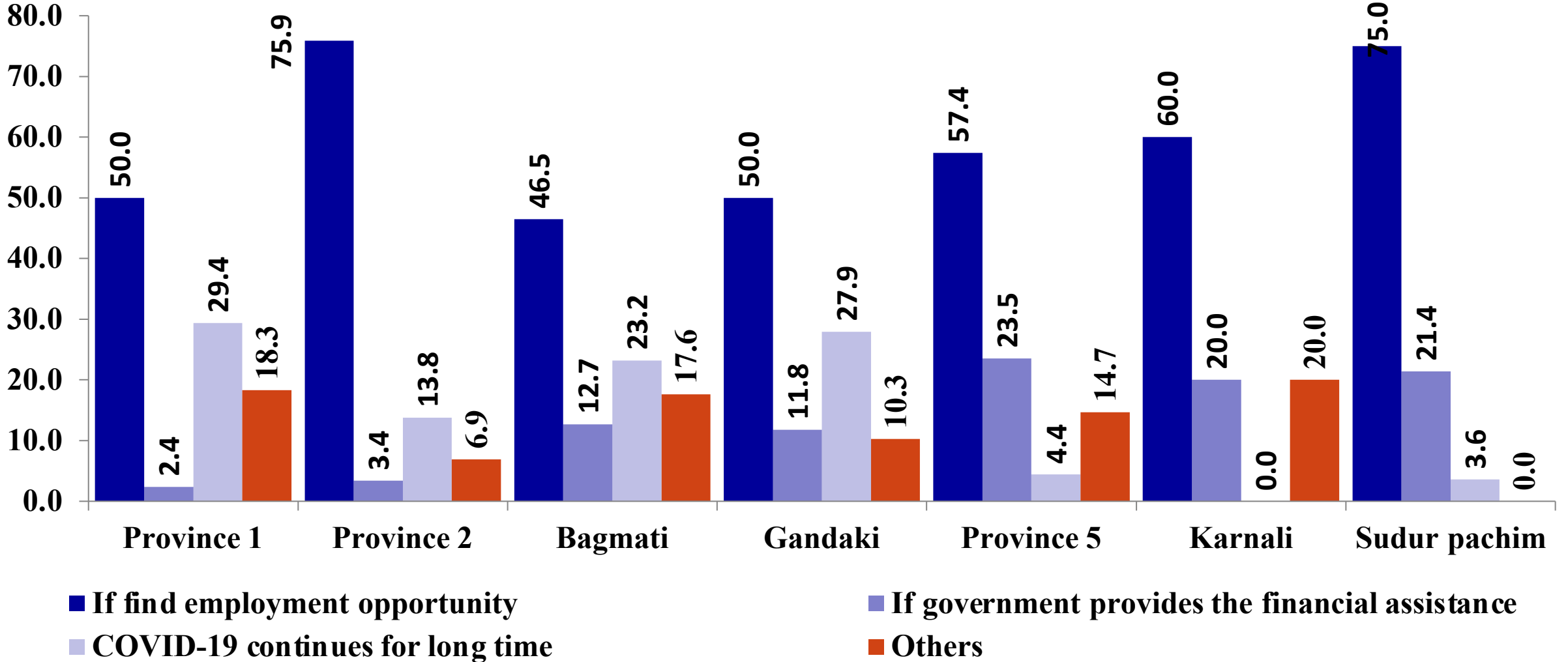
- Specific areas that the returnee migrants prioritize for work in Nepal include following:

- Tourism
- Travel agency
- Restaurants
- Catering
- Fast-food shop

- Daily wage
- Cleaning
- Domestic work
- Goat farming
- Cattle farming

- Poultry farming
- Fruit farming
- Vegetable and tea farming
- Driving

Conditions of cancelling foreign employment plans (100% of each province)



CONCLUSIONS

- Migrant workers employed in the service sector are hardest hit, while others working in the manufacturing sector have been less impacted
- A sizeable number of the returnees and the current migrants have pinned high hopes on agriculture
- Most of the migrant workers selected in this study were identified as being affected by the COVID-19 both in the destination and in Nepal
- Although different safety measures are used in the workplace, personal safety was largely not prioritized

RECOMMENDATION

- COORDINATION AND COOPERATION: Government should coordinate among the related ministries and institutions for migrant repatriation process and also expected to manage gender- responsive holding centres.
- LOAN EASEMENT, NEED-BASED PRODUCTION AND INCOME GENERATION: For the reintegration of migrants, it is observed that they have keen interests in farming, so support for farming is required. Migrant skills-mapping is imperative to best utilize their skills and reintegrate them.

RECOMMENDATION

- RETAINING THE RETURNEES: Authorities should provide returnee migrants with employment and livelihoods opportunities. Projects with the National Pride can hire returnee migrants with priority on the basis of their skills. Special income-generation programmes can be implemented in a coordinated effort among the local, province and federal levels.
- AWARENESS AND SENSITIZATION ON HEALTH BEHAVIOUR: Awareness-raising in communities in Nepal is needed to help reintegration. The quarantine facilities need to be improved with due consideration of gender and people in special need and care.

THANK YOU

Report
online:

<https://publications.iom.int/books/status-nepali-migrant-workers-relation-covid-19>

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