



## Migration and Urban Livelihoods: A Quest for Sustainability in Southern Ethiopia

Befikadu Esayas Amphune\*<sup>1</sup>; Zerihun Berhane Weldegebriel<sup>2</sup>; Yonatan Dessalegn Enaro<sup>3</sup>

\*<sup>1</sup>Addis Ababa University, College of Development Studies, Center for Environment and Development, Ethiopia.

<sup>2</sup>Addis Ababa University, Center for African and Oriental Studies, Ethiopia.

<sup>3</sup>Addis Ababa University, Department of Economics, Ethiopia.



Contact: [befikadu.esayas@aau.edu.et](mailto:befikadu.esayas@aau.edu.et)

### Background

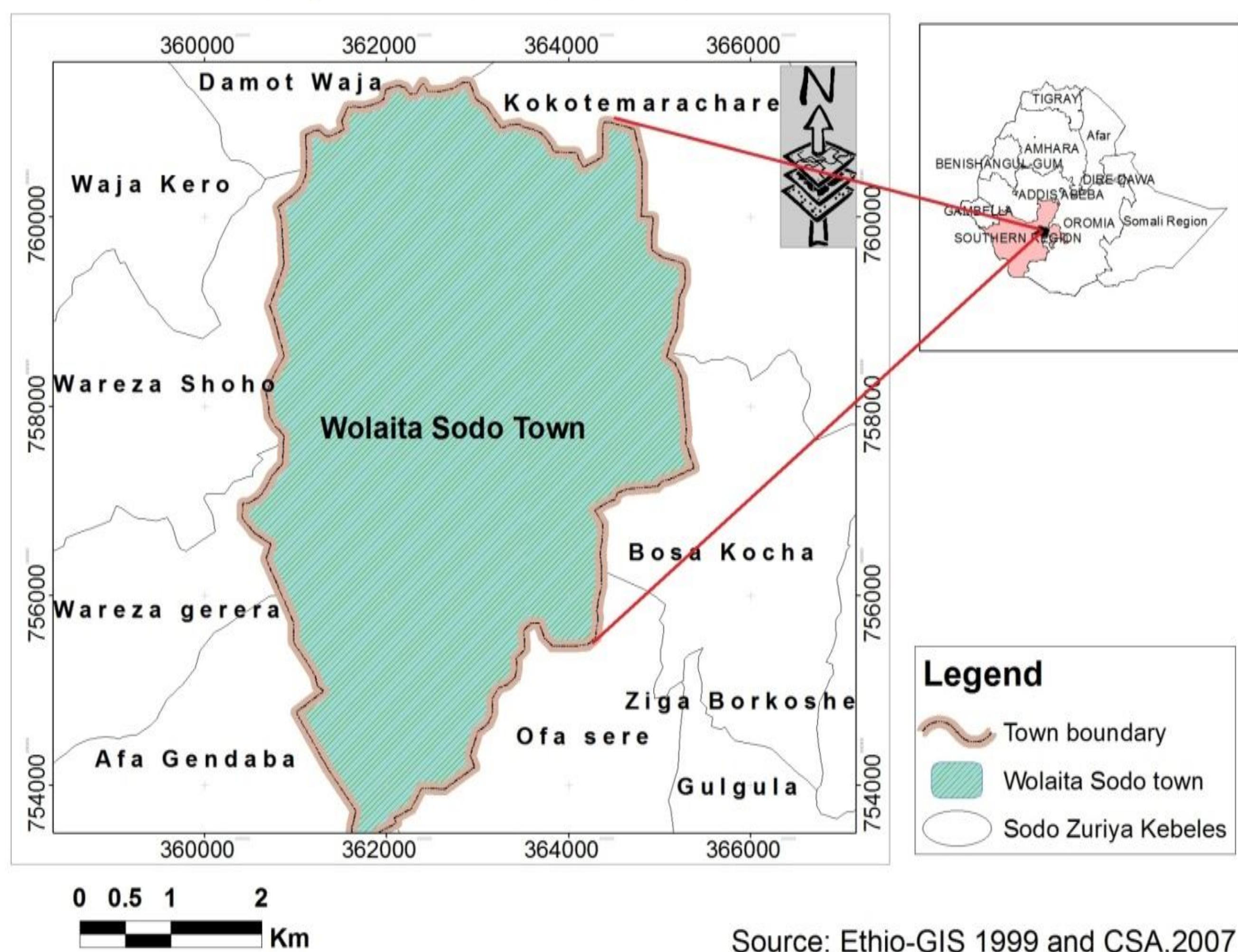
By 2050, world population is expected to exceed 9 billion people, and nowhere will population growth be more dramatic than in the cities of the developing world, like Ethiopia. Thus, migration is considered as the movement of It has been seen as problematic, both in academic and policy debates. However, rural-urban migration is attributed to have both negative and positive consequences at community, household, and individual levels.

Cognizant of this, a livelihood approach places households and their members at the center of analysis and decision-making. Undertaking detailed analysis and in-depth case studies are critical in understanding the issues that are essential to livelihoods of rural-urban migrants. This research aims at bridging this gap between theory and reality with an in-depth study of migration (from the perspective of livelihoods of migrants). To achieve this, three research questioned have guided the study. These include, 1) what are the major forces behind rural to urban migration in the study area?;2) How do migrants access different form of assets or capitals?; and 3) what are the major livelihood activities, coping mechanisms, and outcomes used by migrants?

### Methodology

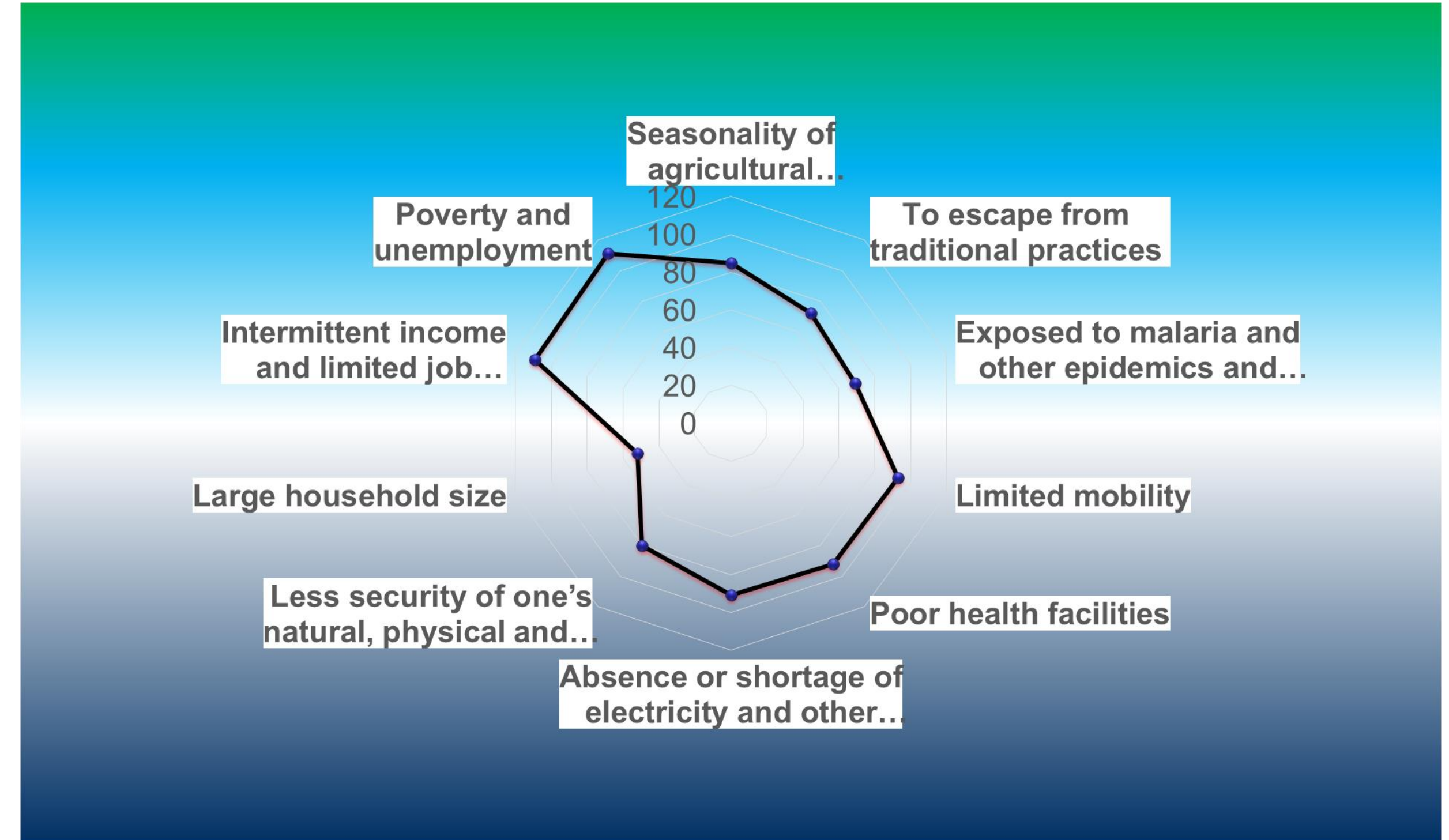
Research Design	Concurrent mixed
Sources of data	<b>Primary:</b> 120 migrants, KIIs, FGDs, & FNs <b>Secondary:</b> <b>Optimistic Views:</b> Neo-classical and Developmentalist Theory; <b>Pessimistic Views:</b> Neo-Marxian and Structuralism/dependency <b>Pluralistic Views:</b> The 'New Economics of Labor <b>Analysis Framework:</b> Sustainable Livelihood Framework
Sampling	Purposive and snowball
Instruments	120 Survey, 12 KIIs, 4 FGDs, and 5 FNs
Methods analysis	<b>Quantitative:</b> Descriptive statistics, chi-square test, Fisher exact test, asset livelihood assets radar diagram based on indices. <b>Qualitative</b> Thematic analysis along with the SLF and theories of migration.
Software	SPSS (20), Stata (13), Xlstat (16), ARG-GIS (10.2)

### Map of Wolaita Sodo Town

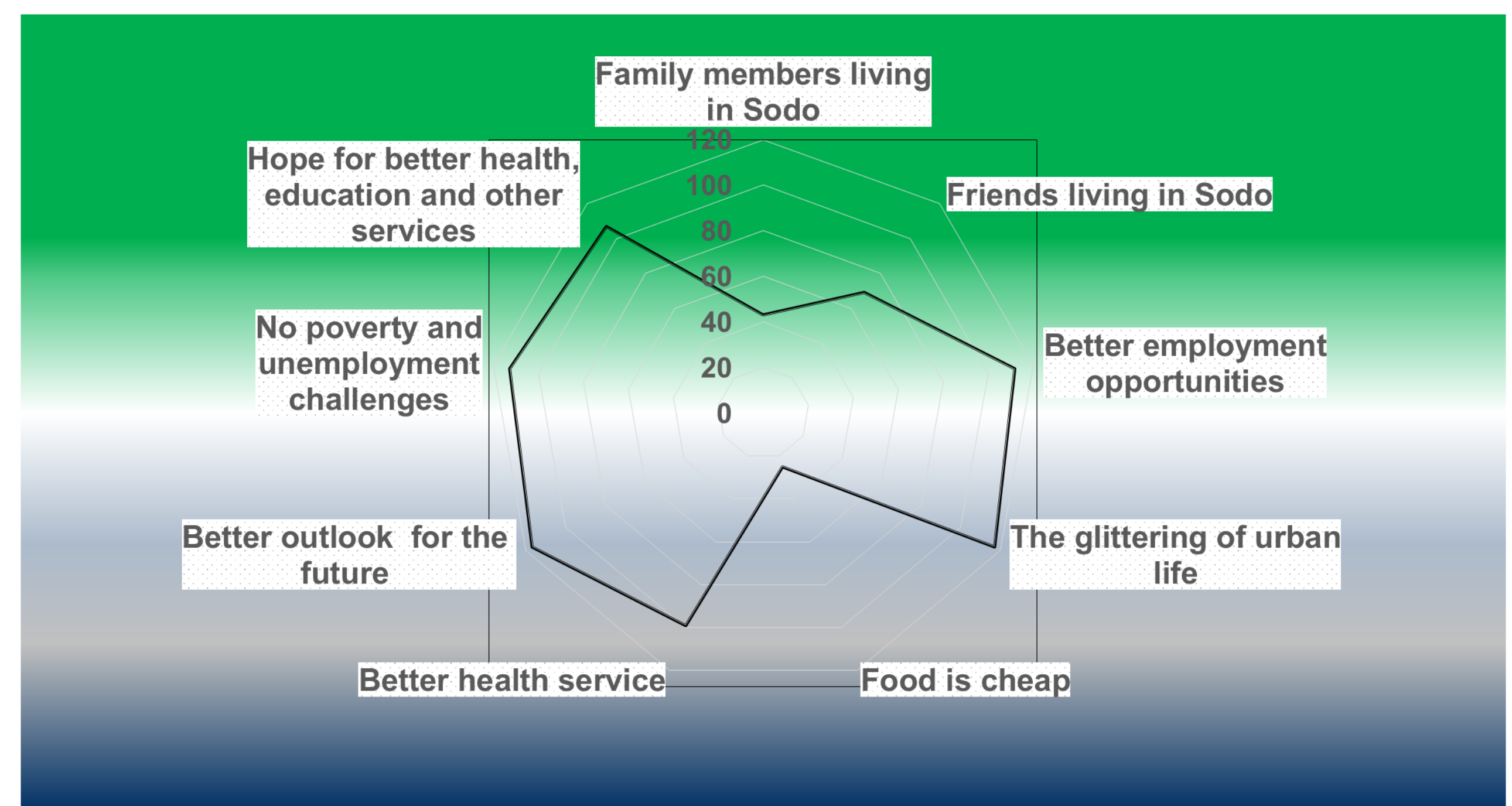


### Key Findings

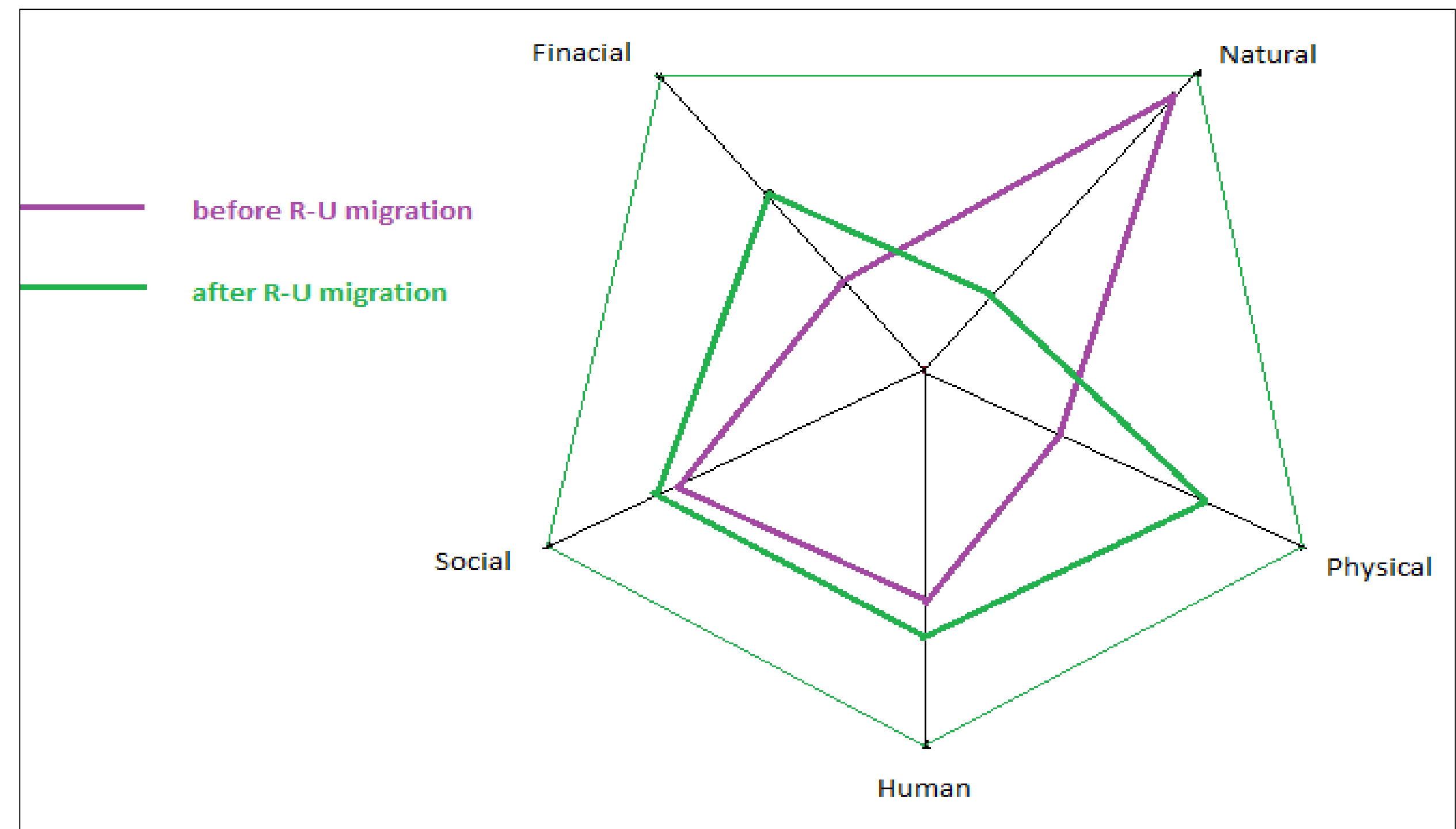
#### Rural Push Factors



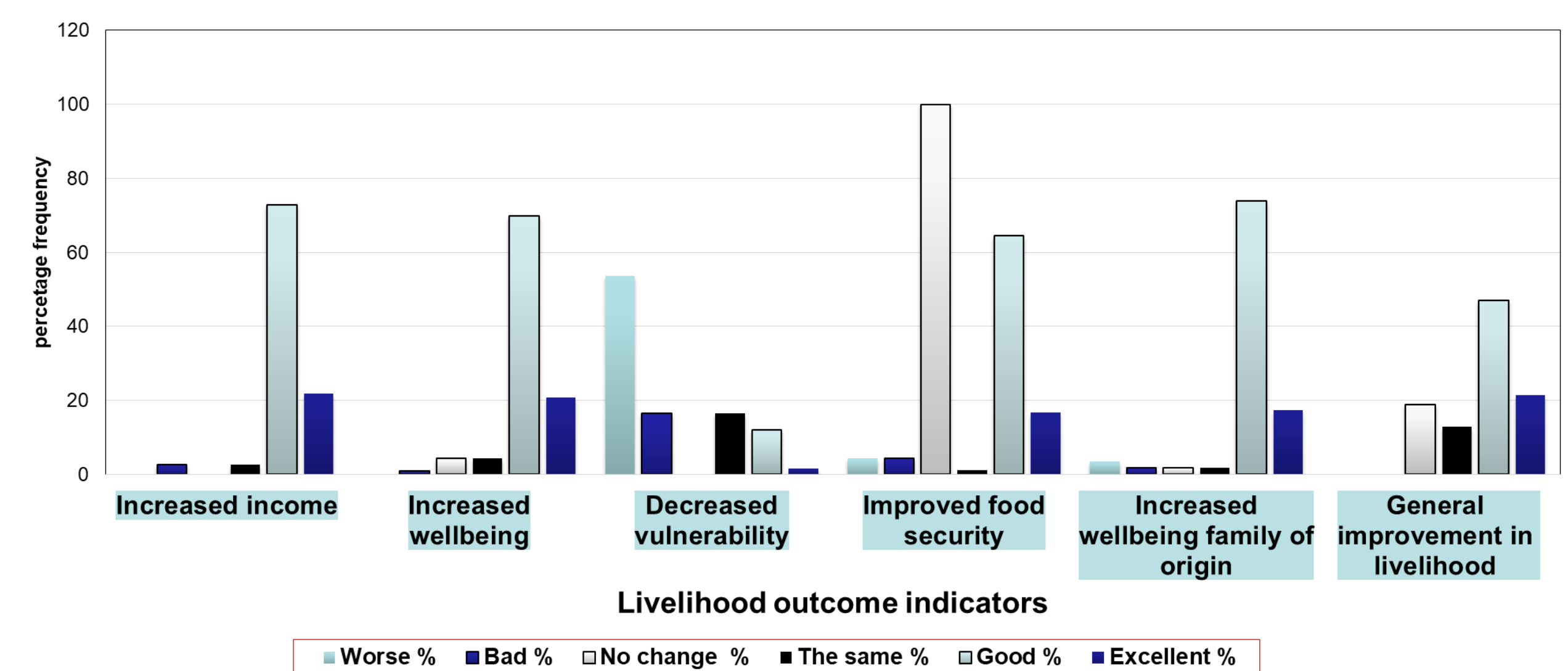
#### Urban Pull Factors



#### Migrant Asset Portfolios



#### Livelihood outcomes



#### Conclusion and Policy Implication

- Migrants' expectation to "urban context/urban glaring life" was the major force behind rural to urban migration.
- Migrants' vulnerabilities to shocks, trends, and seasonality were highly determined by their available and accessible livelihood assets.
- Migration being multifaceted problem per se, it should be approached differently in view of the different development and/or migration theories (*i.e., optimistic, pessimistic and pluralistic*).
- Therefore, it is imperative to devise migration inclusive policies and programs that help migrants' to overcome multiple shocks they face at different administration echelons.