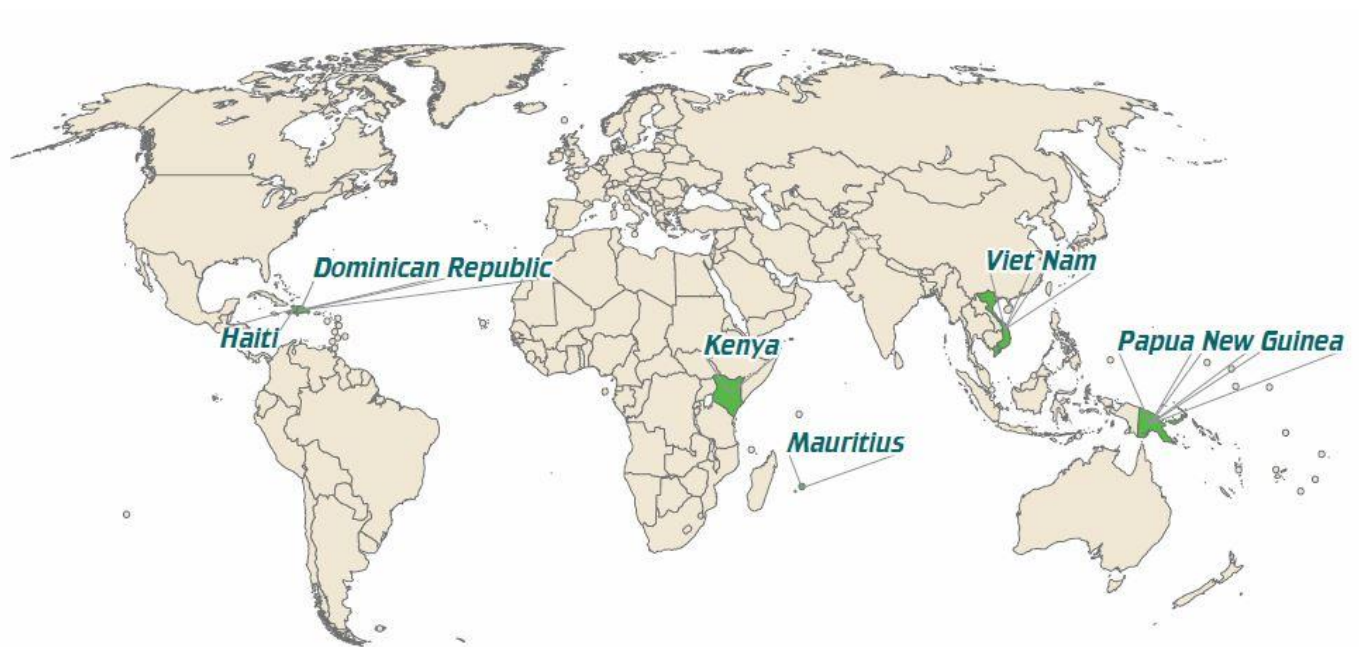




12 October 2017
Impacts World



Adaptation to environmental and climate change: The role of human mobility



Susanne Melde
Senior Analyst

Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC), IOM, Berlin

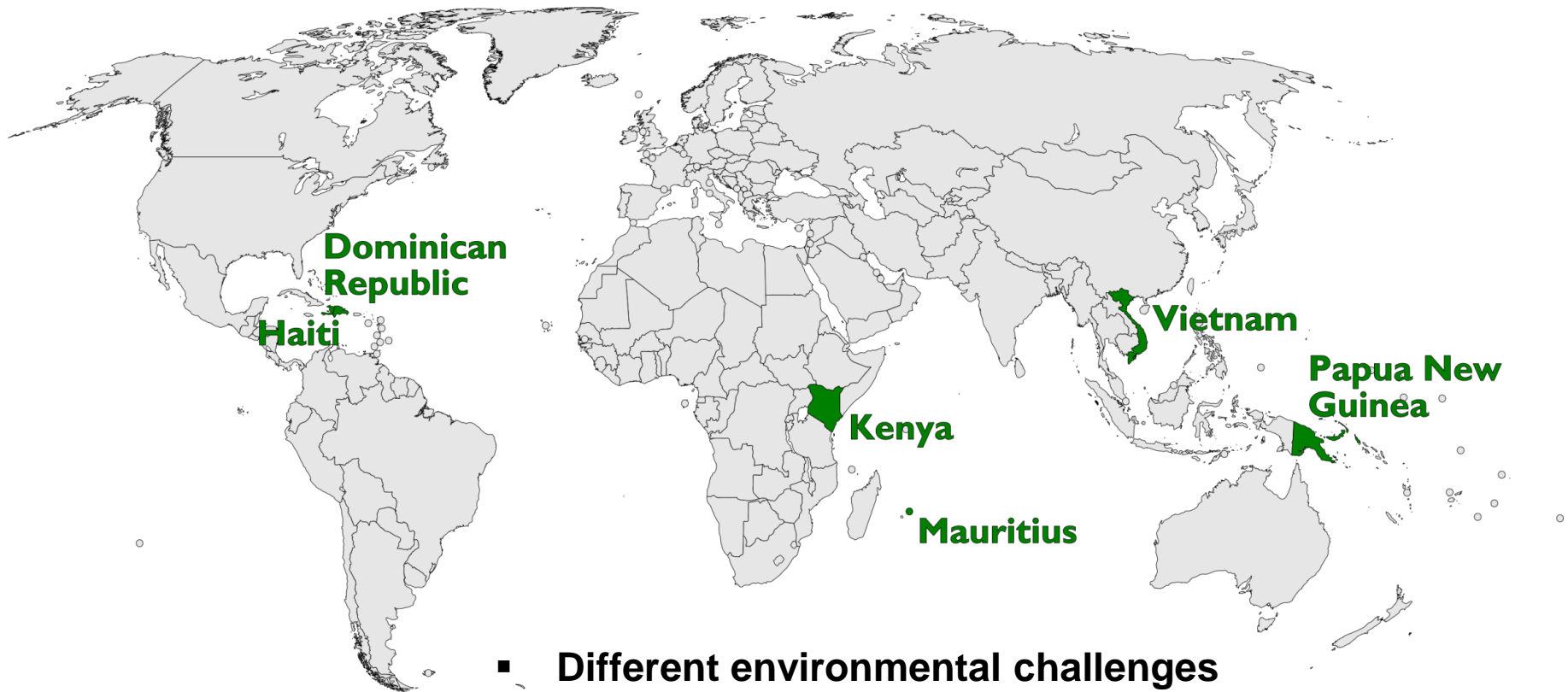


Background and methodology



Brief overview

Global coverage:



- Different environmental challenges
- Different migration scenarios



Research question



How can different forms of mobility benefit or undermine adaptation to environmental and climate change?

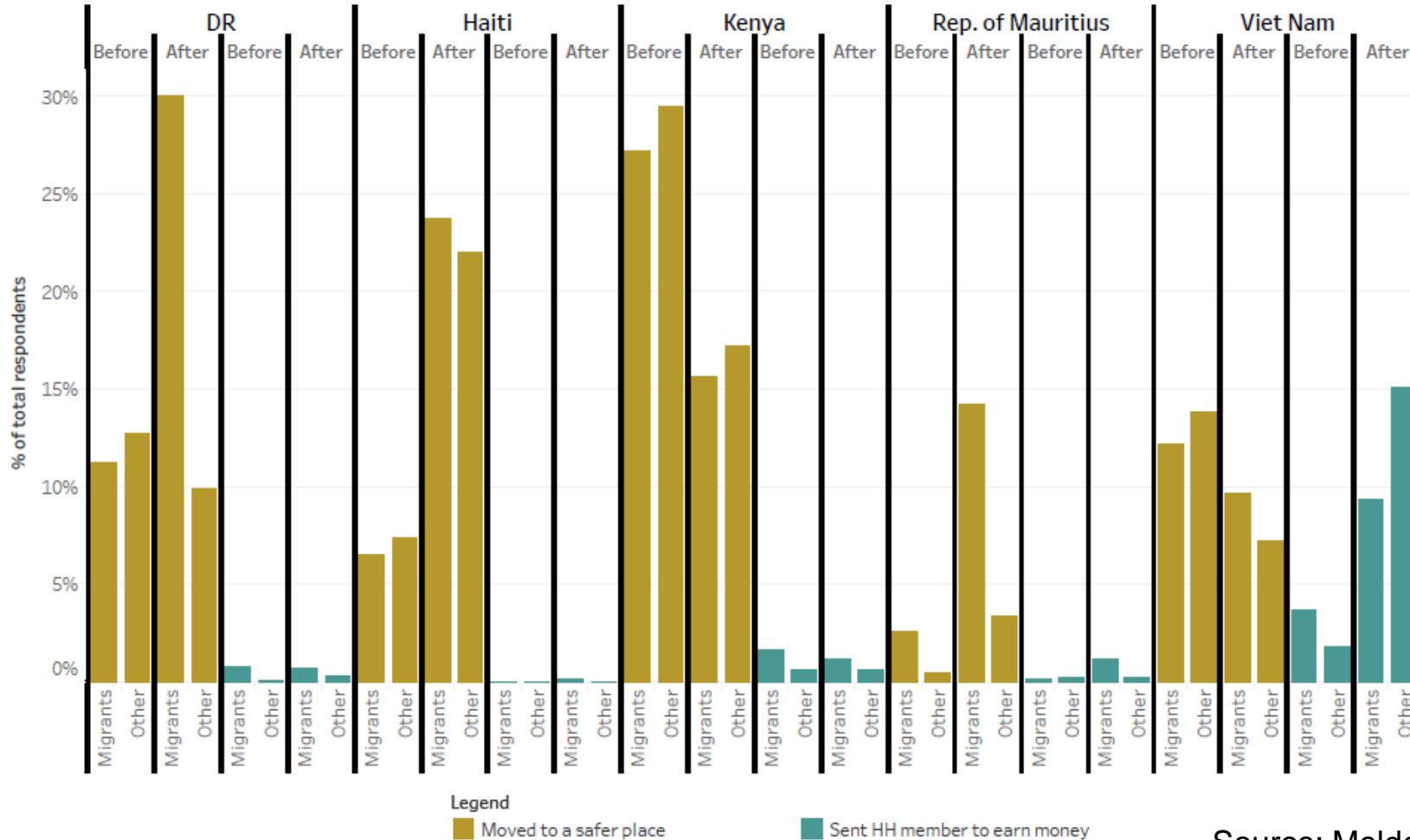
- Surveys in 5 countries on *impact* of migration on adaptation, not on environment as a driver
- Comparison migrant and non-migrant households in origin and destination areas affected by environmental change
- Key informant interviews and focus groups



Key findings



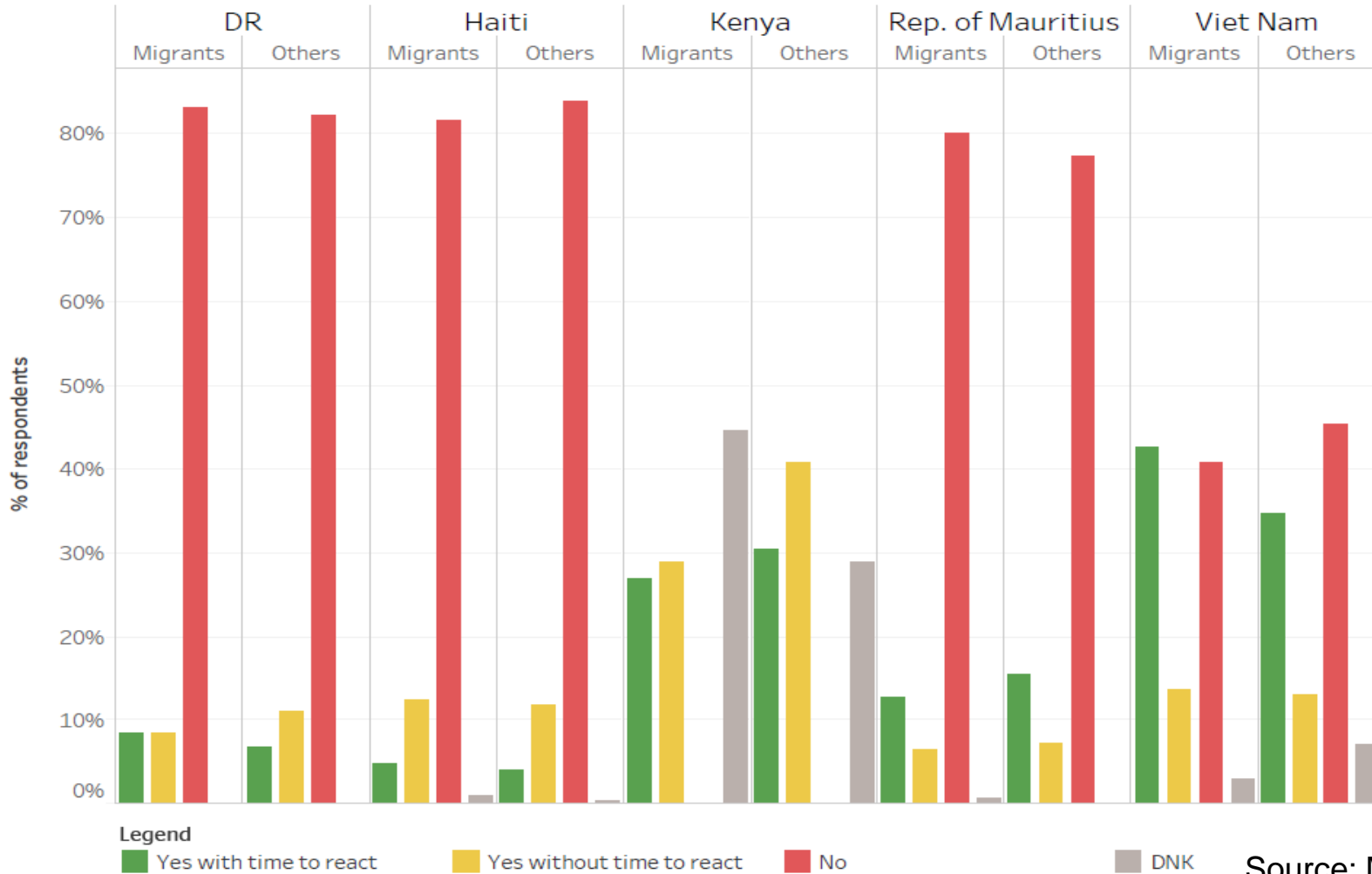
Increasing resilience through mobility: Households use migration to prepare for future disasters



Source: Melde et al., 2017



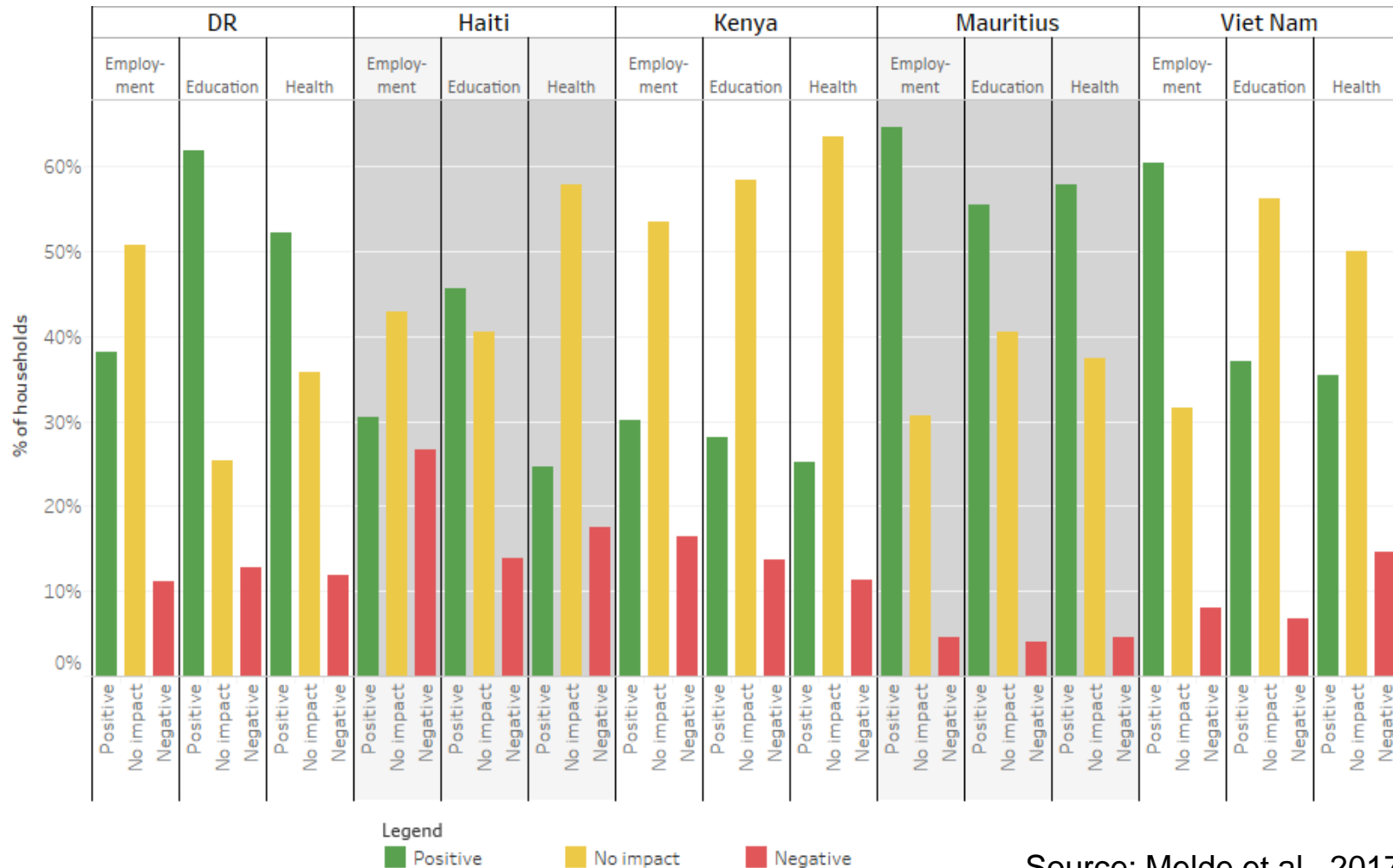
Warnings received prior to hazards: Majority not alerted



Source: Melde et al., 2017



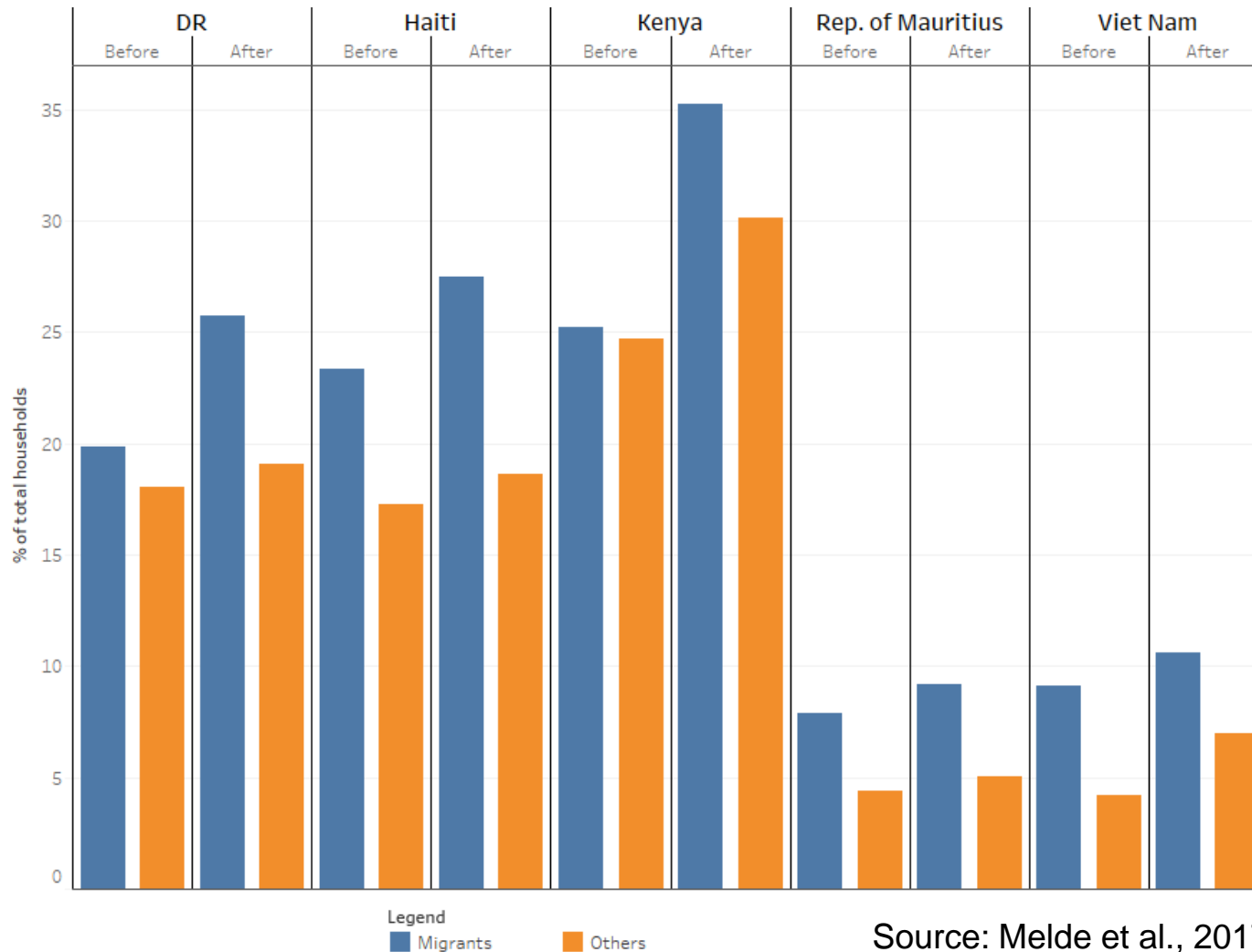
Impact of mobility on well-being: Mostly positive or neutral



Source: Melde et al., 2017



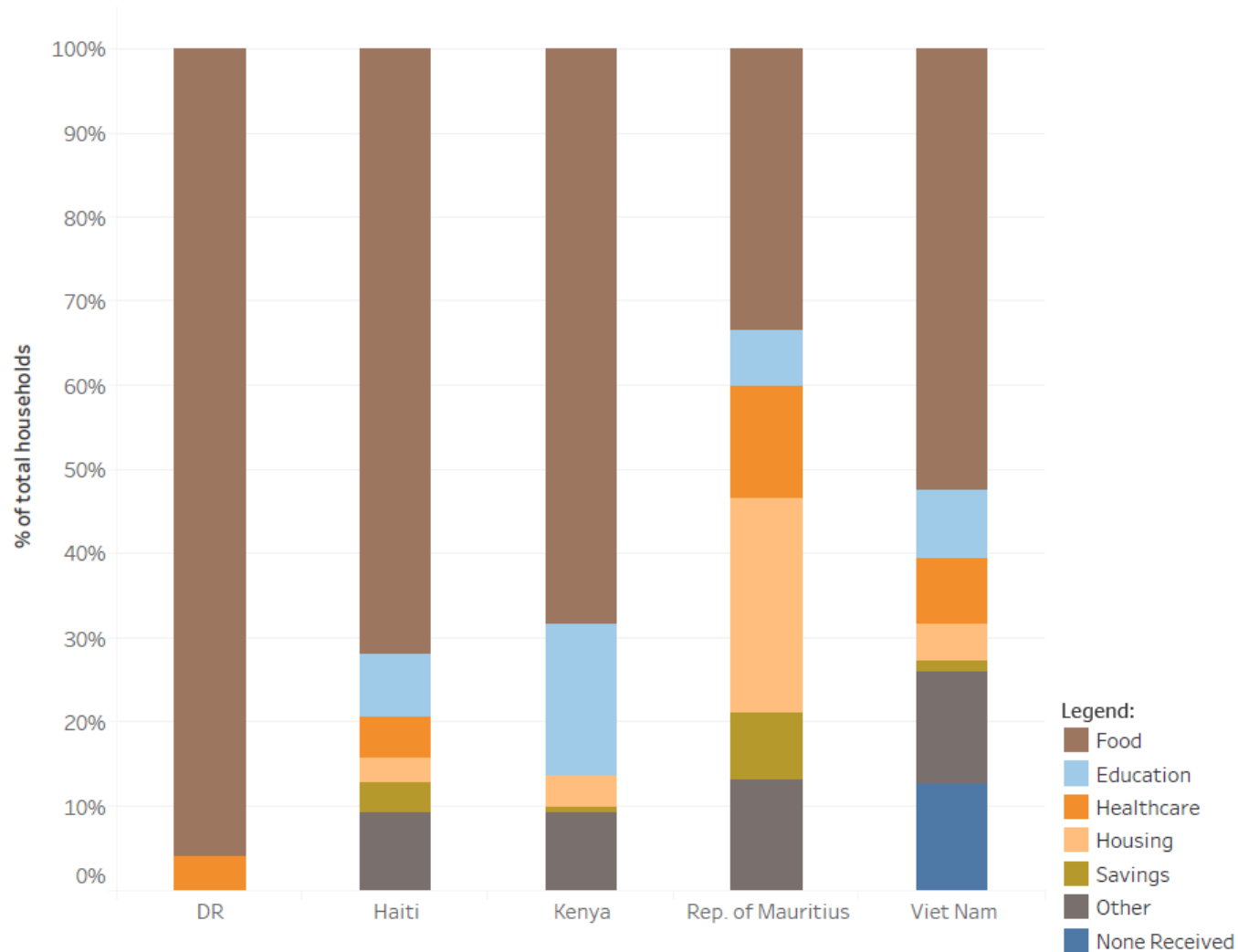
Discrimination/exclusion in employment, health & education, migrant and non-migrant households



Source: Melde et al., 2017



Remittances: Important for food security, also education, health care and housing



Source: Melde et al., 2017



1. **Moving out of harms way is a strategy** in all countries to respond to hazards
2. The majority of households did **not receive an early warning**, or too late to react
3. The **impact of migration on well-being is mostly positive** across the 5 countries; more likely to face discrimination and insecurity
4. **Remittances** are essentially used for **basic necessities**



Haiti: Vulnerability index

Internally displaced were most vulnerable, seasonal migrants least



Source: Milan et al., 2015



Type of mobility

IMPACT

Vulnerability

Different forms of migration



Planned relocation



Displacement





Policy implications

Time to act now: Maximizing migration as an adaptation strategy to environmental stress

- Integrating migration as an adaptation option into environment and climate change policies
- Sharing good practice policy examples, e.g. Draft Migration Policy of Haiti

Fostering policy coherence through data collection, research & capacity-building

- Preparing national assessments
- Collecting data on internal migration

Prioritizing vulnerable groups

- Prevention: Increasing disaster risk reduction and resilience to decrease displacement risks
- Developing and managing early warning systems
- Integrating gender concerns
- Protecting “trapped” populations
- Integrating migration into urban planning to reduce challenges for migrants and communities of destination



Susanne Melde

smelde@iom.int

www.environmentalmigration.iom.int

@IOM_GMDAC

This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The views expressed herein can in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of the European Union.