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# Impacts of Fish Farming Household Burdens on Mobility Decisions and Vulnerability to Climate-related and Socio-economic Risks

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## ABSTRACT

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Mobility is potentially important for building resilience, and to cope with and adapt to climate-related and socio-economic risks. Capacities and incentives to move, however, are often constrained by household burdens. This paper investigates how mobility decisions prior to and after commencement of fish farming are related to changing household burdens, and how different forms of mobility, in turn, influence vulnerabilities to climate-related and socio-economic risks. Forty-two fish cage farming households in four villages located along different sections of the Ping River were interviewed on multiple occasions. The study found most households have had at least one member out-migrating and seeking job opportunities outside the local community. The expectation is that mobility will help meet daily living needs, build long-term foundations for life, and provide money for fish farming and other farm or non-farm activities. Mobility decisions are influenced by age, education and gender as well as household size, number of dependents, and income sources. By the same token, fish cage farming takes up household time and labor, and as such may be a constraint on further mobility. Our findings suggest that mobility enhances household capacities to absorb climate-related and socio-economic risks arising as part of fish cage farming. For example, fish farmers who commute for daily jobs can adapt better in terms of providing means for daily living, or earn sufficient funds to absorb production failures. Multi-generational households can use remittances for risk and vulnerability reduction, whereas skip-generation households tend to be more vulnerable. This study shows that household burdens and mobility decisions interact to influence vulnerabilities and adaptation options of fish cage farming households.

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