

FIRST
EDITION
2022



REPORT ON
**LABOUR MIGRATION
STATISTICS IN THE
COMMON MARKET**
FOR EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA (COMESA)



International
Labour
Organization



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FOREWORD



Chileshe Mpundu Kapwepwe

The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) aims to promote a sustainable economic growth and development through trade and investment by making use of its natural resources and human capital. As one of the eight recognized regional economic communities of the African Union that was established within the framework of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos, it is a building block of the African Union (AU) and eventually the establishment of the African Economic Community (AEC) which has started with the launch of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area. The aims and objectives of COMESA are anchored on the premise of the creation of a peaceful and secure environment in which factors of production for both trade in goods and services as well as domestic and foreign investment such as capital and human resource including migrant workers, can freely move across borders.

The COMESA Regional Integration Agenda therefore aims to contribute to the efforts of COMESA Member States and the African Continent in the attainment of sustainable economic development, the realization of the African Union Agenda 2063 as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The COMESA Region has a history of migration and Labour Migration has always been an important feature of migration patterns which has contributed to the economic and social development of the region. As COMESA deepens her Regional Integration Agenda through the consolidation of her Free Trade Area as well as move towards the implementation of the COMESA Trade in Services Protocol, the effective management of Labour migration in the regional is crucial to the success of the COMESA Trade Regime. It is in this context that through a decision of the Committee of COMESA Ministers Responsible for Immigration which was endorsed by the COMESA Council of Ministers and the COMESA Authority, COMESA working with her development partners have compiled the First Report on Labour Migration Statistics. This report aims to assist COMESA Member States and COMESA as a region to make effective decisions, policies and legislation necessary based on reliable data. The report is therefore a first step of establishing a regional database on labour migration statistics aimed at enhancing labour migration governance and management for economic development.

I am therefore pleased to present the first edition of the COMESA Report on Labour Migration Statistics. The report contains

estimates on the regional and national level over a ten-year period and will among other things contribute to the implementation of the African Union Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa 2017–2026.

This first report makes use of the currently available statistics that were presented by COMESA Member States and it is my sincere hope that the report shall give impetus to our Member States the zeal to have reliable and timely data or statistics that will serve the needs of COMESA and its Member States in harnessing the potential of migration for development.

The report has been produced by COMESA with the technical and financial support of our cooperating partners namely: Statistics Sweden (Stat Sweden), Statistics Africa/African Union Commission (STATAFRIC/AUC)

of the African Union, funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and the Southern African Migration Management (SAMM), funded by the European Union, under the European Development Fund (11 EDF). I would therefore like to take this opportunity to thank our cooperating partners for their support in the development of the first COMESA Labour Migration Statistics Report. I would also like to thank all COMESA Member States for the various roles including sharing of data with the COMESA Secretariat that has led to the development of this report.



Chileshe Mpundu Kapwepwe
SECRETARY GENERAL

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COMESA also wishes to thank the following cooperating partners who played a part in providing technical support during the validation of the report by COMESA Member States: The East African Community (EAC), The International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Expert Group on Migration and Internally Displace Persons (EGRIS) and the International Labour Migration (ILO).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The first report on labour migration statistics in COMESA makes use of data captured for the purpose of a continental report that was launched in November 2021. The data were collected under the AU–ILO–IOM–UNECA Joint Programme on Labour Migration Governance for Development and Integration in Africa (JLMP). The report cover data for the decade 2010 to 2019. Unlike the continental report the present report disseminates results not only on the regional or REC level but also on the national level. Before the preparations of the report all the 21 COMESA MS were consulted and informed about the plans of the regional report, earlier drafts of the report have been reviewed by experts from the MS, the regional economic communities, and other development partners. Experts from Statistics Sweden prepared the dataset and filled the gaps in time series and made sure to sort out inconsistencies in the data. All data manipulations done have been communicated with the MS and approved in validation workshops in December 2020. All data used are reported by the MS, with one exception: Economic indicators such as data on remittances and GDP that are captured from the World Bank data base.

The total population within COMESA MS have increased from 488 million in 2010 to 567 million in 2019 representing an annual growth rate of 2.7 per cent. Disaggregation of the population by sex indicates that there were 223.8 million males and 224.6 million females in 2010, comparing to 2019 the males were 283.6 million and females 283.9 million. Furthermore, the working-age population in the region was estimated at 338.4 million in 2019, which implies an increase of 27.2 per cent since 2010. The female working-age population grew by around 26.7 per cent over the period, while the corresponding growth rate for men was 27.7 per cent.

The COMESA labour force has increased to 212.0 million in 2019 from 168.5 million in 2010, with the number of men in the labour force was higher than that of women during the entire period. For instance, in 2019, men labour force in COMESA region accounted at 57.4 per cent of the total labour force by comparing to the corresponding females was 42.3 per cent. This suggests that greater efforts need to be invested into the development of policies and strategies aimed at removing the obstacles that prevent women in Africa from entering the labour market. On the other hand, the LFPR for the region for the year 2010 was 63.3 per cent with males having a higher patriation rate of 73.5 per cent, while females having a participation rate of 53.4 per cent.

INCREASE IN TOTAL POPULATION WITHIN COMESA MS

488
MILLION
IN 2010

567
MILLION
IN 2019

POPULATION BY SEX

2010



223.8

million males



224.6

million females

2019



283.6

million males



283.9

million females

WORKING-AGE POPULATION INCREASE

27.2%

The stock of international labour migration in the region has been steadily increasing, as indicated by estimates of the international migrant population of the region, which point to an increase from 5.7 million in 2010 to 9.6 million in 2019. The proportion of international migrant to the population in 2010 was 1.3 per cent while in 2019 was 1.7 per cent. This represents an increase of 0.4 per cent point increase under the period of review. The estimated number of working-age international migrants in COMESA increased from 4.1 million in 2010 to 7.2 million in 2019. The proportion of international migrant to the population in 2010 was 1.6 per cent while in 2019 was 2.1 per cent. This represents an increase of 0.5 per cent points of the working age migrant population in the region. Working-age migrants accounted for more than 70 per cent of the total international migrant population in 2019 in all the subregions except for Central Africa, where their share was nevertheless 68 per cent. The disaggregation of working age international migrants by sex revealed an increasing trend on both males and females.

In addition, the number of young international migrant workers in the COMESA region was 1.2 million in 2010 while in 2019 it was 2 million. The proportion of young international migrant workers to total international labour force migrant population in the years 2010 was 38.6 per cent whereas in 2019 it was 38.4 per cent, which representing a 0.4 per cent decrease during the period under review.

On the other hand, the number of young male international migrant male workers in the COMESA region increased to 1.1 in 2019 from 0.7 million in 2010, while the number of young female international workers increased to 0.9 million in 2019 from 0.5 million in 2010 during the period under review. The proportion of young female international migrant workers to total international female labour force migrant population in the years 2010 was 37.9 per cent whereas in 2019 was 30.4 per cent. The corresponding proportion of young male international migrant workers was 39.6 per cent in 2010, while in 2019 was 48.2 per cent. This represents increases young international migrant workers at 8.6 per cent point for males and decrease of -7.5 per cent for females under the period of review, whereas the total the percentage change point was -0.4 per cent under period of review.

The volume of remittances sent by international migrants within the COMESA region and by those living and working outside COMESA increased from US\$20.0 billion to US\$39.6 billion from 2010 to 2019. The volume of remittances increased by 98 per cent under the period of review.

ABBREVIATIONS

AU	African Union
AEC	African Economic Community
AUC	African Union Commission
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
EAC	East African Community
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EU	European Union
FTA	Free Trade Area
ICSE	International Classification of Status in Employment
IDPs	Internal Displacement Persons
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
ILMQ	International Labour Migration Questionnaire
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ISCED	International Standard Classification of Education
ISCO	International Standard Classification of Occupations
ISIC	International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities
JLMP	Joint Labour Migration Programme
LFPR	Labour Force Participation Rate
MPFA	Migration Policy Framework for Africa
MS	Member States
NCM	National Coordination Mechanisms
NSOs	National Statistical Offices
OAU	Organization of African Unity
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
PTA	Preferential Trade Area
REC	Regional Economic Community
SADC	Southern African Development Community
Sida	Swedish International Development Agency
SCB	Statistics Sweden
STATAFRIC	African Union Institute for Statistics
TWG	Technical Working Group

EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

G11

10/11/2015

Key to understanding of the University of Zambia grading

AT	90-100	Distinction
A	80-90	Distinction
B+	70-80	Ment
B	60-70	Credit
C+	50-60	Pass
C	40-50	Pass
D+	30-40	fail
D	20-30	fail

Deferred (absent/Permitted etc)
Refused. (write) but failed

EX IN WP



CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) is one of the eight recognised Regional Economic Communities of the African Union. Its membership is composed of twenty-one independent, sovereign African Member States with the aim of promoting the attainment of sustainable economic growth and development through trade and investment based on exploitation of natural resources making use of the human capital of the region for the mutual benefit of all people in the region. COMESA was established in 1994 as a successor to the Preferential Trade Area (PTA) for eastern and southern Africa that was formed in 1981. COMESA is one of the regional economic communities that was established within the framework of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos. This foundation lays a firm basis of COMESA as a building block of the African Union (AU) and eventually the establishment of the African Economic Community (AEC). The aims and objectives of COMESA as enshrined in Article 3 of the COMESA Treaty are anchored on the premise of the creation of a peaceful and secure environment in which factors of production for both trade in goods and services as well as domestic and foreign investment such as capital and human resources including migrant workers, can freely move across borders.

As one of the leading regional integration groupings in African, most COMESA Member States have since the establishment of the PTA, reduced tariffs for goods originating from the region which fulfils the Rules of Origin Criteria of the COMESA Rules of Origin Protocol leading to the establishment of the COMESA Free Trade Area (FTA). The establishment of the COMESA FTA has seen an increase of intra-COMESA Trade which stood at \$15.857M in 2019 compared to 2010 when it was at \$7.175M. The FTA was established in 2000 when nine of the MS eliminated their tariffs on COMESA originating products. After the establishment of the COMESA FTA, COMESA Member States successfully negotiated and launched a Customs Union which was not entered into force to pave way for deeper regional integration through the coming together of the three trade regimes with shared membership namely COMESA, the East African Community (EAC) and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC). This led to the conclusion of the COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite Free Trade Agreement (TFTA) which has since received the requisite number of signatures and is waiting for the necessary ratifications for it to enter into force. The COMESA-EAC-SADC TFTA was followed by the negotiation and conclusion of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (ACFTA) which has also moved COMESA Member States into a deeper state of regional integration.

In terms of promoting Trade in Goods, Trade in Services and Investment, COMESA Member

States from the outset have agreed on the nexus between well-managed and structured migration (including labour migration) on one hand and the attainment of sustainable economic growth and development on the other hand. It is in this context that under Article 164 of the COMESA Treaty, COMESA Member States agreed to undertake necessary measures individually, at the bilateral and regional levels to achieve progressively the free movement of persons, labour, services and to ensure the enjoyment of the right of establishment and residence within the common market. Furthermore, it is under this legal authority that under the COMESA Mid Term Strategic Plan 2021-25 and the pillar of Market Integration, the COMESA Programme on Free Movement of Persons, Labour and Services is being implemented as a Trade Facilitation Tool. This Mid-term Strategic Plan has been developed under the authority of the COMESA Treaty but is also designed to contribute to the attainment of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Article 164 of the Treaty led to an agreement to continue implementing the COMESA Protocol on the Gradual Relaxation and Eventual Elimination of Visa (Visa Protocol) which was adopted in 1984 under the PTA Treaty and the adoption of the COMESA Protocol on Free Movement of Persons, Labours, Services, Right of Establishment and Right of Residence (Free Movement Protocol) in 2006. The COMESA Visa Protocol which is aimed at facilitating the movement of persons including businesspersons and reducing the cost of doing business is under implementation by all COMESA Member States at various levels whilst the Free Movement Protocol has not yet entered into force as it waits to receive the requisite signatures and ratifications.

As one of the ways of ensuring the effective implementation of the visa protocol and addressing some of the challenges that most COMESA Member States are facing, at the Tenth Meeting of COMESA Ministers Responsible for Immigration (2017) States agreed on several efforts, including the establishment of a database and information sharing system on the movement of persons, services and labour within the COMESA Region; The revision and harmonization of laws on the basis of the COMESA Model Immigration Law; and Coordinated and integrated border management and Development of the COMESA Business Visa. Furthermore, the meeting made the recommendation to adhere to international standards in the production of migration data to improve comparability of data within the COMESA MS. It is in this context that COMESA has received support through the African Union Migration Statistics Project together with Statistics Sweden and three other REC: s funded by the Swedish Government and the Southern Africa Migration Management Project (SAMM) funded by the European Union (EU). COMESA has embarked on the strengthening of migration data with a focus on labour migration and the development of a related mechanism for information sharing. This report therefore is in line with the decision of COMESA Ministers Responsible for Immigration which was endorsed by the COMESA Council of Ministers and the COMESA Authority (COMESA Heads of State and Government) for the COMESA Region to develop a migration database which will assist Member State to develop evidence-based migration policies at the regional and national levels for enhanced migration management, in order to harness the potential of (especially labour-) migration for development.

On the other hand, the aim of COMESA to strengthen (labour) migration data and data collection among its member states aligns with the objectives of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (GCM). The GCM provides a comprehensive set of objectives and commitments related to a range of aspects pertaining to international migration governance. While acknowledging the sovereign right of UN Member States to determine their national migration policy and their prerogative to govern migration within their jurisdiction, it nevertheless calls for shared responsibility and unity of purpose in addressing and responding to the challenges and opportunities pertaining to international migration.

While all of the objectives and commitments contained in the GCM may be of relevance to the management of labour migration in COMESA, Objective 1 reiterates a commitment to collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies. It aims to achieve this objective through, among other actions: harmonized methodologies for data collection, improved international comparability of statistics and national data systems, and strengthening national capacities in data collection, analysis and dissemination. This report, and the technical support offered by the COMESA Secretariat to statistics producers of its Member States, contributes to COMESA's efforts to support its Member States in achieving this first objective of the GCM.

1.2 COMESA Geographical coverage

The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) is a regional economic community with twenty-one member states (Burundi; Comoros; D.R Congo; Djibouti; Egypt; Eritrea; Eswatini; Ethiopia; Kenya; Libya; Madagascar; Malawi; Mauritius; Rwanda; Seychelles; Somalia; Sudan; Tunisia; Uganda; Zambia; Zimbabwe) stretching from Tunisia in the northwest to Eswatini in the south and the Indian ocean island states in the east. COMESA was formed in December 1994, replacing the Preferential Trade Area which had existed since 1981. During the decade covered in this report two MS have entered COMESA namely Somalia and Tunisia, both entered in 2018.

1.3 Rationality of Migration Report in the region

The African Union Institute for Statistics (STATAFRIC) and Statistics Sweden together with four RECs namely: EAC, ECOWAS, IGAD and SADC initiated in January 2019 a cooperation project on migration statistics, financed by the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida)

COMESA became the fourth REC to join the cooperation project in mid-2020. The aim of the programme is to enhance and improve the availability of regular up-to-date migration statistics of good quality for use in developing policies and laws which are relevant to the RECs' own

priorities and to the priorities of the African Union (AU) to adequately address the effects of migration in Africa and within RECs under the African Union Migration Policy Framework for Africa (MPFA) and the AU's Plan of Action 2018-2030.

At the same time, COMESA is a beneficiary of the EU-funded Southern African Migration Management (SAMM) project, being implemented with the technical support of ILO, IOM, UNODC, and UNHRC. One of the main objectives of the SAMM project is to support SADC, COMESA, and the IOC to improve migration management and promote regular migration in Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean. COMESA is committed to helping strengthen its Member States in the development of evidence-based policies, legislation, and decisions on labour migration through the establishment of regional standards for data collection and strengthening Member States' capacities for data collection and information sharing. SAMM provides technical and financial support to COMESA in these areas, within the context of implementing the COMESA Protocol on the Free Movement of Persons. COMESA, SCB, and the SAMM project are collaborating to produce a COMESA Labour Migration Trends report for use by COMESA Member States.

The projects which are part and parcel of implementing the COMESA Regional Integration Agenda is aimed at strengthening regional coordination on migration data sharing by producing a series of reports of migration data and addressing gaps in reporting on migrants' stock and migrant flows. The first report strives to improve the understanding of labour migration dynamics in the region and should be useful to policymakers tasked with the designing of evidence-based labour migration policies and programmes. The analysis presented in this report identifies past, present and emerging trends in international labour migration in COMESA. For effective policymaking, the report uses some official statistics on international migrant stocks and flows, including key information disaggregated by sex, age and labour force participation of migrants. In addition, this first edition will also be useful as a baseline for future reports/analyses.

In accordance with a strategic focus in the 2021-2025 COMESA Medium Term Strategic Plan (s.65) under the Market Integration Pillar under which the COMESA Free Movement of Persons Programme is one of the COMESA Trade Facilitation Tool, this report analyses and disseminate gender statistics across all reported indicators.

1.4 Objectives

The main objective of the report is to disseminate recent trends in the COMESA labour market with a special focus on the fluctuations among the labour migrant population based on data provided by the MS. The report might serve as a basis to better understand the characteristics of the migrant labour population, a prerequisite for suggesting evidence-based legislation or policies in the area of labour migration that best serves the MS and COMESA as a whole.

The report will use data compiled by COMESA Member States through the Joint Labour Migration Project (JLMP) questionnaire (JLMPQ). The JLMP is designed to mitigate the challenges of migration and labour mobility in Africa by strengthening the capacity of AU Member States through RECs to adopt and implement harmonized systems of free movement and coherent national labour migration policies in the RECs based on reliable data.

This report addresses the following objectives:

- I. To report on the stock of international migrants, and personal transfers sent from nationals abroad on an aggregated COMESA and MS-level.
- II. To report on labour migration statistics disaggregated by gender and age group in the COMESA Region and at the Member State-level.
- III. To disseminate longitudinal demographic and labour migration statistics covering ten years from 2010 to 2019 aggregated COMESA and MS-level.
- IV. To serve as a reference for future serial reports.

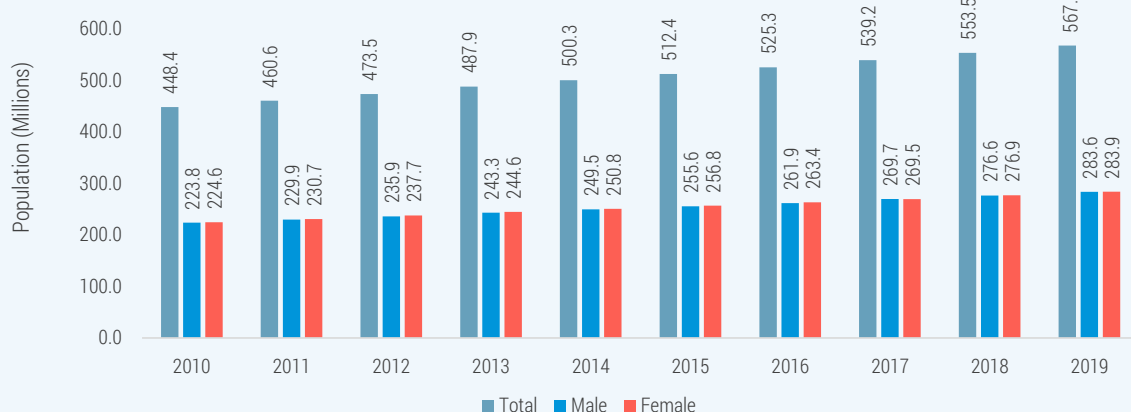
CHAPTER 2

PROFILE OF THE COMESA POPULATION

2.1 Population

The total population in the region increased significantly between 2010 and 2019. In 2010, the region recorded 448.4 million people. This number has increased steadily over the years, with 2019 recording a total population of 567.6 million people, which means that there was an increase of 119.2 million people, or 26.6 per cent from 2010 to 2019, equivalent to an average annual growth rate of 2.7 per cent. In 2019, The results indicate equal proportions of the two sexes. The male population accounted for 49.99 per cent while female population accounted for 50.01 per cent. (Figure 2.1).

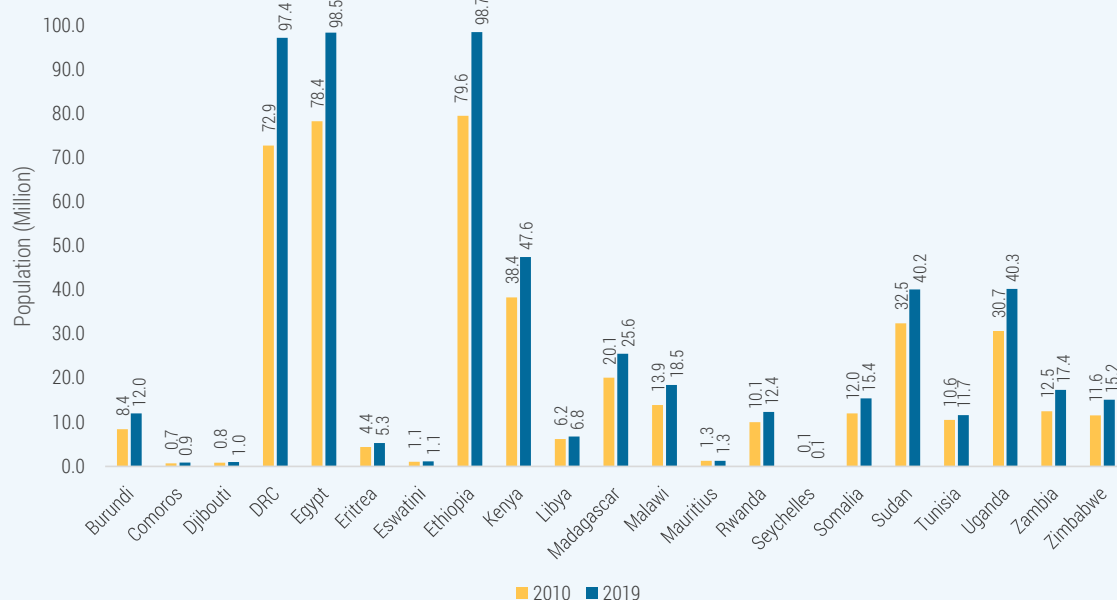
Figure 2.1: Population of COMESA Region by sex, 2010–2019 (millions)



Source: COMESA Migration Database

Ethiopia remains the most populous country over the ten-year period 2010 to 2019. Ethiopia had 79.6 million population in 2010, while in 2019, Ethiopia's population was 98.7 million population. The Ethiopia's share of the total COMESA population in 2010 was 17.8 per cent and has decreased in 2019 to 17.4 per cent. Seychelles had the lowest population share of COMESA member states (0.02 per cent) in 2010 to 2019. The results further indicated that Egypt and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) are the two second most populous countries in the COMESA region during the period under review (Figure 2.2)

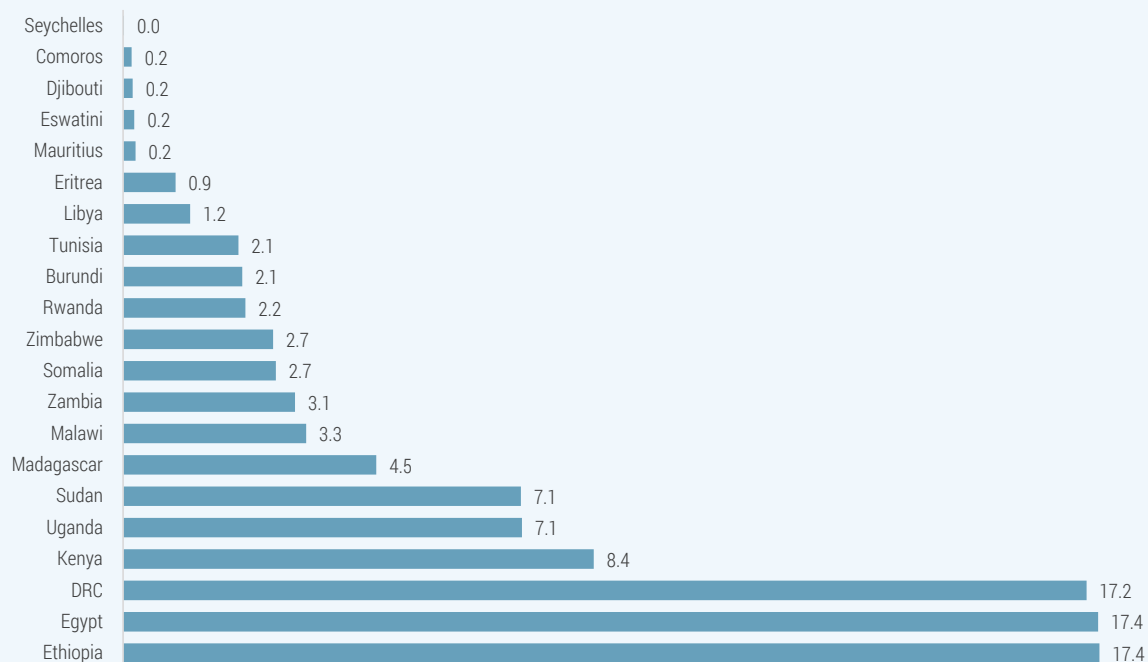
Figure 2.2: Population of COMESA by country, 2010 and 2019 (millions)



Source: COMESA Migration Database

The results show that Ethiopia, Egypt, and DRC had the highest shares of the COMESA population at 17.4, 17.4 and 17.2 per cent respectively, followed by Kenya at 8.4 per cent. The lowest percentages shares were recorded in Seychelles, Comoros, Djibouti, Eswatini, Mauritius, and Eritrea at less than 1.0 per cent for each country in the year of 2019. The three most populous countries in the COMESA region Ethiopia, Egypt and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) together accounted for the majority (52.00 per cent) of the total population in 2019 (Figure 2.3).

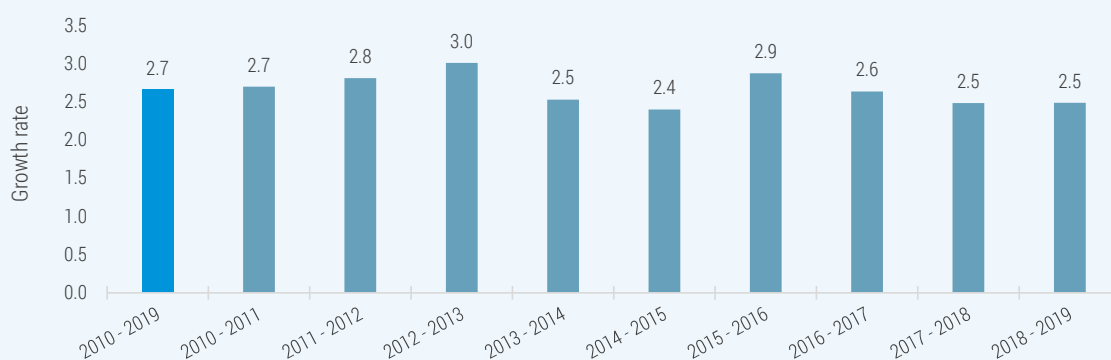
Note that Somalia and Tunisia joined COMESA in 2018. According to COMESA practice all current MS are included in the ten-year analysis.

Figure 2.3: Percentage distribution of COMESA population by country, 2019

Source: COMESA Migration Database

2.2 Population growth rate

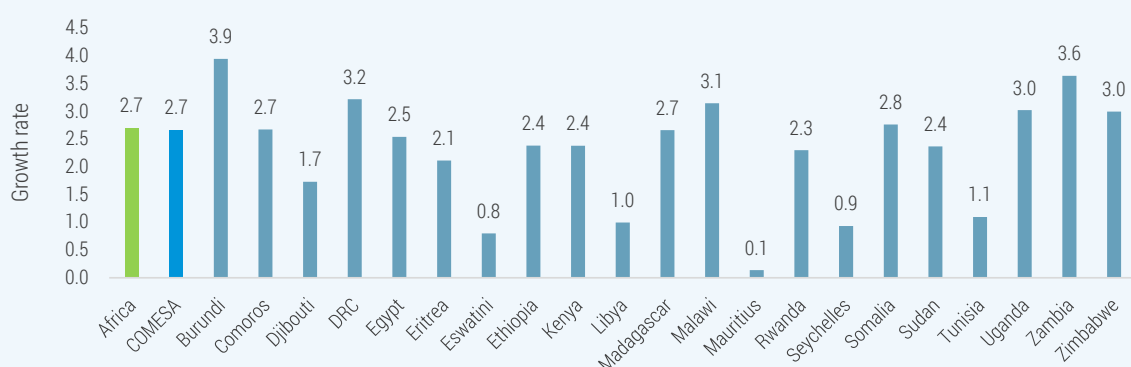
The population growth rate of the total population of COMESA from 2010 to 2019 was 2.7 per cent. The growth rate was the highest in 2012 - 2013 at 3 per cent while the lowest growth rate was observed in 2014 – 2015 at 2.4 per cent (figure 2.4).

Figure 2.4: Annual growth rate of COMESA population 2010–2019

Source: COMESA Migration Database

Disaggregating to the Member State level, Burundi, Zambia, DRC, Malawi, and Uganda had the highest growth rate over the ten-year period at 3.9, 3.6, 3.2, 3.1 and 3.0 per cent respectively, while Mauritius, Eswatini, and Seychelles has a growth rate less than 1 per cent at 0.1, 0.8 and 0.9 per cent respectively. The COMESA growth rate, at 2.7¹ per cent in the period 2010 to 2019, was the same as that of Africa as a whole (Figure 2.5).

Figure 2.5: Population growth rate of Africa, COMESA & MS from 2010 to 2019 (per cent)



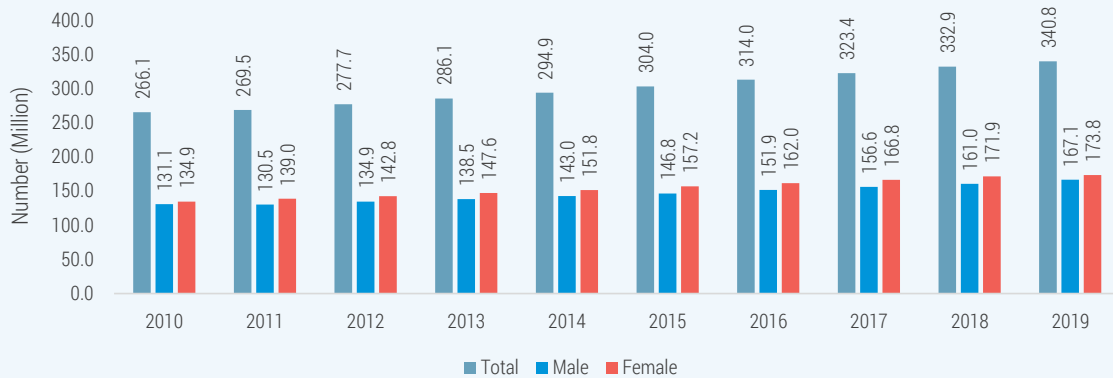
Source: COMESA Migration Database

2.3 Working age population

The working age population (aged 15 and over) in COMESA in 2010 was 266.1 million, while in 2019 the region recorded 340.8 million people, which represents an increase of 28.1 per cent during the period under review. A difference between males and females can be observed in that the female working-age population increased by 26.7 per cent over the period 2010 to 2019, while the corresponding male growth rate was 28.8 per cent. In 2019, the results showed that the males accounted for 49.0 per cent while the females also accounted 51.0 per cent (Figure 2.6).

¹ The African population growth rate was estimated 2.7 per cent in the period 2010 to 2019, Report on Labour Migration Statistics in Africa 3rd Edition (2019)

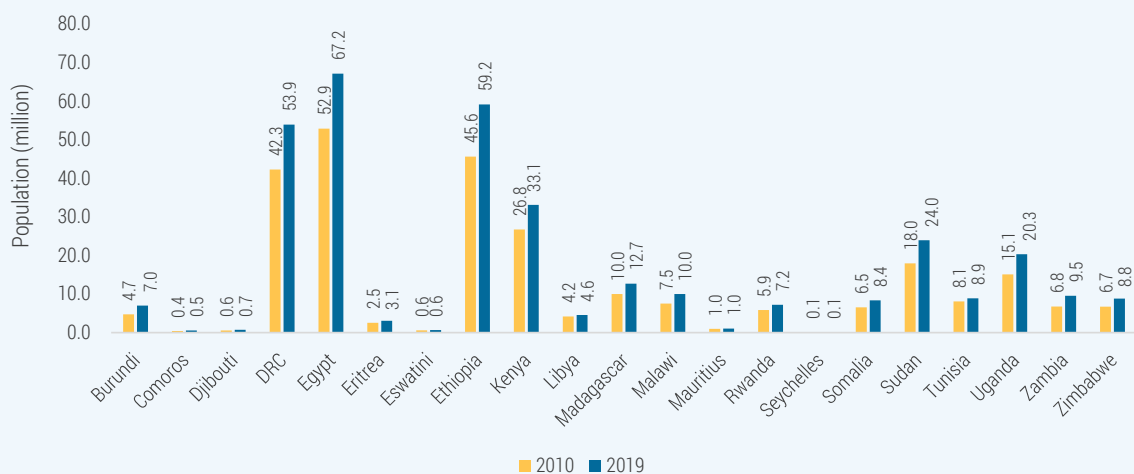
Figure 2.6: Working-age population in COMESA region, by sex, 2010–2019 (millions)



Source: COMESA Migration Database

The working age population (aged 15 and over) by country for the COMESA region from 2010 and 2019 is presented. The results show that Egypt, Ethiopia and DRC remain the most populous countries of working age population in the COMESA region respectively (figure 2.7).

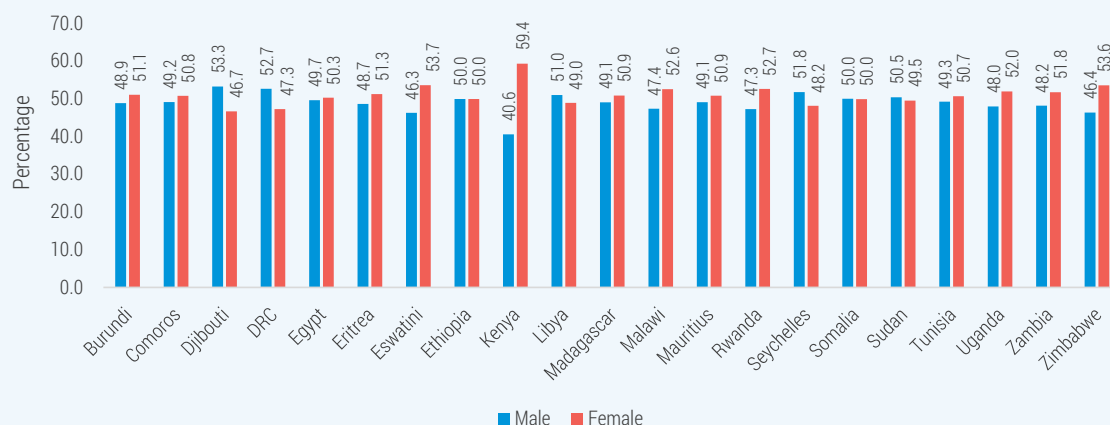
Figure 2.7: Working-age population in COMESA region, by country, 2010–2019 (millions)



Source: COMESA Migration Database

In 2019, the results indicated that Kenya, Eswatini and Zimbabwe had the highest number of females working age population at 59.4, 53.7 and 53.7 per cent respectively comparing to other member states. The results also show that Burundi, Comoros, Egypt, Eritrea, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, Tunisia, Uganda, and Zambia had higher female proportion of working population than the male between 50.3 to 52.6 per cent (figure 2.8).

Figure 2.8: Percentage distribution of working-age population in COMESA region, by country and sex 2019 (per cent)

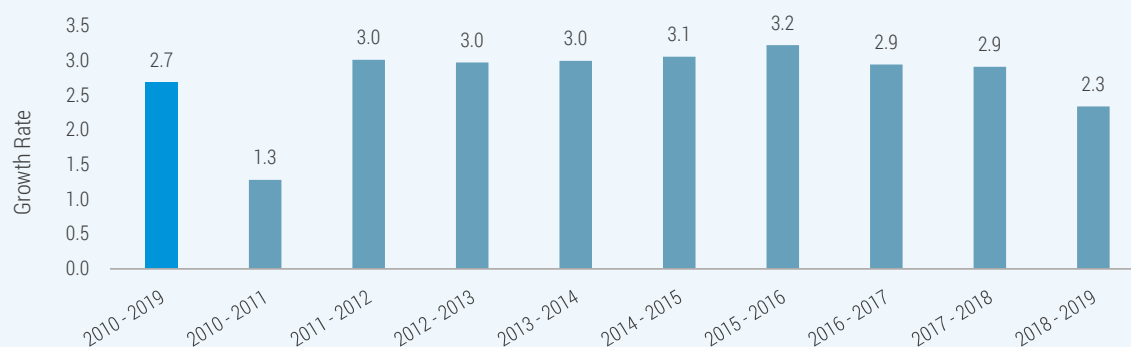


Source: COMESA Migration Database

2.4 Working-age population growth rate

The results show that the growth rate of working-age population was 3 per cent from 2011 to 2014, while the lowest growth rate was recorded in the period 2010 to 2011 at 1.3 per cent. The overall growth rate of working-age population over the entire period was 2.7 per cent (Figure 2.9).

Figure 2.9: Annual growth rate of COMESA working-age population 2010–2019

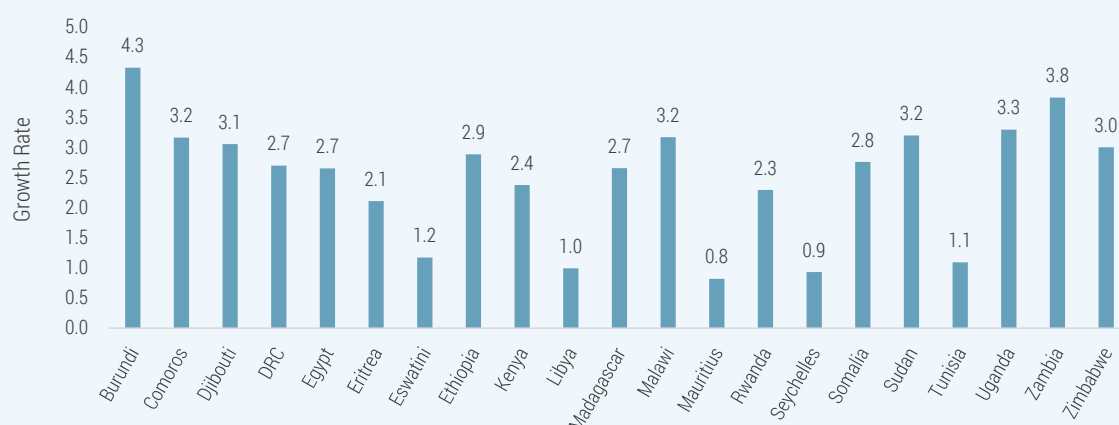


Source: COMESA Migration Database

The working-age population growth rate is analysed from 2010 to 2019 at the MS level. The results show that Burundi, Zambia, Uganda, Sudan, Malawi, Comoros and Djibouti had the highest growth rate over the ten-year period at 4.3, 3.8, 3.3, 3.3, 3.2 and 3.1 per cent respectively.

The results further show that the growth rate in Mauritius and Seychelles was at 0.8 and 0.9 per cent, representing the lowest growth rate in the working age population over the ten years among the member states (Figure 2.10).

Figure 2.10: Growth rate of COMESA working-age population by country 2010–2019



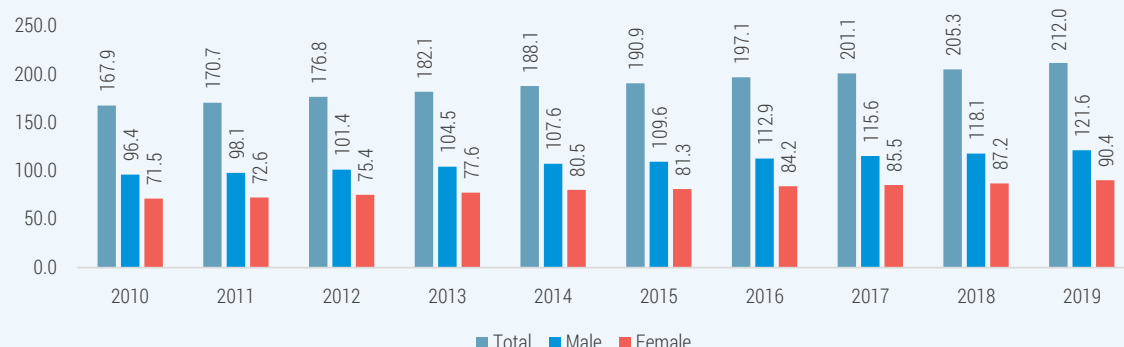
Source: COMESA Migration Database

2.5 Labour force and labour force participation rate

The labour force as defined by ILO comprises all persons of working-age who furnish the supply of labour to produce goods and services during a specified time-reference period. It refers to the sum of all persons of working-age who are employed and those who are unemployed. It constitutes the total of all persons of working-age who are present in the country for measurement as usual or non-usual resident.

The COMESA region recorded 167.9 million people of labour force in 2010 while in 2019 the region recorded 212.0 million people, which represents an increase of 26.3 per cent. The population of females in the labour force in 2010 was 71.5 million while in 2019 it increased to 90.4 million, and the population of males in the labour force increased from 96.4 million in 2010 to 121.6 million in 2019. The number of females in the labour force increased by 26.4 per cent, while that of males increased by 26.1 per cent. In 2019, men in labour force in the COMESA region accounted for 57.4 per cent of the total labour force compared to 42.6 per cent for females (Figure 2.11).

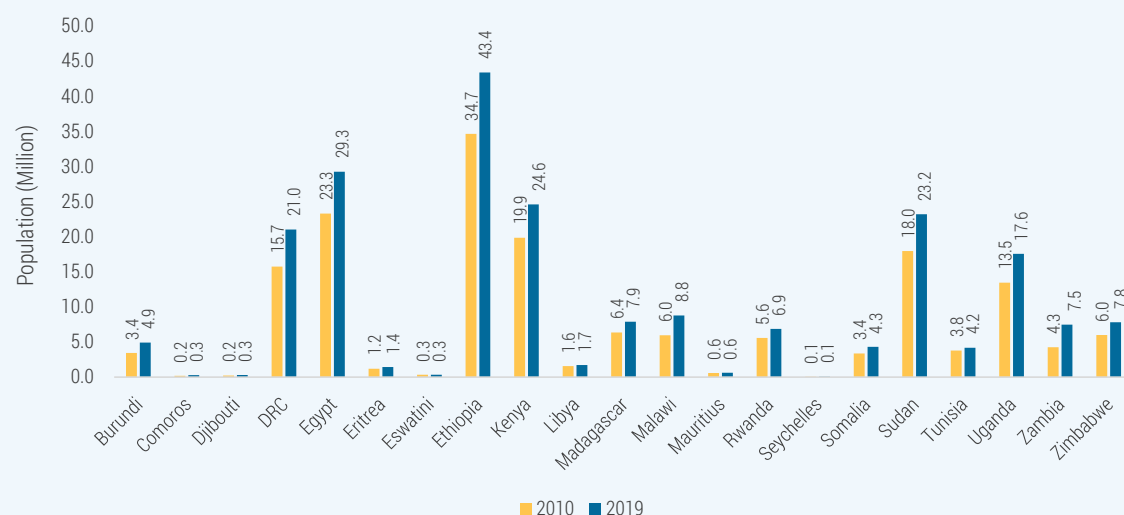
Figure 2.11: Labour force in COMESA region, by sex, 2010–2019 (millions)



Source: COMESA Migration Database

The trend of labour force by country from 2010 and 2019 among the COMESA member states show that the Ethiopia accounted for the bulk of COMESA labour force from 2010 and 2019 ranging from 34.7 to 43.4 million people. The results further indicated that Egypt, DRC, Kenya and Sudan had populations within the range of 15.7 to 29.3 million people. The number of labour force population in Comoros, Djibouti, Eswatini, Mauritius and Seychelles was less than 1.0 million between the periods under review (Figure 2.12).

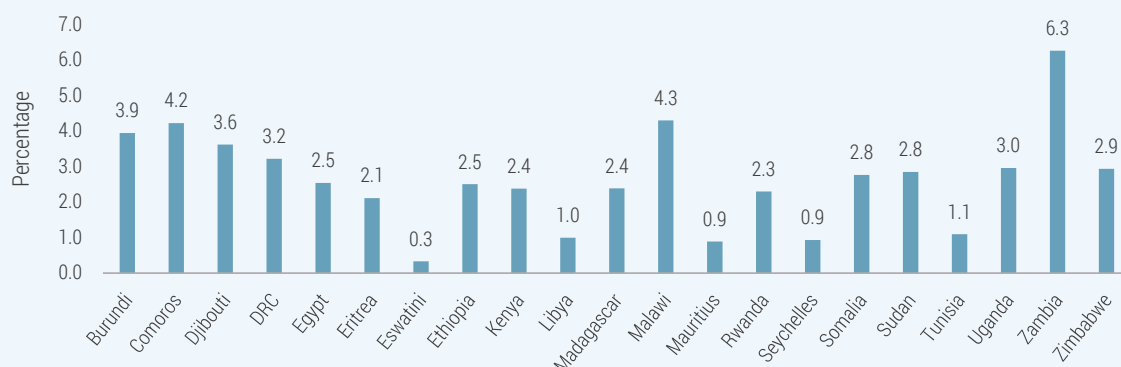
Figure 2.12: Labour force in COMESA region, by country, 2010 and 2019 (millions)



Source: COMESA Migration Database

An analysis of growth rate of labour force analysis in the COMESA region from 2010 to 2019 at the MS level show that Zambia, Malawi, Burundi, Djibouti, and DRC had the highest growth rate of 6.3, 4.3, 3.9, and 3.6 per cent respectively over the ten year period. The results also show that the lowest growth rate was less than 1.0 per cent in Eswatini, Mauritius and Seychelles respectively over the ten years (Figure 2.13).

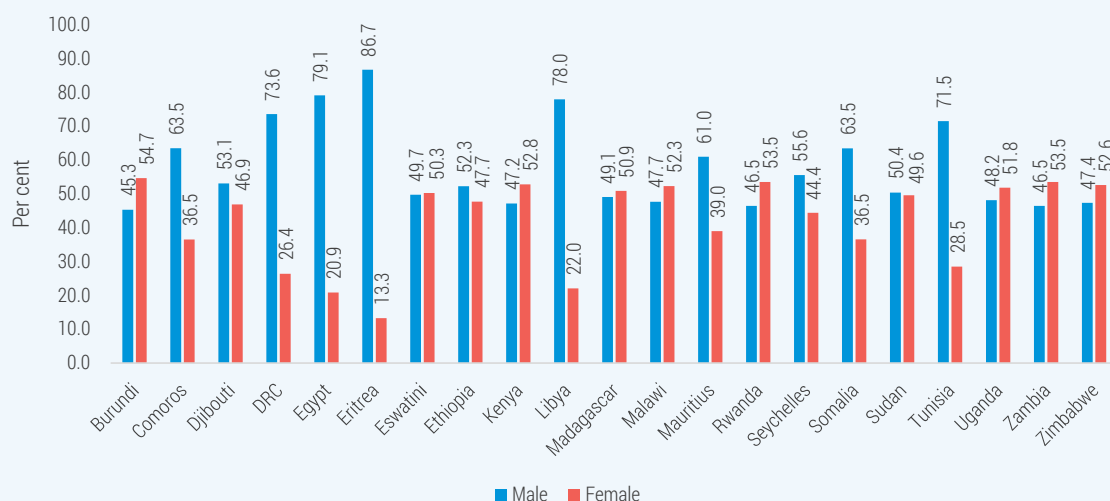
Figure 2.13: Growth rate of labour force in COMESA region, by country, 2010–2019 (per cent)



Source: COMESA Migration Database

The distribution of labour force in 2019 by country and sex within COMESA show that Burundi, Rwanda, and Zambia had the highest proportion of females in the labour force, at 54.7 per cent in Burundi while Rwanda and Zambia at 53.5 per cent. The results further indicated that the countries Kenya, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Uganda, Madagascar, and Eswatini, had relatively higher percentages of females than males in their distribution of labour force at 53.5, 52.8, 52.6, 51.8, 50.9, and 50.3 per cent respectively. The lowest percentage of females in the labour force within each country was recorded in Eritrea at 13.3 per cent (Figure 2.14).

Figure 2.14: Percentage distribution of labour force in COMESA region by country and sex distribution 2019 (per cent)

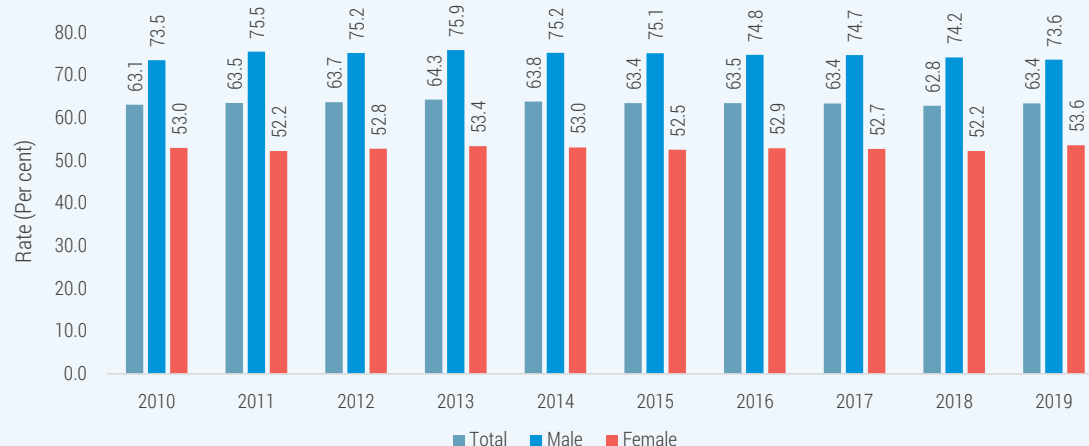


Source: COMESA Migration Database

The labour force participation rate (LFPR) expresses the labour force as a percentage of the working-age population (ILO). It gives an indication of the size of the supply of labour available to engage in the production of goods and services, relative to the working-age population.

The LFPR for the region in year 2010 was 63.1 per cent with males having a higher participation rate of 73.5 per cent, while that of females was 53.0 per cent. Throughout the ten-year reporting period, the males LFPR was consistently higher than that of female's rate. In 2019 male participation rate was 73.6 per cent while female labour participation rate was 53.6 per cent (figure 2.15).

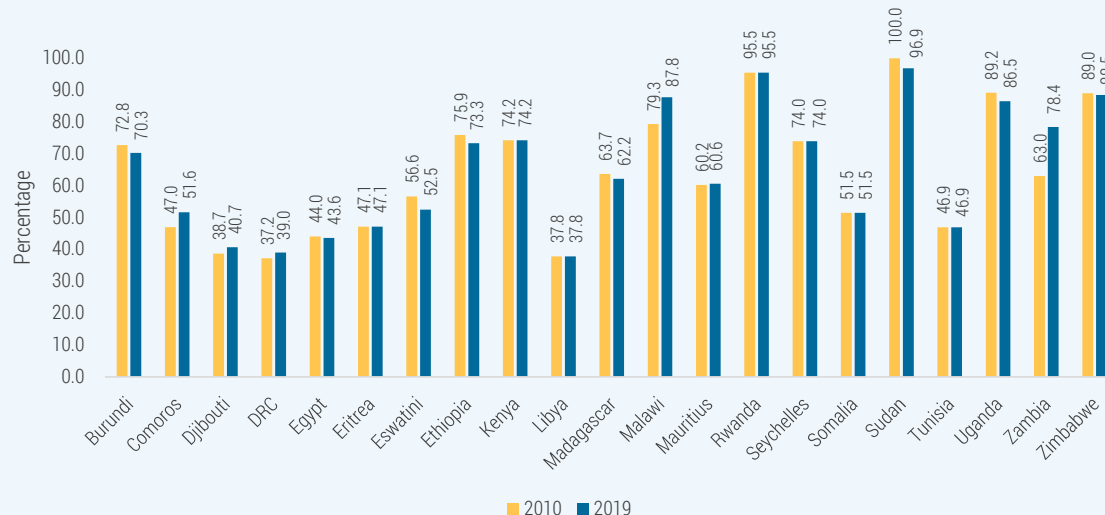
Figure 2.15: LFPR in COMESA region by sex, 2010–2019 (per cent)



Source: COMESA Migration Database

The LFPR in the COMESA region disaggregated by country indicated that the participation rate was highest (over 85 per cent) in Sudan, Rwanda, and Zimbabwe over the period 2010 and 2019. The lowest rates were observed in Djibouti, DRC, Egypt, Eritrea, Libya, and Tunisia, those MS have with less than 50.0 per cent participation rate over the period under review (Figure 2.16).

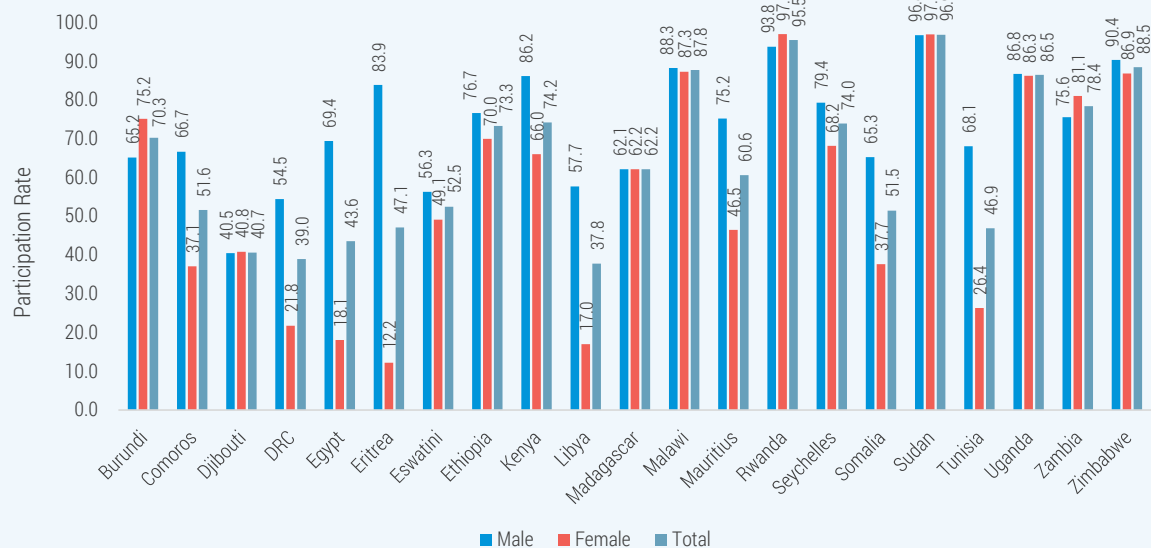
Figure 2.16: Labour force participation rate in COMESA region by country, 2010–2019 (per cent)



Source: COMESA Migration Database

The findings of the percentage distribution of LFPR in the COMESA region by country, total and sex in 2019 in each MS indicated that Sudan and Rwanda recorded the highest percentage of LFPR at 96.9, and 95.5 per cent respectively compared to the remaining member states in 2019. The results further show that Sudan recorded the highest participation rate for males and females at 96.8 and 97.0 per cent respectively whereby Rwanda recorded the participation rate of females at 97.1 per cent. In addition, the lowest participation rate in females were recorded in Eritrea, Libya, Egypt, DRC, and Tunisia, which were less than 30 per cent (Figure 2.17).

Figure 2.17: Percentage distribution of labour force participation rate in COMESA region by country, total and sex 2019 (per cent)



Source: COMESA Migration Database

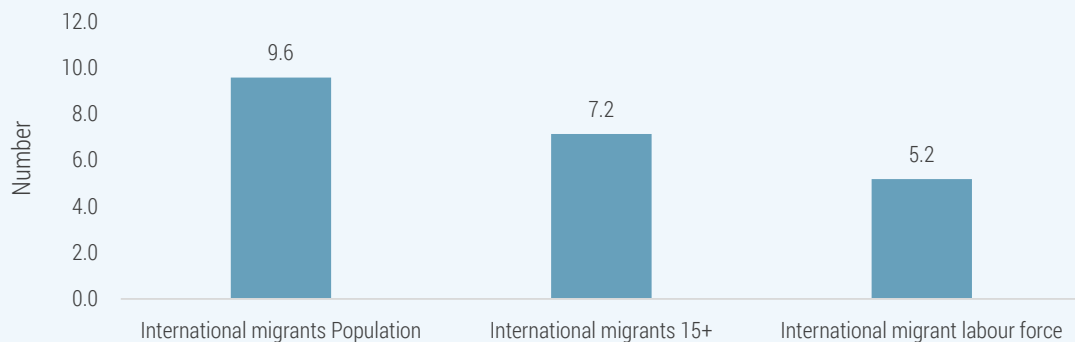
CHAPTER 3

STOCK OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS

3.1 COMESA Estimates of Migrants Stock

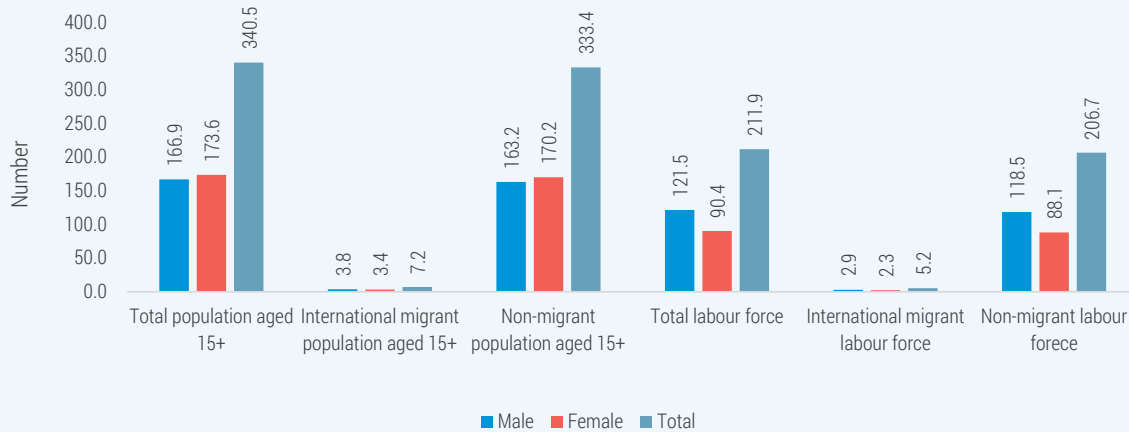
The estimated stock of international migrants in COMESA in 2019 was 9.6 million, of which 7.2 million are of working age (aged 15 and over) in 2019. The stock of international migrant labour force in the same year totals 5.2 million (Figure 3.1). Furthermore, international migrants constituted 2.1 per cent of the working age population (see figure 3.1).

Figure 3.1: COMESA estimates of the stock of international migrants and migrant labour force, 2019 (Million)



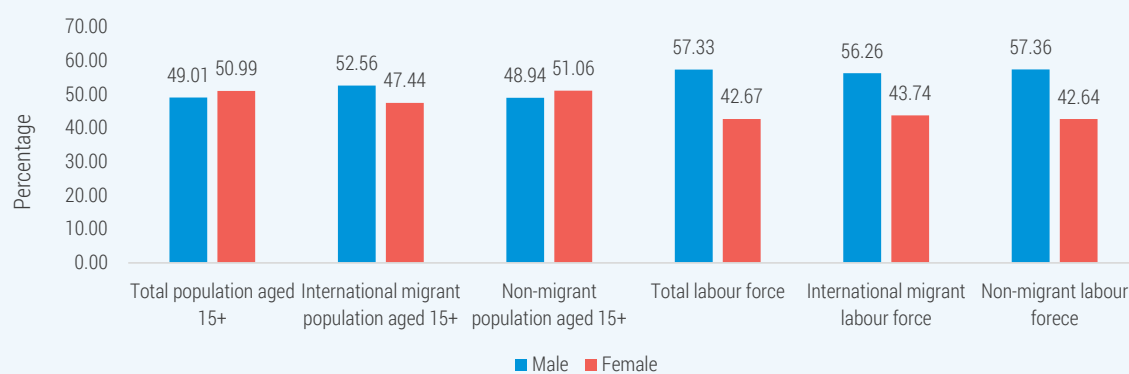
Source: COMESA Migration Database

The results of COMESA estimates of international migrants indicated that most of the international migrant labour force are men. The 2019 estimates indicate that out of 5.2 million international migrant labour force, 2.9 million were men, while 2.3 million were women. The results also show sex distribution of the working age population, disaggregated by migration status (Figure 3.2).

Figure 3.2: COMESA estimates of international migrant labour force, 2019 (millions)

Source: COMESA Migration Database

The analysis shows distribution of the international migrant labour force in 2019 by sex. Men constituted 56.2 per cent of international migrant labour force while women constituted 43.7 per cent. The results indicated that male and female were almost equally represented in the overall population of working age population at 49.0 and 51.0 per cent respectively, but not in the migrant working age population in which male 49.0 per cent and female accounted for 51.1 per cent (Figure 3.3).

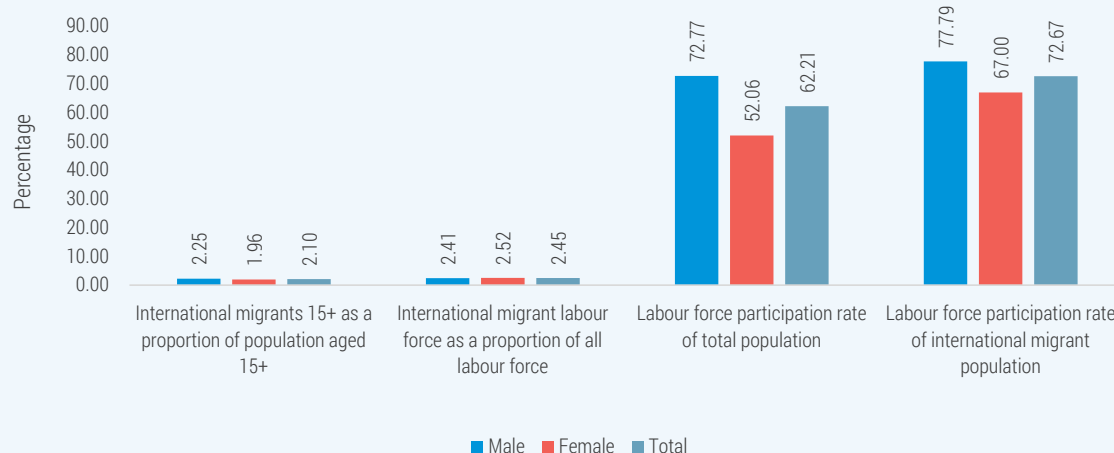
Figure 3.3: Sex composition of the international migrant labour force population, 2019 (per cent)

Source: COMESA Migration Database

The population ratios and LFPR of international migrant labour force by sex, 2019 show that the share of international migrant labour force as a proportion of all labour force, was higher at 2.5 per cent than the share of international migrants 15 year and above as a proportion of the working age population at 2.1 per cent. The results further indicate that the LFPR of

international migrants is higher than the LFPR of total population in all categories of total, male and female at 72.7, 77.8 and 67.0 per cent respectively (Figure 3.4).

Figure 3.4: Population ratios and labour force participation rates of international migrant labour force by sex, 2019 (per cent)

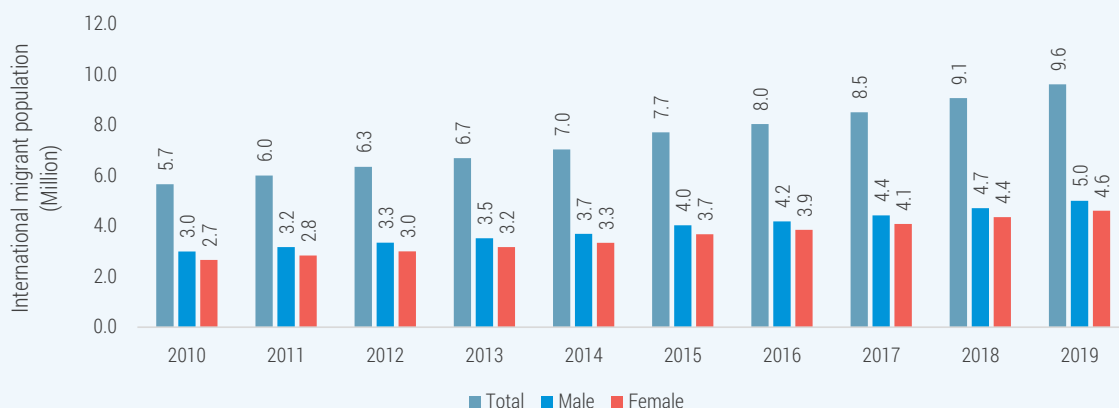


Source: COMESA Migration Database

3.2 Trends in the size of the international migrant population

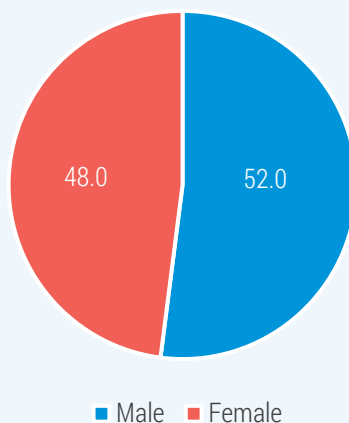
The analysis of international migrant population in COMESA by sex from 2010 to 2019 shows that the number of international migrants in the COMESA region has increased steadily over these years. In 2010 the region recorded 5.7 million migrants in the region while in 2019 there were 9.6 million of migrants recorded in the region. The proportion of international migrant to the population in 2010 was 1.3 per cent while in 2019 it was 1.7 per cent. This represents an increase of 0.4 percentage point increase.

In 2010 the region recorded a total of 2.7 million international female migrants compared to a total of 4.6 million female migrant in 2019. The proportion of the international female migrant to total female population in the years 2010 and 2019 were 1.2 and 1.6 per cent respectively. The number of international male migrants recorded in 2010 was 3.0 million while in 2019 the region recorded 5.0 million. The proportion of the international male migrant to total male population in the years 2010 and 2019 were 1.3 and 1.8 per cent respectively. The number of international migrants increased from 2010 to 2019 by 0.4 percentage points amongst the females between the years of 2010 and 2019 while the males increased by 0.5 percentage points (figure 3.5).

Figure 3.5: International migrant population in COMESA region by sex (millions), 2010–2019

Source: COMESA Migration Database

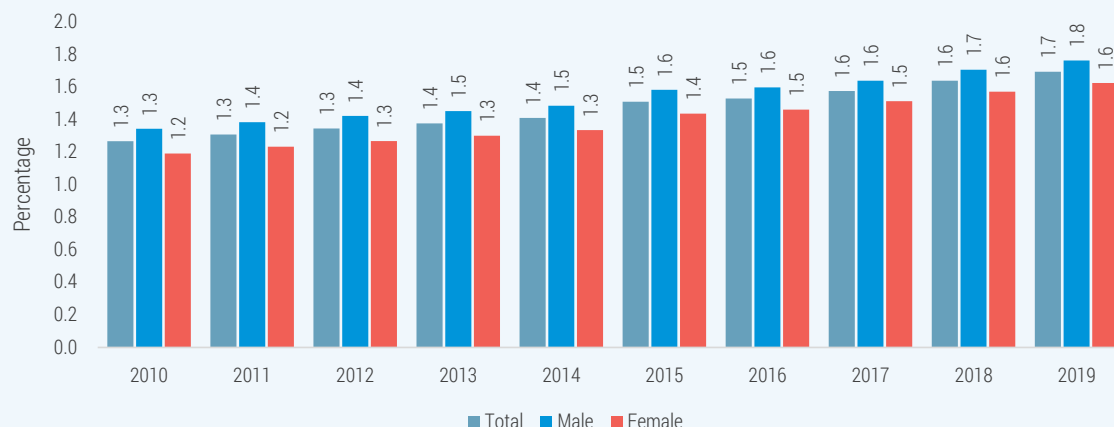
In 2019, the international men migrants constituted 52.0 per cent of the total migrant population, while corresponding international women migrant constituted 48.0 per cent (Figure 3.6).

Figure 3.6: Proportion of international migrant population in COMESA region, by sex 2019 (per cent)

Source: COMESA Migration Database

The percentage of international migrant population to the total population of COMESA region by total and sex from 2010 to 2019 show that there was an increasing share of migrants in COMESA region over the period in all categories of total, male and female. In 2010, the percentage of international migrant population to the total, male and female was 1.3, 1.3, and 1.2 per cent respectively, while in 2019, the share was 1.7 per cent in the total population, 1.8 per cent in the male and 1.6 per cent in the female (Figure 3.7).

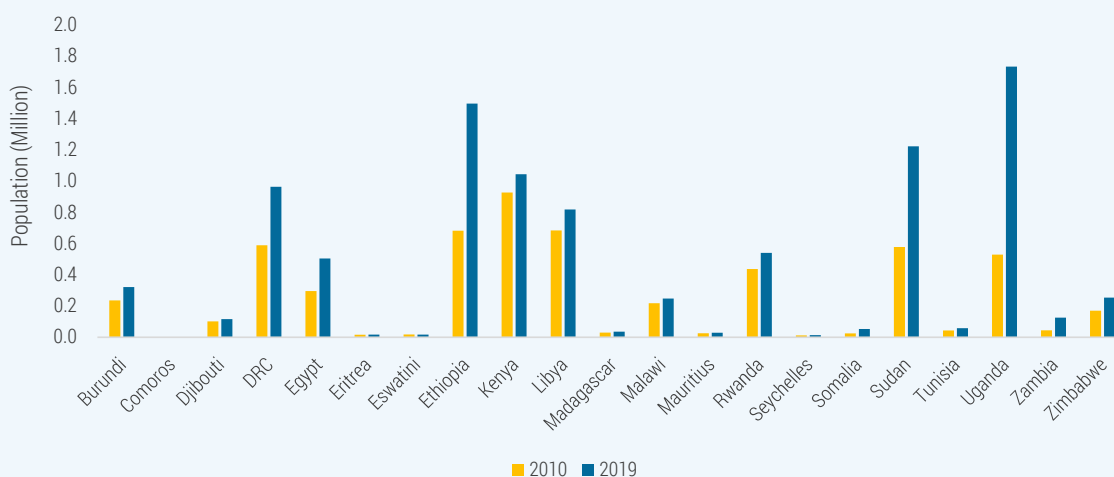
Figure 3.7: Percentage international migrant population to the total population in COMESA region by sex (per cent), 2010–2019



Source: COMESA Migration Database

The finding of international migrants the COMESA region show that Uganda hosted the largest number of international migrants (1.7 million migrants) in 2019. Furthermore, results indicated that number of international migrants increased in 2019 compared to 2010 (Figure 3.8).

Figure 3.8: International migrant population in COMESA region by country (millions), 2010–2019



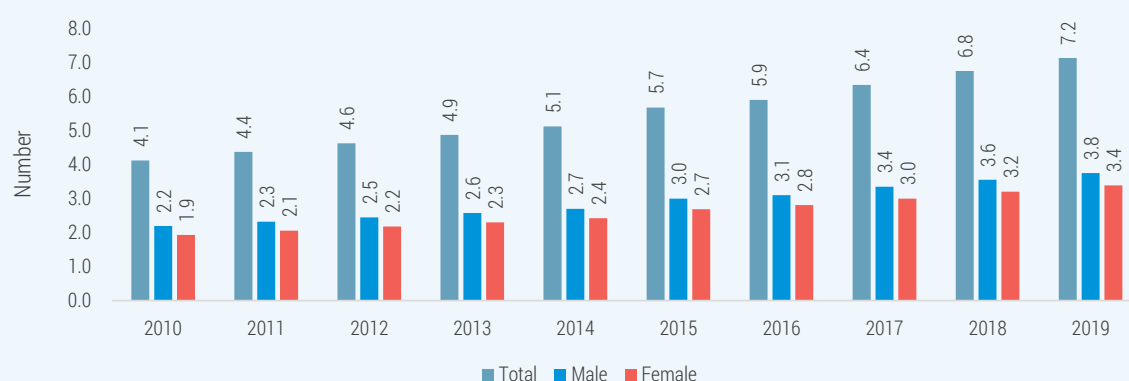
Source: COMESA Migration Database

3.3 Working-age international migrants

The number of working age migrants in the COMESA region has increased over the years. In 2010 the region recorded a total of 4.1 million international migrants of working age migrants in the region compared to 7.2 million international migrants in 2019. The proportion of international migrant to the population in 2010 was 1.6 per cent while in 2019 was 2.1 per cent. This represents an increase of 0.5 percentage points of the working age migrant population in the region (figure 3.10).

The disaggregation of working age international migrants by sex revealed an increasing trend for both males and females. In 2010, the number of female international migrants of working age in the region was estimated at 1.9 million and this increased to 3.4 millions of working age population of international female migrants in 2019. The male international migrants of working age showed a similar trend over the years with a total of 2.2 million in 2010 and 3.8 million in 2019. The proportion of the international working age female migrant to total working age female population in the years 2010 and 2019 were 1.4 and 2.0 per cent respectively, while the corresponding growth rate among males were 1.7 and 2.3 per cent respectively. The number of international working age female migrants increased from 2010 to 2019 by 0.6 percentage points amongst the females between the years of 2010 and 2019 while the males increased by 0.6 percentage points (Figure 3.9).

Figure 3.9: Working-age international migrants in COMESA region by sex (millions), 2010–2019

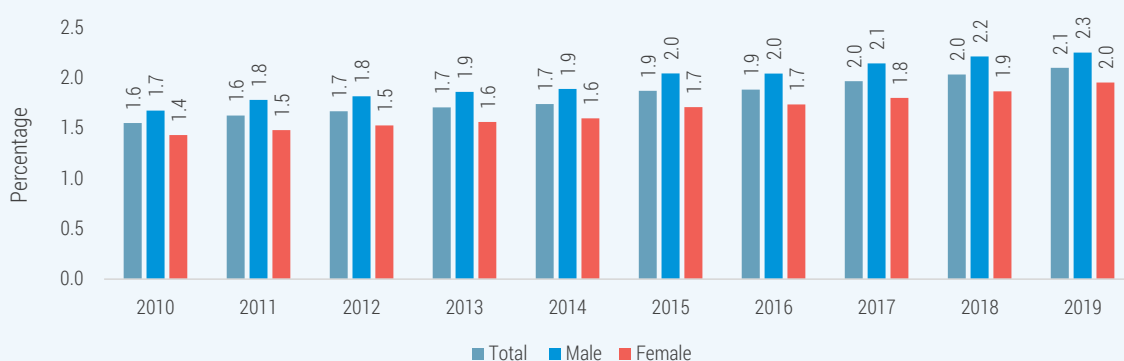


Source: COMESA Migration Database

Similar to the distribution of men and women among the international migrant population in the COMESA region in 2019, the proportion of men among working age international migrants was 52.6 per cent while the proportion of women accounted for 47.4 per cent (Figure 3.9, own calculations).

The share of migrants among the working-age population in COMESA increased from 1.6 to 2.1 per cent from 2010 to 2019. In the year 2010, the proportion for the males was 1.7 per cent, while that of females was 1.4 per cent. On the other hand, the proportion for male in 2019 was 2.3 per cent, whereas that of females was 2.0 per cent. The proportion of international migrants among the working-age population has steadily increased from 2010 to 2019 (Figure 3.10).

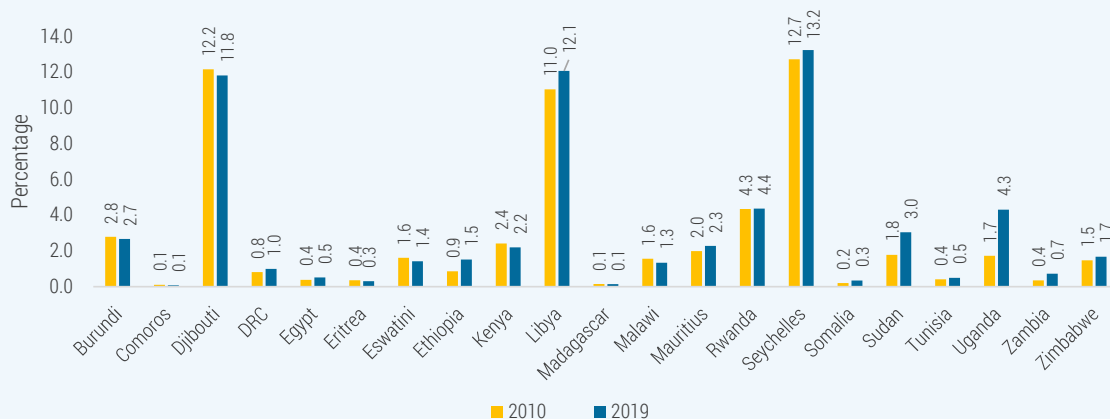
Figure 3.10: Proportion international migrant working-age population to the total working-age population in COMESA by year and sex, 2010–2019 (per cent)



Source: COMESA Migration Database

The percentage of international migrant population to the total population in each member state from 2010 and 2019 show that the highest percentage was recorded in Djibouti, Libya and Seychelles over the period. The share of international migrants in the above-mentioned states were higher than 10 per cent over the period under review, while in the remaining of member states the shares were less than 5 per cent (Figure 3.11).

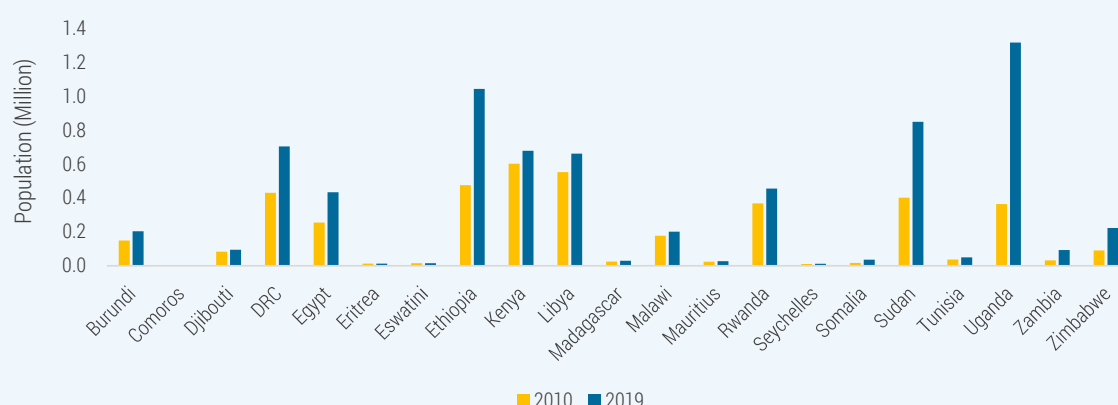
Figure 3.11: Proportion working-age international migrant population to the total working-age population in COMESA by country, 2010–2019, (per cent)



Source: COMESA Migration Database

Uganda hosted about 1.3 million working-age migrants in 2019, representing the highest number of migrants among all Member States. The results furthermore reflected that DRC, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Libya, Sudan and Uganda hosted the highest number of international migrants of working age migrants in 2010 and 2019 (Figure 3.12).

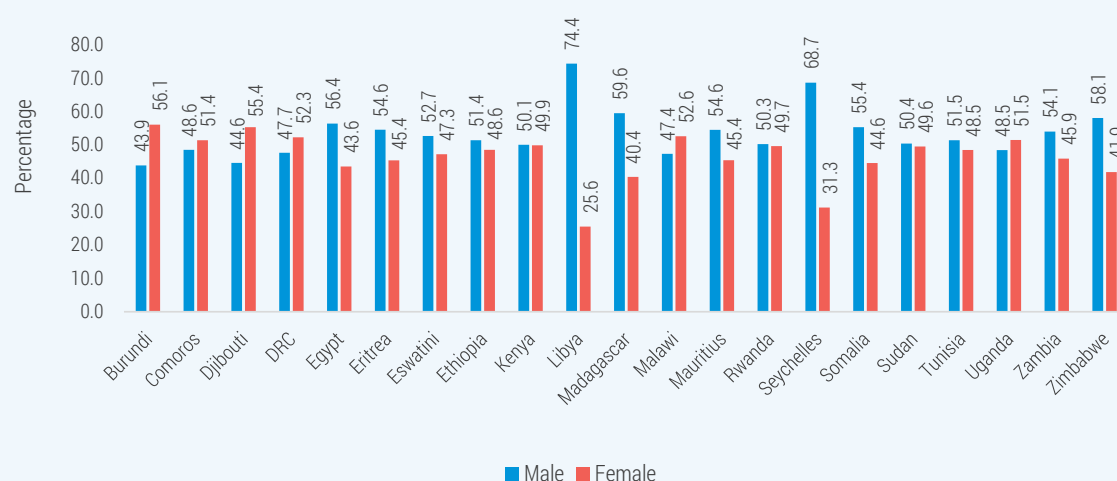
Figure 3.12: Working-age international migrants in COMESA region by country (millions), 2010–2019



Source: COMESA Migration Database

The distribution of international migrants of working-age population in COMESA in 2019 show that Burundi had more working age migrant women, at 56.1 per cent, compared to other Member States. The results also indicated that six countries out of 21 had a higher share of working age migrant women; these include Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, DRC, Malawi, and Uganda (Figure 3.13).

Figure 3.13: Percentage distribution of international working-age population in COMESA region by, country and sex 2019 (per cent)



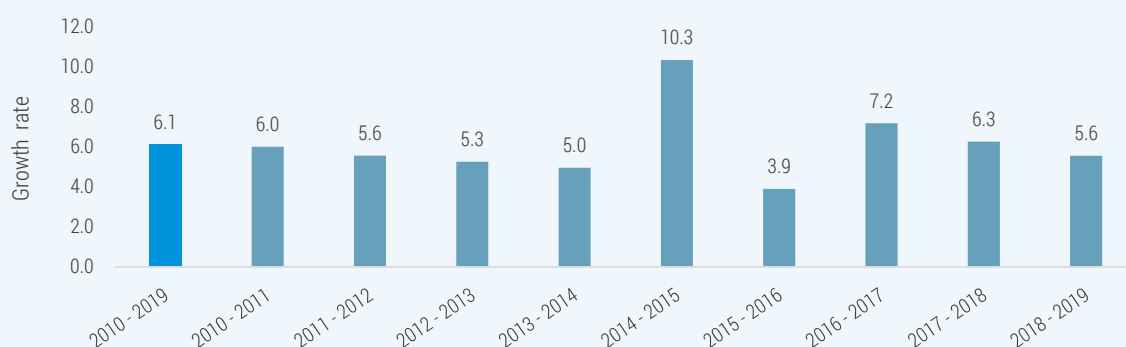
Source: COMESA Migration Database

3.4 Working age migrant growth rate

The results show that the overall growth rate of international migrants of working-age population in COMESA between 2010 and 2019 was 6.1 per cent. The highest growth rate was 10.3 per cent, recorded between 2014 and 2015, while the lowest growth rate of 3.9 per cent was recorded between 2015 and 2016 (Figure 3.14).

In addition, results show that the grow rate of working age migrants was higher than when compared to the overall working age growth rate in figure 2.9, which was 2.7 per cent. The difference supports the idea that a lot of migration is for employment, as it is predominantly those of working age who are able and motivated to move abroad in search of new or better working opportunities (Figure 3.14). Families (elderly and the young) often stay in the country of origin, further inflating the working age migrant growth rate in countries of destination.

Figure 3.14: Annual growth rate of COMESA international migrant working-age population 2010–2019 (per cent)



Source: COMESA Migration Database

The working age migrant's growth rate for the period 2010 to 2019 at the Member State level show that Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe had the highest growth rates, at 14.3, 11.9 and 10.1 per cent respectively. In addition, the results show that the growth rate of working-age in the Union of Comoros decreased by 1.1 per cent over the entire period (Figure 3.15).

Figure 3.15: Growth rate of COMESA working-age international migrant population by country 2010–2019 (per cent)



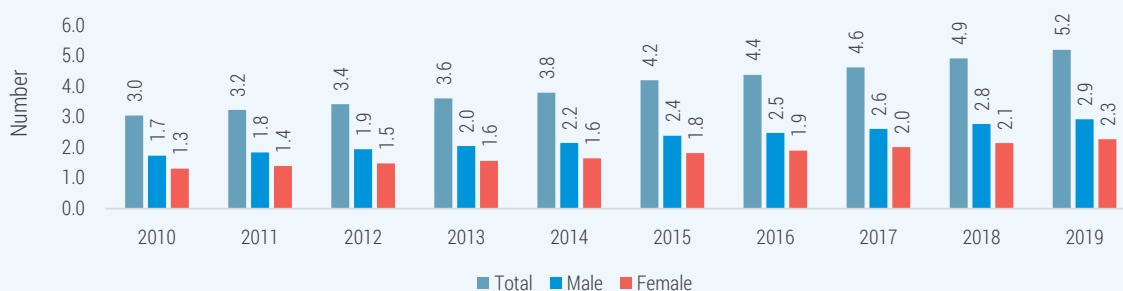
Source: COMESA Migration Database

3.5 Labour force and labour force participation rate of international migrants

The number of international labour force migrants have been increasing over the years. In 2010, the COMESA region recorded a total of 3.0 millions of international labour force migrants in the region compared to 5.2 million recorded in 2019 (figure 3.16).

The male in the international migrant in labour force increased to 2.9 million in 2019 from 1.7 million in 2010. The female international in the labour force increased 2.3 million in 2019 from 1.3 million in 2010. (Figure 3.16).

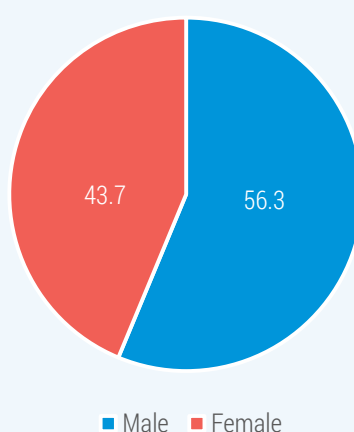
Figure 3.16: International labour force migrants in COMESA region, by sex, 2010–2019 (millions)



Source: COMESA Migration Database

The proportion of international labour force migrants in COMESA region, by sex 2019 indicated a disproportionate percentage distribution between the two sexes. The results indicated that the males accounted 56.3 per cent while females accounted 43.7 per cent in the international labour force migrants (Figure 3.17).

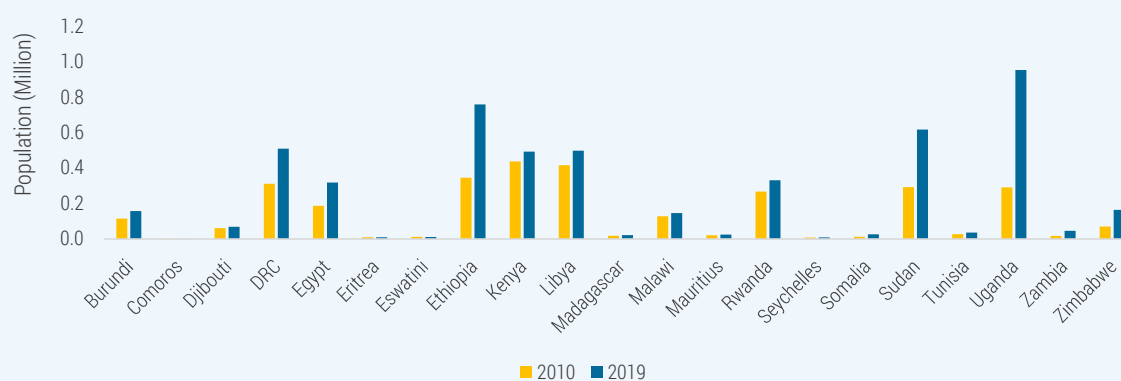
Figure 3.17: Proportion of international labour force migrants in COMESA region, by sex 2019



Source: COMESA Migration Database

The results of international labour force migrants in COMESA by country in 2010 and 2019 indicated that the Uganda recorded the highest number of international labour force in COMESA in 2019. It is worth pointing out again that the number of migrants in each member state was less than 1.0 million of international labour force migrants annually over the entire period (Figure 3.18).

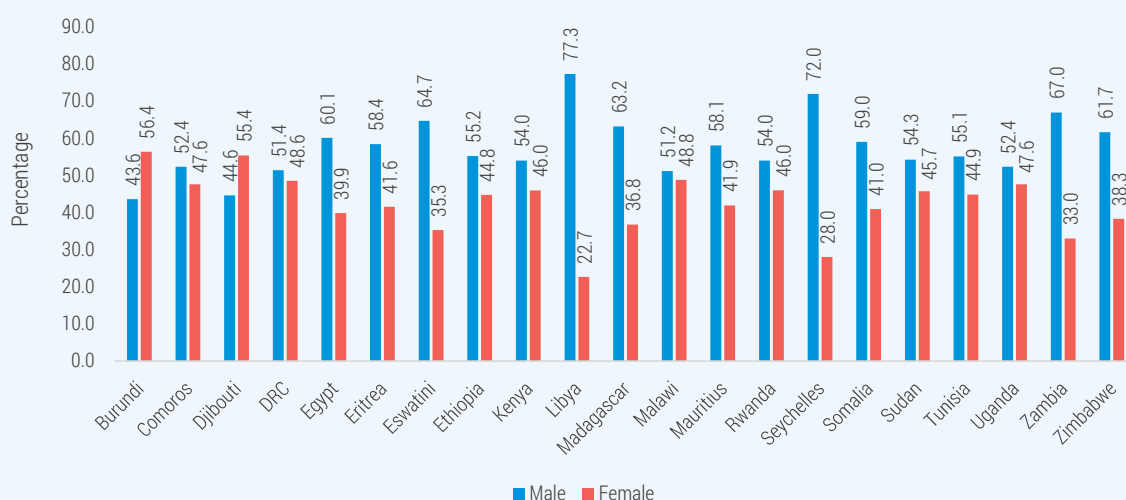
Figure 3.18: International labour force migrants in COMESA region, by country, 2010–2019 (millions)



Source: COMESA Migration Database

The percentage distribution of international labour force in 2019 by country and sex distribution within each MS present that the Burundi and Djibouti had more females than males international labour force of migrants at 56.4 and 55.4 per cent while comparing with other MS. The lowest percentage of female international migrants in the labour force was recorded in Libya at 22.7 per cent (Figure 3.19).

Figure 3.19: Percentage distribution of international migrant labour force in COMESA region by country and sex 2019 (per cent)

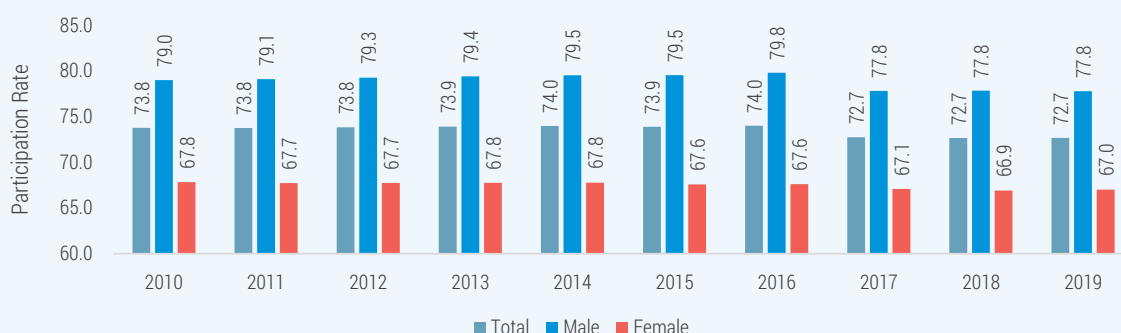


Source: COMESA Migration Database

The international migrant LFPR for the region for the year 2010 was 73.8 per cent with males having a higher proportion rate of 79.0 per cent than female 67.8 per cent. Throughout the ten-year reporting period, the males of international migrant LFPR was consistently higher than that of females. In 2019, the male international migrant LFPR was 77.8 per cent compared to 67.0 percent females (Figure 3.20).

In addition, comparing results both International migrant LFPR of Figure 3.20 and LFPR of total population of Figure 2.15 indicated that LFPR of international migrant was higher than the labour participation rate of COMESA population at all categories of total, male and female.

Figure 3.20: International migrant labour force participation rate in COMESA, by sex, 2010–2019 (percentage)



Source: COMESA Migration Database

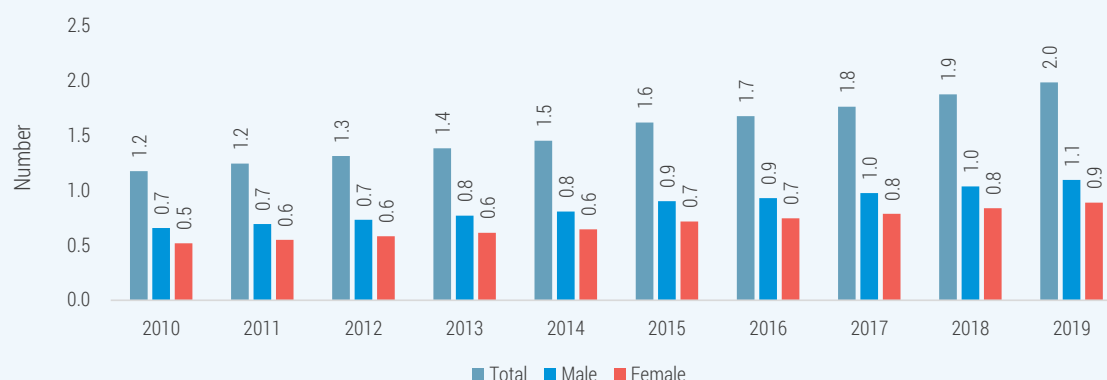
3.6 Young international migrant workers

The African Youth Charter adopted by the Heads of State and Government at their Summit in Banjul in July 2006, defined the term “youth” or “young people” as all people between 15 and 35 years of age. The number of young international migrant workers in the COMESA region was 1.2 million in 2010 while in 2019 was 2 million. The proportion of young international migrant workers to total international labour force migrant population in the years 2010 was 38.6 per cent whereas in 2019 was 38.4 per cent, which represents a 0.4 per cent decrease during the period under review. (Figure 3.21).

The number of young male international migrant male workers in the COMESA region increased to 1.1 in 2019 from 0.7 million in 2010, while the number of young female international workers increased to 0.9 million in 2019 from 0.5 million in 2010 during the period under review. The proportion of young female international migrant workers to total international female labour force migrant population in the years 2010 was 37.9 per cent whereas in 2019 it was 30.4 per cent. The corresponding proportion of young male international migrant workers was 39.6 per cent in 2010, while in 2019 it was 48.2 per cent. This represents an increase in young international migrant workers by 8.6 percentage points for males against a decrease of 7.5 percentage points for females under the period of review, whereas the total young international migrant the percentage change point was 0.4 per cent, representing a decrease under period of review (Figure 3.21).

In 2019, Men accounted for 55.2 per cent of young international migrant workers while women accounted for 44.8 per cent (Figure 3.23).

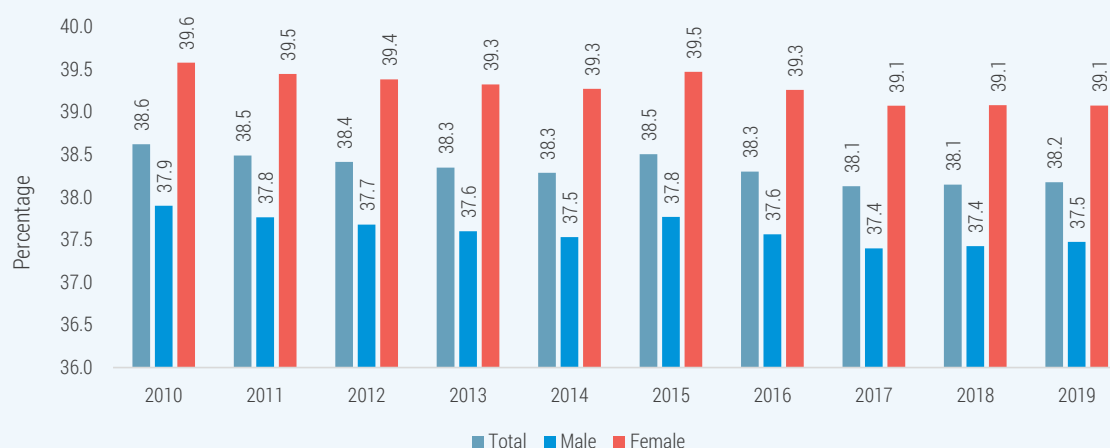
Figure 3.21: Young international migrant workers in COMESA region (aged 15–35 years), by sex, 2010–2019 (millions)



Source: COMESA Migration Database

The results show that the percentages of young international migrant workers in COMESA region in relation to the migrant international labour force population by total and sex from 2010 to 2019 were almost constant for all disaggregation categories of total, male and female over the period under review (Figure 3.22).

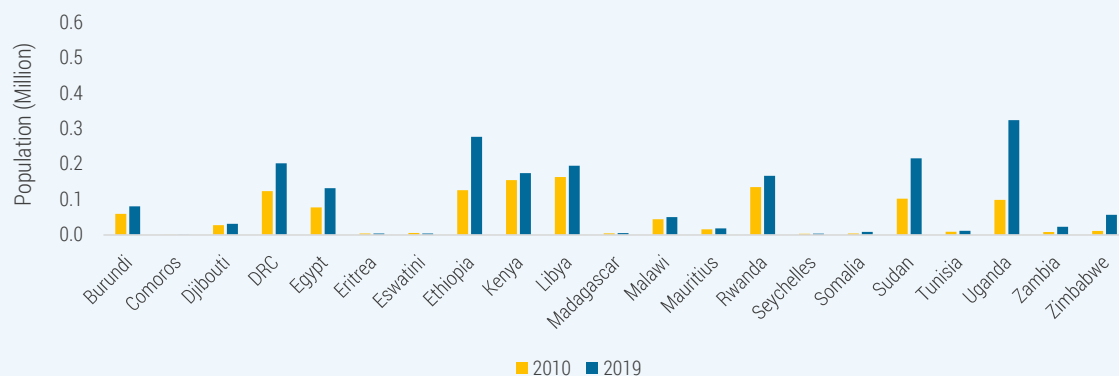
Figure 3.22: Percentage of young international migrant workers in COMESA region (aged 15–35 years) in relation to migrant labour force population, by total and sex, 2010–2019



Source: COMESA Migration Database

The number of young international migrants' workers in the labour force increased during the period under review. The results indicated that Uganda and Ethiopia recorded the highest number of young international migrant workers at 0.3 million in the year 2019, while DRC, Kenya, Libya, Rwanda and Sudan recorded 0.2 million of young international migrant workers. In 2010, the highest number of young international migrant workers were in Kenya, and in Libya at 0.2 million. (figure 3.23).

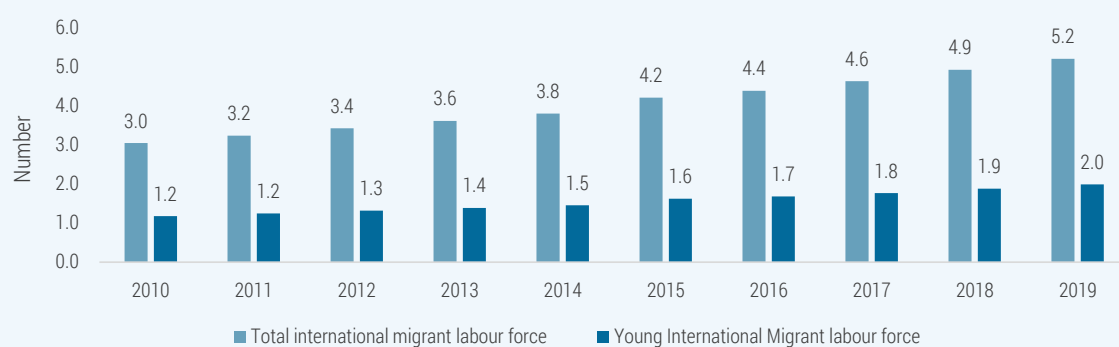
Figure 3.23: Young international migrant workers in COMESA region (aged 15–35 years), by country, 2010 and 2019 (millions)



Source: COMESA Migration Database

According to the estimates, the total international migrants in the labour force in the COMESA region in 2010 was 3.0 million while in 2019 the region recorded 5.2 million. Furthermore, the results show that young international migrants in the labour force was 1.2 million in 2010 and 2.0 million in 2019. The results also indicate an increasing pattern both for total international migrants in the labour force and young international migrants in the labour force over the period (Figure 3.24).

Figure 3.24: COMESA estimates of total immigrant labour force and young international migrants labour force by total, 2010–2019, (Million)



Source: COMESA Migration Database

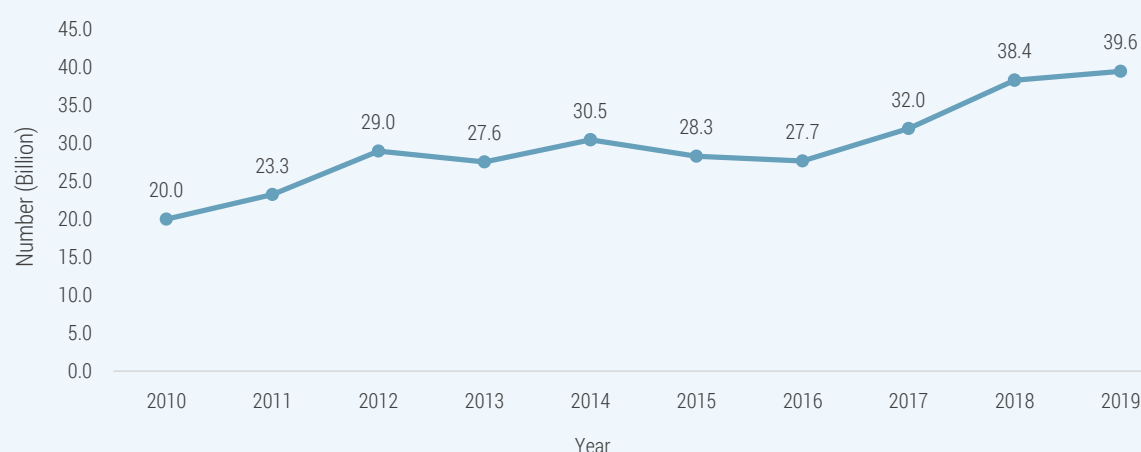
CHAPTER 4

REMITTANCES

4.1 Remittance volume

The analysis of remittances from international migrants received in COMESA region show between 2010 and 2019 that there was a substantial increase in the volume of remittances sent by international migrants within the COMESA region and by those living and working outside of the COMESA region. The total remittances in the year 2010 was US\$20.0 billion and in the year 2019 was US\$39.6 billion (an increase of 98 per cent). However, as depicted in figure 4.1, despite the general upward trend, remittance flows decreased between 2012 and 2013 and between 2014 and 2016 (Figure 4.1).

Figure 4.1: Total remittances from migrants received in COMESA, 2010–2019 (US\$ Billion)

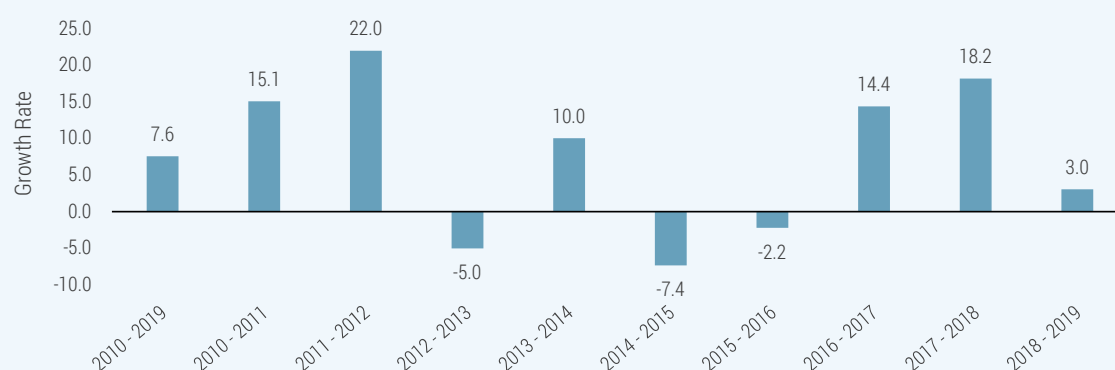


Source: COMESA Migration Database

4.2 Remittance volume growth rate

The annual growth rate analysis of remittance flows in COMESA region in the period 2010 to 2019 was fluctuating over the period. The highest growth rate was recorded in the period 2011-2012 at 22.0 per cent, while the growth rate was increasing from 2010 to 2012 as shown by the results. The results further show that during the periods 2012-2013 and 2014 - 2015 and 2015-2016 the remittance growth rates have decreased by 5.0; 7.4 and 2.2 per cent respectively (Figure 4.2).

Figure 4.2: Growth rate of remittance flows to COMESA 2018–19 (percentage)

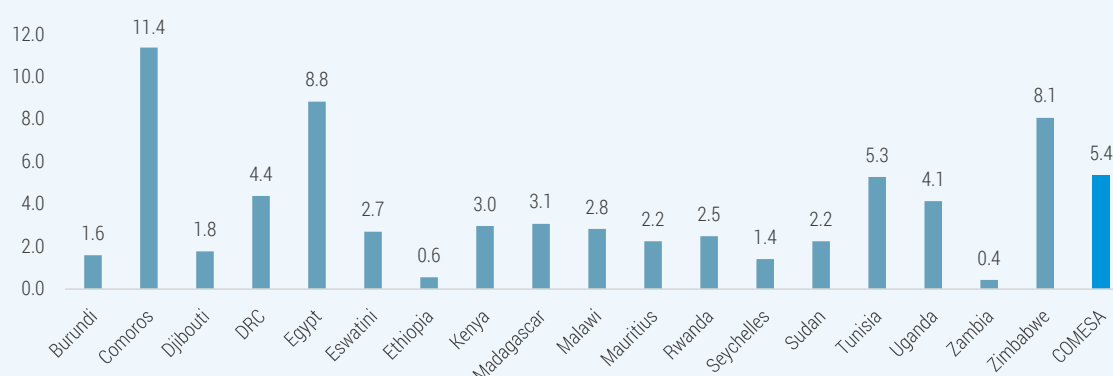


Source: COMESA Migration Database

4.3 Remittance share of GDP

Remittances as a share of GDP in the entire COMESA region were 4.9 per cent in 2019. Comoros had the highest share at 11.4 per cent in 2019. Egypt and Zimbabwe recorded the remittance share at 8.8 and 8.1 per cent respectively. The lowest share of remittance in GDP is recorded in Zambia and Ethiopia at 0.4 and 0.6 per cent respectively (Figure 4.3).

Figure 4.3: percentage of remittances as a share of GDP by country in 2019 (per cent)



Source: COMESA Migration Database & world bank data base

CHAPTER 5

METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

5.1 Data collection and consolidation

Data collection began in October 2019 when the International Labour Migration Questionnaire (ILMQ) was sent to the focal points of all 55 Member States of the African Union by the JLMP. The national focal points coordinated and managed the collection of data from various sources at the national level, i.e., national entities dealing with migration, population, and labour related issues. The questionnaire included instructions to account for consistency in completion and referred to different key definitions and concepts in line with international standards. The questionnaires were made available in the official AUC languages. The Focal Points were requested to complete the 17 tables in the questionnaire and provide time series data for the period from 2010-2019. The data provided on migration in Africa came from three primary sources:

- General population and housing censuses
- Specialized surveys on employment and/or migration
- Routine administrative sources

Bilateral meetings were conducted in July to October 2021 between the COMESA Secretariate and each of the MS. The MS of COMESA were consulted and acknowledged about the fact that the first COMESA migration report will use data sets shared by Member States that was intended for the 3rd Ed. of the Labour Migration Statistics Report in Africa. Data that previously have been disseminated on an aggregated level. One objective with the consultations was to inform all MS about the plans for the report to be disseminated at the MS-level.

5.2 Questionnaire

The International Labour Migration Questionnaire (ILMQ) was used for the survey.

The ILMQ has 17 tables covering the following key indicators related to international labour migration:

Table 1: Resident population, by sex and labour force participation; total, youth and migrant population; for the years 2010–19

Table 2: Working-age population, by sex and level of education (based on ISCED 2011 classification); total and migrant population; for the years 2010–19

- Table 3:** Migrant population, by country of origin, for the years 2010–19
- Table 4:** Employed migrants, by country of origin, for the years 2010–19
- Table 5:** Employed persons, by economic activity (based on ISIC Rev.4 classification); total and migrant population; for the years 2010–19
- Table 6:** Employed persons, by occupation (based on ISCO 08 classification); total and migrant population; for the years 2010–19
- Table 7:** Employed persons, by sex and status in employment (based on ICSE-93 classification); total and migrant population; for the years 2010–19
- Table 8:** Employed persons, by sex and average monthly salary; total and migrant population; for the years 2010–19
- Table 9:** Inflows of migrants, by sex and country of origin, for the years 2010–19
- Table 10:** Inflows of migrants, by sex and level of education (based on ISCED 2011 classification), for the years 2010–19
- Table 11:** Inflows of employed migrants, by economic activity (based on ISIC Rev.4 classification), for the years 2010–19
- Table 12:** Inflows of employed migrants, by occupation (based on ISCO-08 classification), for the years 2010–19
- Table 13:** Emigrants (nationals abroad), by sex and country of residence, for the years 2010–19
- Table 14:** Outflows of nationals, by sex and country of destination, for the years 2010–19
- Table 15:** Outflows of migrants, by sex and level of education (based on ISCED 2011), for the years 2010–19
- Table 16:** Outflows of nationals seeking employment, by occupation (based on ISCO-08 classification), for the years 2010–19
- Table 17:** Personal transfers sent from nationals abroad (remittances), by country of origin, for the years 2010–19

5.3 Conduct of the survey and quality assessment

The survey was designed as a data collection campaign of AU in which the NSOs were the main providers of data through the ILMQ. The filled-in questionnaires were submitted by 47 countries of AU MS. Most countries provided data on total population and labour force and 55 per cent of them supplied data on international migrants in the labour force.

The estimates presented in this report are to a great extent based on data reported by countries in some cases after the correction of inconsistencies and obvious errors. The country data are supplemented by data from other sources, mainly United Nations publications and data repositories. The final estimation process involved dealing with missing data using imputation and calibration procedures (see Appendix II).

5.4 Data editing

All NSOs provided data gaps in the time series. Data were checked and verified through checks of data consistency over years and indicators: suspiciously high or low values were identified, corrected, or verified. Once the final data set had been prepared, each country received a copy of its national data and of the estimates produced.

5.5 Missing data

Most countries could not provide the required data for all the years between 2010 and 2019 and for all subgroups, leading to numerous data gaps. Analysis of the prevalence of missing data revealed that the extent of missing data in tables 3–4 and tables 8–16 of the ILMQ was so large that no meaningful statistics could be produced from those tables. Hence, the present report is limited to data from table 1, 2 and 17 of the JLMP questionnaire. In addition, the report will use proportions, percentages, and growth rates derived from these three tables. The report will use Gross Domestic Product (GDP) data from World Bank data base to measure proportion of remittance in the GDP.

There were three types of imputation that were used to estimate missing data for tables 1; 2 and 17 of the JLMP questionnaire:

- ▶ Imputations using interpolation and extrapolation were performed for missing values for total population and total migrant population.
- ▶ Mean value imputations were performed in those cases where there were data for a subgroup for at least one year. The mean of the values for the years for which data were reported was used to impute values for years with missing data.

- Mean value imputation was not possible if there were no reported data for a subgroup for any year. In such cases, imputations were performed using data from the previous round of data collection (that is, for the second edition of the Report on Labour Migration Statistics in Africa).

In early December 2020 data validation workshops were held to review and validate the data delivered through the focal points after the data editing and gap fillings described above. Five regional workshops were organized by the AUC, RECs and Statistics Sweden with support from JLMP partners for all AU Member States. Any comments or reservations about the data from the countries led to a second round of data editing and review from the national focal points.

5.6 Estimation procedure

The imputations performed on the data set resulted in tables with complete data, either actual values or imputed values (that is, there were no empty cells). The imputations can be regarded as the first step in the estimation procedure. The second step was to calibrate the cell values to have the sum of the cell values add up to the total population or the total migrant population. The control totals for the calibration were the total population and the total migrant population by country and year. Special efforts (follow-up checks with RECs and NSOs) were made to ensure that the control totals were as accurate as possible. The estimates were calculated by multiplying the cell values by the ratio of the control total to the population and migrant population as supplied by the countries in the ILMQ.

The estimates presented in this report are compared with other international and regional estimates, discrepancies are bound to appear. For example, that is the case for labour force participation and number of international migrant workers which differ from the ILO estimates. These discrepancies are due to differences in estimation methods or data sources, and possibly also due to differences in operational definitions. The estimation procedure is further described in Appendix II.

5.7 Quality of the data reported by countries

It is reasonable to assume that the data/statistics reported by the NSOs (and other government agencies) generally meet quality standards. There are, however, obvious issues with the quality of the data reported from some countries. Inconsistencies often appear in time series (projections) when new census data or household survey data are introduced, resulting in spurious sudden shifts in the time series. Much effort was put into identifying and rectifying these errors.

CHAPTER 6

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Conclusions

COMESA has developed several policy frameworks and legal instruments to deal with migration issues. COMESA aims to progressively achieve the free movement of persons, labour and services and to ensure the enjoyment of the right of establishment and residence for their citizens within the Common Market.

The main conclusions emerging from this report are summarized below:

6.1.1 Population

- ▶ Estimates by third edition of labour migration report of Africa indicate that COMESA is the second most populous REC in the African Union after CENSAD. Based on data from the STATAFRIC Migration Database, COMESA's population is estimated to have stood at 567.6 million in 2019. The continent's population has grown steadily over the past decade, from around 448.4.0 million people in 2010, which translates into an annual growth rate of 2.61 per cent. The distribution of the population by sex reveals equal proportions of females and males for the years 2010 to 2019.
- ▶ According to the estimates, the working-age population in COMESA was 266.1 million in 2010, while 338.4 in 2019 million. This represents an increase of around 27.2 per cent between 2010 and 2019. A slight difference between the sexes can be observed in that the female workingage population grew by around 27.7 per cent during the same period, while the corresponding male growth rate was 26.7 per cent. Egypt, Ethiopia, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo remains the most populous countries of working age population among member countries of the region since 2010 to 2019.

6.1.2 International migration

- ▶ The number of international migrants in COMESA increased from 5.7 million in 2010 to 9.6 million in 2019. The disaggregation of migrant population by sex reveal that there are more male international migrants than female. DRC, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Libya, Sudan, and Uganda hosted the highest number of working age migrants from 2010 to 2019 in the member states.
- ▶ The international labour force migrants have been increasing over the years in the region. In 2010 the region recorded a total of 3.0 million of international labour force

migrants in the region while in 2019, the region recorded 5.2 million working age international migrants, this representing an increase of 73 per cent on international labour force migrants in the region.

6.1.3 Migration and remittances

- ▶ Between 2010 and 2019, there was a substantial increase in the volume of remittances sent by international migrants within Africa and by those living and working outside Africa, namely from US\$20.0 billion to US\$39.6 billion.
- ▶ Between 2018 and 2019, remittances from international migrants grew by 3.1 per cent, from US\$38.4 billion to US\$38.6 billion. But remittance flows decreased the periods 2012-2013; 2014-2015 and between and 2015- 2016.

6.2 Recommendations

The COMESA Treaty provides the policy context for the development of statistics in the COMESA region to ensure that high-quality, accurate and reliable disaggregated statistics are available in the region. At the policy level the implementation of the Strategy is coordinated by the COMESA Committee on Statistical Matters committed to produce member states high quality and timely data which are key to the development of evidence-based policies and to decisionmaking among various stakeholders in the region.

The availability of labour migration data that aligns with international standards, concepts and methods are in particular instrumental for the development of effective policies to protect the rights of migrant workers and their families in the region. In this regard, the report concludes several recommendations for all stakeholder and Member States on how to produce timely, reliable and accurate labour migration statistics that will support informed policymaking to initiate relevant regulation and policies.

6.2.1 For the COMESA:

- ▶ Adopt a minimum set of indicators for labour migration statistics to monitor socio economic consequences of migration in the region, as labour migration flows continue to steadily increase in the region.
- ▶ Establish a system for regular reporting on migration statistics by Member States, including a digital repository which can store, retrieve and disaggregate data/ statistics according to users' needs.

- ▶ Establish a Technical Working Group (TWG) on migration to agree and make recommendations on harmonized concepts, definitions, methodologies, and tools related to labour migration so as to ensure the comparability of data collected across Member States and between regional economic communities.
- ▶ The terms of Reference shall enter into force upon their adoption by the TWG
- ▶ Provide clear guidance to the member states on the statistics necessary for evidence base policymaking and decision making on labour migration issues.
- ▶ Make awareness on the importance of Labour Migration Statistics
- ▶ Support Member States in collecting labour migration data in strict compliance with the most up to date international statistical standards and the guidelines of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians.
- ▶ Develop guidelines and methodologies for collecting quality and reliable data during pandemics.
- ▶ Strengthen the capacity of national statistical offices (NSO), the ministries of labour and foreign affairs, and the government agencies responsible for immigration matters to produce, analyse, and disseminate labour migration statistics on stocks and flows.
- ▶ (d) Provide technical support to Member States to be able to collect migration data on different dimension such cross border movement (nomadic population).
- ▶ Work with other partners to provide technical support to Member States that will allow for harmonisation of concepts and definitions.
- ▶ COMESA should support Member States to harmonize various sources of data and bring non-statistical stakeholders into capacity building programmes, particularly those which produce administrative statistics.
- ▶ Establish effective coordination mechanisms (or strengthen existing ones) among the national institutions that are responsible for producing labour migration statistics to bring about regular and sustainable dialogue between all stakeholders, including key government bodies, civil society, social security institutions, research institutes and other non-State actors such as the private sector.
- ▶ Look further into expanding the use of administrative data sources and new data types to produce labour migration statistics and share relevant good practices.
- ▶ Establish a system for the regular production of labour migration statistics based on administrative data sources.

- ▶ Facilitate the use of harmonized definitions and indicators relating to labour migration in each of the regions.
- ▶ The next COMESA Labour Migration Statistics Report should cover irregular migration and include refugees and Internally Displaced Persons which are important aspects of Labour Migration Statistics such as Internal Displacement Persons (IDPs);
- ▶ Recognize local financial institutions that are involved in money transfers such as Hawala so that it represents what is on the ground
- ▶ Future edition of COMESA migration report should be incorporated section about Covid-19 impact on remittance

6.2.2 For AU and RECs:

- ▶ The African Union (AU) and RECs, including COMESA should work together on a single harmonized questionnaire that should be used by Member States in the collection of data to ensure coordination of efforts and avoid duplication of efforts.

6.2.3 For Member states:

- ▶ Establish a mechanism for the dissemination of labour migration data at the national level with relevant disaggregation according to international standards.
- ▶ Promote the collection of accurate, reliable, and timely labour migration data and build capacity in collecting and analysing labour migration statistic.
- ▶ Coordinate and harmonize the collection of labour migration data between government ministries and institutions, other stakeholders and the NSO by establishing effective National Coordination Mechanisms (NCM) or strengthening existing mechanisms.
- ▶ NSOs should provide all stakeholders with clear guidance on the production of regular, reliable, and high-quality labour migration statistics.
- ▶ Make full use of census and survey data to collect and analyse data on international labour migration that aligns international concepts and definitions during data collection.
- ▶ Develop and implement representative national surveys, including a labour force survey with suitable modules on migration, to ensure a continuous stream of labour migration data at the national level.
- ▶ Coordinate migration data at the national level in the collection of labour migration statistics and migration statistics in General.

- ▶ Establish a system for the regular production of labour migration statistics based on administrative data sources.
- ▶ Facilitate the transfer of administrative data to NSOs in alignment with existing data sharing protocols and data protection laws.
- ▶ Adopt good practices (including capacitybuilding initiatives) in the use of administrative data sources to produce labour migration statistics.
- ▶ Coordinate with statistical authorities in the countries to gather data on stocks and flows of emigrants (and nationals abroad).
- ▶ Establish a clear channel of communication between the data users and the data producers.
- ▶ Strengthen the process for producing disaggregated statistics on the key indicators of labour migration, including such socio-economic characteristics as educational attainment, skills, and occupation.
- ▶ COMESA member States should take advantage of available opportunities under the Statistics Sweden and the Southern Africa Migration Management (SAMB) Projects being implemented in COMESA to build capacity in data collection compiling and analysis for effective evidence-based policy and decision making.
- ▶ Collect the remittance information through household budget survey or expenditure survey.
- ▶ Carry out member states separate research to measure volume of remittance.
- ▶ A study needs to be made to find remedies to address the challenges citizens and national statistical offices in collecting remittance and its data.
- ▶ Where possible, Member States should endeavor to make available detailed and disaggregated labour migration data and statistics, including microdata, to allow for very fine-grained analysis of labour migration impacts

APPENDIX I

DEFINITIONS AND CLASSIFICATIONS USED IN THE REPORT

Definitions of key concepts:

► Resident population

The “resident population” comprises people of all ages who are usual residents of the country regardless of sex, national origin, citizenship, or the geographical location of their place of work. This includes stateless persons and non-citizens who are usual residents but have no residence permit. It also includes some usual residents who work outside the country (such as frontier workers, seasonal workers, other short-term migrant workers, volunteer workers and nomads) (ILO 2018b, para. 11).

► Usual residence

The concept of “usual residence” is used in population censuses to denote the place at which a person has lived continuously for most of the 12 months preceding the census (that is, for at least six months and one day), not including temporary absences for holidays or work assignments, or intends to live for at least six months (UNDESA 2017a, para. 2.50).

► Usual resident

This refers to an individual who lives or intends to live at a place or in a country continuously for most of 12 months (that is, for at least six months and one day), not including temporary absences for holidays or work assignments.

► Youth population

“Youth” in this report refers to individuals aged between 15 and 35 years (inclusive).

► Working-age population

To determine the working-age population:

- a. The lower age limit should be set taking into consideration the minimum age for employment and exceptions specified in national laws or regulations, or the age of completion of compulsory schooling.

- b. no upper age limit should be set so as to enable comprehensive coverage of the work activities of the adult population and to make it possible to study transitions between employment and retirement (ILO-2016a).

For purposes of international comparability, the working-age population is defined as all persons over the legal age to work, i.e., 15 years and over.

► **Labour force**

The 'labour force' comprises all persons who are of working age (i.e., aged 15 or above) and are either 'employed' or 'unemployed' (i.e., seeking employment) during the reference period, according to national convention. (ILO-2016a).

► **Employed person**

A person of working age who, during a short reference period, was engaged in any activity to produce goods or provide services for pay or profit. (ILO-2016a).

► **International migrant**

This refers to any individual who changes his or her country of usual residence (UNDESA 1998, para. 32).

► **International migrant worker**

This concept is used to measure the current attachment to the labour market of international migrants in a country, irrespective of the initial purpose of migration, and of others who are not usual residents of the country but participate in its labour market. For statistical purposes, international migrant workers are defined as all international migrants of working-age who are usual residents in the country of measurement and who, during a specified reference period, were in that country's labour force, either in employment or in unemployment (ILO 2018b, para. 14).

► **Stock of international migrants**

The stock of international migrants refers to the total number of international migrants present in each country at a particular point in time (UNDESA 2017b, para. 43).

► **Flow of international migrants**

The flow of international migrants refers to the number of international migrants entering or leaving (moving to or from) a given country during a given period of time, usually one calendar year (UNDESA 2017b, para. 44).

► **Flow of international immigrants**

The flow of international immigrants is the number of international immigrants entering a given country over the course of a specified period, usually a calendar year (UNDESA 2017b, para. 44).

► **Flow of international emigrants**

The international flow of emigrants is the number of international emigrants leaving a given country over the course of a specified period, usually a calendar year (UNDESA 2017b, para. 44).

► **Personal transfers**

This refers to all current cash or in-kind transfers made or received by resident households to or from nonresident households. Personal transfers include all current transfers between resident and non-resident individuals.

APPENDIX II

HANDLING OF MISSING DATA (INTERNATIONAL LABOUR MIGRATION QUESTIONNAIRE)

The International Labour Migration Questionnaire (ILMQ) consists of 17 Excel tables. The adjustments for missing data were performed only in table 1, which contains the number of people in the general population and the migrant population disaggregated by sex, working-age cohort (15+ years), youth (15–35 years), people in labour force and people in employment.

Table 1 has 36 variables, which refer to the number of people in the population and in the various subgroups. Thus, variable 1 is “total population”, variable 2 is the subgroup “male population” and so on all the way until variable 36, which is the subgroup “migrant women aged 15–35 years in employment”. Each variable has ten observations, one for every year in the period 2010–19. For each country there are thus 360 values (cells in the table). The countries filled in all the data that they were able to provide. The resulting data set contains total and migrant population data for 54 Member States of the African Union, out of which eight of them were IGAD Member States. Many values are missing because the national statistical offices (NSOs) simply do not have the data for a particular year or variable. The table below shows the response rates for the six parts of ILMQ table 1.

Variables (subgroups)	Number of observations reported	Number of observations if table fully filled in (60 cells x 54 countries)	Response rate (per cent)
PART 1: Total population			
3. Population (male/female)	2 129	3 240	66
4. Working-age population (male/female)			
PART 2: Migrant population			
5. Migrant population (male/female)	985	3 240	30
6. Working-age migrant population (male/female)			

Variables (subgroups)	Number of observations reported	Number of observations if table fully filled in (60 cells x 54 countries)	Response rate (per cent)
PART 3: Total labour force 7. Labour force (male/female) 8. Labour force aged 15–35 years (male/female)	1 619	3 240	50
PART 4: Migrant labour force 9. Migrant labour force (male/female) 10. Migrant labour force aged 15–35 years (male/female)	805	3 240	25
PART 5: Total employed 11. Employed (male/female) 12. Employed aged 15–35 years (male/female)	1 286	3 240	40
PART 6: Total employed migrants 13. Employed migrants(male/female) 14. Employed migrants aged 15–35 years (male/female)	849	3 240	26

As can be seen from the table, a large part of the data requested by the survey is missing. In order to nevertheless obtain reasonably reliable survey results, a “modelling” exercise was performed. The first step in the process was to create a full data set for each country by imputing values for the empty cells in the data tables.

Imputation process

1. The first step was to convert all subgroup values to proportions of the total population for population data and to proportions of total number of migrants for migrant data. The values for subgroups 2, 5 and 6 (see table above) were converted to proportions of subgroup 1. Likewise, the values for subgroups 4, 7 and 8 were converted to proportions of subgroup 3. Subgroups 9–12 (employed) were not used for the analysis.

2. The next step was to check each empty cell (variable/year) and carry out imputation as follows:
 - a. If there were data (subgroup proportions) for one or more years for that variable, the mean of the proportions was calculated and that mean value was used as an imputed value in the empty cell.
 - b. If there were no data at all for the variable, the cell was left empty.
3. A rather large number of cells remained empty after the first imputation round. For these cells, the imputation was carried out using proportions calculated from data collected in the previous survey – that is, the survey conducted to gather data for the second edition of the *Report on Labour Migration Statistics in Africa* (AUC 2020).

The result of the imputation process is a full set of subgroup proportions, where the base is the country population or the country migrant population from the questionnaire. For the estimation, the proportions must be converted to numbers by multiplying the proportions by the total population or the total migrant population for each year. A problem here is that data on the total population and the migrant population are not available for all countries and all years. Furthermore, some of the data submitted by the NSOs appeared to contain inconsistencies. The next two sections describe the process of preparing “control totals”. These are estimates, as accurate as possible, of the total population and the migrant population for all the countries covered by the survey and all the years in the period 2010–19.

Preparation of data on total population

The data provided by the NSOs on total population were not complete for all the years in the period 2010–19. A separate data collection exercise was therefore carried out by the technical team in order to obtain the total population for each country and year. The exercise resulted in a situation where data from three sources were available:

- Data on population from the ILMQ. Most countries did not provide figures for every year. Some figures seemed inconsistent. Some countries did not provide any data at all.
- Consultations with the regional economic communities on population numbers for member countries.
- Published data from the NSOs (for example, from their websites).

The figures from the various sources more or less matched in many cases, but when substantial differences were found, a reconciliation procedure was applied. In this way, it was possible to establish “correct” total population numbers (male and female) for each country and each year.

Preparation of data on total migrant population

It was more difficult to obtain the migrant population numbers for the entire period 2010–19. The following procedure was applied:

1. For those countries that had provided migrant population numbers, these were compared with the numbers presented in the United Nations (UN) database on the international migrant stock: <https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/data/estimates2/estimates17.asp>

If there were substantial differences, the country's NSO was contacted and in some cases, corrections were made.

2. For MS that did not provide data on migrants, it was decided to use data from the UN database on the international migrant stock. Data are available for the years 2010, 2015, 2017 and 2019. Simple linear interpolations were performed for the years in between so that a full series could be obtained.
3. If the country's NSO had provided migrant population numbers for at least two years, and the data were deemed correct, these data were used for the calculations. Simple linear interpolation or extrapolation was performed to estimate the population for years with no data and to obtain estimates of the migrant population in all years in the period 2010–19. This was done for 21 countries.
4. Eleven countries provided data for only one year. Three countries provided data for two years, but the data for at least one year were deemed incorrect and it was not possible to establish the correct numbers. For these 14 countries, UN data were used in the same way as in (2).

The process resulted in the best possible estimates, under the circumstances, of migrant population totals for each country and each year.

Estimation and assessing the accuracy of estimates

For the estimation, the subgroup proportions must be converted to numbers by multiplying the proportions (obtained by imputation) by the total population or the total migrant population (obtained as described in the two sections above). This was done for each country and each year.

The relatively small set of actual data on population and migrant totals means that estimates of the number of people in subgroups are bound to be subject to considerable uncertainty. The accuracy of the estimates depends very much on the accuracy of the projections: it deteriorates with increasing length of the projections.

The combined effect of the imputations, interpolations and extrapolations is that year-to-year variation in the numbers will not be captured correctly. That is a problem in the statistics for an individual country but less of a problem when statistics are presented for a group of countries (or for geographical subregions, regional economic communities including IGAD, or the whole of Africa).

