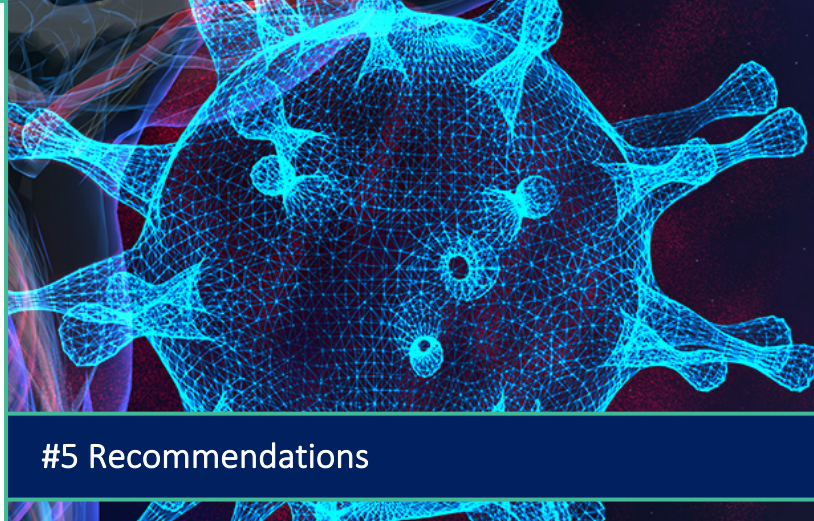




International  
Labour  
Organization

# FACTSHEET

Rapid Impact Assessment of COVID-19  
on Migrant Workers in SADC.



## #5 Recommendations

### Recommendation 1:

Include migrant workers in national COVID-19 policy responses to help to ensure the realization of equality & social justice, & design policies through tripartite social dialogue

- ❖ National policy responses in most cases in SADC only tangentially address concerns of migrant workers. Also, the irregular & undocumented status of some of these populations in practice hinders their ability to access legal standing & the rights that accrue thereof.
- ❖ Analysis should begin with Ministries responsible for home & immigration affairs & address issues pertaining to the availability of legal & travel documents.
- ❖ Social dialogue will be key to build consensus for & nuance the response configuration, which should balance the health, livelihoods & economic recovery priorities & outcomes, so that the COVID-19 policy responses systemically contribute to realising equality & social justice.

Recommendation 1 seeks to ensure rights-based, gender-responsive policy responses that help to realize equality & social justice.

### Recommendation 2:

Implement a holistic & coherent regional policy approach to migration that addresses migration as a whole & not only migrant workers

- ❖ The porous nature of borders in the region & the fact that migration of persons is an ineluctable eventuality, a holistic system which facilitates this movement is necessary to manage this complex & unprecedented public health crisis.
- ❖ Restrictive immigration systems also nurture criminal elements such as trafficking & smuggling.
- ❖ MS must ratify the Protocol on the facilitation of movement of persons, & the Employment & Labour Protocols, & to accelerate the development of the Migration Policy Framework, to allow broader cooperation on migration & to fully tap into the potential of migration & development.
- ❖ Governments must harmonise inconsistencies & incoherencies in policy approaches to migration & migrant workers both during & after the pandemic.
- ❖ Must ensure that Standard Operating Procedures, are adopted & appropriately cascaded throughout the region, to ensure uniformity & safeguarding the rights & dignity of migrant workers.
- ❖ Regional engagement & cooperation must include a framework for harmonising the approach for the voluntary return of migrant workers, leveraging on existing bilateral agreements.

Recommendation 2 speaks to the need to collectively & coherently address the entire spectrum of migration to make any significant headway amidst the COVID-19 pandemic & the recovery from it.

### Recommendation 3:

Design & implement policy responses to COVID-19 & interventions that purposefully target migrant workers with a particular focus on the most vulnerable

- ❖ The circumstances & needs of workers in general & migrant workers in different sectors are different & they may benefit from protection & cover that is designed specifically for their circumstances.
- ❖ Targeted interventions should facilitate access to existing relief & cover & should include the development of new products & services.

Recommendation 3 speaks to the need to design & implement policy responses to COVID-19 that purposefully target migrant workers, with a particular focus on the most vulnerable, among them domestic workers, women & others in sectors most hit by closures & slowdown of economic activity.



#### Recommendation 4:

#### Design & implement flexible, transparent & inclusive monetary & fiscal policy responses through multi-stakeholder collaboration & resource mobilisation

- ❖ While initial interventions were driven by emergency response preparations, there is scope for longer-term planning & resource mobilisation to prevent or mitigate the outbreak of future pandemics whilst ensuring financial stability & inclusion.
- ❖ To mobilise the much-needed resources to design & implement policies, efforts to collaborate with ICPs & other partners must be accelerated. Also, the NGO sector can play a crucial role in alleviating the challenges through capacity building & programming support related to small businesses & women owned enterprises.
- ❖ Corruption constitutes a real risk in terms of the quality, outreach & speed of responses, & accountability & governance must be embedded in the allocation & use of resources.
- ❖ The SADC Secretariat must be capacitated to better coordinate its work, , though a Technical Committee on Health.
- ❖ Need to convene regular regional platforms that specifically address migration/labour migration issues, with success stories & lessons on successful implementation of labour migration policies, e.g., Lesotho.

**Recommendation 4 speaks to addressing the COVID-19 public health & socio-economic crisis is resource intensive & requires flexible monetary & fiscal policy responses as well as multi-stakeholder collaboration & resource mobilisation.**

#### Recommendation 5: Strengthen the region's data collection, reporting & information dissemination capacities

- ❖ Need to strengthen the SADC region's capacities to generate, analyse & communicate accurate & reliable data that can be used to produce comprehensive reports on migration in the region.
- ❖ Data must be disaggregated by several metrics, incl. age & gender, & data that reflects elements of labour migration.
- ❖ Capacity development is key, as Member States remain responsible for the official source of reliable data, given the sensitivities & potential for unintentional distortion inherent to migration data.

**Recommendation 5 speaks to the need to mobilise & capacitate community-based structures & action groups to spearhead & monitor community awareness & behavioural trends in response to highly contagious pandemics.**

National good practice should be made available at regional level. This will enable Member States to be in state of preparedness & readiness when future public health threats emerge.

#### Recommendation 6:

#### Promote the rights of migrant workers within the context of universal social protection coverage & recognition of international labour standards

- ❖ Risk with respect to decent work deficits & denial of human rights & this is enshrined in various instruments & international labour standards.
- ❖ COVID-19 has highlighted the need for protection mechanisms that cover all categories of workers, regardless of the work they do, where they are located, or their origin.
- ❖ Universal social protection coverage is a prerequisite to create resilient societies & economies.
- ❖ Migrant workers face significant challenges in accessing social protection due to the particularity of their circumstances.

**Recommendation 6 is for SADC initiatives to extend social protection to include migrant workers & the portability of such protection benefits to both migrant workers & their families.**

Policy-makers must design, develop & implement effective policy interventions in a way that places the protection of labour rights at their centre.

#### Recommendation 7:

#### Promote affordable, efficient, streamlined, & safe remittance transaction, & improve knowledge & awareness among migrant workers of available, safe, & affordable remittance platforms

- ❖ Important for migrants & their families as a poverty coping mechanism, & a source of cash flow for financial institutions & states in their countries of origin.
- ❖ COVID-19 has exposed the need to address the reliance on physical transfer measures (mostly used by undocumented migrants) &/or expensive electronic transfers.

**Recommendation 7 plays a key role in supporting an inclusive recovery among communities in countries of origin on which the COVID-19 pandemic has taken a great toll.**



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