



**International
Labour
Organization**

FACTSHEET

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

#3 Findings: ICPs & Other Actors' Responses

COVID-19's impacts on health, employment & economic performance require the action & implementation of health, humanitarian & socio-economic policies that will work together to speed up the recovery trajectory.



Various ICPs inclusive of the ILO, IOM & IMF implemented regional & country level interventions in response to COVID-19, namely:

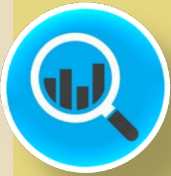
- Fiscal & monetary support measures.
- Migration management measures.
- Capacity development.
- Facilitation of tripartite responses to the pandemic.

Summary of National Level Responses

Business & Labour partnered on sector specific issues & the management of matters like short time, shift work, teleworking & other work arrangements issues to mitigate spread of the Corona virus in the workplace.

Activities by the ILO

a) Supporting Rapid Impact Assessments.



- ❖ Focus on affected economic sectors.
- ❖ Lost, or threatened jobs.
- ❖ Vulnerable populations to help develop emergency socio-economic action plans & possibly revive the employment sector.

b) Technical advice on coordination, planning, monitoring, risk communication & community engagement.



- ❖ Providing technical inputs to national preparedness & response plans.
- ❖ Identifying public & private sector workers by technical unemployment.
- ❖ Making proposals for accompanying measures.
- ❖ Tracking the accompanying measures proposed & validated by the Government.
- ❖ Supporting Government in its follow-up of COVID-19 cases.

c) Awareness raising.



- ❖ Participating in radio & other media interviews discussing the COVID-19 impact on the world of work
- ❖ Support to produce promotional material on information, education & communication on how to prevent COVID-19 & remove fake news as well as stigma & discrimination, with distribution also taking place through community radios.

d) Supporting social dialogue & encouraging consensus building.



- ❖ Support to social partners to engage on proposals to stimulate the economy & labour demand through economic & employment policies to stabilize economic activity.
- ❖ Encouraging social dialogue between employers & workers & their representatives in the national response to achieve consensus on appropriate flexible working arrangements, such as teleworking; employment retention, short-time work, paid leave, etc in line with international labour standards.

e) Supporting tripartite stakeholders to stay engaged.



- ❖ Information & knowledge sharing on protection of workers in the workplace.
- ❖ Sharing ILO guides & templates advocacy & campaigns with tripartite partners.
- ❖ Re-skilling & skills development for young people.
- ❖ Advancing employment programmes and flexible working arrangements that companies may adapt in this time of crisis, which can enable workers to be employed but with flexible working hours & at least earning an income.

f) Support & sponsor specific efforts by workers & employers' organizations.



- ❖ Economic analysis of COVID-19 impact on jobs.
- ❖ Developing policy notes.
- ❖ Rollout of ILO tools on the role of workers' organisations to mitigate the impact.
- ❖ Supporting employers & women workers' branches in distributing protective equipment to their members, & empowerment & entrepreneurship initiatives.
- ❖ Supporting MSMEs & their workers, especially in the informal economy, to become more resilient in the wake of COVID-19.
- ❖ Support to increase the institutional capacity of stakeholders & social partners to address COVID-19 within the context of HIV.

The other ICPs in this space



a) WHO

- ❖ Globally leading the health response to COVID-19.



b) FAO

- ❖ Using networks of farmer field schools, extension workers, women's discussion groups & community veterinary health networks to share COVID-19 health & safety messages
- ❖ This is to contribute to the effort to protect food security & livelihoods in the face of the virus.



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Organisation internationale pour les migrations (OIM)
Organización Internacional para las Migraciones (OIM)

c) IOM

- ❖ Implementing various activities ranging from flow monitoring to profiling migrant workers & registering those in distress.
- ❖ Involved in supporting the provision of emergency relief, anti-trafficking initiatives & community relief operations in different parts of the country.
- ❖ Facilitation of the onward transportation for returnees to their destination & provision of PPE.

Activities of Workers' Organizations

- ❖ Urging their members to adhere to the restrictions
- ❖ Advocating for better measures to ensure that workers, their families & communities are safe & adequately protected.
- ❖ Negotiate & advocate for mobilisation of resources needed for equal access to care for all & adequate protective measures for the protection of workers & their jobs.
- ❖ Support workers to respond to retrenchments in case of stigma and discrimination.
- ❖ Engaging in social dialogue for solutions.
- ❖ Circulating government circulars, press statements Directives & Notices pertaining to COVID-19.
- ❖ Collaborate with Government efforts in raising awareness about the outbreak of COVID-19 & the health & safety precautions & standards to maintain at the workplace to mitigate against the spread of the virus.
- ❖ Report or alert the relevant Government ministry, agency or department about suspected anomalies observed at the workplace, which counteracts efforts towards containing the spread of the virus.

Activities of Employers' Organizations

- ❖ Awareness raising by use of social media: emails, Facebook, a website, & twitter to clarify & guide members on Government pronouncements.
- ❖ Providing members with guides on legal & workplace issues related to the pandemic.
- ❖ Use of systematic data collection mechanisms to gather just-in-time information on the impacts of COVID-19 on enterprises & workers.
- ❖ Advocacy.
- ❖ Ensuring labour law flexibility to accommodate the current lockdown.
- ❖ Promoting consistent tripartite engagement.
- ❖ Developing & disseminating different tools, such as a return-to-work guideline, & engaging with various ministries to address specific issues including measures & regulations affecting business during the easing of the lockdown.

Financing perspective



The IMF, World Bank & the African Development Bank have undertaken various COVID-19 related financing initiatives.

- The African Development Bank recently issued a US\$3 billion "Fight COVID-19" social bond,
- African Export-Import Bank has set up a US\$3 billion credit facility.
- Combined, official creditors have mobilised up to US\$57 billion for Africa in 2020 alone.
- IMF & the World Bank made available US\$18 billion to enhance front-line health services, support people in poverty & the vulnerable & keep economies afloat in the face of the worst global economic downturn.