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NEWSLETTER

January - June 2022



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Dear Stakeholder,

The South African Migration Management project has entered its second year of implementation. Its four Implementing partners, (ILO, IOM, UNHCR and UNODC) have been working closely with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to address the plight of women and men migrant workers and migrants caught in mixed migration flows through the lens of protection and assistance frameworks to put in place sustainable mechanisms to address the challenges of irregular migration from and into the region, faced during the migration cycle

In this edition, we recap on all the activities implementing partners undertook in the first semester of 2022. The newsletter also features beneficiary stories from the work implementing partners are doing under the framework of the project.

COMESA develops a strategy and roadmap to implement its migration protocols'

The lack of free movement of people is an impediment to successful regional integration, as it adds to the cost of doing business, thereby having a significant impact on intra-regional trade. COMESA has aimed to enhance the free movement of people through the adoption of a COMESA Model Law on Immigration, which is a point of reference to which COMESA Member States can harmonise their national immigration laws and practices. In support of the Model Law, COMESA has put in place two legal instruments: The Protocol on the Gradual Relaxation and Eventual Elimination of Visas (Visa Protocol); and the Protocol on the Free Movement of Persons, Service, Labour and the Right of Establishment and Residence (Free Movement Protocol) in an effort to secure the free movement of people, goods and services within the region.

Considering the slow implementation of the Visa and Free Movement Protocols, the COMESA Ministers Responsible for Immigration established two Task Forces on capacity building and implementation of legal instruments and Council of Ministers decisions on the free Movement of Persons in 2011. However, lack of funding has hampered the Task Forces in fully discharging their mandates, and not much progress has been made in the implementation of legal instruments and decisions on the free movement of persons.

With the support of COMESA's Trade Facilitation Programme and the SAMM project, a three-day Meeting of the COMESA Task Forces on the Implementation of COMESA Legal Instruments and Decisions of the COMESA Council of Ministers and the Development of a Capacity Building on Free Movement of Persons was held in Lusaka, Zambia, starting on 30 May 2022. The meeting adopted a strategy and roadmap for implementing and enhancing awareness of the COMESA legal instruments and decisions on free movement of persons in Member States, with a focus on Member States that have low implementation/ratification levels of the migration protocols. The roadmap focuses on three key areas of intervention: (1) Migration and Trade, (2) Labour and Social Security, and (3) Cross-cutting Issues (i.e. promoting regular migration and addressing irregular migration, harmonizing labour and immigration laws, and interregional cooperation and coordination), starting with an assessment to identify reasons why Member States are slow to implement and ratify the COMESA protocols on migration.

The meeting concluded by noting the need for Member States to prioritize the implementation of strategy and road map, and urging member states as well as the Secretariat to take advantage of the availability of technical support from COMESA and its Development Partners. The Revised Strategy and Road prepared by the two task forces shall be submitted to a joint Meeting of COMESA Ministers Responsible for Immigration and Labour to be held in the second half of 2022

The two projects are funded by the European Union under EDF 11



Country Level dialogues.

The SAMM Project has continued organising country-level dialogue on Labour and Mixed Migration. From January to June 2022, three new country-level dialogues have taken place: Eswatini (11- 13 April 2022), Namibia (1-3 June 2022) Lesotho (14-16 June 2022).

Country-level dialogues can be considered as a follow-up to SAMM's Inception Workshop and the Stocktaking exercises on Labour and Mixed Migration. The discussions contribute to enhancing dialogue between the SAMM project and key labour and mixed migration and focal points in the Member States to identify major priority areas and develop a roadmap for each country.

The dialogues encompass discussions on the key thematic areas of the project under both labour and mixed migration. As part of the deliberations, tripartite groups present, are expected to identify a maximum of 4 activities/interventions per year (2022 and 2023) to be included in the SAMM Roadmap. Each activity identified mentions the institutions that will be involved in its implementation, focal points, source of budget available and gaps, as well as budget estimate. The timeframe of each action is also identified.

Here below, country-level dialogue calendar:

	Labour Migration	Mixed Migration
Seychelles	7th July, 2021	
Comoros	26th July, 2021	27th July, 2021
Mauritius	6th December, 2021	22nd September, 2021
Madagascar	9th December, 2021	10th December, 2021
Eswatini	11th-12th April 2022	13th April 2022
Namibia	1st - 2nd and 3rd June 2022	3rd June 2022
Lesotho	14th -15th and 16th June 2022	16th 2022



Eswatini Country-level Dialogue



Namibia Country level dialogue

Testimonial from Eswatini Country-level dialogue

Members of the Truck Drivers Association were part of the constituents in attendance at the Eswatini country level dialogue. The Truck Drivers Association is an organisation of 200 truck drivers and operators of which 80% are migrant workers. The organisation's vision is to organ-ize operators who stand for their rights. We spoke with Mr Sikhumbuzo Mkhulisi, President of the association who highlighted the importance of holding such dialogues. "As truck drivers, we face a huge challenge in obtaining work permits or special regional permits. This is a challenge that we cannot solve on our own and such platforms are important in coming up with strate-gies to mitigate some of the strategies we face" Mkhulisi said.

During the dialogue discussions on MoUs, bilateral agreements between Eswatini and other countries were of great interest to the association as they may assist in addressing their challenges of work permits.

Beneficiary Stories

Juliana: Hope, Return, and growth

Juliana is a Zimbabwean woman and mother to young children. In 2018, she approached her then neighbour in Zimbabwe, and expressed her desire to find opportunities outside of the country, that could help her better provide for her family. Her neighbour then decided to assist her to travel to Namibia, where Juliana soon after found herself stranded, after the very person she had approached and trusted, ceased all interest to support her once in Namibia.

Juliana

Assisted by IOM to return to Zimbabwe after being stranded in Namibia

“

It was so easy to contact IOM, and the process was so supportive and fast. Two weeks after approaching



“After a period of time, she just dumped me and never gave me the money she owed me, so I tried my best to find little jobs to continue sending money home, but it was difficult, and all I could think of were my very young children back in Zimbabwe”, Juliana said.

It is through fortune of various friendships while stranded in Namibia, that someone informed Juliana of possibilities for her to return to Zimbabwe through the assistance of the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

“It was so easy to contact IOM, and the process was so supportive and fast. Two weeks after approaching IOM, I was already assisted and back in Zimbabwe”, Juliana said happily.

Facilitated by both IOM Namibia and IOM Zimbabwe, Juliana was thoroughly helped to return from Windhoek, Namibia, to Mashiru, her native town in Zimbabwe.

Through various reintegration mechanisms from IOM, Juliana was also able to open a thriving poultry business in Mashiru, though some challenges persist.

“My business is successful, but I had a very hard time finding a space to establish and run it”, said Juliana. “A friend graciously offered a small space in her compound, and I was able to not only settle my poultry business there, but also collaborate with my friend to let her run it while I move to Botswana in search of further income opportunities”, she continued.



In loving memory of Tshepang Mphofe, Lesotho born domestic worker

Date of Birth: 17/02/1983

Date of Death: 13/05/2021

Tshepiso Mphofe is a Lesotho-born migrant domestic worker based in South Africa, Lenasia. On International Domestic Workers Day, Tshepiso shared a heartbreaking story of her late twin sister who was also a migrant domestic worker in South Africa. “Tshepang was a passionate person an advocate for workers’ rights. She had started a group in Lenasia which fought for the rights of migrant domestic workers” said Tshepiso.

Her sister was diagnosed with cancer, and because she was not a South African. “She was told to go to Lesotho hospital who would then refer her to Bloemfontein Hospital for assistance” explained Tshepiso. Due to COVID-19 restrictions and financial constraints, Tshepiso was not able to take her sister back home to get the necessary treatment. She later passed away leaving behind four children.

Tshepiso further highlighted challenges faced by migrant domestic workers, which include long working hours, exploitation and non-access to healthcare services.

Tshepiso and Tshepang were part of the ILO Cash Transfers programme in 2020 where financial aid was provided as covid relief to migrant domestic workers in South Africa, Botswana and Lesotho.

Below is a note Tshepang wrote to the ILO after receiving the cash transfers:



Tshepiso and Tshepand Mphofhe

“

My name is Tshepang Mphopfe, I'm 37 years old and I'm from Lesotho. I have been working as a domestic worker from 2009. COVID has impacted me badly. I can't afford to pay my bills, like now I am sick, I can't afford to pay hospital bills for my chemotherapy and radiation.

The cash relief from the International Labour Organization has helped me. I can put food on the table and buy some medication for myself.

The message I will send to the International Labour Organization is keep up what you are doing for domestic workers. Without you some of us would be on the streets looking for some food in dustbins during this pandemic.

Homeward bound: Congolese refugees in South Africa opt to restart their lives in Kinshasa

Six hundred Congolese refugees in South Africa are seeking help from UNHCR to return home this year.

By Laura Padoan in Pretoria and Simon Englebert Lubuku in Kinshasa

Read Full story here: [UNHCR - Homeward bound: Congolese refugees in South Africa opt to restart their lives in Kinshasa](#)

Labour Migration Work

Regional Capacity Development Workshop on Ethical Recruitment



14 - 16 March, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

In collaboration with IOM, the Government of Zimbabwe hosted a regional capacity development workshop on Ethical Recruitment in Victoria Falls from 14 to 16 March, 2022. The main thrust of the workshop was to strengthen, enhance regional mechanisms and policy convergence on fair and ethical recruitment practices.

SATUCC's Meeting on the Production of a Guide for Trade Unions on the Protection of Migrant Workers



27- 28 June 2022

The International Labour Organization in partnership with the Southern Trade Union Coordination Council (SATUCC), hosted a two-day meeting to review the draft SATUCC Labour Migration Guide. Trade Unions from 12 countries were represented in the meeting. The meeting sought to contribute toward the attainment of the following objectives –

1. review the content of the nine chapters contained in the SATUCC Labour Migration Guide to manage content and make it reader-friendly.
2. Add illustrations on critical chapters to simplify the guide and make it user-friendly.
3. conduct a comparative analysis of the contents of the Labour Migration Guide with best practices vis-a-vis regional and international labour migration frameworks.

The SATUCC Labour Migration Guide was prepared as a resource targeted mainly to provide information to workers that intend to migrate in search of jobs in the region, including returnees and their family members. The Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) is estimated by the Africa Union (AU) to host 37.5% of Africa's 14.2 million international migrant workers totalling an estimated 5.4 million persons. At the same time, the Southern Africa region is home to the largest arrival of international migrant workers of up to 4.2 million, ahead of both East Africa and West Africa, with intra – SADC labour migration accounting for about 45% of migrant workers from the SADC region that is both high and low skilled.

The migration guide has been prepared based on the entire labour migration cycle, namely:

Pre-departure, Departure, In-service, Return

IOM Conducts a Household Surveys and International Migration Data Workshop

Held from 14 to 16 March, 2022 in Pretoria, South Africa, the household surveys and international migration data workshop aimed to discuss with specialists the use of household surveys to collect migration data and explore methodological aspects with specialized migration surveys.



The Business Perspectives on Labour Migration Governance in Southern Africa. Business and Government Dialogue

The International Organisation of Employers (IOE), the Business Advisory Group on Migration and SADC Private Sector Forum (SPSF), with the support of the International Labour Organisation, co-hosted a workshop dedicated to business perspectives on migration governance in Southern Africa. The workshop took place in Johannesburg from 20 – 21 April in Johannesburg.

African labour migration goes beyond the traditional narrative of the male seasonal migrant workers travelling to their destination country along the charted migration corridor. In recent years, the complexity and diversity of the migration narrative has spiralled at a rapid speed and direction due to the multitude of economic, environmental and political struggles that many countries in the continent are facing. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated this phenomenon. Combining the growing skills shortages in the destination countries' labour

markets to this mix catapults the urgency and significance of the global competition for reaping the benefits of labour migration.

The workshop was part of a series of three workshops on the African continent, aiming at collecting the African Employers' positions on labour migration governance, with the end objective of agreeing on an African Employers' declaration that IOE will submit to the first International Migration Review Forum¹ (IMRF), that took place at the United Nations headquarters in New York in May 2022.



Making Decent work a reality for Migrant Domestic Workers in the SADC and IOC Region

In celebration of the 11th year anniversary of the Decent Work for Domestic Workers Convention 189, ILO hosted a Workshop and Report Launch on making decent work a reality for Migrant Domestic Workers in the SADC region. Informed by the latest research, and by the voices of migrant domestic workers themselves, the workshop served as a platform for Migrant Domestic Workers' organizations and other civil society organizations; policymakers; workers' organizations; experts; researchers and academic institutions in the region came together to share experiences, insights and ideas and to strategize around how to make decent work a reality for migrant domestic workers in the region. A draft report titled ***Migrant Domestic Workers in the SADC region – Intersecting decent work with safe, orderly and regular migration***, was also presented and the recommendations of the report validated by the stakeholders present.

Draft report available here: <https://bit.ly/3AdNnu6>



“

I've been working as a domestic worker in different homes for the past 8 years. I realised that I had to do something for my future so that even if I lose my job I can still survive. That's when I started attending sewing classes

Smangele Ndlovu





“

I know as domestic workers we have many challenges, but as for me, I have wonderful people around me. Outside work, I am proud to be who I am. A mother of two, a prayer woman, a sister and a traditional healer. I am grateful for being me

Laura Dube



Mixed Migration Work

UNHCR Hosts the first South African Refugee-Led Network (SARLN) Conference



*UNHCR official speaking at the SARLN conference
© SARLN Photo/Patrick Mukabla.*

The first-ever South African Refugee-Led Network (SARLN) Conference was held in Pretoria, South Africa, from 22 to 25 February 2022. Titled, 'Enhancing Refugee Participation and Self-representation in South Africa,' the Conference provided refugee communities and leaders the opportunity to address gaps in refugee-led efforts (such as?).

The Conference gave refugees the opportunity to develop a roadmap connecting with relevant stakeholders, policymakers, in building critical

networks for realising durable solutions and sustainable development. The discussions were in line with SARLN's efforts to improve the interaction between refugees and their leaders, refugee networks/organizations, their hosts and related stakeholders. The Conference has enhanced continued collaboration with refugees in the aftermath of COVID-19 and its implications for refugee communities.

The primary objectives and achievements of the SARLN were to establish a refugee-led open and safe space for refugees to interact, promote refugee inclusion, and participate in the implementation of long-term solutions. It is also to ensure that women's voices are included in decision-making.

The SARLN mobilises refugee-led organisations countrywide to engage in dialogue with policy and decision-makers to enable refugee leaders to guide their communities knowledgeably.



*Participants in the SARLN conference
© SARLN Photo/Patrick Mukabla.*

UNODC Launched Regional Trafficking in Persons Digest

Regional cooperation and coordination mechanisms on combating trafficking in persons strengthened as well as prosecutor networks enhanced. UNODC Regional Office for Southern Africa convened a three-day Seminar for Prosecutors from the SADC Region to share experiences on prosecuting cases of Trafficking in Persons from the 22 – 23 March 2022, Johannesburg, South Africa. Up to 3 prosecutors from each of the SADC countries participated, physically and virtually. The main aim of the litigation seminar was to build a healthy body of jurisprudence on TIP in the region and, consequently, to increase the number convictions obtained in the region on trafficking in persons. Second, the meeting also acted to launch the UNODC Regional Trafficking in Persons Case Digest, which is a compilation and in-depth analysis of over 80 ground-breaking cases across

the SADC Region. The Digest was developed over the entire 2021 from contributions of experts from the entire region and globally. It has references to key issues in the Region including labour exploitation, (harmful) cultural practices, sexual exploitation, types of evidence, evidential issues and challenges among many other themes and sub-topics. The workshop saw three days of robust discussions focusing on Trafficking in Persons cases where exploitation did not transpire; focusing on subtle means of control including family complicity; focusing on victim consent; focusing on weaknesses in victim behaviours and how courts address them as well as focusing on issues arising in regard to child trafficking were deliberated on and strategies to address such issues were elaborated on. There were 35 Participants; 19 Female; 16 Male.



Achieving Durable Solutions Through Voluntary Repatriation of UNHCR Persons of Concern

In seeking to accomplish the Global Compact on Refugees objective of supporting “conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity”, UNHCR facilitates voluntary repatriation to countries of origin through various means, including compiling updated information on the country and region of origin, engaging in peace building and reconciliation activities, and providing return assistance packages and legal aid to returnees. The voluntary repatriation of refugees and asylum seekers to their countries of origin is based on the free and informed decision of applicants, coupled with this being in safety and dignity. UNHCR is committed and continued to finding sustainable means to support and facilitate voluntary repatriation throughout the region.

In March 2022, following a stream-lined process agreed upon by the Department of Home Affairs and UNHCR South Africa Multi Country Office the return of a first batch Persons of Concern (POC) 43 and 6 returned from South Africa to Kinshasa and Lubumbashi respectively, as these areas in DRC are considered safe. UNHCR supported all returnees with basic cash assistance to support their livelihood, transport and other logistical support to arrive home in safety and dignity. This exercise was largely successful.



Judicial Training Against Trafficking in Persons

As part of ensuring the institutionalization of training curricula into on-going Judicial training programmes in Republic of South Africa. UNODC in collaboration with the South African Judicial Education Institute convened a Judicial Training Against Trafficking in Persons (TiP) in Johannesburg, South Africa from the 11 to 13 April, which is part of UNODC priorities in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Region in enhancing the capacity of Judicial Officers in the response to human trafficking using victim centred approaches under the joint UNODC-SADC Regional Programme (2013 -2023). The objectives of the training were to strengthen capacity of Judicial officers to effectively address trafficking in persons with a special emphasis on vulnerabilities of victims and the trauma they suffer; strengthen Judicial officers' understanding of vulnerability and its role in presenting challenges to evidence and using tools that explain psychology and culture with special emphasis on child victims to resolve the evidential challenges and to build the capacity of judicial officers on Sentencing principles on anti-trafficking in persons. Lastly, the workshop also acted to launch the Trafficking in Persons Handbook for Judicial Officers in South Africa. The training workshop was attended by Magistrates, Senior Magistrates and Regional Magistrates from across South Africa. There were 35 participants; 25 F; 10 M.

Group photo participants: Magistrates, Senior Magistrates, Regional Magistrates & dignitaries





Roundtables on Alternatives to Detention in Zimbabwe

14 - 16 March, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

IOM in collaboration with the Government of Zimbabwe with funding from the European Union under the SAMM project hosted a roundtable on Alternatives to Immigration Detention (ATDs). The roundtable, which was held from the 20 to 21 April in Harare, provided the opportunity for the government stakeholders working on migrant protection and assistance to review and validate the report of the assessment of alternatives to immigration detention in Zimbabwe. At the end of the meeting, key recommendations to strengthen the current practices on ATDs in Zimbabwe were endorsed by the stakeholders.



Lesotho Verification and Protection Profiling Exercise

07 to 13 April 2022

Braving the harsh autumn weather, persons of concern to UNHCR from all districts of Lesotho made their way to the Mohalito Reception Centre (MRRRC). Here, PoC were able to have their information registered and verified. The verification exercise provided PoC the opportunity to meet UNHCR and to have their voices heard. Conducting this much needed exercise in Lesotho, assisted the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) identify people with specific needs and the most vulnerable including (give example of vulnerability) for further assessment and targeted support.

UNHCR used the occasion to enhance the case management knowledge of MoHA officials. This will ensure quicker identification and referral of vulnerable cases to relevant agencies locally and where appropriate to UNHCR in Pretoria. Furthermore, the exercise ensured that PoC already living in Lesotho interact with the newly arrived ones from Comoros to share their advice in integrating locally. This gave hope to the new arrivals that they too, could also succeed.

Colleagues from Skillshare Lesotho and MoHA acknowledged that they now have a better understanding on the use of ProGres V4, UNHCR's mandate and the lives of the people we serve. The exercise further provided UNHCR the opportunity to access data on the number of PoC that reside in particular localities outside Maseru, as well as the number of new arrivals during a particular time period. Of the 532 individuals on record, 320 were confirmed; an additional 124 persons were newly registered, and 23 add-ons (additional family members); whilst 161 individuals who did not show up were inactivated after conducting data clearing process.

The verification activity is a census of the POC and establishing that the continued presence of those in the database and adding new arrivals; and protection profiling to identify individuals requiring specific protection intervention on the one hand.

The verification exercise involved updating and verifying POC data in proGres V4; capturing specific needs to ensure assistance is adequately provided; confirming accuracy of countries -of-asylum and origin information (pertaining to the latter, this will aid plans for voluntary repatriation in the future); consolidating and analysing sample of intention to return survey results; and compiling an accurate statistical report of the active population and to better identify Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs), ensure that the PSN database is correct, and to facilitate a deeper understanding of their needs.

In preparation for the profiling exercise UNHCR staff provided capacity development to 5 and 2 Government staff and the Skillshare partner apiece, on 07 April 2022. The session focused the UNHCR proGres V4 database and demonstrating the fields that required populating, utilisation of the Registration Module in proGres V4 and how to identify special needs of POC. Furthermore, a refresher case management and interpreters training was also provided.

Outcome Of the Verification Exercise

Of the 532 individuals on record, 320 were confirmed; an additional 124 persons were newly registered, and 23 add-ons (additional family members); whilst 161 individuals who did not show up were inactivated after conducting data clearing. When the latter re-establish contact, they shall be verified and re-activated. Reasons for nonparticipation in the verification exercise shall be captured in proGres V4. The six Basotho nationals in the table infra are part of the families of some POC.

Current Active Statistics of Persons of Concern in Lesotho

Country of Origin	Asylum Seeker	Refugee	Other of concern	Total
Cameroon	13	4		17
Central African Republic	1			1
Congo, Republic of the	6			9
Democratic Republic of the Congo	172	176		345
Eritrea	45	31		76
Ethiopia	11	6		17
Kenya	1			1
Lesotho			6	6
Malawi	1			1
Mali	1			1
Nigeria	6	1		7
Pakistan	4	2		6
Somalia	3			3
South Sudan	1			1
Uganda	5	5		10
Zambia		3		3
Zimbabwe	10	1		11
Total	281	229	5	515



MoHA colleagues verifying information of PoC family at the Mohalalotse Reception Centre.
© UNHCR /Tshegofatso Phage



A family being registered at the "Registration Desk".
© UNHCR Photo/Tshegofatso Phage



Skillshare Lesotho colleague verifying PoC data.
© UNHCR Photo/Precious Khomba



Skillshare Lesotho colleague and UNHCR staff member assisting PoC at the "Protection Desk"
© UNHCR Photo/Precious Khomba



UNHCR and MoHA colleagues preparing for the arrival of PoC at the "Biometrics and Legislation" desk.
© UNHCR Photo/Precious Khomba

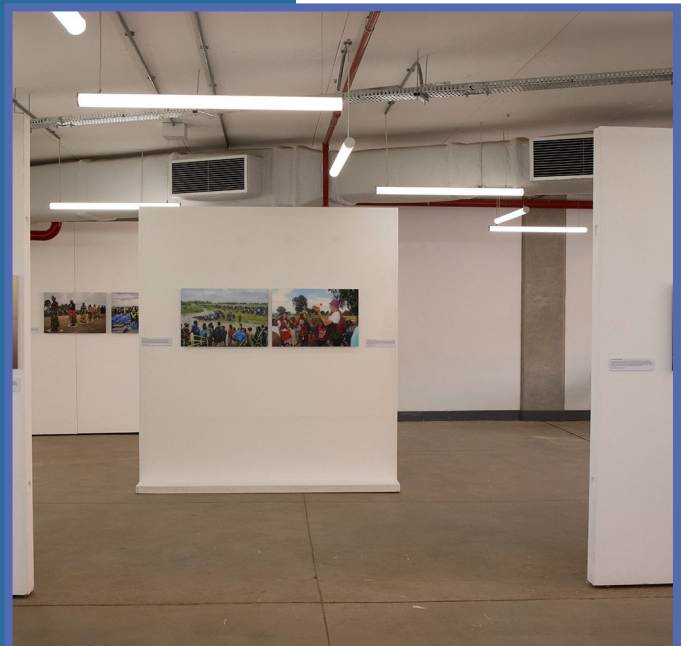


UNHCR Celebrates World Refugee Day

#WorldRefugeeDay is intended to be a celebration of the human spirit and of the strength of the millions who, despite being displaced and dispossessed, relentlessly strive to improve their lives and those of their families and communities.

#WorldRefugeeDay2022







The Southern Africa Migration Management Project (SAMM) is offering scholarships to obtain a **Diploma for Labour Migration Experts and Practitioners**, providing an opportunity for participants to master the qualitative understanding of labour migration governance and protection of migrant workers' rights through a package of intensive and challenging training courses - distance learning and residential phases to be furthered complemented by a capstone project in one of the fields of expertise covered in the programme

Readmore:<https://www.sammproject.org/uncategorized/southern-africa-migration-management-samm-project-scholarships-offered-to-obtain-the-diploma-for-labour-migration-experts-and-practitioners/>





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