



NEWSLETTER

JANUARY – JUNE | 2023



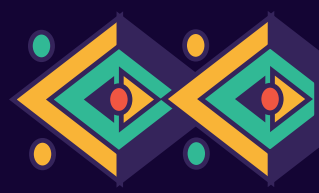
MIGRATION MANAGEMENT PROJECT

SAMM COUNTRY
LEVEL DIALOGUES

LABOUR
MIGRATION WORK

MIXED
MIGRATION WORK





JANUARY – JUNE 2023

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INTRODUCTION

Dear Stakeholder,

Migration features strongly in the United Nations Declaration on the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in September 2015. In addition, combating discrimination and xenophobia is key to achieving the 2030 Agenda's Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) of eliminating poverty and inequalities worldwide particularly through SDG target 10.7 "Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies". SDG Target 8.8 is of relevance to migrant workers: "protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments of all workers, including migrant workers, particularly women migrants, and those in precarious employment".

2023 is a pivotal year for the SAMM project, it marks the end of the first phase of the project which has been a journey of many challenges but equally filled with great opportunity to change the plight of migrants in the SADC region and wholistically work together with member states in improving migration management in the SADC and IOC region.

In this edition we reflect on all the activities that have been undertaken in the first semester of 2023. The UN implementing partners, ILO, IOM, UNODC and UNHCR have been collaborating with the COMESA, SADC, and IOC in fast tracking the implementation of the project activities guided by the workplan.



JOINT PROJECT ACTIVITIES

3rd Political Steering Committee Meeting

The 3rd Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting for the project took place in Lusaka, Zambia on the 25th of May 2023. The PSC convenes annually to discuss the progress made in the implementation of project activities, highlights the challenges encountered by the UN implementing agencies and come up with mitigating strategies to ensure smooth collaboration between the RECs and other stakeholders.

COMESA served as the chair and host of the 3rd PSC. As one of the key partners (RECs) in the project, COMESA led the discussions of the PSC which serves as the governing body of the project to, one, provide strategic leadership, two, hold general policy discussions, and overall

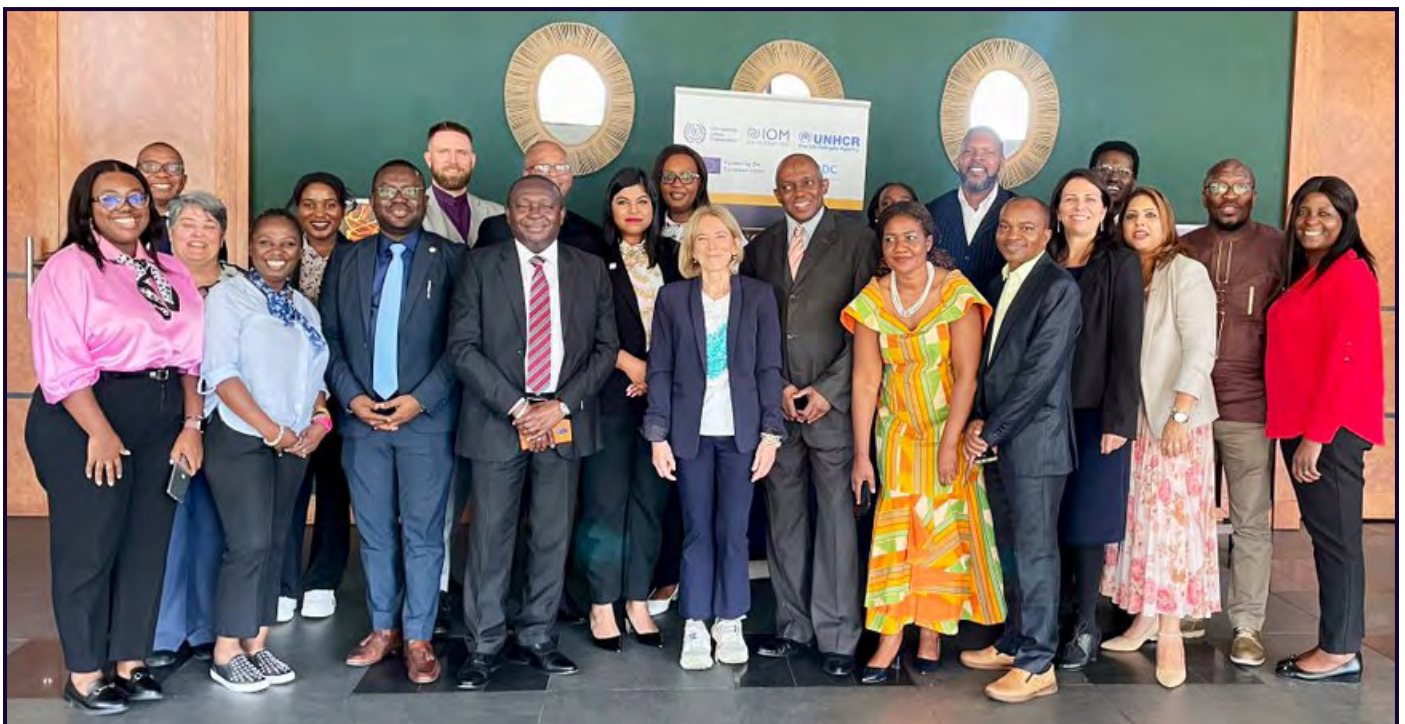
guidance on how to move forward in ensuring the mandate of the SAMM project is achieved .

In the deliberations of the PSC, achievements and progress made in delivering the objectives of the project were highlighted by several partners and implementing agencies.

“As workers, we bear witness to the work the South African Migration Management Project has advanced.”

—M. KANDUKUTU

Southern African Trade Union Coordination Council (SATUCC)



▲ Political Steering Committee Members





The European union also applauded the UN agencies together with its partner RECs for the stellar work done in 2022, emphasising the need to accelerate efforts in delivering as one to improve migration management in the region.

“Migration partnerships is an important pillar of the EU external action. The SAMM Project contributes to this objective by facilitating legal labour migration and by protecting the rights of migrant workers, refugees and victims of trafficking. As the EU, we are pleased to see it moving forward.”

—CLÉMENT BOUTILLIER,
Head of Cooperation, European Union Delegation to Botswana and SADC

Country Dialogues Update

The series of country dialogues which the project embarked on in 2021, have been used as a mechanism to engage countries, discuss ways of collaborating and implementing SAMM activities at the country level. From the start of the project to date 13 country dialogues have taken place with three remaining. In the first semester of 2023, the project convened two country dialogues, one in Tanzania and the other in Maputo.



▶▶ Delegates from Tanzania



▶▶ Delegates from Mozambique





COMESA Visit

Ahead of the 3rd Political Steering Committee, the SAMM partners paid a courtesy call to COMESA Secretariat to strengthen partnership and engagement as well as discuss progress made in implementation of the SAMM Project.



WORK AT THE RECs LEVEL

Mainstreaming of Labour Migration in the Regional Integration Agenda of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)

As COMESA moves to deepen its regional integration agenda through increased intra-COMESA trade and investment, with the support of the Southern Africa Migration Management (SAMM) Project funded by the European Union, COMESA has made strides in mainstreaming Labour Migration as a priority in its programme on Free Movement of Persons, Labour, and Services. It is expected that the mainstreaming of labour migration matters in the COMESA Regional Economic Integration Agenda shall support the implementation of the COMESA Protocol on Trade in Services with the aim of enhancing regional trade in services.

It is in this context of mainstreaming of Labour Migration in the COMESA Regional Economic

Integration Agenda that in the Month of August 2023, on a date to be officially communicated, COMESA shall hold its first joint meeting of COMESA Ministers Responsible for Immigration and Ministers of Labour. It is expected that during the forthcoming meeting, among other things, the Joint Meeting of COMESA Ministers Responsible for Immigration and Ministers of Labour shall officially launch the first phase of the COMESA Regional Migration Database and related information sharing mechanism as well as the First COMESA Report on Labour Migration Statistics. The main objective of establishing the COMESA Regional Migration Database and development of COMESA Labour Migration is to provide COMESA Member States and other stakeholders with reliable and real





time statistics that will assist them in the development of evidence-based policies and laws that will contribute to effective migration management for economic development in the COMESA Region.

As part of the development of the COMESA Regional Migration Database, COMESA with the technical and financial support of the SAMM Project through the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and Statistics

SAMM work in the IOC Region

The recognition of migrant workers' skills and/or qualifications is viewed as being a key intervention to benefit not only migrants themselves but also to enable employers to meet their skills needs. In turn, migrants returning home also have the potential to make a positive contribution through bringing back skills and acquired knowledge. Skills recognition and an improvement in the portability of skills within the SADC region are needed to ensure the integration of both local and foreign labour into labour markets. This allows for the region to access labour and skills in critical occupations and sectors, and in turn, creating opportunities for migrants creates a mechanism to contribute to the growth of the economies in the region.

The potential for the recognition of skills and qualification to improve and strengthen mobility in the SADC region has led the International Labour Organisation (ILO), together with the Southern African Migration Project (SAMM), to work with a number of IOC states in this regard. As part of this support, the ILO and SAMM commissioned Singizi Consulting Africa to conduct research and engage in various stakeholder

Sweden, continues to build capacity of statisticians in COMESA Member States in the collection, analysis, management, and dissemination of labour migration statistics. This is in addition to the direct support that the SAMM Project is providing to COMESA Member States on a wide range of technical issues in relation to effective management of labour migration and mixed migration as well to promote regular migration and address irregular migration and the vices that come with it such as Human trafficking and human smuggling.

driven processes with the aim of contributing towards strengthening national skills systems to promote the recognition of migrant workers' skills and/or qualifications.

Migrants returning home have the potential to make a positive contribution through bringing back skills and knowledge.

In recent months, the following initiatives have been implemented:

- **The drafting of an action plan for the Seychelles.** This action plan — which has been circulated amongst the social partners — outlines a number of actions to ensure migrants are able to play a role in addressing skills gaps and mismatches for the short to medium term in the local labour force. Such actions include developing and implementing a skills needs assessment/anticipation methodology in key sectors; developing an appropriate strategy for skills recognition to address





short- to medium-term skills gaps and designing and implementing apprenticeship programmes and other demand-led skills programmes to affect a skills transfer.

- **The drafting of a skills mobility framework for Mauritius.** This framework is the culmination of months of research coupled with a stakeholder engagement process involving the key stakeholders in the broader skills ecosystem in Mauritius. The framework considers existing and anticipated skills shortages across key economic sectors and proposes several interventions to mediate supply and demand. This includes interventions to build a local skills pipeline whilst continuing to recruit foreign labour where required in a manner that supports the sectors that require access to appropriate skills. The framework will feed into the current National Skills Development Strategy (NSDS 2022–2026) and will also form part of deliberations between key social partners to develop action plans to ensure implementation.

- A similar process is currently underway in the Seychelles with the aim of assisting in the implementation of their Labour Migration Policy and Action Plan. This plan seeks to strengthen the links between employment, education and training and migration policies. A desktop review and interviews amongst key social partners (including training providers) is currently underway to understand the state of the labour market. This includes developing interventions to address skills gaps – both in terms of what is being done to build local supply and to determine under what circumstances foreign labour is being recruited.

Finally, a series of toolkits are in the process of being finalized which seek to assist employers, trade unionists and practitioners employed in public (and private) employment services and other advice centres to support migrants to navigate through the recognition and verification processes for migrant skills and qualifications.

LABOUR MIGRATION WORK

Priority setting workshop on the implementation of the national migration policy in Namibia

IOM and the Government of Namibia have been collaborating on a number of initiatives, over the last few years, to maximize the potential of migration for the country's development. Within the framework of this effort, IOM and the Government of Namibia jointly organized a 2-day Priority setting workshop on the implementation plan of the national migration policy

in the current financial year (2023/2024). The workshop aimed to enhance the knowledge of key actors in migration management and identify priorities for the NMP and its implementation strategy in the next three years.

Government officials engaged on a technical exercise where they identified priorities





▲ Delegates from the IOM and the Namibian government attended the two-day workshop.

within the NMP. The need to Strengthen the migration policy, legal, and institutional frameworks through the use of the Migration Profile to support well-evidenced and data driven policies was echoed during the workshop. Furthermore, it was encouraged that there be ratification of remaining international

conventions of the ILO and UN and the effective implementation of all ratified international and regional instruments and ensure effective harmonization of national migration policy and institutional frameworks with international instruments of the ILO and UN.

Migration Statistics and the Recognition of Migrants' skills in Zimbabwe

UNECA and ILO, through the SAMM project, collaborated to hold a two-day capacity building workshop on labour migration statistics and migrant workers skills in Zimbabwe. The ECA-ILO collaboration in Zimbabwe aims to support government's efforts on to improve labour migration governance, by strengthening the capacity of Zimbabwe to collect, analyse and disseminate regionally-harmonized labour migration statistics and enhance mutual recognition of skills and qualifications of African





workers. The workshop brought together a broad range of national stakeholders in Zimbabwe, including ILO's tripartite partners, as well as migration experts from across Africa to share good practices and experiences. About 45 participants took part over the two days. Stakeholders showed interest in strengthening labour migration statistics, particularly with a focus on emigration, examining the issue of recruitment costs, and assessing impacts of migration on the labour market, in the future.



▲ Zimbabwean national stakeholders, ILO's tripartite partners, and migration experts at the workshop

ILO supports SADC Member States in the development of Labour Migration Policies

In line with the Country-level Dialogue organized by the SAMM Project in 2022 and the meetings of the Technical Working Group on Labour Migration (TWG), Botswana seeks to prepare a labour migration strategy as part of an overarching Labour Administration Policy. The envisaged Botswana National Labour Migration Strategy will provide a strategic vision on migration management for the country.

It will enable Botswana to manage migration of individuals for reasons related to employment and business, as well as to manage migration of Botswana citizens to other countries. The strategy should take the national realities into account, together with the sub-regional context, in particular the SADC commitments, as well as the broader African labour migration context.





Migration and Development Forum Kingdom of Eswatini

The Migration Development Forum sought to facilitate the identification and exchange of good practices among different government institutions and cooperation partners that would create an enabling environment towards the effective mobilization of the Emaswati Diaspora. The discussion also focused on youth engagement within the diaspora. With tech companies like Twitter and Google opening in Ghana this brings attractive job prospects for youth, including technical skills transfer from Ghanaian diaspora.



The importance of segmentation of diaspora groups was explained and those that left Ghana as economic migrants less than a generation ago versus those with ancestry ties to the country or those who had different reasons to leave Ghana. This helps to personalize the response to why these particular diaspora communities should re-engage with the country and/or return. The purpose of diaspora events is the connection to place, to people and to have fun. It was noted that there are common features between Lesotho and Eswatini: both are kingdoms with a shared common neighbour in South Africa, with a large percentage of labour migrants in South Africa. The need for schemes and incentives as part of policy development and action planning as an interplay between government and private sector interests was outlined during the forum. There is also a need to foster the entrepreneurial spirit of

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There is also a need to foster the **entrepreneurial spirit of Emaswati** in Eswatini and abroad to see the opportunity to go abroad and make money.

Emaswati in Eswatini and abroad to see the opportunity to go abroad and make money and the aspirations of Emaswati to then return to Eswatini to build a house and set a business. The panel discussion concluded by outlining the need to create a business ecosystem that involves the interplay between government, business, society, and diaspora communities.





MIXED MIGRATION WORK

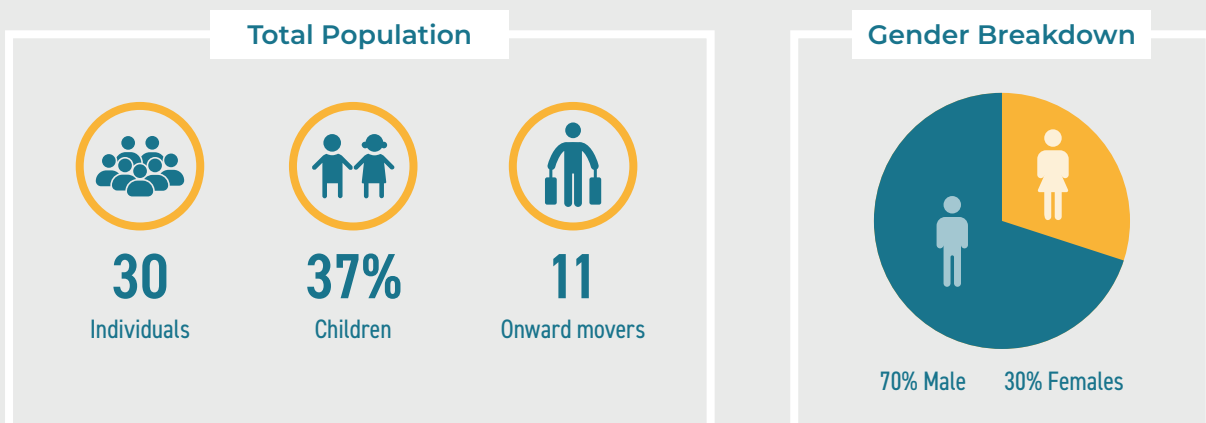
UNHCR and IOM Undertake Joint Screening and Registration on Progress in Comoros

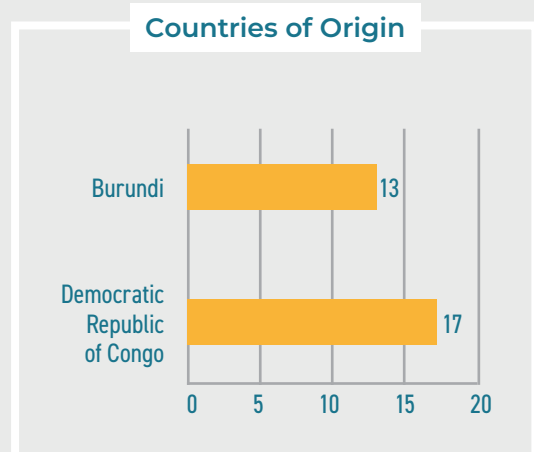
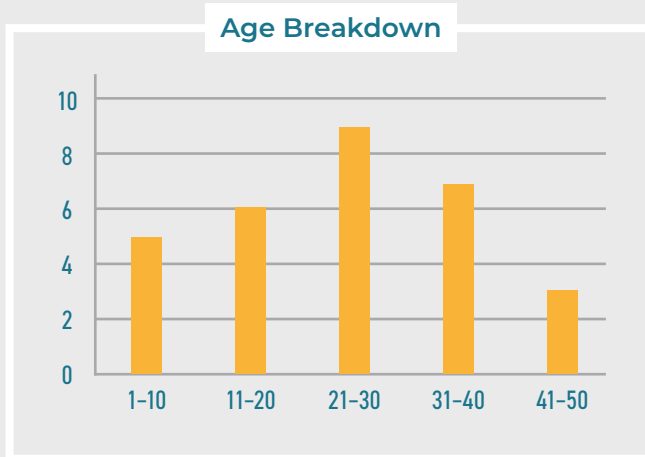
From January to February 2023, UNHCR South Africa Multi-Country Office conducted joint screening with IOM and registration on *proGres* v4 in Comoros, located in the northern Mozambican channel of the Indian Ocean, for people in need of international protection. This was after 30 migrants travelling to the island of Mayotte, which is part of France, were intercepted by the Comorian coastguard and provided shelter in the gendarmerie on Moheli Island on 8 January 2023. After a meeting between the UN Resident Coordinator Francois Batingaya and the Minister of Interior, IOM and UNHCR were finally permitted to conduct joint screening to determine if they were of concern to either IOM or UNHCR. All 30 individuals sought asylum and protection in Comoros and were registered in the UNHCR *proGres*

database utilising the Biometric Identity Management System (BIMS).

Furthermore, UNHCR engaged with the Commission Nationale des Droits de l'Homme et des Libertés (CNDHL), which is mandated to ensure that the human rights of vulnerable persons like refugees and forcibly displaced people are not violated. CNDHL also advocates with the government and parliament to ratify international instruments relating to human rights in the country. UNHCR informed the CNDHL on developments related to individuals *refouled*, the extent to which Comoros was meeting its international and domestic obligations and how joint advocacy could be undertaken to prevent breaches, improve the protection space and support the government.

DEMOGRAPHICS OF THE THIRTY ASYLUM SEEKERS IN COMOROS





Source: UNHCR SAMCO

"Reach every victim of trafficking, leave no one behind"

Johannesburg, South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, 12 APRIL 2023 – UNODC, in collaboration with the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, handed over basic food items to shelters assisting victims of trafficking in persons on 12 April 2023. The handover forms part of the support provided to shelters in Gauteng and Mpumalanga within the Southern African Migration Project (SAMM) project framework. The donated items will

benefit victims of trafficking in persons and shelter personnel.

Protection and assistance to places of shelter for victims of trafficking in persons across the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), including South Africa, remains hugely underfunded. The majority of shelters across SADC are run by Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and receive limited public funds. Within this context, in-kind and financial support channeled towards places of shelter remains vital. This support bridges the resource gap evident across places of shelter.

Speaking during the official handover ceremony, Ms. Mary Mmushi, shelter representative, said trafficking in persons victims are often forgotten and left behind in shelters with limited funding resources. "This donation will make a huge difference, and victims will not go to bed on an empty stomach".





The food items will benefit over 250 victims of trafficking in persons across shelters in Gauteng and Mpumalanga provinces. The handover of the basic food items was undertaken in line with the theme of the 2023 World Day against Trafficking in Persons campaign – “Reach every victim of trafficking, leave no one behind”.

The campaign aims to raise awareness of disturbing developments and trends in trafficking in persons identified by UNODC. It further calls on governments, law enforcement, public services, and civil society to assess and enhance their efforts to strengthen prevention, identify and support victims, and end impunity.

Capacity Development Workshop on Addressing the Protection of Vulnerable Individuals in Mixed Migration Flows

Eswatini

Across the world, dangerous trends on mixed migration are observed. These include increasingly high numbers of migrants who go missing or die along mixed migration routes, ongoing commodification of refugees and migrants, and rising violent pushbacks and expulsions at borders. Despite these challenges, refugees and migrants are continuing their journeys and often taking great risks. It is therefore essential that policymakers develop better migration

policies, based on solid evidence and analysis. With the right policy, legislation and practices in place, Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) countries can achieve fair and effective migration governance fostering a positive impact of international migration in the economic growth and development of countries of origin, transit, and destination. The workshop focused on the understanding and appreciation of the concepts of mixed





Migration flows and equipping participants with the skills for the Identification, Protection and Referral of vulnerable individual in Mixed Migration Flows.

The aim was to increase the understanding of the concept of mixed and irregular migration and acquisition of skills and knowledge to identify vulnerable individuals in mixed migration flows, including but not limited to refugees and asylum seekers, rejected asylum

seekers, victims of trafficking, presumed trafficked persons, person at risk of being trafficked, unaccompanied or separated children, stranded migrants, stateless migrants, and other vulnerable migrants, who require referral to appropriate services, in co-ordination with relevant governmental and non-governmental actors and development of a model framework to facilitate effective referrals of vulnerable migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers to other service providers for protection.

Enhancing the National Committee on Human Trafficking Secretariat

Lusaka, Zambia

LUSAKA, 19 APRIL 2023 – The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Regional Office for Southern Africa (UNODC - ROSAF), in collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security in the Republic of Zambia, enhanced the operations of the National Committee on Human Trafficking Secretariat through the generous donation of laptops and desktops under the Southern African Migration Project (SAMM) framework.

The National Committee on Human Trafficking in Zambia is a critical structure that coordinates all anti-trafficking in persons initiatives. It is a multi-stakeholder committee that includes civil society organizations and various government ministries that have a role in the national response to trafficking in persons. The official handover of the equipment was held on 7 April in Lusaka, at the Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security.





Poor coordination and lack of coordinated efforts amongst stakeholders involved in the response to trafficking in persons remains a critical gap and challenge across the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) region, including the Republic of Zambia due to staff rotation, inadequate resources, as well as lack of capacity within member states. Any efforts geared towards enhancing the operations of the National Committee on Human Trafficking will therefore make a positive difference in the response to trafficking in persons in Zambia.

Speaking during the official handover ceremony, Ms. Beatrice Mutali, United Nations Resident Coordinator in the Republic of Zambia, said the provision of working tools to

“A coordinated approach to addressing trafficking in persons remains vital if we are to arrest the scourge of human trafficking.”

—BEATRICE MUTALI

the national committee on human trafficking would enhance the operations of the office of the secretariat. “A coordinated approach to addressing trafficking in persons remains vital if we are to arrest the scourge of human trafficking.”



◀▲ Dignitaries during signing over of equipment





Capacity Building Training Workshop on Migration Data Management

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) hosted Capacity Development Workshop on migration data management from 24th April – 26th April 2023 in Seychelles. The purpose of this workshop was to contribute to enhancing the capacities of statistical and migration officials to improve migration data management systems in accordance with international and regional instruments within the broader context of the Objective 1 of the GCM and SDGs and the specific context of the Southern Africa Migration Management (SAMM) project. The EU-funded SAMM project recognizes the need to strengthen regional and national capacities for data collection, production of reliable migration statistics, and coordinated information-sharing mechanisms in order to improve the availability of and harmonization of migration data in the region.



▲ Attendees at the IOM Capacity Development Workshop on migration data management

The workshop contributed directly into the SAMM projects aim of strengthening the technical capacity of the National Statistical Officials and other relevant stakeholders. This was achieved by giving the participants the sufficient level of understanding and empowerment to begin and further capture, store

and manage harmonized cross-border data on mixed migration flows in Seychelles. As a direct consequence of the workshop the participating authorities engaged and agreed to support the development of a mechanism and standardized procedures to collect and process migration-relevant data as well as the analysis and dissemination of such data.

Enhancing the knowledge and skills of law enforcement officers on combating trafficking in persons (TIP) and smuggling of migrants (SOM)

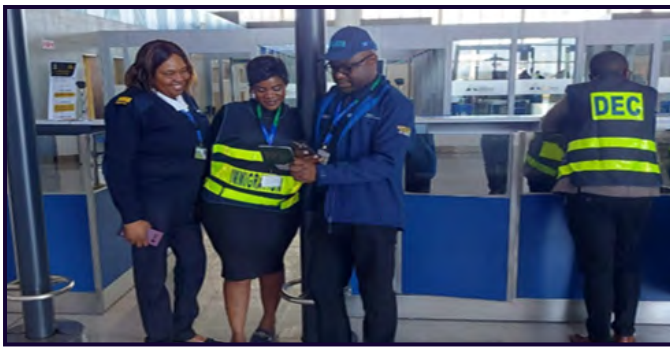
Lusaka, Zambia

LUSAKA, 17–21 APRIL 2023 – The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Regional Office for Southern Africa (UNODC ROSAF) in collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security, and the INTERPOL Regional Bureau for Southern Africa convened a training

on trafficking in persons (TIP), smuggling of migrants (SOM) and border management from 17 to 21 April 2023, in Lusaka, Zambia.

The lack of skills and capacity in the detection, identification, investigation, and referral





▲▶ Training Participants during the Practical's at the Kenneth Kaunda International Airport



of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants' cases amongst law enforcement officers, especially front-line officers, remains a significant gap in the trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants response across the Southern Africa Development Community Region and Zambia is no exception. To close this gap, UNODC ROSAF, under the Southern African Migration Management Project (SAMM) framework, enhanced the capacity of law enforcement officers to address trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants in Zambia.

The objectives of the training workshop included understanding the international and national legislative provisions on human trafficking and smuggling of migrants; identifying TIP cases; effectively distinguishing TIP and SOM cases; referring victims of trafficking to appropriate institutions for assistance; and improving border management detection and border security.

Speaking during the opening ceremony, Mr Auxensio Daka, Commissioner of Police for Administration, said the training on detecting, investigating and referral of TIP and SOM cases as well as border management skills, came at a crucial time as Zambia was experiencing an escalation in trans-national organized crime,

especially trafficking in persons along border towns. "Zambia has been seeing an alarming upsurge of undocumented immigrants entering the country illegally, mostly in transit to other countries across the region, and some of these are smuggled migrants as well as victims of trafficking in persons".

One of the key outcomes of the training workshop was a discussion and agreement on the investigation techniques required to solve a suspected trafficking in persons' case, currently under investigation by one of the law enforcement officers in attendance. Participants also took part in a practical exercise at the Kenneth Kaunda International Airport in Lusaka as part of the border management segment of the training. Twenty-five participants attended — 14 female and 11 male.

At the end of the training, participants could describe and apply the elements of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants as set out in international and domestic legal frameworks to local trafficking in persons' cases. The participants could also distinguish between trafficking in persons cases and smuggling of migrants and learned how to apply victim-centred approaches when responding to these cases.





UNHCR engages forcibly displaced persons in North-West and Free State Provinces in South Africa

In April 2023, UNHCR visited the North-West and Free State Provinces to engage with forcibly displaced persons, and communities to inform them about UNHCR services which include a toll-free helpline, local integration, voluntary repatriation, complementary pathways and repatriation as well as resettlement. UNHCR also sought to identify potential operational partners, met government departments and other stakeholders to introduce itself and explore possible cooperation.

About 250 and 240 people UNHCR serves in the North-West and Free State Provinces, respectively, mainly from DR Congo and Ghana, participated in the information-sharing exercise. Engagements with them highlighted various protection, including challenges with documentation, which negatively affect access to basic services such as education, healthcare, financial exclusion, social development and so forth were discussed. On a positive note, most forcibly displaced persons are self-sufficient. Of concern are many medical cases, especially for children living with disabilities or suffering from various ailments. UNHCR will refer documentation and legal issues to Lawyers for Human Rights; and medical cases to its social assistance partners UNICEF and the Departments of Health and Social Development among others.

UNHCR discussions with the Department of Home Affairs and South African Police Services tackled the challenges raised above, including delays in processing asylum claims, documentation for asylum-seekers and refugees, and security concerns were discussed. It was agreed that the government officials would endeavour to resolve issues within their remit as best as possible and refer others to processing claims and documentation at the national level. Furthermore, capacity development for government officials by UNHCR was mooted.



UNHCR staff in a discussion with the Vryburg community, North-West Province. © UNHCR



Department of Home Affairs and UNHCR staff at the Offices in Vryburg and Bloemfontein in North-West and Free State Provinces. © UNHCR





IOM Facilitates Discussions among the SADC Member States to Unlock the Full Potential of Diaspora Skills for Member States' Development

Windhoek, Namibia

31 MAY 2023, WINDHOEK – The International Organisation for Migration (IOM), with support from the European Union-funded project “Southern Africa Migration Management (SAMM)”, is holding a regional workshop on diaspora engagement and mapping toolkit in Windhoek, Namibia from May 30 to June 1, 2023. The workshop will enhance national technical and institutional mechanisms from the 15 SADC member States for effective diaspora engagement and mapping.

IOM’s Diaspora Mapping Toolkit offers practical guidance and tools for stakeholders involved in diaspora mapping and engagement for development. It promotes a bottom-up approach to building an effective and sustainable

system, and provides specific methodological approaches and tools for Southern Africa.

“This workshop marks another milestone in our collective efforts to enhance diaspora engagement,” said Mr Ashraf El Nour, IOM Regional Director for Southern Africa, at the opening ceremony. “By sharing best practices, experiences, and expertise, we aim to build the capacity of SADC member states to effectively harness the potential of their diaspora communities”.

Despite the progress that has been made by the SADC Member States in the diaspora engagement, some gaps still exist in mapping their diaspora, leading to limited understanding of the spread, skills and profiles of the diaspora



▲ Attendees at the Regional Workshop on Diaspora Engagement and mapping toolkit in Windhoek, Namibia





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By sharing best practices, experiences, and expertise, we aim to build the capacity of SADC member states to effectively harness the potential of their diaspora communities.

—ASHRAF EL NOUR

communities. This effort will use IOM's diaspora mapping toolkit to help build institutional and technical capacity for effective mapping. The workshop complements the recommendations of the regional diaspora and investment forum held in Mauritius in 17–19 October 2022,

Border Officials training on Refugees' Protection

UNHCR Malawi made a presentation on the legal protection of refugees at a training workshop on border security that took place in Lilongwe, in March. The workshop was aimed at strengthening the capabilities of immigration and police officers to mitigate and respond to existing and projected conflict in border areas.

Topics covered at the workshop included the Legal Framework for the Protection of Refugees, Trafficking in Persons, Smuggling of Migrants, Border Security and Management, and Human Rights, Rule of Law and the Judicial System.

The training brought together immigration

which focused on empowering the diaspora for regional development.

“Migration has been proved to be a fast path to reducing poverty not only for the diaspora but also for families left behind through remittances” said Ambassador Penda Naanda, Executive Director, Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation. “Therefore, the Governments of the SADC Member States need to facilitate the flow of remittances by reducing the cost of remitting money, he concludes”.

IOM, the United Nation Development Funds (UNDP), and the African Union Commission (AUC), have set up a diaspora framework program to use diaspora-related resources for national, regional, and continental development. Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Member States are increasingly interested in engaging with their diaspora communities to develop the region and make productive use of remittance income.



and police officers from the border districts of Karonga, Machinga, Mangochi, Phalombe, Mulanje and Mwanza.

UNODC and UNHCR are working together against the trafficking of refugees and asylum seekers. The workshop was organised by UNODC and UNDP in collaboration with the Ministry of Homeland Security.





World Refugee Day Celebrations Across Southern Africa

UNHCR’s World Refugee Day was held in Dukwi Refugee Camp, Botswana; Malindza Refugee Reception Centre, Eswatini, Antananarivo, Madagascar, Osire Refugee Settlement, Namibia and Iziko Museum, Cape Town, Pretoria in South Africa Pretoria and Johannesburg, attended by over 3,000 guests, including representatives from the government, UN agencies, diplomatic missions, academic institutions, refugee networks, the local community, and civil society organisations. With performances that included song, dance, arts, culture and martial arts, the event celebrated the talent of refugees’, asylum-seekers and hosts. Speakers emphasised the importance of social cohesion and inclusion of forcibly displaced persons in local developments.

In all these activities, speakers reiterated commitments to the continued provision of protection, resources, and other support to



▲ World Refugee Day Theme 2023

the refugees, emphasising that their rights go with their responsibilities. Refugees, in turn, highlighted their appreciation for the succour provided away from home and opportunities to rebuild their lives following their traumatic experiences.

▶ Refugee Day Celebrations in Botswana



▲ Minister of Justice Ronald Shamukuni, Government Officials, UN Resident Coordinator Choudhury and UNHCR SAMCO Deputy Representative Igor Ciobanu at the Dukwi Refugee Camp. © UNHCR





▲ Minister of Justice Ronald Shamukuni purchasing a pestle and mortar from a refugee. © UNHCR



▲ Burundian and Congolese Dancers during the World Refugee Day celebration in Botswana. © UNHCR



▲ Dukwi Refugees' Football Club and Mathangwane Giants Social Club Football Team in Botswana. © UNHCR





▶ Refugee Day Celebrations in Eswatini



▲ Minister Tsandzile Dlamini, Eswatini Government Officials and UNHCR SAMCO Representative Monique Ekoko during the World Refugee Day celebration at the Malindza Refugee Reception Centre in Eswatini. © UNHCR/Meshack Hobwane



▲ UNHCR SAMCO Representative, Monique Ekoko during World Refugee Day celebration in Eswatini. © UNHCR/Meshack Hobwane



▲▶ EU Delegation Representative Robert Adam and US Embassy Public Affairs Officer Sandoval at the World Refugee Day celebration in Eswatini. © UNHCR/Meshack Hobwane



▲▶ Performances by refugees and hosts at the World Refugee Day celebration in Eswatini. © UNHCR/Meshack Hobwane





▶ Refugee Day Celebrations in South Africa



▲ UNHCR SAMCO Representative Monique Ekoko during World Refugee Day celebration at Freedom Park, South Africa.
© UNHCR/Ropafadzo Chiradza



▲▶ Performances by a South African Cultural Group and Will School students during the World Refugee Day.
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▲▶ Department of Home Affairs, and Arts, Sports and Culture; US Embassy and UNHCR Officials.
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