



NEWSLETTER

JUNE – DECEMBER | 2023



MIGRATION MANAGEMENT
PROJECT

BENEFICIARY
STORIES

SAMM COUNTRY
LEVEL DIALOGUES

LABOUR
MIGRATION
WORK

MIXED MIGRATION
WORK





JUNE – DECEMBER 2023

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INTRODUCTION

Dear Stakeholder,

Migration management is not only crucial in solving some of the challenges we face in the world today, but migration management is also an important tool of development. The SAMM project continues to work tirelessly in ensuring that the labour and human rights of migrants, refugees and persons of concern are promoted and protected.

2023 was a pivotal year for the SAMM project, it has been a journey of many challenges but equally filled with great opportunity to change the

plight of migrants in the SADC region and 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 second semester of 2023. The UN implementing partners, ILO, IOM, UNODC and UNHCR have been collaborating with COMESA, SADC, and IOC in fast tracking the implementation of the project activities guided by the workplan.



JOINT PROJECT ACTIVITIES

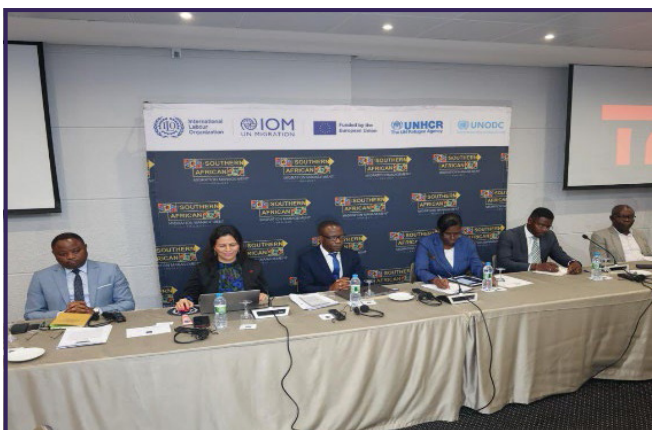
Country Dialogue update

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. In the second semester of 2023, the project wrapped up this series with the final country dialogue hosted in Angola from the 27th of November – 1st of December 2023, in Luanda.

The country dialogues have yielded great results in capacitating SADC member states with knowledge, tools and resources to enhance their efforts in improving migration management in their respective countries.



▲ ▼ Participants at the country level dialogue



▲ Official Opening Remarks – Ms. Ana Celeste the Secretary of State for the MAPTESS





WORK AT THE RECS LEVEL

Advancing Ethical Recruitment and Skills Mobility in the Indian Ocean Region

In recent years, the landscape of labour migration governance in the Indian Ocean region has witnessed a significant shift, with a growing emphasis on the role of the private sector and employers. Traditionally viewed as the exclusive responsibility of member states, the dynamics are evolving to address challenges such as persistent labour shortages, skills mismatches, and the need for effective skills transfer.

Private Sector's Call for Concrete Solutions

Employers' representatives are advocating for practical, real-time solutions to address pressing issues, ranging from labour shortages across skill levels to the mismatch in skills and the transfer of skills. They emphasize the importance of rapid identification of labour market needs through comprehensive labour migration statistics. Moreover, employers demand evidence-based, transparent, and efficient labour migration policies at the national level. This includes accelerating and simplifying work and residence permit processes and refining systems for the recognition of qualifications.

Southern Africa Migration Management Project's (SAMM) Initiatives

The SAMM project has been at the forefront of fostering dialogue and collaboration between employers and policymakers. In 2022, SAMM organized two significant workshops focusing on labour migration governance in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Indian Ocean region. These

workshops aimed to raise awareness among employers and gather their perspectives on labour migration governance.

The first workshop, held in Johannesburg in partnership with the International Organisation of Employers (IOE), addressed business perspectives on labour migration governance in Southern Africa. The second workshop, in collaboration with IOE Policy Working Group on Migration, delved into the dialogue between employers and policymakers in the Indian Ocean region, specifically involving representatives from Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, and Seychelles.

Challenges and Recommendations

During the workshops organized during the first week of October 2023, employers as well as the Government and Workers' representatives highlighted challenges related to climate change, youth unemployment, and labour shortages in key sectors like construction, tourism, agriculture, fisheries, and ICT of the Indian Ocean region. Additionally, they pointed out the difficulties in aligning education with the job market and the reluctance of the national workforce to engage in low-skilled, low-paid jobs.

The SAMM project's core initiative includes developing a Code of Conduct on the Fair and Ethical Recruitment of Migrant Workers in the Indian Ocean region and its self-assessment tool, which were endorsed by the participants. This Code, discussed during the workshops,





emphasizes transparency, accountability, and proactivity in labour migration practices.

Key Recommendations and Framework Development

The initial recommendations from the employers and Private sector include the creation of a Fair and Ethical Recruitment Code of Conduct, support for a Regional Free Movement of Persons Agreement, development of regional labour market information systems, and enhanced social dialogue involving social partners in skills recognition mechanisms. Hence, the SAMM project has been actively involved through the first and second workshops in October 2023 to presenting a Fair and Ethical Recruitment Code of Conduct as well as its Self-Assessment tool for the Indian Ocean region. Moreover, skills mobility frameworks were developed at national and regional level, emphasizing the importance of social dialogue, capacity-building, and strengthening

labour migration governance in the region. The framework also explores bilateral labour migration agreements and temporary migration programs to address immediate skills gaps and promote skills transfer. Both regional documents were endorsed at country and regional level with a few minor edits.

The evolving landscape of labour migration governance in the Indian Ocean region reflects a collaborative effort between the private sector, policymakers, and international organizations. By prioritizing ethical recruitment, skills mobility, and fostering regional cooperation, the region aims to create a fair and sustainable labour migration framework that benefits both countries of origin and destination, employers, recruiting agencies, and migrant workers alike. Through ongoing initiatives under SAMM, the Indian Ocean region is paving the way for responsible and inclusive labour migration practices.





COMESA Meeting of Ministers of Immigration and Ministers of Labour

Ministers responsible for immigration and labour matters in COMESA have renewed their countries commitment to the implementation of the regional protocols on free movement as critical step towards unlocking the benefits associated with having free movement of factors of production in the region.

In their meeting conducted on 18 August 2023, Livingstone, Zambia the ministers welcomed the revised strategy for the implementation of COMESA Protocol on the Gradual Relaxation and Eventual Elimination of Visa, and the Protocol on the Free Movement of Persons, Labour, Services, Right of Establishment and Residence.

The two protocols have been in existence for a long time but have not yet attained the required ratifications by Member States to enable full implementation. Hence the Ministers adopted

the immigration and labour experts' recommendations to have a strong component on capacity building for migration stakeholders in the implementation of the Protocols as well as the past Decisions of the COMESA Council of Ministers relating to migration.

The ministerial meeting was preceded by the joint meeting of heads of immigration and labour and the COMESA Migration Dialogue (MIDCOM) hosted jointly with the International Organization for Migration with the support of the European Union.

Addressing the ministers, COMESA Secretary General Chileshe Mpundu Kapwepwe said there cannot be meaningful integration of the region and the attainment of the aims and objectives of COMESA without the facilitation of seamless movement of goods, services and investment across the region.



▲ Delegates at the COMESA Meeting of Ministers of Immigration and Labour on 18 August 2023 in Livingstone





“Trade is on-going in goods, provision of services, investment, tangibles and intangibles. However, for the goods, services and investment to move across borders, there is need for a human interface between them to facilitate an effective delivery of those goods and services,” the Secretary General said.

Currently, intra-COMESA trade potential is valued of over US\$100 billion which could be unlocked through enhanced movement of goods and services across the region.

Making a case for enhanced cross border trade, the Regional Director of the International Organization for Migration, Mr. Ashraf el Nour called for facilitation of the safe, orderly and regular movement of small-scale cross border traders who constitute the largest segment of regional trade. Particularly, he called for ending the informality associated with cross-border trading.

“We don’t call for 100% regularisation because that may bring the risk of losing the flexibility that is needed for such trade to grow, to blossom and to expand. So, we need to strike the right balance between ending the informality and bringing some interdisciplinary support to such movement,” said Mr Nour.

The Chief Guest at the ministerial meeting Hon. Cornelius Mweetwa, Provincial Minister for Southern Province, Zambia called for more

“As we implement programmes to facilitate the movement of persons across our borders for development, **lets make sure that we also carry our people with us on board.** That is the only way we shall be able to address negative perceptions of migration.”

CORNELIUS MWEETWA

public awareness about the regional initiatives on migration including the protocols on free movement.

“As we implement programmes to facilitate the movement of persons across our borders for development, lets make sure that we also carry our people with us on board,” Hon Mweetwa said. “That is the only way we shall be able to address negative perceptions of migration.”

At the meeting the First Report on Labour Migration Statistics in the COMESA region and the COMESA Regional Migration Database were launched. The report covers data for the decade 2010 to 2019 and contains the results on both the regional (COMESA) and the national levels.





LABOUR MIGRATION WORK

SAMM Project supports the formulation of Zambia National Labour Migration Strategy

In 2023 the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of Zambia initiated the development of a National Labour Migration Strategy (NLMS), with the financial and technical support of the SAMM project (IOM and ILO), and aiming to provide specific guidance on the governance of labour migration in the country. Over the course of four consultation and four validation workshops from April to December 2023, a broad range of national stakeholders — ranging from the Cabinet Office; Ministries of Finance, Health, Commerce, Agriculture,

Mines, and Foreign Affairs; the Department of Immigration; the Commissioner for Refugees; the Zambian Statistics Agency; and the Zambian Social Partners — were brought together to draft the Strategy, which was submitted to Parliament in December and has been endorsed and published in January of 2024. The NLMS Builds on the Zambian National Migration Policy, developed by the Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security with the support of SAMM (IOM) and endorsed in June of 2022.

Capacity Development Workshop for the Migration Profile of South Africa

South Africa

A Capacity development workshop was undertaken with the Government of South Africa on Updating The Migration Profile For The Republic Of South Africa on 5–7 September 2023. The overall objective of this Capacity Development Workshop is to contribute to enhancing the capacities of officials from departments and organizations such as the department of Home Affairs, Office of the auditor general, Department of basic education, Justice and constitutional development, Social development, SAPS, Human Sciences Research Council, Passport and Immigration Office, Statistics South Africa, Ministry of Labour & Employment, Human Resource, Economic Development Board, Ministry of

Higher education, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the private sector and academia, and other relevant stakeholders in South Africa, on the key process of delivering the Migration Profile, within the broader context of the Objective 1 of the Global Compact for Migration and Targets 10.7, and 17.18 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and the specific context of the SAMM project. The SAMM project recognizes the need to strengthen national capacities toward the development of a Migration Profile. The specific objectives of the Workshop were to capacitate the officials on the process of developing a Migration Profile for South Africa, identify the thematic areas and the data that is needed for compiling the Migration Profile,









determine the gaps in migration data methodology, collection, analysis and dissemination and to understand the data and the coordination mechanism that would be needed for future Migration Profiles in South Africa to be developed.

The reporting period saw the convening of the SADC Technical Committee on Labour Migration (TCLM) meeting in Johannesburg, where the 2nd regional implementation report of the SADC Labour Migration Action Plan (2020-2025) was validated. Representatives from 14 Member States and key stakeholders (13 females and 32 males) participated in discussions that addressed several key points. Concerns were raised regarding the slow progress in ratifying the SADC Protocol on Facilitation of Movement of Persons (2005), with only seven Member States having ratified it. Similarly, while the SADC Protocol on Employment and Labour (2023) had been adopted, ratification was pending. The report highlighted variations in the development and implementation of National Labour Migration Policies, with only five countries having operational frameworks. Member States reported

OBJECTIVES OF THE CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

-  Capacitate officials on the process of developing a Migration Profile for South Africa
-  Identify thematic areas and data needed for compiling a Migration Profile for South Africa
-  Determine gaps in migration data methodology, collection, analysis and dissemination
-  Understand data and coordination mechanisms needed for development of future Migration Profiles

successes such as establishing bilateral agreements, signing MoUs, and creating resource centers. However, challenges persisted, including limited resources and budget allocations. Funding for labor migration activities often came from International Cooperating Partners. The development of other supporting



◀ Delegates at the Capacity Development Workshop





frameworks, such as National Migration Policies, was reported to be in progress.

Bilateral cooperation remained a significant aspect, with seven engagements reported in 2023. South Africa emerged as a central player with numerous MoUs covering labor migration issues, reflecting the region's high volume of labor migration. The presence or absence of operational national committees or mechanisms underscored varying levels of commitment among Member States. Efforts were ongoing to protect migrant workers' rights, with the ratification status of international labor standards related to labor migration remaining unchanged. Initiatives to promote fair and ethical recruitment practices included the development of standard operating procedures. Some Member States conducted awareness campaigns targeting labor migrants. Remittances were highlighted as a crucial source of income for all SADC Member States, but data on remittance costs was limited.

Engagement with diaspora communities varied, necessitating more comprehensive regional strategies. Policies for accessing social security benefits and the promotion of the SADC Qualifications Framework were reported to be in place. In conclusion, progress in implementing the SADC Labour Migration Action Plan was deemed slow, prompting the Technical Committee to recommend prioritized actions for Member States. These included expediting the ratification of key protocols, developing and implementing national policies, and enhancing cooperation on social security benefits and bilateral agreements. The Committee acknowledged the support of ILO and IOM while urging increased domestic funding for sustained interventions.

REPORTED SUCCESSES:

- ▶ Establishing bilateral agreements
- ▶ Creating resource centers
- ▶ Signing MoUs





SAMM Gender-Responsive Labour Migration Policies Conference

In a landmark initiative, the International Labour Organization (ILO), in collaboration with the Southern Africa Trade Union Coordination Council (SATUCC), under the banner of the SAMM Project organized a Tripartite+ Sub-Regional Conference on Gender-responsive Labour Migration Policies. This significant event brought together five SADC Countries namely, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Seychelles in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 15–17 November 2023, addressing the theme of “Empowering and protecting the rights of women and men migrant workers through policy and practice.”

The conference’s focus stemmed from the rising acknowledgment of women’s pivotal role in labour migration. In 2019, women comprised 41.5% of the 169 million international migrant workers globally, underscoring the growing importance of understanding and addressing gender-specific challenges in the realm of labor migration. Socially constructed roles, expectations, and power dynamics intersect to create unique challenges for women migrant workers who often find themselves in vulnerable situations.



Over the course of the 2.5 days, the conference provided a vital platform for inclusive social dialogue, bringing together a diverse array of experts, stakeholders, and thought leaders from the SADC region. The objectives included integrating gender equality in labour migration policy,



▲ Participants at the Gender-responsive Labour Migration Policies Conference





▲ Panel discussion at the Gender-responsive Labour Migration Policies Conference



▲ Participants at the Gender-responsive Labour Migration Policies Conference

expediting gender-responsive policy implementation, and ensuring decent work for migrant workers.

Gloria Moreno-Fontes Chammartin, Chief Technical Advisor of the SAMM Project, emphasized the need for gender-responsive labour migration policies. Such policies should address concerns like preventing skill mismatch, ensuring safe migration opportunities, avoiding social dumping, and extending social protection to all economic sectors with high concentrations of migrant workers.

An analysis of labour migration policies in Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Namibia, and Eswatini revealed varying approaches. While Eswatini’s policy was non-discriminatory and gender-empowering, Lesotho lacked specific objectives for gender issues. Namibia’s policy offered no direction on gender, and Zimbabwe advocated for equality of treatment and a rights-based approach.

Addressing the issue of xenophobia, Michael Kandukutu from SATUCC emphasized the disproportionate impact on migrant workers, women, immigrants, refugees, and religious minorities. He stressed the need for concerted

efforts to counteract xenophobic views and protect vulnerable populations. SATUCC emphasized the unique challenges faced by women migrant workers and advocated for strategies to maximize their potential and promote gender equality in skills mobility. The importance of governance structures, coordination mechanisms, and partnerships was highlighted to effectively integrate gender considerations into policies.

Michael Kandukutu from SATUCC stressed the need for concerted efforts to **counteract xenophobic views and protect vulnerable populations.**

During working group sessions, participants discussed the way forward, emphasizing the development and implementation of gender-responsive labor migration policies while localizing and harmonizing the SADC Labour Migration Action Plan.

Elisa Mosler Vida presented ongoing research findings from six countries, revealing





fragmented coordination and limited capacity for labor migration policy implementation. She highlighted the challenges stemming from inadequate resources and expertise, along with the absence of dedicated funding for National Labour Migration Policy (NLMP) implementation.

Overall, the conference recognized the vital contributions of women and men migrant workers in the SADC region. Acknowledging both challenges and opportunities,

participants committed to promoting decent work in the context of the 2030 and 2063 agendas. The diverse range of participants, including workers' organizations, government representatives, NGOs, researchers, and IOM observers, showcased the collaborative commitment to addressing the complexities of gender-responsive labor migration policies in the region. The conference concluded with the launch of the ILO/SAMM report on women migrant workers' labour market situation in the SADC region.

SAMM Labour Migration Academy

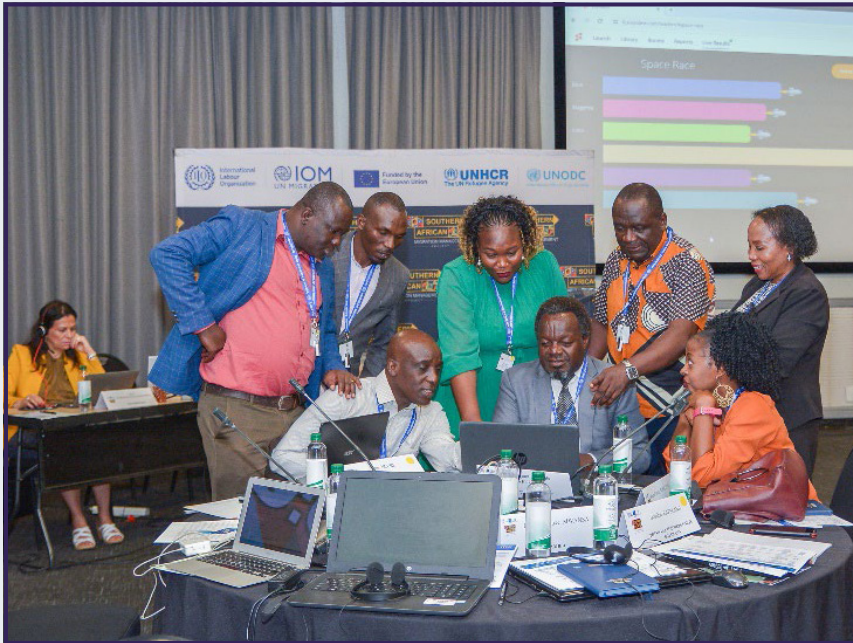
In an effort to address the complex challenges of labor migration in an ever-evolving global landscape, the SAMM-Academy on Labour Migration took place online from October 16th to November 19th, with a face-to-face component held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from November 20th to 24th, 2023.

The Labour Migration Academy (LMA) is a unique training platform for participants to explore fair and effective labor migration governance, understand the linkages between



▲ Labour Migration Academy Class of 2023





▲ Group discussions at the SAMM Labour Migration Academy

Participants left with enhanced **knowledge** and a renewed sense of **purpose** to contribute to the fair and effective governance of labor migration.

migration and sustainable development, and delve into instruments for protecting the rights of migrant workers and refugees, even in crisis situations.

Participants, eligible for the SAMM Diploma, represented a diverse array of groups, including policy makers, government officials, workers' and employers' organizations representatives, grassroots-level NGOs and civil society activists, diaspora and migrants' associations, staff from international development agencies, regional economic communities, researchers, academics, journalists, and media workers.

The Academy's curriculum drew inspiration from the ILO Agenda on Fair Migration and various key outcomes from international conferences and meetings, including the Conclusions of the International Labour Conference in 2017, the Tripartite Technical Meeting on Labour Migration in 2013, and the ILO Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration in 2006.

To earn the certificate of achievement, participants were required to complete four online elective courses, two face-to-face elective courses, and participate in four plenary sessions. The available elective courses included Crisis Migration, Migration and Sustainable Development, Protection of Migrant Workers and Their Families, and Fair and Effective Governance of Labour Migration.

In her opening address, Gloria Moreno-Fontes, Chief Technical Advisor of the International Labour Organization (ILO), underscored the LMA's significance as ILO's flagship





capacity-building activity in labor migration. Tailored to the needs of the SADC region, the LMA offers participants the opportunity to obtain the coveted Labour Migration Diploma.

Vincent Williams presented a session on formulating, adopting, and implementing fair and effective labor migration policies, focusing on the SADC Labour Migration Action Plan. His insights aimed to equip participants with practical knowledge for policy development and implementation in the regional context.

The event saw representation from 14 countries in the SADC region, reflecting a collective commitment to addressing the intricate issues surrounding labor migration. As the academy concluded, participants left not only with enhanced knowledge but also with a renewed sense of purpose to contribute to the fair and effective governance of labor migration in their respective contexts. The SAMM-Academy on Labour Migration served as a pivotal step towards bridging the gap between knowledge and action in the pursuit of a more equitable and sustainable future for migrant workers.

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▲ SAMM Labour Migration Academy





Labour market & labour migration statistics capacity building in the Union of Comoros

In December 2023, the ILO through the SAMM project, together with COMESA and Statistics Sweden, supported the strengthening of labour market and labour migration statistics in the Union of Comoros. The three agencies held a capacity development workshop on labour migration statistics for the National Statistical Office (INSEED) and other institutional producers/users of statistics in the capital, Moroni. The workshop focused on strengthening data collection, production of statistics, and regional harmonization of indicators according to international statistical

standards and best practice. The workshop was enhanced by the participation of other COMESA Member States, such as Zambia, which has been collecting labour migration data through its LFS for at least 7 years. Representatives from Comoros agreed on a road map and action plan for the development of migration statistics in Comoros, as well as committed to reviving a defunct Technical Working Group on migration, though noting that securing funding is challenging, given the rapidly changing composition of political leaders in the country.

MIXED MIGRATION WORK

Sensitisation workshop on trafficking in person hosted in Dzaleka refugee camp

Sensitisation meetings on trafficking in persons were conducted in Dzaleka refugee camp on 4th and 5th July 2023 by UNHCR in collaboration with UNODC and the Ministry of Homeland Security. The meetings targeted UNHCR partners working in the camp and the community police locally known as “Sungu Sungu”. Participants from partner agencies included Plan International (Malawi), Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS), Malawi Red Cross Society, Morovian Humanitarian



▲ A trafficking session with community police at Dzaleka Refugee Camp, Malawi.





and Development Services (MoHDevs) and the Ministry of Homeland Security (camp management).

These meetings were initiated due to many reports of trafficking activities in Dzaleka camp. Malawi, one of the countries on the southern route, is often used by smugglers and traffickers as a source, destination as well as transit point. As a result of the meetings, about 20 individuals from partner agencies and 80 members of the community police were sensitized.

Malawi is often used by smugglers and traffickers as a source, destination as well as transit point.



▲ Group picture of community police after the sensitisation meeting on trafficking.





UNODC and Botswana Police Unite to Combat Human Trafficking

In a joint initiative, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Regional Office for Southern Africa (ROSAF) partnered with the Botswana government through the Botswana Police Training College. The training, held from September 4 to September 8, 2023 in Otse, aimed to equip 436 recruits (175 females and 261 males) and 23 instructors with the knowledge and skills to combat trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants.



Key Training Areas:

- ▶ Defining trafficking in persons and distinguish it from the smuggling of migrants.
- ▶ Victim Identification Techniques
- ▶ Effective Victim Interviewing
- ▶ Art of Statement Writing
- ▶ Crime Scene Management and Evidence Collection

The intensive five-day training prepared participants to effectively address the challenges posed by human trafficking and migrant smuggling. This collaboration emphasizes a shared commitment to combat transnational crimes and safeguard vulnerable populations in the Southern African region.

Regional Forum on Migration and Maritime Security: Strengthening cooperation to address regional challenges

The Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) organised a Regional Forum on Migration and Maritime Security in the Western Indian Ocean. The forum was successfully attended by representatives of several countries, experts and key stakeholders from the region. The aim was to strengthen cooperation and harness collective intelligence to formulate solutions to the complex challenges associated with migration and maritime security, with a focus on areas such as violence at sea, human trafficking, irregular

and illegal migratory flows and other human rights violations.

A robust “migration and maritime security” mechanism plays a pivotal role in addressing critical global challenges. With increasing migration flows and maritime activities, it is crucial to establish an effective framework that ensures the safety, protection, and well-being of migrants and safeguards maritime borders. Such a mechanism fosters cooperation among nations, facilitates efficient management of





migration, prevents human trafficking and smuggling, combats transnational crime, and promotes maritime safety and security. By recognizing the significance of a solid migration and maritime security system, nations can collectively work towards creating a safer and more orderly world for both migrants and maritime stakeholders.

The regional forum was an opportunity for dialogue and the exchange of experiences on the governance of migration, as well as the promotion of a coordinated approach to effectively confront the increasing challenges in the Indian Ocean. “Our Member States have adopted the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, and have expressed their commitment to ensuring better governance of migration at all levels,” said Mr. Raj Mohabeer, Officer in Charge at the Indian Ocean Commission’s Economic, Connectivity, Maritime Security and Island Interests Department. For the record, the

United Nations estimated that more than 281 million people worldwide¹ were living outside their country of origin.

During the regional forum, participants examined the challenges linked to migration in the maritime domain, while stressing the fundamental need to ensure maritime safety in the region within the framework of the Maritime Safety Architecture of the MASE programme under the IOC. It is increasingly necessary to adopt a holistic approach, integrating the economic, social and environmental dimensions, to ensure effective and sustainable management of migration and maritime safety in the Western Indian Ocean region. As Ashraf El Nour, IOM Regional Director - South Africa, pointed out, maritime and human security are inextricably linked: « Acknowledging this nexus between migration, human mobility and sustainable development, this clearly provides a basis for effective approaches and strengthened collaboration between States





and different partners actively to contribute to good migration governance.

Several recommendations were made at the Regional Forum on Migration and Maritime Security. In particular, participants collectively called for:

- ▶ The establishment of an appropriate structure (at both regional and national levels) to develop a five-year Action Plan while considering the 7 recommendations made at the workshop in July 2022 and the proposals made at the July 2023 forum. The Action Plan will serve as a tool to mobilize resources and guide regional organizations and Member States in its implementation and control.
- ▶ Effective operationalization of the national centres and better coordination with the two regional centres (RMIFC and RCO) with the support of OIM and the IOC
- ▶ Enhance the capacities of regional and national stakeholders to address human trafficking, smuggling of migrants, irregular migration and loss of lives at sea.
- ▶ Integration of MASE Maritime security architecture into national IOM offices strategies for better coordination

Migration and maritime security in the Indian Ocean

The presentations by the experts highlighted numerous challenges linked to migration in the maritime context in our region. These challenges, such as irregular and illegal migration, human trafficking, smuggling of migrants, loss of life at sea, etc., are linked for the most part to organized transnational crimes such as illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing and trafficking of all kinds. This raises the question of the capacity and obligations of all the stakeholders involved: States, national and regional

centres, international organizations, etc.

Several specific migration issues and challenges in the maritime domain in the Western Indian Ocean were discussed at the regional forum, including irregular migration, Trafficking in persons (TIP), Smuggling of migrants (SOM) and Loss of lives at sea (LLS) while considering the existing national and regional capacities and international legal provisions and frameworks. These issues and challenges were considered in line with the 7 recommendations made at the Regional Stocktaking Workshop in July 2022 in Ebene, Mauritius.

In this context, regional cooperation plays an essential role, allowing the effective management and dissemination of information, the development of technical capacities and operational resources, and the improvement of the legal framework at national and regional level.

Towards greater coherence in the governance of migration in IOC Member States and beyond

The joint actions of the IOC and the IOM contribute to the operationalization of the maritime security architecture, thereby strengthening regional and international coordination mechanisms for safe, orderly and regular migration. The results and recommendations of this forum will serve as a solid foundation to guide future actions aimed at strengthening regional cooperation and addressing the multidimensional challenges of maritime security in the Western Indian Ocean in coordinated manner.

This collaboration of IOM and IOC is part of the Southern Africa Migration Management (SAMM) project, funded by the European Union.





UNODC Partners with Royal Eswatini Police to Train Recruits in Combatting Human Trafficking

In a strategic collaboration, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Regional Office for Southern Africa (ROSAF) joined forces with the Royal Eswatini Police to conduct comprehensive training at the Eswatini Police Academy in Matsapha. From October 9 to October 13, 2023, a total of 571 recruits (222 females and 349 males) underwent intensive training.

The training equipped the recruits with the necessary knowledge and skills. This initiative strengthens the collective effort to combat human trafficking and smuggling, emphasizing the commitment of both UNODC and the Royal Eswatini Police to safeguarding vulnerable populations in the Southern African region.

KEY TRAINING AREAS:

- ▶ Outlining the provisions of the Eswatini People Trafficking and People Smuggling (Prohibition) ACT, 2009
- ▶ Defining trafficking in persons and distinguish it from the smuggling of migrants:
 - ▶ Victim Identification Techniques
 - ▶ Effective Victim Interviewing
 - ▶ Art of Statement Writing
 - ▶ Crime Scene Management and Evidence Collection





MIDSA 2023: Promoting Regional Integration Through Safe and Orderly Migration in Southern Africa

Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa (MIDSA) Ministerial and Experts meeting took place in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) at the Hilton Hotel from 3rd to 6th October 2023. The event, hosted by the Dem. Rep. Of Congo as out-going Chair of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), focused on the theme of “Promoting Regional Integration Through Making Migration Safe, Regular, and Orderly in the Southern African Region.”

The Ministers adopted the 40 recommendations, also requesting the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), in collaboration with relevant United Nations (UN) Agencies and partners, in coordination with the SADC member states and the Secretariat, to develop a regional programme which will be initiated in Moshi, Tanzania.

“
Promoting regional integration through making migration safe, regular, and orderly in the Southern African Region.”

MIDSA has a long-standing history of achieving concrete outcomes, including progressive policies and operational recommendations towards stronger partnerships with the United Nations (UN) and Academia. Since 2010, the annual meeting has included bi-annual Ministerial meetings,





with a total of 21 conferences convened between 2000 and 2023, addressing various migration issues. All MIDSA recommendations are submitted to SADC for implementation.

The overall objective of the 2023 MIDSA technical and ministerial meeting was to contribute to “promoting regional integration through making migration safe, regular, and orderly in the Southern African Region.” Since 2018, SADC Member States have been using the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) Framework to improve regional migration management cooperation.

During the meeting, Member States discussed the challenges faced in implementing the GCM and strategies to accelerate its implementation. They also explored ways to cascade the SADC Regional Migration Policy Framework (SADC-RMPF) to accelerate the achievement of GCM objectives. The meeting aimed to consolidate a regional perspective in preparation for the second International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) in 2026.

Key recommendations arising from the discussions include:

- ▶ Streamlining reporting on the GCM and the SADC-RMPF in collaboration with the SADC Secretariat and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).
- ▶ Considering a joint SADC Member State pledge to advance GCM guiding principles, objectives, or actions.
- ▶ Submitting good practices on the implementation of the SADC-RMPF and the GCM on the Migration Network Hub.
- ▶ Building on the guidance developed by the UN Network on migration to advance the implementation of the SADC-RMPF and the GCM.

The round table discussions focused on key thematic areas, including human mobility in the context of climate change, labor migration and diaspora engagement, border management and migrant protection, and strengthening data mechanisms for evidence-based migration governance in the SADC region. Each discussion highlighted specific issues, challenges, and opportunities, resulting in key recommendations for action.



▲ Handing over of MIDSA chairing and hosting from the Government of D. R. Congo (R) to the Government of Angola (L) | Copyright IOM





The MIDSA 2023 meeting reaffirmed the commitment of SADC Member States to promote regional integration through safe, regular, and orderly migration. By addressing the challenges and sharing best practices, the meeting set the stage for enhanced cooperation and collaboration in managing migration effectively in the Southern African region.

This year's MIDSA was made possible thanks to support to IOM from the European Union (EU) through its Southern Africa Migration Management (SAMM) project; from the United States of America (USA) through its Africa Regional Migration Program (ARMP) project; and from the Kingdom of the Netherlands through its Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and HIV (SRHR-HIV) project.



View video coverage of MIDSA 2023 at the following links:

- ▶ <https://youtu.be/uGrMlcDLnis?si=x2VvbNGF0IVAKmP>
- ▶ <https://youtu.be/53C8gPHDWXA?si=L13-xHyHnu6leIvB>

Protection Working Group Contingency Planning Workshop

The South Africa Protection Working Group members met on November 16, 2023, to brainstorm on how to better prevent, mitigate and respond to incidents of violence against foreign nationals in the lead-up to the 2024 elections. UNHCR hosted the event which was attended by key Govt interlocutors (National and provincial Disaster Management, DHA, DSAC, DIRCO, SAHRC, APCOF), UN agencies (OHCHR, IOM, UNICEF) and CSOs from all over the country. The workshop examined the context and potential trigger factors in which South Africa could face potential emergency scenarios brought on by a substantial increase in anti-foreigner attacks during the 2024 election period. A joint roadmap/SOP was developed as a main outcome of the workshop to help guide agencies by province on how to respond in the event of an outbreak of violence against foreign nationals.



▲ PWG Contingency Planning Workshop held at UNHCR with participation from the South African government, UN agencies and Civil Society





International Organization for Migration (IOM) Addresses Challenges of Mixed and Irregular Migration in Southern and Western Indian Ocean Routes

Lusaka, Zambia, 23 November 2024

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) in collaboration with the Government of Zambia successfully concluded a 3-day inter-regional consultative meeting on managing mixed and irregular migration along the Southern and Western Indian Ocean routes. The meeting, held in Lusaka, brought together representatives from member states of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), key transit and origin countries in the East and Horn of Africa (EoHA), and other stakeholders.

The consultation provided a platform for in-depth discussions and reflections on the current challenges, emerging issues, and opportunities concerning mixed migration

flows towards the Southern African region. With thematic presentations and technical working sessions, the participants gained a better understanding of the dynamics of mobility along these routes and formulated actionable recommendations to strengthen programmatic and policy responses.

“It is important to endeavour to understand the dynamics of mixed and irregular migration, which are usually elusive in Southern Africa, where there has been little research on the subject, and therefore very limited data”, said Mr Dickson Matembo, Permanent Secretary of Zambia’s Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security.



▲ Attendees at the regional workshop on diaspora engagement and mapping toolkit in Windhoek, Namibia





Facilitated by the Southern Africa Migration Management (SAMM) project and the Africa Regional Migration Programme (ARMP), the consultation addressed the need for improved migration management and the protection of migrants along these routes.

During the consultation, participants recognised the complexities faced by migrants, including protection concerns, limited access to basic needs and services, discrimination, forced labor, and exploitation. The meeting focused on addressing root causes, collecting and analysing migration data, providing inclusive protection assistance, and creating a conducive policy environment. Working groups formulated key outcomes and recommendations, which were discussed and validated in plenary sessions.

“The southern migratory routes are complex and diverse, and increasingly becoming dangerous for migrants, leading to tragic incidents and exploitation of vulnerable individuals,” informed Mr Mati Hashemee, IOM Regional Director for Southern Africa. “It is estimated that close to 17,000 migrants travel along these routes annually, with the actual number being projected to be higher, thus necessitating more research”, he continued.

The Ministerial Statement on Mixed Migration in the regions was developed and adopted by senior officials and ministers from participating member states. This statement outlines concrete actions and commitments by Member States and development partners to ensure a dignified, orderly, and safe migration landscape in the concerned regions. Strengthening cross-border cooperation and collaboration among regional bodies, such as the African Union Commission (AUC), SADC, Indian Ocean Commission (IOC),

“The southern migratory routes are complex and diverse, and increasingly becoming dangerous for migrants, leading to tragic incidents and exploitation of vulnerable individuals.”

MATI HASHEMEE

Inter-governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), was emphasised as crucial for achieving these goals.

SAMM, a project funded by the European Union (EU), aims to enhance migration management in Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean region through collaboration between UN agencies, including IOM, the International Labor Organization (ILO), the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). ARMP, funded by the United States’ Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM), focuses on strengthening the capacity of governments to manage migration in a sustainable and humane manner across the African continent.

The successful conclusion of this inter-regional consultation demonstrates the commitment of member states and stakeholders towards addressing the challenges of mixed and irregular migration. IOM remains dedicated to supporting Member States in their efforts to improve migration governance and protect the rights and well-being of migrants along these routes.





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