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NEWSLETTER

June - December 2021



- COUNTRY LEVEL DIALOGUES
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Introduction

Dear Stakeholder,

As we come to the end of the year, the reality of the COVID-19 virus in the Southern Africa region remains very present. Pressing and multidimensional challenges that arose since the outbreak of the pandemic in the first quarter of 2020 continue to be felt by all groups of the population including migrants. During this period, we have seen how complex migration is and the need to accelerate our efforts of improving migration management in the Southern Africa -IOC region.



Refugees and members of the host community demonstrate their artistic abilities in Maratane refugee camp during WRD

The real question is not how to stop migration, but how to make it part of the national and continental economic and social African development strategy. This entails ensuring that labour migration policies are closely coordinated with employment policies and that labour migration policies take into consideration labour market needs. It also involves strengthening labour market institutions to better govern intra-regional labour mobility, promoting fair recruitment processes, extending social protection to migrant workers and their families, addressing root causes of migration in selected migration prone areas affected by climate change, developing social dialogue and cooperation on the governance of labour migration, and improving skills recognition and portability and strengthening skills development for low or unskilled migrants. This also brings about the need to align these initiatives with support to transition to formality, and more specifically to assist migrants, along with national workers, in increasing their opportunities to engage in the formal economy.

In the context of mixed flows, human rights violations and lack of protection are a stark reality in the Southern African-IOC region. Within the framework of SADC's Regional Policy Framework on the Management of Refugees and Asylum-Seekers, and SADC's Regional Strategy to combat Illegal Migration, Smuggling of Migrants and Trafficking in Persons (2016-2020) and its 10 Year Strategic Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children (2009-2022), the SAMM project is contributing to improve mixed migration governance.

This second edition of the SAMM newsletter highlights the work done by the Implementing partners, in addressing some the issues mentioned above. The newsletter will also be presenting more detailed information on work at the Regional Economic Communities' level, as well as a recap of SAMM activities carried out during the year.

The Southern Africa Migration Management (SAMM) project is a model of a ONE-UN approach and collaborative effort between 4 UN development and humanitarian agencies: the ILO, the IOM, UNODC and UNHCR. The (SAMM) project forms part of the European Union Regional Indicative Programme (11thEDF RIP) for Eastern Africa, Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean (2014–2020) which focuses on South- South migration flows, identifying positive spill-over effects of international migration on regional integration and regional economic development.

Country Level Dialogues

The SAMM Project has been conducting a series of country level dialogues. The primary objective of the country-level dialogues is to explain the SAMM Project activities and identify Member States' priorities that are demand-driven and achievable, given the capacity of each country's human and financial resources.

Country-level dialogues, which are tripartite in nature, provide the opportunity to identify the focal points for the thematic areas of the Project to support the implementation of the activities underlying both components: Labour Migration (LM) and Mixed Migration (MM). Outcomes of country-level dialogues are expected to result in a roadmap on the support the SAMM Project will concretely provide to the country within an agreed timeframe, including the modalities and approaches for the implementation of the relevant activities.

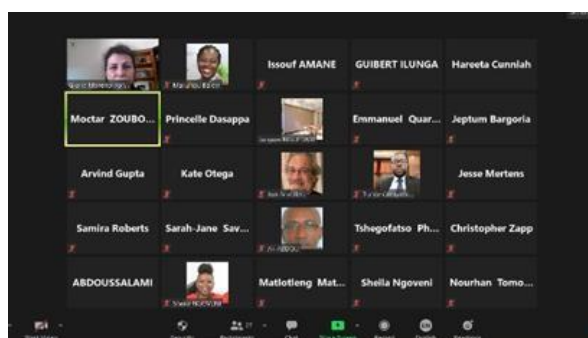
Further to the SAMM Inception workshop held at the beginning of the year, whereby country priorities were identified in several thematic areas, a few country-level dialogues managed to take place, notably in the IOC region with the Seychelles (LM), Comoros and Mauritius (MM).

The approach of each of the country dialogues held so far was different and adapted to the needs of the member state. Although the COVID.19 pandemic constraints, Seychelles tripartite constituents met virtually in the "Tripartite+ Consultation to identify Priority Actions for the Implementation of Seychelles Labour Migration Action Plan". The aim of the one-day discussions was to elaborate further on the priority areas as defined in the LM Action Plan and to identify the relevant needs of the country requiring the interventions of the SAMM Project. For Comoros, a two-day country-level dialogue took place where our experts made a brief presentation as per their expertise in the thematic areas underlying both components of Migration, which then led to contributions from the participants, who were all gathered in a Conference room. A proposed roadmap was put forward with a view to elaborate a Migration policy for the country with the assistance of SAMM. The approach adopted in Mauritius varied from the others, as discussions were held at the level of an interministerial committee dealing with mixed migration issues only. A few demand-driven projects were proposed and agreed upon for the intervention of SAMM in the country.

Tripartite country level dialogues will now take place in the coming weeks in Mauritius (LM), Madagascar, Lesotho and Botswana.



Participants attending the Dialogue. In person participants.



Participants attending the Dialogue. Virtual participants.

IOM facilitates 6th Ministerial Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa, with EU support



Ministers, partners, donors at the 6th Ministerial MIDSA Meeting in Maputo Mozambique

Maputo, **28 October 2021** – With the support from the European Union (EU), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Regional Office for Southern Africa, the Secretariat for the Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa (MIDSA), facilitated the sixth Ministerial meeting of the Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa (MIDSA), in Maputo, Mozambique, from 25 to 28 October 2021.

The four day meeting convened Migration Experts and Senior Officials of SADC Member States from ministries with migration related functions and responsibilities notably; Home Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Labour, Health, , Human rights, Social Welfare/ Development, Youth and Gender and relevant partners including technical experts from UN sister Agencies such as; ILO UNHCR, UNODC among others, under the theme “Reviewing Approaches to Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration in the Context of COVID-19 in the Southern Region”.

The impact of COVID-19 pandemic and the related preventive measures such as, border closures, lockdowns, suspension of international flights etc, heavily affected migrants in countries of origin, transit and destination. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the unique challenges faced by governments and communities in managing public health threats along the migration continuum and the interlinkages between public health and managing safe migration, including at borders, especially at Points of Entry (PoEs) on an unprecedented scale.

The COVID-19 pandemic's overall impact on human mobility globally cannot be understated - limiting all but the essential movement of persons and creating a triumvirate of crises – health, protection and protracted socioeconomic impacts. Between March 21 and December 29, 2020, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Regional Office for Southern Africa recorded a total of 166,872 migrant returnees from countries within and outside the Southern Africa Region.

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Migration has always been with us, but with the impact of COVID-19 pandemic, we felt the need to deliberate with all the relevant ministries of the SADC Member States with mandates on migration, as well as with partners, including the Regional Economic Communities (RECs); to reflect on how we can collectively work on harmonized approaches to ensure safe, orderly, and regular migration, in the Southern African region, in accordance with the Global Compact of Migration (GMC)



*Charles Allan Kwenin,
IOM Regional Director for
Southern Africa*

The discussions formulated recommendations on issues around human mobility, borders and managing public health threats in the region, protection needs of migrants, strengthening the approaches for the collection and use of migration data in Southern African region, and unpacking the Integrative and Mobility Agenda for Socio-Economic Recovery (Skills Mobility & Diaspora Engagement).

The Ministers adopted the key recommendations of the MIDSA as well as the Maputo Diaspora Declaration, thus requesting IOM in collaboration with relevant United Nations (UN) Agencies and partners, in coordination with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) member states and the Secretariat, to develop a regional programme and a regional diaspora policy to facilitate the engagement of the Diaspora and transnational communities as agents of development among SADC member states.

In its capacity as the current Chair of SADC, the Government of Malawi will host the next MIDSA meeting in 2022, at experts and senior officials level

World Refugee Day Commemorations

To mark World Refugee Day (WRD) on 20 June 2021, UNHCR country operations and the Regional Bureau for Southern Africa hosted several awareness raising activities, promoting the inclusion of refugees in national health care systems, education and sports. In South Africa, an online art competition encouraged budding artists, dancers, musicians and designers to express their interpretation of the theme, 'Stronger Together'. UNHCR SAMCO's partner the Adonis Musati Project, posted short videos and images by young refugees, asylum-seekers and South Africans on social media: <https://statics.teams.cdn.office.net/ever-green-assets/safelinks/1/atp-safelinks.html>



Judokas at JFPs Dojo for Hope in Alexandra township in Johannesburg take time out from their judo tournament to learn about refugee issues during the commemoration of WRD. UNHCR/ Tshegofatso Phage

In South Africa, Judo for Peace - a Swiss-based international judo federation operating in Johannesburg and in Durban - held judo tournaments with children from refugee and local communities, in partnership with UNHCR. The activities contributed to the promotion of social cohesion.

In Mozambique, WRD was commemorated through a press conference with national & international media, who were briefed on UNHCR and the Government's role relating to

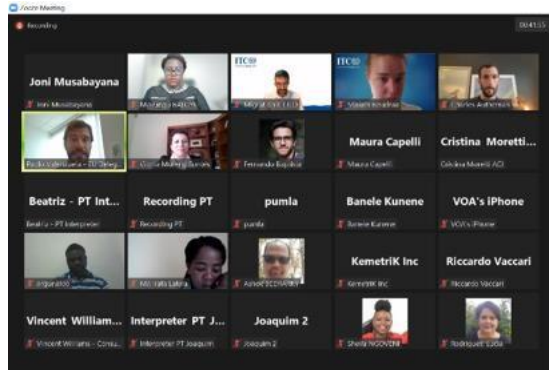
refugees in Nampula and Maputo as well as internally displaced persons in Cabo Delgado. The press conference was hosted by the UNHCR Representative, the Mozambican Refugee Commissioner and a refugee businesswoman who gave testimony to the support she has received in order to become a self-reliant and productive member of society.

Mozambique also hosted a cultural festival in Nampula's Maratane refugee camp. Refugee women showcased innovative designs using *capulana*, the local fabric, in a fashion show. The event also included poetry and artwork produced by children from the camp and neighbouring community as part of the activities to highlight and promote inclusion.



Refugees and members of the host community demonstrate their artistic abilities in Maratane refugee camp during WRD

Southern African Migration Management Project hosts Media Training for the SADC and IOC Region.



Participants at the virtual Media Training



Participants share their perceptions on the common narrative around migrants

October 29

The SAMM project hosted a media training course “Promoting a positive image of migrants and recognizing their contribution to development in the SADC region from the 20th to 29th October 2021. The main objective of this course was to improve the capacity of media professionals on reporting fairly and effectively on the key migration thematic areas covered by the SAMM project. Through this course, the SAMM project raised the media awareness concerning the promotion of a positive image of migrants, asylum seekers, refugees, stateless persons, and IDPs and the identification of their contribution to development in the SADC region. A well-informed media can positively influence policymaking to improve the situation of mixed movement population and their families, as well as reap the benefits of migration, asylum seekers and refugees for the countries at large. The e-learning course “Promoting a positive image of migrants and recognizing their contribution to development in the SADC region was a collaborative initiative of the ILO and its Southern Africa Migration Management (SAMM) partners (the International Organization for Migration, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)

Worldwide, migrants are still too often victims of racist, discriminatory and xenophobic attacks. The media often promotes a toxic public narrative on migration, and reinforces stigmatisation through the inclusion of xenophobic and discriminatory messages. Indeed, the press often portrays migrants as criminals, illegals and as “stealing jobs from national workers”. Furthermore, migrants are frequently scapegoats during economic recessions. It is essential to change negative perceptions and attitudes through evidence or fact-based journalism and broadcasting that contribute to eliminate public misconceptions. Indeed, a fair and balanced reportage that recognizes migrants’ contribution to the economic growth and development of countries of origin, transit and destination is urgently needed. 35 Journalists, editors, communication officers and media practitioners from different media houses and agencies across the SADC region, attended the training. Robust discussions were held on issues of migration in the region and how to report on the complexities of this topic.

COVID 19 RESPONSES BY IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

IOM, supported by the EU, donates medical items to support the Department of Immigration and Citizenship's COVID-19 response



Deputy Ambassador of the European Union to Botswana and SADC, Representative of the Botswana Government and IOM Regional Director for Southern Africa. Mr. Charles Kwenin Handing over PPE

Gaborone, Botswana **12 November 2021** — Since the first confirmed case of the COVID-19 pandemic in Botswana on 30 March 2020, the Government of Botswana has implemented targeted responses to curtail the spread of the virus and minimize the socio-economic effects of the pandemic.

As a way of complementing the ongoing efforts of the government, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), with funding from the European Union, is enhancing capacity through the provision of medical supplies containing personal protective equipment (PPE) to the Department of Immigration and Citizenship in support of Botswana's national response to COVID-19, particularly at borders. The handover of these essential supplies will take place in Gaborone in the presence of government officials and partners.

The protective equipment includes 85,000 surgical masks, 650 face shields, 40,000 latex hand gloves, and 375 liters of hand sanitizer. The donation is part of IOM's response and support within the framework of the Southern Africa Migration Management (SAMM) project in Botswana. It aims at strengthening the operational capacity of immigration officials at border crossing points to facilitate safe migration in the face of the pandemic.

"IOM expresses its delight to the Government of Botswana for the proactive action taken to break the chain of transmission of COVID-19 in the country. It is extremely grateful to the immigration officials and health professionals who have ensured that the country's borders remain safe amidst the pandemic. We are proud to complement the Government of Botswana's efforts and to support the Department of Immigration and Citizenship in their operational response. The donation of PPEs will help keep immigration officials safe while they perform their duties of ensuring safe and orderly migration at the borders", said Mr. Charles Kwenin, IOM Regional Director for Southern Africa.

"The European Union is a staunch supporter of multilateralism and a loyal partner to the United Nations, so I am particularly pleased that we were able to join hands today with the IOM, to support the Ministry's border operations by providing PPEs. We have trust in multilateral action, and I know this approach has support also from the Government of Botswana", said Silvia Bopp-Hamrouni, Deputy Ambassador of the European Union to Botswana and SADC.

The COVID-19 pandemic has undeniably affected many people's livelihood worldwide, leading to an increasing number of persons opting to migrate in search of better opportunities, and Botswana is no exception. Therefore, IOM is scaling up its interventions in Botswana with the Department of Immigration and Citizenship, the Department of Health, and other stakeholders. The aim is to strengthen Health, Border and Mobility Management¹ approaches including assistance to vulnerable and stranded migrants in the mixed migration flows² to prevent disease outbreaks. IOM remains committed to helping the Government of Botswana address the operational needs of the immigration officials in the country.

The provision of the PPE supplies to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic is generously supported by the European Union within the framework of the SAMM project aimed at strengthening the management of migration in the Southern Africa region.

Protecting victims of Trafficking in Persons in South Africa "Victims' Voices Lead the Way - Covid 19 Response

Pretoria, South Africa – 10 September 2021 – UNODC, under the framework of the Southern Africa Migration Management (SAMM) Project, and in collaboration with the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, belatedly marked the 2021 World Day against Trafficking in Persons (TIP) on the 10 September 2021, by donating Personal Protective Equipment to various shelters for Victims of Trafficking in Persons and Gender-Based Violence in South Africa, in order to ensure that Victims of Trafficking in Persons and staff in the respective shelters are protected from the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2021 World Day Against TIP, Global theme "Victims' Voices, Lead the Way" puts victims of human trafficking at the Centre of the campaign and highlights the importance of listening to and learning from survivors of human trafficking.



Deputy Minister of Justice Hon. John Jeffery and a lead prosecutor on TIP from the National Prosecuting Agency, representative of six shelters and representative of the European Union delegation in South Africa led by the Head of Development Cooperation, Mr. Bernard Rey.

A majority of shelters for victims of trafficking in persons in South Africa and across the Southern African Development Community (SADC) are not sufficiently equipped to adequately provide protection and support to both victims of trafficking in persons and gender-based violence victims, due to lack of infrastructure and scarcity of resources. This challenge has been compounded by the the COVID-19. However, civil society organizations have continued to play a key role in ensuring that the shelters remain operational, and their doors stay open.

The handover ceremony was attended by Government representatives led by the Deputy Minister of Justice Hon. John Jeffery and a lead prosecutor on TIP from the National Prosecuting Agency, representatives of six shelters^[i] and representative of the European Union delegation in South Africa led by the Head of Development Cooperation, Mr. Bernard Rey.

Mr. Bernard Rey lauded the work that civil society organizations are undertaking in caring of persons who have been through traumatic experiences. He noted that it was important that the victims of these heinous crimes of Trafficking in Persons do not lose their voices and thanked the organizations for assisting the victims regain their voices.

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Many practitioners argue we should move away from highlight that these people are not passive and disempowered but are strong and empowered. In the same vein, I want to end by adapting the theme of this year's World Day Against Human Trafficking and say “Survivors Voices lead the way”



*Mr. Bernard Rey
Head of Development Cooperation
EU Delegation to South Africa.*

The Honorable Deputy Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Hon. John Jeffery noted the gravity of Trafficking in persons but also highlighted the work that the Government of South African is undertaking, to curb the crime and specifically, under his docket. Hon.Jaffery's observed that from the data received and further evidenced from victims rescued, females are most likely to be trafficked. Females contribute to 90% and above of suspected and confirmed victims. He spoke of also compounded challenges, where ` In many sex trafficking cases, the victims have substance abuse disorders, very often as a result of the actions of the trafficker, and thanked civil society for playing a key role in protecting vicitms in South Africa.

Ms. Zhuldyz Akisheva, UNODC Regional Representative, reaffirmed UNODCs support and commitment to working with both government and civil society in addressing Trafficking in Persons and in protecting victims.



RESEARCH AND DATA

Labour Market Observatory

The SAMM project is supporting SADC to implement a Labour Market Observatory, a regional Labour Market Information System (LMIS) which collects and makes available indicators on decent work, skills needs, and labour migration, for SADC Member States as well as the region as a whole, to support labour market policies and regional integration initiatives.

A Labour Market Information System (LMIS) is a fundamental instrument for designing and evaluating public policies, providing strategic information to agents to reduce incomplete information and guiding decision making through the systematization and dissemination of key labour market indicators and timely information on labour market dynamics.

SADC has an important function in terms of coordinating the analysis of labour markets, skills, and labour migration governance regionally, both to generate and process information on the labour market, and to produce analysis and research that is an input for decision making and the elaboration of public policies and regional integration initiatives. One of SADC's aspirations has long been to harmonize labour market regulatory regimes across Member States and to ensure a progressive improvement of labour standards. For progress in these areas to be realized, a functional LMIS is a pre-requisite. To date, however, the region has not had the capacity to produce integrated, timely and reliable labour market information for policymaking, and for tracking labour market, skills, and labour migration trends.

SADC has, in consultation with its Member States and the ILO, identified an opportunity to develop a Labour Market Observatory (LMO), a regional LMIS, to integrate critical information on labour markets, including statistical and non-statistical information. The LMO will be a mechanism for the collection, consolidation, storage and management of regional labour market, skills, and labour migration information from Member States through a centralized repository and interactive web portal. To this end, the LMO will be built around .Stat, one of the most advanced statistical information system platforms currently used in the official statistics community which aims to be the cutting edge in international best practices in dissemination.

HELP Page for refugees and asylum seekers in South Africa is now Live!

On 6th September 2021, the SAMCO launched a self-help page through the existing Global UNHCR website for refugees and asylum seekers in South Africa with helpful information and instruction on key issues relating to accessing documentation, social assistance and assistance with Covid 19. The platform <https://help.unhcr.org/southafrica/news/> is to enable persons of concern to better exercise their rights and obligations. Since its launch, over 9,000 page views have been documented with an almost equal distribution between male and female

CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVES UNDER THE SAMM PROJECT

ILO Hosts Capacity Building on Piloting of the SADC Guidelines on Portability of Social Security Benefits”

16 July 2021

In **March 2020**, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Ministers of Employment and Labour and Social Partners adopted the Guidelines on Portability of Social Security Benefits and urged Member States to consider them in multilateral and bilateral cooperation.

At the same time, five Member States (Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, South Africa and Zimbabwe) volunteered to pilot implementation of the Guidelines. The Guidelines are an integral part of the SADC Labour Migration Action Plan (LMAP) (2020-2025), also adopted by Member States in March 2020

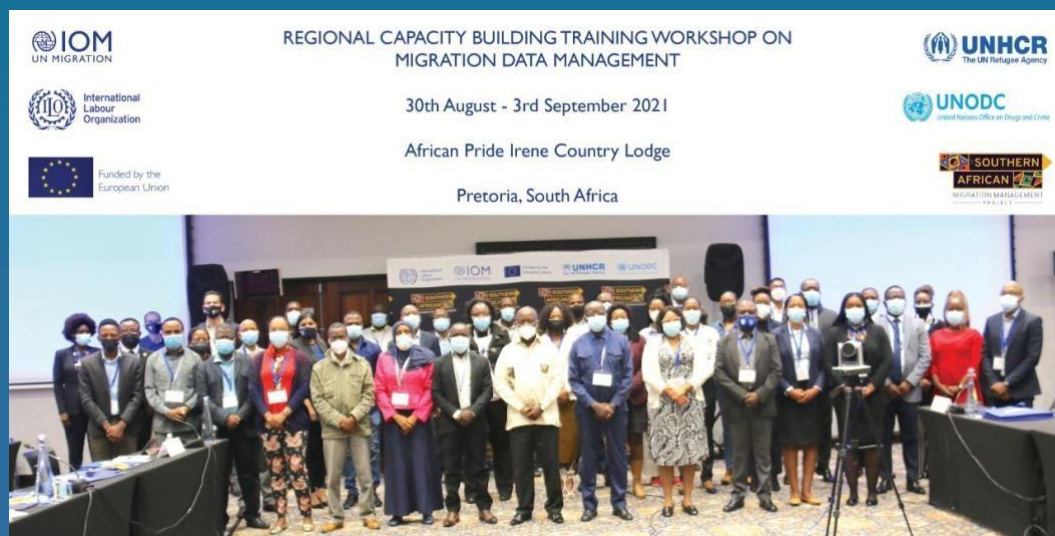
As part of the Southern Africa Migration Management project, an E-learning-Course on “Piloting of the SADC Guidelines on Portability of Social Security Benefits” took place between 21 June to 16 July 2021 in collaboration with the International Training Centre of the ILO (ITC/ILO). The course was attended by 36 participants from Botswana, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Seychelles, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe. The course aimed at providing core knowledge on social security benefits’ portability for migrant workers and enhancing the capacity of Social Security Institutions and key actors to better understand the challenges and opportunities related to the implementation of the SADC Guidelines on Portability of Social Security Benefits in a changing political, economic and social context

Following the E-learning-Course on “Piloting of the SADC Guidelines on Portability of Social Security Benefits”, the Southern Africa Migration Management project has been supporting all participating countries in the development of Action Plans for the implementation of the Guidelines. The Action Plans will guide the implementation of the SADC Guidelines in each of the participating countries, in particular in the 5 countries, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, South Africa and Zimbabwe (see map below), who volunteered to pilot the implementation of the Guidelines. SAMM supports all country delegations through technical reviews of their draft Action Plans.



A regional workshop on migration data management was held in Pretoria, South Africa from 30 August – 3 September 2021

- IOM organized a regional workshop on migration data management in Pretoria. The objective of the workshop was to contribute to enhancing the capacities of statistical officials and relevant stakeholders with migration-related functions and responsibilities to improve migration data management systems. The workshop was attended by 61 officials (45 and 16 participants attended in-person and virtually respectively) from the national statistics offices and Department of Home Affairs as well as the representatives from the SADC Statistics unit. The workshop led to the adoption of six key recommendations to strengthen migration data management in the region including leveraging the postponed 2020 round of censuses to ensure access to timely and up-to-date migration data.



National consultation on migration data took place on 15 – 18 November 2021 in Port Louis, Mauritius

- IOM in close coordination with the Mauritius Prime Minister Office (PMO) held a 4 – day national consultation meeting and workshop on migration data in Mauritius. The consultations were held with the various ministries and departments of government from the Statistics Mauritius, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Labour, Passport and Immigration Unit, Bank of Mauritius, Department of Civic Registration. The consultations and the workshop led to the endorsement of key recommendations to strengthen migration data management in the country.



Workshop on Immigration and Border Management and Cross-border forums between Namibia and Zambia held from 22 – 26 November 2021.

- IOM in collaboration with the governments of Namibia and Zambia facilitated a 5 – day Cross Border Forum (CBF) between Namibia and Zambia. The objective of the workshop was to bring together migration management and border authorities from Katima Mulilo and Sesheke to discuss issues of mutual interest to improve the bilateral cooperation between the respective countries on migration management. The CBF led to the development and endorsement of Terms of Reference (TORs) and joint Action Plan within the border areas when dealing with categories of vulnerable migrants including (Victims of trafficking (VOTs, migrants with health needs, asylum seekers, refugees Unaccompanied and Separated Children).



UNODC Trains members of the Anti-Trafficking Inter-Ministerial Committee (ATIMC) of Zimbabwe on Combating Trafficking in Persons

Mutare, 8-11 November 2021 – UNODC, under the framework of the Southern Africa Migration Management (SAMM) project and in collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage facilitated a four-day training workshop from the 8 – 11 November 2021 on combating Trafficking in Persons (TIP) for members of the Anti-Trafficking Inter-Ministerial Committee (ATIMC) of Zimbabwe. The training workshop was convened in line with the priorities of the joint UNODC-SADC Regional Programme (2013 -2023) and also in line with UNODC Strategic Vision for Africa 2030, which aims to provide innovative ways to support Member States and stakeholders over the next 10 years to strengthen prevention, enhance the effectiveness of criminal justice systems, counter organized



Members of the Anti-Trafficking Inter-ministerial Committee of Zimbabwe

crime and corruption, promote balanced drug control and improve the rule of law. Furthermore, UNODC is committed to gender mainstreaming and exercises a proactive gender perspective in the process of assessing the implications of any planned action for both women and men, hence, the workshop was designed in line with UNODC Gender Strategy.

The main objectives of the workshop were to build capacity of members of the Anti-Trafficking Inter-Ministerial Committee (ATIMC) on the identification and investigations of TIP cases; to build the capacity of members of the ATIMC on TIP victim interview techniques; to build the capacity of members of the ATIMC on the international legal framework of TIP (including distinguishing TIP and the smuggling of migrants and to strengthen the coordination

mechanisms of the ATIMC in the response to Trafficking in Persons (TIP). Human traffickers exploit domestic and foreign victims in Zimbabwe, and traffickers exploit victims from Zimbabwe abroad. Internal trafficking is prevalent and underreported. Traffickers exploit Zimbabwean adults and children in sex trafficking and forced labour, including in cattle herding, domestic service, and mining (gold and diamonds). More than 71 percent of child labour occurs in the agriculture (tobacco, sugarcane, and cotton), forestry, and fishing sectors, where children weed, spray, harvest, and pack goods. Zimbabwe is a transit country for Somalis, Ethiopians, Malawians, and Zambians en route to trafficking in South Africa. Zimbabwe is a destination for forced labour and sex trafficking. Traffickers' subject Mozambican children to forced labour in street vending, including in Mbare.

Mozambican children who work on relatives' farms in Zimbabwe are often undocumented and cannot enroll in school, which increases their vulnerability to traffickers (JTIP, 2021).

During the official opening of the workshop, the Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage, Mr A.D.T. Nhepera said that "considering the dynamic nature of human trafficking and the technical expertise required to ensure that our strategies remain relevant, it is necessary to keep updating our knowledge

and skills through such training workshops to allow us to execute our duties as expected”. He went on to say that “this training workshop is in line with the National Plan of Action which requires us to engage in capacity building through training workshops to equip all resource persons with the relevant knowledge and skills to fight human trafficking”.

Furthermore after the 4-day training workshop, the participants were able to describe indicators of human trafficking; distinguish human trafficking from smuggling of migrants; apply the correct techniques for interview victims of trafficking in persons and understand their roles and responsibilities in combating trafficking in persons in Zimbabwe. The training workshop was attended by Police officers, Immigration officials, Social workers, Prosecutors and labour inspectors who are all members of the Anti-Trafficking Inter-Ministerial Committee (ATIMC).

The Southern Africa Migration Management (SAMM) Project, funded by the European Commission, is a four-year project to improve migration management in the Southern Africa and Indian Ocean region. The SAMM Project is implemented by the ILO in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The overall objective of this programme is to improve migration **management in the Southern Africa and Indian Ocean region.**



Group discussion: Human Trafficking case analyses

UNODC JUDICIAL TRAINING OF TRAINERS ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Kasane, **11-13 October 2021** – UNODC in collaboration with the Department of Defence, Justice and Security convened a Judicial Training of Trainers Against Trafficking in Persons (TiP) in Kasane, Botswana from the 11 to 13 July, which is part of UNODC priorities in the SADC Region in enhancing the capacity of criminal justice practitioners in the response to human trafficking using human and victim centred approaches under the joint UNODC-SADC Regional Programme (2013-2023). The Regional Programme aims to support the SADC countries to respond to the evolving threats and challenges related to crime, drugs and terrorism in all its manifestations.



Participants at the Judicial training on Human Trafficking

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; build the capacity of judicial officers on Sentencing principles on anti-trafficking in persons and lastly to build judicial officers capacity on adult learning principles for effective judicial reasoning.

The training workshop was in line with UNODC Strategic Vision for Africa 2030, which aims to provide innovative ways to support Member States and stakeholders over the next 10 years to strengthen crime prevention, enhance the effectiveness of criminal justice systems, counter organized crime and corruption, promote balanced drug control and improve the rule of law. Furthermore, UNODC is committed to gender mainstreaming and exercises a proactive gender perspective in the process of assessing the implications of any planned action for both women and men, hence, the workshop was designed in line with UNODC Gender Strategy.

In the Southern African Development Community (SADC), one unique trend that stands out in the region is that convictions on human trafficking remain low. UNODC has over the years convened Regional Judicial Trainings on Combating Trafficking in Persons for Judges and Magistrates in order to strengthen the adjudication of trafficking in persons cases. The convening of training of trainers for criminal justice practitioners on anti-trafficking in persons remains a key intervention in the response to human trafficking in the region. Hence, such trainings enhance the institutionalization and sustainability of anti-trafficking in persons interventions in the region.

During the official opening of the workshop, Hon. Thomas Mmusi, Minister of Defence, Justice and Security said that “judicial education on emerging crimes like human trafficking is extremely important. Complex legislation which we continue to draft, and other legal issues in today's world require continual education and training. In addition, increasing media scrutiny also require that our judicial decisions are appropriate, fair and palatable to the general public to whom we account. This Training of Trainers workshop on Combating Trafficking in Persons, is therefore, indicative of

Botswana's efforts to ensure that we have an accountable, highly educated, resourceful and competent judiciary".

UNODC has over the years provided technical support to the Republic of Botswana on the domestication of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol. This support has involved the strengthening the collection and analysis of human trafficking data, supporting the harmonization and operationalization of the Trafficking in Persons Act, building the capacity of criminal justice practitioners on combating trafficking in persons and supporting awareness raising initiatives on combating trafficking in persons.



Group discussion: Human Trafficking case analyses

The outcomes of the workshop include the following: the trained judicial officers will convene workshops whether formal or informal with their colleagues within the next three months; more training on Psycho-social issues related to TIP on the handling of Children and Witnesses will be convened for judicial officers in Botswana as that was identified as a gap during the training; the Ministry of Defence, Justice and Security will collaborate with UNODC to develop human trafficking sentencing guidelines.

Furthermore, after the 3-day training of trainers, the participants were able to describe indicators of human trafficking; critical role of Judicial Officers in Human Trafficking cases and understanding the vulnerabilities including victims and witnesses; distinguish human trafficking from smuggling of migrants; discuss current global debates on the element of exploitation and the issue of consent; describe and apply key sentencing considerations and describe and apply key principles relating to non-criminalization of trafficked persons. The training workshop was attended by Judges and Magistrates from across all Botswana's districts; officials from the Ministry of Defence, Justice and Security, officials from, the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ-Botswana Chapter) and UNODC officials.

This Training of Trainers was held under the Southern Africa Migration Management (SAMM) Project which is a model of ONE-UN approach collaborative effort between 4 UN development and humanitarian agencies: the ILO, the IOM, UNODC and UNHCR. The overall objective of this programme is to improve migration management in the Southern Africa and Indian Ocean region.

Namibia Trafficking in Persons Action Plan – stakeholder engagement



Participants engaging during the stakeholder meeting

3- 4 November, Windhoek, Namibia

UNODC, under the Southern Africa Migration Management (SAMB) Project supported the validation of the Government of Namibia Trafficking in Persons National Action Plan (2022-2026). The Action Plan development was spearheaded by the Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare. It is however developed and implemented by a multisectoral team represented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Social Services, Prosecutors, Namibia Police (NAMPOL), Civil Society led by the Salvation Army.

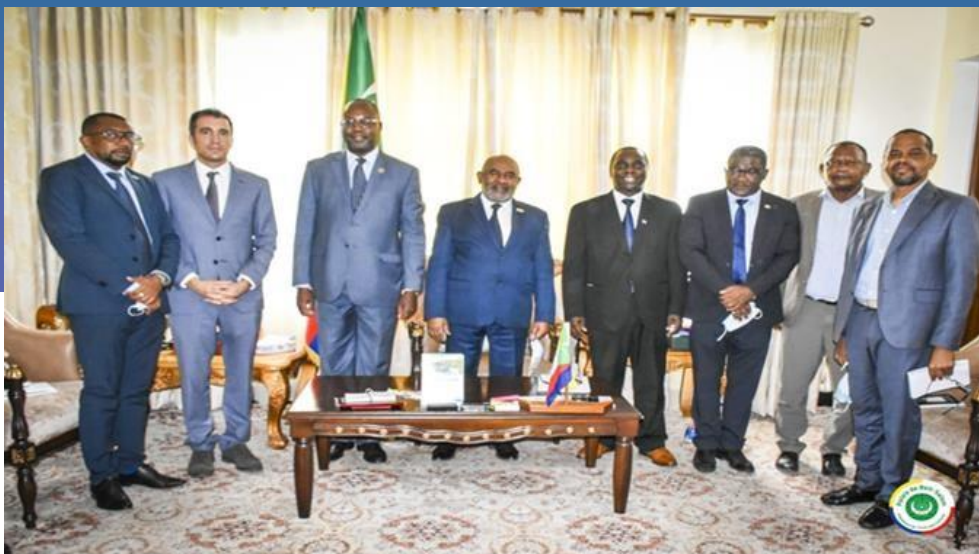
The consultative and validation meeting was a 2 day event, on 3 and 4 November in Windhoek, Namibia and it brought together 30 key players from the above institutions as well as from the United Nation Agencies (IOM) and Development Community (US Embassy). This high turnout and very active engagement demonstrated the importance the Government accords issues of Trafficking in Persons. The National Action Plan is a four year plan that is aimed at sustaining the government efforts implemented in the just concluded first NAP. It now moves from creation of laws to establishment of systems and operationalization of the various aspects in TIP including victim protection.

The first day was spent going through the document, chapter by chapter with the participants providing significant input. At the end of the day, the Implementation Matrix was overhauled and a new one proposed for development, that was more focused and concise. The UNODC team worked on this in the evening/night and presented a new draft to a smaller committee that met on Wednesday 3 November 2021, which was approved with minimal comments. The Ministry of Gender and UNODC will now work towards finalizing the document, and digital commentary, before a final document is presented to the Minister, late December 2021.

Namibia is rated as a tier 1 country in terms of addressing and combating TIP, which is a laudable achievement and it is hoped that this National Action Plan will significantly contribute to sustaining this momentum and good achievements over the years.

UNHCR's discussions of possible accession on the 1951 Refugee Convention

UNHCR- SAMCO Representative, Mr Leonard Zulu, was on mission to the Comoros between 18 – 22 October 2021, to find durable solutions to the plight of 56 asylum-seekers. The asylum seekers are from the DRC, Rwanda, and Burundi. Refugee Statute Determination (RSD) has been conducted for 42 individuals. One person is being processed to be resettled to Malawi. Two other individuals will be reunited with their family in Mayotte. The rest of the asylum seekers are being processed to proceed to Lesotho. The meeting also discussed the possible accession of Comoros to the 1951 Refugee Convention and to set up an asylum system. UNHCR, UNDOC, IOM and ILO took part in various consultations on this emerging mixed migration flashpoint.



SAMCO Representative Mr Leonard Zulu and his delegation meet with His Excellency, Mr. Azali Assoumani, President of the Comoro

UNHCR Bilateral preparatory meetings leading to EXCOM: UNHCR SAMCO held a series of bilateral preparatory meetings with country operations in Southern Africa to ensure their active participation at the 72nd Session of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme (EXCOM) that took place in Geneva, Switzerland, from 4 - 8 October 2021. During EXCOM itself several high-level bilateral meetings were held between UNHCR Senior Executive team and government representatives. The following are some general points and recommendations that apply in Southern Africa:

- ✓ The disconnect between foreign and domestic policies and perspectives, and how these impact refugee operations were emphasised,
- ✓ Low recognition rate of refugee status of asylum seekers is a problem in some countries,
- ✓ The externalization of refugees pushes the responsibility to other countries and leaving persons of concern with nowhere to go,
- ✓ Greater awareness is needed on the internal conditions of detention centres and refugees at immigration centres, and
- ✓ many countries in the Global South feel that policies are an imposition from the Global North.

In addition, the UNHCR Regional Bureau for Southern Africa hosted a side event on "The role of the judiciary in strengthening asylum and nationality systems." <https://www.unhcr.org/615724a84>



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