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NEWSLETTER

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MIGRATION MANAGEMENT PROJECT

SAMM INCEPTION
WORKSHOP

TECHNICAL SUPPORT
TO ALL 16 SADC
MEMBER STATES AND
REGIONAL ECONOMIC
COMMUNITIES

COVID-19
RESPONSE BY
IMPLEMENTING
PARTNERS

RECAP OF 2020
ACTIVITIES UNDER
THE SAMM PROJECT

Introduction

Dear Stakeholder,

With the right policy, legislation and practices in place, Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) countries can achieve fair and effective labour and mixed migration governance fostering a positive impact of international migration in the economic growth and development of countries of origin, transit and destination.



We are thrilled to be presenting the first Southern Africa Migration Management (SAMM) project newsletter to you. The implementation of the project started in January 2020 with the preparation of Labour Migration and Mixed Migration stocktaking exercises including main available information in the 16 SADC countries covered by the project. The SAMM project also repurposed some of its activities to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on migrant workers, refugees, asylum seekers, statelessness persons, trafficking victims, and smuggled migrants in and from the SADC region.

This issue will also be presenting more detailed information on work at the Regional Economic Communities' level, as well as a recap of main 2020 activities and of main SAMM activities carried out during the 1st semester of 2021.

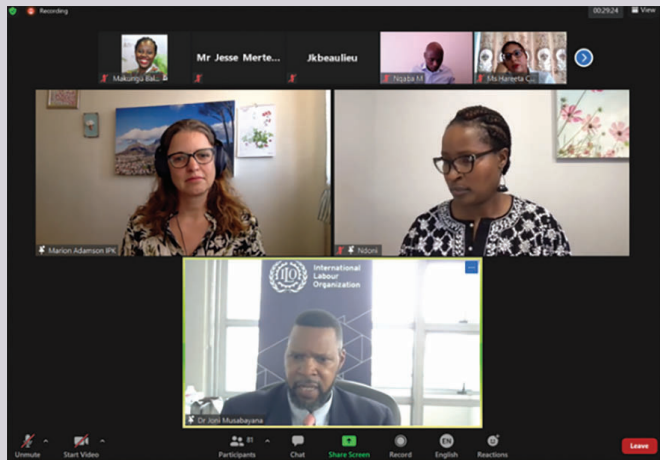
The Southern Africa Migration Management (SAMM) project is a model of a ONE-UN approach and collaborative effort between 4 UN development and humanitarian agencies: the ILO, the IOM, UNODC and UNHCR. The (SAMM) project forms part of the European Union Regional Indicative Programme (11th EDF RIP) for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

Its overall objective is to improve migration management in the Southern Africa and Indian Ocean region guided by, and contributing to, the realisation of the 2030 Development Agenda (goals 8 and 10).

It is comprised of two main project components: 1. Labour Migration; and 2. Mixed Migration. The first component supports the implementation of the UN Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the second one the application of the UN Global Compact on Refugees.

Regional Economic Communities (RECs) are key stakeholders in SAMM's implementation. One of SAMM's key project priorities is to support the formulation and realisation of international Labour Migration and Mixed Migration Frameworks of: i) the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), ii) the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and; iii) the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC).

SAMM Inception Workshop

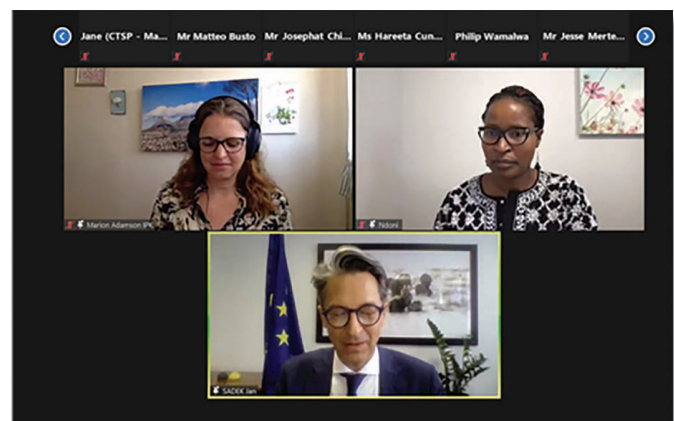


In the context of the initiation of the SAMM project, a workshop for SADC countries and the RECs was organized to launch the project, create awareness and identify priorities. The workshop was held on the 18 – 22 January with simultaneous interpretation into English, French and Portuguese.

Participants included government representatives from the Ministries of Labour, Home Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Social Development, Justice and Constitutional Development, National Statistical Offices, and representatives from Police (Organized Crime Units). Other stakeholders invited included representatives of the EU, COMESA, IOC, SADC, two representatives of the social partners from each country (workers' and employers' organizations), and one of the Joint Labour Migration Programme (JLMP). NGOs working in migration were also invited as observers.

The four objectives of the launching event and inception workshop were to:

- ▶ Present the SAMM project, announce its official launching and establish its Steering Committee.
- ▶ Identify Project priorities for RECs (SADC, COMESA and IOC) for implementation and/or elaboration /completion of existing a) labour migration frameworks; and, b) mixed migration frameworks.
- ▶ Identify SAMM country-level priority activities on labour migration and mixed migration strategies and/or policies, regulatory frameworks and implementation plans.
- ▶ Present the stocktaking exercises highlighting labour and mixed migration in SADC Member States.



Technical Support to all 16 SADC Member States and Regional Economic Communities (RECs)

Not only will the SAMM project carry out significant work in all 16 SADC countries, but under the labour migration component and in conjunction with all SADC Member States the SAMM Project is, and will be, cooperating with the SADC Secretariat in the implementation of the SADC Labour Migration Policy Framework and its 2021-2025 Action Plan. At the same time, it will be contributing to the ratification and implementation of the following:

- ▶ SADC Protocol on Labour and Employment;
- ▶ SADC Protocol on Facilitation of Movement of Persons;
- ▶ SADC Code of Social Security (2016);
- ▶ SADC Guidelines on Portability of Social Security Benefits (2019); and the,
- ▶ SADC Regional Qualifications Framework.

It will also be providing technical support in the ratification and implementation of the COMESA Protocol on Free Movement of Persons, Labour, Services, the Right of Establishment and Residence. More specifically:

- ▶ An assessment of COMESA protocols on Visa and free movement: Challenges and Opportunities
- ▶ Development of a regional action plan on the ratification process of COMESA's visa and movement protocols
- ▶ Regional Capacity Building activities for COMESA Secretariat and COMESA member state's focal points on the COMESA Free Movement agenda

At the same time, under the mixed migration component, the SAMM project is, and will be, collaborating with the SADC Secretariat and all SADC Member States to implement joint MoUs and Action Plans as follows:

- ▶ SADC Regional Policy Framework on the Management of Asylum Seekers and Refugees and its Action Plan;
- ▶ SADC Regional Strategic Plan on Combating Illegal Migration, Smuggling of Migrants and Trafficking in Persons (2015);
- ▶ International Framework for Action to Implement the Trafficking in Persons Protocol; and,
- ▶ Southern Africa Strategic Plan of Action to Address Mixed and Irregular Migration (draft) for 2015 – 2018.

In addition, the SAMM project will be providing technical support in the ratification and implementation of the COMESA Protocol on the Gradual Relaxation and Eventual Elimination of Visa Requirements.

Specific support will be provided in the following areas:

- ▶ Support the organization of MIDCOM and other thematic meetings of COMESA on migration management.

- ▶ Support COMESA in the implementation of intra and inter-REC consultations on mixed migration and cross-border trade/movement
- ▶ Support the harmonization process of migration data and development of cross-border data collection through Flow Monitoring activities

COVID-19 Response by SAMM Implementing Partners

Protection and Assistance to stranded and vulnerable migrants including AVR

IOM in collaboration with national authorities, diplomatic communities in the SADC Member States and UN partners supported 694 (Male 280, Female 414) stranded and vulnerable migrants in the region impacted by COVID-19 with return assistance to their countries of origin. The migrants assisted were from Eswatini (6), Kuwait (177), Lebanon (53), Namibia (8), Mozambique (52), South Africa (213), Zambia (66) and Zimbabwe (119). 52 stranded Malagasy migrant workers in Lebanon arriving at Ivato International Airport, Antananarivo on 15 September 2020.



52 stranded Malagasy migrant workers in Lebanon arriving at Ivato International Airport, Antananarivo on 15 September 2020.

IOM facilitated training for 28 government officials from the seven government ministries and agencies including airport authorities for the Union of Comoros. The aim of the training was to strengthen their operational capacity for the control and management of international borders in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Cash transfer to migrant domestic workers: ILO Covid-19 response, compensating for income loss in Southern Africa

The outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in Botswana, Lesotho and South Africa in 2020 resulted in the state of emergency being declared and lockdown restrictions imposed nationally. The livelihoods of many households were severely affected and migrant domestic workers were among those hit hardest. This was aggravated by the lack of a social safety net to provide unemployment benefits and the exclusion of migrant workers from national and/or local solidarity programmes.

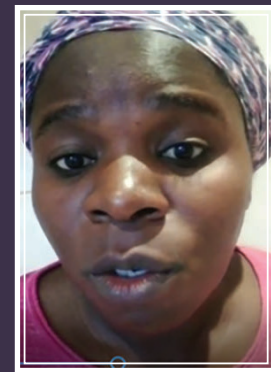
The ILO responded to a request from migrant domestic workers' unions and civil society associations for support to fill the gap created by the loss of livelihoods during the pandemic. Pilot cash transfer activities under the Southern Africa Migration Management (SAMM Project) were launched/ introduced. The Botswana Domestic and Allied Workers Union, Dahlak Exchange, a South Africa based NGO, the Disabled Migrants Networking Rights Organization (from) and the Lesotho Trade Union Congress were identified as the organizations that would implement the pilot cash transfers and related activities. A total of 1,200 migrant domestic workers were assisted through the pilot cash transfer initiative.



Kopangang Domestic Workers Association of Lesotho providing Masks and sanitizers to migrant domestic workers.

Love Kawula, a 44 year-old Malawian single mother working as a domestic worker for the past twenty years said that the corona virus pandemic has left a huge financial stress in households headed by migrant domestic workers, particularly those headed by females.

“ I just want to thank the International Labour Organization, the money that I received came in handy at the time of need”



Assistance to Refugees and Asylum seekers, UNHCR’s response during the COVID 19 pandemic

During the COVID 19 pandemic many refugees who were self-reliant lost their livelihoods. Hundreds of vulnerable asylum seekers and refugees were identified through criteria agreed with UNHCR and its implementing partners. Within the scope of the limited resources available, vulnerable populations living in camps and in urban areas received assistance.

In South Africa, UNHCR and its partners provided social assistance to about 100 persons throughout the year 2020. In Lesotho, 100 vulnerable refugee and members of host communities were supported with non-food items and cash assistance. The Mohalalitoe Refugee Reception Centre was renovated and livelihood opportunities in agriculture, furniture making, sewing and welding were made available to asylum seekers and refugees. Similar initiatives were undertaken in Botswana, Comoros, Eswatini, Madagascar, Mauritius and Namibia.

UNODC provides Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to victims of Trafficking and Smuggling.

UNODC provided support to victims of TIP and SOM in shelters in South Africa and in Malawi. This was in the form of personal protective equipment (PPE) to essential services, such as Shelters who were sustaining services to victims in shelters who were affected by gender based violence and included victims of trafficking and smuggling. This support was done in April 2020, at a period when Member States in the region were having a challenge in accessing PPE. In South Africa, the National Shelter Movement and the Ministry of Gender were the conduit agency to distribute to wider partners.

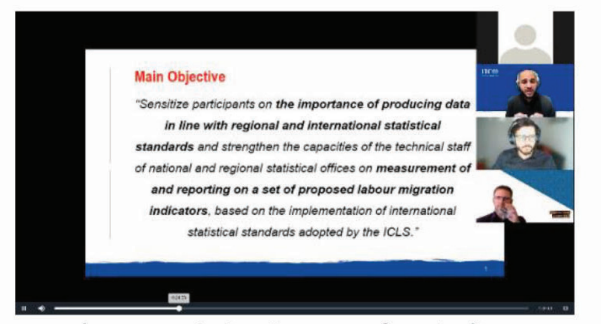
The closing of borders in the SADC region due to the COVID pandemic, saw an increased challenge in protection of victims of trafficking in persons and smuggled migrants. As a result, UNODC continued to support member states in enhancing capacity of law enforcement officers in Malawi and Zambia. UNODC also provided PPE to shelters in South Africa. The technical support provided towards the two actions, was part of the co-contribution from UNODC personnel to the SAMM Project.

Recap of main 2020 and 1st semester 2021 activities

Labour Migration

As part of the SAMM project, two E-learning Courses, on Labour Migration Governance in the SADC region and Strengthening Labour Migration Statistics in the SA-IO region, respectively, were held on 22 to 26 March and 17 May to 4 June 2021, in order to build capacity of ILO SADC tripartite constituents, civil society, and the three regional organizations (COMESA, IOC, SADC) and National Statistical Offices. The Labour Migration Governance course focused on the seven key ILO thematic areas of labour migration¹, while the Strengthening Labour Migration Statistics course focused on international standards and promoting harmonization of statistics within the region. Both courses were collaborative initiatives of the ILO and its International Training Centre (ITC/ILO) and cumulatively served 168 participants from the 16 SADC Member States.

Participants to the Labour Migration Governance course included government representatives



from the Ministries of Labour, and representatives of the social partners (workers' and employers' organizations). Other stakeholders invited included representatives of COMESA, IOC, SADC, relevant civil society organizations working on labour migration, and

¹ Labour Migration thematic areas covered:

1. Gender-sensitive policies and/or strategies regulating labour migration at national and/or regional level
2. International labour standards on the protection of migrant workers;
3. Bilateral labour migration/ circular migration agreements across the region and with third countries;
4. Fair recruitment and decent employment for migrant workers including regulatory legislation on private employment agencies, aligned to international standards;

5. Social protection for migrant workers;

6. Regional Qualifications Frameworks at REC's level and migrant workers' recognition of qualifications at national and bilateral level;
7. Labour migration statistics.



EC representatives. The course aimed at providing core knowledge on labour migration governance and enhancing the capacity of key migration actors to better understand labour migration challenges and opportunities in a changing political, economic and social context.

Participants of the Strengthening Labour Migration Statistics course included representatives from National Statistical Offices and data officers from relevant line ministries. Other invited stakeholders included representatives of COMESA, IOC, SADC, and EC representatives. The course aimed at providing technical knowledge on the relevance of labour migration statistics and enhancing capacity of key stakeholders to strengthen regional harmonization of such statistics on the basis of international and regional standards, guidance, and practical tools. Opportunities for SAMM to support further harmonization efforts at national levels were solicited through the course as well. Both courses consisted of several online modules offered through the ITC's e-Campus online platform which was completed over a

period of three weeks, for an estimated 25 learning hours.

SADC's Ministerial Meeting approved the last week of April 2021 the implementation of the 2021-2025 SADC Labour Migration Action Plan and the establishment of the Labour Market Observatory (including labour migration data). The ILO and the IOM are providing technical support to South Africa, Eswatini, Botswana and Malawi in the formulation of Labour Migration Policies.

IOM and ILO in collaboration with the SADC Secretariat also carried out a scoping exercise of labour migration policies in the SADC Member States to identify gaps in the implementation of labour migration policies and strengthen their responses in policy implementation through support to the development of costed workplans in line with the SADC Labour Migration Action Plan (LMAP 2020 -2025). The scoping exercise offers recommendations and strategic responses to drive the implementation of labour migration policies at the national level.





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Mixed Migration

UNHCR Southern Africa Multi-Country Office (SAMCO) In line with the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), in 2020, SAMCO participated in various meetings leading to the formation of the South Africa-based Southern African Legal Advocacy on Asylum & Migration (SALAAM) network in 2020. The following pledges made by South African legal advocates/civil society emanated from this engagement: (i) “to strengthen refugee legal protection by enhancing coordination amongst legal partners/actors and develop a network of legal practitioners to exchange knowledge and share good practices in the field of refugee law.”

UNHCR negotiated with the Zimbabwe government to enhance registration of asylum seekers, refugees, and statelessness persons with UNHCR’s Identity Management Registration System utilising the PRIMES database for UNHCR’s Population of Concern Registration points to be established at various border entry points before asylum seekers can be admitted to the refugee camp. Interoperability and transfer of database with the government was considered.

UNHCR collaborated with major academic institutions such as the Law School at the University of Zimbabwe, and civic society organisations including Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights to promote refugee protection and mixed migration flows.

IOM organized a pilot Participatory Mapping Exercise (PME) workshop on 23 October 2020 in Chimoio, the capital of Manica Province in Mozambique in line with the COVID-19 protocols. This activity is part of the Population Mobility Mapping (PMM) exercise; the overall objective of national participatory mapping is to rapidly collect information through group discussions on human mobility profiles and patterns within a country, in order to inform effective, more targeted resource allocation at a time of public health crisis. The workshop was facilitated by IOM Health and DTM teams, and attended by 38 stakeholders, (28 males and 10 females) including representatives from the provincial-level Immigration department, Transport and Communications, Red Cross, National Transport Union, Police department, Border Police, and Head of relevant points of entry.

On the 2nd of November 2020, UNODC facilitated a workshop to support Mozambique with the domestication of the Protocol Against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea, and Air. The objective of the meeting was to draft a road map for the development of the SoM Legislation in Mozambique and also to facilitate learning from global best practice for Mozambique officials on Smuggling of Migrants legislation and policy development. It is expected that UNODC will continue to partner with the Government of Mozambique to develop the SoM legislation.





Henriques Manual presenting to members of the Mozambique National Reference Group on Combating TIP & SoM



Group photo: Members of Mozambique National Reference Group & other stakeholders

UNODC launched a Generic Trafficking in Persons Manual for Criminal Justice Practitioners in South Africa. On the 11 December 2020, UNODC supported the Republic of South Africa to develop a Generic Trafficking in Persons Manual for Criminal Justice Practitioners, in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Development.



Alem Brook Makonnen, IOM; Ms. Zhuldyz Akisheva, UNODC Regional Representative; Deputy Minister of Justice and Constitutional



Ms. Zhuldyz Akisheva, UNODC Regional Representative; Deputy Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development John Jeffery, EU Delegation Head of Cooperation, Mr. Bernard Rey during the launch of the TIP Manuals

Under the SAMM Project framework, in December 2020, UNODC in collaboration with the Democratic Republic of Congo Agency for the Prevention and Fight Against Trafficking in Persons (APLTP) convened a data assessment workshop. The workshop provided an opportunity for UNODC to conduct a rapid assessment of data collection tools in DRC based on consultations with relevant stakeholders present in the meeting, notably Police, Immigration, Prosecution, Judiciary, Ministry of Interior and Social Welfare.



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Research and Migration Data

A SADC Labour Migration Stocktaking Report was produced to audit the current state of regional labour migration and policy development relevant to the management of migration in the region. The report, coordinated by the ILO, provides baseline information and an overview of current labour migration patterns from existing data sources and research, and it compiled an inventory of the types, methods, quality and gaps in research and administrative data on labour migration to each country. As well, the report assessed the status of ratification of international standards relevant for the management of labour migration, summarized work on social security benefits for labour migrants and identified work on qualification frameworks benefitting or potentially benefitting labour migrants.

The ILO and the IOM are providing support to the SADC Secretariat in the establishment and operationalisation of a Labour Market Observatory. The Observatory is designed as a mechanism for the collection, consolidation, storage, analysis and management of labour market information, including labour migration and skills, from Member States through an online regional repository. In April 2021 the SADC Ministerial Meeting approved the creation of the Observatory, and expects it to be fully developed and operational within 24 months. The ILO and the IOM will be providing the necessary follow-up to this activity as well as supporting implementation of labour market information systems in selected member states.

IOM undertook a stocktaking of mixed migration data and policy development in the Southern Africa region. The objective of the stocktaking was to produce an overview of completed and on-going work on mixed migration that is of direct relevance to the implementation of the SAMM project. The final version of the report was presented at the inception workshop and launch of the SAMM project on 19 January 2021. The stocktaking report identified the dynamics of cross-border mobility in the region, gaps and challenges in the collection of mixed flows.

ILO has produced draft labour migration indicators. The guidelines clarify definitions and concepts covered by the generic term International labour migration, as well as integrate the concepts of labour market attachment and country of measurement in the analytical framework. The Guidelines are accompanied by a flexible set of labour migration questions produced by the ILO, which can be easily appended to existing censuses or household surveys, in particular to Labour Force Surveys. The aim of these questions is to identify migrants, and in ideal cases, migration flows. The Guidelines are also in line with guidance produced by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations (UN-DESA) on improving statistics on international migration.

Under the SAMM project, UNODC undertook a research study on trafficking in persons in South Africa entitled Exploitation for Forced Labour of Victims of Trafficking in Persons in South Africa's Agriculture and Mining sectors. The study methodology involved a desk review of relevant reports from international organizations (IOs) and non-government organizations (NGOs), books, academic research, statistical reports, news articles,





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and project and programme evaluations. It also consulted UNODC issue papers on legal concepts, national legislation and case-law databases. The study also included interviews with several key informants from South African Police Services (SAPS), National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), the Minerals Council of South Africa, and research institutions (University of South Africa and Institute of Security studies).

The ILO conducted a Rapid Impact Assessment of Covid-19 on Migrant Workers in SADC. The objectives of the assessment were: (1) To identify the socio-economic challenges brought about by the pandemic to migrant workers; and (2) To assess the policies that Member States are currently putting in place to address the COVID-19 effects, and in particular the effects on migrant workers. The draft report was used as an input for the Inception Workshop and provided five key recommendations:

- Include migrant workers in national COVID-19 policy responses and recovery and development strategies to help to ensure the realization of equality and social justice
- Promote the rights of migrant workers within the context of universal social protection coverage and recognition of international labour standards, particularly concerning working and living conditions
- Implement a holistic, rights-based and coherent regional policy approach to labour migration governance that addresses international migration as a whole
- Design and implement fair and effective labour migration policies through tripartite plus social dialogue and interventions that purposefully target migrant workers with a particular focus on the most vulnerable
- Strengthen the region's labour migration data collection, reporting and information dissemination capacities

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