



SUPPORT ON ESSENTIAL HEALTH SERVICE DELIVERY TO MIGRANTS DURING INFLUX

During the festive season in late December and early January 2023, International Organisation for Migration (IOM) team conducted monitoring visits at borders to witness the service delivery to the migrants and border communities. IOM is supporting the Ministry of Health and health partners to bring essential health services – such as HIV testing, TB screening and COVID-19 screening and vaccination, closer to labour migrants coming back home for Christmas holidays.



Returning Migrants waiting to receive services at Maputsoe Border ©IOM 2022



Returning migrants receiving health and border services at Tele border ©IOM 2022

During the 2022/2023 festive season, migrants who had valid passports, who had no passports and those whose passport had overstayed in South Africa came home in larger numbers through official borders following the announcement by the Government of Lesotho which encouraged the migrants to come home through official borders, having passport or not with the promise that those without passports will not be arrested for staying and working in South Africa with no proper documents at borders. This was done to give chance to Basotho nationals who had no passports to come home to make proper documents that will allow them to work in South Africa.

During this influx time, the set up was made at borders to provide essential health services to the migrants coming home and when they return to their work places. The essential health services provided included COVID-19 screening and vaccination, TB screening and ART services. Speaking to one of the migrants who received the services, he said the availability of health services at made their lives easier since Christmas holiday is a busy time, they might not have time to go to the clinics for those essential services. On the other hand, some returning migrants said they leave far from clinics which takes the journey of the day to get the health service, and their time was limited. “The initiative to bring health services at border is a good move which respond to our essential needs on our way back to our workplaces.”



SUPPORTING LESOTHO'S EFFORT TOWARDS EFFICIENT WORK VISA SYSTEM



Right: The Principal Secretary (PS), Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Employment, Mr Matela Thabane delivering his remarks ©IOM 2023/Tsepo Molefi

On 30 January 2023, IOM supported an inter-Ministerial technical meeting to discuss on the transition from the manual work permit system to automated joint resident permit / work visa issuance. The meeting was attended by legal officers and directors of the Ministry of Local Government, Chieftainship, Home Affairs and Police, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Relations and Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Employment. This is an efforts to strengthen the effective labour migration management.

In his opening remarks, The Principal Secretary (PS), Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Employment, Mr Matela Thabane said, “This is an important milestone for this country as labour sending and receiving to have this opportunity to discuss ways

of strengthening policies around labour migration.” “Thank you IOM for continuing support that you give to us as Ministry and indeed, the results of your support are seen. I want to assure you that all Ministers are behind this to support work visa system as this is the policy direction that the Government of Lesotho needs to take.”

In conclusion, he urged the participants to be committed in this initiative as the first move the country has taken. This initiative is part of IOM's Africa Regional Migration Program (ARMP) activities, a programme implemented by IOM in Lesotho with financial support from the United States Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM)'s Office of International Migration (PIM).



Participants in inter-Ministerial technical meeting ©IOM 2023/Tsepo Molefi



Right: Head of Office IOM Lesotho, Ms Eriko Nishimura delivering her remarks ©IOM 2023/Tsepo Molefi

JAPANESE EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES MET WITH THE SUCCESSFUL MEMBERS OF COOPERATIVE AND YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS



Following the financial support by the Government of Japan through the project titled 'Socio-Economic Reintegration of Returnees and other vulnerable members in migration affected areas severely impacted by COVID-19 pandemic', IOM supported the five target districts which included Qacha's Nek, Quthing, Mohales Hoek, Mafeteng and Leribe in their migration affected communities to identify the community development projects. The five communities requested IOM to support Poultry, Farming, Bakery and Beekeeping projects. Ha-Leshoele in Leribe district is one of the beneficiary communities which requested support to start poultry project.

On 1 February 2023, representatives of Embassy of Japan visited Ha-Leshoele to witness the flourishing reintegration poultry community development project. Appreciating the support from the Government of Japan through IOM to the visitors, the Secretary of the project Mr. Mpho Mokheche said even though the project can do even better as they cannot meet with the demands for eggs, it is successful, and the egg production is encouraging to the community members. He said this project created jobs for community members and has brought unity among their community. He further said it improved their skills on the management of business of this kind.



Japanese representatives and IOM visiting poultry project at Ha-Leshoe in Leribe District
©IOM 2023/Tsepo Molefi



Japanese representatives and IOM meeting poultry project members at Ha-Leshoe in Leribe District ©IOM 2023/Tsepo Molefi

However, he said there are some challenges they are facing, “The main challenge we are facing is the shortage of clean water for the chickens as they need clean water. We buy water from WASCO which becomes expensive.” “Another big challenge is the security of this place, if we can find means of fence this area to make it more save.” Further, he said there is a need for training to improve their knowledge and skills on taking care of the chickens. Finally, he highlighted that their vision is to expand their project so that the community can provide support to other vulnerable people and orphans.

project. Speaking on behalf of the beneficiaries, Ms Kananelo Selo expressed their gratitude to the Government of Japan and IOM for the support which enables them to respond to their essential needs, “We now able to produce items that we sell and get money to earn our living.” She concluded.

On their way back, the delegation stopped by the Moshoeshoe I international airport to engage with border officials on border governance efforts including capacity development and the installation of CCTV which was also provided by the Government of Japan.



Japanese representatives and IOM meeting young returnees ©IOM 2023/Tsepo Molefi

The delegation also met young returnees and other vulnerable youth who acquired recycling and cosmetics production skills from vocational training centres under the same Japan-funded



Delegation meeting the Moshoeshoe I International airport officials ©IOM 2023.

USA DELEGATION VISITED MASERU BRIDGE WITH IOM



Delegation of the Government of the United States of America (USA) led by the Senior Development Advisor (SDA) to AFRICOM, Ms. Barbara Hughes, visited the Maseru border on 2 February 2023 to appreciate the good work of IOM on Migration Health, Border Governance and Trafficking in Persons (TIP). During their visit, the delegation explored the campaign site where IOM through its implementing partners Skillshare and Migrant Workers Association were sensitizing taxi drivers on human trafficking and how to report the case. It was on this visit where they also explored the provision of friendly health services by the Government of Lesotho's Ministry of Health supported by IOM, targeting travellers, Basotho migrant workers and mobile populations at the border.

At the Maseru Bridge, the delegation was welcomed by Principal Secretary of Home Affairs and border officials. Ms. Barbara said, "I have visited many borders but I have never had a chance to look around and understand what is happening. I thank you for this opportunity."

She articulated that she was impressed by the fact that these efforts are done in multisectoral across the Government, Community and NGOs who are working together and raise awareness on Trafficking in Person and issues affecting migrants. She further said, "We are also pleased as the United States Government to work with other international organizations like

IOM to address these issues and see how we can assist the good work that the Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho is already doing."



The delegation exploring the TIP sensitisation campaign site at Maseru border ©IOM 2023/Tsepo Molefi



Health official explaining the friendly health services given to migrants at border ©IOM 2023/Tsepo Molefi

ADOLESCENT, YOUTH AND MIGRANTS ARE EQUIPPED WITH FINANCIAL LITERACY AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP SKILLS



From 14 to 16 February 2023, IOM working together with its implementing partner Skillshare held a 3-day financial literacy and entrepreneurship training for 35 beneficiaries with the aimed to equip them with skills and knowledge that will help them to manage their finances and enables them to make informed and effective financial decisions. The training supported a total of 175 beneficiaries divided into 5 groups of 35 participants, and it will continue for the next 4 weeks in the district of Leribe.

young men and women of Leribe. The evidence of their learning from what I have seen is from their general knowledge, skills, attitude, and behaviour during the training process. They were able to actively participate and bring on discussion what they have been doing outside before this training, and my role was just to stimulate the discussion and make it more fruitful and give guidance.”



Adolescent, Youth & Migrants in financial training ©IOM 2023/Tsepo Molefi

Speaking to one of the participants, Mr Thabang Letsipa from Ha-Bene said, “In this three-day training I learned so many important things which I did not know in business, saving, budgeting and how to spend money.” I became aware that for me to start a business, I do not need money as I thought, but there many assets that can help me to start a successful business.” “Saving and budgeting were also made clear to me as how important they are, especially budgeting because it helps me to spend money wisely on prioritised needs.”

On the other hand, the trainer Ms. Majimisi also had her own observations, “This has been a rewarding three days of training on financial literacy and entrepreneurship skills to this these

Upon their completion, 60 beneficiaries will start their skills training in May 2023, where they will acquire skills on different marketable trades that will help them build their resilience, improve their livelihood and establish their own businesses. This initiative is done under the SRHR-HIV Knows no Borders Project which supported by the Government of the Netherlands.

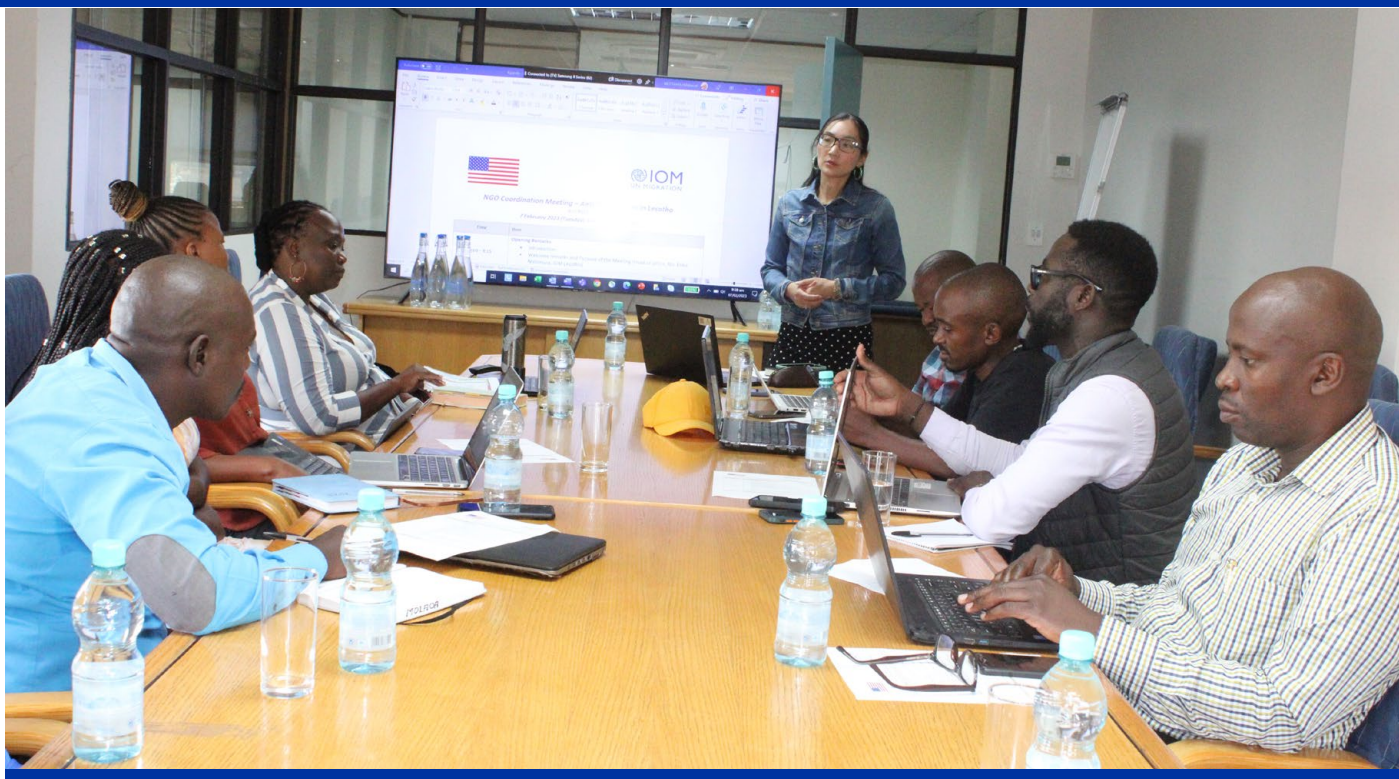


Refreshing time during financial literacy training ©IOM 2023/Tsepo Molefi



Group work - financial literacy training ©IOM 2023/Tsepo Molefi

IOM AND NGO PARTNERS DISCUSSED COLLABORATION FOR FIGHT AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING



On 7 February 2023, IOM organised a coordination meeting with Civil Society which plays a role in fighting against Trafficking in Person (TIP). The coordination among the various stakeholder is always a critical aspect to ensure there is no duplication of efforts while building the synergy among the NGOs actively involved in TIP program in Lesotho. Stakeholders represented in the meeting were Skillshare, Migrant Workers Association, Beautiful Dream Society (which also represent Love Justice) and the Lesotho Mounted Police Service with its Anti-Human Trafficking and Migrant Control Unit. In this meeting, they also discussed the upcoming activities plans presented by each stakeholder. Enhance coordination and cooperation among the TIP stakeholders is critical part. This meeting was supported by the United States Government under the project “Supporting Lesotho in Trafficking in Person Prevention and Protection.”



IOM and representatives from MWA, BDS, Skillshare and LMPS ©IOM 2023/Tsepo Molefi

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IOM BRIEFS LESOTHO CABINET ON THE PROCESS OF OVERHAULING LESOTHO'S WORK VISA REGIME



22 February 2023, Maseru, Lesotho: Following the publication of Lesotho's skills gap report and inaugural Occupation in Demand List (ODL), supported through Africa Regional Migration Program (ARMP) funding in September 2022, the government has decided to revamp and digitize the country's work visa regime to maximize opportunities identified through the ODL. Subsequently, the government requested IOM to provide a briefing on the process of overhauling the current visa regime to streamline the process to attract skilled migrant workers while advancing better migration governance.

Richard Ramoetsi, recognized the potential of the planned digitalization of the work permit system to attract highly-skilled workers and serve as a catalyst for foreign direct investments. The next stage in the process is for the Cabinet to brief Parliament, after which a bill will be proposed for the incorporation of the new work visa system into the Citizenship and Immigration Act that is currently under review by the government.

The meeting was supported by the United States Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM)'s Office of International Migration (PIM)



Members of cabinet attending the briefing ©IOM 2023/Tsepo Molefi

The high-level meeting brought together the Home Affairs, Labour, Foreign Affairs and Education Ministers, as well as Parliamentary Portfolio Chairpersons and Principal Secretaries. Reacting to IOM's presentation, the minister of Labour, Hon.



Participants attending the briefing ©IOM 2023/Tsepo Molefi

IOM SUPPORTED MINISTRY OF HEALTH DEVELOP SRMNCAH-N PLAN



PMTCT Manager providing progress on the 2022 SRMNCAH-N plan ©IOM 2023

On 3-5 February 2023, IOM supported the meeting of the Ministry of Health's Family Health Division Technical Working Group focusing on Sexual, Reproductive, Maternal, New-born, Child, Adolescent Health and Nutrition (SRMNCAH-N) held in Teyateyaneng, Berea District. The purpose of the meeting was to review the achievements of the technical working group, and challenges during implementation of the 2022 work plan. The meeting brought together stakeholders in Maternal, adolescent health, child health and discussed issues that affect directly and indirectly the health outcomes of the mentioned target group.

In this meeting, the operational plan for 2023/2024 to address SRMNCAH-N issues was developed. The developed plan points out interventions and activities that will be performed to reach the strategic areas and objectives to address maternal, adolescent, child morbidity and mortality as well as management of malnutrition to improve health outcomes of the community

at large. Stakeholders represented in this meeting included Family Health Division, Dietetics department, Health Planning and Statistics Department, HIV and AIDS department and IOM. This meeting was supported under the SRHR-HIV Knows No Borders project funded by the Kingdom of the Netherlands.



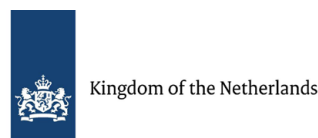
Participants of the Ministry of Health's Family Health Division Technical Working Group ©IOM 2023

“MIGRATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL”

- **Advocating for evidence-based policy to enhance migration management**
- **Promoting migration and development including engaging diaspora for economic growth**
- **Strengthening border security and immigration management to combat trafficking in Persons (TIP)**
 - **Promoting access to health services for migrants**
- **Enhancing Migration Data Collection and Analysis for Evidence Based Policy Making**



IOM thanks the following donors:



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