

SADC Member States' Technical Experts Adopt Key Recommendations towards Strengthening Migration Management in Southern Africa



Representative Delegation to the MDSA 2022 in Lilongwe, Malawi. © IOM 2022

The Government of Malawi, as the outgoing chair of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) with support from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) co-hosted the 21st MDSA technical Conference with the objective “Strengthening Migration Management policy and practices in Southern Africa through Scaling-up Interventions that Facilitate Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration». SADC Members States technical experts convened in Lilongwe, Malawi for the 21st Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa (MDSA) from the 7 to 10 November 2022.

The conference was officially opened by the Minister of Homeland Security, Honourable Jean Muonaowauza Sendeza. Hon. Sendeza encouraged the Member States to thoroughly reflect on the migration crisis that has resulted in avoidable death of migrants before reaching their intended destinations. “Let me therefore implore member states to thoroughly reflect on this issue and come up with a common regional position on addressing this matter.



Minister of Homelands Security - Hon Jean Sendeza. © IOM 2022

There is need for regional integration and collaboration in order to promote regular migration in order to mitigate irregular migration and the challenges it brings to the member states” said Hon. Sendeza.

Speaking on behalf of the United Nations in Malawi, Mr. Rudolf Schwenk emphasized UN’s dedication in scaling up interventions that facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration through supporting the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as the African Union’s Agenda 2063.

“The UN remains a committed partner to government and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) and advancing migration as a development catalyst as envisaged in the SDGs” said Schwenk.

In his remarks, IOM Regional Director for Southern Africa Mr. Ashraf El Nour strongly condemned the deaths of migrants whose bodies were found in a mass grave in northern Malawi in October 2022. He encouraged Member States to act timely in order to prevent future migrants’ deaths.



IOM Regional Director delivering his remarks during MDSA 2022. © IOM 2022

“This dialogue is an excellent opportunity for all of us to involve ourselves and be driven on the promise of facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration. Migrants’ safety and well-being should be placed

at the centre of our joint interventions and while we continue to address the needs of migrants in vulnerable situations, we should at the same time create conditions that allow migrants to reach their fullest potential and maximize their positive contributions” said El Nour.

At the end of the 3-day dialogue, Member States adopted key recommendations towards Strengthening Migration Management in Southern Africa. The recommendations were developed under five key thematic areas namely:

- 1) Resilience to climate change and disaster related to human mobility;
- 2) Migration health governance;
- 3) Frameworks focusing on labour migration, diaspora engagement and remittance;
- 4) Governance for border management and migrant protection; and
- 5) Harmonized migration data for development.

Since 2002, SADC Member States have been using MDSA to improve regional cooperation on migration management. The 21st MDSA further presented a platform on the way forward towards the second International Migration Review Forum scheduled for 2026.



Over 22,000 internally displaced persons affected by Cyclone Ana receive lifesaving support



Beneficiaries receiving sheltering materials and other Non-Food Items (NFIs). © IOM 2022

Following the impact of Tropical Storm Ana and Cyclone Gombe, IOM with funding from United Nations CERF provided life saving assistance to 22,325 (13,850 females and 8,475 males) internally displaced persons and other vulnerable persons. IOM together with its implementing partner – the Malawi Red Cross Society - supported the affected persons with cash, non-food items and shelter assistance based on needs in four districts of Southern Malawi, namely Phalombe, Mulanje, Chikwawa and Nsanje.

The beneficiaries were identified in coordination with the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) in the affected districts.

Following findings through a site verification exercise, IOM rolled out Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) trainings in collaboration with representatives from DoDMA equipping Camp Management Committees (CMC) with necessary knowledge and skills

required to respond to humanitarian needs in displacement sites, and to ensure a safety net, both in camps and in areas of return. Well managed camps ensure that the rights and needs of the displaced populations are met and the response targets the most vulnerable for any assistance.



When Tropical Storm Ana and Cyclone Gombe hit Malawi in January 2022, it left a trail of devastation in its wake, with about 153,000 people internally displaced country wide and dispersed in 36 camps and camp like settings.

As an immediate life saving measure, IOM and the Malawi Red Cross Society implemented a series of interventions to protect and improve the quality of life of the displaced populations. Affected households received cash grants, non-food items and shelter kits to enable them to meet the immediate needs of their households and build back better.

“I am very grateful for the items received. The floods destroyed our home. I am alone, taking care of my children and my father-in-law. At least in the camp we were supported but when we had to return home, it was challenging. Our house was destroyed extensively.

With the shelter kits we can now repair it and focus on recultivating our land if we manage to find seed.”

In distributing the items, priority was given to people with disability, elderly and female headed households.



Alaina Laisi (the lady in red) receiving her package, 11 August 2022

Over 504 Ethiopian Nationals Assisted to Return home



Some of the Ethiopian Nationals who returned in August 2022. © IOM 2022

For many undocumented and irregular migrants making the trek from the East and Horn of Africa towards South Africa, their journeys are fraught with challenges, including illness, arrest and detention.

Malawi is a major transit country for migrants along this route, with many of them being apprehended by law enforcement officials and being convicted of violations against immigration laws.

Detention facilities become their home until they complete their sentences or have their sentences waived and able to secure their way to return to their country of origin.

Between July and December 2022, IOM has supported the return of 504 (all males) Ethiopian migrants who were stranded in Malawi. Some of these Ethiopians had been in detention for over a year pending the state or their families securing resources for their return.

In many instances the families of these migrants will have exhausted all their meagre savings to secure their passage to South Africa, with hope for improved fortunes through remittances once they are established there.

During a verification exercise in preparation of the return, the Head of the Diaspora, Business and Consular section of the Embassy of Ethiopia in Kenya, Desta Woldeyohannes Delkasso, said: “We are determined to work with partners in assisting all the stranded migrants, including those wishing to return to Ethiopia to do so safely and in dignity.”

The migrant returns were made possible with financial support from EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration in the Horn of Africa, Cooperation on Migration and Partnerships to Achieve Sustainable Solutions initiative (COMPASS) and other IOM projects.

Strengthening the protection measures and national responses to trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants in Malawi



Law Enforcement Officers and Facilitators who were part of the Training. © IOM 2022

IOM in collaboration with the Government of Malawi with support from the IOM Development Fund conducted a 5-day training workshop with the aim of strengthening and increasing awareness of international, regional and national legal instruments for the protection of victims of trafficking and smuggled migrants.

Twenty-nine frontline officials (17 male, 12 female) were trained through an evidence-based training

workshop aimed at increasing the understanding of migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons.

During the training workshop, the participants also discussed identification procedures, protection mechanisms and referral systems, required to secure the full enjoyment of rights reflected in international, and regional legal frameworks.

It is expected that the officers will be committed to implementing counter trafficking and migrant smuggling measures in their day-to-day work through supporting policy, programming and awareness raising on migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons.

Participants were drawn from Ministries of Labour; Gender, Children, Community Development and Social Welfare; Homeland Security; and Justice; Department of Immigration; Department for Refugees; Police and CSOs representatives.

Malawi and Tanzania strengthen cross-border migration management



Delegates from Malawi and Tanzania who participated in the meeting © IOM 2022

The United Republic of Tanzania and Republic of Malawi established a Cross-Border Collaboration Forum in 2018 with the aim of seeking and providing common solutions to migration issues of mutual concern to both countries.

IOM supports the various host governments to strengthen cross-border migration management through an entrenched cross-border collaboration forum. Since its establishment, coordination and collaboration has been strengthened and experiences on the issues of migration management have been shared between participating governments.

In August 2022, delegates from the two countries met in Mbeya City, Tanzania, to discuss various issues related to migration management.

During the two-day meeting delegates agreed on a Joint Action Plan to address migration concerns of mutual interests to the two governments. Some of the key issues outlined in the Joint Action Plan include information sharing, stakeholder coordination, cross border cooperation on irregular migration and collaboration in the management and prevention of outbreaks, communicable diseases and other health related issues.

Commenting on the aim of the meeting, the leader of the United Republic of Tanzania delegation, Mr. Ahmed Mwendadi, said “We agreed to review the Terms of Reference as well as the Joint Action Plan because we have witnessed a number of changes many changes have taken place in terms of migration management as well as membership of the Forum...

The Joint Action Plan which we have reviewed is aiming at strengthening communication channels for sharing of information and best practices as well as improve on joint case management procedures among others”.

This was a fourth cross-border meeting on migration management and the reviewed a Joint Action Plan will be consolidated and endorsed by relevant Ministries before adoption at the fifth Forum meeting in Malawi.

With financial support from the United States Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM), through the Africa Regional Migration Programme (ARMP), IOM is strengthening the capacity of 19 African beneficiary governments, including Malawi, to manage migration in a sustainable and humane manner.

Senior Community Leaders in Malawi ready to combat Smuggling of Migrants and Irregular Migration



A cross-section of Senior Community Leaders in Malawi during the workshop in Lilongwe. © IOM 2022

Senior community leaders from various districts in Malawi pledged their support towards combating smuggling of migrants and irregular migration. This was revealed during an orientation workshop on combatting smuggling of migrants and irregular migration which IOM in collaboration with Ministry of Homeland Security and Ministry of Local Government conducted in September 2022.

Most leaders lamented their limited awareness on the subject and often only got to learn of these incidents taking place in their communities through the media.

“We need to be having these interactions on smuggling of migrants and irregular migration so that when we go back, we can also work together with our traditional leaders and subjects on combating the vices” said Paramount Chief Kyungu.

The training aimed at ensuring that community leaders are aware of issues of Smuggling of Migrants (SoM) and irregular migration and that they are able to communicate appropriate with correct messages on migrant smuggling, relevant protection considerations, and its criminal implications.

The senior community leaders who included paramount Chiefs and Senior Chiefs, pledged to take a step further in coordinating with their subordinates in putting measures in place aimed at reporting issues of migrants smuggling and putting to an end vices related to irregular migration.

With funding support from IOM Development Fund, IOM in collaboration with government of Malawi is implementing a project entitled “Enhancing Knowledge to Inform Responses Towards Migrant Smuggling and Irregular Migration in Malawi” aiming at addressing migrant smuggling.

IOM Rolls out Migration Flow Monitoring under SDG-AF Project on Conflict Prevention and Peace Building

IOM with funding from the Government of Iceland and the Government of Ireland rolled out Flow monitoring activities in seven flow-monitoring points in Mangochi district. The Government of the Republic of Malawi and United Nations Country Team in Malawi launched the Sustainable Development Goals-Accelerator Fund (SDG-AF) Project: Border Districts and Community-Based Conflict Prevention and Peace Building in Malawi.

The project aims at providing support in two border districts (Mangochi and Machinga) in areas of institutional, professional, and community resources to identify, mitigate, and respond to violent conflict or risk of conflict.

Utilizing IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix, IOM collects, analyses and shares information about (irregular) migration flows across various districts. IOM enumerators will be gathering key data on mobility dynamics along informal routes between Mangochi, Malawi, its neighboring districts in Mozambique and migrant profiles.

Enhanced migration data strengthens the capabilities of local and national decision makers, such as immigration officials, police, health authorities and other (non-state) front-line workers to mitigate and respond to existing and projected conflict using population mobility as a barometer.

The project is being by five UN Agencies namely IOM, UNFPA, UNDP, UNODC and UNWomen.

IOM and Government of Malawi trains Labour Officials on Labour Migration



Labour migration can contribute to the economic growth of countries of origin, transit, and destination of migrants. However, there are also challenges and difficulties faced in the process.

IOM in collaboration with International Labour Organization (ILO) and Ministry of Labour trained government labour officials from central and northern regions of Malawi on labour migration. The capacity building workshops were also organized for the practitioners to understand the salient provisions of the draft National Labour Migration Policy for Malawi which is currently under development.

The Secretary for Labour Mr. Wezi Kayira emphasized the need for labour officials to work together in ensuring that labour migration is well-managed for the social-economic development of the migrants and the countries of origin and destination.

“There is a thin line between labour migration and human trafficking, human traffickers often take advantage of the desperate need of finding employment abroad. The sessions on global and regional legal frameworks on labour migration, will guide you as labour practitioners in terms of dealing with the complex issues relating to labour migration”, said Mr. Kayira.

At the end of the workshop, participants expressed their gratitude to being more conversant with migration issues and having a better understand about their role in combating human trafficking and tapping into the development potential of labour migration.

The United States Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) through Africa Regional Migration Programme, is supporting Malawi in developing a National Labour Migration Policy as a means of enhancing capacity to manage migration in a sustainable and humane manner.



IOM hands Over Mobile Toilets at Muloza Border

IOM handed over two mobile toilets at Muloza Border in Mulanje with the aim of improving access to hygiene services amongst migrants and mobile populations.

The Border did not have public toilets, a situation which was putting lives of migrants and mobile populations at health risk.



*From Our
Beneficiary*

“I paid the money to a transporter who promised that he will help me find a job once I arrive in South Africa”

Binya Jefule, a father of four, was among a group of 13 migrants who were stranded in South Africa. Through the support of IOM, they were assisted to return to Malawi in August 2022.

Jefule managed to raise a total of \$150 through farming and traveled to South Africa in 2014 following economic hardships that he was facing whilst in Malawi.

“I paid the money to a transporter who promised that he will help me find a job once I arrive in South Africa” said Jefule.

When Jefule arrived in South Africa, he was taken to a plastic manufacturing company where he was working in a warehouse. He was underpaid, and eventually, after working for a year and 6 months, the factory closed. It was at this point that Jefule started struggling to assist his family back home. He took on small temporary jobs, but eventually he could not sustain his life in South Africa and was near destitute.

Jefule voluntarily agreed to be assisted to return home when he met IOM staff in South Africa.



Later, IOM Malawi in collaboration with Department of Social Welfare traced and contacted his family to inform them about Jefule’s decision to return. When his family members heard about the plans, they were ready to welcome him as they believed he would be better off back home.

Upon arrival, IOM supported him with some in-kind reintegration assistance. He decided to open a grocery store, IOM provided Jefule with grocery items worth \$1,500 as start-up capital.

“I cannot express how happy and grateful I am to IOM. Thank you so much for providing me with another chance at a good life” said Jefule after receiving his in-kind reintegration assistance.

Jefule is currently constructing his own store at Machinga trading center. He is planning to roof and plaster his shop in the next month and thereafter become fully operational.

Addressing Mental Health Issues Begins with Us



Every year, the 10th of October marks World Mental Health Day, an opportunity to increase awareness and strengthen interventions towards addressing challenges worsening the mental health conditions around the world.

At IOM Malawi Country Office, staff members participated in health walk as part of raising awareness of mental health issues and promoting mental health in the workplace.

The walk was complemented with a mental health talk by Dr. Ndumanene Silungwe, a Clinical Psychologist. He made a presentation on the importance of mental health checks and managing normal stresses of life among others. He further drew attention to Africa's large and growing burden of mental health conditions, with children and adolescents worst impacted.

IOM Chief of Mission to Malawi, Ms. Nomagugu Ncube, who also participated in the health walk, highlighted that physical health optimizes mental health, hence it was important to support physical activity.

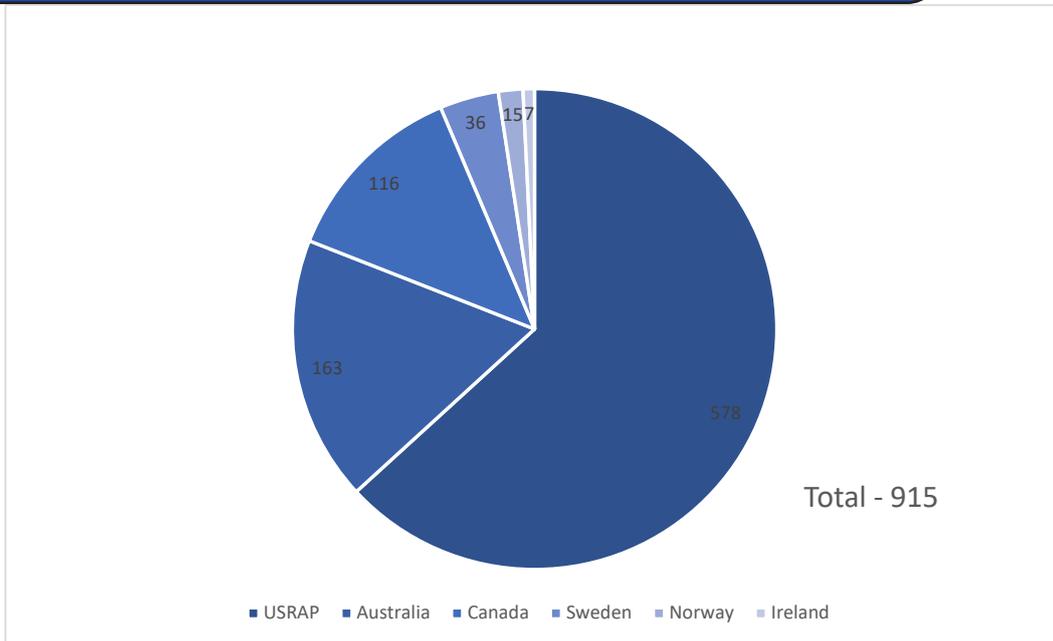
“Doing activities together help to boost team unity, team morale and brings the team together. As an organization, our staff is our key resources, we can only achieve as much as our team is able to achieve,” said Ms. Ncube.

IOM National Staff Association Chairperson Yamikani Ching'ani said: “We plan to be organizing these kind of activities in collaboration with the management to improve our mental health as IOM staff members for the success of our organization”.

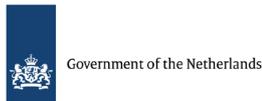
The theme of the World Mental Health Day 2022 was “Make Mental Health and Wellbeing for All a Global Priority” - an opportunity to improve mental health after the COVID-19 pandemic related stress which resulted in global rise in depression and anxiety.



Resettlement Assistance - January-December 2022



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