



Multi-Sectoral Committee members and Thaba-Tseka District stakeholders. ©IOM 2023/Tsepo Molefi

MULTI SECTORAL COMMITTEE (MSC) ON ANTI-TRAFFICKING IN PERSON SUPPORTED DISTRICT STAKEHOLDERS TO ADDRESS TIP AND IMPLEMENT NATIONAL REFERRAL MECHANISM (NRM) FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING (VOTS)

From 24 April to 12 May 2023, IOM in collaboration with Multi Sectoral Committee (MSC) on Anti-Trafficking in Persons held workshops in 10 districts of Lesotho with the aim to assess the progress in the implementation of TIP interventions, and the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) for Victims of Trafficking (VoTs).

Lesotho's NRM for VoTs was developed to support the coordinated identification, referral and provision of protection assistance for VoTs in Lesotho, in line with Anti-Trafficking in Persons and other relevant legislation guided by international standards and best practice. The NRM sets out the different stages of protection assistance for VoTs, including mechanisms for identification, services to be provided, and actors involved at each stage.

In his opening remarks at the workshop in Mphahle's Hoek, the District Administrator, Mr. Bahlakoana Ts'olo, stated that everything discussed in the workshop will be considered and implemented to rescue Basotho from a monster called human trafficking. "I realized that we only have one representative from transport sector today, which is insufficient. I believe it is through transport that the victims are being taken from one place to another. It was my hope that if they become part of trafficking issues discussions, they would be able to identify the signs of trafficking on victims and able to inform the police" he said. In conclusion, he said the workshop will also look at the progress made on prosecuting TIP cases reported in Mphahle's Hoek district.

The workshops in the 10 districts identified emerging trends and patterns of Trafficking in Persons (TIP) in each district,



Mphahle's Hoek District administrator, Mr. Bahlakoana Ts'olo delivering the opening remarks ©IOM 2023/Tsepo Molefi

monitored progress on existing TIP cases that had been reported and identified gaps in achieving complete investigation and prosecution of cases as well as to strengthening linkages between community and district level.

One of the participants, a representative from the Thaba-Tseka Chief's office, Mr. Ts'oeute Ramone mentioned "poverty" as the main challenge in his area, which gives traffickers the opportunity to advertise unrealistic lucrative job opportunities to people desperate for jobs. Some of all prey to traffickers. As the representative of the chief's office, he stated that he has an important role to sensitize his community to avoid falling into the trap of human traffickers. "I learned the correct procedure to follow when reporting trafficking as well as referring the victims, also observing their protection and rights", he said.

This was part of the initiatives to strengthen TIP response, ►



A representative from Thaba-Tseke Chief's office, Mr Ts'oeute Ramone. ©IOM 2023/Tsepo Molefi

including the identification, protection and referral of the potential VoTs at the national and district level, and was supported under the project titled “Supporting Lesotho in Trafficking in Person Prevention and Protection” support by the United States Government.

The support to this activity was provided by the United States Department of State, under the terms of Award No. SSITIP20GR0006. The opinions expressed herein are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the reviews of the United States Department of State.

PARLIAMENTARIANS CALLED FOR PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS MIGRATION ISSUES AT BORDERS

From 7 to 9 May 2023, Five Lesotho Parliament Portfolio Committees on Social Cluster, Economic and Development Cluster, Law and Public Safety Cluster, Natural Resources, Tourism and Land Cluster and Prime Minister's Ministries and Departments, Governance, Foreign Relations, and Information Cluster conducted an oversight visit to Tele Bridge (Quthing district), Caledonspoort (Butha-Buthe district) and Maputsoe (Leribe district) borders, to assess the migration situation and to engage with border officials and communities to understand the key challenges they are facing. The issues on human

trafficking, border management, irregular border crossings, and labour migration were raised by the officials and communities. IOM supported this visit in collaboration with the National Consultative Committee (NCC) on Migration.

This activity came as a result of the workshop for Members of Parliament (MPs), which was held in Leribe on 4 to 6 April 2023, aimed to increase their knowledge to enhance migration governance in Lesotho and to effectively respond to various migration challenges Lesotho face. This time, some 25 MPs visited three borders to observe the situation at borders and hear from the border officials and the communities about the migration issues.



Parliamentarians exploring Tele Border. ©IOM 2023/Tsepo Molefi

Speaking on behalf of Quthing District Administrator at Tele Border, Mohale's Hoek District Administrator, Mr. Bahlakoana Ts'olo stressed the importance of job creation for Basotho as lack of jobs in Lesotho is a major push factor for Basotho to leave their country to look for greener pastures in neighboring countries, where they are exposed to different crimes including violence, rapes and human trafficking.

One of the community members said one of the challenges they face is the limited number of thirty (30) days they are given to stay in South Africa, which makes it difficult for them to come home as most of them work very far from the borders, and their



Parliamentarians and Tele Border community at Tele Border ©IOM 2023/Tsepo Molefi

employers do not allow them to come home every month. She said if they are found to have been overstayed in South Africa, they are not allowed to visit South Africa for over the next five years, hence why people prefer to use irregular crossings to avoid such situations even when they have valid passports.

On the other hand, Mr. Mohapi Litaba, representing Cross Border Crime Prevention Forum from Free State province of South Africa, suggested MPs to meet with their counterparts in South Africa to look into the practical solutions on cross-border issues. He stated that if a system like community crossing can be in place, it will reduce the number of crimes at irregular borders and around the border communities.



Chairperson of the Chairpersons of Portfolio Committees, Hon. Mokhothu Makhwanyane speaking to Tele community. ©IOM 2023/Tsepo Molefi

Speaking to the Parliamentarians about this visit, the Chairperson of Social Cluster, who also Chairs a Committee of Chairpersons, Hon. Mokhothu Makhwanyane, said this visit helped them to understand the situation at borders, through interaction with the police who ensure the safety of borders, the immigration officers managing the movement of people and the communities who are affected by the restrictions and criminal activities at irregular borders, especially those residing along border communities. He said, “Coming closer to the people on the ground has not only helped us know and not depend on hearsay but also to be people who can take practical



Front-left: IOM Chief of Mission South Africa, Ms. Lily Sanya and IOM Head of Office Lesotho Ms. Eriko Nishimura. ©IOM 2023/Tsepo Molefi

The visit was also attended by the IOM Chief of Mission in South Africa, Ms. Lily Sanya. Stating her views about the visit, Ms. Lily said that this was an eye-opening experience to see the MPs coming together to try and have a common understanding on the issues of migration. “This provides an opportunity for IOM in South Africa to see the areas we can engage in with IOM in Lesotho, particularly the transboundary issues around human trafficking and migrant smuggling. The acknowledgment by the parliamentary committees of the importance of putting in place the monitoring structures, which will then create a link between the policies being created and the implementation on the ground level, is very crucial. So, I found that impressive and the commitment of the parliamentarians to come up with indicators that they can use to monitor the progress. I see that as an area which will help IOM to support the government to track issues around migration,” she commented.



Parliamentarians having dialogue with Caledonspoort Border community. ©IOM 2023/Tsepo Molefi

approach so that the laws can actually emanate from communities who are the primary beneficiaries of those laws.” He said, he would take the initiative to reach out to their counterparts in South Africa so that they can be together in similar nature of the visit to jointly understand the situation at borders, so that they can both from Lesotho and South Africa, advocate for the laws and finances that will bring practical solution to address the existing challenges and issues at the border.



Parliamentarians on Maputsoe Bridge ©IOM 2023/Tsepo Molefi

PROGRESS WITNESSED BY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND IOM TEAM ON THE SRHR-HIV SERVICE DELIVERY IN MAPUTSOE



IOM in collaboration with Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) partner (Skillshare) supported the Ministry of Health (MoH) to conduct a supervisory visit to health facilities in Maputsoe, Leribe district from 8 to 12 May 2023. The facilities visited were Linotsing Health Centre, Maputsoe wellness Centre, Maputsoe Filter Clinic, Maputsoe Seventh Day Adventist (SDA) Clinic, and St Monica's Health Centre. The purpose of the visit was to monitor the progress and performance of the health centers on SRHR-HIV services delivery, and also to track the achievements and challenges, then come up with possible solutions.

Among the progress identified through this visit, was the improved Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) and HIV services at health centers and the good collaboration with change agents who are referring clients to receive necessary services. The services are offered to migrants, border community, and South African citizens without requiring any identity documents. There are also challenges faced by some clinics, which includes the shortage of water supply that hinder some of the services to be provided. The challenge of access to drugs such as ARVs was another issue raised during this visit,

and the MoH team promised to find a possible solution.

The team also had a dialogue with the sex workers to promote their SRHR using a rights-based approach. This dialogue established that sex workers have comprehensive information on the availability and accessibility of family planning commodities, including long-term methods, and that they are being provided with friendly services by health service providers. During this dialogue, it was learned that besides their daily work, sex workers have little livelihood options for their daily survival.

Gatekeepers are also important partners in providing SRHR and HIV services to the community. Skillshare highlighted that Gatekeepers play an important role in mobilizing for the program activities through the dissemination of information even in WhatsApp groups of marginalized populations such as herd boys.

This activity was supported by the Government of the Netherlands under the "Knows No Borders Project Phase II".

HEALTH AND NON-HEALTH SERVICE PROVIDERS IN LERIBE EMPOWERED FOR YOUTH-FRIENDLY AND MIGRANTS-FRIENDLY SERVICES DELIVERY



IOM and the Ministry of Health (MoH) organized a refresher training for health and non-health service providers on Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) and HIV, Migration, and Gender Based Violence (GBV) from 15 to 17 May 2023 in Teyateyaneng. This initiative ensured that systems for responsive SRHR and HIV services are strengthened and monitored for improved access to those services. In addition, through increased awareness and knowledge of service providers regarding SRHR and human rights of Young Vulnerable People (YVP), migrants and sex workers, and effective approaches to tackle Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and harmful traditional practices are taken.

Participants of the training were health service providers from Maputsoe Filter Clinic, Maputsoe SDA, Maputsoe Border Clinic, St Monica's and Linotšing health centers. Non-health service providers present were representatives from the Ministry of Social Development, District Administration, Lesotho News Agency, Local Government, Lesotho Mounted Police Service, National Security Services, Immigration, Lesotho Correctional Services, Lesotho Defense Force, Ministry of Gender and Sports, Home Affairs, Judiciary, and Education.

The training was facilitated by the MoH officials from Family Health Division, District Health Management Team, IOM and

Skillshare. Among activities conducted during training was a scenario in which trainees were taken through, and requested to identify the SRHR services needed by the different characters. Other training topics included maternal health, family planning, community-based health service, pre-exposure prophylaxis and SGBV. Participants were encouraged to support the project by encouraging the communities to seek care early so that interventions could be undertaken and implemented on time.



Health and non-Health service providers ©IOM 2023

This activity was supported by the Government of the Netherlands under the "Knows No Borders Project Phase II".

A DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, CHIEFTAINSHIP, HOME AFFAIRS AND POLICE AND REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS TO TACKLE MIGRATION CHALLENGES



IOM supported a dialogue between the Minister of Local Government, Chieftainship, Home Affairs and Police, Honourable Lebona Lephema and representatives of international migrants' associations in Lesotho to discuss issues that include human trafficking, cross-border crimes, and residence permit visas, and also discussed the partnership and collaboration. This dialogue took place in Maseru on 31 May 2023.

which includes the clearance of undocumented migrants in Lesotho.

Head of Office for IOM in Lesotho, Ms. Eriko Nishimura, expressed her appreciation to both Minister and international migrants associations representatives for their participation and stated that IOM is happy to support the dialogue as it brought a shared understanding of issues which will result in a common approach towards the solution. She concluded that IOM promotes safe, regular, and orderly migration that will bring an economic development impact in Lesotho.



Left: Principal Secretary of Police Col. Tanki Mothae, IOM Head of Office Lesotho Ms. Eriko Nishimura, Hon. Minister Lebona Lephema and Principal Secretary of Home Affairs Mr. Tumelo Raboetsi ©IOM 2023/Tsepo Molefi

Hon. Lephema said "I thank you for coming in large numbers, and that we are getting to a point where we agree that what is important for Lesotho and Basotho is to improve the economy of this country together with you and to ensure that we fight against unemployment and acts of criminality which include trafficking in person in collaboration with you all."

One of the representatives from international migrants associations said they are very grateful to have a discussion with the Minister and the team on immigration processes and other issues that affect them and the people of Lesotho. He said they have come to a common understanding, and they promise to offer full support to the ministry towards a standard solution



International migrants representatives ©IOM 2023/Tsepo Molefi

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SERVICE, LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT FINALIZES RECRUITMENT GUIDELINES FOR RECRUITMENT AGENCIES TO PROMOTE ETHICAL RECRUITMENT



From 22 to 26 May 2023, IOM supported the Ministry of Public Service, Labour, and Employment in drafting the guidelines for the recruitment of Basotho to international jobs in a workshop held in Teyateyaneng. The guidelines are meant to regulate recruitment agencies operating in Lesotho, recruiting Basotho to foreign countries and foreign nationals to Lesotho. The guidelines are expected to strengthen the protection of migrant workers and help to reduce the risks of human trafficking, which has been a major concern in Lesotho mostly during and post-COVID-19 pandemic. The guidelines are also intended to promote fair and ethical recruitment and to curb all unethical recruitment practices that include a misrepresentation of terms and conditions of employment contracts, fee-charging to workers, and confiscating passports, among other things.

The workshop was attended by 25 participants, made up of representatives of workers, representatives of employers, representatives of recruitment agencies and government officials from the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Employment, Ministry of Local Government, Chieftainship, Home Affairs and Police, academia, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Relations and Migrant Worker's Association (MWA). As a result of this workshop, the road map towards finalizing the guidelines for recruitment agencies was drawn. This guideline will be validated at the national level in the following month.

This activity was supported by the US Government under the "Africa Regional Migration Management Program (ARPM)".



Participants in the workshop ©IOM 2023

INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS ASSOCIATIONS TRAINED ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSON (TIP), JOINING HANDS TO FIGHT AGAINST TIP IN LESOTHO

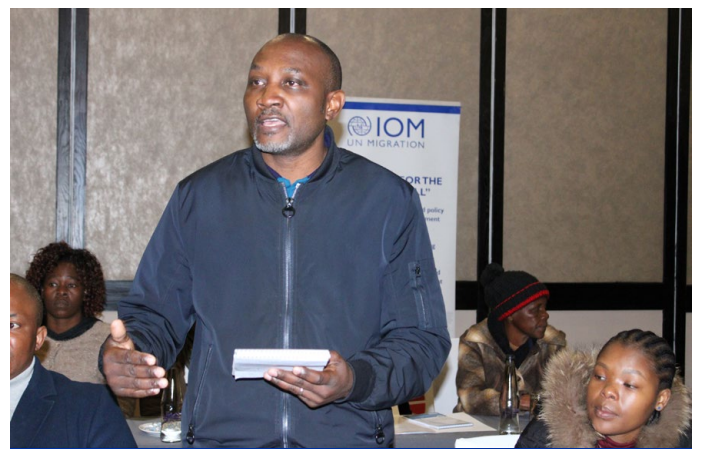


From 12 to 13 June 2023, IOM, together with Multi-Sectoral Committee (MSC) on Anti-TIP conducted a training on TIP for international migrants living in Lesotho. The training equipped the participants with knowledge on the elements of TIP, the difference between TIP and smuggling of migrants, and how trafficking syndicate works. The training was held in Maseru and was facilitated by the Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS) through the office of the Anti-Trafficking and Migrant Control Unit (ATMCU).



Deputy Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Local Government, Chieftainship, Home Affairs and Police, Ms. Mamakopoi Letsie ©IOM 2023/Tsepo Molefi

In her opening remarks, the Deputy Principal Secretary of Police, Ms. Mamakopoi Letsie, said trafficking affects people's livelihoods in this country. She said it does not only affect the community but also the business sector. "In this workshop, we are going to discuss how it affects us and look into how we mitigate it to improve the livelihoods of the community and the business sector," she said.



International migrant, Mr. Daniel Miyebe ©IOM 2023/Tsepo Molefi

One of the participants, Daniel Miyebe said the training brought a broad understanding of trafficking in person to them and how it occurs. "Now that I understand the process of trafficking, as a participant of this training, I can, in my personal capacity, know what I can do to fight against human trafficking. I also learned how to identify trafficking and the steps to follow in reporting it to which relevant authorities," he said.

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MIGRATION DATA WORKING GROUP MEMBERS CAPACITATED IN THE MIGRATION DATA COLLECTION, ANALYSIS AND DISSEMINATION



From 19 to 23 June 2023, IOM Lesotho in collaboration with the Bureau of Statistics (BOS) held a three-day workshop for BOS staff and members of the Migration Data Working Group (MDWG) to strengthen their capacity in collecting, analyzing, and disseminating migration data and statistics for improved policy formulation and implementation. The training was held in Leribe district and was attended by 40 MDWG members from the Ministry of Public Service, Labour, and Employment, Ministry of Local Government, Chieftainship, Home Affairs and Police, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Relations, National University of Lesotho, and Bureau of Statistics.

Speaking to one of the participants, Ms. Mamots'oane Mofolo from the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Employment, said the training has come at an opportune time when the ministry in collaboration with Bureau of Statistics, are preparing for the 2023 Labour Force Survey. "migration is part of the modules in the Labour Force Survey. For me, what was most important in this training was the discussion on key concepts of labour migration and migration in general, because this will enable us to identify the reference population in terms of labour migration," she said.

Mr. Lits'oane Keketsi from the Ministry of Local Government, Chieftainship, Home Affairs and Police said one of the most important things he learned was migration concepts and definitions relevant to their day-to-day work. "I realized that some of the definitions we have been using are not internationally accepted, so this training has been an eye-

opener and will help us align our local definitions with the international definitions. The other concept we learned that will impact our work is 'missing and deaths of migrants'. We have seen on the news bulletins that migrants die in large numbers but were unaware that IOM has a system of tracing the deaths and assisting affected families. Since we do also register deaths, we will be mindful to identify whether deaths are related to migration or not," he said.



Participants in the workshop ©IOM 2023/Tsepo Molefi

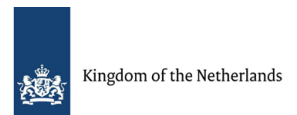
The facilitators also introduced the IOM migration data portal to participants to illustrate what IOM is doing on migration data globally. This activity was supported by the Southern African Migration Management (SAMM) Project funded by the European Union, and the Africa Regional Migration Program (ARMP) funded by the United States Bureau of Population, Refugee and Migration (PRM).

“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**



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