

NEWSLETTER

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IOM brings together representatives of the Southern African region to boost diaspora engagement and investment



Mauritius, 20 October 2022 - “Diaspora communities represent a significant and valuable source of ideas and innovations to tackle new and emerging challenges”. It is with those words that the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, Mr. Alan Ganoo, opened the maiden edition of the Southern Africa Regional Diaspora Engagement and Investment Forum from 17 to 19 October 2022 at The Residence Mauritius in Belle Mare, Mauritius.

Organized by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), in collaboration with the Government of Mauritius, the Forum brought together over 50 delegates from the 16 countries of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the African Union (AU), United Nations (UN) agencies, multi-lateral organizations, and the private sector. It provided the opportunity for them to share experiences and lessons learned on diaspora-related interventions in the region, with the aim of scaling up initiatives to strengthen diaspora

engagement and remittances use in the region. It also served as an avenue to promote productive discourse on sustainable investments and skills transfer approaches to attract the Southern African diaspora community globally.

“IOM recognizes the diaspora as a key strategic asset in building national institutional capacities” says the IOM Regional Director for Southern Africa, Mr. Ashraf El Nour. “[The diaspora] should be recognized as one of Africa’s main assets of social, financial, intellectual, and political capital ... for [its] development and integration.”

The Head of Cooperation of the Delegation of the European Union in Mauritius, Mr. Milko Van Gool, expressed his appreciation to be able to “(...) join hands today with IOM to build a common understanding about Southern Africa diaspora processes and to discuss initiatives for an effective engagement of the diaspora (...)”.

This Forum directly links to supporting and promoting diaspora investment through skills matching and the temporary return of highly skilled professionals, thereby contributing to the realization of the overall aspirations and priorities of SADC member states.

There is a need to “(...) harvest the best ideas and innovations not only from the local population, but also from our Diasporas, which are –(...) our national assets and which constitute one of the major networks to achieve the objectives of socio-economic progress” affirmed the Honourable Alan Ganoo.

Southern African countries increasingly recognize diaspora communities as valuable assets to their

economies. According to the UN DESA 2020 report, 6.4 million SADC migrants live outside their countries of origin, with the majority residing in other SADC countries. The Forum resulted in the identification of priorities for empowering diaspora communities based on the specific dynamics of the region, which will form the basis for the development of a roadmap for the effective mapping and engagement of Southern African diaspora communities.

The Forum was held with the support of the Southern Africa Migration Management (SAMM) project, funded by the European Union, and the IOM Migration Resource Allocation Committee (MIRAC).

Regional Capacity Development Workshop on Ethical Recruitment in Victoria Falls

VICTORIA FALLS – The Government of Zimbabwe through the Ministry of Public Service, Labour, and Social Welfare in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), is hosting a Regional Capacity Development Workshop on Ethical Recruitment in Victoria Falls. This programme is being hosted under the auspices of the Africa Regional Migration Programme (ARMP) and the Southern Africa Migration Management (SAMM) project.

The main thrust of the workshop is to strengthen and enhance regional mechanisms and policy convergence on fair and ethical recruitment practices. This is in line with the decision of the SADC Employment and Labour Sector (ELS) and the recommendations of the 2019 Migration Dialogue in Southern Africa (MIDSA) held in Windhoek Namibia. The workshop brings together officials from SADC countries, representing Ministries and the Private Sector entities whose mandates relate to labour migration.

The key highlights of the workshop are the overview of the Africa Regional Migration Programme (ARMP) and sharing country experiences on the protection of migrant workers in the context of mixed migration and labour mobility. The programme will introduce participants to the International Recruitment Integrity System (IRIS) which is an IOM flagship initiative to promote ethical recruitment of migrant workers. IRIS is a global multi-stakeholder initiative that supports governments, civil society, the private sector, and recruiters to establish ethical recruitment as a norm



in cross-border labour migration. Its aim is to make international recruitment fair for everyone involved: migrant workers, employers, recruiters and countries of origin and destination.

In a statement, IOM Zimbabwe Chief of Mission, Mario Lito Malanca, expressed gratitude to the Government of Zimbabwe for its continued leadership and firm commitment in promoting good migration governance, demonstrated through hosting this regional workshop. The workshop reaffirms, he said, the importance of international cooperation in facilitating international mobility, including cross border recruitment. Mr. Malanca warned of the risks of fraudulent and unethical practices by unscrupulous labour recruiters which can lead to conditions of human trafficking and forced labour. He acknowledged the steady progress in the implementation of the National Labour Migration Policy, which will be a vital component of Zimbabwe's recovery efforts from COVID-19 and in addressing access to decent working opportunities in countries of destination.

Mr. Malanca highlighted that the forthcoming establishment of the Migrant Resource Centres in

Harare and Bulawayo which will provide a much-needed avenue for migrants to facilitate pre-departure orientation, inform on the dangers of human trafficking, whilst also facilitating referrals to service providers. 'These initiatives align with the holistic approach taken by IOM in Zimbabwe under its Strategy (2022-2025) in ensuring effective coordination and strengthened capacities for good labour migration governance by the Government of Zimbabwe, private and social partners as well as regional Member states', Malanca said.

In a statement ahead of the knowledge exchange, the Minister of Public Service, Labour, and Social Welfare Hon. Prof. Paul Mavima applauded the cordial relationship between IOM and the Second Republic, demonstrated by the holding of this important Regional Capacity Building Workshop on Ethical Recruitment fundamentals. The Second Republic has prioritized migration issues in its Vision 2030, being implemented under the National Economic Blueprint, the NDSI (2022-2025). After the successful launch of the National Labour Migration Policy in 2021, significant progress towards the implementation of the agreed activities and strategies such as this workshop to deal

with rampant irregular migration flows and its vices which includes, among other issues; human trafficking, forced labour as well as child labour characterized our region is being witnessed.

The Minister reiterated the importance of the workshop in cultivating relevant knowledge and skills to Member States in enhancing country policies and programming on migration issues as well regional cooperation and harmonization on recruitment procedures and systems. The workshop will also foster and offers the scope to the participants not only to share about their country's experiences but to also discuss on strengthening bilateral labour agreements in terms of strategy and policy options. "As Government we are also excited about the establishment of the Harare and Bulawayo Resource Centre. This is a clear testimony of Government, and its Partners resolve to deliver on the deliverables under the new policy. This initiative will produce empowered and informed labour migrants with respect to irregular migration, and the mechanisms for their protection and empowerment against abuse and exploitation in destination countries", said the Minister.

Household Surveys and International Migration Data Workshop



Held from 14 to 16 March, 2022 in Pretoria, South Africa, the household surveys and international migration data workshop aimed to discuss with specialists the use of household surveys to collect migration data and explore methodological aspects with specialized migration surveys.

Roundtables on Alternatives to Immigration in Zimbabwe



IOM in collaboration with the Government of Zimbabwe with funding from the European Union under the SAMM project hosted a roundtable on alternatives to immigration detention (ATDs). The roundtable, which was held from the 20 to 21 April in Harare, provided the opportunity for the government stakeholders working on migrant protection and assistance to review and validate the report of the assessment of alternatives to immigration detention in Zimbabwe. At the end of the meeting, key recommendations to strengthen the current practices on ATDs in Zimbabwe were endorsed by the stakeholders.

Workshop on Data Collection Approaches on Displacement for Government Officials of Statistics Departments

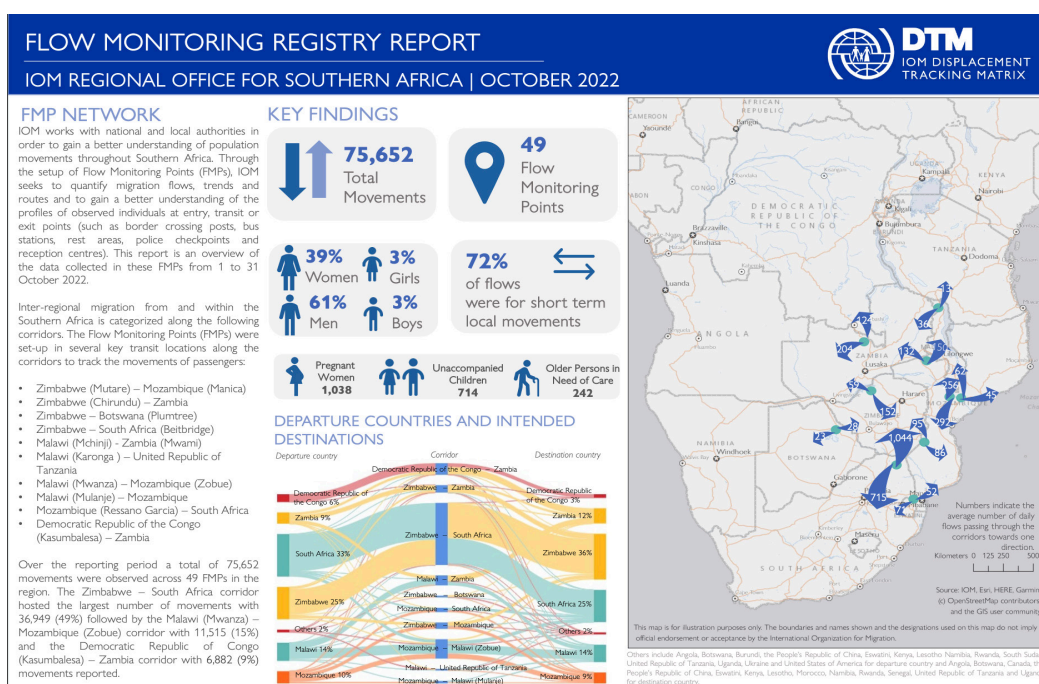


On 16 September 2022, IOM supported a workshop with officials in Maputo, Mozambique to present and discuss IOM and government data collection methodologies on displacement in order to identify ways to integrate and harmonize approaches in alignment with global frameworks and recommendations, including the International Recommendations on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics (IRIS). The workshop was attended by 21 participants with concrete recommendations on the way forward including enhanced collaboration among government agencies responsible for displacement data and continued support from international institutions such as IOM.

Capacity Development Workshop on Migration Data Analysis and Report Writing



IOM with support of the Southern Africa Migration Management (SAMB) project provided a capacity development workshop on migration data analysis and report writing to technical staff from ZamSats and the Ministry of Labour and Social Security. The workshop focused on concepts of migration, and labour, and the identification of indicators relevant to the disaggregation of data on migration indicators. Parts of the workshop on analysis of labour variables from the Labour Force Survey was facilitated by a technical specialist from Statistics South Africa working on the South African Quarterly LFS. The output of the workshop was a report structure and roadmap, tabulation guide and selection of indicators that will be included in the report on the latest Zambian LFS.



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