

East African Community (EAC)



Labor Migration Statistics Report in Africa *Second edition: Regional Migration Profile*

SECOND EDITION OF THE AFRICA LABOR MIGRATION STATISTICS REPORT |

Introduction

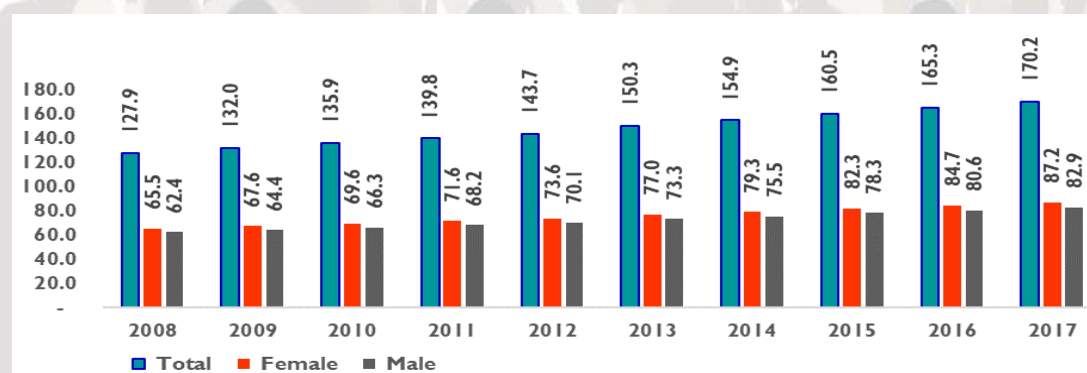
The East African Community (EAC) is a regional intergovernmental organization of 6 Partner States namely the Republics of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda, with its headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania. The region aims to improve the quality of life of the people of East Africa through increased competitiveness, value added production, trade and investments by widening and deepening economic, political, social and cultural integration among the Partner States.

The region also aims at establishing a Customs Union, a Common Market, a Monetary Union, and ultimately a Political Federation of the East African States by enhancing policy harmonization and integration for sustainable growth and development. The region also looks at achieving this through strengthening and consolidating cooperation in agreed fields, strengthen long-standing political, economic, social, cultural and traditional ties and associations between the peoples of partner States in order to promote a people-centered mutual development.

POPULATION

The total population in the region has been increasing over the years. In 2008, the region recorded was 127.9 million people which has increased steadily with 2017 recording a total population of 170.2 million people. This represents an increase of 33.0 percent in the year 2017 compared with the population in 2008 and an annual growth rate of 3.23 percent.

Figure 1. Population of EAC Region by sex, 2008-2017(millions)



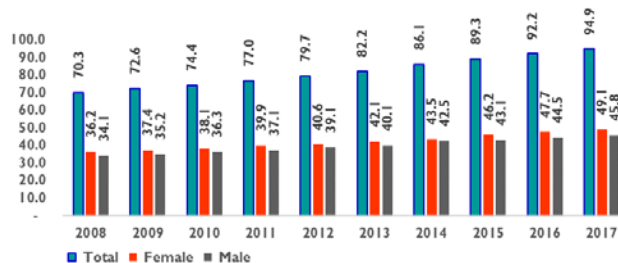
Source: JLMP Database, 2018

The number of females recorded in the region in 2008 was 65.5 million while in 2017 the region recorded a total of 87.2 million females in the population, this indicates an increase of 33.2 percent. Likewise, the number males in the population recorded in 2008 was 62.4 million while in 2017 the region recorded 82.9 million males in the population. This represents an increase of 32.9 percent in the number of males in 2017 as compared to 2008.

WORKING AGE POPULATION

The working age population for the EAC region in 2008 was 70.3 million while in 2017 the region recorded 94.9 million people, which represents an increase of 35.0 percent (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Working-age population in EAC region, by sex, 2008–17(millions)



Source: JLMP Database, 2018

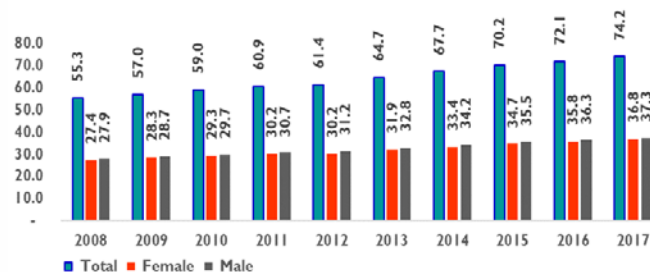
The proportion of males in the working-age population for the region increased from 34.1 million in 2008 to 45.8 million in 2017 (an increase of 34.4 percent). Likewise, the proportion of females in the working-age population in the region increased from 36.2 million in 2008 to 49.1 million in 2017 (an increase of 35.5 percent).

LABOUR FORCE AND LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE

The EAC region recorded 55.3 million people in the labour force in 2008 while in 2017 the region recorded 74.2 million people, which represents an increase of 34.2 percent on the labour force in the region. The population of females in the labour force in 2008 was 27.4 million while that of 2017 was 36.8 million, which indicates an increase of 34.3 percent in the number of females in the labour force in the region. On the other hand, the population of males in the labour force increased from 27.9 million in 2008 to 37.3 million, which represents an increase of 34.0 percent. There is a little difference in the proportion of males compared to that of females in the regions labour force. For instance, in 2017, the male population accounted for 50.4 percent of the labour force while the females accounted for 49.6 percent.

This shows that there is a difference of 0.71 percent on the proportion of males in the labour force as compared to that of females. This shows that the region has put measures of engaging more females to be part of the labour force in the region so as to have good representation in terms of gender.

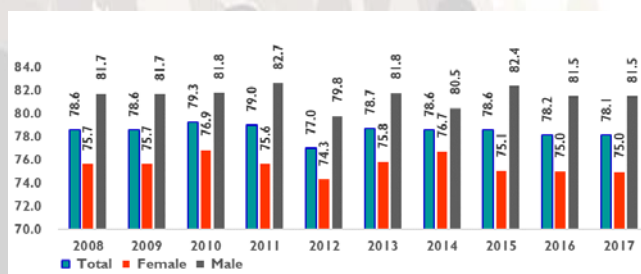
Figure 3. Labour force in EAC region, by sex, 2008–17 (millions)



Source: JLMP Database, 2018

The labour force participation rate for the region for the year 2017 was 78.1 percent with males having a higher proportion of 81.5 percent while the females recorded a lower proportion of 75.0 percent. This trend is consistent over the years evaluated in this report with 2017 recording a difference of 6.52 percent between males and females.

Figure 4. Labour force participation rate in EAC region by sex, 2017 (%)



Source: JLMP Database, 2018

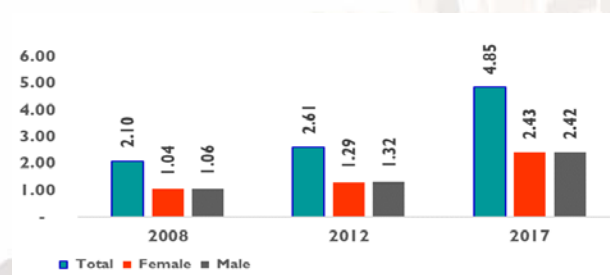
This shows that even though there is little difference in terms of representation in the labour force between males and females in the region, more needs to be done to improve the representation of females in the labour force given that there are more females in the working age population than males.

Stock of international Migrants

TRENDS IN THE SIZE OF THE INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT POPULATION

The number of migrant workers in EAC region has increased over the years partly due to the ease of restrictions on the free movement across the east African member states among other factors. In 2008 the region recorded 2.10 million migrants in the region while in 2017 the total number of migrants recorded in the region were 4.85 million. This represents an increase of 131.0 percent.

Figure 5. International migrant population in EAC region by sex (millions)



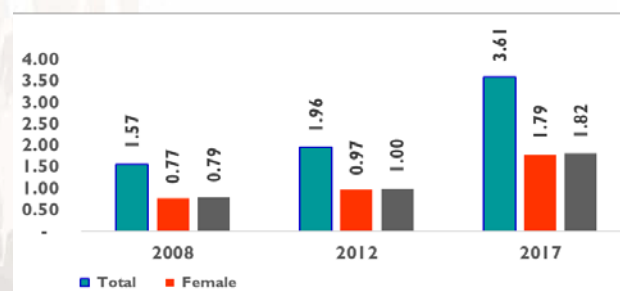
Source: JLMF Database, 2018

In terms of gender, the disaggregation of the migrant population also depicted a similar trend. In 2008, the region recorded a total of 1.04 million international female migrants while in the year 2017 the region recorded a total of 2.43 million female migrants. The number of international male migrants recorded in 2008 was 1.06 million while in 2017 the region recorded 2.42 million.

WORKING-AGE INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS

The number of working age migrants in the EAC region has increased significantly over years. In 2008, the region recorded 1.57 million working age migrants in the region while in 2017, the region recorded 3.61 million working age international migrants, which represents an increase of 129.8 percent on the working age migrant population in the region.

Figure 6. Working-age international migrants in EAC region by sex (millions)



Source: JLMF Database, 2018

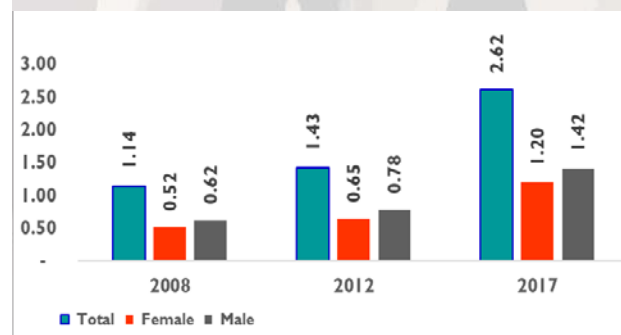
Similarly, in terms of gender a similar trend was shown on both males and females. In 2008, the number of working age female migrants in the region was recorded as 0.77 million and this has increased over the years with 2017 recording 1.79 million working age population of international female migrants in the region. On the other hand, the working age international male migrants showed a similar trend over the years with 2008 recording a total of 0.79 million working age

population of international male migrants while 2017 recorded a total of 1.82 million working age population of international male migrants in the region.

INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT WORKERS

The number of international migrant workers in the EAC region in 2008 was 1.14 million while in 2017 the region recorded 2.62 million international migrant workers, which represents an increase of 129.7 percent. A similar trend is shown when disaggregating the number of international migrant workers by gender. In 2008 there were 0.52 million international female migrant workers while in 2017 the region recorded 1.20 million international female migrant workers. Similarly, the number of male migrant workers in the region in 2008 was reported as 0.62 million while in 2017 the region recorded 1.42 million international male migrant workers. The number of international female migrant workers increased by 131.1 percent while that of the international male migrant workers increased by 128.5 percent over the period.

Figure 7. International migrant workers in EAC by sex, 2017 (millions)



Source: JLMP Database, 2018

In any given year, there were more international male migrant workers than females. Therefore, there is more that needs to be done to bridge the gender gap in the work force between males and

females for the international migrant workers in the region.

YOUNG INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT WORKERS

Majority of the population in the region comprises of youths (15-35 years) spread across various member states. However, when assessing the number of youth migrant workers (15-35), many of the countries were not able to provide this information. For instance, in 2016, only Tanzania was able to provide the number of youth migrant workers while in 2015, only Burundi and Tanzania were able to provide information on this indicator. Many member states from the region haven't provided information on this indicator, while those who have managed to provide, they haven't provided the information in all the years.

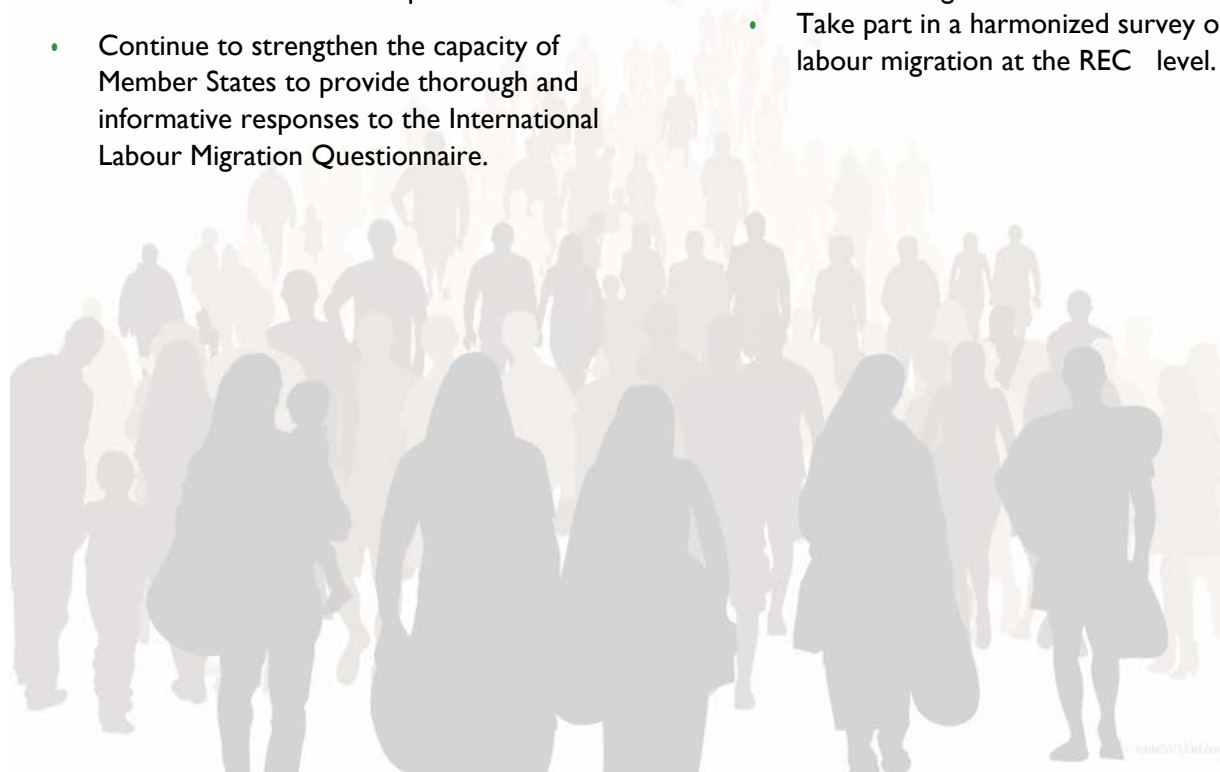
ADDITIONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT WORKERS

Additional migrant profiles were also assessed during the period 2008 to 2017. These include employment status, economic activity, occupation and level of education. However, in the EAC region many countries were unable to provide the information. For instance, in 2016, when disaggregating migrant workers by economic activities, occupation, education and profession none of the EAC partner states was able to provide information on international migrant disaggregation by any of these indicators. The need for these indicators is key to understanding migrant trends in the region given that the number of migrants continues to increase significantly. Therefore, more efforts and measures should be put in place to capacitate member states to produce data disaggregated by these key indicators for a better understanding of migrant needs, trends as well as their impact in the socio-economic aspect.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Bearing in mind the findings from this second edition of labour migration statistics report in Africa, but also the various constraints on the data analysis, the following recommendations were drawn up:

- Continue to strengthen the capacity of Member States to provide thorough and informative responses to the International Labour Migration Questionnaire.
- Monitor and coordinate the collection of data on labour migration within their blocs.
- Promote the use of administrative sources of labour migration data.
- Take part in a harmonized survey on labour migration at the REC level.



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