



Department of Social Affairs Newsletter



Quarterly Newsletter On Migration and Mobility

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Welcome!

Dear representatives from Member States, RECs, and Partners,

It is with great joy that we the Department for Social Affairs, Labour Employment and Migration (LEM), have produced the second edition of the Quarterly Newsletter on Migration and Mobility. Despite the exceptional times induced by COVID-19 pandemic, the various departments contributing to migration and mobility policy streams within the AUC have remained very active in the areas of policy advice and capacity building to Member States and RECs. The AU Commission is cognizant that the ability of AU Member States and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to capitalize on the

opportunities that migration presents, and mitigate its negative impacts; and their ability to manage all aspects of migration and to engage with other continents that are destinations for African migrants, presupposes the presence of robust migration governance systems: the legal and policy frameworks and institutional arrangements for managing migration in a coherent manner.

In this issue, you will receive highlights on the migration governance training and on the launch of the migration and health program. This edition also offers highlights on key policies and programmes, namely the JLMP Three Year Priority Project, the Draft Policy Document on the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons in Africa and the AU Border Governance Strategy. Also included are briefs on the MPFA M&E Framework and the survey on the impact of COVID-19 on the collection of migration statistics in Africa.

Enjoy Reading!

**Mme Cisse
Mariama Mohamed,**
Director, Department
of Social Affairs

Editor-in-Chief

Mr Sabelo Mbokazi
Head: Labour, Employment & Migration
Department for Social Affairs

Highlights of Activities



Participants of the Migration Governance Training Workshop For Member States And RECs. Copyright@2020Africa Union Commission. All Rights Reserved

MIGRATION GOVERNANCE TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR MEMBER STATES AND RECS

The Second Member States/RECs Training Workshop on Migration Governance took place in Bihar Dar, Ethiopia from 9-13 March 2020. This follows a similar training that was held in Accra, Ghana the 5-day training was organized in conjunction with GIZ, and was facilitated by the AU Commission, BiRD Consultancy, The University of Ghana's Center for Migration Studies, and IGAD. The workshop was attended by twenty-six experts from ECCAS, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, Zambia and Zimbabwe working in ministries/departments with migration/ planning responsibilities, Foreign Affairs, immigration, labour, national planning and refugee agencies. The training is an integral part of the AU Capacity Building Initiative on Migration Governance and is in line with the recommendations of the 2018 continental study, the «Assessment of the Capacity Building Needs of AU Member States and RECs to Manage Migration». The Commission has prioritized capacity building of Member States/RECs in the area of migration governance and will conduct a series of similar trainings over the next five years.

LAUNCH OF THE MIGRATION & HEALTH THEMATIC POLICY

The Department for Social Affairs expanded its programmatic portfolio by launching the Migration and Health thematic area on the 23rd July 2020. This stream of work is inspired and anchored on the Migration Policy Framework for Africa (MPFA) Representing other structures of the AU system, were AUDA-NEPAD and Africa CDC. The meeting was also attended by the UNHCR. Opening the meeting, the Director for Social Affairs accentuated that the initiative was borne out of the need to strategically address the health needs of mobile populations in a coordinated manner, especially given the increasing occurrence of conflicts, climate change, irregular migration in Africa. She noted that the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, and other communicable diseases must be systematically addressed for Africa to realize its dream of an integrated, prosperous and peaceful continent.



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF SOMALIA IN MIGRATION GOVERNANCE

Following the request by the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) for technical assistance under the AU Commission's Technical Assistance Facility on Migration Governance (AU-TAF), Phase II of the technical assistance is currently underway, having started in July 2020.

Phase I of the technical assistance was achieved when Experts from the FGS attended the 5-day training on migration governance that was held in Bahir Dar, Ethiopia from 9 – 13 March 2020.

Phase II, which is currently underway, entails providing technical assistance to the FGS in conducting a migration situation analysis of Somalia. The situation analysis will form the basis for migration policy formulation (Phase III). With support from GIZ, consultants have been commissioned to undertake the migration situation analysis and are expected to complete the task in September 2020.

Phase II will be followed by Phase III: the formulation of a national migration policy and plan of action, which in turn will be followed by Phase IV: mainstreaming the migration policy and plan of action into the national development plan of Somalia.

DEVELOPING CONTENT FOR MODULES OF THE AU MIGRATION GOVERNANCE TRAINING PROGRAMME

In line with on-going improvement of the training modules on Migration Governance, the Department of Social Affairs in conjunction with Experts from IGAD, the Institute for Security Studies, IOM and Torchlight Group (the Task Team) are in the process of developing content for the 5-day training workshops on migration governance targeted towards Experts from Member States/RECs with migration responsibilities. The modules under development include the following:

- i) International Migration Law
- ii) Migration in Africa
- iii) The Migration and Development Nexus
- iv) Migration Situation Analysis/Migration Profiles
- v) Establishing Institutional Coordinating Mechanisms for Migration
- vi) Formulating Migration Policies
- vii) Mainstreaming Migration Policies into Development Plans.

The Task Team is also developing modules for a two-day training workshop on enhancing awareness on migration governance for Senior Government Officials and Parliamentarians: «Making Migration Work for Africa»; and another set of modules for a two-day training workshop on enhancing awareness on migration in Africa for African Journalists: «Migration in Africa – Myths and Reality».

It is expected that all the modules will be completed in September 2020. On completion, the modules will be transformed into online e-learning materials. This will enable training to be conducted despite the travel restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Spotlights

THE JOINT LABOUR MIGRATION PROGRAMME (THREE YEAR PRIORITY PROGRAM) (JLMP)

The JLMP was adopted and launched in 2018 in order to improve the labour migration landscape across the continent by implementing the AU's Agenda 2063, the UN SDG's for 2030, and the AU-Migration Policy Framework for Africa. For an effective implementation of the programme, a Three-Year Project (JLMP Priority) was developed and launched in 2018 with the overall objective of improving the governance of labour migration, achieve safe, orderly and regular migration in Africa as committed in relevant frameworks of the African Union (AU) and Regional Economic Commissions (RECs), as well as international labour conventions. It has prioritized the following objectives: (i) to enhance effectiveness and transparency of operations of labour migration stakeholders, in consultation and cooperation with workers and employers' organizations, the private sector, recruitment industry and relevant civil society organizations, in delivering improved labour migration governance services; (ii) to improve policy and regulatory systems on labour migration at Member State (MS) and RECs levels by considering the gender dimension and relevant international human rights and labour standards; (iii) to ensure multi-stakeholder policy consultation and practical coordination on labour migration and mobility to provide advisory support to MS, AU and REC decision makers; and (iv) to strengthen the AUC capacity for continental and regional operational leadership in labour migration management including spearheading/steering the implementation of the JLMP at all levels.

Department of Social Affairs

DEVELOPMENT OF DRAFT POLICY DOCUMENT ON THE PREVENTION OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS IN AFRICA

Based on the report of the evaluation of the Ouagadougou Plan of Action in 2018, the AUC is currently developing two new policy documents on the prevention of Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants. The AUC in partnership with IOM have contracted consultants to develop the above policies which will be subjected to validation processes by experts from Member States, RECs and civil society in the coming months.

Once they are validated, the policies will be submitted to the AU decision making bodies for endorsement.

Department of Social Affairs

THE AFRICAN UNION BORDER GOVERNANCE STRATEGY (AUBGS)

The AU Border Governance Strategy is a non-binding document for Member States adopted in November 2017. It is a guidelines-instrument of orientation, coordination and coherence of border policies at different levels: continental, regional, and national. It aims ultimately to bring borders out of the periphery and place them in the heart of public policies of the AU, RECs and African States. The overall objective of the Strategy is to "put in place a new form of pragmatic border governance aimed at promoting peace, security and stability, in order to facilitate the integration process and sustainable development in Africa".

The strategy is based on 5 relevant pillars: (i) Development Capabilities for Border Governance; (ii) Conflict Prevention and Resolution, Border Security & Transnational Threats; (iii) Mobility, Migration & Trade Facilitation; (vi) Cooperative Border Management; and (v) Borderland Development & Community Engagement.

The effective implementation of the **principles of subsidiarity and complementarity constitute** the basis for the implementation of this Strategy, with full respect for the primacy of State responsibility as well as the organization of the State.

Department of Peace and Security

Briefs

THE MPFA M&E FRAMEWORK

The Migration Policy Framework for Africa or the MPFA for short is the most comprehensive framework of the African Union on migration and mobility issues. It aims at facilitating safe, orderly and dignified migration. The revised MPFA version of 2018 stipulates the need to develop a monitoring and evaluation framework in order to regularly monitor its implementation. Such a framework has been developed by the African Union Department of Social Affairs (DSA) – and supported by GIZ.

In an online session that took place on April 24, 2020, the MPFA M&E Framework has been validated by twenty representatives of the AUC departments namely the Department of Social Affairs (DSA), the Department of Political Affairs (DPA), the Department of Infrastructure and Energy (DIE), the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Women, Gender and Development Directorate (WGDD), the Citizens and Diaspora Directorate and the African Institute for Remittances (AIR), and other AU organs such as the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (The Banjul Commission).

The MPFA M&E framework is to be updated and/or revised every 3 years based on the experience of working with the indicators (including relevance and data availability) and progress against baseline and established targets. It has the following objectives:

- To monitor and assess the level of uptake of the 2018 MPFA by local government authorities, Member States and RECs (mainstreaming into local, national and regional development frameworks).

- To provide a framework that allows for the strategic and operational evaluation of the MPFA, including to assess the level of internal AUC collaboration on migration and mobility issues.

- To monitor and assess the level of implementation of activities of the MPFA Plan of Action under the respective thematic areas: Migration Governance; Labour Migration and Education; Diaspora Engagement; Border Governance; Irregular Migration; Forced Displacement; Internal Migration; and Migration and Trade.

The MPFA 2018 M&E Framework includes a relatively large number of indicators which are all useful in order to represent the complex, multi-sectoral and multi-faceted nature of African migration situations.

The MPFA M&E Framework process is the responsibility of many actors. It requires coordination and communication at various stages between the different actors and institutions concerned. This coordination was manifested under the African Union Coordination Committee Meeting (AU CCM) with an overall objective of ensuring the coordination of all stakeholders concerned with migration and human mobility issues within the AUC and enhancing synergy and collaboration among all the relevant departments and institutions of the Commission. The MPFA M&E process is also the responsibility of Member States and RECs. The monitoring and evaluation framework of the MPFA will assist to keep track on the aspiration of realizing safe, orderly and regular migration in Africa.

**African Union Commission
Department of Social Affairs**

THE SURVEY ON THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE COLLECTION OF MIGRATION STATISTICS IN AFRICA

High quality migration data has long term impact on the development of informed evidence-based policies. It can also facilitate in making better decisions amongst governments and policy makers. With the existing and produced migration statistics, the African continent has limited capacity to monitor and implement the Migration Policy Framework for Africa, and

the AU / ILO / IOM / ECA Joint Program for Labor Migration in Africa. It is also difficult to follow and evaluate the progress of the Global Migration Compact implementation.

With COVID-19 pandemic, the production of migration statistics may slow down. This has direct effect on the implementation of some policies and African strategies, specifically related to migration and human mobility. Most of countries confirmed that data sources used for producing migration data in African will be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Earlier in April 2020, the African Union Institute for Statistics (STATAFRIC) initiate a questionnaire to the National Statistical Offices of the 55 Member States of the African Union to collect data on the impact of COVID-19 on the production of migration statistics in countries. Forty-seven (47) African countries replied to the questionnaire, with a response rate of 85.45%.

The survey has showed that:

- Over 87% of African countries collect data on labor migration statistics; 68% collect data on remittances in the production of migration statistics, and 55.3% of African countries produce statistics on refugees;
- Over 76% of African countries produce migration statistics on an annual basis with 28% producing migration statistics on quarterly basis and 13% produce migration statistics on a monthly basis;
- About ninety-eight percent (98%) of African countries use population and housing censuses to produce migration data;
- Only twenty-eight percent (28%) of the countries believe that administrative sources can be used as alternatives, for collecting data to produce migration statistics in the continent;
- About fifty-four percent (54%) of African countries think that they can make estimates to fill the lack of production of migration statistics due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

With the aim to minimize and containing the negative impacts of this pandemic on the production of migration statistics in the continent, members states recommended the following points:

- Explore the possibility of starting to conduct surveys by cellphone;
- Facilitate the teleworking of all actors involved in the data production

chain and provide the necessary infrastructure for data security;

- Use information and communication technologies to produce statistics;
- Strengthen measures and mobilization of funds for statistical production;
- Continuous improvement and automation of administrative data sources;
- Explore the use of big data as a potential source of migration statistics;
- Improve national data coverage and quality of administrative data sources through regular updates at national level;
- Embrace technology through application of ICT in the data collection and intensify on CATI.

African Union Commission
Department of Economic Affairs

RELEVANT POLICY INSTRUMENTS ON MIGRATION AND DISPLACEMENT

[The African Union Border Governance Strategy \(2017\)](#)

[The Joint Labour Migration Programme \(JLMP\) \(2015\)](#)

[The protocol Establishing the African Economic Community Relating to Free Movement of Persons, Rights of Residence and Establishment \(2018\)](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Launch of the official version of the African Union Border Governance Strategy (in all four languages) and an abridged version. Department of Peace and Security/ African Union Border Programme (AUBP).

Launch of the 2nd Edition of the Labour Migration Statistics Report in Africa.

Africa/Middle East Policy Dialogue on Multilateral Cooperation on Protection of African Migrant Workers.

Launch of Labour Migration Media Awards and Resource Hub

Launch of generic modules for pre departure and post arrival orientation.

LMAC Meeting with Pan African Parliament.

LMAC Videoconferences with various stakeholders on labour migration and covid-19 topics in order to gather information and formulate policy briefs and recommendations.

Symposium on Fostering Labour Mobility within and from Africa.



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS



African Union Headquarters P.O. Box 3243,
Roosevelt Street W21K19, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Tel: +251 (0) 11 551 77 00 Fax: +251 (0) 11 551 78 44

www.au.int     

CONTACTS:
Sabelo Mbokazi, Head, Division on Labour, Employment
and Migration, Department of Social Affairs
MbokaziS@africa-union.org

<https://twitter.com/ausocialaffairs>
https://twitter.com/Elfadil_DSA

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