

JOINT LABOUR MIGRATION PROGRAMME (JLMP)



**INTRODUCING THE AFRICA LABOUR MIGRATION
JOURNALISTS NETWORK**

The texts featured in this publication are true and have been shared by members of the New Africa Labour Migration Journalists Network. These journalists under the Federation of African Journalists (FAJ) are working closely with the AU-IOM-ILO Joint Labour Migration Programme (JLMP) effectively communicate policy developments and enhance the labour migration narrative across Africa.

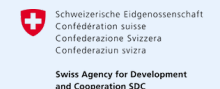
The opinions expressed in this book are those of the network and do not necessarily reflect the views of the JLMP. The designations employed and the presentation of material throughout the book do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever.

The JLMP remains committed to working closely with Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Member States (MSs) and Civil Society to enhance governance of labour migration across the African continent.

THE AU-IOM-ILO JOINT LABOUR
MIGRATION PROGRAMME (JLMP)

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FOREWORD



Labour migration is an undeniable reality, and it is our collective responsibility to harness its potential. For too long, the dominant narrative has cast migration in a negative light, despite its proven role as a catalyst for social and economic development. While challenges persist, it's crucial to view migration through a balanced lens, highlighting both its benefits and positive impacts.

As Africans, it is imperative that we take control of our migration narrative, telling stories that accurately reflect the realities in our Member States, rather than relying on assumptions and misconceptions from outsiders. This is why, under the Joint Labour Migration Programme (JLMP), we have brought together senior editors and reporters from across the continent, equipping them with the skills and resources needed to enhance media coverage of migration in Africa.

In partnership with the Federation of African Journalists (FAJ), we have established this network dedicated to improving editorial standards for covering labour migration across Africa. This network comprises five members, each representing one of the five regions of the continent. We are proud to introduce them and look forward to their contributions in reshaping the narrative on migration in Africa.

Dr. Sabelo Mbokazi
Head of Labour, Employment and Migration
Division, African Union Commission

“I INTEND TO COLLABORATE WITH MEDIA OUTLETS THAT FOCUS ON AFRICAN DIASPORA COMMUNITIES”

I am Jemima Beukes, a committed advocate within the Namibian media landscape, and I currently serve as the Acting Secretary-General of the Namibia Media Professionals Union (NAMPU), which I proudly co-founded. As a senior political journalist with Namibia Media Hub and a co-founder of Namibia Women in Media, I am passionate about advancing gender equality and representation in the media sector. My work also extends to serving as a committee member for The Kigali Declaration on the Elimination of Gender Violence in and through Media in Africa by 2034, and I am honored to be a research fellow with the Africa Asia Dialogue.

Given the ongoing challenges faced by African migrants, I am dedicated to supporting positive media reporting on their migration journeys and contributions to the diaspora. My focus is on highlighting the success stories of African migrants who have excelled in various fields, including business, education, arts, and technology. By showcasing these narratives, I aim to counter the prevalent negative stereotypes often associated with African migrants and emphasize their positive impact on their host countries.

To amplify these voices, I plan to collaborate with media outlets that focus on African diaspora communities. I believe this partnership will be crucial in ensuring that the contributions of African migrants are recognized and celebrated. Additionally, I will employ data-driven reporting to illustrate the economic, cultural, and social contributions of African migrants in their host countries. Through this approach, I intend to shift the narrative from viewing migrants as a burden to recognizing them as valuable assets to society.

By grounding media portrayals in reliable data, I aim better to reflect the diverse experiences and contributions of African migrants. Through these efforts, I am committed to creating a detailed and positive narrative surrounding African migration, highlighting the resilience and achievements of migrants.

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COUNTRY
NAMIBIA



JEMIMA AT A JIMP CAPACITY BUILDING

NAME
MOKHLIS
BRAHIM

COUNTRY
MOROCCO



BRAHIM AT A JLMP CAPACITY BUILDING

“THIS ROLE GIVES ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY A KEY PART IN ADVANCING JOURNALISM IN MY REGION”

I am Brahim Mokhliss, a journalist with over 26 years of experience, recognized for my extensive coverage of significant political, economic, and social events. Since 2009, I have been contributing in-depth articles and conducting interviews with key figures for the daily newspaper "Le Matin." My career began at the weekly "Le Reporter," where I worked from 1998 to 2009, playing a crucial role in drafting reports, investigations, and features. My time as editorial secretary from 2005 to 2009 was particularly impactful, shaping my professional growth.

My academic journey includes ongoing doctoral research in social sciences, with a specialization in political communication since 2021. I hold a Master's degree in Political Communication, obtained in 2019 from Hassan II University in Casablanca, and a Professional Degree in Journalism and Media, earned in 2017.

Additionally, I have a diploma in Audiovisual Journalism and Print Media from 1998 and a Bachelor's degree in Private Law from 1997. I am fluent in French and Arabic, with intermediate proficiency in English. My technical skills include computing, artificial intelligence tools, and expertise in collaborative work platforms. Throughout my career, I have been recognized for my passion for journalism, ethical standards, and commitment to the development of my country and continent. I have developed strong organizational and communication skills, which have helped me build a vast network of contacts, enhancing my influence and impact in the field.

In August 2024, I was elected Vice President of the ALMJN network for the North Africa region, giving me a key role in advancing journalism in my region. This role makes me look at migration stories keenly more than ever! I intend to implore colleagues in the National Council of the Moroccan National Press Union (SNPM) to probe, research, and cover migration accurately and ethically.

“MY GOAL IS TO CHALLENGE BIASES THAT OFTEN PORTRAY A NEGATIVE IMAGE OF DISPLACED PERSONS AND TO PRESENT THEIR NEEDS”

I am Aminata SANOU, a journalist based in Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso, with a focus on social justice and training in Gender Equality and Inclusion. Since 2018, I have been deeply invested in training journalists on gender equality and security in the media.

As a founding member of the Gender Cell of the Association of Journalists of Burkina, I actively advocate for the promotion of underrepresented voices. In 2022, my dedication was recognized when I received a special award at the Marie Soleil FRÈRE Prize for Best Journalist, honoring my investigation into the impact of COVID-19 on people living with HIV.

With the increasing migration challenges in Burkina Faso, especially due to terrorist attacks that have displaced millions of people within our borders, I recognized the critical role journalists play in managing this crisis. This led me to choose the theme for my Master's thesis at Nazi Boni University in Bobo-Dioulasso: "Insecurity in Burkina Faso: The Role of Journalists in Managing Internally Displaced Persons."

As the leader of the network of journalists for the Joint Labour Migration Program (JLMP) in West Africa, I see this as a unique opportunity to contribute to the objectives of the African Union, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the International Labour Organization (ILO). I am committed to developing a positive and humanizing narrative around migration stories. My goal is to challenge the confirmation biases that often portray a negative image of displaced persons and to present their needs in a more comprehensive and respectful manner. I strive to create a narrative that honors the courage and essential contributions of these individuals to the development of both their places of origin and their destinations within Africa.

NAME
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FASO



AMINATA AT A JLMP CAPACITY BUILDING

NAME
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HAMEKOUE
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CAMEROON



“I WILL LEVERAGE OUR REGIONAL JOURNALIST PLATFORMS TO INTRODUCE THEM TO VALUABLE RESOURCES PROVIDED BY THE AFRICAN UNION, IOM, & ILO THAT CAN ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LABOUR MIGRATION REPORTING”

I was born on 13 October 1960, in Bankondji. After studying in Douala, Cameroon, and in Lyon, France, I began my career as a journalist as a reporter at a radio station before transitioning to print media. Initially covering social issues and culture, I later focused on political journalism, working as a reporter, editor-in-chief, and currently as a columnist and editorialist at The Politics Hebdo.

As a member of the National Union of Journalists of Cameroon, I have held roles as a member of the Syndical Council, Vice President in charge of International Relations, and currently, Secretary General. I am also involved in several civil society organizations, including the MWANKO WA AFRIKA Movement and Stand Up For Cameroon.

As a member of the network coordinating the Central African region, I will leverage our regional journalist platforms to introduce them to valuable resources provided by the African Union, IOM, and ILO that can enhance the quality of labour migration reporting. I am also committed to involving junior writers and reporters in migration issues, ensuring they actively participate and gain experience. This will help us build a skilled team that can continue to address migration challenges effectively even as we eventually retire.

“WE MUST HARNESS MEDIA POWER TO ADDRESS MIGRATION ISSUES EFFECTIVELY AND ENSURE THEY RECEIVE THE GLOBAL ATTENTION THEY DESERVE”

I am Erick Oduor, a seasoned media professional and leader with a strong commitment to promoting positive change in society. Currently, I serve as the Secretary General of the Kenya Union of Journalists (KUJ), a leading organization in Kenya dedicated to advocating for the rights and welfare of media workers. I am passionate about media freedom and good governance and bring extensive knowledge in media leadership and innovation to my role.

With over 20 years in the media industry, I have risen through the ranks to become an editor at Nation Media Group, a prominent media organization in Kenya. My experience and respect earned from my colleagues have led me to my current position as Secretary General of KUJ, one of Kenya's influential media organizations.

I hold a Master of Arts in Political Science and Public Administration from the University of Nairobi, as well as a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Communication from the same institution. Additionally, I am a fellow at the University of Georgia and an alumnus of the United Nations University in Turin.

I firmly believe that the media has the power to place migration at the forefront of the world's development agenda. We must harness this power to address migration issues effectively and ensure they receive the global attention they deserve.



NAME
ERICK
ODUOR
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ERICK AT A JUMP CAPACITY BUILDING

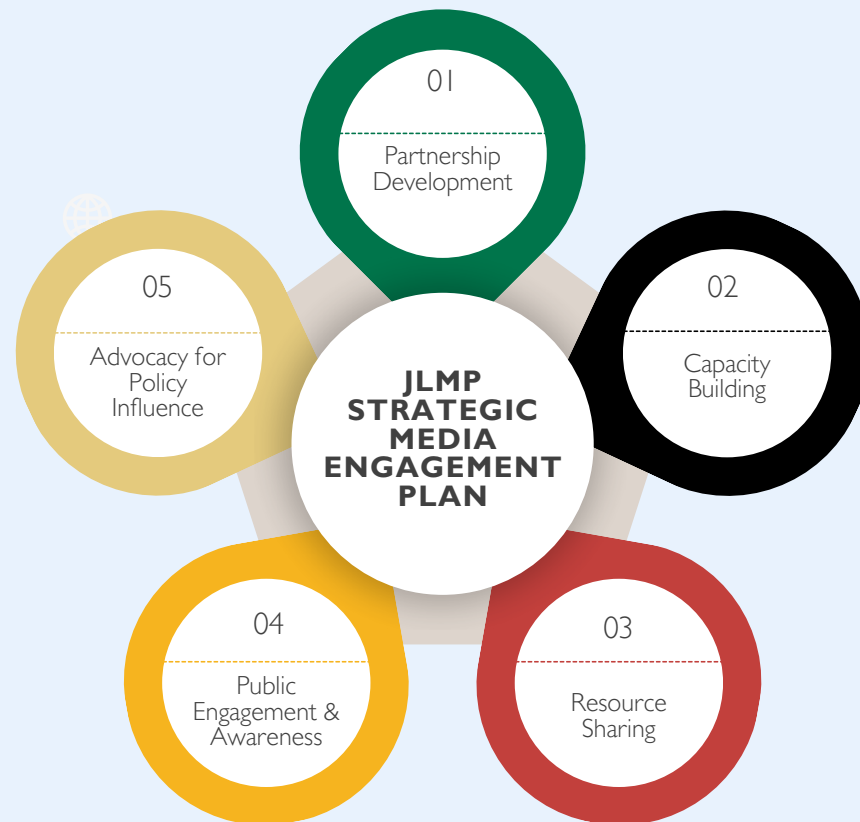
JLMP AT A GLANCE

The Joint Labour Migration Programme (JLMP) in Africa is a long-term collaborative effort to implement the 5th Key Priority Area of the Declaration and Plan of Action on Employment, Poverty Eradication, and Inclusive Development. This declaration was adopted by the Assembly of Heads of States and Governments in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in January 2015 (AU/Assembly/AU/20(XXIV)/Annex 3, January 2015).

The JLMP strategy focuses on promoting intra-African labour migration and aims to support the achievement of the First 2023 Ten-Year Plan of the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is implemented by the African Union Commission (AUC), the International Labour Organization (ILO), and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Our Objective: Contribute to improved labour migration governance to achieve Safe, orderly, and regular, migration in Africa as committed in relevant frameworks of the African Union (AU) and Regional Economic Communities (RECs), as well as relevant international human rights and labour standards and other cooperation processes.

The JLMP considers the following for effective media engagement





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