



Better
Regional
Migration
Management



Concept Note

Regional training and peer-to-peer knowledge sharing event on strengthening labour migration statistics for countries in EHoA and the AU

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

21 - 25 October 2024

Background and rationale

With populations growing globally and more so in Africa, and labour participation rates shrinking in richer countries of the world and demand for labour from globalized labour markets increasing and unemployment rising in the Africa region, the influence of labour migration on the size and composition of a country's work force is becoming increasingly and undeniably palpable. A good understanding of the labour force (skills, occupations, working conditions, etc.) is critical for developing effective labour market policies, but also to advance inclusive and equitable economic, social and migration policies. Such policies are complex and require reliable quantitative and qualitative data. Furthermore, labour migration statistics are needed, not only for informing policy debates, but also for formulating, implementing and evaluating labour migration policies which address the real effects of migration on labour markets and national development.

Migration in East and Horn of Africa region is a complex and multi-faceted phenomenon. The flows of people in, between and from countries in the region can be best characterized as mixed migration flows that encompasses refugees, asylum-seekers, displaced persons, and migrants pursuing family reunification, education, and employment. According to the African Union 2019 report on labour migration statistics (third edition), East and Horn of Africa (EHoA) holds the second largest share of Africa's population with an estimate of 357 million. Similarly, the region also hosts the highest number of migrant populations (7.7 million). The report further highlights that the East and Horn of Africa region has registered the highest growth rates in international migration population (7.4 per cent) and migrant labour force (7.5 per cent), despite the low population growth and labour force rate (each 2.6) from 2010-2019. The EHoA is also one of the

regions with the largest increase in the number of migrants and refugees globally. The East and Horn of Africa region faces significant social and economic challenges that is also a pushing factor for migration, namely, persistent poverty, inequality, high levels of informality in labour markets, and vulnerability to various shocks such as conflicts, natural disasters, and health emergencies.

Labour migration is critical component of socio-economic development in East and Horn of Africa (EHoA) region, increasingly becoming a policy priority that demands equitable responses for migrant workers and their families as well as countries of origin and destination. Labour migration improves the welfare of migrant workers and their families both in their country of origin and in destination. However, despite its importance, there is a significant lack of comprehensive and reliable labour migration statistics in the region, despite the fact that countries in the EHoA region collect lots of information regarding labour migration through censuses/surveys and administrative records. This gap hampers the formulation of effective policies and programs that can harness the benefits of labour migration while addressing its challenges.

In response to these challenges, strengthening capacity on labour migration statistics has emerged as critical for evidence-based policy making. Accordingly, the ILO Better Regional Migration Management (BRMM) programme¹ financed by the UK FCDO is planning to organize a regional workshop and peer to peer knowledge sharing to address the urgent need to fill these data gaps and rectify inconsistencies in labour migration statistics within EHoA from 21- 25 October 2024 in Dar es Salam, Tanzania. Improved data is essential for evidence-based policy-making and effective management of labour migration. Strengthening the technical capacity of national statistical offices and other relevant stakeholders is critical for adopting international standards and methodologies. Enhanced regional cooperation and knowledge-sharing will facilitate standardized data collection practices, thereby enhancing data comparability across countries.

Objective

The overall objective of the training is to strengthen the capacity of institutions in selected countries in East and Horn of Africa in the production of statistics on international labour

¹ The BRMM is a three-year programme focusing on strengthening the capacities of countries in East and Horn of Africa to govern labour migration by using evidence-based policies, enhancing migrant workers' qualifications and skills, and actively engaging the social partners. The programme is funded by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Department (FCDO), and is being implemented in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda, and Tanzania.

migration from different sources including population censuses and sample household surveys, by sharing the practical guidance issued and highlighting concrete examples of good practices achieved through the BRMM II project.

Specific objectives

1. Provide participants with an understanding of international guidelines on labour migration statistics, focusing on indicators and data sources as outlined in the 20th and 21st International Conferences of Labour Statisticians
2. Facilitate practical sessions on completing the ILO-AU annual ILMS questionnaire using national data, emphasizing its relevance and importance in national reporting.
3. Introduce a practical guide for mapping and assessing international labour migration data sources, including population censuses, household surveys, and administrative records.
4. Guide participants in the design and analysis of population and housing census data specific to international labour migration,
5. Share experiences on good practices in production and dissemination of labour migration statistics.
6. Discuss the implementation of Labour Market Information Systems (LMIS) for labour migration data dissemination, highlighting best practices and case studies.
7. Develop a strategic framework for improving production and dissemination of Labour Market Statistics for the individual countries and the EHoA as a region.

Expected Outputs

By the end of the training, the participants are expected to:

- Gain enhanced technical skills and knowledge in aligning national labour migration statistics with international standards, specifically the guidelines from the 20th and 21st International Conferences of Labour Statisticians (ICLS).
- Improve the quality, reliability, and consistency of labour migration statistics by adopting standardized methodologies and best practices discussed during the workshop.
- Promote enhanced regional cooperation and peer-to-peer learning among EHoA countries and AU and regional economic member states (IGAD and EAC), facilitating harmonized data collection and reporting practices.
- Develop national strategies and action plans to address data gaps and improve the production and dissemination of labour migration statistics within their respective countries.

Participants

The training will encompass 37 participants, namely senior officials from relevant government, namely 1 from the Ministry of Labour and 2 from the National Statistics Office (NSO), as well as workers and employers' organizations from for Djibouti, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Somalia, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. AU, EAC and IGAD will also be invited. The participants should be statisticians from units responsible for the production of Labour Statistics and/or Migration Statistics.

Date and Venue

- The workshop will be held from 21 to 25 October 2024.
- The venue will be in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.
- The workshop modality will be hybrid with all participants attending on a face-to-face modality while the facilitators having a mixture of virtual and face-to-face modality.

Topics to be covered

The training will cover a range of relevant topics broadly highlighted below:

1. Update on the guidelines on international Labour Migration statistics from the 20th and 21st ICLS
2. Presentation of the ILO Guides on Labour Migration
 - General Guide on Labour Migration Statistics
 - Mapping and assessing national data sources of statistics on international labour migration
 - Analysis of population census data on international labour
3. Dissemination of information on International Labour Migration, the case of a Labour Market Information System at the National Level.
4. Sharing of country experiences in the different aspects of the statistical production value chain.
 - Collation and use of administrative records: the experience of the Ministry of Labour
 - Analysis of data from household surveys e.g. the Labour Force and Migration survey
 - Analysis of Labour migration from data in a population census
 - Analysis of Labour migration data from an Establishment survey
 - Analysis of labour migration from Censuses
5. Developing a strategy for improving production of labour migration statistics in the EHoA region, which eventually can be customised to the individual countries.