

# LABOUR MIGRATION IN AFRICA

## CURRENT STATUS, CHALLENGES AND ACTION PLANS

Migration often results from low and inappropriate human security, and represents a strategy for people to cope with risks of income inequality, high unemployment and underemployment rates, conflicts, and environmental degradation.



THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION (ILO) ESTIMATED THE NUMBER OF MIGRANT WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES IN THE WORLD AT 100 MILLION IN 2010, OUT OF WHICH 20 MILLION WERE IN AFRICA

31 million African people were living in countries other than their birth place, with 77% of the 31 million from Sub-Saharan Africa.

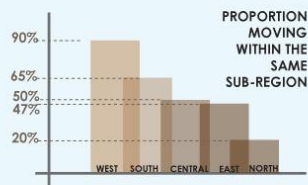
The International Labour Organization (ILO) estimated that **105.4 million persons were economically active** out of the 214 million people living outside their country of birth or citizenship in the year 2010.

The ILO further highlighted that "these **(105.4 million)** and family members accompanying them will account for almost **90%** of total international migrants.

Increasing cross-border labour and skills mobility has made labour migration an ever more urgent challenge for governance across Africa.



Intra-regional mobility (migration within the region) represents more than 4 out of 5 migrants in ECOWAS (The Economic Community of West African States).



MANY MIGRANTS ARE SELF-EMPLOYED OR EMPLOYED IN AGRICULTURE AND INFORMAL ACTIVITY

SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS MAY BE FOUND IN INDUSTRY AND SERVICES

THERE IS SIGNIFICANT CROSS-BORDER, "CIRCULAR" MOBILITY OF COMMERCIAL TRADES PEOPLE, WITH INCREASED CROSS-BORDER TRADE FLOWS THAT PROMOTE LOCAL GROWTH AND EMPLOYMENT

THERE IS NO INFORMATION REGARDING MIGRANTS' SKILLS, LABOUR MARKET PARTICIPATION, CONDITIONS OF WORK, OR SOCIAL PROTECTION COVERAGE

LACK OF COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL LABOUR MIGRATION STRATEGIES AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS

INADEQUACIES CONCERNING RECOGNITION OF QUALIFICATIONS AND COMPETENCIES ACROSS BORDERS

ABSENCE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF FREE MOVEMENT PROTOCOL RIGHTS AND MECHANISMS DEVELOPED BY RECS

SECURITY AGENDA OFTEN LIMITS THE BROADER UNDERSTANDING OF LABOUR MIGRATION AS FUNDAMENTAL ISSUE FOR DEVELOPMENT, REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND THE LABOUR MARKET

**CHALLENGES**

**PROPOSED SOLUTIONS**

- SUPPORT THE AVAILABILITY OF RELEVANT AND COMPARABLE LABOUR MIGRATION DATA
- RESOLUTION OF SKILLS SHORTAGES AND INCREASED RECOGNITION OF QUALIFICATIONS
- EXTENSION OF SOCIAL SECURITY COVERAGE TO MIGRANTS
- TRIPARTITE POLICY DIALOGUE AND COORDINATION AT NATIONAL, REC AND CONTINENTAL LEVEL
- IMPLEMENTATION OF FREE CIRCULATION REGIMES IN RECS AND ADOPTION OF NATIONAL POLICY
- INCREASED RATIFICATION AND DOMESTICATION OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS