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 economic 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 Africans people were living in countries other than their birthplace, with 27.8% of the 31 million from Sub-Saharan Africa

The International Labour Organization (ILO) estimated that 106.4 million persons were economically active out of the 214 million people living outside their country of birth or of residence in the year 2012.

The ILO further highlighted that 11.8% (106.4 million) of formal and family members accompanying them would 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.

PROPORTION MOVING WITHIN THE SAME SUB-REGION

4 out of 5 MIGRANTS IN ECOWAS

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 economy

Significant numbers may be found in industry and services

There is no information regarding migrants’ skills, labour market transitions, conditions of work, or social protection coverage

Lack of comprehensive national labour migration strategies and policy frameworks

Inadequate monitoring of policies and implementation of rights and responsibilities of migrants

Absence of harmonization of migration protocols, rules, and regulations developed by ILO

Security challenges, deterrence of the discourage under-regulation of labour migration, as well as incomplete national regulations and the local labour market

PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

Support the development of relevant and comparable labour migration data

Identification of skills shortages and increased integration of skills applications

Establishment of social security coverage for migrants

Establishment of policy dialogue and consultation on national, non-exempt, and international level

Implementation of the core labour standards on rights and protection of national policy

Increased partnership and cooperation of international organizations

International Labour Organization
United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa