The project is implemented as part of the Joint Labour Migration Programme (JLMP), which was developed with Africa’s Regional Economic Communities and organizations representing the interests of business, workers and migrants.

It is funded by the European Commission, through the Pan-African MMD Facility implemented by ICMPD and it’s a key component of ILO’s Flagship programme on building social protection floors for all which contributes to the achievement of SDG 1.3.

Stakeholders and target groups in the EAC include the EAC Secretariat, EAC policy organs in charge of labour, migration and social protection issues, the Eastern and Central Africa Social security association (ECASSA), regional social partners, social security institutions, and Member States.

Within the AUC component of the Project, the Action aims to support EAC and its sub-regional social partners to effectively coordinate and contribute to regional and sub-regional social protection programmes for migrant workers in both the formal and informal economy, through:

- Supporting EAC and other RECs to participate in south-south cooperation initiatives and intra-RECs technical cooperation, including the participation and involvement in communities of practice at the continental and RECs level;
- Building the capacities of the AUC, selected RECs including EAC and regional and sub-regional social partners to advance social protection for migrant workers; and
- Initiatives for systematic collection and analysis of statistical information, to inform policymaking and support EAC member States monitor progress towards the achievement of social protection related SDGs and relevant AU Agenda 2063 targets.

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Enhancing EAC’s capacity and knowledge base to advance regional coordination of social security, as per common market protocol, and improve migrant workers’ access to social protection
EXTENDING SOCIAL PROTECTION TO MIGRANT WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES TO FOSTER DEVELOPMENT

Social security is a basic human right enshrined in major international instruments, such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966), and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families (1990) as well as various ILO Conventions and Recommendations.

Social protection is also at the heart of the 2030 Agenda, which recognizes the role social protection plays in achieving sustainable development and leaving no one behind.

However, migrant workers face significant challenges accessing social protection. This is due to the particularity of their circumstances such as the length of their periods of employment and residence, their status as non-nationals, as well as their immigrant status.

They risk loss of entitlement to social security benefits in their country of origin due to their absence, and may at the same time encounter restrictive conditions under the social protection system of the host country.

Moreover, their dependents often remain excluded from health care provisions, even when migrant workers are covered during their employment period by the social protection system of the host country.

Extending social security access and portability to migrant workers and their families would realize numerous global and continental employment period by the social protection system of the host country. They risk loss of entitlement to social security benefits in their country of origin due to their absence, and may at the same time encounter restrictive conditions under the social protection system of the host country.

THE PROJECT

To enhance decent work and social protection to migrant workers and their families, the ILO is implementing an EC/ICMPD funded project: Extending social protection access and portability of benefits to migrant workers and their families in selected RECs in Africa.

The project aims at strengthening the Regional Economic Communities’ capacities to provide, as well as drive the implementation of regional frameworks on the extension of social protection to migrant workers and their families.

REVITALIZING THE REGIONAL SOCIAL SECURITY COORDINATION FRAMEWORK

In November 2009 EAC Partner States signed the EAC Common Market Protocol (CMP), which provides for the free movement of labour and the right of establishment for all citizens of the EAC Partner States.

Article 10(3) of the CMP entitles a worker to enjoy the rights and benefits of social security as accorded to the workers of the host Partner State. Article 12 of the Protocol, states that “The Partner States undertake to review and harmonize their national social security policies, laws and systems to provide for social security for self-employed persons who are citizens of other Partner States”.

To operationalise the CMP provisions on social security benefits, the Forum of Ministers of Labour and Employment, at its 4th sitting held from 22nd – 6th November 2009, adopted a Model Annex to inform the development of a Council Directive on the Coordination of Social Security systems.

A number of social security experts meetings were held in collaboration with the ILO (through the MIGSEC project) and a draft Council Directive (a multilateral social security agreement) on the coordination of social security systems in the EAC was developed.

The draft Directive was presented to a Multi-Sectoral Council of Ministers on the EAC Common Market held in February 2011 and the 22nd Council of Ministers meeting held in April 2011.

The Council directed a review of the draft Directive, in particular, a consolidation of actuarial studies undertaken by the Partner States Social Security institutions to understand, among other issues, the financial and economic implications of co-ordination of Social Security benefits, taking into account the current systems, policies and laws in the Partner States.

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The project aims at strengthening the Regional Economic Communities’ capacities to provide, as well as drive the implementation of regional frameworks on the extension of social protection to migrant workers and their families.

The project aims to enhance EAC’s capacity and knowledge base to advance regional coordination of social security, as per Common Market Protocol, to improve migrant workers’ access to social protection.

Building on achievements, in particular a draft EAC Council Directive in place, this project will support EAC Partner States towards the finalization of a multilateral EAC social security coordination instrument, through:

- A review of current social protection frameworks and issues in the EAC to inform the key elements of the revision and finalization of an EAC multilateral social security instrument;
- Facilitating regional dialogues and consultations, involving representatives of social security agencies, funds, national administrations and social partners to agree a roadmap, including key steps to advance the finalization of the multilateral social security instrument;
- Support to the integration of South Sudan into the EAC in the context of CMP and regional social security coordination;
- Technical, legal and actuarial advisory services to a selected number of EAC Partner States to extend social protection to migrant workers in the EAC.

ACTION IN THE EAC

The project aims to enhance EAC’s capacity and knowledge base to advance regional coordination of social security, as per Common Market Protocol, to improve migrant workers’ access to social protection.

Building on achievements, in particular a draft EAC Council Directive in place, this project will support EAC Partner States towards the finalization of a multilateral EAC social security coordination instrument, through:

- A review of current social protection frameworks and issues in the EAC to inform the key elements of the revision and finalization of an EAC multilateral social security instrument;
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