

STAKEHOLDERS & TARGET GROUPS

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 SADC include the SADC Secretariat and other SADC policy organs in charge of Labour, migration and social protection issues, regional social partners, social security institutions, and Member States.

Within the AUC component of the Project, the Action aims to support SADC 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:

- 1 Supporting SADC 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;
- 2 Building the capacities of the AUC, selected RECs including SADC and regional and sub-regional social partners to advance social protection for migrant workers; and
- 3 Initiatives for systematic collection and analysis of statistical information, to inform policy making and support SADC member States monitor progress towards the achievement of social protection related SDGs and relevant AU Agenda 2063 targets.

Our experts are ready to provide you with more information:

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Extending access to social protection and portability of benefits to migrant workers and their families



International Labour Organization



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Strengthening capacities and policy instruments on social security, including portability of rights, in the Southern African Development Community (SADC)



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 priorities, including the African Union Migration Policy Framework, which recommends to “provide social protection and social security benefits particularly unemployment insurance, compensation for employment injury and old age pension for labour migrants while working abroad and/or upon their return.”

It also contributes to the Agenda 2063 and to various Sustainable Development Goals, in particular SDG 1.3 on implementing social protection systems, including floors for all and SDG 8.8 on protecting labour rights and promoting safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers.



REVITALIZING REGIONAL SOCIAL SECURITY FRAMEWORKS

SADC Ministers responsible for Employment and Labour, and Social Partners adopted the SADC Cross-Border Portability of Social Security Benefits Policy Framework in May 2016.

The adoption of the framework demonstrates the political commitment to make progress towards coordination and integration of social protection systems in the region, including the provision of mechanisms to ensure equality of treatment and maintenance of acquired rights and rights in course of acquisition.

The policy framework complements other existing SADC instruments and policies including the SADC Treaty, the SADC Protocol on Employment, and Labour (article 19), and the SADC Code on Social Security of 2007, amongst others.

To date, administrative, regulatory and institutional challenges have hampered the effective implementation of regional policy instruments and frameworks on social security.

THE PROJECT

The project “Extending access to social protection and portability of benefits to migrant workers and their families through selected RECs in Africa” aims to extend social protection to migrant workers, including those in the informal sector, and their families, by strengthening the capacities of RECs and member States to provide, as well as drive the implementation of regional frameworks, on the extension of social protection to migrant workers and their families.

Establishing and strengthening social protection systems, including floors in migrants’ countries of origin contributes to reducing poverty and inequalities and facilitates the return and reintegration of migrants, while respecting their human right to social security and a life in dignity.

THE ACTION IN SADC

In the Southern African Development Community, the project aims to strengthen SADC’s capacity and policy instruments on portability of social security rights.

The project will provide technical support to address the implementation challenges of social security portability in the region.

It will support the implementation of the SADC portability policy framework in selected pilot countries through the development of policies or legislations, administrative arrangements and management systems to facilitate the coordination of social security systems in SADC member states.

Particular consideration will be paid to the informal economy and sectors which attract migrants, especially women.

The project will promote and facilitate regional dialogue on social security through capacity building and coordination of technical and consultative meetings with representatives of social security agencies, funds and national administrations and social partners, to enhance their capacity to plan and drive implementation of regional policies on the extension of social protection.

