Socio-economic, poverty, political, security and environmental factors are contributing to significant migration and forced displacement in Africa. These figures do not fully account for significant numbers of persons in temporary or itinerant migratory situations.

In a bold and timely new initiative, the African Union Commission (AUC) together with the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) have developed a regional programme on Labour Migration Governance for Development and Integration in Africa, in cooperation with Africa’s Regional Economic Communities (RECs).

This initial four year programme will contribute significantly to obtaining the development potential of labour and skills mobility in Africa by promoting and supporting effective governance of labour migration.

The issue of regional labour migration is an important factor in sustainable development.

Intra-regional labour and skills migration in Africa
Economic importance of migrant remittances
Increasing feminization of labour mobility
Lack of dialogue and coordination on labour migration among labour actors and institutions
Paucity of data on characteristics and conditions of labour migrants

Inadequate protection for migrant workers and their families from exploitation and hostility
Limited or non-access to and portability of social security
Increasing incidents of trafficking and smuggling of migrants

Extend decent work and social protection to migrant workers and their families
Strengthen regional integration and inclusive development
Encourage productivity, productive investment, and business success
Enable better social and economic integration of migrants

1. Increased ratification and domestication of international standards
2. Implementation of free circulation regimes in RECs and adoption of national policy
3. Expanded engagement of labour institutions in labour migration governance
4. Tripartite Policy Dialogue and coordination at national, REC and Continental level

2.1 Decent Work for migrants with effective application of labour standards
2.2 Extension of Social Security coverage to migrants
2.3 Resolution of skills shortages and increased recognition of qualifications
2.4 Obtaining relevant and comparable labour migration and labour market data

The AUC provides overall vision and political leadership for the project, and solicits and publicizes the work of the respective Regional Economic Communities.

ECA contributes expertise, knowledge resources and advisory services in relevant thematic areas.

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