



# MIGRANT DOMESTIC WORKERS IN FOCUS: *An ILO Newsletter*

ISSUES 5-6 | DECEMBER 2014 – MAY 2015

## INSIDE

### Africa

Domestic Migrant Workers Fighting for Justice, Equality, Dignity and Recognition of Their Rights. Trade Unions Workshop on Decent Work for Migrant Domestic Workers in Zimbabwe  
*Macheke Lodge, Zimbabwe, 18-19 March 2015*

SADSAWU Strategy Development Workshop for Organizing and Recruiting Migrant Domestic Workers  
*Johannesburg, South Africa, 6-7 March 2015*

### Americas

Paraguay-Argentina Bi-national Workshop: Strategies for Promoting the Rights of Migrant Domestic Workers and Their Families  
*Asuncion, Paraguay, 8-9 April 2015*

### Arab States

Founding Congress: Launch of Domestic Workers Union in Lebanon  
*Beirut, Lebanon, 25 January 2015*

Interview with Member of the Lebanon's First Domestic Workers' Union

### Asia and the Pacific

National Workshop for Policy Dialogue and Research Discussion in Malaysia  
*Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 9 December 2014*

Regional Conference on the Labour Dimensions of Trafficking in Persons in the ASEAN region  
*Manila, the Philippines, 27-29 January 2015*

Training on Labour Dimensions of Trafficking in Persons  
*Putrajaya, Malaysia, 8-10 April 2015*

### Europe and Central Asia

Workshops on Role of Trade Unions in the Protection of Migrant Domestic Workers in Ukraine  
*Kyiv, Ukraine, 6 December 2014 and 8-9 December*

Policy Dialogue and Discussion of the Research on Migrant Domestic Workers in Ukraine-Poland Corridor  
*Kyiv, Ukraine, 23 December 2014*

### Publications

The Age of Dignity: Preparing for the Elder Boom in a Changing America

Argentina Country Profile on Migrant Domestic Workers

Characteristics of Labour Migrants Report, Zimbabwe, ZimStat

Training Curricula for Domestic Workers in Argentina

### Quarterly Highlights

Meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women  
*New York, USA, 9-20 March 2015*

Gender, Migration, & Development: A Matter of Rights  
*Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 23 – 27 March 2015*

### Media spotlights on Migrant Domestic Work

## Africa

### **Migrant Domestic Workers Fight for Justice, Equality, Dignity and Recognition of Their Rights. Trade Unions Workshop on Decent Work for Migrant Domestic Workers in Zimbabwe**

**Macheke Lodge, Zimbabwe, 18-19 March 2015**

Zimbabwe Domestic and Allied Workers Union (ZDAWU) and Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU) conducted a workshop to develop an action plan to promote decent work for migrant and national domestic workers. The workshop was a follow-up to the Tri-National Workshop Lesotho-Zimbabwe-South Africa held on October 2014 in Johannesburg. A total of 25 representatives of the unions and their branches participated in the meeting, 6 of them had also been at the tri-national workshop in Johannesburg.

The workshop, taking place in the context of the Global Action Programme on Migrant Domestic Workers and their Families\* (GAP-MDW), led to three important outcomes: i) formulated strategy for ZDAWU on organizing domestic workers and gaining support of stakeholders, NGOs and community leaders for the ratification of the ILO Convention 189, based on revised national action plan formulated in Johannesburg; ii) agreed a Domestic Workers' Rights Awareness Package and pre-migrant awareness tool, built on global best practices and tools/methods for migrant workers' rights; iii) discussed possibilities of consolidating, simplifying and translating into main languages the legal rights of domestic workers provided under their Employment Regulations, SI 377/92, and other relevant legal provisions of the Labour Act 28:01 and the Constitution, including Convention 189 as part of domestic workers' rights awareness raising.

### **SADSAWU Strategy Development Workshop for Organizing and Recruiting Migrant Domestic Workers**

**Johannesburg, South Africa, 6-7 March 2015**

A strategic planning workshop was organized in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 6-7 March 2015, with an aim to review the activities of the South African Domestic Services and Allied Workers Union (SADSAWU) for recruitment and organising of migrant domestic workers in South Africa.

Participants of the workshop discussed implementation of the SADSAWU Plan of Action, progress and challenges in the framework of the tripartite dialogue. The Action Plan stipulated that SADSAWU formulate a pre-migration awareness strategy that informs migrant domestic workers about their rights in South Africa and how they can join in the union activities of SADSAWU. Through the discussion, participants agreed on the

contents of the migrant domestic workers pre-migration awareness information package.

One of the main outcomes of the workshop was formulation of a strategy for SADSAWU on how to recruit and organise migrant domestic workers, including capacity building activities for domestic workers organisers, media campaigns, lobbying labour inspectors to ensure compliance in the sector, and monitoring and evaluation framework to track the progress. SADSAWU also highlighted that one of the obstacles for the recruitment of migrant domestic workers to the trade union is that most of them are undocumented. From the discussion, it was indicated that South Africa's immigration policy has no legal provisions for the migration of low skilled workers to which migrant domestic workers are a part of. However, there are exceptions, one of which is the Zimbabwe Special Dispensation Permit in South Africa, which allows legal migration of low skilled workers. The Special Permits expired in December 2014 and holders of such permits were allowed to renew them.

## Americas

### **Paraguay-Argentina Bi-national Workshop: Strategies for Promoting the Rights of Migrant Domestic Workers and Their Families**

**Asuncion, Paraguay, 8-9 April 2015**

A bi-national workshop "Paraguay-Argentina corridor: Strategies for Promoting the Rights of Migrant Domestic Workers" was held in Asuncion, Paraguay, on 8-9 April 2015, and was organized under the auspices of the EU funded Global Action Programme on Migrant Domestic Workers and Their Families\* (GAP-MDW) with an aim to discuss and exchange experiences in promoting and defending the rights of migrant domestic workers. The workshop was attended by 64 participants from both countries, among them representatives of government, employers' and workers' organizations, domestic workers organizations, academics and civil society.



*Paraguay-Argentina bi-national workshop, Asuncion, Paraguay, 8-9 April 2015*

The discussion of common strategies for the promotion and better protection of migrant domestic workers' rights was based on the research findings in the Paraguay-Argentina corridor produced in

the framework of the GAP-MDW. In the context of sharing experiences and good practices, the Vocational Training Modules for domestic workers within the training programme led by the Ministry of Labour of Argentina were presented and a possibility to create a compatible training programme in Paraguay was discussed. Presentation on experiences of social dialogue in domestic work sector on example of Uruguay further contributed to the discussion.



*Panel of speakers, Paraguay-Argentina bi-national workshop, Asuncion, Paraguay, 8-9 April 2015*

During the workshop bi-national action plans were developed, outlining main activities for the upcoming year and incorporating the subject of domestic work into social dialogue on national and regional levels. The action plans incorporated priority areas of bi-national cooperation, including revision of the training system for domestic workers, improvement of ways of their organizing and expanding communication exchange established for dissemination of information passports elaborated under the auspices of the GAP-MDW.

## Arab States

### Founding Congress: Launch of Domestic Workers Union in Lebanon

**Beirut, Lebanon, 25 January 2015**

The Founding Congress of Domestic Workers Union in Lebanon took place on 25 January 2015 in Beirut with participation of 300 domestic and migrant domestic workers. The union is affiliated to the National Federation of Workers' and Employees' Unions in Lebanon (FENASOL).



*The Founding Congress of Domestic Workers Union in Lebanon, January 2015*

FENASOL's Domestic Workers' Union is the first union in Lebanon and in the region that represents the interests of migrant domestic workers. This initiative sets an important precedence in a region where migrant domestic workers are subject to the Kafala (sponsorship) system, which restricts their freedoms and makes it difficult for them to leave abusive employers. Workers testify about their limited fundamental rights and freedoms, as well as the challenges they face as migrant workers. The Congress launched the Union and voted on the unions' by-laws.



*Members of the Founding Committee, Founding Congress of Domestic Workers Union in Lebanon, January 2015*

The bylaws were translated to 7 main languages of MDWs in Lebanon and a two day workshop was held in December in order to discuss the draft bylaws with the domestic workers leaders, FENASOL leadership, labour activists and consultants. The bylaws were then validated with the members of the Founding Committee at four consecutive workshops, outreaching 120 MDWs.

## Interview with Secretary General of the Lebanon's First Domestic Workers' Union



**Gemma**

Gemma is a leader from Lebanon's Domestic Workers' Union

### **Gemma, could you pinpoint the experience that has driven you towards fighting for migrant domestic workers' rights?**

As a domestic worker for already more than two decades, being a volunteer activist and advocate for the rights of domestic workers' rights did not make a big difference until I got involved in ILO's Participatory Action Research with women migrant domestic workers, NGOs and unions in Lebanon in 2012 after which I was selected by the ILO and the National Federation of Employees' and Workers' Unions in Lebanon (FENASOL) to represent the then-founding committee for a union of domestic workers in the Founding Congress of the International Domestic Workers' Federation in Montevideo, Uruguay. I was 100% motivated and encouraged by the principles and solidarity shown by these brave and courageous women across the globe. It gave me a sense of direction on what should be done to promote the rights of domestic workers in Lebanon.

### **Could you characterize a typical migrant domestic worker in Lebanon?**

Migrant domestic worker are generally poor, invisible women workers.

### **What are the challenges migrant domestic workers face in Lebanon?**

The exclusion of domestic workers from the labour law leaves us vulnerable to many forms of abuse such as discrimination, racism, physical or sexual harassment, mental torture, poor or low wages, and unpaid salaries. Being tied up to the kafala system prevents us from standing up for our rights.

### **How did the process of organizing the domestic workers union initiate?**

With the help of ILO, and in cooperation with the NGOs, we (domestic workers), gathered at FENASOL every Sunday to discuss our working conditions, build trust amongst ourselves and with the NGOs and Union members, and agree to a common set of priorities for action. These priorities later informed an action plan jointly developed with FENASOL and the NGOs to guide the work of the founding committee for a domestic workers' union.

A year later, we set up the Domestic Workers' Union in Lebanon! We are grateful to FENASOL that served as cocoon for this initiative. We want to achieve and exercise our basic rights as defined by ILO's C189. We want decent working conditions for all domestic workers!

### **Participatory Action Research with Women Migrant Domestic Workers, NGOs, and Unions in Lebanon**

In late 2012, the ILO published a mapping of programmes and services targeting women migrant domestic workers (WMDWs) across Lebanon. This revealed significant gaps in the number and scope of NGO and trade union interventions aimed at improving the situation of WMDWs. As a follow-up to the mapping, the EU- and SDC-funded ILO Action Programme for Protecting the Rights of Women Migrant Domestic Workers (PROWD) implemented a participatory action research (PAR) with WMDWs, NGOs, and the National Federation of Employees' and Workers' Unions in Lebanon (FENASOL). The PAR extended between the months of May 2012 and January 2014 (a total of 20 months), with three main objectives: (i) raising workers' consciousness among WMDWs in Lebanon to encourage their active participation in advocacy campaigns; (ii) encouraging collaboration between WMDWs, unions, and NGOs over priorities and interventions; and (iii) creating synergies with the global domestic workers' movement. Through the process, domestic workers were able to identify key concerns and priorities for action and were subsequently invited to take part in radio shows, workshops, and other fora to further discuss the issues raised. The 79 participating domestic workers also provided the critical mass/membership required for the establishment of the Founding Committee for a Union of Domestic Workers (FCUDWs), which was formally founded within the structure of FENASOL in January 2015.

### **How has the Global Action Programme/ILO supported your organizing efforts?**

GAP has supported a workers' literacy training and is planning to support leadership and communication workshops going forward.

### **What are your plans for moving forward?**

The Domestic Workers' Union is now focused on growing its membership, developing the technical and organizational capacities of the union and providing legal protection to the union and its' members.

### **How can we support FENASOL?**

We would not be a Workers' Union today if not for the help and support of the ILO. It is too soon to cut the umbilical cord! We need all possible support.

### **Where do you see yourself in five years?**

I believe that hard work pays off. I have a vision that in five years, domestic workers will realize their rights. I will continue to advocate for the rights of domestic workers not only in Lebanon but in the Arab region as a whole. In five years, the Domestic Workers' Union in Lebanon will not only be surviving but will strive and thrive! It will play a key role in the region, acting as model for the establishment of other domestic workers' union.

## Asia and the Pacific

### National Workshop for Policy Dialogue and Research Discussion in Malaysia

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 9 December 2014

A workshop to discuss research results of the study on employers of domestic workers was conducted in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 9 December 2014. The event brought together ILO constituents and stakeholders to share the results of the research on needs, preferences and practices of employers of domestic workers in Malaysia conducted under the auspices of the Global Action Programme on Migrant Domestic Workers and their Families\* (GAP-MDW).

The main research findings show that the majority of employers recruited domestic workers through agency and most of them are familiar with the rights and obligations as employer whilst being unaware of the contents of the MoU between Indonesian and Malaysian governments on domestic workers.



*Research Results Validation Workshop on Employers of Domestic Workers, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 9 December 2014*

Representatives of Ministry of Human Resources (Labour Policy Division, Foreign Worker Division), Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM), Malaysian Trade Union Congress, Malaysian Association of Foreign Maid Agencies (PAPA), Malaysian National Association of Employment Agencies (PIKAP), Malaysian Employers Federation (MEF), Malaysian Maid Employers Association (MAMA) provided their comments and feedback on the conducted study.



*Research Results Validation Workshop on Employers of Domestic Workers, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 9 December 2014*

### Regional Conference on the Labour Dimensions of Trafficking in Persons in the ASEAN region

Manila, the Philippines, 27-29 January 2015

The regional conference on the Labour Dimensions of Trafficking in Persons in the ASEAN region was conducted on 27-29 January in Manila, the Philippines. The event brought together criminal justice and labour officers, inspectors and labour attachés from the ASEAN member states, among them representatives of SOMTC (Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime), ACMW (ASEAN Committee on the Implementation of the ASEAN Declaration), ATUC (ASEAN Trade Union Council), ACE (ASEAN Confederation of Employers), TFAMW (Task Force on ASEAN Migrant Workers), AAPTIP (Australia-Asia Program to Combat Trafficking in Persons), as well as social partners and other stakeholders whose work relates to labour migration and trafficking in persons.



*Opening of the Regional Conference on the Labour Dimensions of Trafficking in Persons in the ASEAN region, Manila, the Philippines, 27-29 January 2015*

The agenda covered an overview of international and regional frameworks promoting the rights of migrant workers and addressing trafficking in persons for labour exploitation as well as sessions on domestic work and C189, recruitment practices and working conditions of trafficked in persons and support for victims of trafficking.

Related article: [Regional Conference on the Labour Dimensions of Trafficking](#)

## Training on Labour Dimensions of Trafficking in Persons

Putrajaya, Malaysia, 8-10 April, 2015

A training course on the labour dimensions of trafficking in persons was conducted in Putrajaya, Malaysia, 8-10 April 2015, for labour inspectors of the MOHR and other stakeholders with an aim to better understand and identify indicators of forced labour in labour exploitation situations.

Special session was dedicated to a discussion of the challenges in implementation of the labour standards in domestic work sector based on the ILO Convention 189 on Domestic Work. Relevant provisions on occupational safety and health, social security, private employment agencies and dispute solutions were discussed. The issue of ensuring compliance of employers and protection of domestic workers against abuses was highlighted.

## Europe and Central Asia

### Workshops on Role of Trade Unions in the Protection of Migrant Domestic Workers in Ukraine

Kyiv, Ukraine, 6 December 2014 and 8-9 December 2014

A series of decentralized workshops for the regional members of the three main Trade Union Confederations (Trade Union of Education and Science Workers of Ukraine - FTUU, All Ukrainian Organization of Workers Solidarity - VOST "VOLYA" and Confederation of Free Trade Union of Ukraine – CFTUU) was organized by the Global Action Programme on Migrant Domestic Workers \* (GAP-MDW). The workshops were conducted under a common thematic umbrella "Role of Trade Unions in the Protection of Migrant Domestic Workers in Ukraine".

On 6 December 2014, 28 participating leaders of the VOST "VOLYA" identified the priority areas for the TU's intervention for better protection of MDWs' rights. The discussion led to adoption of the implementation plan, which incorporated such areas of intervention as information, consultancy and advisory work, cooperation with relevant NGOs, church and trade unions in Poland, identification of potential MDWs through relatives,

friends and existing networks, changes in national legislation and ratification of the ILO Convention 189 on Domestic Work. An important outcome of the meeting was adoption of the resolution calling for ratification of C189 and need for its active lobby through the activities of the VOST. The resolution was decided to be submitted to the Parliament, the Cabinet of Ministers and President of Ukraine.



Presenting panel, VOST "VOLYA" workshop, 6 December 2014

Another workshop was conducted for leaders of the Confederation of Free Trade Unions of Ukraine (CFTUU) in Kyiv, Ukraine, 8-9 December 2014, bringing 25 affiliates from Kyiv, Kirovograd, Lviv, Kharkiv, Lugansk and Donetsk oblasts in order to agree on practical steps to reach out to migrants and domestic workers and effectively protect their labour rights. The main trends of labour migration towards Poland, challenges Ukrainian MDWs face, discriminatory practices and policy gaps were discussed based on the country profile research findings, conducted within the GAP-MDW in Ukraine and Poland.



CFTUU workshop, 8-9 December 2014

Participants recognized the need to better protect MDWs and ratify the ILO Convention 189. Communication strategy to improve information and awareness on migrant domestic workers' labour conditions and rights was agreed on. Information passports elaborated by the GAP-MDW will be disseminated to potential migrants through the channels of the Confederation.

As a result of the conducted workshops, a resolution to be passed by the Presidium of the Trade Union of Education and Science Workers of Ukraine (FTUU), All Ukrainian Organization of Workers Solidarity (VOST) and Confederation of Free Trade Unions of Ukraine (CFTUU) to the head Trade Unions Confederation and through them to President of Ukraine, Verkhovna Rada (Parliament of Ukraine) and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine was the main outcome of this meeting. This was the first step to push the Government to include the MDWs issues into its agenda. The request was well received by the Minister of Social Policy, who foresees further work to harmonize the Ukrainian legislation in order to mainstream "domestic work and domestic worker" and to include this process into the Plan of Action on Implementation of European Social Charter in 2015-2019. The final political endorsement was the inclusion of C189 in the list of international standards to be considered in 2015 by the Council of Ministers of Ukraine for possible ratification.

## Policy Dialogue and Discussion of the Research on Migrant Domestic Workers in Ukraine-Poland Corridor

Kyiv, Ukraine, 23 December 2014

Policy discussion took place in the framework of research findings on migrant domestic workers in Ukraine-Poland migration corridor, conducted under the auspices of the Global Action Programme on Migrant Domestic Workers and their Families\* (GAP-MDW). A round table was organized at the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine to present research findings of Ukraine country profile on 23 December 2014 with the participation of Government representatives, trade unions, employers' organizations, civil society organizations, and international organizations (ILO, IOM, UNFPA).

The presentation was followed by a panel discussion on taking measures for ensuring better protection for migrant domestic workers. Stakeholders unanimously endorsed the research findings and produced recommendations, focusing on two main axes: (1) improving pre-departure information; and (2) promoting the reintegration of MDWs in Ukraine.

## Publications

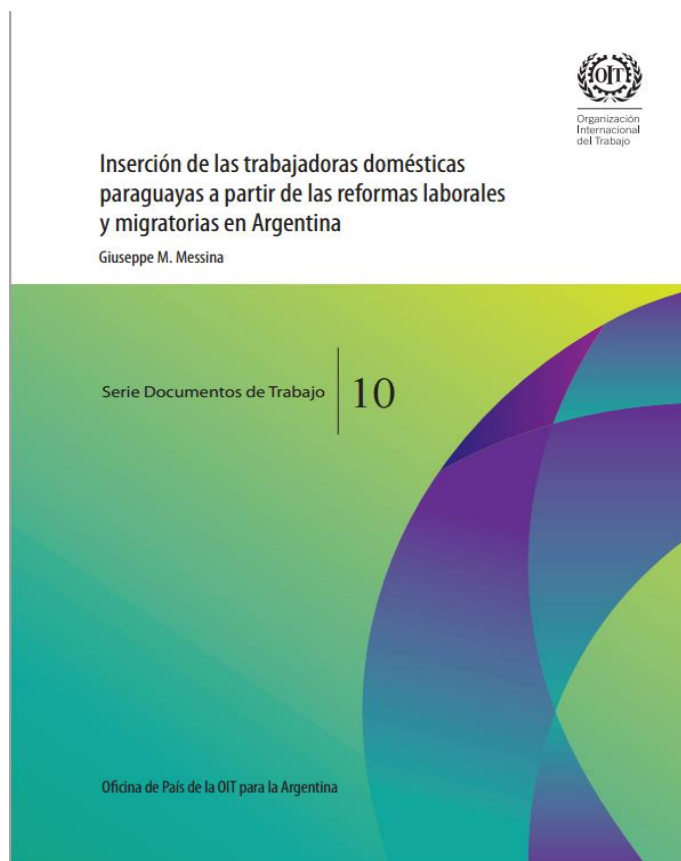
### The Age of Dignity: Preparing for the Elder Boom in a Changing America

Director of the National Domestic Workers Alliance (NDWA), co-director of the Caring Across Generations campaign, and winner of a 2014 MacArthur "genius" grant, Ai-Jen Poo is the author of *The Age of Dignity: Caring for a Changing America*. Her first book shines a new light on the need for a holistic approach to caregiving in America.



Ai-Jen Poo, author of the book "The Age of Dignity: Caring for a Changing America"

## Argentina Country Profile on Migrant Domestic Workers



Argentina Country Profile was published in Spanish under the Working Paper series of ILO-Buenos Aires in March 2015. The baseline study on migrant domestic workers was conducted under the auspices of the Global Action Programme on Migrant Domestic Workers and their Families\* (GAP-MDW).

The study analyses the legal frameworks governing labour migration and domestic work and shows progress in the access of migrant domestic workers to equal opportunities. It also analyses the impact of recent policy developments towards the formalization of the informal sector, through tax exemptions and campaigns targeting domestic workers (national as well as migrants).

Publication: [Inserción de las trabajadoras domésticas paraguayas a partir de las reformas laborales y migratorias en Argentina](#)

## Characteristics of Labour Migrants Report, Zimbabwe, ZimStat

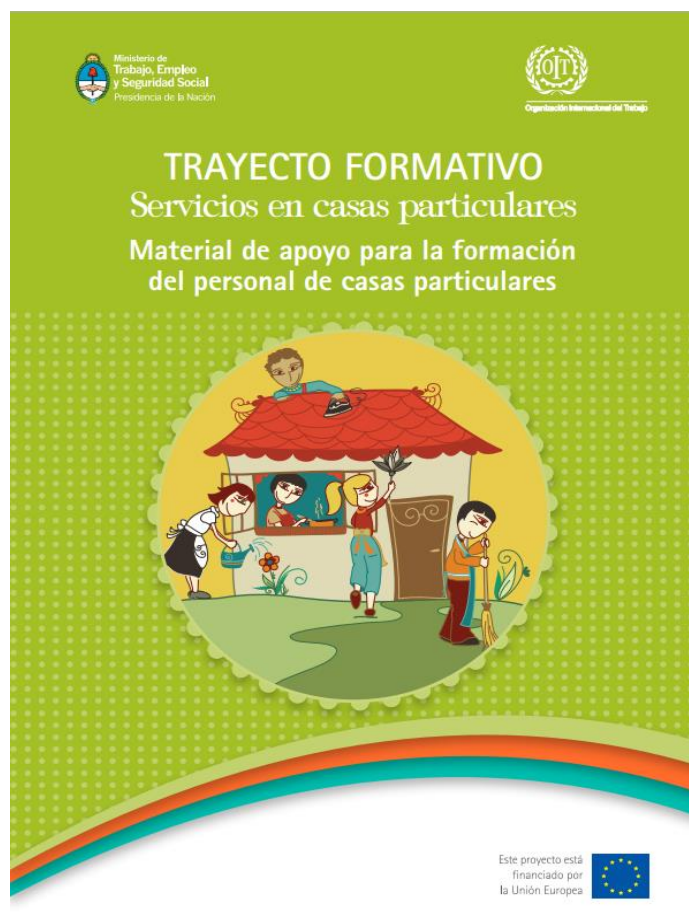
The Characteristics of Labour Migrants Report is the first publication to be produced both in Zimbabwe and in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) region with a focus on sectors of domestic workers, hospitality, agriculture and mining. The data for the out-going migrants was for the first time collected incorporating Modules on migrant workers abroad to the 2014 Labour Force and Child Labour Survey LFCLS.

The report outlines the legal, policy and regulatory frameworks that govern gender, domestic work and migration in Zimbabwe to then identify relevant tools and mechanisms for the targeted protection and empowerment of migrant domestic workers in the South Africa-Zimbabwe corridor. The main research findings show that more than 85 per cent of Zimbabwean women migrants are working in South Africa, the majority of whom are employed as domestic workers. Over 50 per cent of these women are under the age of 24.

Publication: [Characteristics of Labour Migrants Report](#)

## Training Curricula for Domestic Workers in Argentina

Three manuals on skills training for domestic workers were produced, corresponding to the prioritized training paths: services in homes and institutions, care services for elderly, and care services for children. Additionally, existing curriculum documents, textbooks and supporting materials for training were updated. The curriculum materials and training include suggestions and recommendations of the expert and technical teams of the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security of Argentina, and incorporate gender and skills approach in accordance with the National Directorate of Orientation and Training.



The Vocational Training Program is an important step in advancement of employability and social transformation of domestic work sector in Argentina and at the same time is the precedence of skills recognition and certification in MERCOSUR.

Publication: [Trayecto formativo. Servicios en casas particulares. Material de apoyo para la formación del personal de casas particulares.](#)

## Quarterly highlights

### Meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women

New York, USA, 9-20 March 2015

The 59<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women took place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, 9-20 March 2015. Representatives of Member States, UN entities and ECOSOC-accredited NGOs from different regions of the world attended the session.

The main focus of the session was on the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, including current challenges that affect its implementation and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women. The issue of migrant domestic workers was discussed at several side events, among them “Organizing for Women Migrant Rights” conducted on 11th of March and “The Feminization of Migration and Globalization of Reproduction: Commodifying care and procreation across borders” on 13th of March.

The Global Action Programme on Migrant Domestic Workers and their Families\* (GAP-MDW) facilitated the participation of the representatives of International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and International Domestic Workers Federation (IDWF) at the 59th session of the Commission on the Status of Women in order to enhance unions’ capacities to promote decent work for migrant domestic workers and to establish priorities for further action within the GAP-MDW project in line with current global strategies and national mechanisms for gender equality.

During the side events the priorities for future action to realize gender equality, the empowerment of women and the human rights of women and girls were discussed, prioritizing national mechanisms for gender equality, good practices and strategies for action.

### Gender, Migration, & Development: A Matter of Rights

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 23 – 27 March 2015

A training on “Gender, Migration, Development: A Matter of Rights” was organized by UN Women at the Training Centre in

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, on 23-27 March 2015. The aim of the training was to enhance participants’ ability to train others on migration and development from a gender and rights-based perspective, with particular attention to migration policies and strategies for defending migrant women’s rights.

The TOT is envisioned as a first step in a larger capacity development process, to be defined by participants within the framework of their respective projects. The course was divided into the following modules: i) introduction to gender, migration, and development; ii) impact of remittances on local economies in origin countries from a gender perspective; iii) global care chains; and iv) migration policies and migrant women’s rights.

The Global Action Programme on Migrant Domestic Workers\* (GAP-MDW) supported the participation of the stakeholders from Nepal and Paraguay. The participants were selected on a basis of their leadership capacity to influence migration policies and strategies on migrant women’s rights and willingness to replicate the training in the respective organizations of their countries.

## Media Spotlights on Migrant Domestic Work

### Africa

[Racisme, Sexisme et Violence à l'égard des migrantes africaines subsahariennes](#)

Namibia: [Rural-urban migration taking place on massive scale](#)

[Don't Call them Expats, They are Immigrants like Everyone Else](#)

Kenya: [Body of Kenyan domestic worker who died in Saudi Arabia flown to Mombasa](#)

South Africa: [Overworked, Underpaid and In Your House: The Never Ending Exploitation of South Africa's Domestic Workers](#)

South Africa: [South Africa to kick out Zimbabweans](#)

South Africa: [False Bay Domestic Worker Paid Nothing for 14 Years](#)

[Bitcoin is being used by African migrant workers to send money home](#)

[Roundtable on Intra-Regional Migration and Labour Mobility within Africa](#)

### Americas

Colombia: [Trabajo decente y migración laboral](#)

Paraguay: [¿Por qué no regresan los paraguayos de Argentina?](#)

Canada: [Woman accused of bilking immigrant workers](#)

El Salvador/Guatemala: [El Salvador y Guatemala, aliados en comercio, unión aduanera y migración](#)

Panama: [Migración laboral pone a prueba integración en América, afirman expertos reunidos en Panamá](#)

ONU advierte sobre persecución a migrantes extranjeros en el Perú 2° Encuentro Nacional de Líderes Migrantes en Argentina

New laws mean Latin America's domestic workers fare better than most

## **Arab States**

Saudi-Arabia: [L'appel au secours des domestiques philippines maltraitées en Arabie saoudite](#)

Qatar: [Punish employers who don't pay workers, researcher to tell Qatar gov't](#)

[End Exploitation for Domestic Workers in the Gulf](#)

[Trade in illegal maids flourishes](#)

[Labor unions mull syndicate that includes migrant workers](#)

Lebanon: [Migrant domestic workers in Lebanon to protect rights by forming union, a first in Arab world](#)

Lebanon: [Au Liban, les domestiques étrangères veulent se syndiquer](#)

Lebanon: [Region's first domestic workers union fights for life](#)

Saudi Arabia/India: [Saudi new King Salman and Indian migrant labour rights](#)

Saudi Arabia: [Saudi job market reopens for Bangladeshis](#)

Saudi Arabia: [Saudi to take maids, housekeepers & drivers](#)

UAE: [Dubai Illegal Immigrant Crackdown: Emirate Arrests Thousands Of Laborers In Immigration 'Inspection Campaigns'](#)

[Mass expulsions from Saudi Arabia](#)

Lebanon: [In Lebanon, a new domestic workers trade union fights kafala](#)

Kuwait: [Sexual assault and physical abuse at Kuwait's shelter for domestic workers](#)

[Kafala as a business; kafeel as a career](#)

Kuwait: [Three Filipina domestic workers flee abuse and forced labour in Kuwait](#)

[Institutional failures: why so many domestic workers return from the Gulf physically and spiritually bruised?](#)

Qatar: [Plight of domestic worker beaten in Qatar sparks outcry](#)

Saudi Arabia/Indonesia: [Memorandum on domestic work delayed](#)

[Domestic workers enter employment already branded untrustworthy; stereotypes persist](#)

Saudi Arabia/India: [New agreement for Indian domestic workers in Saudi Arabia](#)

[Domestic workers in the Gulf - infographics](#)

UAE: ['Black market' profits from Filipina maids in UAE](#)

Syria: [Seventy-one RI migrant workers repatriated from Syria](#)

Oman: [Fair wage rule on housemaids sparks debate in Oman](#)

Kuwait: [Trente domestiques malgaches détenues au Koweït](#)

Lebanon: [Lebanese business offers "special offer" on Kenyan, Ethiopian maids for Mother's Day](#)

Bahrain: [Migrant worker court decision branded "unfair"](#)

Qatar: [Qatar to look at ending 'kafala' system in 2015](#)

Lebanon: [Maid in Lebanon! Fashion show empowers domestic workers](#)

Tunis: [L'Indonésie n'enverra plus de domestiques en Tunisie](#)

Lebanon : [Au Liban, les domestiques se syndiquent](#)

## **Asia and the Pacific**

Hong Kong : [au tribunal, une Indonésienne raconte son enfer de domestique](#)

Bangladesh: [Safe migration of jobseekers for enhancing remittance stressed](#)

Indonesia: [E. Lombok pledges to do more to protect its migrant workers](#)

*Related Story:* [Malaysia to Deport 70,000 Illegal Indonesian Migrant Workers](#)

Indonesia: [Costs to be lowered for migrant workers](#)

Singapore: [Migrant workers continue to be exploited because of their nationality, class and gender](#)

India: [Protect Our People When They Go Abroad](#)

[Ending the abuse of domestic workers in Asia](#)

[Value our labour, rights as domestic workers](#)

Hong Kong: [Maid in Hong Kong was 'unpaid slave', prosecution says](#)

[The Need for an ASEAN Treaty on Migrant Workers](#)

Indonesia: [Foreign Minister urges Malaysia to heed RI migrant workers' rights](#)

Malaysia: [Respect your migrant worker](#)

Hong Kong: [A lens into the hidden lives of Hong Kong domestic workers](#)

Pakistan: [Hidden workers](#)

Malaysia/Indonesia: [Malaysia will help Indonesia solve illegal migrant workers issue](#)

[Filipino Migrant Worker Spends 10 Years Photographing Hong Kong On Her Days Off And Wins Prestigious Scholarship](#)

Malaysia: [The plight of low-skilled migrants in Malaysia](#)

Taiwan: [Ministry reports record number of migrant workers](#)

Malaysia: [Migrant workers: Malaysia's 'invisible' workforce](#)

Hong Kong: [Maid Abuse Case Highlights Plight Of Migrant Workers/How a Migrant Worker's Torture Exposed Hong Kong's Underground Economy](#)

Indonesia/Malaysia: [Indonesia, Malaysia Promise Greater Protection of Migrant Workers](#)

Hong Kong: [Mettre fin à l'exploitation des employées domestiques](#)

Indonesia: [Government urged to reconsider ban on migrant domestic work](#)

Indonesia: [Indonesia wants to "preserve dignity" by stopping its export of maids/Indonesia stops sending maids abroad](#)

India: [Labour ministry plans central scheme to track movement of migrant workers](#)

Indonesia: [Indonesia stops sending maids to UAE, Arab countries](#)

Indonesia: [Indonesia should protect its overseas workers, not ban them: activists](#)

Indonesia: [Migrant group defends Indonesian maid program](#)

Hong Kong: [Women domestic workers emerge from the shadows to fight abusive employers](#)

Indonesia: [Banning Migrant Domestic Work is Short-Sighted](#)

Vietnam: [Vietnam's migrant labourers - Going to debt mountain](#)

Hong Kong: [Abused Indonesian Maid Urges Fellow Migrant Workers in Hong Kong Not To Suffer in Silence](#)

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