



MiWorc LABOUR MIGRATION NEWSLETTER

Project funded by the European Union EU-South Africa Dialogue Facility EuropeAid/132200/L/ACT/ZA.
Coordinated by the African Centre for Migration & Society, University of the Witwatersrand

FEBRUARY- MARCH 2013

Inside This Issue

- 1 Message from Editorial Team
- 2 Partnership and Organisational Structure
- 3 Research Update
- 4 Dissemination and Capacity Building
- 5 Past Events
- 6 Contacts

Dear Stakeholders,

This year marks the thrust of the MiWorc research. We are pleased to inform you that the initial reports under Work Packages 1 and 2, 'Policy Review' and 'Improvement of the quality of statistical data on foreign labour in South Africa' are being finalised and will be publicly available during the second quarter of 2013.

Consultations on the preparation for field work for the qualitative studies of regional low and high-skilled migration to South Africa are proceeding and fieldwork is about to start in the area of social rights portability. We are delighted to share with you our progress, and hope that you will be equally pleased by the headway each Work Package has made, and will engage with the outputs that will soon be released.

As always we look forward to your feedback, suggestions and ideas for partnerships.

Warm regards,

The Editorial Team

MiWorc Partnership and Organisational Structure

The Consortium is firmly moving towards further consolidation of the partnership network. ACMS is currently in discussion with the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), already a partner in MiWorc Work Package 2 (Data) with regards to the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding formalising a range of collaborations between the two organisations over the past four years. In particular, joint work developed in WP2 could lead



to the development of municipal level mobility surveys, a project currently under study in WP2, and of further collaboration within SALGA's project of a local government barometer.

ACMS also pursued its discussion with Statistics South Africa, another participant to WP2 Advisory Committee, in order to broaden the scope of the collaboration to a range of potential research endeavours. This could include collaboration around the new migration module included by Stats SA in their Quarterly Labour Force Survey, in-depth analyses of migration in Census 2011 data, and the creation by ACMS of a regional migration and asylum observatory. ACMS Director Loren Landau met with Stats SA' National Statistical Systems (NSS) officials in February 2013. Work towards a Memorandum of Understanding and Service-Level Agreements is currently being carried out.

Research Update

WP1: Policy review

WP1 is approaching the end of the review of the existing policy frameworks of labour migration in various regions in the world. This involved carrying out surveys and analyses on policies and other bilateral and regional frameworks in Southern Africa on labour migration towards South Africa. These reviews are being consolidated into a report which shall be shared with researchers of the 3 work packages and shall inform part of their research, as well as be made available to the broader public soon through conference presentations and journal articles.

The first report, a working paper under WP1 is completed and currently being reviewed. The provisional title of the report (to be published as a working paper) is *'The institutional governance of migration in Southern Africa: policy frameworks for regional labour migration towards South Africa'*. The report will include material from further interviews with selected Government Departments in South Africa, and the other 7 target countries – Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland and Lesotho.



WP2: Improving the quality of statistical data on foreign labour in South Africa

The first phase of WP2 is complete. Deborah Budlender, the consultant hired last year finalised the first two reports that were submitted to WP2 Advisory Committee members for review and comments. These reports were also presented and further discussed on February 15th by the Advisory Committee. The reports provide a unique comprehensive review of existing data sets on foreign labour in the South African labour market and a set of recommendations for the long-term improvement of data collection on foreign labour in the South African labour market. They contain a wealth of information on foreign labour at national and sectoral levels, as well as point to critical knowledge gaps and international best practice to improve existing instruments. While the quality of data is generally poor, South Africa already has most instruments in place, in particular its Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS). By and large, different sources of data indicate that while there may be geographical and sectoral concentration, foreign workers represent less than 10% of the workforce, even taking into consideration problems of underestimation of undocumented workers. This in itself is a key finding.

The reports provide multiple original insights into foreign workers' labour participation, unemployment rates, and sectoral and occupational distribution. Interdepartmental coordination, improved data collection methodologies (particularly towards vulnerable groups such as undocumented workers), and sustained efforts over time to facilitate access are all areas identified for further improvement.

The second phase of the research aims to pilot new instruments complementing already existing ones. A third report will provide indications as to the feasibility of implementing specific new instruments, particularly at municipal level, and in terms of providing more in-depth analyses of the QLFS migration module. Reports will be shared publicly during the second quarter of 2013.



WP3: Qualitative studies of regional low and high-skilled migration to South Africa

WP3 is currently reviewing relevant policies and studies relating to low and high skilled migration in South Africa. This desktop review will provide a framework for the field research that is scheduled to begin in March 2013. This review will form the core of a number of outputs in the MiWORC project including: policy briefs, research reports, and scholarly papers and will contribute to strengthening awareness and capacity of state departments on migrant labour issues.

Two documents are currently being finalised: the list of key stakeholders to be interviewed and the concept note on the methodological and theoretical framework. Intern students from the International Human Rights Exchange programme (Wits, SA and Bard College, USA), benefitted from research and capacity development in WP3. They participated in compiling a resource base for the desktop review. The involvement of the Department of labour (D.O.L) is central. The work plan and division of labour for WP3 was discussed on 14th December 2012, and a concept note is in its final stage and scheduled to be discussed in a consultation meeting with relevant partners on 07 March 2013.

WP4: Migrants' social rights portability

WP4 will begin in May 2013 and complete its work by the end of 2013. Literature is being reviewed on the role of informal networks of social protection organized by migrant labourers and limitations to access to the state and local government forms of social services and protection caused by discrimination against migrant labourers. The reviews will be reinforced by interviews carried out with a sample of migrants to explore these arrangements. The case of migrant domestic workers may be selected to focus upon.

The role played by corporate social responsibility has been called into question in the protection of migrants social rights. The research will review the arrangements for the portability of pensions and other social benefits between South Africa and its labour suppliers. This research will be undertaken in collaboration with the ILO offices based in Pretoria and will explore current and future policy options in this area. WP4 will also look at the potential role of SADC in fostering forms of social protection in labour exporting



countries; it will involve reviewing on-going feasibility studies and discussing with SADC officials on the viability of such an approach.

This WP seeks to draw information from the available resources in collating what is available and complementing it. Some research that will be drawn upon includes work by the African Centre for Migration & Society (ACMS), the International Migration Policy and Law Analysis Consortium (IMPALA), the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), the IOM's MIDSA process and the Southern Africa Office of the ILO.

Dissemination and Capacity Building Activities

Dissemination

We would like to thank all our partners and associates for the progress they have made so far in research. As reports become available, they will be adapted into various formats (policy & issue briefs, fact sheets). Please ensure that you check our website regularly for updates: www.migration.org.za/miworc .

The MiWORC team has been involved in several stakeholders and partners' events. Of note is the initiative by the United Nations Human Rights Commission (UNHCR) and Congress of South African Trade unions (COSATU). Key stakeholders involved in the protection of migrants took part in a meeting on the 14th of February that was hosted by COSATU and UNHCR to map out how best to protect refugees and migrant workers in South Africa. Part of the preliminary findings of WP1 (Regional Labour and Migration Policy Review) were presented by Dr. Christopher Nshimbi. The presentation of the preliminary findings was on the governance of international migration at the global level and regional level. The presentation explored the regional provisions of cross border movements and workers; regional protocols, national policies and bilateral policies; and labour migration legislation, dialogues and international actors in Southern Africa.

We thank the ILO for the invitation they extended to WP 1 and 3 last year to present on the research progress at the SADC Joint Technical Sub-Committee meetings on SADC Employment and Labour Sector Programmes held at IOM Pretoria. The Working Group of the Joint Technical Sub-Committee on SADC Employment and Labour Sector Programmes met under the auspices of the SADC Secretariat and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). They deliberated on how best to develop a regional labour policy and road



map for the SADC region in preparation for the SADC Ministers' Summit scheduled for March/April 2013 in Maputo, Mozambique. Zaheera Jinnah (WP2) and Christopher Nshimbi (WP1) participated in these deliberations.

We are also currently exploring opportunities with the African Development Bank for hosting seminars on labour migration within various regions in Africa.

Upcoming Reports

- Budlender, D. 2013a. *A review of existing data sets on foreign labour in the South African labour market*. Report prepared for the Migrating for Work Research Consortium (MiWORC), February 2013. 105 p.

- Budlender, D. 2013b. *Recommendations for the long-term improvement of data collection on foreign labour in the South African labour market*. Report prepared for the Migrating for Work Research Consortium (MiWORC), February 2013. 19 p.

- Fioramonti, L. 2013. *The governance of migration in Southern Africa: policy frameworks for regional labour migration to South Africa*. Report prepared for the Migrating for Work Research Consortium (MiWORC), April 2014.

Capacity building

The Migrating Out of Poverty RPC have fully sponsored Sharon Olago, the MiWORC coordinator of Dissemination and Capacity Building, to an 18 month action learning course on monitoring and evaluation. This training illuminates, contextualises, appreciates and critiques current practices and notions of monitoring and evaluation. It assumes a learning orientation to M & E driven towards creating results driven systems for the change sought through research uptake strategies.

The programme will assist in actively monitoring the progress made by MiWORC in setting and achieving goals, and learning from these processes in establishing how best to achieve the targets made for disseminating the research and informing policy.



Events

- **Christopher Nshimbi** presented preliminary findings at the SADC technical working group committee meeting on **3-4 December 2012**.
- **Christopher Nshimbi** and **Zaheera Jinnah** prepared a presentation for the Joint Technical Sub-Committees meeting on SADC Employment and Labour Sector Programmes; on invitation by the ILO in Pretoria, **5 December 2012**.
- **Sharon Olago** attended a monitoring and evaluation training workshop with the Community Development Resource Association in Cape Town, **21-24 January 2013**.
- **Sharon Olago** attended a seminar hosted by the South African Liaison Offices on Building Regional and International Consensus in Southern Africa: Botswana/Zimbabwe/South Africa, **30 January 2013**.
- **Zaheera Jinnah** addressed the Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs on the “*primary issues for South African migration policy*”. This hearing, organized by the committee aimed to prepare Members of Parliament for the policy formulation by prioritizing what would best serve South Africans and the region. The link to the ACMS testimony presented by Zaheera can be accessed on this link, <http://www.migration.org.za/press-statement/2013/acms-warns-south-african-parliament-avoid-dark-hole-securitized-migration-polic> , **12-13 February 2013**.
- **Christopher Nshimbi** presented preliminary findings of WP1 at a ‘migration working group’ meeting organized by UNHCR and COSATU. The meeting discussed a proposed seminar on the Protection of Refugees and Migrant Workers in South Africa. (Sharon Olago attended the meeting), **14 February 2013**.
- **Debbie Budlender**, consultant under WP2, presented findings on the upcoming reports; *A review of existing data sets on foreign labour in the South African labour market* and *Recommendations for the long-term improvement of data collection on foreign labour in the South African labour market* to the Advisory Committee. The reports were reviewed and comments provided for revision. **15 February 2013**.
- **Loren Landau**, Director, and **Aurelia Segatti**, Senior Researcher, ACMS, met with **Mandisi Titi**, and **Lekoba Fanie Mohlala** of the National Statistics System of Stats SA, **22 February 2013**.



The Faces of MiWORC



[Aurelia Segatti, ACMS]



[Bob Deacon, UP/UNESCO]



[Christopher Nshimbi, UP/GovInn]



[Lenore Longwe, Vigie Govender & Zaheera Jinnah, ACMS]



[Lorenzo Fioramonti, UP/GovInn]



[Seana Nkhahle, SALGA]



[Susanne Ubomba-Jaswa, Stats SA]



[Tesfalem Araia, ACMS]



[Thami Bikitsha, DoL]



[Thsepo Mabela, Stats SA]



[Vic Van Vuuren, ILO]



Contacts

Migrating for Work Research Consortium (MiWORC) Managers: Zaheera Jinnah & Aurelia Segatti, African Centre for Migration & Society (ACMS), Wits University
zaheera.jinnah@wits.ac.za, aurelia.wakabwe@wits.ac.za

Coordinator of WP1: Lorenzo Fioramonti, Centre for the Study of Governance Innovation (GovInn), University of Pretoria, lorenzo.fioramonti@up.ac.za

Coordinator of WP2: Aurelia Segatti, African Centre for Migration & Society (ACMS), Wits University, aurelia.wakabwe@wits.ac.za

Coordinator of WP3: Zaheera Jinnah, African Centre for Migration & Society (ACMS), Wits University, zaheera.jinnah@wits.ac.za

Coordinator of WP4: Bob Deacon, UNESCO Chair on Regional integration, Migration and Free movement, United Nations University, b.deacon@sheffield.ac.uk

Coordinator of Dissemination and Capacity Building: Sharon Mina Olago, African Centre for Migration & Society (ACMS), Wits University sharon.olago@wits.ac.za

