



Migrating for Work Research Consortium



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

Volume 1 Issue 5 - September 2013

Inside this issue

- 1 Message from the Editorial Team
- 2 Partnerships
- 3 Research Update
- 4 Dissemination and Capacity Building
- 5 Past and Upcoming Events
- 6 Contacts



Dear Stakeholder

The MIWORC team has been involved in extensive research and dissemination over the past 3 months. The main highlight of this quarter is the presentation of MiWORC's key findings at the SADC meeting on labour migration, convened by the SADC Secretariat and the International Labour Organization on 21-23 August 2013 in Johannesburg and the adoption of key focus areas supported by MiWORC research (policy development, data, skills and social rights portability) as future focus areas for the SADC Draft Action Plan on Labour Migration. ([Click for PowerPoint Presentations](#))

Publications of findings are now available:

- [MiWORC Policy Brief No.1 \(A region without borders? Policy frameworks for regional labour migration towards South Africa\)](#) and the policy brief have been published in print and online;
- Three reports and a fact sheet from WP 2 on Data have also been published on print and online. The fact sheet provides key statistics on foreign labour participation in South Africa and can be accessed here [Fact Sheet No.1. Labour migration by numbers: South Africa's foreign and domestic migration data. Johannesburg.](#)

[Click this link for full reports.](#)

Field research in WP3 has begun in the public health and agriculture sectors. Under dissemination and capacity building, qualitative research training for staff from the Department of Labour was conducted by researchers from ACMS. The training focused on research ethics, conducting and transcribing interviews, transcription and analysis.



Partnerships

We would like to welcome Marius Olivier who will be joining WP4 in co-authoring reports on social security and social protection. Subject to finalising the contract with the University of Pretoria, Marius will join WP4 to co-author reports with a focus on his expertise in social security and social protection. Marius Olivier is the Director of the International Institute for Social Law and Policy (IISLP) and an Adjunct-Professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Western Australia, Perth.

Statistics South Africa and MiWORC will enter into a Service Level Agreement within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding to be signed between the agency and the University of the Witwatersrand and as part of activities in WP2 (Data). This partnership will be centered on the continuation of work on improving the quality of data on foreign workers in South Africa. An in-depth analysis of the QLFS migration module and skills transfer will feature among the main joint activities.



Research Update



WP1 : Policy Review

MiWORC held its first consultation meeting for the MiWORC Report No.1 on June 7, 2013 at the University of Pretoria. The report was presented by Prof. Lorenzo Foramonti and Dr. Chris Nshimbi, their research emphasized for a more comprehensive institutional governance of migration in Southern African, highlighting how the SADC states do not incorporate the existing multilateral international instruments in national migration regimes. Nevertheless, the managed approach to regional labour migration used by the SADC States, allows for the migration of sectorial and certain categories of skilled and unskilled labour. South Africa was also established as having the upper hand in determining the sectors and skills set, that are allowed on its territory

The audience included practitioners, researchers and various delegates from the Department of Labour, Statistics South Africa, Department of Home Affairs, the International Labour Organization, the International Migration Organizations, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and researchers from the African Centre for Migration & Society (ACMS), Wits University.

[Download the full PowerPoint presentation.](#)

MiWORC Report No.1 established that the migration governance system of South Africa:

- has a long history of Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) with neighbouring countries;
- multiple parallel bilateral agreements between South Africa and its neighbouring countries ;



- and bilateral agreements with neighbouring countries which do not differ significantly. The MOUs all work to unilaterally favour South Africa by facilitating labour migration of skilled and low skilled migrants.

Establishing Southern African Customs Union (SACU) as a regional migration policy test centre was suggested as a stepping stone towards the development of a more coherent SADC framework. This would be achieved through utilizing the existing bilateral agreements to establish a framework for neighbouring countries that fall under SACU.



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

MiWORC Report No. 2, 3, and 4 are available online on www.miworc.org.za. The full report, [MiWORC Report No. 2](#) looks at ways of improving access and quality of statistics on foreign labour in South Africa. Through assessing the range and relevance of available statistical data in South Africa from 1980-present, the report is divided into five sections:

- Statistical options and data collection methodologies: a critical assessment on the collection of statistics on foreign or migrant labour
 - Historical statistics for South Africa: a review of South African statistical data from 1980-1994
 - Current government statistics: government-produced statistical sources
 - Recent non-government sources: external sources to the government
 - Synthesis and appraisal: a concluding section on foreign labour in South Africa
- The synthesis report reveals that South Africa lacks efficient data to produce reliable estimates on the influx of foreign labour in South Africa. If improved upon, the wide variety in sources of data possess potential to give reliable estimates. Nevertheless, the available data identified very specific crude trends in South African foreign labour which include:
- Foreigners only account for less than 10% of the work force.
 - A concentration of migrants particularly in Gauteng than any other province. This consists of a high male to female ratio, with the average working age group of 15-64
 - An evident increase in flow of migrant labour to South Africa and other African countries, with a large bulk originating from SADC member states being the dominant citizens amongst African migrants
 - NIDS data reflect a correlation in distributions for foreign and South African workers at broad industry level. Additionally, there is strong evidence that confirms that the unemployment rate tends to be lower for migrants than for the local people
 - Reliable comprehensive statistics on skills levels and the skills profile of foreigners are scarce. Similarly, the access to reliable statistics on foreign labour at a local level is extremely limited.



A new partnership with Stats SA will allow for the continuation of work in this WP ([see Partnerships](#)).



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

In the highly skilled component of this WP3, interviews with nurses and doctors are under way at different sites across the Gauteng Province. Approval from the Provincial Ethics Committee at the Provincial Department of Health has been granted, and research should be completed over the last quarter of 2013.

Fieldwork on low skilled workers in the agriculture sector has been completed. During July and August 2013 interviews with key informants from business, civil society and labour in Gauteng and Mpumalanga was undertaken. Individual and focus groups interviews with 60 farmworkers in these provinces were also carried by a team of researchers from the ACMS, and DoL. Aliya Daniels, from Bard College, USA, joined MiWORC for a 12 week internship during July and August. [Please click this link to read Aliya's blog.](#)



MiWORC acknowledges the efforts and dedication of Aliya and her colleague Elsa Raker from Bard College, who were instrumental in undertaking preparations and fieldwork in the agricultural sector and who prepared a collage of pictorials from the field.



WP4: Migrants' social rights portability

WP4 will be incorporating some of the research completed under WP1 on Regional Labour and Migration Policy frameworks, as well as WP3 research. The desktop research is on-going.

Field Research begun in September and shall end in November. We estimate to have a draft report to share with partners by the beginning of January.

The four elements that will be covered in the research, policy analysis, and writing include:

- a) Informal social protection among migrants and the implications for government social protection schemes (focus on South Africa);
- b) Discrimination in law and practice in access to social protection and social services between categories of migrants and policy recommendations to address this (emphasis on South Africa);
- c) Portability of Social Security Benefits: immediate issues and longer term objectives (focus on South Africa and neighbouring countries);
- d) Development of the SADC policy ensuring migrant worker access to social protection, with a continuum of care across borders and harmonization of social security scheme.



Research Uptake

Dissemination

MiWORC research coordinators presented at the SADC ministerial meeting on employment and labour. The presentation focused on the partnership, research model and preliminary findings undertaken by MiWORC. This forum presented an opportunity to introduce scientific evidence on labour migration policy frameworks and dynamics to the SADC ministers and key stakeholders. Hard copies of the reports, policy brief and fact sheet were shared with them.

This was a great opportunity to have scientific evidence inform on-going policy discussions. We thank our partner ILO for this.

All published reports, policy brief and fact sheet are available for downloads on our website www.miworc.org.za, reports are also being disseminated to stakeholders. The reports have executive summaries and specific recommendations to ease the use of the research. We have also translated the abstracts into several languages (Arabic, French, Portuguese, Spanish, Sotho, Swahili, Xhosa and Zulu).

Below please find the online copies of the published reports:

1. Budlender, D. (2013). [MiWORC Report No.4. Improving the quality of available statistics on foreign labour in South Africa: Suggestions for a Quarterly Labour Force Survey migration module and municipal level surveys](#). Johannesburg: African Centre for Migration & Society, University of the Witwatersrand.
2. Budlender, D. (2013) [MiWORC Report No.3. Improving the quality of available statistics on foreign](#)

[labour in South Africa: Strategic recommendations](#). Johannesburg: African Centre for Migration & Society, University of the Witwatersrand.

3. Budlender, D. (2013) [MiWORC Report No.2. Improving the quality of available statistics on foreign labour in South Africa: Existing data sets](#). Johannesburg: African Centre for Migration & Society, University of the Witwatersrand.
4. Nshimbi, C.C. & Fioramonti, L. (2013) [MiWORC Report No.1. A region without borders? Policy frameworks for regional labour migration towards South Africa](#). Johannesburg: African Centre for Migration & Society, University of the Witwatersrand.

The policy brief provides a summary of the regional framework of labour migration in South Africa, and provides key recommendations. The fact sheet is a summary of some of the statistics relating to foreign labour migration in South Africa.

Please find online copies of the Policy Brief and Fact Sheet:

1. African Centre for Migration & Society. (2013) [MiWORC Fact Sheet No.1. Labour migration by numbers: South Africa's foreign and domestic migration data](#). Johannesburg: African Centre for Migration & Society, University of the Witwatersrand.
2. Nshimbi, C.C. & Fioramonti, L. (2013) [MiWORC Policy Brief No.1 A region without borders? Policy frameworks for regional labour migration towards South Africa](#). Johannesburg: African Centre for Migration & Society, University of the Witwatersrand.

News Article on ILO consultative meeting:

Smallhorne, M. 2013. 'Southern Africa Trust: Social security without borders', Mail & Guardian, 30th August.

For further information on MiWORC, you can visit www.miworc.org.za

Capacity building

A research methodology training workshop was organised for partners from the DoL; it was a 2 day workshop on the agricultural sector led by Tesfalem Araia, Janet Munakamwe and Zaheera Jinnah on 11 &

12th of July. During this workshop, participants received training on sectoral trends and concepts, key data pertaining to the sector, research ethics, qualitative research methods and tools, and transcription and data storage.

Zaheera Jinnah and Tesfalem Araia hosted a training workshop on the 9th and 12th of July 2013. The workshop provided a sector background on the employment of foreign workers in the agricultural sector and qualitative interview techniques with local workers through in-depth interviews and focus groups. The training included research methods which on sampling technique and selection methodology, qualitative interview techniques and the technical aspects of qualitative research.



Picture by Aliya Daniels

Events

Past Events

Loren B. Landau & Aurelia Segatti presented Regional Experts Meeting for Consultation on International Migration and Development in Africa, 2nd Regional Preparation for the 2013 High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. The meeting was organised by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa in partnership with the International Organisation for Migration and the African Union Commission. The meeting took place at the UNECA, 3-4 July 2013, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.



Aurelia Segatti, Bob Deacon, Christopher Nshimbi, Lorenzo Fioramonti, Tesfalem Araia and Zaheera Jinnah presented at a consultative meeting, "Towards a Regional Strategy on Labour Migration". The meeting was organized by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC). Discussions were on labour standards and policies across the Southern African region, 22 - 24 August, Boksburg.

Zaheera Jinnah and Aurelia Segatti, from ACMS presented the MiWORC programme at a meeting hosted by the UNHCR and COSATU, 30-31 July, 2013, Pretoria.

Upcoming Events

Christopher Nshimbi will attend and present a paper on "International Labour Migration in the Southern African Development Community: Policy Frameworks for Regional Labour Migration Towards South Africa" at the 56th Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association, Baltimore, Maryland, USA, 21-24 November 2013.

Aurelia Segatti, on behalf of ACMS / MiWORC, has been invited to attend the African Regional Conference on Population and Development, convened by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union Commission and the United Nations Population Fund in the framework of the UN review of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, 30 September-02 October, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.



Contacts

Migrating for Work Research Consortium (MiWORC)

African Centre for Migration & Society,
Wits University
Private Bag X3, Wits 2050,
South Africa

T: +27 11 717 4697

F: +27 11 717 4039

www.miworc.org.za

MiWORC Managers:

Zaheera Jinnah & Aurelia Segatti
African Centre for Migration & Society (ACMS), Wits University
zaheera.jinnah@wits.ac.za, aurelia.wakabwe@wits.ac.za

WP1 (Policy) Coordinator:

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

WP2 (Data) Coordinator:

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

WP3 (Sectors) Coordinator:

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

WP4 (Social Rights Portability) Coordinator:

Bob Deacon
UNESCO Chair on Regional Integration, Migration and Free Movement,
United Nations University / University of Pretoria
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