IOM FACILITATES 6th MINISTERIAL MIGRATION DIALOGUE FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA, WITH EU SUPPORT
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Dear Stakeholder,

2022 was an exciting and eventful year, with several activities taking place within the SAMM Project. Great strides were made and huge milestones achieved in implementing the overall objectives of the project. In this edition, we reflect on key activities undertaken in the second semester of 2022.

This edition highlights work undertaken by the partner agencies on both labour and mixed migration components of the project. Most of the key milestones and activities were undertaken at the country level, offering technical assistance to countries in solving and improving migration management to attain the desired objective of the project anchored on SDG 10.7, which calls on countries to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.
Engaging member states and focusing on country level work has and is a huge priority for the project. The country level dialogues have been used as vehicle to engage member states, to identify priorities at the national level and advance in the implementation of country-level Labour Migration Policies and Action plans through the production of 2022–2023 National Roadmaps.

At the end of the first semester, the project recorded that six country dialogues had been convened from the beginning of the project to date. In the second semester of 2022, the project managed to convene seven more dialogues in the following countries: Lesotho, Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia DRC, Malawi, Botswana, Zimbabwe, South Africa.

In total, 13 country dialogues were conducted at the end of 2022. Country level dialogues had the objective to identify priorities at the national level and advance the implementation of country-level Labour Migration Policies and Action Plans through the production of 2022–2023 National Roadmaps.

### Country-level Dialogues on Labour Migration Governance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lesotho</td>
<td>14th – 15th and 16th June</td>
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<tr>
<td>DRC</td>
<td>11th – 12th July</td>
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<td>Zambia</td>
<td>19th – 20th July</td>
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<td>Malawi</td>
<td>2nd – 4th August</td>
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<td>Botswana</td>
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<td>Zimbabwe</td>
<td>30th August – 1st September</td>
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<td>South Africa</td>
<td>4th – 6th October</td>
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▲ ▶ Lesotho Country-level Dialogue, 14–16 June 2022
DRC Country-level Dialogue, 11–12 July 2022

Zambia Country-level Dialogue, 19–20 July 2022

Malawi Country-level Dialogue, 2–4 August 2022

Botswana Country-level Dialogue, 23–25 August 2022
ILO in collaboration with IOM hosted a High-Level Tripartite Dialogue on “Labour Migration Governance in the SADC region” from the 29–30 November 2022, in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.

Participation comprised of Ministers and Permanent Secretaries responsible for Labour and Employment from SADC member countries; The Ministers and Permanent Secretaries responsible for Migration or Home Affairs/Interior from SADC member countries; The Ministers and Permanent Secretaries responsible for Foreign Affairs from SADC member Countries; Presidents and Executive Secretaries of Employers’ Organisations from SADC member Countries + two representatives from SADC Private Sector Forum; Presidents and Executive Secretaries of Workers’ Organisations from SADC member Countries and two representatives from SATUCC; Presidents and Executive Secretaries from COMESA, SADC and the IOC and Regional Directors for Southern Africa from UNODC and UNHCR and CSOs.

The High-Level Dialogue allowed member states the opportunity to deliberate and collectively find solutions to the challenges of labour migration and recognize the vast benefits of labour migration, particularly to the development of the SADC region.
During the High-Level Dialogue, a **Statement of Intent** as well as a **Call to Action** summarizing the meetings’ recommendation was drafted. The HLTD-LMG Statement of Intent and the Call to Action called upon SAMM implementing partners and national stakeholders to scale up interventions at national and regional levels in support of the implementation of the SADC LMAP. It will, particularly cover work on the domestication and implementation of SADC policies and frameworks on labour migration. They also highlighted interventions for promoting and protecting labour rights of migrant workers through the SADC Technical Committee on Labour Migration (TCLM). SADC Member States were encouraged to institutionalize and convene national annual tripartite dialogue forums to share comparable good practices, lessons and recommendations on labour migration governance in SADC.

▲ Delegates present at the High-Level Dialogue on Labour Migration Governance

▲ Delegates present at the High-Level Dialogue on Labour Migration Governance

▲ Delegates present at the event
Delegates at the Regional Dialogue
**Beneficiary story**

**Lighting up the lives of forcibly displaced people in Mozambique**

When Charlotte Fatuma fled conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in 2016 she never imagined one day running a successful business in a refugee settlement. She narrowly escaped death during attacks by militia men on her village in North Kivu province.


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**LABOUR MIGRATION WORK**

**Community of Practice Meetings on Recognition of Skills of migrant workers (Workers’ Meeting and Employers)**

The ILO under the framework of the SAMM Project convened the first SADC-level Community of Practice for practitioners, from across government and non-government organisations in the region, involved in the implementation of different interventions to enable the recognition of the skills and qualifications of migrants. This was seen as the first of a series of CoPs that will be implemented in the region including one with employers and another with unions.

The Community of Practice (CoP) specifically takes forward the work being undertaken to both assist in and facilitate the development and/or strengthening of skills systems to facilitate the recognition and verification of migrant workers’ skills and qualifications. The CoP process was proposed as part of an intervention to create a space for key role players to exchange learning and improve practices related to the recognition of individual migrants’ skills.

The Community of Practice Meeting serve as a platform to exchange information and best practices on the recognition of migrant workers’ qualifications with the purpose of providing support to SADC Member States in developing or strengthening skills systems to facilitate the recognition and verification of migrant workers’ skills and qualifications.
Regional Capacity Development Workshop on Ethical Recruitment in Victoria Falls

Victoria Falls – The Government of Zimbabwe through the Ministry of Public Service, Labour, and Social Welfare in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), is hosting a Regional Capacity Development Workshop on Ethical Recruitment in Victoria Falls. This programme is being hosted under the auspices of the Africa Regional Migration Programme (ARMP) and the Southern Africa Migration Management (SAMM) project.

The main thrust of the workshop is to strengthen and enhance regional mechanisms and policy convergence on fair and ethical recruitment practices. This is in line with the decision of the SADC Employment and Labour Sector (ELS) and the recommendations of the 2019 Migration Dialogue in Southern Africa (MIDSA) held in Windhoek Namibia. The workshop brings together officials from SADC countries, representing Ministries and the Private Sector entities whose mandates relate to labour migration.

The key highlights of the workshop are the overview of the Africa Regional Migration Programme (ARMP) and sharing country experiences on the protection of migrant workers in the context of mixed migration and labour mobility. The programme will introduce participants to the International Recruitment Integrity System (IRIS) which is an IOM flagship initiative to promote ethical recruitment of migrant workers. IRIS is a global multi-stakeholder initiative that supports governments, civil society, the private sector, and recruiters to establish ethical recruitment as a norm in cross-border labour migration. Its aim is to make international recruitment fair for everyone involved: migrant workers, employers, recruiters and countries of origin and destination.

In a statement, IOM Zimbabwe Chief of Mission, Mario Lito Malanca, expressed gratitude to the Government of Zimbabwe for its continued leadership and firm commitment in promoting good migration governance, demonstrated through hosting this regional workshop. The workshop reaffirms, he said, the importance of international cooperation in facilitating international mobility, including cross border recruitment. Mr. Malanca warned of the risks of fraudulent and unethical practices by unscrupulous labour recruiters which can lead to conditions of human trafficking and forced labour. He acknowledged the steady progress in the implementation of the National Labour Migration Policy, which will be a vital component of Zimbabwe’s recovery efforts from COVID-19 and in addressing access to decent working opportunities in countries of destination.

Mr. Malanca highlighted that the forthcoming establishment of the Migrant Resource Centres in Harare and Bulawayo which will provide a much-needed avenue for migrants to facilitate pre-departure orientation, inform on the dangers of human trafficking, whilst also facilitating referrals to service providers.

These initiatives align with the holistic approach taken by IOM in Zimbabwe under its Strategy (2022–2025) in ensuring effective coordination and strengthened capacities for good labour migration governance by the Government of Zimbabwe, private and social partners as well as regional Member states, Malanca said.
In a statement ahead of the knowledge exchange, the Minister of Public Service, Labour, and Social Welfare Hon. Prof. Paul Mavima applauded the cordial relationship between IOM and the Second Republic, demonstrated by the holding of this important Regional Capacity Building Workshop on Ethical Recruitment fundamentals. The Second Republic has prioritized migration issues in its Vision 2030, being implemented under the National Economic Blueprint, the NDS1 (2022–2025). After the successful launch of the National Labour Migration Policy in 2021, significant progress towards the implementation of the agreed activities and strategies such as this workshop to deal with rampant irregular migration flows and its vices which includes, among other issues; human trafficking, forced labour as well as child labour characterized our region is being witnessed.

The Minister reiterated the importance of the workshop in cultivating relevant knowledge and skills to Member States in enhancing country policies and programming on migration issues as well regional cooperation and harmonization on recruitment procedures and systems. The workshop will also foster and offers the scope to the participants not only to share about their country’s experiences but to also discuss on strengthening bilateral labour agreements in terms of strategy and policy options. “As Government we are also excited about the establishment of the Harare and Bulawayo Resource Centre. This is a clear testimony of Government, and its Partners resolve to deliver on the deliverables under the new policy. This initiative will produce empowered and informed labour migrants with respect to irregular migration, and the mechanisms for their protection and empowerment against abuse and exploitation in destination countries”, said the Minister.

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Mario Lito Malanca
ILO offered Scholarships to obtain the Diploma for Labour Migration Experts and Practitioners

The Southern Africa Migration Management Project (SAMM) is offering scholarships to obtain a Diploma for Labour Migration Experts and Practitioners, providing an opportunity for participants to master the qualitative understanding of labour migration governance and protection of migrant workers’ rights through a package of intensive and challenging training courses - distance learning and residential phases to be furthered complemented by a capstone project in one of the fields of expertise covered in the programme.

The scholarships are being offered to national tripartite constituents (three representatives of the Ministry of Labour, three representatives of workers’ organisations, and three representatives of employers’ organisations) of each of the 16 SADC countries to obtain the “Diploma for Labour Migration Experts and Practitioners”. In addition, the SAMM project is offering nine scholarships per Regional Economic Community (SADC, COMESA, IOC): three to Ministries of Labour represented at the RECs level, and three to Workers’ representation and Employers’ representation each. In total, SAMM will be able to offer nine scholarships to each country + nine to each RECs.

On achieving the Diploma for Labour Migration Experts and Practitioners, successful candidates will gain advanced knowledge in core areas of Labour Migration and cutting-edge skills to design policies, which ensure and optimize governance of Labour Migration, be able to demonstrate the achievement through a recognised certification from the ITCILO; and be part of a growing network of Labour Migration Experts and Practitioners to serve as an ongoing platform for exchange.

The training activities developed under the Diploma emphasizes experiential, results-based, learner centred methodologies such as lectures, discussions, case studies, open discussion, role-play exercises and extensive group work in which learning needs are assessed and matched and aligned with principles and guidance intended to turn learning outcomes into practice under seven main themes:

- Gender-sensitive labour migration policies and/or strategies regulating labour migration at national and/or regional level;
- International labour standards, national legislation on the protection of migrant workers and promoting an evidence-based public discourse;
- Bilateral labour migration agreements (BLMAs) across the region and with third countries;
- Fair recruitment and decent employment for migrant workers including regulatory legislation on Private Employment Agencies (PEAs), and strengthening of Public Employment Services (PES)’ capacity;
- Social Security Portability of Benefits for migrant workers;
- Recognition of qualifications of migrant workers at national and bilateral level, as well as support to Regional Qualifications Frameworks at REC’s level;
- Labour migration statistics (indicators, module, inclusion in labour market information systems, etc).
Other areas that will be also covered are the following:

- Labour Migration Administration;
- Refugees and IDPs' access to the labour market;
- Impact of immigration on developing countries' economies;
- Reducing Remittances’ transfer cost;
- The role of migrant workers and the Diaspora in attaining the SDGs.

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**Capacity Development Workshop on Migration Data Analysis and Report Writing**

IOM with support of the Southern Africa Migration Management (SAMM) project provided a capacity development workshop on migration data analysis and report writing to technical staff from ZamSats and the Ministry of Labour and Social Security. The workshop focused on concepts of migration, and labour, and the identification of indicators relevant to the disaggregation of data on migration indicators. Parts of the workshop on analysis of labour variables from the Labour Force Survey was facilitated by a technical specialist from Statistics South Africa working on the South African Quarterly LFS. The output of the workshop was a report structure and roadmap, tabulation guide and selection of indicators that will be included in the report on the latest Zambian LFS.
ILO in partnership with SATUCC convenes a Pre-Congress activity for trade union in the Southern Africa region

On the 26th of October 2022 the International Labour Organization in partnership with the Southern Africa Trade Union Co-ordination Council convened a Pre-congress activity focusing on the role of trade unions in labour migration governance. The activity was held ahead of SATUCC’s 11th Congress under the theme “Revitalization of Trade Unions in Southern Africa”

Several ILO specialists engaged the members of trade unions on how they can lobby their governments to ratify ILO conventions, particularly those that of concern to migrant workers. The dialogue emphasized on the role of trade unions in protecting the labour and human rights of migrant workers, as well as recognizing the benefits of migrant labour.

“We have a role to play in providing migrant workers with access to information on living and working conditions in countries of destinations. We should also lobby our respective governments to ratify ILO conventions that protect migrant workers” said SATUCC President, Zingiswa Losi.
MIXED MIGRATION WORK

Iconic School Hosts World Day Against Trafficking Event in SA

A popular rural school in South Africa’s Limpopo province hosted this year’s main commemoration of World Day Against Trafficking in Persons jointly organized by the Department of Justice and Correctional Services, and the United National Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Mphaphuli Secondary School, an iconic school in Thohoyandou district, was established in the 1920s and has grown exponentially largely due to the support given by the community. Among its former students is President Cyril Ramaphosa and renowned boxer Phillip N’dou.

In commemoration of World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, the school’s 1,500 learners interacted with dignitaries, including the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Mr Ronald Lamola, who commissioned a computer centre with 10 computers and furniture sourced through UNODC with funding from the European Union.

The event, held under the global theme of the day “use and abuse of technology”, was meant to emphasize that technology has become both an enabler of trafficking and also a possible tool to fight such crimes.

Among Mphaphuli Secondary School’s former students are President Cyril Ramaphosa and renowned boxer Phillip N’dou.
The crime of human trafficking has received a major boost since the onset of the internet. Since then, among traffickers’ most preferred ways of finding victims is posting fake job offers online, promising work opportunities, often in far off lands. Such recruitment and coercion often occur through targeting on social media.

Thus, the computers provided to Mphaphuli were meant to support students to achieve computer literacy and also for them to learn how to safely navigate Cyberspace.

Mr Lamola also said it was strategic that the commemoration was taking place at Mphaphuli, situated not far from the country’s busiest land border crossing at Beitbridge, a factor that increased the risk of trafficking.

UNODC Regional Representative Ms Jane Marie Ongolo implored the learners to always navigate the internet safely, including by refraining from accepting friend requests from strangers and not falling for offers that appeared too good to be true.

Sarah Rammbuda, the mayor of Thulamela — a municipality in the area — said while learners were at risk of falling risk to trafficking and “as leaders we have a duty to guide them.”

Earlier in the day, both Mr Lamola and Dr Ongolo also spoke on the dangers of human
trafficking during an interaction with students at the University of Venda, located a stone’s throw from Mphaphuli.

Dr Ongolo said anyone can become a victim of trafficking. “Traffickers are now using the internet to lure those they want to traffic. This place is not that far from the border, so we need to be careful about human trafficking.”

Mphaphuli’s new computer centre will support an ongoing initiative to deepen awareness among students using UNODC curricula that includes teaching materials and games.

“We can never be too vigilant about human trafficking,” said Jeptum Bargoria, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice officer at UNODC. “Due to its hidden nature, this crime is an ever-present danger, and we hope that the students will pass what they learn to their families and communities, even before they graduate and join the outside world.”

IOM brings together representatives of the Southern African region to boost diaspora engagement and investment

Mauritius, 20 October 2022 – “Diaspora communities represent a significant and valuable source of ideas and innovations to tackle new and emerging challenges”. It is with those words that the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, Mr. Alan Ganoo, opened the maiden edition of the Southern Africa Regional Diaspora Engagement and Investment Forum from 17 to 19 October 2022 at The Residence Mauritius in Belle Mare, Mauritius.

Organized by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), in collaboration with the Government of Mauritius, the Forum brought together over 50 delegates from the 16 countries of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the African Union (AU), United Nations (UN) agencies, multi-lateral organizations, and the private sector. It provided the opportunity for them to share experiences and lessons learned on diaspora-related interventions in the region, with the aim of scaling up initiatives to strengthen diaspora engagement and remittances use in the region. It also served as an avenue to promote productive discourse on sustainable investments and skills transfer approaches to attract the Southern African diaspora community globally.

“IOM recognizes the diaspora as a key strategic asset in building national institutional capacities” says the IOM Regional Director for Southern Africa, Mr. Ashraf El Nour. “[The diaspora] should be recognized as one of Africa’s main assets of social, financial, intellectual, and political capital ... for [its] development and integration.”
The Head of Cooperation of the Delegation of the European Union in Mauritius, Mr. Milko Van Gool, expressed his appreciation to be able to “join hands today with IOM to build a common understanding about Southern Africa diaspora processes and to discuss initiatives for an effective engagement of the diaspora”.

This Forum directly links to supporting and promoting diaspora investment through skills matching and the temporary return of highly skilled professionals, thereby contributing to the realization of the overall aspirations and priorities of SADC member states.

There is a need to “harvest the best ideas and innovations not only from the local population, but also from our Diasporas, which are our national assets and which constitute one of the major networks to achieve the objectives of socio-economic progress” affirmed the Honourable Alan Ganoo.

Southern African countries increasingly recognize diaspora communities as valuable assets to their economies. According to the UN DESA 2020 report, 6.4 million SADC migrants live outside their countries of origin, with the majority residing in other SADC countries. The Forum resulted in the identification of priorities for empowering diaspora communities based on the specific dynamics of the region, which will form the basis for the development of a roadmap for the effective mapping and engagement of Southern African diaspora communities.

The Forum was held with the support of the Southern Africa Migration Management (SAMM) project, funded by the European Union, and the IOM Migration Resource Allocation Committee (MIRAC).

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Compassion and Cooperation Key to Addressing Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants in South Africa

The police in Johannesburg had a lead — a real chance to uncover human trafficking victims. But despite the clear information leading them to a house in the city, the police could not find where the victims were being held.

Some patience, persistence, and careful surveying of the house eventually paid off, albeit with a startling discovery. Apparently, the traffickers owned two neighbouring houses connected via tunnel — where the victims were indeed hidden.

In another instance, the South African police had rescued 10 Asian women from sexual exploitation, also in Johannesburg. The women were relieved at the prospect of being repatriated to their respective homes in Asia.
But when one of them phoned her mother en route to say she was coming home, her mother warned: “Do not come home; the people from South Africa [i.e. the traffickers] are here waiting for you.”

These anecdotes were relayed in Johannesburg by Colonel Parmanand Jagwa, the national coordinator of the fight against human trafficking in the Hawks, the South African police’s elite crime fighting unit. Speaking at the start of a series of training sessions aimed at building capacity among law enforcement agencies in South Africa on tackling human trafficking and migrant smuggling, Colonel Jaqwa emphasized that human traffickers were not ordinary criminals. Rather, he stressed, they are dangerous members of effective and organized syndicates who do their research.

During the trainings, law enforcement officers were encouraged to adopt a “victim-centred approach” rooted in the care and welfare of victims, rather than treating them as criminals. Compassion, they were informed, also builds a relationship of trust that would be critical in enlisting the victims’ cooperation in the investigation meant to bring the criminals to justice.

Also during the training, Maj-Gen Ebrahim Kadwa, head of the Hawks in Gauteng province (where both Pretoria and Johannesburg are located), referred to young children working in disused mine shafts, pulling out whatever gold they could find there. Most of them are believed to be foreign nationals.
Colonel Parmanand Jagwa, the national coordinator of the fight against human trafficking in the Hawks

UNODC crime prevention and criminal justice officer Ms Jeptum Bargoria
“The questions being asked are: How did they get here? Who brought them here? Are they trafficked? Is it just a pure question of unemployment and extreme poverty that are the push and pull factors bringing them to South Africa?” However, Maj-Gen Ebrahim Kadwa also urged police officers not to lose sight of in-country trafficking that is happening “in plain sight”. One possible sign was in the prevalence of brothels in some areas of Johannesburg.

He encouraged police officers to cooperate with civil society groups focused on combating trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants, saying some among such groups or their families have themselves been victims. “I want us to see them [civil society] as our force multiplier,” he added. “I want us to see them as our eyes and ears.”

Commenting on the upskilling of law enforcement officers, UNODC crime prevention and criminal justice officer Ms Jeptum Bargoria said the ongoing series of trainings will reach officers in the different provinces. “It is when law enforcement officers are given the requisite support and skills that we will see further improvements in the prosecution of those involved in human trafficking and migrants smuggling,” she said.

Regional Case Digest for Southern Africa Assists Judicial Officers to Prosecute Suspected Traffickers

It was a victory for law enforcement against a crime that had originated in cyberspace. The accused, ML, used Facebook over a period of four years to lure and groom young girls by promising modelling jobs and money.

He requested them to send him nude pictures and, once received, blackmailed the victims by threatening to expose their identities if they refused to engage in sexual acts with him and the co-accused. In some instances, these acts were filmed.

The accused was eventually sentenced to 25 years’ imprisonment for his guilty plea on 26 counts of, inter alia: sexual assault; extortion; possession of indecent photographs; possession of prohibited visual recordings; and recruiting, harbouring, transferring, and receiving a child while knowingly or recklessly disregarding that the person is a child for the purpose of exploitation.

This case (R v ML & Ors Cr S 63/19) occurred in Seychelles and is featured in a Regional Case Digest launched in 2022 by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)’s Southern Africa office. The digest is meant to assist judicial officers to improve the identification of and conviction for the crime of trafficking in persons.
Explaining the significance of the Seychelles case was Justice Fiona Mwale, an experienced judge from Malawi who was commissioned by UNODC to lead a seminar meant to increase the knowledge of judicial officers in identifying and prosecuting the crimes of trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling.

Justice Mwale said the case in Seychelles illustrated that nothing has complicated the fight against human trafficking like the onset of cyberspace. “All you need to commit cybercrime is an IP address,” Justice Mwale noted.

She explained that cybercrime can be cyber-dependent or cyber-enabled. The former can only be enacted using computers, computer networks or other forms of information and communications technology (ICT), such as the creation and spread of malware and hacking to steal sensitive personal or industrial data.

On the other hand, cyber-enabled crimes are traditional crimes that can be increased in their scale or reach using computers, computer networks or other forms of ICT. Unlike cyber-dependent crimes, they can be committed without the use of ICT. Thus, in many instances, a simple cellphone can be used. Even inmates with access to cellphones in prisons have been found to run phishing scams.

However, identifying, investigating, and convicting criminals operating in cyberspace and on digital networks is complex.

According to Justice Mwale, this is because law enforcement authorities cannot easily access and secure evidence — or secure cooperation across borders — in instances where the perpetrator and the victim are in different places.

More significantly, to effectively deal with human trafficking perpetuated through cybercrime — such as the case listed above in Seychelles – there is a need for a certain level of digital expertise, which law enforcement officials do not always have.

The seminar represents just one instance in which UNODC’s Regional Case Digest can help illustrate criminal methodology, helping prosecutors and judicial officers to identify and convict criminals. The digest provides references to challenges specific to Southern Africa, including child trafficking, sexual exploitation, and the significance of customary practices.

The [Regional Case Digest](#) was developed in both digital and hard copy versions in the official languages of the Southern Africa region: English, French and Portuguese. Funding for the digest was provided by the European Union through the Southern Africa Migration Management (SAMM) project.
Workshop on Data Collection Approaches on Displacement for Government Officials of Statistics Departments

On 16 September 2022, IOM supported a workshop with officials in Maputo, Mozambique to present and discuss IOM and government data collection methodologies on displacement in order to identify ways to integrate and harmonize approaches in alignment with global frameworks and recommendations, including the International Recommendations on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics (IRIS). The workshop was attended by 21 participants with concrete recommendations on the way forward including enhanced collaboration among government agencies responsible for displacement data and continued support from international institutions such as IOM.

Without proper identification documents it is difficult to prove nationality before legal authorities. This not only makes such people administratively invisible, it also prevents them from accessing services such as health care, education, employment, justice, housing, and property ownership, among others. Through the issuance of birth certificates and other identity documents, the risk of statelessness is eliminated as children and adults are provided with documentation that will help to prove their nationality. In 2022, the Zambian government through the Office of the Commissioner for Refugees and with support from UNHCR, conducted a verification exercise to ascertain the number of persons we serve in the country. The exercise also enabled the Commissioner for Refugees and UNHCR to update the biodata of the persons verified. Through the Department of National Registration Passport and Citizenship 8,984 individuals were issued with Alien Cards, identity documents for non-nationals. A total of 2,475 birth certificates were issued during the entire exercise which was carried out from April to August 2022. This represented a 16 percent increment amongst individuals with Alien Cards and a four percent increment for persons with birth certificates.
Contact Information

🌐 www.sammproject.org
✉️ samm-project@ilo.org