REFLECTIONS AND SOME POINTERS FOR THE WAY FORWARD

*Social Protection for Migrants in the SADC: Prospects, Vulnerability and Benefits across Borders*

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Overview

- Reflections and impressions
- Some pointers for the way forward
Reflections and impressions

- What have we covered thematically?
  - Comparative perspectives (*Taran*)
  - International and regional frameworks and policies
    - Joint Programme; ILO; labour exporting (*Samuel-Olonjuwon; Musabayana; Rispoli*)
  - Needs and issues in relation to migrants in the SADC – SADC overview, drivers, PSI, informal traders (*Olivier, Kaseke, Gencianos & Mngomezulu, Peberdy*)
  - Remittances – AIR, development, informal remittances (*Kinfe, Tevera, Bamu*)
Reflections and impressions

- Challenges in the mining sector – health and mobility, Mozambican miners, advocacy and human rights, TEBA health services (Makapela, Uamusse, Theede, Motsepe)
- Portability and economic integration – SA benefits, Zambia, Zimbabweans in the UK, AEPI (Govindjee & Olivier, Chikalanga, Mupedziswa, Treebhoohun)
- Government and social partner responses (Chinguwo, Kalusopa, Mponda)
Reflections and impressions

- Marginalised groups – unaccompanied children, irregular migrants, Botswana, trafficking \( (\text{Ngidi, Van Gaerderen, Akoonyatse, Vearey}) \)
- Instructive poster presentations
Clear analysis
Instructive participant engagement
Increased understanding of the broader framework, what has been achieved, what others are doing, where are the gaps, what possibilities exist
Appreciation of the complexities; of deeper-level issues, concerns and values; of overarching standards, goals and objectives
Stakeholder commitment to make a difference
Reflections and impressions

- Excellent chairing
- Dedicated service – Daniel and his team
- Appreciation, networking and partnerships
- Good food and an enjoyable social programme, with interactive entertainment and a valued MC
- The commitment expressed by the FES, the SC and the AC
Pointers for the way forward

- A developing system of standards, strategies, plans of actions and operational guidelines are increasingly in place in SADC
- Serious partner engagement with the issues concerned – IOs, social partners, civil society, researchers
Pointers for the way forward

- Understanding of the integrated nature of many of the themes and processes involved, and the need for holistic approaches – e.g.:
  - Addressing the drivers of migration as a matter of priority
  - Engaging with and orderly labour migration in a sensible – and sensitive – manner would assist with reducing “irregularity” and similar scenarios
Pointers for the way forward

- Social protection for migrants operate also within a broader developmental framework – migration and development a core theme not directly discussed here, nevertheless of tremendous value – e.g.
  - Enhanced use of remittances, possibly also as social security transfers/contributions
  - Utilising, creating and orientating migration themes to foster development – e.g. cross-border industrial and market zones, OSBPs
Some pointers for the way forward

- Understanding the need to address the specific context of different migrant groups, bearing in mind also differentiated standards and heightened need for protection – e.g.:
  - Irregular migrants
  - Labour migrants generally
  - Skilled persons and business entrepreneurs
Some pointers for the way forward

- Build on available mechanisms and successful interventions –
  - E.g. constitutional guarantees
  - Evidence–base marginalisation and exclusions
- Address shortcomings in the legal and policy domain – e.g.
  - Nationality discrimination
  - Enabling migrants to exercise their rights – e.g. access to retirement and workers’ compensation benefits
Some pointers for the way forward

- The imperative of engaging the social partners - but then we need a willingness of these partners to deal with the plight of migrants too
- The exceptional value of involving civil society and its specialised skills and contribution - but how to overcome representational challenges
Some pointers for the way forward

- Involve and integrate the considerable contribution of the scientific community
- Building the evidence base and strengthening the institutional/operational framework paramount – impact studies, ICT, appropriate data
Some pointers for the way forward

- Of utmost importance is the need to engage meaningfully with and bring about change as regards political decision-makers and policy-makers – governments, parliamentarians, senior civil servants, but also the appropriate SADC structures
- The imperative of regional integration, and its consequences/implications for the current debate
Some pointers for the way forward

- SASPEN’s role?