

STAKEHOLDERS & TARGET GROUPS

This ILO-EU/ICMPD project is implemented as part of the Joint Labour Migration Programme (JLMP). The JLMP was developed in consultation and support of Regional Economic Communities and organizations representing the interests of business, workers and migrants.

The project is funded by the European Union, through the Pan-African MMD Facility implemented by International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD). It is also an important component of ILO's Global Flagship programme on

building social protection floors for all and contributes to the achievement of SDG 1.3. Stakeholders and target groups include the AU and its organs, the AUC, the ECOWAS Commission, the EAC and SADC Secretariats, regional social partners, social security institutions, and Member States.



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ICMPD

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Social security is a basic human right enshrined in major international instruments, such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966), and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families (1990) as well as various ILO Conventions and Recommendations. Social protection is also at the heart of the 2030 Agenda, which recognizes the role social protection plays in achieving sustainable development and leaving no one behind.

However, migrant workers face significant challenges accessing social protection. This is due to the particularity of their circumstances such as the length of their periods of employment and residence, their status as non-nationals, as well as their immigrant status. They risk the loss of entitlement to social security benefits in their country of origin due to their absence, and may at the same time encounter restrictive conditions under the social protection system of the host country. Moreover, their dependents often remain excluded from health care provisions, even when migrant workers are covered during their employment period by the host social protection system.

Extending social security access and portability to migrant workers and their families would realize numerous global and continental priorities, including the 2006 African Union Migration Policy Framework, which recommends to “provide social protection and social security benefits particularly unemployment insurance,

compensation for employment injury and old age pension for labour migrants while working abroad and/or upon their return.” It also contributes to various Sustainable Development Goals, in particular SDG 1.3 on implementing social protection systems, including floors for all and SDG 8.8 on protecting labour rights and promoting safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers. Establishing and strengthening social protection systems, including floors in migrants’ countries of origin contributes to reducing poverty and inequalities and facilitates the return and reintegration of migrants, while respecting their human right to social security and a life in dignity. The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration includes an objective on establishing mechanisms for the portability of social security entitlements and earned benefits.

Thus to enhance migration governance in Africa and protection of migrant workers, the ILO is implementing the project: Extending social protection access and portability of benefits to migrant workers and their families in selected RECs in Africa. The project is part of the AUC/ILO/IOM/ECA Joint Labour Migration Programme (JLMP) for Africa, formally adopted by African Heads of State and Government as a comprehensive programme on labour migration governance and designed to leverage migration for development and regional integration.



EXTENDING ACCESS TO SOCIAL PROTECTION AND PORTABILITY OF BENEFITS TO MIGRANT WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES IN SELECTED RECS IN AFRICA



#RightsMigrateToo



Extending access to social protection
and portability of benefits
to migrant workers
and their families

PROJECT REVITALIZES REGIONAL INITIATIVES

OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT

The overall objective of the project is to extend decent work and social protection to migrant workers and their families, by strengthening the Regional Economic Communities' (RECs) capacities to conclude and implement regional frameworks that extend social protection to migrant workers and their families and coordinate the portability of their social security benefits.

THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION (AUC)

The project is a key component of the AUC/ ILO/IOM/ECA Joint Labour Migration Programme (JLMP) for Africa. The JLMP was formally adopted in January 2015 by African Heads of State and Government as a comprehensive programme on labour migration governance for the region. The JLMP is designed as a strategic regional intervention to leverage migration for development.

The AUC plays a leading role in the implementation of this project and fosters exchange of practices and expertise on the extension of social protection to migrant workers through RECs dialogues. The project aims to strengthen AUC's capacity to lead the implementation of the JLMP and related labour migration frameworks through capacity building and direct support.

THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES (ECOWAS)

The ECOWAS Heads of State adopted the General Convention on Social Security as a Supplementary Act to the Revised ECOWAS Treaty in 2013. This Supplementary Act anchors the preservation of social security rights for migrant workers in ILO Standards and relevant international and regional instruments as well as labour migration and employment policies.

It is also based on the principles of equality of treatment between nationals and non-nationals both in law and in practice. The project aims to build the capacity of the ECOWAS Commission and its Member States to enhance the implementation of the ECOWAS General Convention on Social Security.

THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC)

SADC Minsters of Labour and Employment and Social Partners adopted the SADC Cross-Border Portability of Social Security Benefits Policy Framework in May 2016. The Framework includes provisions on mechanisms to ensure equality of treatment of migrant workers and maintenance of acquired social security rights and rights in course of acquisition. However, administrative, regulatory and institutional challenges hinder the effective implementation of the sub regional policy instruments and frameworks. This project aims to support SADC in addressing these challenges and support the implementation of the social security frameworks.

THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY (EAC)

A draft model (multilateral instrument) on coordination of social security systems in the EAC was developed in 2011 under the framework of the Common Market Protocol. Building on this, this project will assess the remaining challenges for coordinating social protection systems in the sub-region and pave the way to make portability of social security rights a reality. It will engage with tripartite constituents to develop a roadmap of key steps towards the coordination of social security in the EAC and finalization of the draft multilateral instrument.

KEY RESULT AREAS AND ACTIVITIES

ECOWAS

Enhancing the implementation of ECOWAS General Convention on Social Security by ECOWAS Member States.

Key project activities include:

- Support the establishment and effective functioning of the Committee of Experts for the ECOWAS General Convention (CESS). The CESS is a critical organ for supporting member states in policy design and monitoring the implementation of the ECOWAS General Convention;
- Facilitation regional dialogues, technical and coordination meetings, of representatives of social protection schemes and other relevant stakeholders on the implementation modalities of the ECOWAS General Convention; and
- Feasibility assessments on extending social protection coverage to migrant workers in the informal economy and develop concrete policy proposals.

SADC

Strengthening SADC's capacity and policy instruments on social security, including portability of social security rights.

This project will support the development of social security portability related policies towards a SADC wide portability model.

Key activities include:

- An assessment of existing social protection access and portability provisions for formal and informal migrant workers in selected occupational areas and countries to inform the development of suitable coordination mechanisms, administrative arrangements, management and financial systems to support effective portability of social security benefits within the sub region (a SADC model);
- Facilitation of regional dialogues on social security portability through tripartite technical and consultation meetings and workshops; and
- Support initiating modalities for piloting the implementation of the SADC model.

EAC

Enhancing the EAC's capacity and knowledge base to advance regional coordination social protection for migrant workers.

Building on the achievements of previous ILO projects, in particular, the Migration and Social Security project (MISGEC), the project will:

- Support feasibility studies, including actuarial and financial assessments, of the implications of an EAC multilateral social protection instrument. The assessments will inform the revision and finalization of the draft EAC Council Directive on the Coordination of social Security benefits;
- Facilitate regional dialogues and consultations to revise and finalize the Draft EAC Council Directive on the Coordination of social Security benefits within the EAC Common Market; and
- Provide legal and actuarial advisory services to EAC Partner States in support of coordinating the portability of social security benefits.

AUC

Enhance capacity of the AUC, RECs and regional social partners to coordinate and contribute to social protection programmes for migrant workers in both the formal and informal economy.

The project will:

- Support the AUC to promote south-south and intra-RECs technical cooperation on social protection for migrant workers;
- Capacity building of AUC, AU organs and RECs staff as well as regional and sub-regional social partners on social protection and labour migration issues; and
- Support the systematic collection and analysis of statistical information to inform policy-making and the monitoring of progress towards the achievement of social protection and labour migration related SDGs and AU Agenda 2063 targets.

