

Migration Trends in Southern Africa

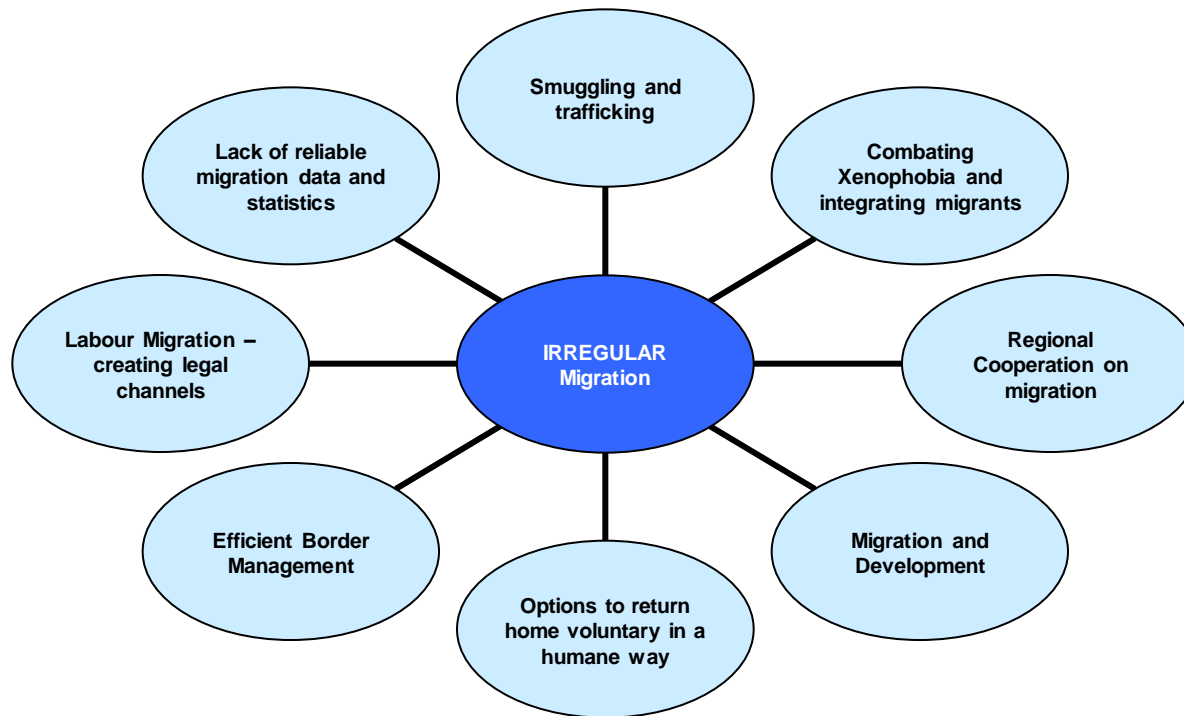
Critical Management Challenges

**2010 KNOWLEDGE WEEK
SOUTH AFRICAN HUMAN SETTLEMENTS 2030
RE-THINKING THE SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT
TRAJECTORY**

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Migration Management Challenges



Trafficking & Smuggling

- Mixed migration flows
- Lack of information on immigration procedures and crossing borders irregularly
- Migrants use services of smugglers and become vulnerable as a result
- Migrants are also trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation



Efficient Border Management

- A well functioning border management system has to ensure that borders are open for trade and legal movement of persons, but closed for illegal activities
- Link between migration and trans-national crime, including people smuggling and trafficking in persons
- Movement of people across borders in the region is increasing in magnitude mainly for economic reasons
- Conflicts & emergency situations have considerably increased migration flows



Lack of reliable data and statistics

- Migration is a complex and multi-sectoral issue, which is rarely assigned to a dedicated ministry or governmental body, migration challenges tend to be analyzed and addressed in a fragmented manner
- The most basic problem is that administrative records data are not collected for purposes of measuring migration (i.e. household surveys)
- Improved communication and cooperation between different departments and countries is critical for improving these processes
- Other problems include incomplete coverage, especially with regards to irregular migration flows.
- Additionally, there is a need to establish synchronized data collection systems between states in order to manage the existing flow of migrants for the benefit of both sending and receiving countries.



Regional Cooperation on Migration

- All countries in the region are affected by migration either as countries of origin, transit or destination
- Achieving an integrated border management system by enhancing coordination and cooperation among all relevant border authorities at national and international levels
- The problematic lack of information sharing and coordination is compounded at the regional level.
Regional migration issues require cross-border coordination in the SADC region and beyond.



Combating Xenophobia and integrating Migrants in SA society

- Limited knowledge of the country's immigration laws and policies among residents in townships, particularly the existence of the legal steps a foreign national can follow to acquire permanent residence or citizenship
- Other issues identified: the general lack of service delivery within many South African townships, high unemployment rate
- There is a need for identifying and promoting positive leadership models and leaders committed to tolerance and the rule of law



Options to return home

- Migrants are often intercepted when trying to make their way south and end up in detention facilities similar to prisons with no option of going further or returning home due to lack of proper documentation and funding
- There is a dire need to maintain protection assistance to mobile and vulnerable migrants, especially migrant women and girls including UAMs who often become exhausted or sick, and are particularly vulnerable to various exploitations and abuse throughout their migration processes due to the hardships they experience on their journey
- Migrants who escape dire economic circumstances, find that when they return the situation has not changed and for lack of opportunities in their home countries decide to migrate again
- In order to make return more sustainable, there is a need to generate economic opportunities in home countries, which in turn will help development in those countries



Labour migration

- Alternatives for migrating legally are rare and migrants are forced to use irregular channels to enter countries in order to search for labour opportunities with many migrants ending up working in the informal sector
- Well managed labour migration flows lead to mutual benefits for both migrants and states such as the creation of skills and increased investments in sending countries through Diaspora initiatives
- There is a need to address labour migration challenges faced by SADC countries in a comprehensive way and develop policies that aim to harness the benefit of labour migration



Migration *for* Development

- Increased cooperation between SADC states and the ratification of the SADC Protocol on *The facilitation of movement of people* will also help reduce irregular migration and benefit both sending and receiving countries through skills transfer, enhanced remittances flows and ultimately leading to increasing development in sending countries.
- Additionally, remittances may contribute significantly to national development in sending countries, and this gives rise to policy issues including the lowering of transfer costs, and encouraging the use of remittances in sustainable development.
- Policies should also focus on mitigating the impacts of brain drain, and increasing cooperation between countries of origin, transit and destination.



Conclusion

- Migration for the Benefit of all
- Need for increased cooperation between SADC States
- The Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa (MIDSA), has been instrumental in creating a space for informal and non-binding dialogue and response



Thank you!

- Any questions?

