CENTRAL, EASTERN & SOUTHERN AFRICA

Poverty, low wages, unemployment, precarious socio-economic factors, conflict and instability, and in some cases natural disasters and climate change account for the main drivers of migration in Eastern and Southern Africa.

On a more positive light, migration from these countries can also lead to a better life for migrants and to overall development in countries of origin and destination.

Trends and Challenges

Over the last decades, forced migration due to conflicts or political instabilities in Eastern and Central Africa has attracted most of the attention in the media. However, migration from Central, Eastern and Southern African countries is a rich and complex phenomenon where other factors such as climate change and environmental degradation or lack of economic prospects have also contributed to the increased levels of forced migration flows.

In terms of migration flows, wide differences exist in the region. In 2017, the Eastern African nations had a total emigrant stock of 10.5 million: of these, three Eastern African countries (Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan) were among the 10 countries with the largest number of emigrants. On the African continent, this is second only to North Africa. Southern African countries, which have collectively the lowest stock of emigrants on the continent (1.6 million), are generally classified as receiving countries[1].

Some countries of Central and Eastern Africa represent sources of important refugee flows, for among them, South Sudan, Somalia, Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Central African Republic, Eritrea and Burundi being among the 10 major countries of origin of refugees worldwide in 2017. On the other hand, Uganda, Sudan and Ethiopia figured among the 10 major refugee-hosting countries worldwide[2].

Aside from forced migration, in Southern Africa, intra-regional labour migration is also an important phenomenon, with South Africa and Botswana being the main destination countries. Sub-regional integration has become an important trend in the region. In varying degrees, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC) and Southern African Development Community (SADC) are all trying to proceed in the direction of facilitating movement of people among their respective Member States.

In addition, the 2012 Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) '*Regional Migration Policy Framework* (IRMPF)' was created to provide "*a coherent strategy aimed at guiding IGAD priorities in migration management programmes*" and to enable "*Member States to develop national migration policies that address specific migration-related challenges and concerns in a more comprehensive and holistic manner*". The

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[1] IOM, *World Migration Report 2018*, Geneva 2018. Available at:
https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/wmr_2018_en.pdf

[2] UNHCR, *Global Trends in Forced Displacement in 2017*, Geneva 2018. Available at: http://www.unhcr.org/5b27be547.pdf

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implementation of the IRMPF is guided by the Migration Action Plan (MAP) 2015-2020.

Also in 2015 the African Union launched its Agenda 2063[3] which pledges, among others, further continental integration and aims at creating a common African Passport.

According to MIEUX's experience in the region, the points below still represent some of the key persisting challenges in terms of migration governance in the region.

- An important disparity exists between the countries of the region in terms of weak institutional capacities, exacerbated by ongoing conflicts and political instability.
- Migration policies and strategies, whether integral or sectoral are still largely missing hindering an effective, coherent and coordinated approach among relevant stakeholders at all levels.
- Quality and availability of migration data is severely limited at national and regional levels, and this clearly affects the capacities to formulate and implement evidence-based migration policies and initiatives.
- Border management is challenging due to vast and porous border lines in several countries and this hampers the capacities to monitor and steer migration flows and, in particular, to address migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings (THB).
- Countries of the region are the origin of important diaspora communities worldwide that can significantly contribute to development, but the potential of the latter still remains largely untapped, impeding positive advancement for economies and societies.

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[3] https://au.int/en/agenda2063

## MIEUX in Eastern &Southern Africa

Since 2009, MIEUX has implemented 22 Actions in Central, Eastern and Southern Africa. The majority of them have focused on irregular migration and THB, migration policies and strategies, but have also covered other important areas such as migration data and migration and development.

MIEUX Actions in Central, Eastern and Southern Africa
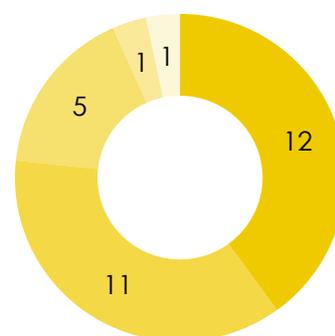
- Irregular Migration and Trafficking in Human Beings
- Horizontal Interventions
- Migration and Development
- International Protection and Asylum
- Legal Migration

Thematic areas within horizontal interventions
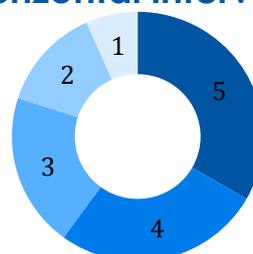
- Migration Policy and Strategy
- Data Management
- Migration Legislation
- Unaccompanied Minors
- Training and Capacity Development

Through its significant experience in the region, MIEUX has been able to support Central, Eastern and Southern African countries in addressing key challenges while fostering better migration governance at national or regional levels. Some examples include:

Rwanda I (2013-2014)

Objective	To support the implementation of Rwanda's National Migration Programme, and, more specifically, the strengthening of the institutional setting for policy implementation through the development of a capacity building framework.
Result	Training development manual; outline of the training curriculum for border immigration officers and front desk managers; training strategy and action plan for implementation.

Malawi II (2013-ongoing)

Objective	To assist Malawi in developing a National Migration Policy.
Result	Draft National Migration and Citizenship Policy through setting up a national task force and core group in charge of the policy.

COMESA I and II (2012-2016)

Objective	To support COMESA in upgrading its information and data collection systems, especially by investing in the capacity building of the National Focal Points for Migration.
Result	Report on the results of the COMESA Metadata Survey on data management capacities of Member Countries with a set of recommendations.

Mauritius (2012-2018)

Objective	To support the efforts of Mauritian authorities to develop a National Migration and Development Strategy.
Result	National Migration and Development Policy of Mauritius (2018).

Rwanda II (2018-ongoing)

Objective	To support Rwandan authorities in investigating and prosecuting migration-related crimes, especially THB and smuggling of migrants, as well as improving the knowledge of national authorities on after-entry migration management.
Result	Training handbook on Investigation and Prosecution of Migration-Related Crimes; training of relevant authorities based on the training handbook.

The Way Forward

In the last decade, many governments and regional organisations in Central, Eastern and Southern Africa have strongly pushed forward the agenda of better migration governance, be it at regional, national or local levels. In this sense, the number of activities implemented by MIEUX in this region since 2009 has witnessed a remarkable effort in several fields, from policy development and migration data to attracting diaspora communities or combating THB and smuggling of migrants (SOM).

Nevertheless, in light of the experience accrued by MIEUX in the region, the following areas deserve more attention:

- In many countries, capacities in steering migration continue to remain a major issue. It is therefore key that national

governments, and regional and international organisations persist in supporting the **development of capacities in managing various facets of migration** at all levels and in all fields, as exemplified by many MIEUX Actions. This issue will become even more relevant in the light of the Global Compact on Migration (GCM) which underlines the high significance of capacity building in support of better migration governance, and sets the commitment to establish a capacity building mechanism to foster the effective implementation of the GCM.

- Effective, evidence-based, coherent and comprehensive migration policies are still lacking. In this sense, **policy making should continue to be pursued by harnessing the nexus between migration and development**. Currently, several countries in the region are firmly proceeding in this direction, as is the case of Mauritius. However, such efforts should be further supported by capacity development programmes able to foster the capacities, knowledge and experience these countries might presently lack in order to be fully successful. In addition, policy development efforts should target all levels (local, national and regional) and all fields (from overall migration to specific sectors).

- Effective governance of migration demands **quality and up-to-date data**. Additional efforts should therefore be deployed and supported to produce quality and up-to-date migration data, and use them as the basis for effective and pragmatic migration policies. In addition to data gathering, better data sharing mechanisms should be put in place and strengthened, also through a regional approach, as exemplified by the MIEUX Action with COMESA. In particular, the international community should continue to support such efforts through

financial and technical assistance.

- **Continued efforts to address migrant smuggling and THB**, also through effective and integrated border management, should continue being considered a priority. This is even more important if we consider two major common issues in the region: border control mechanisms are severely underfunded, so that management of migration flows becomes ineffective. The mixed nature of the flows in this part of the world demand to be addressed through an integrated approach in order to be effective and based on human rights principles.

- **Diasporas play an important role** in contributing to development processes in their countries of origin with their personal financial, human, social and cultural capital if suitable policies, strategies and practical measures are created or reinforced. In this sense, the MIEUX-supported National Migration and Development Policy of Mauritius and the Diaspora Strategy of Madagascar, currently under development, are excellent examples of the strong willingness of some governments to proceed in this direction. The international community can continue to play an important role in supporting policy development, priority definition, and formulation and operationalisation of concrete measures, as well as in enabling a stronger contact with the diaspora, as shown by many MIEUX Actions around the globe.

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