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THE ZIMBABWE EXPERIENCE

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ZIMBABWE BACKGROUND

Population of about 12m
45% youth population
• Declining economic and social indicators
• Inflation rate exceeded 11 000 000% by August 2008
MIGRATION MANAGEMENT CONTEXT

- No policy framework is in place to manage migration at the moment
- Policy instruments are being discussed
- Migration Management and Diaspora Policy
- Labour Migration Policy
- Migration issues are therefore domiciled in several Ministries and Departments
Refugees and asylum seekers

- Signatory to the 1951 UN Convention on Refugees
- Has a population of 6 500 refugees and asylum seekers
  - DRC: 5 000
  - Burundi: 525
  - Rwanda: 661
  - Horn of Africa: 368
REFUGEEES

• Most of asylum seekers abuse the protection system
• Most use Zimbabwe as transit country to South Africa
• Out of 3 800 asylum seekers received from the Horn of Africa in the last 6 months, only 31 settled in-country
OUTWARD MIGRATION: THE CASE OF SOUTH AFRICA (2000-2011)

- Overwhelming flows into South Africa
  - Government failure to issue travel documents
  - Resort to irregular border crossing

- Facilitation of smuggling rings

- Crossing of the Limpopo River

- Massive deportations

- More that 300 returnees per day

- Most of who immediately returned to South Africa
CONSEQUENCES

• Permanent cycle of deportations
• Abuse of Zimbabwean migrants in South Africa
  - Non payment of wages
• Humanitarian situation at the border town
  - Increase in criminal activities
  - Vagrancy
  - Prostitution
BEITBRIDGE RECEPTION AND SUPPORT CENTRE

• Established in May 2006
• Humanitarian support to returnees
  - Medical check up
  - Food provision
  - Onward transport to place of origin
  - Education on Migration issues
    - Including HIV and AIDS issue
• By 2008 the Centre had assisted up to 300,000 returnees
• 15,000 returnees have been already been assisted in 2012
PLUMTREE RECEPTION AND SUPPORT CENTRE

• Similar challenges had been experienced at the Plumtree border town with Botswana
• Centre established in May 2008 to offer similar services as those at Beitbridge
• Centre has assisted over 144 000 returnees since establishment
• 4 000 returnees have been assisted in 2012
BILATERAL COOPERATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA

• The migration management initiatives with South Africa were largely successful because of strong inter-state cooperation.

- MoU on Home Affairs
- MoU on Labour and Employment
- MoU on Social Development
BEITBRIDGE LABOUR MIGRATION CENTRE

• Shift from reactionary humanitarian support to promoting safe migration
  - Focusing on labour migration/farm workers
• 2008 Beitbridge Labour Migration Centre
  - Facilitate documentation for Labour migrants
  - Facilitate employment in the farms prior to departure
  - Promote compliance with fair employment standards by South African farmers
• Complete roll hampered by inadequate funds
LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT SCHEMES

• Assistance to returnees, their families and communities

• Livestock Revolving Programme
  - Operated in the Masvingo Province between 2007 and 2010

• Highest migrant sending area
  - Reached out to 265 returnees
CHANGING FOCUS: DEVELOPMENT ORIENTATION

- Government’s primary focus has shifted to development oriented interventions
- Community Based Planning initiative
  - Construction of schools
  - Water and sanitation
  - Rehabilitation of infrastructure
  - Income generation projects
  - Greater community participation
LESSONS FROM THE ZIMBABWE EXPERIENCE

• Need for strong internal coordination
  - Ministries
  - Development partners
  - Donor community
• Need for strong inter-state cooperation
  - Sector specific MoUs
  - Case of the South Africa-Zimbabwe moratorium on deportations
• Need for sustainability of interventions beyond donor support
CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD

• The challenge of migration management needs partnership among many players
  - Government cannot, on its own succeed
  - Coordination issues are therefore critical
• Interventions must be wholesome including
  - Humanitarian assistance
  - Livelihood support schemes
  - Development oriented programmes
I THANK YOU