The Migration Profile for Zambia was prepared by a Government-led Technical Working Group (TWG) on Migration Data, in consultation with a broad range of stakeholders and with support from the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The Migration Profile is a tool relevant for evidence-based decision-making, policy development and a capacity-building framework to enhance the collection and analysis of migration data in Zambia. This policy brief is a by-product of the full Migration Profile and it provides an overview of trends, patterns, impact and governance of migration in Zambia. The data used in the analysis was collected from various migration data sources ranging from the national population census and national surveys to administrative records and other relevant data. The reference period for data was a five-year period (2013 to 2017). Exceptionally, the analysis also included the refugee statistics for the year 2018. This was because of the significant number of involuntary immigrant flows from the Democratic Republic of Congo to Zambia and the impact it has on the total refugee population and the overall population of the country.

A. MIGRATION TRENDS AND PATTERNS

For the purpose of this document, migration is defined as the movement of a person or a group of persons, either across an international border, or within a State.

Section A includes data and information on various migration categories such as immigration, involuntary migration, emigration (for employment, for study purposes, involuntary emigration) return migration, mixed migration (irregular migration, stranded migrants and human trafficking), migrant children, internal migration (internal displacements) and tourism. It does not provide details on the effects of migration, on the migrants themselves or their countries of origin, transit or destination.

Overview: Zambia lies on the southern migration route from East Africa and the Horn of Africa southwards towards South Africa. Zambia shares its land borders with eight countries: Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. Hence, migration dynamics in Zambia are complex as it is a country of origin, transit, and destination for migrants.

Immigration Stocks: In the 2010 census, which is the most recent national census, there were 43,867 immigrant stocks. Males accounted for 53 percent while 47 percent were females. The percentage of immigrants to total Zambian population has been declining. It was 1.9 percent in 1990, one percent in 2000 and 0.4 in 2010.

Figure 1: Immigrant Stocks by Age and Sex, Zambia 2010

![Immigrant Stocks by Age and Sex, Zambia 2010](source: CSO, 2012, Census of Population and Housing 2010)

The top three sending countries of stocks of immigrants into Zambia were Democratic Republic of Congo at 16.5 percent, Angola 12.7 percent and Zimbabwe at 11.6 percent.
**Figure 2: Immigrant stocks by purpose of stay, Zambia 2010**

![Pie chart showing the distribution of immigrants by purpose of stay in Zambia 2010](chart)

*Source: CSO, 2012, Census of Population and Housing 2010*

**Immigration flows:** The number of entries was higher than the number of exits in the 2013 to 2017. In the same period, the Department of Immigration issued 101,792 permits. Employment Permits were the most commonly issued permit at 49.4 percent of total permits issued, followed by Temporary Employment Permit at 19.5 percent.

**Figure 3: Permits issued by the Department of Immigration, Zambia (2013 - 2017)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose of Stay</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employment</td>
<td>49.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporary</td>
<td>6.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residence</td>
<td>4.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investors</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spouse</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transit</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Authors’ calculations based on administrative data from the Department of Immigration, July 2018*

In 2017, there were more male than female immigrants among employees, self-employed and employers. Among unpaid family workers, 8.4 percent were females while 7.2 percent were males. The majority of immigrants were employed in industries related to wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles.

**Involuntary Immigration**

In the period 2013 to 2017, a total of 2,533 asylum seekers were registered in Zambia (61 percent males and 39 percent females). In the same period, 15,933 refugees comprising 54 percent male and 46 percent females were registered. For both registered asylum seekers and refugees, the majority were from the Democratic Republic of Congo follow by Burundi and Somalia.

In the year 2018, a total of 9,233 involuntary immigrants were recorded. Males accounted for 58.3 percent while females represented 41.7 percent of total number of involuntary immigrant inflows in 2018. Eighty-five percent (the largest proportion) of these involuntary immigrants originated from the Democratic Republic of Congo, 11.2 percent were from Burundi and 3.3 percent were from Somalia.

**Figure 4: Distribution of registered asylum seekers by sex and nationality (2013 - 2017)**

![Bar chart showing the distribution of asylum seekers by sex and nationality](chart)

*Source: Authors’ calculations based on data from Office of the Commissioner for Refugees (COR), July 2018*

*Note: Others include Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Ukraine*
Figure 5: Percentage distribution of registered Refugees by Sex and Nationality (2013 - 2017)

Source: Authors’ calculations based on data from Office of the Commissioner for Refugees (COR), July 2018

Note: Others include: Congo Brazzaville, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Palestine, South Africa, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Uganda and Zimbabwe

Figure 6: Percentage distribution of registered Refugees by Sex and Nationality 2018

Source: Office of the Commissioner for Refugees (COR) “administrative data” and authors’ calculations, April 2019

Note: Others* include Central African Republic, Eritrea, Ethiopia, South Africa, South Sudan, Turkey, Uganda and Zimbabwe

Emigration

Emigration is defined as the act of departing or exiting from one State with a view to settling in another.¹

In the period under review, there was an estimated stock of 278,355 emigrants from Zambia resident in various parts of the world². This represented 1.6 percent of the 2018 projected total Zambian population³.

The top ten destination countries for emigrants from Zambia were South Africa, Malawi, Zimbabwe, United Kingdom, United States, Botswana, Tanzania, Namibia, Australia and Mozambique.

In terms of emigration for employment, the desire to emigrate to another country is more pronounced among males than females. Amongst those with a desire to emigrate, the most prominent countries of destination were within the African continent, in particular in the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The most pronounced reasons for emigrating include finding work and business opportunities, as well as moving away from economic hardships.⁴

According to UNESCO, an estimated total of 13,921 students from Zambia left to study outside the country in the period 2013 to 2017. The majority of the Zambian students were in South Africa at 17.9 percent followed by Namibia 11.7 percent.⁵

According to the Higher Education Loans and Scholarships Board, there were a total of 1,207 students who were awarded with scholarship to study abroad in the period 2013 to 2017. The top three countries of destination were Russia, China and Algeria.

Return Migration

Returning emigrants are potential drivers of development in their countries of origin if successfully reintegrated into the local society and labour market.

Data limitations on return migrants have been a major constraint to analyzing the benefits of return migration on the economy of the country. However, according to the Diaspora Survey, nearly three quarters (71 percent) of Zambians in the diaspora expressed interest in permanently returning to Zambia.⁶ The flows of involuntary returns of Zambian nationals from other countries back to Zambia increased from 543 in 2013 to 2,411 in 2016 and declined to 1,241 in 2017.

Mixed Migration

Mixed migration generally refers to complex migratory population movements that include refugees, asylum-seekers, economic migrants and other migrants, as opposed to migratory population movements that consist entirely of one category of migrants.¹ For the purpose of this section, mixed
migration was discussed in terms irregular migrants, stranded migrants, victims of human trafficking, as well as migrant children given that refugees and asylum seekers were considered in the earlier section.

**Irregular Migration and Stranded Migrants**

Data on irregular migration flows and stock largely depend on administrative sources relating to immigration enforcement regulations from the Zambia Correctional Service and the Department of Immigration.

The period 2013 to 2017 saw a steady increase in persons denied entry into Zambia largely attributed to, among others, lack of visa, insufficient funds, return, and other irregular entrants.

Since 2013 the number of irregular migrants identified in Zambia increased from 3,272 in 2013 to 8,244 in 2017.

Since 2016, the number of identified stranded migrants has increased from 205 in 2016 to 215 in 2017, a majority of whom were Ethiopian nationals.

**Human Trafficking**

There is currently no one comprehensive and centralized repository of human trafficking data in Zambia. Data on human trafficking is collected by different institutions and from various sources within the country.

Migrants are vulnerable to the risk of human trafficking because of the conditions in which they find themselves. There was a high number of male victims of human trafficking above 18 years identified in Zambia in 2015 compared to all the other years under review. The majority of victims of trafficking (some were identified as 'potential' victims of trafficking, before exploitation had taken place) were Ethiopian nationals, mostly bound for South Africa. Others were from the Democratic Republic of Congo, other neighbouring countries, East Africa and beyond.

**Migrant Children**

Migrant children, especially those who are unaccompanied or separated children (UASC), are at heightened risk of vulnerability, including for human trafficking, exploitation, abuse and neglect. Migration trends of vulnerable children and persons of concern in Sub-Saharan Africa tend to take a direction of movement from the north to the south of the continent. However, data on migrant children is limited in Zambia. While not all migrant children, nor all UASC, are victims of human trafficking data on human trafficking indicates that the majority of the child victims of trafficking assisted by the Department of Social Welfare were from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

**Internal Migration**

Internal Migration refers to changes of residence within a country and is defined in terms of residential movements across administrative boundaries. This often includes the boundary or divisions of a province or district of a country.

In 2010, 16.8 percent people were enumerated in districts other than the ones in which they were born. This was an indication of internal mobility of the people across various internal administrative boundaries in the country. Urban to urban migration was the highest category of internal migration at 38.7 percent. Between 2010 and 2015, all forms of internal migration recorded minimal difference, apart from rural-urban migration which increased from 14.9 percent in 2010 to 20.7 percent in 2015. The two outstanding reasons for internal migration were the transfer of the head of household at 19.9 percent followed by decision to resettle at 17.7 percent.

**Internal Displacements**

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of, or in order to, avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border. In Zambia, the leading causes of internal displacement typically include: natural and human-induced disasters; land disputes; development projects; encroachment of populations on land meant for other activities; conflicts along national border areas; and, differences in social /religious affiliations.

**Urbanization**

Population growth in urban areas increased from 34.7 percent in 2000 to 39.5 percent in 2010. Both the national and urban populations almost doubled in the twenty years between 1990 and 2010.

In 2015, transfer of the head of household and decision to resettle were the two major reasons for migrating accounting for 19.9 percent and 17.7 percent, respectively.

**Tourism**

Tourism is an emerging form of temporary migration with a growing global trend. Migration for tourism purposes makes
important social and economic contributions to the country as well as contributing directly to GDP. The 7th National Development Plan (7NDP) identifies tourism as an important service sector as the country is endowed with rich natural heritage and other tourism attractions (including waterfalls, lakes, rivers, gorges and wildlife).

In the period 2013 to 2015, tourist arrivals to Zambia were mostly from within Africa at 78.8 percent in 2013, 77.2 percent in 2014 and 76.2 percent in 2015.

The tourism sector responds positively to technological advancements, including the ease of doing business. Zambia is one of the frontline countries in introducing electronic visa application processes, which has the potential to stimulate the tourism sector.

B. IMPACT OF MIGRATION

Population Change: In 2010, immigrants represented 0.4 percent of the total population of Zambia as compared to one percent in 2000. Western Province had the highest proportion of immigrants at 1.1 percent followed by Lusaka Province at 0.8 percent.

Remittances: The cost of remittances remain high for Zambia. In 2016 Zambia was ranked second among the top ten (10) highest cost corridors for receiving remittances globally. Since 2015, remittance inflows outstripped outflows, which was potentially beneficial in contributing to foreign exchange in the country. In the period 2013 to 2017 the inbound remittances were less than one percent of the annual Gross Domestic Product.

Social Integration: As part of durable solutions, Zambia provided local integration to former Angolan and Rwandan refugees whose refugee status ceased. They were issued with Residence Permits and were socially integrated alongside the locals.

Gender: A gender perspective to migration takes into account the specific needs of women and men, and aims to reduce inequalities to enable the full enjoyment of human rights for both sexes.

Gender disparities were observed in industry employment where male migrants were the most represented, but females were well represented only in few industries such as wholesale and retail trade, agriculture and education. Low skill occupations were dominated by female migrants, including domestic work and small-scale trade among others.

Women are the majority of informal traders who at times cannot fully exercise their rights. The gender inequalities in informal trade sector affect the way in which women make their living. When women travel for this purpose they can become susceptible to sexual harassment and abuse.

Human Rights and migrant protection: Humane and orderly migration requires compliance with international law, including international human rights law. This entails protecting the rights of individuals by ensuring adherence with the principles of equality and non-discrimination and ensuring access to protection. If migrants lack access to human rights their ability to benefit from migration is compromised, as is their potential contribution to the development of the societies in which they live or with which they are connected. Protecting human rights is important in order to promote the social inclusion and integration of migrants, thus enabling them to lead economically productive as well as culturally and socially enriching lives.

Health: Population mobility and labour migration were found to be among the key drivers of the HIV epidemic in Zambia, with migrants and mobile population being included as one of the key populations. The conditions surrounding the migration process increase migrants’ vulnerability to ill health, including tuberculosis (TB). Zambia, and the SADC region in general, has a growing inter and intra-regional population mobility and is affected by the high prevalence of communicable diseases, including HIV, TB and malaria. Migrants often experience a lack of social support as well as increased exposure to violence, coercion and new sources of pressure, which are among the factors that affect their health seeking behaviour.

Environment: Migration can be affected by the environment and vice versa. The interaction between migration and environmental change is impacted by the interplay of intricate economic, political, social and environmental dynamics. Environmental change influences the drivers of migration, with economic and environmental drivers being the most susceptible. Migration influenced by environmental change can take different forms, including rural-urban migration, short-term migration, irregular migration and displacement.
Extreme weather events and disasters such as floods and persistent droughts are contributing factors to internal displacement of persons.

C. MIGRATION GOVERNANCE

The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) recognizes that the positive impacts of migration can be optimized by improving migration governance. Respect for the rule of law, due process and access to justice are fundamental to all aspects of migration governance.19

Effective governance of migration can be realized if it is supported by effective policy and legal frameworks. Some of these are discussed here:

Policy framework

Zambia’s Vision 2030 responds to migration in four of seven principles: gender responsive sustainable development; respect for human rights; peaceful coexistence; and private-public partnership.

The theme of the Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP 2017 – 2021) is leaving no one behind. Migration has been mainstreamed in many areas of the 7NDP. Migration policy development is explicitly mentioned in pillar five (5), with reference to migration laws and policy reforms.

Zambia Diaspora Policy, which was launched in April 2019, aims to facilitate engagement with Zambians in the diaspora and to maximize contribution to development.

The Zambia Anti-Human Trafficking Policy of 2007 sets out measures to prevent human trafficking, protect its victims, and prosecute offenders. It references need for good data.

HIV and AIDS Policy for the Transport Sector in Zambia, 2010 recognises mobility and migration as key livelihood strategies, but movement increase HIV vulnerability.

Social Protection Policy mentions migrants among the vulnerable groups of people who need protection.

The Guidelines for Best Interests Determination (BID) for Vulnerable Child Migrants in Zambia have been developed1 for the purpose of establishing a formalized procedure of dealing with vulnerable children. The Guidelines apply to vulnerable migrant children in Zambia, including (but not limited to) actual, presumed and potential child victims of trafficking, unaccompanied and separated children, stateless children and stranded children.

National legislation

- The Constitution of Zambia provides for how an individual becomes a Zambian citizen and Article 39 provides for dual citizenship.
- Immigration and Deportation Act No. 18 of 2010 empowers the Department of Immigration to perform immigration control functions, including regulating the entry, exit and remaining within Zambia of immigrants.
- The Anti-Human Trafficking Act No. 11, 2008 provides for the prohibition, prevention and prosecution of human trafficking; and for the filing of and dealing with matters related to human trafficking.
- The Refugees Act No. 1, 2017 provides for the establishment of the Office of the Commissioner for Refugees and its functions; recognition, protection and control of refugees; rights and responsibilities of refugees.

D. POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

D.1. Recommendations on the migration governance framework

- The Government of Zambia should come up with a national migration policy framework for comprehensive migration governance. Need for a national coordination structure for migration governance at all relevant levels.
- A national coordination mechanism and focal point in place for coordination of migration data, including for updating the Migration Profile, will be beneficial.
- The establishment of an institutional coordination mechanism and implementation of the Zambian Diaspora Policy is recommended.
- There is need to have data-driven migration governance, which is key to unlocking real economic, social and humanitarian benefits in all dimensions of migration.

D.2. Recommendations on mainstreaming migration into development policies

- There is need to strengthen rural economies so as to provide rural areas with alternatives to migration.

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1 By the Government of the Republic of Zambia working with civil society organization (CSOs), with support from the international Organization for Migration (IOM) as part of its implementation of the United Nations Joint Programme on Social Protection (involving Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and World Food Programme (WFP)).
• There is need to mainstream migration into existing sectoral policies and/or plans as well as poverty reduction strategies.
• There is need for policies that will promote and advance the human rights and human development aspects of migration.
• Government should pursue dialogues and agreements that promote safe and orderly labour mobility and skills exchange.
• Having developed the Zambian Diaspora Policy, quickening its implementation is necessary to leveraging diaspora contributions to national development.
• The Government should facilitate cost effective and/or competitive measures for sending remittances, strengthen the remittance infrastructure and widely disseminate information to the diaspora community about existing remittance transfer mechanisms in Zambia.

D.3. Recommendations on improvements to migration statistics and the overall evidence base

The overall evidence base on migration will be strengthened by:

• Harmonizing migration data across various sources;
• Fostering research and development on migration;
• Establishing an information hub on migration;
• Establishing data exchange mechanism across institutions;
• Augmenting the utilization of the existing main sources of migration data;
• Developing an investment case for better migration data.
REFERENCES

4 Afrobarameter, 2019, In search of opportunity: Young and educated Africans most likely to consider moving abroad
5 Authors’ calculations based on data from UNESCO 2017 (http://data.unesco.org/)