

INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE ON
MIGRATION
24-25 APRIL 2012, GENEVA,
SWITZERLAND

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

REFUGEES

- 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 than 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 FOWARD

- 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