



Better  
Regional  
Migration  
Management



## Concept note

# Strengthening the Common Approach on BLMA and skills development among Labour migration advisory group (LMAG) in East and Horn of Africa

06-07 March 2024

Entebbe, Uganda

### ► Background

The quest for decent work and livelihood opportunities is a key driver of migration around the world, with 70 per cent of working age international migrants counted as migrant workers (ILO 2019). Similarly, in the African continent, labour migration has grown significantly in terms of its complexity and scope despite that Africa lag other regions in number of international migrant workers hosting only 13.7 million or 8.1 percent of the global figures.

In general, around 21 million documented Africans live in another African country (UNDESA 2022). This figure might not capture the full migration picture in Africa because much migration is irregular, part of which may not be fully captured. Among African migrants who migrate outside the region around 11 million live in Europe, almost 5 million live in the Middle East, and more than 3 million live in North America.<sup>1</sup>

African migration is driven by a varied combination of push and pull factors. The primary push factors are conflict, weak governance, and limited economic opportunities. The African continent is facing numerous natural disasters, from droughts to floods to cyclones to pandemics, the continent faces many natural drivers of instability. The World Bank projects that there will be 86 million climate change migrants in Africa by 2050.<sup>2</sup> Some of the 18 million seasonal migrant workers in Africa may also find their jobs in agriculture, mining, and fishing

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<sup>1</sup> Africa Center for Strategic Studies, African Migration Trends to Watch in 2022, December 17, 2021

<sup>2</sup> World Bank 2022: Climate Migration in Africa: How to Turn the Tide

disappearing, increasing the prospects for permanent migration in search of new job opportunities. Thirty percent of West and Central Africans and Ethiopians have reported environmental impacts on their economic conditions.<sup>3</sup>

Africa's youthful population and long-rooted history of human mobility, if properly harnessed, can create opportunities for boosting well-being and prosperity for migrants, their families, and communities alike. The region has the world's fastest-growing population, which offers tremendous potential to fuel economic activity and growth by contributing to an estimated 10 to 15 per cent increase of the continent's gross GDP volume by 2030. Yet, this potential may remain underutilized if the creation of adequate quality jobs and investment opportunities does not catch up with the projected growth of the labour force.

In contributing this discourse, the ILO is currently implementing *Better Regional Migration Management Phase II* (BRMM) project (2022-25), funded by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. The current phase covering Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, and Djibouti focuses on strengthening the capacities of countries in East and Horn of Africa to govern labour migration by using evidence-based policies, enhancing migrant workers' qualifications and skills, and actively engaging the social partners. BRMM Project Phase II covers 3 inter-related components of intervention, namely:

- i. Labour migration policies and programmes that support fair productive migration in East and Horn of Africa are evidence-based and gender sensitive.
- ii. Labour migration governance is more equitable and effective recognizing skills and facilitating social inclusion and decent work; and
- iii. Labour migration governance is strengthened through being more inclusive of social partners.

As part of the management structure of the project, the ILO is organizing a workshop to strengthen the Common Approach on BLMA and skills development among Labour migration advisory group (LMAG) in East and Horn of Africa from *31st January -1st February 2024* in Entebbe, Uganda. The workshop will be an opportunity for experience sharing, taking stock of progress made by the project, capacity development and providing strategic and policy guidance, drawing on the Commitments made at the last LMAG as well as at the Africa Labour Migration Conference (ALMC) held in October 2023 in Abidjan.

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<sup>3</sup> Africa Centre for Strategic Studies, African Migration Trends to Watch in 2022, December 17, 2021

## ► Objective

The objective of the workshop is to provide strategic and policy guidance in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation process of BRMM. The LMAG will also be a knowledge sharing and collaboration platform where countries can share knowledge and experiences on labour migration to add value to labour migration work at the regional level.

### **More specifically:**

- The workshop is a knowledge sharing platform where all BRMM countries, will have an opportunity to showcase and share achievements and progress made since the last meeting (January 2023) on the commitments that were made at the last LMAG as well as the ALMC.
- Take stock of the progress made by the project since the last LMAG meeting.
- Strengthen knowledge on skills development partnerships for labour migration (*tools approaches and frameworks*).
- Strengthen capacity and commitment to the “Common Approach” on bilateral cooperation on labour migration in East and Horn of Africa.
- Provide strategic guidance on policy and technical matters relating to the execution of the project and ensure harmonization and coherence of policies with regional, continental, and global initiatives and frameworks.

## ► Outputs

At the end of the workshop, the following outputs are expected:

- LMAG members informed on the status/progress of labour migration interventions from all partner states and the two RECs, regional bodies in the past 12 months.
- LMAG members are better informed on the progress, achievements and plans of the BRMM II project in the past 12 months.
- LMAG members are aware of the tools, methods, and policy frameworks for skill partnerships on labour migration as highlighted in the programme.
- Build capacity of members on key principles for the common approach on BLMA.
- Tripartite partners in the East and Horn of Africa define the content and agree to formulate a common approach to BLMAs.
- Renewed commitment and priorities by LMAG members towards the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of BRMM implementation.

## ▶ Participants

The meeting is expected to bring together around 40 senior officials from Ministries of Labour, employment, labour migration and Skills: social partners, national statistics offices, and private employment agencies from Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan, Somalia, Tanzania, Uganda, EAC, IOE, ITUC-Africa, IGAD and FCDO.

## ▶ Date & Venue

**Date:** 06-07 January 2024

**Venue:** Entebbe, Uganda

## ▶ Key Agenda items

- Matters arising from the 1<sup>st</sup> LMAG.
- BRMM progress updates for past 12 Months.
- *Gallery walks:* Country updates– (*Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Ugandan, Tanzania, Somalia, South Sudan*), the updates will be based on country priorities that were identified during the first LMAG and ALMC.
- Skills development and Labour Migration (Trends and emerging Practices) opportunities
- Findings from the labour market assessments in selected destination countries (opportunities challenges and feasible recommendations).
- Refresher on ILS, normative framework and international BLA guidance.
- Presentation of IGAD and AU Guidelines on BLAs.
- *Executive coaching session:* key principles for the common approach.
- Good practices on regional cooperation:
  - BLA development, negotiation, implementation, and monitoring
  - Information and data sharing
  - Consular and diplomatic information and services for migrant workers
  - Actions by social partners
- Country priorities and commitments (for the next 12 months).