Zambia

SADC Regional Workshop on the Use of Administrative Data Sources for Migration Statistics

17-21 March 2025

Department Immigration Ministries
Ministry of Labour and social security
Zambia Statistics Agency.

Organisational Structure

- Second National Strategy for the Development of Statistics(NSDS2)-2023-2027
  - Addresses current data challenges
  - Build statistical capacity across the (NSS)
  - Bring on board new trends in statistical organization and management including use of new data sources
  - Leverage on new and innovative technologies
- National Labour Migration Strategy (2022-2028)
- Statistics Act, 2018
- Code of Practice(COP)
  - setting out professional and ethical standards applicable to members of the National Statistical System (NSS)
- Sector Statistics Plan for statistics

Organisational Structure

- **structure and relevant human resources in the NSO and in the Labour and Immigration departments for the production of migration statistics**
    - National Technical Working Group (TWG) on the implementation of the National Labour Migration Strategy (2022-2028)
    - Skills Advisory Committee prescribed in the Employment Code Act No, 3 of 2019
    - Technical Working Group (TWG) on Migration Data(ZamStats and Department of Immigration co- chair the TWG)

Institutional arrangements and data sharing

- Institutional arrangements between the NSO, Labour and Immigration departments for accessing data (MOUs, technical working groups, etc.)

  - Technical working group on migration data

  - Diaspora coordination mechanism.

  - Inter-ministerial committee on human trafficking

  - National trade facilitation committee

- Legal provisions for access to migration data records from Labour and Immigration departments

  - National Migration policy- 2022

    - The Ministry of finance and national planning(ZamStats) is responsible for coordinating the collection, analysis, dissemination and management of disaggregated migration data across the National Statistical System

    - Sector plan on statistics (quarterly meeting)

  - The Employment Code Act No. 3 of 2019 mandates the employer to submit names and qualifications of expatriate workers to the labour commissioner in the Ministry Of Labour And Social Security

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Institutional arrangements and data sharing

- Operational administrative data sharing procedures

  - Official requests

  - Statistical bulletins

  - Official dissemination of statistical reports

  - Annual conferences

  - National launches

  - Press releases

- Are there any constraints? If yes, elaborate

  - Time lags in responding to official requests for migration data

  - Non response to requests

  - Non disaggregated into important domains

  - Lack of an integrated information system

Migration statistics produced and disseminated

- Overview of migration statistics currently produced and disseminated by the country (highlight successful practices, as well as any gaps)

    - Censuses

    - Labour force surveys

    - Living conditions and monitoring surveys

    - Employment and earnings inquiry surveys

    - Zambia Demographic and health surveys

- How are administrative records (microdata) from Labour and Immigration departments captured and stored (digital/manual)? Elaborate on systems used

    Manual system

    - All companies submit labour returns to the Labour Commissioner in the Ministry of Labour and Social Security which also indicate the number of expatriate workers using a prescribed form

    - Private Employment Agencies submit names of Zambians taking up jobs abroad to the Labour Commissioner's office.

- Highlight any challenges in producing migration data flows

    - Population censuses and surveys do not contain adequate data on international migration flows, migrant profiles, labour migration, remittances, irregular migration and displacement among others. Lack of an harmonized system for capturing migration data in real time.

Technical assistance and capacity building needs

- Mention any technical assistance or training obtained in the past 5 years on migration statistics and administrative data systems

    – Over 20 Officers (i.e. Statisticians and Planners) were trained on developing a labour migration module for inclusion in the Labour Force Survey; data analysis and report writing between 2021 and 2023. Production of 2022 Labour Migration Statistics Report was financed by the SAMM Project (IOM and ILO).

- Elaborate on your country's capacity building needs and technical assistance required to set up administrative data systems for migration statistics

    – Need to set up a migration statistics observatory

    – MLSS is yet to set up a Migrant Resource Centre (a lesson learnt from a benchmarking visit in Abuja, Nigeria in 2024). This is a one-stop-centre for providing information to immigrants and emigrants with relevant Officers from Department of Immigration, Diaspora Desk, Department of Labour and other key staff stationed at the Centre. The need to finance this project and build capacity in the relevant staff is critical.

    – Capacity building in migration data collection and management