KINGDOM OF ESWATINI

Voluntary Review Report on the status of implementation of the Global Compact for Migration in Eswatini - 2022

Introduction

I.   Methodology

 In cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation on 15-16 March 2022, the Ministry of Home Affairs, convened a capacity building exercise for duty bearers, that is, Government Ministries and Departments mandated to protect and advance the rights and well-being of migrants. This exercise was supported by the International Organization for Migration (IOM)   Eswatini country office,

13. World Bank
14. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

On 21 April 2022, a working session was convened where duty bearers analyzed the information and data collected. The analyzed data and data were subsequently consolidated in line with the guidelines provided in the Guiding template for the review of the implementation of the GCM. A follow-up working session was convened on 27 April 2022 to review the initial draft report.

On 2 May 2022, the drafting team conducted a consultative meeting attended by NMRF Secretariat, representatives from the NMRF Committee/duty bearers, Judiciary, Legislature, Commission on Human Rights and Public Administration, and Civil Society Organizations. As a result, the draft GCM Report was presented and discussed with a view to

- The Ministry of Home Affairs collects routine data on migration activities through the country entry/exit ports. This data is then populated through the Ministry's performance reports (Quarterly, Annually)
- Ministry of Home Affairs is in the process of developing (commenced in 2021) a migration profile which will subsequently inform the development of a National Migration Policy.
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs conducted a diaspora mapping exercise in 2021 which will inform the development of a diaspora engagement strategy/policy.
- The Ministry of Labour developed the National Labour Migration Policy through technical support by the IOM and ILO. This process commenced in 2018, currently, the draft policy is yet to be reviewed by the Labour Advisory Board for endorsement and subsequently taken to the Cabinet for approval.
- The Central Statistical Office has ensured that migration data is collected through surveys and the Census, and this data is disaggregated to ensure that all differentials on Migration are taken care of. For instance, the Census 2017, Labour Force Survey 2021, and Household income and expenditure survey 2019 (SHIES) report.

Objective 2 - Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin

- A Regional Development Fund was established in 2015 to alleviate poverty in each of the four regions in the country. It has initiated infrastructure development improvement and service delivery, viable commercial projects/schemes which create jobs and generate income to sustain and further develop numerous families within each region at the grassroots level. This creates self-dependency and minimizes factors that drive people to migrate (internally and externally).
- Youth Enterprise Revolving Fund empowers young people to create self-employment by providing seed capital at relatively lower interest rates thereby deterring their desire to migrate.
- The Ministry of Works and Public Transport in partnership the WFP with have embarked on a Food for asset Project to clear road reserves by employing community members in rural areas, targeting youth. It aims to reduce Migration from rural to urban areas as well as external Migration.
- The Deputy Prime Minister's Office has put in place an Orphans and Vulnerable Children education grants to cater for tuition fees to give effect to the right to education thereby avoiding instances of children illegally crossing to neighboring countries for education.

  Food Security factors
- Home grown school feeding programme where local farmers supply their food produce to nearby schools.
- The Government and partners have put in place several initiatives aimed at supporting local farmers and entrepreneurs, which ultimately reduce incidences of Migration. For instance,

a multi-partner trust fund has been developed to curb issues of food security especially during COVID-19 pandemic.

Objective 3 - Provide accurate and timely information at all stages of Migration

- The Prime Minister's Office has established a press office which manages information dissemination through government website, local media houses and various social media platforms on the activities and programmes that the Government is undertaking.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs is currently developing a migration profile that will assist in capturing adequate information on Migration.
- The Eswatini Tourism Authority also provides key information to people travelling in and out of the Kingdom of Eswatini.
- The Immigration department in conjunction with the Ministry of Health provides COVID-19 and other communicable diseases screening and information at all entry ports.
- Labour Market information system was developed in 2019 to provide information on labour migration, to capture information on domestic labour supply, the impact of emigration on the domestic labour market, labour migration and labour skills gaps. It provides information on the domestic labour market and diaspora.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs is currently implementing a project on modernizing civil registration and immigration systems. This is to allow Government to have accurate data on M

improve migration governance.

- Eswatini is also a member of the Migration Dialogue from the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa Member States (MIDCOM), which was established in 2013 to improve governments' capacity to manage migration and build harmonized data collection systems, and develop their immigration policies and legislations.
- Eswatini participates in bilateral discussions with several countries on Migration related issues with the Regional, Continental, and Global community. These discussions have resulted in the launch of t

Objective 8 - Save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants

- The country has created a Missing Persons Bureau under the Royal Eswatini Police Service which assists in the identification, location and rescue of missing citizens abroad and coordinates with other state for the identification of possible missing migrants residing in Eswatini.
- For cases of Victims of Trafficking (VoTs), the country coordinates with other states through the Anti-Trafficking and Smuggling Secretariat to Combat Trafficking In Persons (TIP).

Objective 9 - Strengthen the transnational response to the smuggling of migrants

- Comprehensive Study on the Smuggling of Migrants through the Swaziland Technical Assistance intervention under African Caribbean Pacific Migration Action supported financially and technically by the IOM. An analysis of of smuggling patterns and trends in the country was identified, vulnerable areas, possible drivers, and recommendations for programming.
- Trainings and capacity building activities carried out for law enforcement including prosecution, defense, police and immigration, social workers, judiciary, Task Force and Secretariat and other stakeholders
- Awareness raising campaigns in communities, media, and electronic media as well as radio programmes

Objective 10 - Prevent, combat, and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international Migration

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

- The Office of the Prime Minister administers the People Trafficking and People Smuggling (Prohibition) Act, 2009. This legislation provides for the establishment of an institutional framework, namely the Task Force and the Secretariat.
- There is a National Strategic Framework and Action Plan to Combat People Trafficking (NSFAP) 2019-23. The NSFAP contains activities identified in line with the Prevention, Protection, Prosecution, National Co-ordination, and International Co-operation pillars. The plan was developed by stakeholders with the assistance of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as well as the Southern African Development Community.
- Shelter Guidelines for, including identifying suitable shelters and providing shelter services, including shelter staff, shelter rules have been developed and are currently being implemented.

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

Task Force and the Anti-Trafficking and Smuggling Secretariat were established in terms of the People Trafficking and People Smuggling (Prohibition) Act, 2009.

The implementation of the NSFAP is effected through the Task Force committees namely the Prevention, Protection, Research and Training, Tripartite (Prosecution, Police and Secretariat) and the National and Co-ordination Committees. The Committees have work plans to enable the implementation of the NSFAP and other programmes.

The government is in a process of reviving the Emergency Response Team (ERT), responsible for the provision of services from victim identification, rescue, provision of immediate services and long-term services. Once revived it is envisaged that the ERT services will be decentralized across the country. As a preparatory measure, initial training was conducted to the ERT.

PROGRAMMES

In an endeavor to prevent TIP cases, awareness raising, and sensitization campaigns were carried out with a view of encouraging reporting of cases and identifying interventions to be provided. Currently, a total of twelve (12) remote rural areas across the country were sensitized.

Under Protection, there are National Victim Identification Guidelines and a National Referral Mechanism that assists the different sectors to identify victims and provide steps to ensure that the assistance needed by victims after identification is rendered.

Trainings of different stakeholders have been conducted, these include the Task Force, Law Enforcement and other implementers. The trainings have been done through the support of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM).

PARTNERSHIPS

Development partners such as the UN Agencies, SADC and others have assisted the Government to prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons in the country.

Objective 11 - Manage borders in an integrated, secure, and coordinated manner

- Bilateral Agreements with neighboring countries have seen the extension of operating hours to 24 hours of two entry ports. Further, the operating hours of other entry ports have been increased.
- The country is currently in bilateral negotiations with neighboring countries to formalize the informal crossings between the neighboring countries.
- An eVisa platform is currently being developed, which will see migrants applying for admission to Eswatini through automated information systems.
- Over and above the listed interventions, the country has several formal and informal ports of entry which most of them have accessible routes/roads.

- For better and integrated border management, the government is currently working with the IOM to install the Migration Information Data Analysis System (MIDAS), which will allow better control and screening of migrants at the entry points.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs is currently implementing a project on modernizing of civil registration and immigration system, this is to allow the government to have accurate data on the number of migrants and will enable the dissemination of information.

Objective 12 - Strengthen certainty and predictability in migration procedures for appropriate screening, assessment, and referral

- For purposes of victim screening, Eswatini has developed victim identification guidelines and the national referral mechanism used by front line officials and TIP responders as well as service providers.
- The Refugee status determination process encourages the screening of asylum seekers to identify and refer possible victims of trafficking or smuggled migrants.
- Part VIII of the Employment Act (pre-departure measures of migrant workers) provides for the screening of contracts of employment of Emaswati and residents that are to be employed in foreign jurisdictions to guard against exploitations and other harmful

Objective 14 - Enhance consular protection, assistance, and cooperation throughout the migration cycle

- Through the task force under the PMs, office Government initiated the training of the Eswatini diplomats locally and Eswatini Missions abroad to sensitize them on the prevention of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants.
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through its missions, provides ad hoc assistance to nationals living abroad in times of crisis, most residents living in countries with Eswatini diplomatic mission i,e evacuation planning for citizens abroad, notification of citizens next of kin in times of life-threatening situation, access to health care services. For example, Emaswati students were successfully assisted in being repatriated during the Ukraine Russia conflict.
- In the repatriation of trafficked persons, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in collaboration with the Prime Minister's Office, facilitates cooperation with foreign counterparts to establish victim veracity and movement of victims.

Objective 15 - Provide access to basic services for migrants

- Access to basic services is coordinated and facilitated through public service delivery provided by Government Ministries and non-governmental organizations, thereby bringing basic services closer to the people at local government level and help mitigate migration causes.
- The Government is partnering with neighboring countries ensures that migrants have equal access to health services through the Ministry of Health. This contributes to the reduction of their vulnerabilities, particularly of women and children.
- The country has established clinics along the border to ensure that truck drivers and sex workers have access to Sexual and Reproductive programmes to prevent STI infection.
- The country adheres to the non-discriminatory nature of health services to all, including migrants all migrants, regardless of their migratory status. The Motto being health for all   , Universal Health Coverage (UHC) for all living in Eswatini.
- There are existing health agreements with neighboring countries. The SADC health protocol assures continuity of health care in a harmonized and standardized manner: HIV and TB protocols with both neighbors are being used.
- Eswatini has implemented the Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) 'knows no borders' Project targeting migrants know no

Objective 20 - Promote faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial inclusion of migrants

- The country has structures and institutions that allow a migrant to send remittances to their place of origin or even receive such monies. The network of non-bank service providers facilitates migrants to a great extent by providing them with competitive costs for transferring their remittances. The current regulatory framework is adequate mainly for the remittance market to operate for the benefit of migrants. Migrants have access to technological solutions available in the country for carrying out their financial transactions.
- There are measures in place to combat illicit financial flows and money laundering that are in line with international standards.
- Eswatini banks provide transfer of funds to their corresponding banks to the country of origin. Financial literacy and the right to open bank accounts are accessible to all, including migrants

Objective 21 - Cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration

- In cases of trafficking, the , the Government has a task force and secretariat which through National referral mechanism facilitates safe and dignified return and readmission and sustainable reintegration.
- In ordinary cases the ministry of Home Affairs and Foreign Affairs coordinates the process of safe and dignified return and readmission

Objective 22 - Establish mechanisms for the portability of social security entitlements and earned benefits

- MLSS is in a process of establishing the Social Security Unit and has developed the Social Security Policy and has been approved by Cabinet.

Objective 23 - Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular Migration

- Eswatini is considered as both a source and destination country for international Migration. Eswatini promotes "Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration" and aligns with Sustainable Development Goal Target 10.7.: "facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies".
- Eswatini participates in two regional consultative processes. First, under the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the country participates in the Migration