

# SAFE MIGRATION



The International Organization for Migration (IOM) was established in 1951 as an intergovernmental organization to resettle European displaced persons, refugees and migrants. Since then IOM has grown to encompass a variety of migration management activities throughout the world. After half a century of worldwide operational experience, IOM has become the leading intergovernmental organization in the field of migration, and works closely with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental partners. With 132 member States and present in over 460 field locations, IOM is dedicated to promoting humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all.

## MIGRATION

People are becoming increasingly mobile within and across borders to meet the social and economic challenges of globalization with the search for employment at the heart of most movement (IOM World Migration Report, 2008). The total number of international migrants has increased over the last 10 years from an estimated 150 million in 2000 to 214 million persons in 2008.

Migration within and beyond East and Southern Africa is often in pursuit of better economic opportunities, both in formal and informal sectors of labour (Haour-Knipe, 2008). Migration in this region involves a diverse group of people, such as regular and irregular migrants, victims of trafficking, asylum seekers, refugees, internally displaced persons, returnees, mobile and migrant workers, and internal migrants.

## PROBLEMS AND RISKS FACED BY IRREGULAR MIGRANTS

Certain travel documents are required in order to migrate legally to another country; individuals meeting these requirements are called regular migrants. People do not always comply with all the necessary requirements to migrate legally and travel abroad for work, education or recreation without the right documents or with fake documents. Such migrants are known as irregular migrants.

Irregular migration can be dangerous. Irregular migrants are typically at greater risk than regular migrants to become victims of human trafficking, sexual or other exploitation and mistreatment. Irregular migrants may be exploited and/ or mistreated by employers, such as being subject to low wages or slavery, and may not be given the rights to services, such as health care. Exploitation and abuse can place individuals, particularly women and children, at risk of being exposed to HIV or other sexually transmitted infections.

Other factors, such as xenophobia and lack of rights to professional legal assistance, can also contribute to the vulnerability of irregular migrants. Irregular migrants can face imprisonment, removal or deportation from the country they have illegally entered.

Obtaining required documentation is therefore crucial in order to **MIGRATE LEGALLY, STAY SAFE, AND PROTECT YOUR HEALTH AND WELLBEING.**

## Human Trafficking VS. Smuggling:

Human trafficking is when an individual is deceived, coerced or abducted and transported across or within international borders to another location to be exploited for the traffickers profit or gain. Trafficking is a criminal offence in Zambia, and is punishable by 15 to 35 years in prison or a lifetime sentence if the victim is sexually exploited or dies.

Smuggling occurs when a person wishing to migrate to another country pays someone else to assist them to illegally cross a border. The relationship between the smuggler and the smuggled person ends upon crossing a border.

Remember! – Human trafficking is a violation of human rights. Smuggling is an organized, illegal border crossing.

## Checklist before travelling:

Make contact with the embassy of the country you intend to travel to for information about necessary documents for travelling abroad.

Ensure you have the right travel documents before travelling including the right type of visa, if required by the host country.

Ensure that you are aware of your obligation and rights as a migrant.

## NECESSARY DOCUMENTS FOR TRAVELING ABROAD

- A legal passport or travel document, valid for at least six months from the date of travel.
- Entry visa, if required by the host country.
- If travel by air, proof of payment of airport tax.
- Immunization card for certain countries.

## RIGHTS UNDER DETENTION, IMPRISONMENT OR DEPORTATION

Irregular migrants can face imprisonment, removal or deportation from the country they have illegally entered.

Immigration laws vary from country to country, but in general migrants have the following rights in relation to detention, imprisonment and deportation:

- The right to an interpreter, if you do not understand the language of the detaining country.
- The right to contact and seek assistance from the consular authorities of your home country.
- The right to get in touch with a family member and a lawyer.
- The right to free legal assistance if you cannot afford it.
- The right to remain silent at the time of detention.
- You cannot be separated from children in your care.
- In the case of minor criminal offences

you have the right to not be detained in the same cell as criminals.

- The right to dignified and respectful treatment by the police and other authorities.
- No authority can demand payment or sexual favours, as this constitutes a crime.

## HUMAN RIGHTS ARE MIGRANTS' RIGHTS

All migrants, with or without documents, have certain basic rights:

- The right to receive medical treatment in the case of an emergency or serious illness.
- The right to communicate with one's family or lawyers if being detained.
- The right to dignified and respectful treatment.
- The right to due process before deportation or imprisonment.

It is important to be aware that in reality these rights are often denied to migrants without legal papers. Insist on your rights.

## MIGRANTS' OBLIGATIONS

Living in another country is more than just an opportunity to find work and earn a better salary - it is also a chance to learn new skills, new languages, and integrate new cultures. Opportunities come with rights and responsibilities. Migrants should always make efforts to familiarize themselves with, and respect, the laws of the host country.

## The Story of "Macdonald"

Macdonald, a 14 year old street kid, used to live around the central bus station in Harare, Zimbabwe. Since his parents are no longer alive he took on different kinds of jobs in order to survive. The harsh life Macdonald engaged in made him start thinking that migrating would be his only chance for a better life.

One day he jumps on a bus going to Lusaka. With no travel documents he ensures that he is not discovered at the border, but upon arrival in Lusaka Macdonald is stranded and gets discovered by the police. In detention Macdonald falls ill as a consequence of the tough environment and careless surroundings he faces. His luck changes when Macdonald is discovered to be a minor and IOM is contacted for assistance.

Macdonald is moved from detention to an orphanage for boys while IOM facilitates for medical treatment and tries to identify his needs. Macdonald wishes to go back home but not back to the streets of Harare. IOM secures a plane ticket for Macdonald, facilitates for his travel documents with the Zimbabwean embassy and then escorts him back to Harare.

Upon arrival in Zimbabwe, IOM arranges for Macdonald to be sheltered in a place that is able to take care of him and give him a safe environment to grow up in.

IOM would like to thank the following Organizations for their ongoing support and partnership



International Labour Organization



CHAMP



unicef

For further information please contact:  
IOM Zambia Counter Trafficking Department  
Tel: +260 (211) 254 055 - Email: ctzambia@iom.int

The CHAMP 990 Talkline is a 24-hour hotline answering calls on human trafficking, male circumcision and HIV/AIDS.

Dial 990 toll-free from any landline telephone or Cell Z or Airtel line from anywhere in Zambia and talk to a trained nurse counselor.

Free  
24hrs Talkline  
"talk to a friend"  
Call 990



CONFIDENTIAL TOLL FREE TALKLINE



Counselors on the Talkline are prepared to assist you with:

- Answers to your questions
- Verifying potential school or job recruitment scams
- Assistance for victims in distress
- Report a suspected case of trafficking
- Assistance for survivors of human trafficking