

# THE



# JOURNEY

It was the first time for both of us.



I was a little nervous. One hears so many stories, you know?



Bheki had met many people from our neighbouring countries on the mines. I also knew some Mozambicans and Zimbabweans and even some Congolese from my work with the Traders' Association in Durban. But we had never travelled outside South Africa before.



We expected to arrive at the Siteo family home in Maputo Province by late afternoon, but then...





# INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

**F**ounded in 1951, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is an intergovernmental agency with 114 Member States (as of December 2005) that is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. It acts to assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration, to advance understanding of migration issues, to encourage social and economic development through migration and to uphold the human dignity and well being of migrants.

IOM's mandate allows it to work with migrants, refugees, displaced persons and others in need of migration services or assistance.

IOM works to prevent and counter the misinformation, misunderstanding and stigmatisation that continue to foster the perceived relationship between

migration and the spread of HIV and other communicable diseases. A positive environment for dealing with HIV and AIDS must be created, where issues such as discrimination and xenophobia are addressed, and where migrants receive the best possible health promotion and health-care services.

Working with a wide range of partners from governments, civil society and the international community, IOM carries out a number of projects that provide HIV prevention and access to care and support to migrant and mobile populations throughout the world. Further, IOM develops HIV and AIDS projects and programmes in the following areas:

- Advocacy and Policy Development
- Capacity Building and Mainstreaming
- Research and Information Dissemination

## Published by: International Organization for Migration

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# The Partnership on HIV/AIDS and Mobile Populations in Southern Africa

**T**he Partnership on HIV/AIDS and Mobile Populations in Southern Africa (PHAMSA) is a three-year programme managed by IOM's regional office in Pretoria. IOM cooperates with the SADC Secretariat, employers of mobile workers, trade unions, civil society, NGOs, research institutions, and other international organisations in order to create a more effective response to the HIV vulnerability of migrant and mobile populations.



PHAMSA is financially supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and by the SADC Health Sector Coordinating Unit through the European Union (EU).

PHAMSA has the following five programme components:

- 1) **Research:** Implement qualitative and quantitative research on linkages between HIV and mobile populations in migrant-receiving and migrant-sending sites;
- 2) **Information Dissemination:** Disseminate information on the link between population mobility and HIV to relevant stakeholders by developing a PHAMSA website, a literature database and through an electronic discussion forum;
- 3) **Prevention and Care Programmes:** Develop HIV and AIDS prevention and care programmes in migrant sites and migrant-sending sites;
- 4) **Advocacy:** Implement advocacy programmes that increase the visibility of mobile populations in the SADC region, and counter the stigma and myths associated with migrants and HIV; and

5) **Regional Guidelines:** Develop regional guidelines on HIV and AIDS for sectors employing mobile workers (Commercial Agriculture, Construction, and Informal Cross Border Trade).

## PHAMSA's Advocacy Campaign

The overall principle of the PHAMSA advocacy campaign is to convey the following messages: First, that migrants and mobile populations are neither a threat nor bring HIV to the receiving community; and second that, on the contrary, they may contribute positively to the economic development and diversity of a society. Advocacy interventions are designed to:

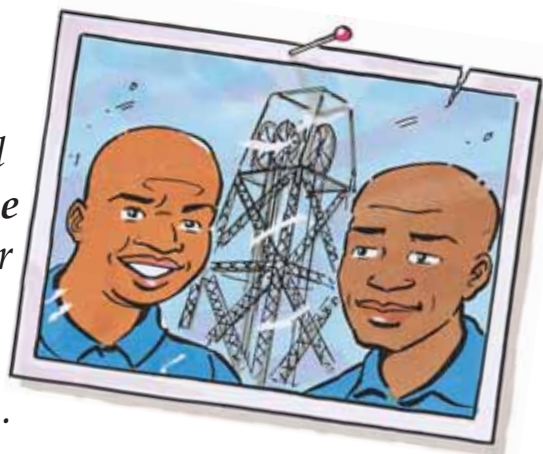
- Counter the myths that foreign migrant workers bring HIV and other diseases to the recipient environment;
- Raise awareness among the general population and key stakeholders on the structural causes of HIV vulnerability that are prevalent in migrant sites; and
- Promote positive perceptions of migration such as recognising migrants as people who contribute to economic development and cultural diversity.

## "The Journey"

The comic stories in this publication capture 'slices' in the lives of Mozambican migrant workers, their experiences in South Africa and their lives at home. They are representative of some, but not all, of the experiences of Mozambican migrant workers in South Africa. It is hoped that these stories will promote a greater understanding of the multi-faceted dynamics of migration, ultimately reducing xenophobia and discriminatory practices.

# Introduction

**Bheki Zulu** from KwaZulu/Natal, **South Africa** and **Sitoe Dzimba** from Maputo Province, **Mozambique** worked together for over 10 years on the gold mines near Johannesburg. They became very close friends. They often spoke about visiting each other's families and homes but, for one reason or another, they never made it.



**A**lmost two and a half years ago, their drilling team was caught in a rock fall. Sitoe, badly injured himself, pulled Bheki out, saving his life.

As a result of the accident Bheki lost part of his leg. He recovered well and was fitted with a false leg. He could have continued to work at the mine, on the surface, but he chose to take his disability pension. Sitoe, however, never fully recovered from his injuries. When Bheki left the mine Sitoe was still in hospital battling other complications.

For almost a year now Bheki has been troubled by dreams. Disturbing dreams of his old friend Sitoe calling to him, as if from the end of a deep tunnel.

Some months after the dreams started, Bheki sent a letter to Sitoe through TEBA (the South African recruitment agency for mine workers). The reply came back, not from Sitoe but from his wife, Aventina. It explained that Sitoe had returned to Mozambique, and that he had passed away at exactly the same time that Bheki's dreams began.

Bheki consulted his sangoma and was advised to go on a journey to visit Sitoe's grave and to pay his respects to his old friend and his family.

Our story begins as Bheki and his wife, Lindi, set off for Mozambique to attend the unveiling ceremony at Sitoe's grave.



**Bheki Zulu**

and his wife  
**Lindi.**



**Sitoe Dzimba**

and his wife  
**Aventina.**



Sitoe's sister  
**Maria** and her  
husband **Victor.**



Their son **José**  
and his wife  
**Luiza.**



# Bheki's Dream...

It was the first time for both of us.



Okay Lindi, Mozambique here we come!

Bheki had met many people from our neighbouring countries on the mines. I also knew some Mozambicans and Zimbabweans and even some Congolese from my work with the Traders' Association in Durban. But we had never travelled outside South Africa before.

I was a little nervous. One hears so many stories, you know?



We expected to arrive at the Siteo family home in Maputo Province by late afternoon, but then...

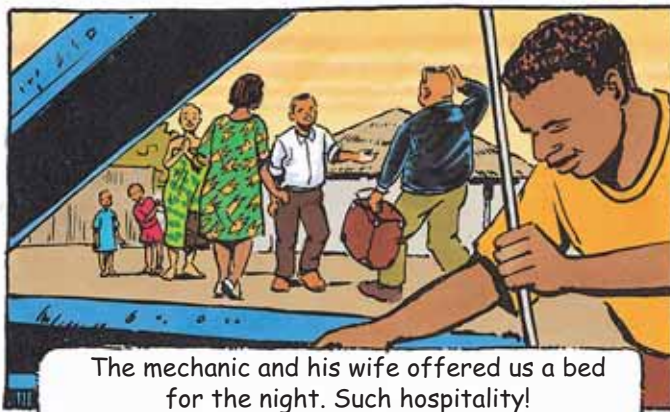


So! Did you see **this** in your dream?

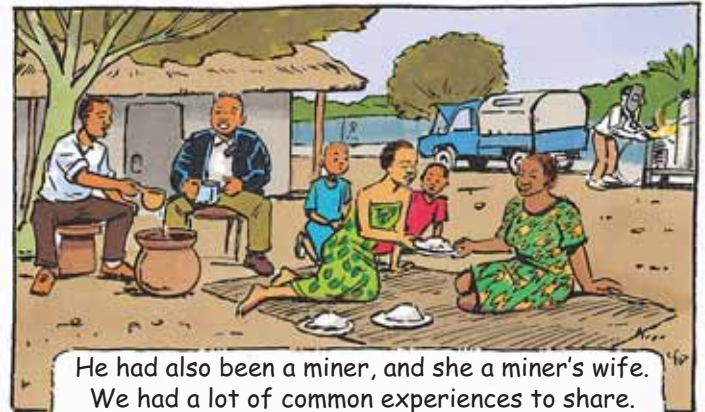
From South Africa?

Bem vindo a Moçambique!

Barato! Cheap price!



The mechanic and his wife offered us a bed for the night. Such hospitality!



He had also been a miner, and she a miner's wife. We had a lot of common experiences to share.



It's amazing! Language is not a problem when you **want** to communicate...

We left early the next morning with the radiator repaired, ...



... but we still arrived late for the unveiling ceremony...

This man had saved my life in a rock fall.



And since his passing, a year earlier, he had been calling to me from the other side.



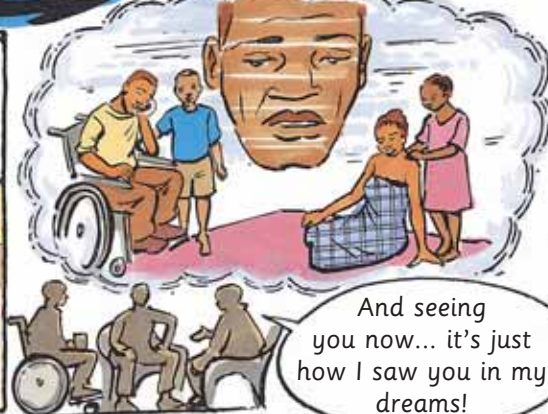
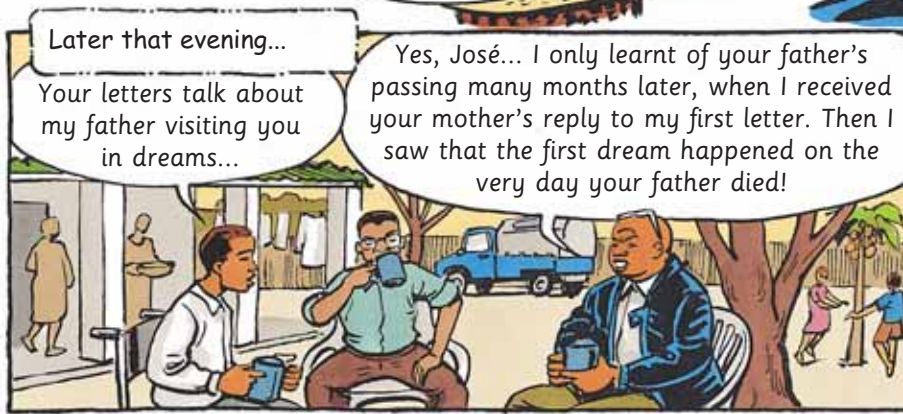
You are most welcome... I am Aventina, wife of Sitoe.

And this is Sinobia from TEBA Home Based Care.

This is our daughter, Gina, and our last-born, Pedro.

This is Maria, sister of Sitoe... and her husband, Victor.

This is José, first-born son of Sitoe... and his wife, Luiza.



Later that evening... Your letters talk about my father visiting you in dreams...

Yes, José... I only learnt of your father's passing many months later, when I received your mother's reply to my first letter. Then I saw that the first dream happened on the very day your father died!

And seeing you now... it's just how I saw you in my dreams!



I'm not surprised you had such dreams; the family has been hit by one tragedy after the other...

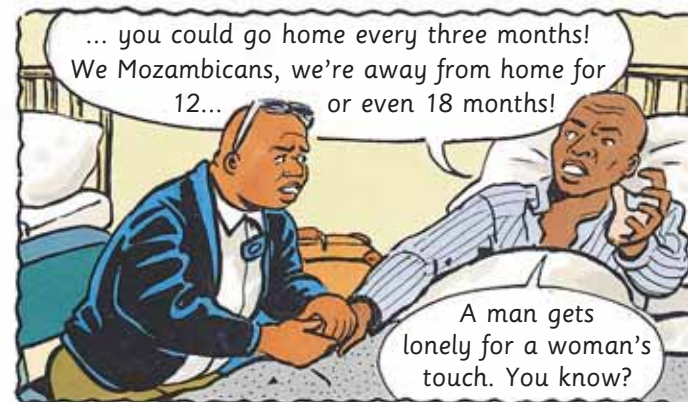
Eish, the dreams were disturbing! My sangoma told me to pay my respects at his grave.



So you knew that he was HIV positive...

Yes... he told me.

Six months after the accident I decided to take my disability pension. My leg, you know... Sitoe was still in hospital; his injury from the accident was very slow to heal, and he had TB and other complications...



... you could go home every three months! We Mozambicans, we're away from home for 12... or even 18 months!

A man gets lonely for a woman's touch. You know?



My greatest fear is that I have passed it to my wife...



Sitoe was a good man. He came with me when Sinobia suggested I have the test...

Many men refuse!



I was shocked, of course, but not surprised. We wives of migrant workers we know... even if we don't talk about it...



If we talked about it more, we could insist our husbands **use condoms!**

It's beginning to happen...



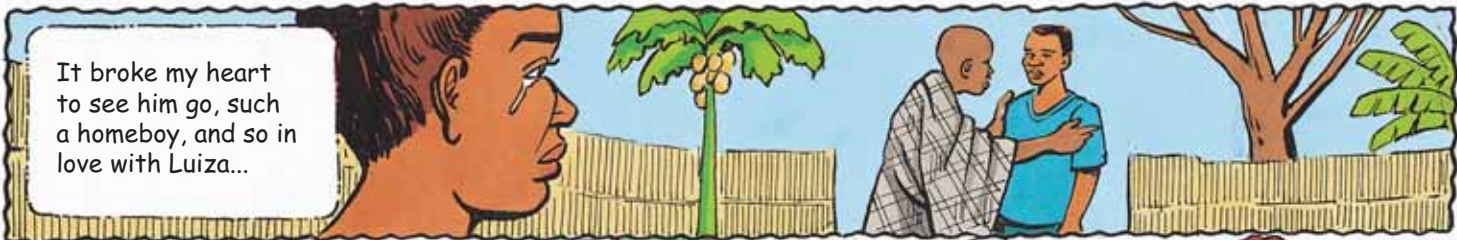
We talked, and we told the children...



Your mother has the same sickness, but she is still healthy. We have the money from my provident fund and, when God takes me, your mother will receive my death benefit...



José, I know you don't want to go, but if there is no work here... There is no choice, my son.



It broke my heart to see him go, such a homeboy, and so in love with Luiza...



Sinobia taught me how to care for him, and how to look after myself...



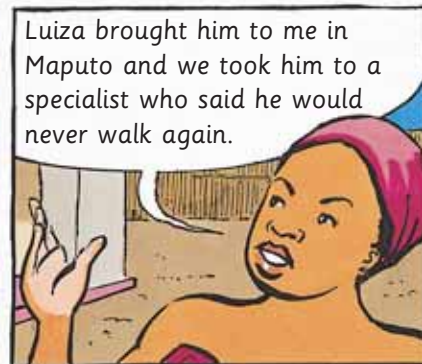
The visits to the clinic, the medicines, and buying food ate into our money...



I didn't have time to grow food like before...



Then José came home. I thought perhaps a good rest, but... We didn't understand...



Luiza brought him to me in Maputo and we took him to a specialist who said he would never walk again.



It was such a shock to Sitoe. He passed away soon after.

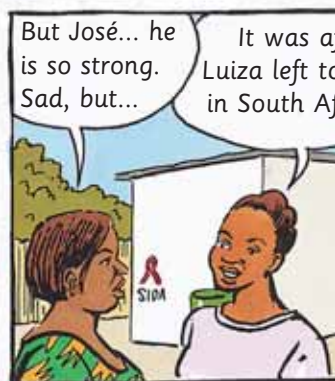
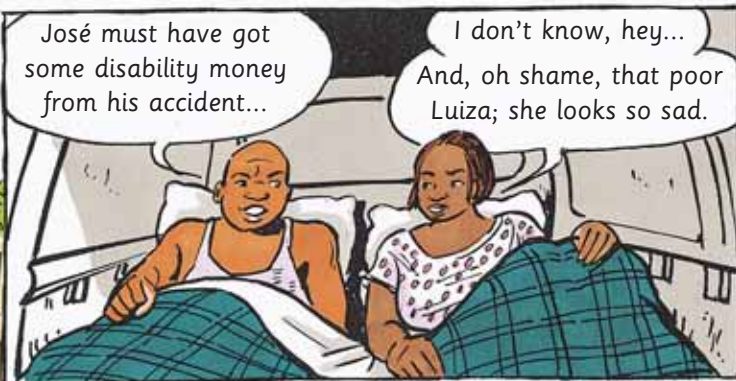


After Sitoe's funeral, I went to the TEBA offices to claim the death benefit.

I am so sorry, Mrs Dzimba. Your husband's death benefit was only valid for 12 months from the date his employment ended...

Sitoe had died 4 days too late!





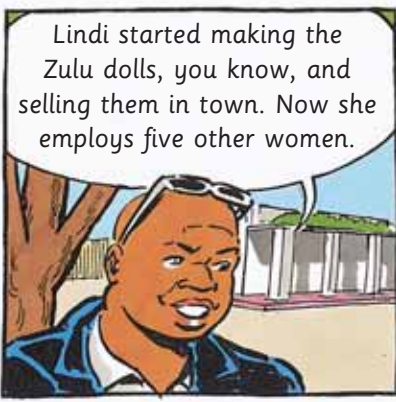


Meanwhile...



I tried this rural life when I left the mine, but *eish!*... it was too slow for me!

So Lindi and I went to Durban. I bought that old bakkie and started trading; buying fruit and vegetables from the farms and selling to hawkers in the townships...



Lindi started making the Zulu dolls, you know, and selling them in town. Now she employs five other women.



She makes more money than me! But then, I also have my disability pension, so...

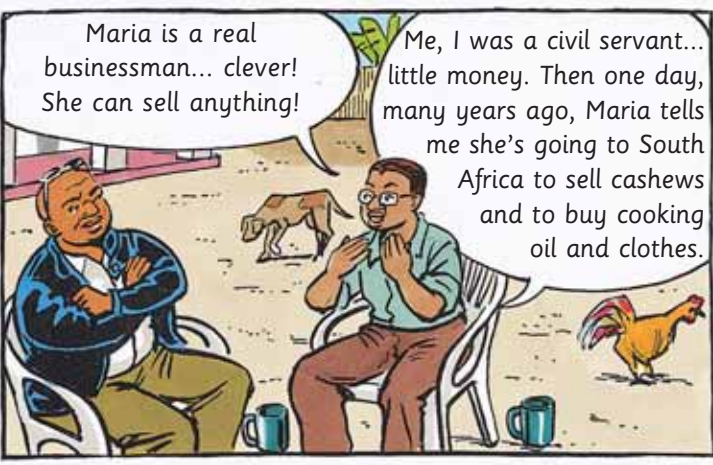
We both married strong women!



I actually work for my wife! But I'm saving to buy a *chapa*, how you say, taxi... Like you, I drive. I collect and deliver many things for Maria all over Maputo province.



Hey! Uncle Victor... The storyteller...



Maria is a real businessman... clever! She can sell anything!

Me, I was a civil servant... little money. Then one day, many years ago, Maria tells me she's going to South Africa to sell cashews and to buy cooking oil and clothes.



I didn't like it! You can imagine, a woman on her own...

But the money was good, so I said she must continue.



She never went without a visa... always legal. But still, always problems that side: with the police, with customs, everyone wanting money!



To tell you honestly... Maria doesn't like South Africans.



But it was when José came back, injured and treated so badly, that she swore never to do business in South Africa again!

Why? What happened to him in South Africa?



You must ask him to tell you his story...

# Migration in Southern Africa

## Who are Migrants?

A broad definition of migrants includes both those who move voluntarily for professional or economic reasons, and those who are forced to move as a result of war, human rights abuses, ethnic tension, violence, famine, slavery and persecution.

The comics in this publication mainly tell stories of “voluntary” migrant workers, such as mine workers, commercial farm workers, and informal cross border traders. Other migrant workers can be found among truck drivers, construction workers, and domestic workers.

Migrants may move through legal, registered channels, or they may move without government authorisation. Migration can be temporary (individuals move for a short period and then return to their countries of origin), circular (individuals move back and forth between home and work communities) or permanent (individuals relocate themselves and possibly their families).

## Where do they come from? Where do they go?

In Southern Africa, there has been a long history of labour migration between different countries. Since the 1800s, the mining and commercial agriculture sectors in South Africa have received many workers from Malawi, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and Mozambique, and even from countries in Asia. To a lesser extent, the mining and commercial agriculture sectors of Zimbabwe and Zambia have also received labour migrants from neighbouring countries including Mozambique and Malawi.



Cheap migrant labour played an important role in the development of these sectors.

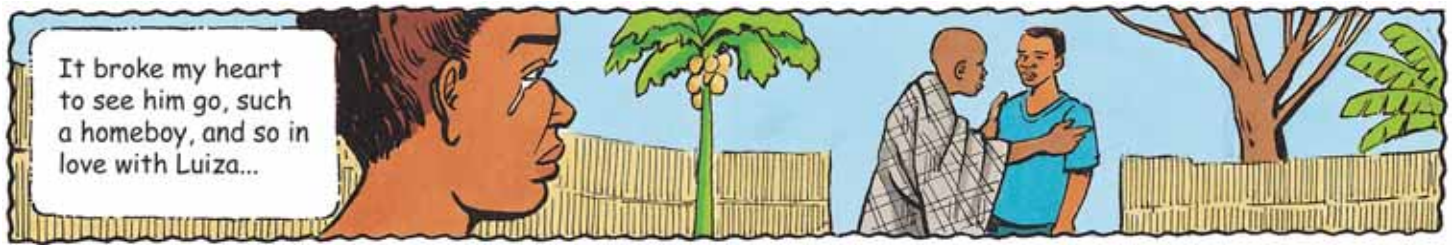
During the 1980s and 1990s, there was an increase in the number of migrants and refugees moving to South Africa, Botswana, and Namibia. Most of these people came from other Southern African countries, but also from countries further afar (West Africa, Western and Eastern Europe and Asia).<sup>1</sup>

Some countries in Southern Africa have people coming in (“immigration”), and some have people going out (“emigration”):

**Botswana:** The strong Botswana economy has been the major factor in attracting labour migrants. Since the 1980s, there has been an increase in migration of skilled labour and professionals from South Africa, Zimbabwe, Britain, India, and other European and African countries. In recent years, there is some evidence indicating a rise in undocumented (or irregular) migration from Zimbabwe. In 2004, it was reported that Botswana repatriated almost 2,500 undocumented Zimbabweans every month.<sup>2</sup>

**Lesotho, Swaziland, and Malawi:** These countries mainly export labour to other countries – in other words, people from these countries move to other countries to work. Most of the migrants go to South Africa, to work on mines, and commercial farms. Many Malawians also live in Zambia and Zimbabwe.

1. ILO / SAMAT, “Labour Migration to South Africa in the 1990s” Policy Paper Series No. 4, Harare, February 1998.
2. See “Deporting illegal Zimbabweans costly (The Standard, 28/11)” in SAMP Migration News, November 2004. [www.queensu.ca/samp/migrationnews/index.htm#Botswana](http://www.queensu.ca/samp/migrationnews/index.htm#Botswana)



**Mozambique:** Mozambique is mainly a labour exporting country. Historically, particularly in the 1980s and early 1990s, Mozambicans provided labour on commercial farms and as domestic workers in Zimbabwe. Recently, the majority of Mozambicans work on commercial farms, mines, and construction sites in South Africa.

**Namibia:** Many people from Angola come to Namibia to work, especially around the border areas in the north. There is also evidence that suggests a steady increase in skilled workers from Zimbabwe migrating to Namibia.<sup>3</sup>

**Zimbabwe:** Historically, many people came to Zimbabwe to work. However, more recently people are emigrating from Zimbabwe for socio-economic reasons.<sup>4</sup>

**South Africa:** South Africa is a net importer of labour. Traditionally there has been movement of migrants from most other SADC countries to South Africa. Since independence in 1994, there has been a steady increase in both documented and undocumented migrants coming into the country. Although exact figures are not available, South Africa is the largest single destination within SADC, for migrants coming from Zimbabwe, Mozambique, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), other countries in Africa, and from as far away as Asia.<sup>5</sup>

The majority of migrants work in the commercial farming, construction, hospitality and informal sectors, or as domestic workers.

## Why do people migrate? Why can't they stay in their own countries?

The migrant labour system in Southern Africa developed when most countries were still under colonial rule. Restrictive laws (such as the Natives Land Act of 1913 in South Africa and the Land Apportionment Act of 1930 in Zimbabwe) made it illegal for black people to acquire, rent or own land. This limited their economic options and forced many to work in mines and on white owned farms.

Today, although most countries in Southern Africa have successfully become independent and democratic states, migration still exists. Generally the following three factors must exist for migration to take place



### 1) "Push factors" from communities or countries of origin

Poverty, unemployment, uneven economic development, conflict, and political instability are some of the reasons why people are "pushed" away from their homes.

3. IOM. Development Potential of Zimbabweans in the Diaspora. Geneva, 2005.
4. Zinyama, L. "International migration and Zimbabwe: An overview." Chapter 1 in D. Tevera and L. Zinyama (eds), Zimbabweans Who Move: Perspectives on International Migration in Zimbabwe. Migration Policy Series No.25, Southern African Migration Project (SAMP), 2002.
5. ILO / SAMAT, "Labour Migration to South Africa in the 1990s" Policy Paper Series No. 4, Harare, February 1998.

In many countries in Southern Africa, particularly in the rural areas, people are living in poverty with few job opportunities. This has created a stream of migrants looking for jobs in relatively better performing economies, such as Botswana, Namibia and South Africa. People pushed out of their communities by hunger, desperation and strife in their own countries, are often willing to work for meagre wages under very difficult conditions.

Disruptions resulting from wars, conflict, and political instability have further pushed people to move in Southern Africa. For instance, conflicts in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the Great Lakes Region have pushed people to move to surrounding countries. The civil war in Angola that ended in 2002 had caused people to lose their homes and forced them to move, both within the country and also to other countries such as Zambia, Namibia and the DRC. Tens of thousands have returned to Angola since 2003, but many still remain abroad. There was a 16-year civil war in Mozambique, which ended in 1992. This caused many Mozambicans to flee to Zimbabwe, Malawi, Tanzania and South Africa. Lastly, the socio-economic crisis in Zimbabwe since the late 1990s has pushed thousands of people to migrate to South Africa, Botswana and Namibia.

## 2) “Pull factors” from destination communities:

There is an increased demand for cheap foreign labour in certain labour markets of places or countries that “pull” people to move. In recent years in South Africa, minimum wages for various sectors (such as farm and domestic work) and many other labour legislation acts have been introduced.<sup>6</sup> This, along with the growing strength of trade unions, has contributed to companies’ demand

for migrant labour from neighbouring countries. Because foreign migrants are often undocumented, they cannot join trade unions, and may be threatened with deportation if they demand higher wages or better working conditions.

## 3) Networks to link the supply with the demand:

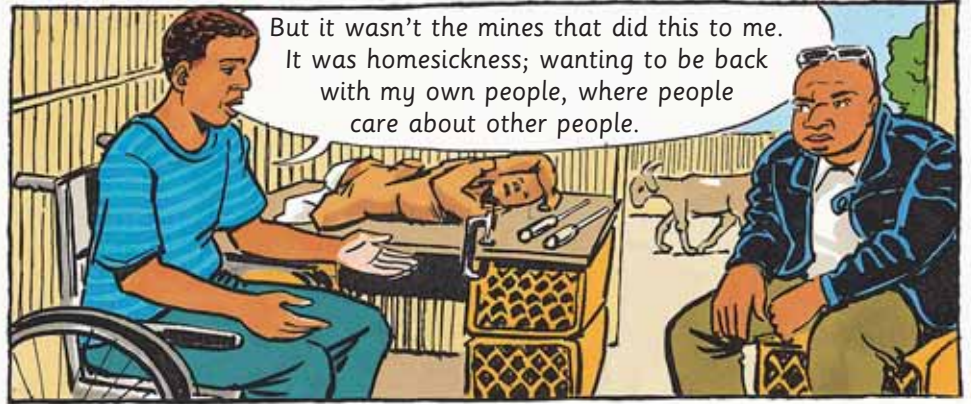
Lastly, networks, such as family or community links, or existence of labour recruiters, also facilitate movements. Migrants tend to go to places in which their relatives, friends and community members are already located.

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6. The labour legislation acts include: The Labour Relations Act (LRA), Basic Conditions of Employment Act (BCEA), Employment Equity Act (EEA), Skills Development Act (SDA), Skills Development Levy Act (SDLA), Unemployment Insurance Act (UIA), Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA), Compensation of Injuries and Diseases Act (COIDA).

# José's Story...

I was in the mines in South Africa... I worked underground for 6 months. I could have been injured at any time, just like you...



But it wasn't the mines that did this to me. It was homesickness; wanting to be back with my own people, where people care about other people.

From the time I was a young boy, I never wanted to go away to the mines...



My father was a stranger to us.

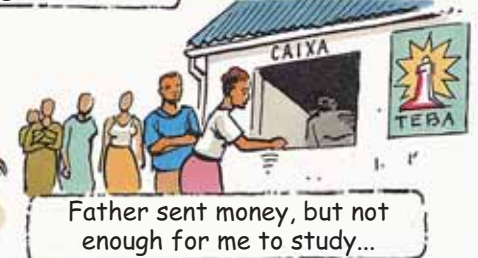
When I finished school I looked everywhere for work...



I didn't want to go to Maputo...



Father sent money, but not enough for me to study...



There is no choice, my son. There are still some jobs on the mines... They know we are hard-workers



Then, when father returned ill, everything changed...

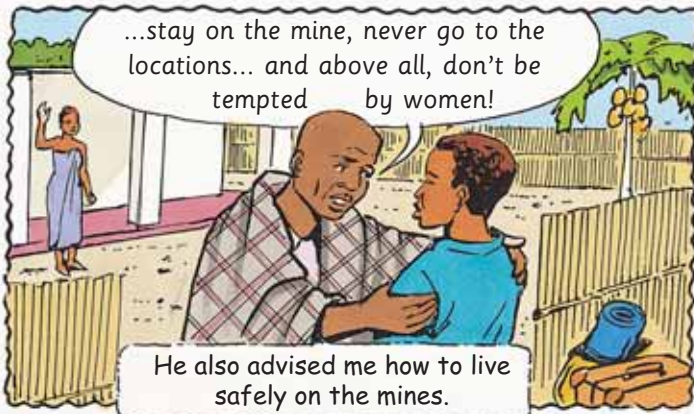
No jobs.

... 12 month contract... no work, no pay... sign here.

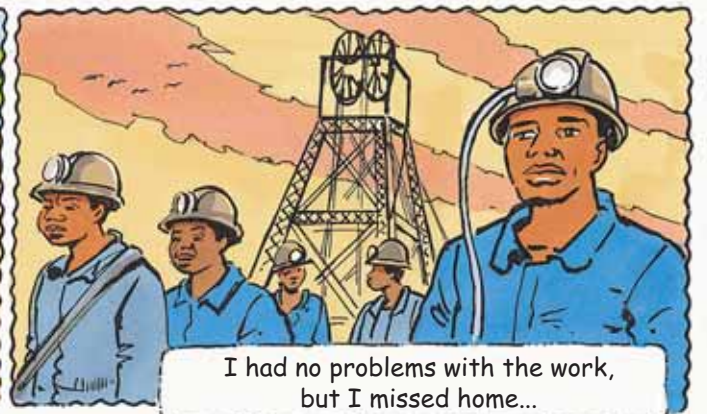


Father advised me to contract only with TEBA, but I took the first job I could find.

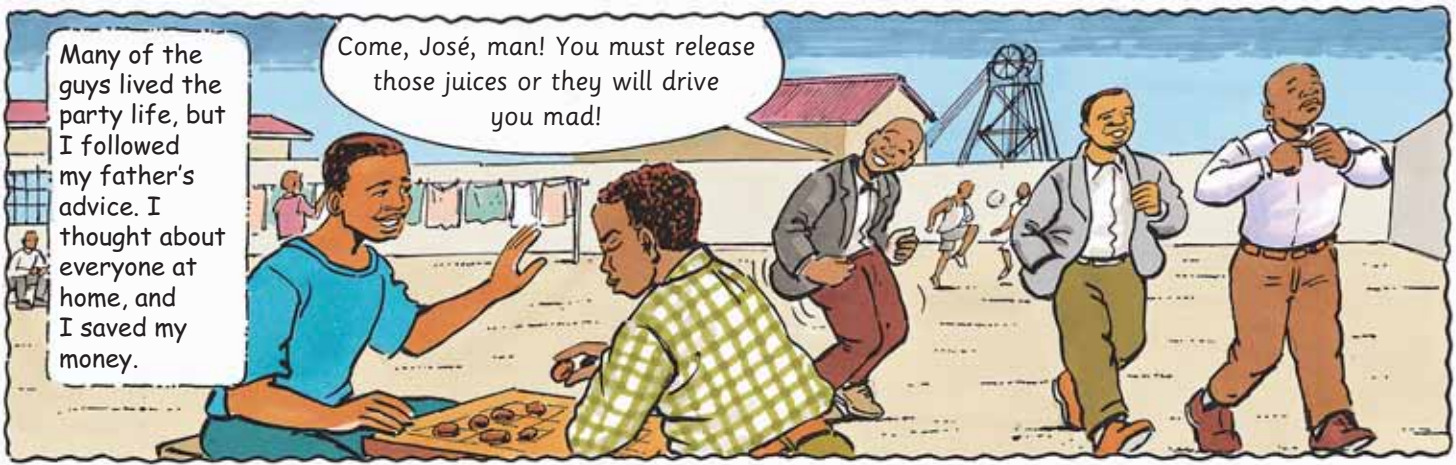
...stay on the mine, never go to the locations... and above all, don't be tempted by women!



He also advised me how to live safely on the mines.



I had no problems with the work, but I missed home...



Many of the guys lived the party life, but I followed my father's advice. I thought about everyone at home, and I saved my money.

Come, José, man! You must release those juices or they will drive you mad!

I'm there about 6 months when this friend of mine, also Mozambican, begs me to accompany him to his South African girlfriend's home one Saturday afternoon.

Please, José, you're so respectable. Her parents' will love you. And you'll make me look good!

He was a good friend... and the idea of sharing a family meal outside of the mine was very exciting. I agreed to go...



I told you they'd love him!



I've got a small furniture shop. You Mozambicans give me lots of business!

There are many things we cannot get at home.



How do you say it? Boa noite!

Sim, muito obrigado!

The family was good to us. We stayed too long, and it was already dark when we left.



Hey, Makwerekwere! You come here and steal our women, and spread your filthy diseases!

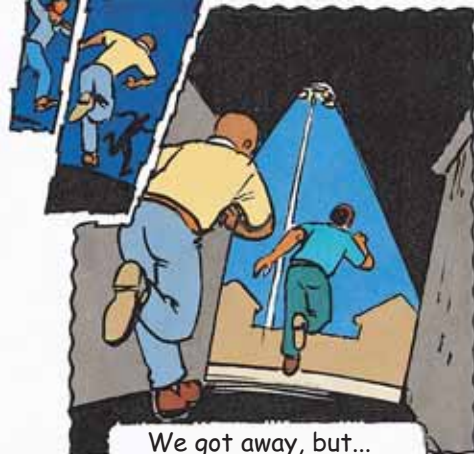
Ja, and you take our jobs, working for such low wages!

We don't want any trouble.



Kill the Makwerekwere!

Kill the Makwerekwere!



We got away, but...



... I didn't even see the taxi!



Quick! I'll drive him to the hospital.



I couldn't be treated at the mine hospital because the accident happened outside the mine.



I'll come and see you tomorrow, I promise.

Don't leave me here!

Amashangane! Can't understand a word they're saying!



Sunday morning...

They say I have to stay like this until the doctor can see me, tomorrow...

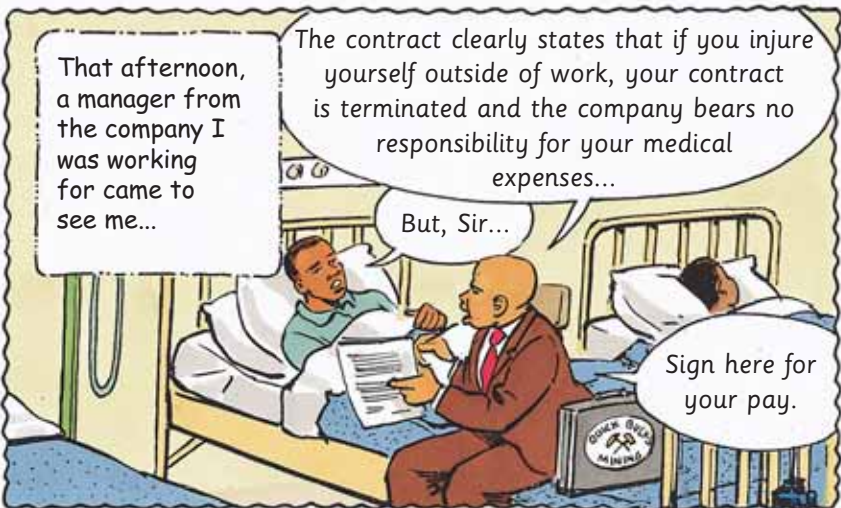
My back was in pain, but I felt fine. I could move my legs...



Monday morning...

You must go home! We need these beds for our own people!

Sister! He has a valid work permit. He has every right to be here.

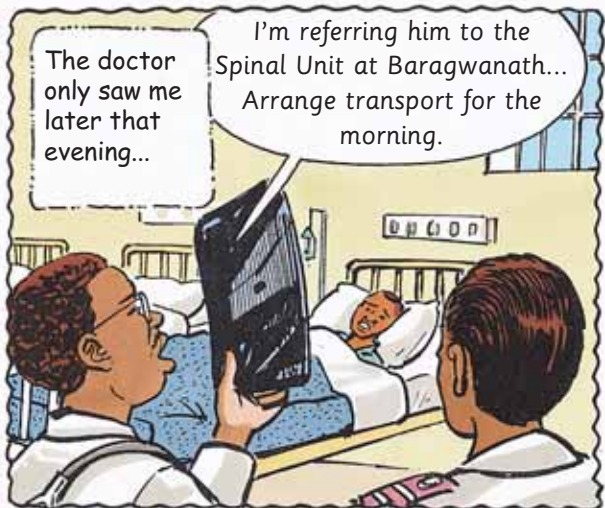


That afternoon, a manager from the company I was working for came to see me...

The contract clearly states that if you injure yourself outside of work, your contract is terminated and the company bears no responsibility for your medical expenses...

But, Sir...

Sign here for your pay.



The doctor only saw me later that evening...

I'm referring him to the Spinal Unit at Baragwanath... Arrange transport for the morning.

Later that evening, when my friend came to visit, I made him help me...



You've got to help me...

We're not welcome here. And I'm sick and tired of being treated as a *makwerekwere*!

They want to send me to a hospital in Soweto!

I'm going home!



You mustn't go! Your back is injured.

Look, I'm walking!



I didn't listen to the nurse...

I got my clothes and my small savings...

... and I left that same night...



Then the nightmare began: In hospital they gave me strong drugs for the pain. Now I had nothing...



First one leg stopped working...



Then the other...



I had to pay the driver to take me right to my door.

A few days in bed, and I'm sure you'll feel better...



Mother was hopeful. Father was angry...

I told you not to go into the townships!

But it didn't get better, and the painkiller pills - the ones given to my father by TEBA - weren't working either.



A week later...

The local clinic can't help. He has to go to Maputo...

I'll go with him.

You can stay with my sister, Maria.





Tia Maria was so angry when I told her how the accident happened and how I was treated at the hospital in South Africa...

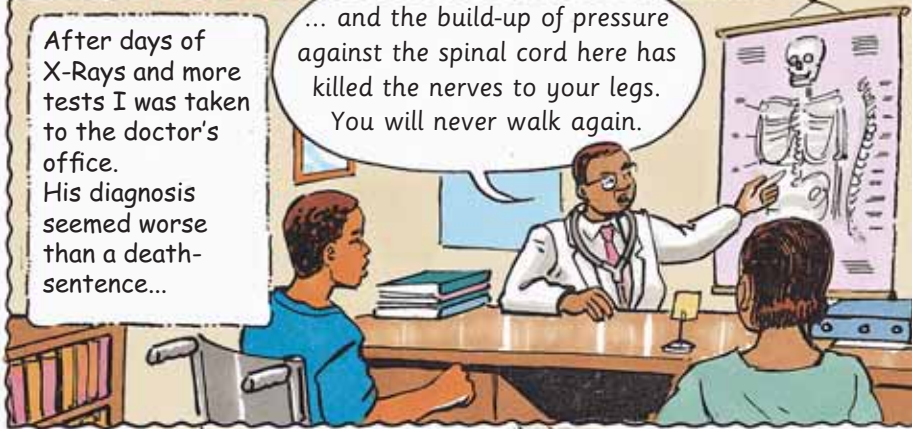


*Damn those South Africans! They think they're better than us! They've forgotten how we helped them when they were running from the apartheid soldiers.*

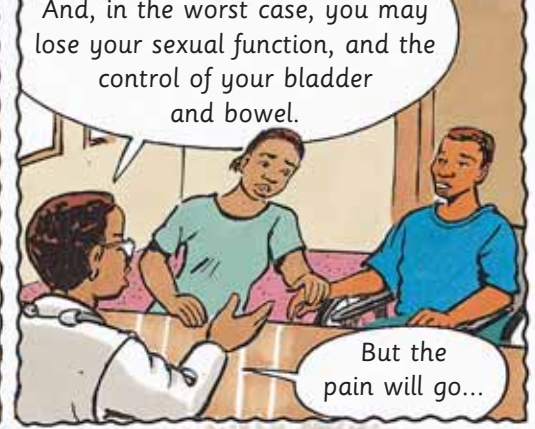


After days of X-Rays and more tests I was taken to the doctor's office. His diagnosis seemed worse than a death-sentence...

... and the build-up of pressure against the spinal cord here has killed the nerves to your legs. You will never walk again.



And, in the worst case, you may lose your sexual function, and the control of your bladder and bowel.



But the pain will go...

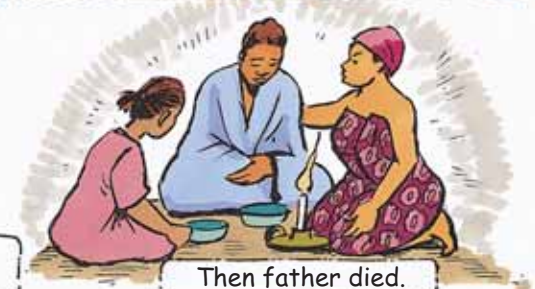


Back at home...

Maria had bought me a wheelchair, but I refused to get up...



I told Luiza I never wanted to see her again...



Then father died.

When TEBA told us there would be no more money, I was afraid. We had used Father's provident fund money for medicines and to buy good food for him.

He had always told Mother she wouldn't have to worry about money after his death...



There I was, head of the family, and I couldn't even stand on my feet!

Some weeks later... ... and when I come back we can get married, just like we always planned.



Then Luiza told me of her plans to work in South Africa. It broke my heart.

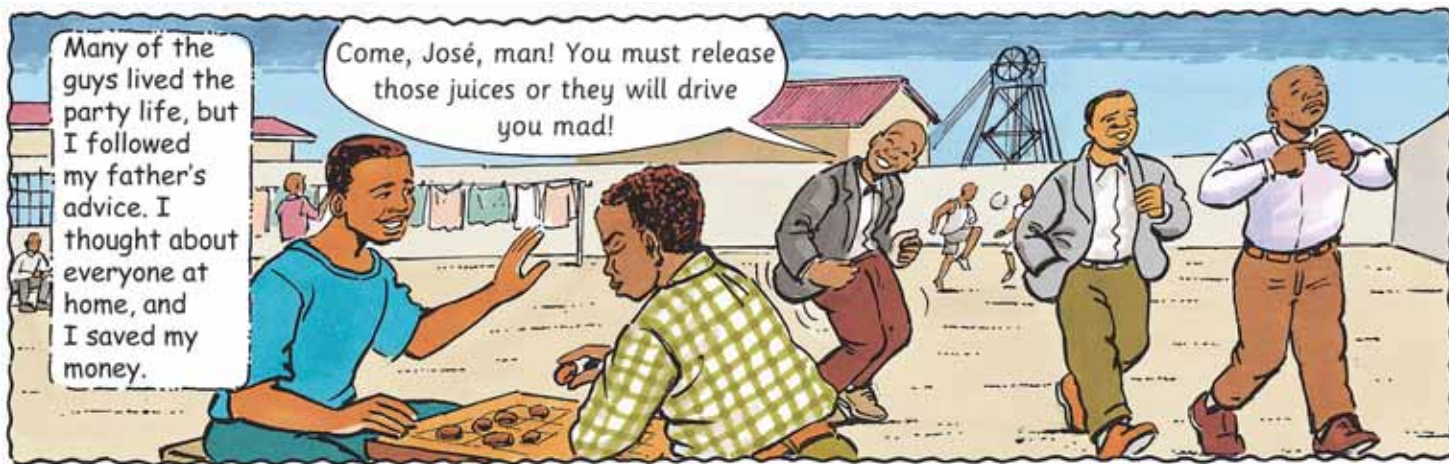


Mother was so strong, and Luiza so brave... I had to pull myself together.

That's also when I started taking out my frustration on pieces of wood!



# Migration and HIV



## Why are migrants more vulnerable to HIV?

The relationship between population mobility, or migration, and HIV is complex. Although some people think that migrants bring HIV when they come to new countries or towns, evidence suggests the opposite; that migrants become vulnerable to HIV during transit and at destination sites due to a multitude of factors.

The links between population mobility and HIV are related to the conditions and structure of the migration process. Migrants are often faced with poverty; discrimination and exploitation; alienation and a sense of anonymity; limited access to social, education and health services; separation from families and partners; and separation from the socio-cultural norms that guide behaviour in stable communities.<sup>7</sup>

## Poor working and living conditions:

Usually male migrants (such as miners, construction workers, and farm workers), undertake hard and dangerous work, live away from home with limited leave, live in single-sex hostels with little privacy, have few recreational options other than going to a shebeen, and usually have easy access to commercial sex workers. In such an environment, characterised by loneliness and boredom, workers are more likely to have unprotected casual sex, increasing their risk of contracting HIV and other Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs).

## “Masculine” identities and attitudes towards sex:

Difficult and dangerous working environments contribute significantly to male perceptions of “masculinity” (what it means to be a man), and their attitudes towards sex. Gender norms among migrant men often support having many sexual partners, thus increasing their vulnerability to HIV. For example, a study conducted in the mining town of Carltonville, South Africa, found that in order to deal with the psychological trauma of life in the mines, with little or no social and emotional support, men develop a culture of masculinity which involves drinking and engaging in frequent commercial sex.<sup>8</sup>



7. IOM Position Paper on HIV/AIDS and Migration, 2002. [www.iom.org.za/Reports/PositionPaper.pdf](http://www.iom.org.za/Reports/PositionPaper.pdf)
8. Campbell, 'Migrancy, Masculine Identities and HIV/AIDS: The Psycho-Social Context of HIV Transmission on The South African Gold Mines' *Social Science and Medicine* 45, 1997

**Sexual exploitation:** Female migrants, such as informal traders or farm workers, are sometimes put in a desperate situation where they must choose between survival or having sex. For example, some female migrants may be forced to trade sex for food, shelter, transportation, or being able to safely go across borders.



**Limited access to services:** Migrants usually have limited or no access to public services such as healthcare or education. This is because of the nature of their lives as migrants – they do not stay in one place for a long time, and when they are working in a foreign country they may miss out on services for nationals of that country. Since governments may not feel responsible for taking care of them, migrants may have little or no access to HIV information, health services, and means of HIV prevention (condoms, access to voluntary counselling and testing centres, or access to treatment of STIs).

Also, differences in culture, language, and unfamiliarity with the community, make it difficult for migrants to understand information or seek help.

**Migrants' reluctance to access services:**

Even if such services are available, migrants, particularly those who are undocumented, are usually reluctant to access public services in foreign countries. Due to fear of harassment or deportation, they prefer to stay invisible. Migrant workers with seasonal contracts may also be reluctant to seek medical or health treatment, because they fear that if their employers find out that they are sick, they will be fired, or their contracts will not be renewed.

**If your husband or partner is a migrant...**

If your husband or partner is a migrant, you are not necessarily more at risk of being infected with HIV. Frequently people have to move away from home to find work. What is important is that both of you discuss your concerns with each other, remain faithful to each other, get tested so that you know your HIV status, and keep an open communication with each other.



# Xenophobia



## What is xenophobia?

Xenophobia is the fear or hatred of foreigners or anything foreign. Xenophobia can be described as attitudes, prejudices and behaviour that reject, exclude and often vilify persons, based on the perception that they are outsiders or foreigners to the community, society or national identity.

Unfortunately, in some Southern African countries where migrants go to work, there are instances of xenophobia and discrimination towards migrants and foreigners.

## What is the extent of xenophobia in South Africa?

While xenophobia exists in all countries, compared with other countries in the region, South Africans express harsh sentiments against migrants according to a survey conducted by the Southern African Migration Project (SAMP).<sup>9</sup> In general, South Africans believe there are more foreigners coming into their country than there really are. Some South Africans see migration as a problem rather than an opportunity: they see migrants as a threat; as people who take away scarce resources and jobs; who are responsible for increase in crime (e.g. people often think people from certain countries are drug dealers); and who bring in diseases, particularly sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV.

Xenophobia can also lead to discrimination, or even to violent attacks against foreigners.

Some people may deny migrants services such as healthcare or education just because they are foreigners. Some employers may pay foreign workers less money, or give them the most difficult jobs. There are also reported cases of physical violence against foreign migrants.

Human Rights Watch conducted an investigation on the treatment of undocumented migrants, asylum-seekers, and refugees in South Africa in 1996 and 1997. They found widespread abuse of migrants in South Africa.<sup>10</sup> The study found that migrants were becoming the target of abuse at the hands of South African citizens, as well as by members of the police, the army, and the Department of Home Affairs.

9. Crush, Jonathan and Pendleton, Wade. Regionalizing Xenophobia? Citizen Attitudes to Immigration and Refugee Policy in Southern Africa. Southern African Migration Project, Migration Policy Series No. 30. Capetown, 2004. [www.queensu.ca/samp/Publications.html#SAMP%20Migration%20Policy%20SeriesT](http://www.queensu.ca/samp/Publications.html#SAMP%20Migration%20Policy%20SeriesT)
10. Human Rights Watch. Prohibited Persons: Abuse of Undocumented Migrants, Asylum-Seekers, and Refugees in South Africa. Human Rights Watch, New York, 1998. [www.hrw.org/reports98/sareport/](http://www.hrw.org/reports98/sareport/)

# Luiza's Story...

Tell me what happened to you...

I was so naïve...  
**Stupid!**

The recruiter was so helpful at first; like a young uncle. He said he had helped many young women like me from poor families.

...just three short months, and you can earn more than **10 million meticas**. That's more than your mother makes at this *barraca* in a year!

But I don't know anyone in South Africa...

No problem! I'll organise everything. There are many other Mozambican women...

I became so hopeful. I dreamt that I would return and give all the money to José, and that he would be happy again. I didn't want anyone to change my mind, so I didn't tell them until the day I left...

A first-timer!

Poor fool!

Come, Luizinha.

I was still dreaming as we travelled towards the border...

Such a silly girl! What did I expect?

Howl

KRIK KRIK KRIK KRIK KRIK

ARWOOOAAAR!

Some time before dawn we stopped to rest.

Come, Luizinha. It's time to pay for your ticket...

Suca! I'll never!

Hey, Cativa! Get away from me, you crazy woman! It was just a bit of fun...

Come on. You're a long way from home, and you don't know the way back.

I don't know what I would have done without Cativa...

We walked the whole of that day, and the next night. I was so tired and hungry I could hardly stand up.



Back again?

What choice do we have?

Then suddenly I realised where I was...

Is this South Africa?

HA HA HA HA HA



I remember that one, Cativa – a real *hard hitter*... and she works well too.

And you've brought some fresh young meat as well...

Those two can stay here in the compound.



Hurry up, you two, or we'll be working 'till midnight.

There was no time to rest.

And the work was hard.



That first night I was asleep even before I hit the floor.

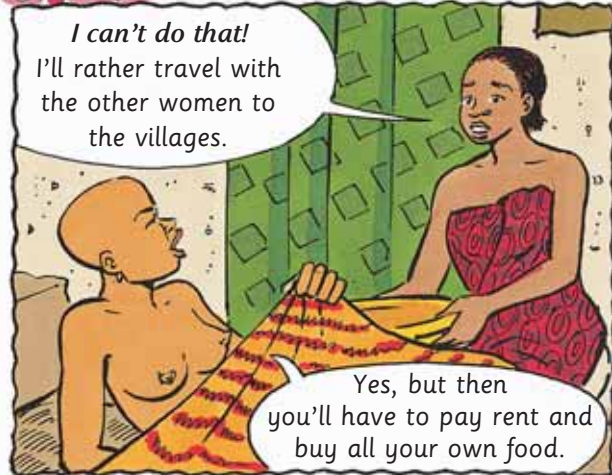
It was on our first Sunday at the farm that I began to understand the price we had to pay to stay in the compound.



You! Luiza...

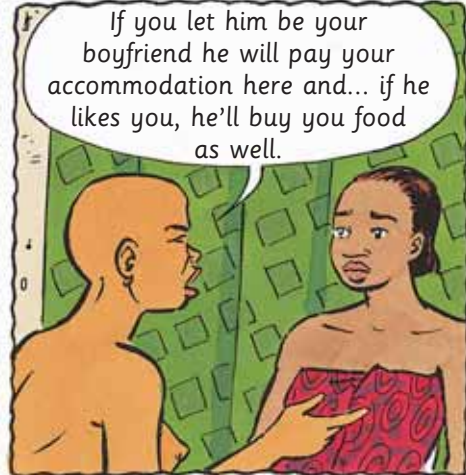
I remember what a *bull* you are!

Leave her, she's only a child. Come to a real woman.



I can't do that! I'll rather travel with the other women to the villages.

Yes, but then you'll have to pay rent and buy all your own food.



If you let him be your boyfriend he will pay your accommodation here and... if he likes you, he'll buy you food as well.



Think of why you're here, girl - to make money!

Think of your family back home.



I realised that all of us seasonal workers at the compound, Mozambicans and South Africans, had boyfriends among the permanent workers. Some of those men had 4 or 5 girlfriends.



What prices are these? You're stealing from us!

The farmer gave us only mielie meal. Everything else we had to buy, on credit.



I hear the police caught five Mozambican workers last night in the village.

We lived in fear of being arrested and sent home... without getting our money.

So, I accepted.

I know now that I made the wrong choice... but at the time it seemed there was nothing else I could do. I needed money.



The months passed slowly...

But the nights were worse...

The induna tired of me, and passed me to another boyfriend...

The work was hard and the hours long...

Only Cativa protected me...

And always I was thinking of home, and of the money I would bring back.



One woman was killed in a fight...

When there were no more lemons, they told us to go.

Only R825!

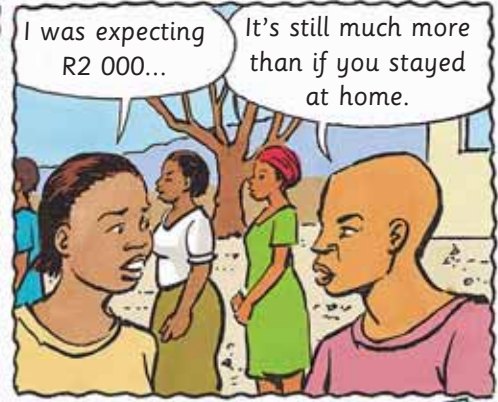
They always find some way to steal our money.

I was expecting R2 000...

It's still much more than if you stayed at home.



After all that, they still deducted for rent. They even deducted for the mealie meal.



We only travelled at night to avoid the police. But then I twisted my ankle, so we had to find another way to get home...



Come. It's sorted...

For R50 each the driver said he could get us across the border, no problem. But then...



The border official also wanted something...

Thank you! I hope you enjoyed your visit to South Africa. Please come back again soon.

Cativa said we might lose all our money if he arrested us, and it could be months before they sent us home...

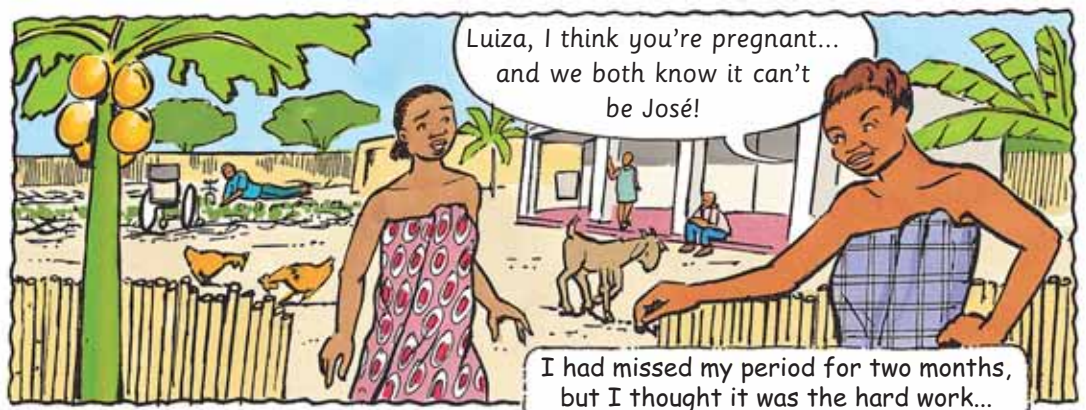


Are you coming from Jozi?

Cativa went on to Maputo. By the time I got home, I had a little over R600 for 3 month's work. It was much less than I had hoped... but still, more than if I had stayed at home.



I was too ashamed to tell anyone what really happened to me in South Africa. I only spoke about the work, and told them stories about Cativa. I started to believe that I could put it all behind me, until...



Luiza, I think you're pregnant... and we both know it can't be José!

I had missed my period for two months, but I thought it was the hard work...



I told them everything... even though I knew I would lose José forever.



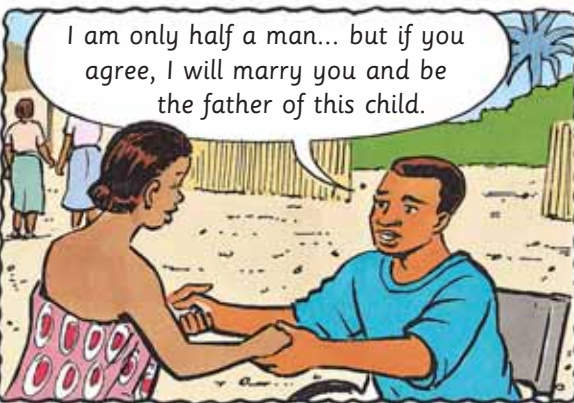
I hated the baby inside me. I even thought of killing myself.

I didn't see or hear from José for nearly a month. Then one day he and his mother arrived at my house...



We come to discuss the future of our families...

It was the last thing I expected.



I am only half a man... but if you agree, I will marry you and be the father of this child.

I was so happy.



Perhaps, in some way, what I lost in South Africa has been returned to us with this child...



We lived from day to day, finding what small joys we could...



But then... last week I went to the clinic for a check-up and they took a blood test...



HIV positive.

# Migration and Gender

## Are there many female migrants?

Yes. According to the most recent World Migration Report by IOM (2005), almost half of all migrants in the world are women (48.6%).<sup>11</sup>

While many women accompany or join family members, increasing numbers of women migrate on their own. They are the principal wage earners for themselves and their families, working mainly in traditional female occupations, for example in domestic work, the garment industry, nursing, and teaching.

## Are female migrants different from male migrants?

Female migrants are usually at higher risk of discrimination, exploitation and abuse than male migrants. They are doubly affected, both as women and as foreigners. For example, the average earnings of migrant women tend to be lower than those of male migrants. Also, due to their limited access to education, employment, and/or income, as well as cultural oppression, they are more likely to be put in a situation where they must resort to commercial or transactional sex for survival.

According to an IOM study on farm workers living and working in the South African border region with Mozambique, female migrants often have to do the lowest and most exploited type of work.<sup>12</sup>

## Are female migrants more vulnerable to HIV?

Yes. Female migrants are usually more vulnerable to HIV than male migrants.

Socio-economic factors create special risks for women. For example, women travelling alone may have little choice but to sell sex for survival, or to establish relationships



with men in transit or at destination, simply for protection. In an environment far away from traditional communal support systems, women are also more vulnerable to sexual violence, such as rape. The risk of sexual violence also increases in sex-segregated and unregulated sectors, for example for female traders, domestic workers and sex workers.

The IOM study on farm workers found that female workers are especially vulnerable to HIV. First, they have very low levels of knowledge about HIV and AIDS, but also, sexual relationships on farms often seem to develop a transactional nature. This means that many women depend on men for subsistence (food and/or accommodation). In return, the women become the "girlfriends" of these men. Lastly, there is often a pattern of uneven sexual power between men and women – women in such situations often do not have any say in sexual practices, and the men are the ones who decide whether or not to use condoms.

11. IOM. 2005. World Migration 2005: Costs and Benefits of International Migration. Geneva: 2005. [www.iom.int/iomwebsite/Publication/ServletSearchPublication?event=detail&id=4171](http://www.iom.int/iomwebsite/Publication/ServletSearchPublication?event=detail&id=4171)

12. IOM. HIV/AIDS Vulnerability among Migrant Farm Workers on the South African Mozambican Border. Researched for JICA by IOM, February 2004.

# Rights of Migrants

## What are human rights and to whom do they apply?

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights, and human rights are the basic standards that uphold this.

Human rights are basic entitlements accorded to every human being, and include such rights as the right to life, liberty, security, dignity, health, education, shelter, employment, property, food, freedom of expression and movement. To violate someone's human rights is to treat that person as though she or he were not a human being. To advocate for human rights is to demand that the human dignity of all people be respected.

Everyone is entitled to human rights, regardless of their race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. In other words, everyone is entitled to human rights no matter where they come from, where they live, and what type of work they do. Therefore, all foreign migrant workers are entitled to all human rights, which include the right to life, liberty, security, dignity, health, education, shelter, employment, property, food, freedom of expression and movement.<sup>13</sup>

## Human Rights Instruments

There are many legal and political instruments (human rights laws, declarations, agreements and policies) at the international, regional and national level that ensure the rights of migrants.

## International Instruments<sup>14</sup>

Migrants should enjoy all of the rights applicable in international human rights law. The **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)**, the **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)**

(1966) and the **International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) (1966)** set out the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all persons.

They include the right to life, liberty and security; the right not to be held in slavery or servitude; the right not to be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; the right not to be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile; the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State; the right to marry and to have a family; and the right to work, to free choice of employment and to just and favourable working conditions.

The goal of the **International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (1990)**<sup>15</sup> is to guarantee minimum rights for all migrant workers and members of their families, both legal and undocumented.

The Convention prohibits torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (article 10), slavery or servitude and forced or compulsory labour (article 11), and arbitrary or unlawful interference with privacy or attacks on honour and reputation (article 14). Further, the Convention entitles migrants "to effective protection by the State against violence, physical injury, threats and intimidation, whether by public officials or by private individuals, groups or institutions" (article 16).

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14. For international instruments on human rights, see [www.ohchr.org/english/law/index.htm](http://www.ohchr.org/english/law/index.htm)

13. Article 2 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, article 2.1 of the ICCPR, article 2.2 of the ICESCR.

16. See [www.ohchr.org/english/law/index.htm](http://www.ohchr.org/english/law/index.htm)

Many of the provisions of the **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (1979)** are of particular importance to migrant women: the elimination of sex role stereotyping (article 5); suppression of traffic in women and of exploitation or prostitution of women (article 6); and provisions concerning education, employment and health (articles 10, 11 and 12).

Article 14 of CEDAW is unique in that it addresses the particular situation of rural women, requiring States to eliminate discrimination against that particular group of women.

In addition to the United Nations conventions, there are a number of International Labour Organization (ILO) conventions for the protection of the rights of migrants.<sup>16</sup>

The **Migration for Employment Convention (No. 97) (1949)**, requires States to provide free and accurate information to migrants (article 2); to prevent misleading propaganda (article 3); to facilitate the departure, journey and reception of migrants (article 4); to prevent discrimination against migrants (article 6); and to permit remittances (article 9).

The **Migrations in Abusive Conditions and the Promotion of Equality of Opportunity and Treatment of Migrant Workers Convention (No. 143) (1975)** requires States to respect the human rights of migrants (article 1), to investigate, monitor and suppress trafficking and smuggling of migrants (articles 2, 3, 5 and 6) and to provide equal opportunity and treatment in the areas of employment, social security, unions, and cultural rights (article 10).

**Regional Instruments in Africa**<sup>17</sup>  
The African Union's African Charter on Human and People's Rights (1981) ensures basic human rights for all. Further, the

Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (2003) calls for the elimination of discrimination (article 2) and harmful practices against women (article 5). The Protocol also grants women a series of economic and social rights (article 13). This is relevant to women who migrate for economic reasons, as it stipulates the right to equal employment opportunities and to equal pay and equal benefits.

### **National Instruments**

The **Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (1996)**<sup>18</sup> guarantees the same rights and freedoms to everyone living within the boundaries of the country. The Bill of Rights of the Constitution (articles 7-39) guarantees rights and freedoms to all "persons" in the country. This applies to EVERYBODY who lives within its borders.

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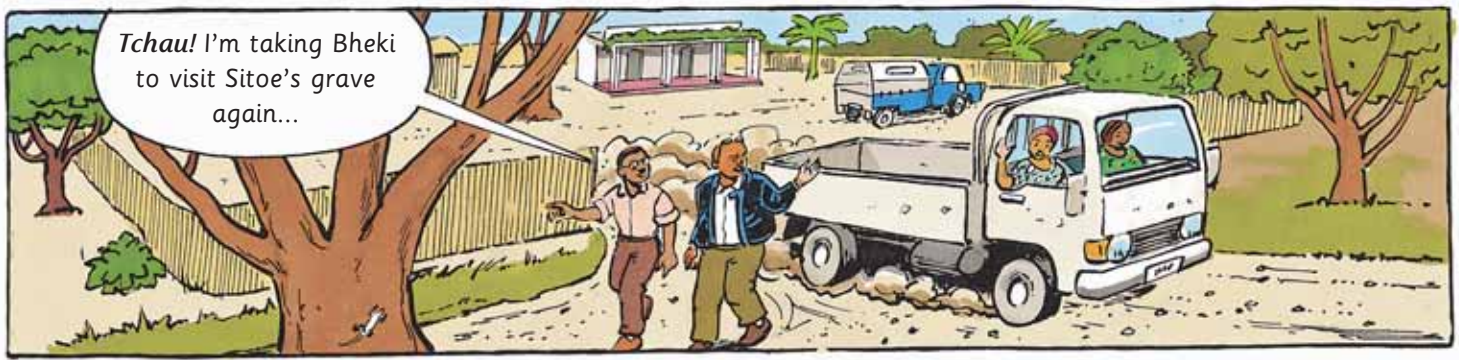
16. For all ILO conventions, see [www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/convdisp1.htm](http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/convdisp1.htm)

17. For regional instruments in Africa, see [www.africa-union.org](http://www.africa-union.org)

18. [www.info.gov.za/documents/constitution/](http://www.info.gov.za/documents/constitution/)

# “We Should be United...”





Tchau! I'm taking Bheki to visit Siteo's grave again...

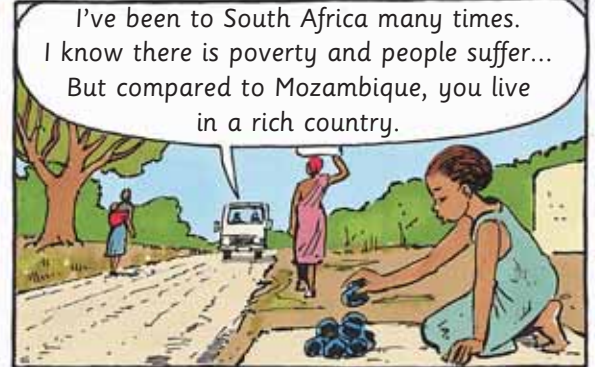


... about my business... and how I started?

Yes... and why you stopped doing business in South Africa.



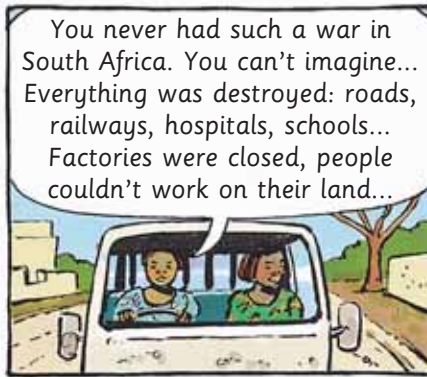
Okay... but you might not like what you hear!



I've been to South Africa many times. I know there is poverty and people suffer... But compared to Mozambique, you live in a rich country.



After Independence in '75 we had a civil war from '77 to '92...



You never had such a war in South Africa. You can't imagine... Everything was destroyed: roads, railways, hospitals, schools... Factories were closed, people couldn't work on their land...



These past 10 years or so, things are changing... slowly getting better. But we had to re-build everything...



Many people are without work. They are desperate... So desperate they leave their homes to go to South Africa to look for work...

So desperate they pay the bribes demanded by the police and customs officials...

So desperate they risk being arrested and deported...

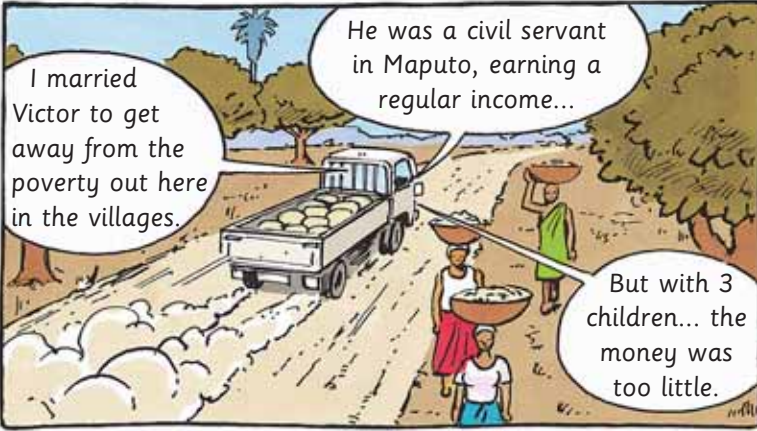
So desperate they will suffer the insults of ordinary South Africans...

Is this what happened to you?



Meanwhile Victor and Bheki are at the cemetery...

Tell me, old friend, what is it you want me to do?



I married Victor to get away from the poverty out here in the villages.

He was a civil servant in Maputo, earning a regular income...

But with 3 children... the money was too little.



I want all my children to study and help to rebuild Mozambique.



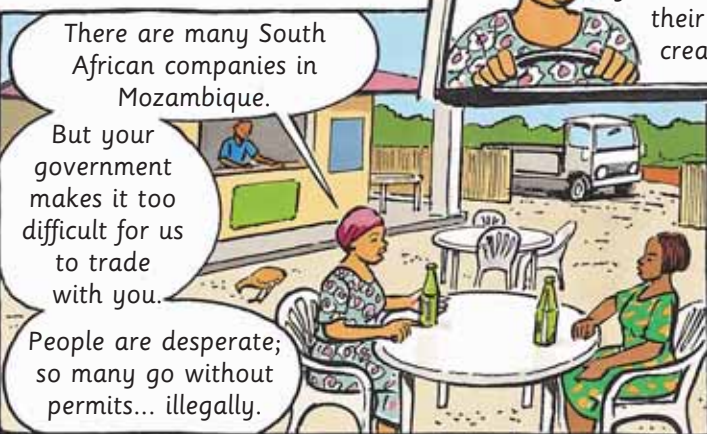
In '95, I joined a women's savings group, and when it was my turn I invested the money in goods to trade in South Africa...



We always try to sell our goods as quickly as possible...



... so we can buy other goods to sell back in Mozambique.



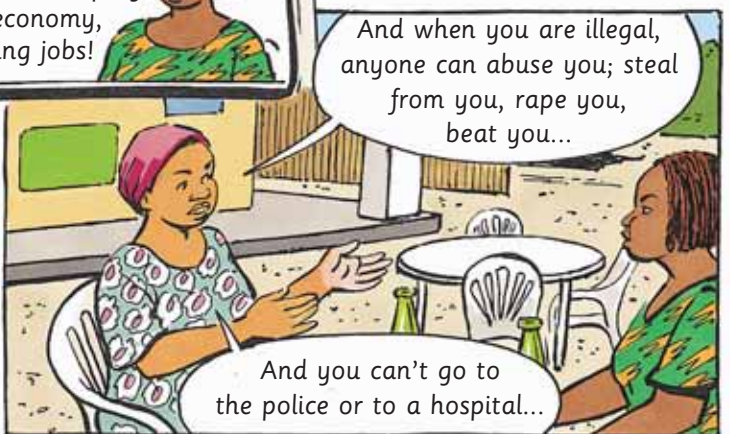
There are many South African companies in Mozambique.

But your government makes it too difficult for us to trade with you.

People are desperate; so many go without permits... illegally.



South Africans tell us we are taking their jobs. They don't realise that by buying South African goods we are helping their economy, creating jobs!



And when you are illegal, anyone can abuse you; steal from you, rape you, beat you...

And you can't go to the police or to a hospital...

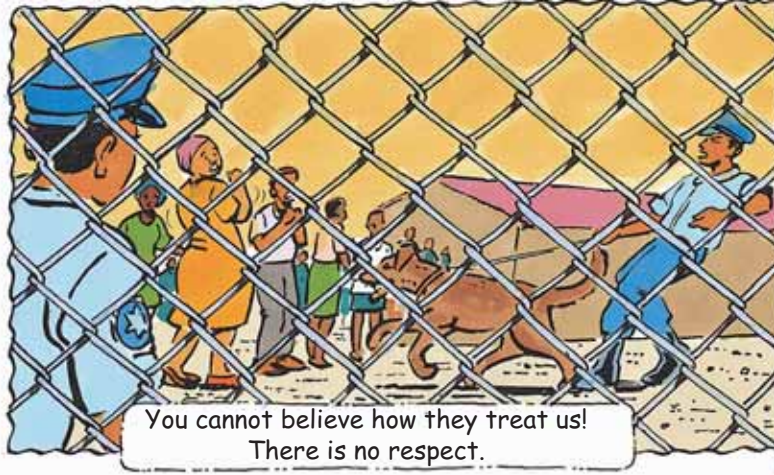


Meanwhile...

There are many children here without parents...

It's the same in South Africa. Last year, Lindi's sister passed away with AIDS. Now we're taking care of her children.

In 2002 I was robbed in Johannesburg... money, passport, papers, all gone! I was arrested and sent to the Lindela detention centre.



I was lucky. A friend came with money and bought me out.



You cannot believe how they treat us! There is no respect.



After that experience I was scared to go back, but I did. It was my business...

Then when José returned... I was so angry! I swore never to go to South Africa again!

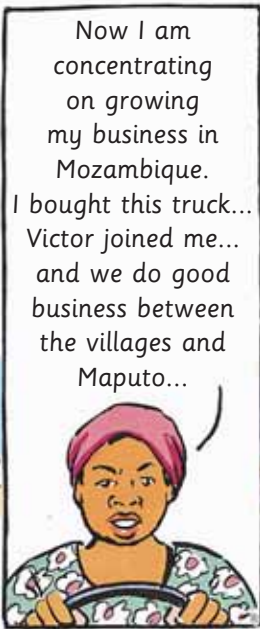


You know, I can understand corruption by officials; it exists everywhere.



What I cannot understand or accept is the way South Africans treat people from other African countries as inferior!

I am so sorry, Maria.



Now I am concentrating on growing my business in Mozambique. I bought this truck... Victor joined me... and we do good business between the villages and Maputo...



I have invested in a small café, *uma barraca*, in Maputo... My next project is to open a hair salon.



This past year I have also become more involved in our Informal Traders Association, to help other women develop their businesses.



Many South Africans think we want to live in their country. That may be true for some, but every trader I know dreams of establishing a business at home.



Meanwhile...

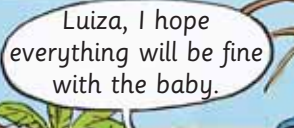
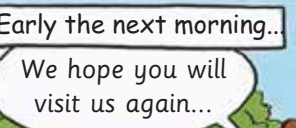
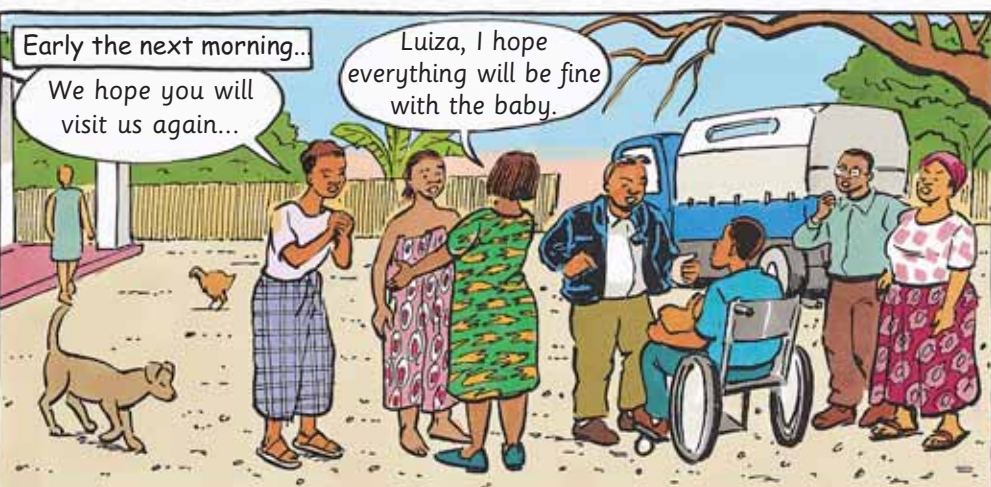
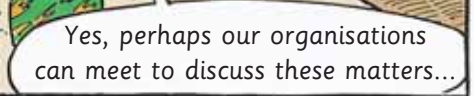
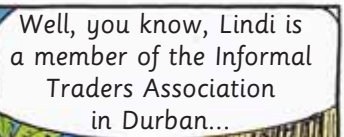
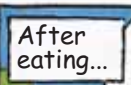
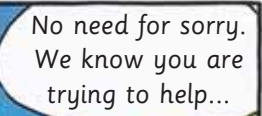
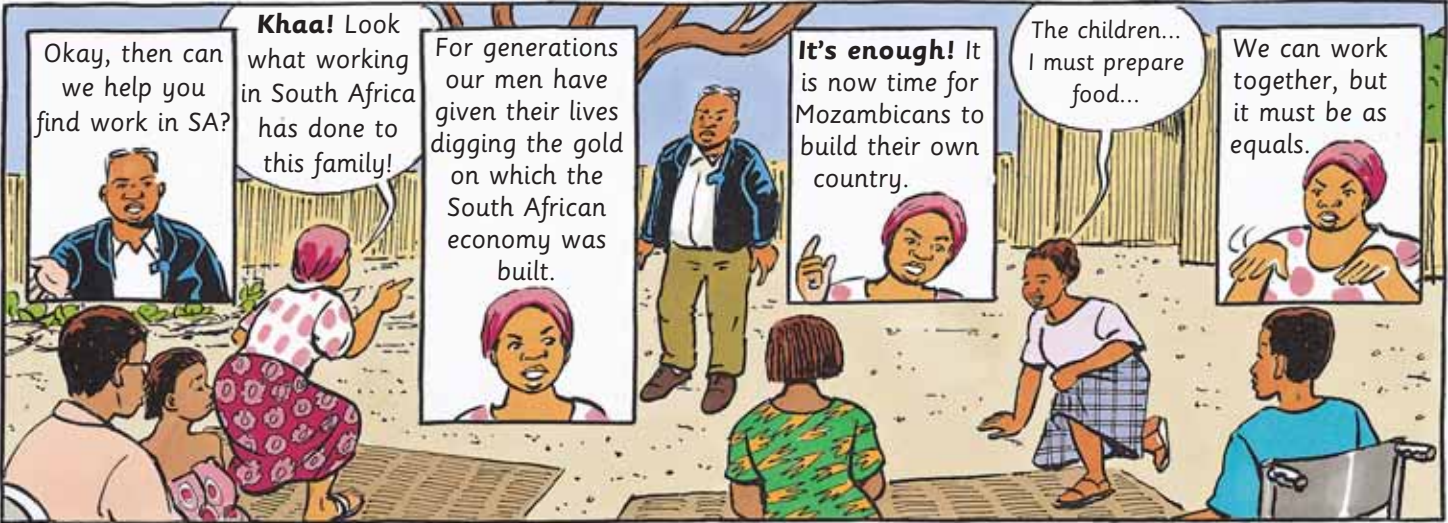
Your idea about those AIDS drugs is good! I don't think we have them in Mozambique.



And carvings to sell to the tourists in Durban? José can make some nice giraffes!

Also a very good idea. I will support you, my friend.



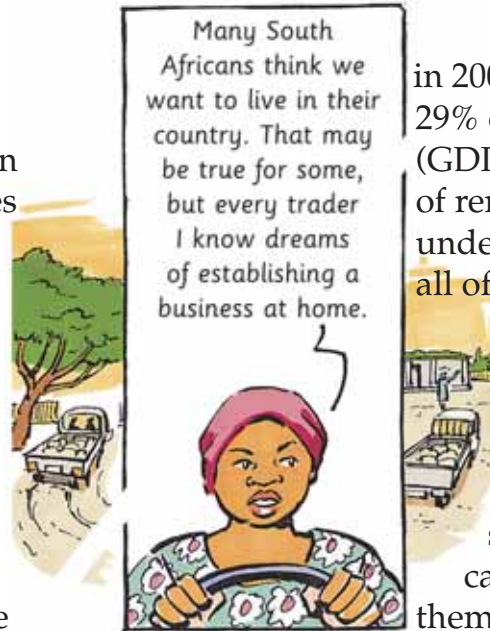


Father had no bitterness... When we spoke about SA, he would say, *"We should be united; we all have the same mother and the same father."*



# Positive Aspects of Migration

**H**uman history has demonstrated that international migration plays a positive role in societies and helps to forge economic, social and cultural links between peoples and states. However, the misperceptions surrounding foreign migrants in Southern Africa frequently make one overlook the various positive aspects that migration may bring, both for sending (where migrants come from) and receiving communities (where migrants go to work).



in 2002, remittances represented 29% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP)<sup>20</sup> in Lesotho.<sup>21</sup> The level of remittances, however, is often underestimated as they are not all officially transferred via bank channels, and thus recorded in the country's statistics, but are often unofficially or informally sent back via private money courier systems, friends or relatives or carried home by the migrants themselves. Both official and unofficial remittances reinforce household revenues and are frequently used to purchase consumer goods or services.

## Positive aspects of migration for sending communities

In general, economic growth and development in one country in the region are good for the region as a whole. In the long term, economic development may be achieved through backward linkages of migrants to their home countries. This can be achieved through remittances and transfers of knowledge and technology.

## Remittances

Most labour migrants send money ("remittances") back home. In some countries, these remittances represent a major source of income, often making substantial contributions to the economy as a whole. The money sent home by migrants enables foreign goods to be imported and national production to be strengthened. For example, according to the World Bank,



## Knowledge transfer and cooperation promotion

The return of migrants who have acquired new skills and knowledge abroad can be positive for the economic development of a country. Even in cases when migrants do not return home, they can still contribute to the development of their home countries by promoting cooperation (between universities, technological research centres and business associations), or engaging in a variety of transnational practices, such as development aid, investment, cultural exchange, and political advocacy.

## Positive aspects of migration for receiving communities

### Contributions to economic growth and development

It can be argued that migrants fill a "gap" in an economy. By filling in labour shortages

20. GDP is the value of all goods and services produced within a country, and is used as a measure of the economy's strength.

21. Ratha, Dilip. "Workers' Remittances: An Important and Stable Source of Development Finance." October 2003. [www1.worldbank.org/prem/prmpo/povertyday/docs/2003/ratha.pdf](http://www1.worldbank.org/prem/prmpo/povertyday/docs/2003/ratha.pdf)

and/or providing additional manpower (skilled or unskilled), migration contributes to economic growth and development. This has been and still is, to a certain extent, true in the mining and commercial agriculture sectors of South Africa, whose production is supported by the large number of foreign, mainly unskilled, labour.

Further, migrants may bring unique expertise and skills, which may be absent in countries of destination. An example is the case of West African clothing designers who, with their expertise in embroidery, have established businesses in Johannesburg's inner city.<sup>22</sup>

Lastly, migrants may establish new businesses with capital brought in from outside or from personal savings. They can also expand the business using their international networks and contacts, such as the Chinese or Indian diaspora networks. These activities expand employment opportunities and boost the economy of the host country.



### Cultural diversity

Migrants may bring different cultures and traditions, thereby promoting diversity to a community and facilitating understanding and tolerance of differences among people of various backgrounds. They may also bring in highly desirable skills sought after by, for instance, the entertainment

and sports professions, diversifying and strengthening these sectors in the host country.



### Positive aspects of migration for the Southern African region

#### Expansion of trade

Liberalisation and expansion of trade among member states is one of the main objectives of SADC, as increased trade fosters economic development in general. As mentioned above, migrants may stimulate trade between their countries of origin and the host country through established networks. Also, at the micro-level, informal traders may facilitate trade in the region. For instance, it has been documented that informal traders not only bring in goods to sell in South Africa but also buy goods to take back to their places of origin.

Father had no bitterness... When we spoke about SA, he would say,  
*"We should be united;  
 we all have the same mother  
 and the same father."*



22. "The Threads that Bind" by Nawaal Deane, Mail&Guardian, 15 February 2004.

# Partner Organisations



## Sida

The Swedish  
International  
Development

Cooperation Agency (SIDA) is

a government agency of Sweden, and is responsible for Sweden's contributions to international development cooperation. SIDA is funding IOM's Partnership on HIV/AIDS and Mobile Populations in Southern Africa (PHAMSA). *For more information:* [www.sida.org](http://www.sida.org)

*The Southern African  
Migration Project (SAMP)*

is a multi-faceted research, policy and training programme designed to facilitate the formulation and implementation of new initiatives on cross-border population migration in the region. The Project, which began in May of 1996, is funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID). *For more information:* [www.queensu.ca/samp/](http://www.queensu.ca/samp/)



*TEBA Development* was established by TEBA Limited, a service organisation responsible for the



recruitment of mineworkers for the South African mine industry. TEBA Development is a not-for-profit Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) whose main aim is to facilitate development in the rural communities that have provided labour to the mining industry for decades.

TEBA Development implements rural development programmes in the following areas: Agriculture, School Classroom Building, HIV/AIDS Home Based Care, Water and Sanitation Provision, Skills Development and Job Creation, and Social and Labour Plan Support. *For more information:* [www.teba.co.za/tebadev](http://www.teba.co.za/tebadev)

## Acknowledgements

The comic stories presented in this publication are the result of extensive research, consultation, participatory story development, and in-depth review. We wish to thank individuals and organizations who shared their experiences and expertise.

David Cooper, Tumi Malepe, Richard Motlhakane and Caroline O'Reilly of TEBA Development (South Africa). José Carimo and Ramadane Sumara of TEBA Limited (Mozambique). José Cumbe, Nelita Manjate, Regina Manave, Daniel Mondlane, Mariana Monjane and José Nhampimbe of TEBA Development's Xai-Xai Home Based Care Programme.

Fazel Randera of the Chamber of Mines. Dave Barnes of Anglo Gold.

FAC Rodriguez of the Spinal Unit at the Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital.

Jessie Wanyeki Forsyth of CUSO-Mozambique Linkage Program.

Bernardo Luís, Christina Luís, Ana Matilde Macúacúa, Cacilda Alberto Mulungo, José Ubisse and Domingos Zimba of ASSOTSI (Associação dos Operadores e Trabalhadores do Sector Informal).

Custodio Cuna of the Mozambique Labour Department in Nelspruit.

Chris Williams and Thomas Ngwenya of TRAC Mpumalanga. Mary Nkosi of the Cairn Lemon Project. Tara Polzer of the Forced Migration Studies Programme of the University of the

Witwatersrand. Joe Shivambu of the Nkuzi Development Association. Justin Arenstein and Riot Hlatshwayo of African Eye. Martin Berlain of Primkop Farm.

Sally Peberdy of the Southern African Migration Project, Victor Sala of the Escola Nacional de Artes Visuais, Caroline Skinner of the University of KwaZulu/Natal, and Andre Croucamp.

Reiko Matsuyama, Peter Mudungwe, Barbara Rijks and Liselott Verduijn of IOM, Pretoria.

And especially, the Mozambican mineworkers, farmworkers and informal traders who graciously shared their stories.