United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa

National Report Validation Workshop

Assessment on Economic Empowerment of Returnee Migrant Women

Joint AUC/ECA Initiative: International Migration in Africa

Shaping a Positive Narrative and Removing Barriers to Mobility

Date: October 22-23, 2024

Location: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Venue: UNECA, Conference Room 3

1. Background

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the African Union Commission (AUC) are collaborating on the project titled "International Migration in Africa: Shaping a Positive Narrative and Removing Barriers to Mobility." This initiative is focused on promoting economic empowerment among returnee migrant women, particularly domestic workers, in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda. It seeks to explore essential themes related to women's economic empowerment and enhance their participation in various economic activities.

The global landscape of migration has evolved significantly, with over 1 billion individuals currently on the move since the Second World War. Among these, approximately 281 million are international migrants while 750 million are domestic migrants. This dynamic phenomenon offers both opportunities and challenges for both origin and destination countries, revealing the need for a nuanced understanding of the realities faced by migrants. Notably, the economic empowerment of migrant women, who often face compounded vulnerabilities, has emerged as a critical area of focus.

Migrant women often find themselves in low-paying, informal, and precarious roles, exposing them to economic exploitation and rights violations. Addressing these vulnerabilities is not only vital for the wellness of the migrants but also for the socioeconomic development of their home communities upon their return. Hence, targeted interventions to support their economic activities and aspirations are necessary.

In recognition of these dynamics, the project "International Migration in Africa: Shaping a Positive Narrative and Removing Barriers to Mobility" is pivotal in addressing migration-related challenges across Africa. This workshop aims to validate the findings from assessments conducted by UNECA in Ethiopia, outlining strategies that promote the economic

empowerment of returnee migrant women and facilitate their successful reintegration into local economies.

The Report Validation Workshop represents a vital opportunity for stakeholder engagement and collaboration focused on the economic empowerment of returnee migrant women, particularly domestic workers. By validating the country assessment report, the workshop will guide the strategic direction of the AUC/ECA initiatives aimed at enhancing the livelihoods of these women while simultaneously establishing a positive narrative around migration in Africa. Your participation is essential to ensuring the success and impact of the workshop's outcomes. This concept note serves to invite stakeholders to join in this important dialogue, ultimately aimed at enhancing the economic empowerment of migrant women and reinforcing community resilience across the African region.

2. Purpose

The primary aims of the workshop are:

- To validate country assessment reports concerning the economic empowerment of migrant women.
- To gather insights from key stakeholders on enhancing women's economic empowerment.
- To share best practices and emerging trends related to the economic empowerment of returnee migrant women.
- To foster stakeholder collaboration, ensuring consensus on the findings and fostering ownership of the recommendations.

3. Objectives

The specific objectives of the workshop include:

- To review and provide input on the draft country assessment reports.
- To collect feedback that deepens the understanding of women’s economic empowerment.
- To discuss the draft Plan of Action aimed at the economic empowerment of migrant women in preparation for the 4th Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Migration, Refugees, and Internally Displaced Persons.

4. Expected Outcomes

The workshop is anticipated to yield the following outcomes:

- A validated country assessment report, incorporating inputs from diverse stakeholders.
- A Comprehensive Plan of Action outlining strategies for the economic empowerment of returnee migrant women.
- An enhanced understanding of best practices and emerging issues regarding the economic reintegration of these women.

5. Participation of Stakeholders

- Representatives from key government departments related to migration.
- Gender ministries.

- Relevant civil society organizations, NGOs, and UN agencies focused on migration and women's empowerment.
- Experts and practitioners in labor migration, economic empowerment, and social protection.

6. Workshop Format

- Presentations, discussions, and validation of reports.
- Group discussions for targeted feedback on specific reports and recommendations.

7. Documentation: Key documents to be circulated prior to the workshop include:

- Draft Assessment Report

8. Contacts

For additional information regarding the workshop organization, please contact:

Ms. Eden Teklay Hailu

Migration Projects Coordinator

Email: eden.hailu@un.org