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IOM-UNAIDS Reports
on Mobile Populations and HIV/AIDS

MOBILE POPULATIONS and HIV/AIDS

in the SOUTHERN AFRICAN REGION

Deskreview and Bibliography on HIV/AIDS and Mobile Populations



Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

UNAIDS

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IOM International Organization for Migration

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IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental body, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to: assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

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ISSN 1728-0788

Copublished by the International Organization for Migration and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.

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Cover illustration: Vanessa Cuisinier

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The key factors linking HIV/AIDS and population mobility throughout the world, such as poverty, exploitation, separation from families and partners and from the socio-cultural norms that guide social conduct in stable communities, are particularly important in Southern Africa, where social and economic imbalances and political instability drive hundreds of thousands of people to migrate each year.

This joint IOM-UNAIDS review, supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, is grounded in a bibliography of some 400 items. The review outlines HIV/AIDS vulnerability factors, policies and programmes across eight Southern African countries concerning:

- military personnel,
- transport, mine, construction and agricultural workers,
- informal traders,
- domestic workers,
- refugees and IDPs,

and formulates recommendations for each group – be they in source, transit or destination communities, or on return – and lays out an agenda for advocacy.

This review is of particular value in that it shows the striking similarity of vulnerability factors across various social groups. As such, it is expected to find an interested readership far beyond the Southern African region, especially among policy makers and those who advise them, programme planners, employers, unions, NGOs and relevant associations and organizations, as well as the international donor community and researchers.