Zimbabwe is a sending, receiving and transit country. Statistics recorded throughout 2019 point to the fact that most of the migrants leave the country for affluent neighbouring countries and overseas to seek better standards of life, employment opportunities and affordable basic services.

This report summarises the migration movements at the Southern crossing points to South Africa at Beitbridge and Eastern Crossing points to Mozambique in Manicaland, including irregular movements at other official crossing points.

**MOVEMENTS OBSERVED IN 2019**

**BEITBRIDGE CROSSING POINTS**

In 2019, a total of 5,368,783 movements were recorded at Beitbridge Border Post comprising 2,790,051 entries and 2,578,732 exits.

Some of the major drivers for having more entries than exits in light of the economic meltdown in Zimbabwe during the year in review can be attributed to:

- Challenges faced in applying for a new passport or renewing an expired passport. Most immigrants would come back to Zimbabwe towards the expiration of their passports intending to renew or reapply for new passports, only to realise that the process takes longer than usual and that the application fees were above the reach of the ordinary citizen. This situation led vulnerable immigrants to consider leaving the country illegally and hence no record of their exit will be recorded.

- Cases where migrants would have overstayed in host countries past their permissible days, forcing them to return to Zimbabwe and when they want to go back to South Africa the only way will be through illegal points where there is no record made of the exits.

- Stringent control measures imposed by the South Africa Government, particularly on the less educated and unskilled, has led to migrants risking crossing via illegal routes. These migrants constitute a large number of unrecorded exits.

- The figures of entries ballooned in December 2019 (mid-December) justifying travel of migrants working in South Africa to their homes for the festive season. Considering that the Zimbabwe Immigration Movement Control System does not disaggregate travellers by nationality, most of the travellers were observed to be of different nationalities destined for Zimbabwe or in transit to other countries to the north of Zimbabwe for holidays. Fig 2 below depicts the migration flows from June to December 2019. An increase in the number of exits is anticipated in January since most migrants employed in South Africa will be returning to work.

Some of the major drivers for having more entries than exits in light of the economic meltdown in Zimbabwe during the year in review can be attributed to:

**MANICALAND CROSSING POINTS**

In Manicaland Migration Flow is mostly to and from Mozambique through Forbes Border Post in Mutare, Mt Selinda in Chipinge and Cashel in Chimanimani. Most of the migrants engage in circulatory cross-border trading.

An average of 2,500 migrants were cleared to pass through the crossing points on a daily basis in 2019.

About 78 per cent of the travellers were observed as Zimbabwean traders who are usually day-trippers, who source cheaper and affordable basic commodities for resale or their own consumption from Mozambique, partly due to high inflation in Zimbabwe.
A total of 923,897 movements were recorded at the 3 crossing points in Manicaland.

- 53% Entries
- 47% Exits

Fig 3: Summary of movements in Manicaland

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Post</th>
<th>Entries</th>
<th>Exits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Forbes Border Post</td>
<td>475,011</td>
<td>424,849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt Selinda Post</td>
<td>9,513</td>
<td>9,154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cashel Post</td>
<td>2,473</td>
<td>2,897</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- About 22% of the observed migrants on the move were foreigners from Mozambique, China and India.

**IRREGULAR MIGRATION**

Several cases of irregular movements were recorded in 2019 ranging from irregular entry, irregular residence, irregular employment and overstaying.

A total of 12,268 migrants were forcibly returned from South Africa, Zambia, Mozambique, Malawi and Botswana, with most of the migrants being returned from South Africa.

- Male 10,825 (89%)
- Female 1,372 (11%)

The top 10 nationalities for the deportees were: Malawi (30%), Mozambique (20%), Zambia (17%), DRC (8%), South Africa (6%), Tanzania (3%), Burundi (3%), Botswana (3%), Uganda (3%) and Chinese (1%).

**FOREIGN STUDENTS**

A total of 1,295 recognised foreign students were studying in Zimbabwe during 2019. The largest number of foreign students were of British Nationality (19%) followed by South Africa (17%), Namibia (14%), USA (11%), South Sudan (8%), Equatorial Guinea (7%), Malawi and Zambia (5%) each, DRC and Mozambique (4%) each and Other Nationalities (6%).

**TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT PERMITS (TEP)**

A total of 6,211 Immigrants were issued with Temporary Employment Permits comprising Chinese nationals (74.6%), Indians (9.8%), RSA (6.3%), British (2.2%), Pakistan and Angolans (1.5%) each, Zambians (1.3%), Tanzanians (0.4%), Sri Lankans (0.3%) each and Other Nationalities (2%).

**INVESTOR RESIDENCE PERMITS**

A total of 587 Investor Residents Permits were issued to Chinese Nationals (62.2%), Indians (17.4%), RSA (7.7%), British (6.0%), Pakistani (3.1%) and Other Nationals (3.7%).