

From Migrant Surveys to Migrants' Stories:

Reflections on Research
On and In
Southern Africa

SAMP



Southern African Migration Project

- Started in 1996
- Funded originally by CIDA, later by UK DfID (and others)
- Network of partners in eight countries
- Research, training, policy components
- Research on changing cross-border flows within the region post-apartheid

Major SAMP Surveys, 1996-2006

- Migrants' attitudes and perceptions
- South Africans' attitudes towards (im)migrants
- Migration and Remittances (MARS)
- Migration and Poverty (MAPS)
- Large-scale, nationally representative surveys of 1000+ households in each country

The Joys of SAMP

Advantages of multi-partner approach:

- Multi-national networking and partnerships
- Regional scale and scope
- Interdisciplinarity

Advantages of a large-scale, quantitative approach:

- Representative sampling
- Cross-country comparability
- Evidence base for policy-makers

Some Limitations

- Multi-partner, multi-national network approach can be unwieldy and expensive
- Team-designed survey instruments can be lengthy and “blunt”
- Quantitative, survey-based approach limits scope for qualitative, “thick description”
- Regional comparability rather than in-depth, local case studies

My Role in SAMP

Gender advisor and analyst:

- Gender mainstreaming of the project
- Gender input into research planning, including survey and sampling design
- Gender analysis of survey findings
- Gender analysis of policy and legislation (e.g. South Africa's 2002 Immigration Act)

How I spent my 2007-8 sabbatical

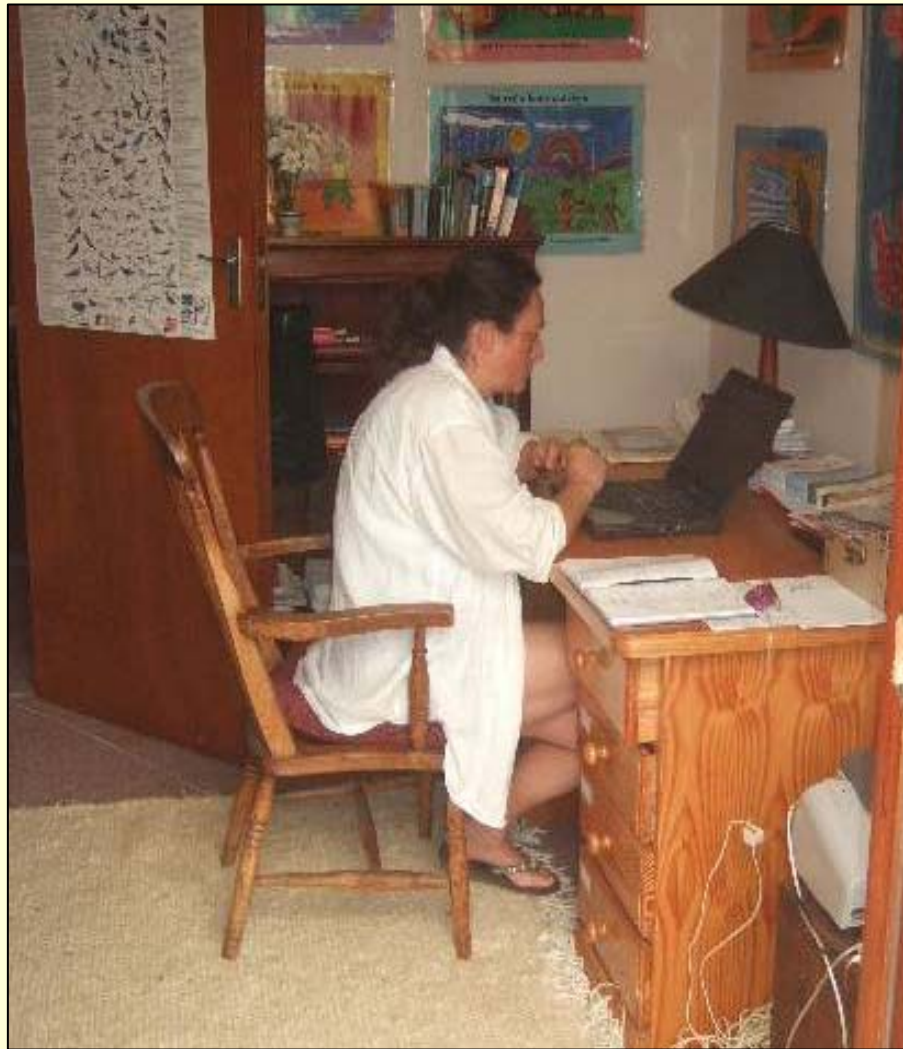
- Doing gender analysis of MARS survey results
- Writing SAMP Policy Series monograph *Gender, Migration and Remittances in Southern Africa* (forthcoming)
- Other projects (IDRC Ecohealth and CIDA Urban Food Security)
- “Accidental research” on migration

Main gender findings from MARS

- Increase in female migration, especially among younger women
- High proportions of widows, abandoned and single women among female migrants
- Male and female migrants' remittances vital in meeting basic household needs
- Female-migrant sending households poorer than male-migrant sending households
- Particular importance of remittances for female-headed households

Table 14: Average Annual Remittances Received from Male and Female Migrants

		Male Migrants	Female Migrants
Lesotho	Mean	R11,162.46	R4,825.32
	Median	R9,600.00	R3,600.00
Mozambique	Mean	R2,929.78	R452.53
	Median	R2,011.25	R301.69
Swaziland	Mean	R4,714.12	R5,351.85
	Median	R2,400.00	R1,800.00
Zimbabwe	Mean	R2,947.81	R2,044.71
	Median	R1,092.99	R1,092.99







LOOKING FOR A JOB AS A HOUSEKEEPER,
GARDENER OR ANY GENERAL JOB.
NAME: RICHARD
SEX: MALE
NATIONALITY: MALAWIAN
CALL ME DN: 0785748830 15/9/07

I AM LOOKING FOR A JOB AS A GARDENER, PAINTING, 24/10/07
HOUSE-KEEPING AND FISHING:
NAME : JAMES
NATIONALITY : MALAWIAN
REFERENCE : AVAILABLE
CONTACT : 0788474827

I am a Malawian boy aged
21 I am looking for job
as follows: Garden boy, paving
painting, plastering &
Screaming, with experience
please call ANAME at
0839280616

An amalanian lady looking for
domestic work, full time or part time
contact no 0734140309
Tendai Mbanwa.

Looking for employment

My name is James male Malawian would like to look for the following jobs
Painting, Gardening, Building and Paving. Contact me on the following
numbers: 078 847 2443 / 072 278 7654

Sample of slips dropped into
my mailbox,
Sept 2007 – March 2008

False Bay Echo
classified ads
November 1, 2007

615
Employment Wanted *

A MALAWIAN lady seek domestic job, has refs, exp. 072 547 3983

A ZIM char, good refs. Grace 073 6634168.

A ZIM domestic exp. Ph Georgia 0722506588

A ZIM handyman, refs. Evans 076 193 0489

A ZIM receptionist Melody 073 494 4549

AVAIL carer/housekeeper 073 221 7939

Babysitter/ h/keeper avail 3 weeks refs Beauty 073 941 0954

CHAR 2 day, good exp. Pamela 073 4061576

CHAR 3 day, good refs. Olga 078 142 5589

CHAR 3 days 14 yrs exp. refs 073 903 6388

Char 3 days refs Gladys 073 791 7093

CHAR 5 day gd ref Weziwe 079 070 3132

CHAR everyday refs Sylvia 078 263 9744

Char good ref Mon or Sat 0799127462

CHAR- seeks 2 days per wk, gd refs. Very honest and reliable. Ph 083 445 5025

EVERYDAY gd exp Nancy 083 945 1265

EXCEL char Wed/Fri, Sat contactable ref. Lucy 073 855 7423

EXP gardener Manie 078 847 4003

GARDNER/ h/keeper seek job 073 353 8235

MALAWIAN childminder/char. 076 195 0701

MALAWIAN domestic Elsie 083 244 8612

MALAWIAN gardener & h/keeper gd refs. Holland 0765493671

MALAWIAN gardener & h/keeper, painter James 078 847 4827

Malawian gardener & h/keeper gd exp Lele-ni 0781262409

Malawian gardener & h/keeper gd refs Dickens 0837307514

MALAWIAN h/keeper gardener with work permit Good refs 073 732 9243

MALAWIAN houseboy, carpentry, joinery & gardener gd refs Nelson 0732387988

MALAWIAN salesman, gardener & h/keeper. Hudson 079 6522737

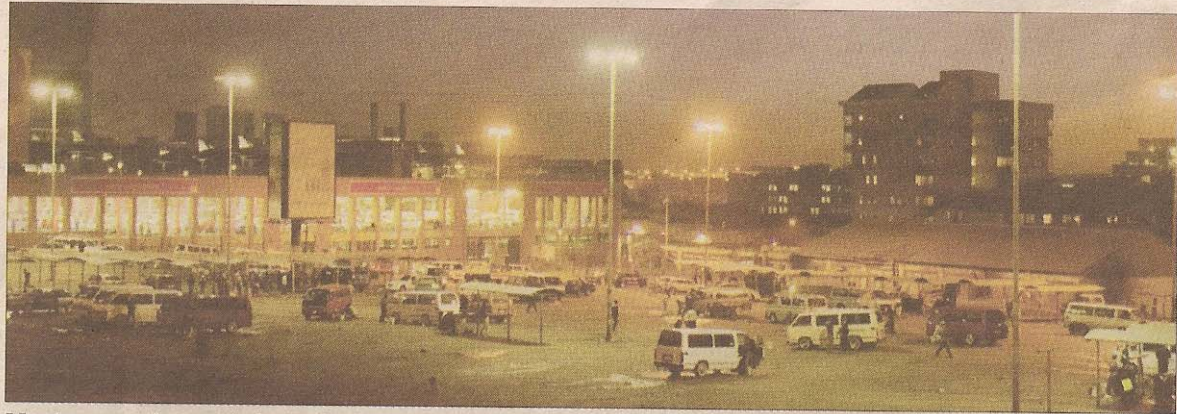
Malawian lady char MonWedFriGdref-Maggie 0785638240

ZIM char / everyday, ref. Ellen 083 484 6457

ZIM char/childminder, refs. 079 215 8965

620

Mail&Guardian October 19 to 25 2007



Most money is sent informally using taxi and bus drivers, traders and friends. Photograph: Paul Botes

Zim's loss, SA's gain

Skilled workers flock across the border to earn a living and support their families back home, write **Jocelyn Newmarch** and **Percy Zvomuya**

The Accidental Researcher

- Personal encounters with African migrants
- “Data” flowing unsolicited into my mailbox
- “Employment wanted” ads in local papers
- Media coverage of migration issues
- Border police vans on the highway



SCHOLAR

EXERCISE BOOK

Name: _____
Subject: _____
School: _____ GRADE: _____

48

FEINT & MARGIN

A5

I am a 26 year old lady and I came from Zimbabwe. I came here to South Africa some two months ago.

I had to leave Zimbabwe because of the economic hardships that I was facing whilst there in Zimbabwe. I was just in the process of enjoying my career there as a teacher but the money I was earning after a month was only equivalent to a 100rand so I couldn't budget the money and it wasn't enough to buy basic food stuff for only a week for me and my two year old daughter. So I had to come here for a better living, where my husband was working since february 2005.

“I decided to leave my home country because teachers were constantly harassed by the CIO officers deployed in schools to spy on the teachers. Anonymous calls were received of threats to stop politically minded teachers.... When we had a strike in May-June some teachers were beaten. And more threats that all schools would be visited by the military police.... I decided it was high time to leave.”

(40-year-old Zimbabwean woman)

“We live on the border with Ethiopia and were often under attacks from the Ethiopians.... My father was already here in South. So for fear of us being made to join the fighters my father asked me and my 2 brothers to join him.”

(16-year-old Somalian male)

“Currently where I’m staying now, my South African neighbours do not like me at all. Sometimes when I greet them they ignore or they answer in a very low voice. Generally some of the South African people do not enjoy seeing us in their country and I have a feeling that they do not like us, especially most South African women.”

(26-year-old Zimbabwean woman)

“Some South Africans treat us good but others are radical. They call us all sorts of names like “makwerekwere”. They accuse us of taking their jobs and women.”

(27-year-old Zimbabwean male)

“They are very hostile and often attack and rob us. Even in the streets they stop us and ask for money. We are also ridiculed and beaten for no reason. The coloureds and the Xhosas are the problem. They break into our shop and steal our goods.... But others are friendly and compassionate, they even come to warn me if the robbers intend to attack us.”

(16-year-old Somalian male)

“I stay in a house in Woodstock where I pay R80 [about \$10] a week. I share the room with seven other women. Each of these women also pay R80 per week. It’s not comfortable in this house, but there is security, although one or two of the women steal from others.”

(60-year-old Zimbabwean woman,
cross-border trader)

“At the house I stay, there are women from different African countries.... It’s like we are at a boarding school. We love each minute we are together, and miss each other terribly when we go back to our homes. We cross-border traders help each other very much. Sometimes when one fails to sell her stuff well, and finds herself with no money to go back home when her time is up, we all help her. We are a family.”

“Last but not least I will go back home when the Mugabe regime is over. I love my country – Zimbabwe.”

(Zimbabwean male, no age given)

“So I like Malawi better and I will die in Malawi. That is why I am slaving to prepare for a better future with my family.”

(44-year-old Malawian male)

Mail and Guardian online, 20 May 2008



Helping hands: A foreign national, who was severely beaten at the Makause informal settlement in Primrose, receives medical attention following xenophobic attacks on Monday. President Thabo Mbeki on Monday reiterated his call for an immediate end to the attacks, which have left 22 people dead. (Werner Beukes, Sapa)

Wiped out in SA

PEARLIE JOUBERT

CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

Oct 05 2008

A Somali mother and her three children were killed in their shop in Tambo village near Queenstown last week. This was barely a month after they decided to leave a Cape Town refugee camp and reintegrate themselves into the community.

On the advice of government mediators Saida Mohamed and her children, aged 13, 10 and eight, left the Youngsfield refugee camp for what they hoped would be safer residence in the Eastern Cape. Mohamed's remaining family members, still in the Blue Waters refugee camp outside Muizenberg, now expect to be deported to Somalia, a country in the grip of civil war.

(Mail and Guardian newspaper)

Methodological Reflections

- Analytical, practical and personal advantages of employing “mixed methods”
- Advantages to using community insiders as RAs
- Benefits to RAs themselves
- Benefits to respondents?
- My own “insider-outsider” status
- Allowing for serendipity and spontaneity
- “Rapid-response” research

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