

THE MIGRATION PROJECT GLOSSARY

IRREGULAR/ UNAUTHORISED MIGRANTS

This can be used to replace “illegal immigrants”. The phrase “illegal immigrants” basically criminalizes migrants on the face of it. Such a casual criminalization of persons who have not been through a court process to prove their innocence breeds resentment among communities.

RESIDENTS/ ABAHLALI

This term needs to be popularized in both Zulu and English. It should be used to refer to persons residing in the same neighborhood, whether local or with an immigration background. Using different identifiers further divides the communities.

OPPORTUNITIES/ AMATHUBA

The term opportunity in South Africa is synonymous with migrants. It has assumed a negative connotation. As migrants are perceived as taking opportunities. However, as part of the project we should introduce the concept of ‘inequality of opportunities’, ‘creating opportunities’ and ‘information asymmetry’.

MIGRATION/ UKUFUDUKA

The movement of a person or people from one country, locality, place of residence, etc. to settle in another

MIGRANT

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) defines a migrant as ‘A person who moves away from their place of usual residence, whether within a country or across an international border, temporarily or permanently, and for a variety of reasons’

FORCED MIGRATION OR DISPLACEMENT

The movement of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict and situations of generalised violence

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPS)

Persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalised violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognised

STATE BORDER INTERNAL MIGRATION

Moving within a state, country or continent

COUNTRY OF DESTINATION

In the migration context, a country that is the destination for a person or a group of persons, irrespective of whether they migrate regularly or irregularly.

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

In the migration context, a country of nationality or of former habitual residence of a person or group of persons who have migrated abroad, irrespective of whether they migrate regularly or irregularly



DISPLACEMENT

The movement of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalised violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters

EXTERNAL MIGRATION

Moving to a different state, country or continent

EMIGRATION

The act of moving from one's country of nationality or usual residence to another country, so that the country of destination effectively becomes his or her new country of usual residence

VULNERABILITY

Within a migration context, vulnerability is the limited capacity to avoid, resist, cope with or recover from harm. This limited capacity is the result of the unique interaction of individual, household, community and structural characteristics and conditions

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND MODERN SLAVERY

The action or practice of illegally transporting people from one country or area to another, typically for the purposes of forced labour or sexual exploitation

LABOUR MIGRATION

The movement of persons from one state to another, or within their own country of residence, for the purpose of employment

ENVIRONMENTAL MIGRATION

Persons or groups of persons who, predominantly for reasons of sudden or progressive changes in the environment that adversely affect their lives or living conditions, are obliged to leave their habitual homes, or choose to do so, either temporarily or permanently, and who move within their country or abroad

IMMIGRANT(S)/ ABANTU BOKIFKA/ ABANTU ABAVELA KWAMANYE AMAZWE

From the perspective of the country of arrival, a migrant is a person who moves into a country other than that of his or her nationality or usual residence, so that the country of destination effectively becomes his or her new country of usual residence

AN EXPATRIATE

An expatriate, or ex-pat, is an individual living and/or working in a country other than his or her country of citizenship, often temporarily and for work reasons. An expatriate can also be an individual who has relinquished citizenship in their home country to become a citizen of another country

MIGRANT WORKER

A person who is to be engaged, is engaged or has been engaged in a remunerated activity in a state of which he or she is not a national



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REFUGEE

A person who, owing to a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it

IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Movement of persons that takes place outside the laws, regulations or international agreements governing the entry into or exit from the State of origin, transit or destination

INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

The protection that is accorded by the international community to individuals or groups who are outside their own country and are unable to return home because their return would infringe upon the principle of non-refoulement, and their country is unable or unwilling to protect them

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

The international legal framework governing migration, deriving from various sources of international law that apply to the movement of persons within or between States and regulate States' competence and obligations, migrants' status, rights and duties, as well as international cooperation

ASYLUM SEEKER

A person who has fled or been forcibly displaced from their home country due to war and other dangerous factors, and enters another country in search of safety. they then apply for asylum in their country of destination

XENOPHOBIA

The dictionary definition of xenophobia is "dislike of or prejudice against people from other countries". This dislike and/or prejudice manifests in name-calling, violent attacks and murders of people from other countries in their host country. It also manifests in policies and regulations that exclude migrants on the basis of them being from other countries.

These terms are suggested with an idea of a building and nurturing a more inclusive and less conflictual society. Most of the current terms used in the migration space have a lot of 'othering' of immigrants by locals. Ironically, immigrants themselves have resorted to self-othering by constant references to themselves as "foreigners" and locals as 'you South Africans'.

*These definitions have been obtained from various online sources, as well as The Migration Project's journalism and CSO training manuals.

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