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Providing Protection for Climate Induced Labour Migrants

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ABSTRACT The African continent is currently witnessing massive labour migrations from within and outside the continent as a result of adverse effects of global warming and climate change. This is a major concern to the governments, role players and stakeholders because climate change is threatening social economic activities, particularly in the agricultural sector, contributing to the vulnerabilities that are now triggering spontaneous migrations to where there are economic opportunities. The problem is that the migrants face different challenges wherever they migrate to, such as discrimination, denial to engage in socio-economic activities such as access to land to farm and engage in other viable economic activities. Another notable problem is that the protection needs of the climate-induced migration are a new phenomenon which is yet to be fully explored and understood. It is against this backdrop that this paper makes a modest contribution to the on-going heated debate on how to assist climate-induced migrants-by ensuring that they live a normal life to wherever they migrate, even though their status is not recognised under existing protective mechanisms for refugees. As part of the solution, the paper suggests that effort to mitigate climate change must be supplemented by adaptation to its consequences in order to improve the resilience of the people and communities, should the catastrophe manifest.