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(Migrant) domestic worker cooperatives in the Republic of South Africa (RSA)

Private and Public Procurement and the Social Economy (PPPSE) Project

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The presentation

1. Background: Domestic work in South Africa.
2. Migrant domestic workers in South Africa.
3. Legal and policy environment for domestic workers and cooperatives.
4. (Migrant) domestic worker cooperatives in RSA.
5. Options for domestic worker cooperatives.



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Background to domestic work(ers)

- History of apartheid still frames the lives of the majority of domestic workers.
- Domestic workers are 5% of the total South African workforce (+-1.2 million people). 96% are women and account for 15% of the total female South African workforce
- Contribution of domestic workers to society and economy remains under recognized.





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Legal and policy environment

RSA has very advanced legal frameworks:

- Ratified Recommendation 189 (2011).
- Domestic workers Basic Conditions of Employment Act among others.
- Minimum wage and social protection compulsory.
- Cooperative development Act.....which at the moment is contradictory to parts of other labour laws.
- Domestic worker Trade Union SADSAWU and community constituencies.

Migrant domestic workers cooperatives in RSA

- Informal groups of domestic workers.
- Domestic workers' cooperatives do exist, but.....
- Migrant worker cooperatives, no formal migrant domestic workers cooperatives





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First steps for RSA

- Improving the knowledge and awareness base: Participatory research ongoing.
- Building on existing Mobilization, representation education. (of both (migrant) domestic workers and ILO constituents & stakeholders.



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Indecent work for migrant domestic workers means a race to the bottom for ALL domestic workers.

Thank you

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