

## **Migration-Related Challenges during the Covid-19 Pandemic in South Africa. A Case of Alexandra Township**

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**Abstract :** Without ignoring migration-related challenges in transit zones and places of origin, this inquiry focuses on arrived international immigrants' exacerbated vulnerability during crises. The aim is to underline longstanding inequalities and demonstrate that crises merely amplify and exacerbate challenges that low-income migrants already face during 'non-crisis' periods. Social protection, as an agenda for reducing vulnerability, poverty, and risk for low-income households, with regard to basic consumption and services, has been foregrounded in the post-apartheid development discourse in South Africa. Evidently, however, the state, through the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA), systemically excludes the majority of non-citizens from state-sponsored social assistance programs - often leaving them heavily dependent on sporadic non-state options and erosive coping mechanisms. In this paper, migration itself should not only be understood as a social protection strategy against poverty and risk but also as a source of vulnerability that often requires social protection. For quasi-ethnographic, it use one migrant destination, Alex Park Township, as a "contact zone" and space of negotiation during the pandemic.

**Keywords :** south-south migration, crises, social protection, Covid-19 pandemic

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