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Managing irregular migration: A comparative analysis of approaches and policies in South Africa-Zimbabwe and USA-Mexico

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the challenges of irregular migration and analyzes the approaches and policies adopted by two distinct geographical regions: South Africa-Zimbabwe and the United States-Mexico. Through a qualitative literature review, this research investigates the historical and contemporary dynamics of irregular migration flows between these regions, focusing on the underlying factors that drive these movements, the socio-economic and political consequences for both sending and receiving countries, and the various strategies employed to manage these flows.

The analysis explores the multifaceted nature of irregular migration, encompassing economic, social, political, and humanitarian dimensions. It examines the effectiveness of different policy approaches, including border control measures, visa regulations, labor migration programs, and refugee protection frameworks. Furthermore, the study investigates the role of international cooperation, regional agreements, and civil society involvement in addressing irregular migration challenges.

By comparing and contrasting the experiences of these two regions, this study aims to identify commonalities and divergences in migration patterns, policy responses, and their respective outcomes. The analysis seeks to contribute to a deeper understanding of the complex challenges associated with irregular migration and inform the development of more effective and humane policies for managing these flows in a globalized and interconnected world.

Keywords: irregular migration, Development, Globalisation, Zimbabwe, South Africa, United States of America, Mexico