

# Impact and Recommendations from the MADE West Africa Programme

Emerging Themes in  
Migration and Development  
in an Era of COVID-19



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## Acronyms

AfCFTA: African Continental Free Trade Area

AU: African Union

COVID-19: Coronavirus disease of 2019

ECOWAS: Economic Community of West African States

EU: European Union

GDP: Gross Domestic Product

GFMD: Global Forum on Migration and Development

IOM: International Organization for Migration

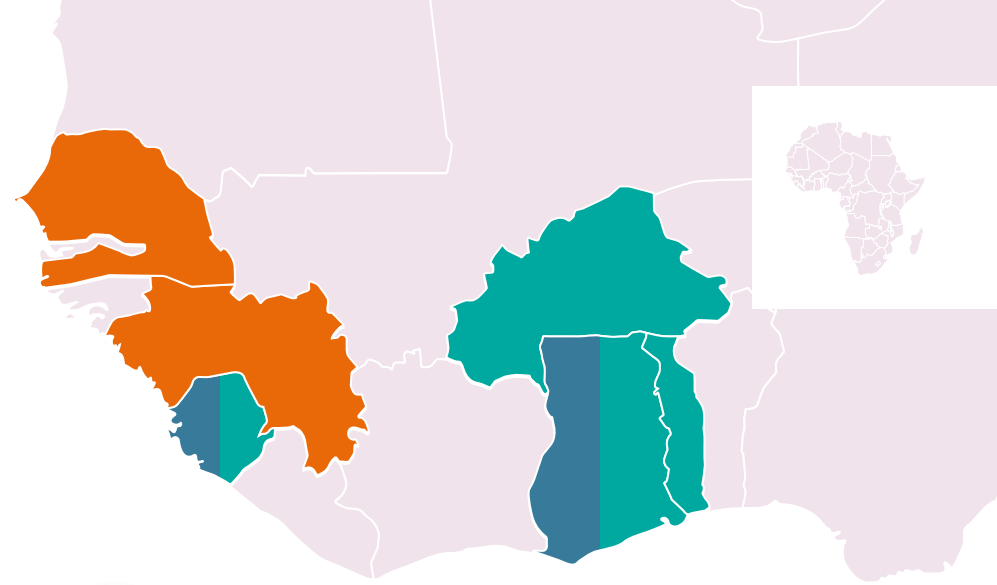
MADE WA: West Africa - Migration and Development, Partnership for Rights-based Governance of Migration and Mobility

SDGs: Sustainable Development Goals

SEEDA: Supporting Entrepreneurs and Enterprise Development in Africa

# Introduction to MADE West Africa

This document is an output of the project 'West Africa - Migration and Development, Partnership for Rights-based Governance of Migration and Mobility' or MADE West Africa, which is funded by the European Commission. MADE West Africa's general objective is to promote good governance of migration and mobility, as well as the protection of the rights of migrants in the ECOWAS region, in order to increase the benefits of migration and mobility on development. This objective is achieved through in-depth work from 2017 to early 2020 in six pilot countries with the following pillars:



## 01

### Ghana, Sierra Leone

Improving the capacity of civil society and national/local State authorities to enhance intra-regional mobility via the implementation of the ECOWAS Free Movement Protocol.

*Implemented by the Centre for Migration Studies (University of Ghana)*



## 02

### Senegal, Guinea

Improving the protection of migrant workers, fair labour recruitment, and promoting civil society's participation in labour migration governance.

*Implemented by ICMC Europe (International Catholic Migration Commission)*



## 03

### Ghana, Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso, Togo

Maximizing the contribution of diaspora to the development of countries of origin by promoting innovative cooperation frameworks between diaspora, development NGOs, national/local authorities and the private sector.

*Implemented by AFFORD (African Foundation for Development) and the FORIM (Forum of International Organizations of Migration Issues)*



# Introduction to the Document

This document highlights lessons learned from the MADE West Africa project **activities** (including research, in-country trainings, multi-stakeholder meetings, **SDG assessments**, and 5 **seed funds**), which can be applied to Migration and Development during and post-COVID-19. Although most of the activities of the MADE West Africa programme were completed just as COVID-19 became a global pandemic, it is clear that the lessons already learned are useful in addressing current and future COVID-19 concerns. However, these recommendations will need to take account of the dramatically changed context of COVID-19 on regional and international migration affecting key areas of MADE WA engagement, particularly domestic, regional and international mobility, migrant health, safety, migrant protection and human trafficking, remittances, diaspora engagement, and circular migration.

It is too early to assess the long-term effects of COVID-19, but it has already disproportionately affected migrants and impacted each of our three key areas. Specifically, the immobility of migrants and trade, loss of jobs, and changing availability of legal migration channels have caused remittances to decrease. COVID-19 has repercussions on movements of diasporas/migrants, prevented or suppressed migration, increased human trafficking, and has caused migrants to be stranded in different parts of the world.

Importantly, COVID-19 has also reinforced that countries and economies depend on migration. The positive contributions of migrants as essential and indispensable workers in health, agriculture and other sectors of the economy have become apparent. It has also shown the value in the ability to return or move to safe locations and family reunification. Indeed human mobility must be at the forefront of COVID-19 recovery efforts, guided by well-governed migration.

## Moving forward

COVID-19 has exasperated existing shortcomings (e.g. lack of social protections, unequal treatment and discrimination, limited legal migration pathways, and obstacles to the free and fair movement of migrants), and provides an opportunity to address them in the framework of the crisis. To meet the various unmet needs communities face from COVID-19, new partnerships and ways of addressing issues are coming into light that reinforce the importance of local communities and other lessons learned in the MADE West Africa project.

Currently, Africa and Europe are undergoing political, social, and economic transformation in new strategies and relations. COVID-19 provides an opportunity to analyse the 5 points of the EU Africa 2020 Strategy and upcoming AU-EU Summit this October 2020. Migration will be a key area in this framework, along with environmental, governance, and food security points.

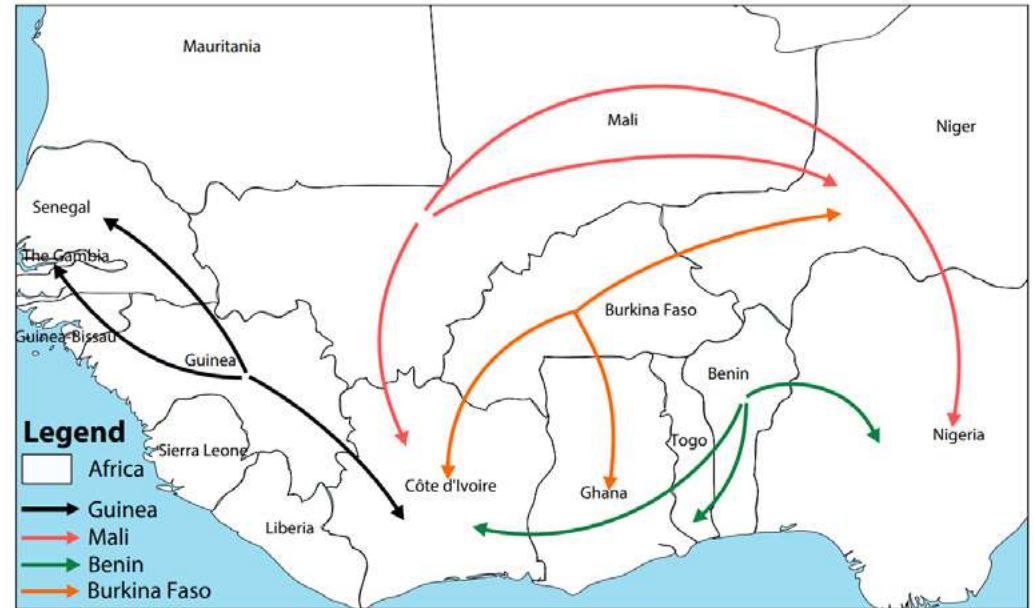
Thus, the following cross-cutting synergies from the MADE WA project seek to inform future interventions and provide guidance on important considerations for migration and development activities in the West African context : COVID-19, Multi-Stakeholder Approach, Maximizing the Potential of the Region for Development, Data, Research, and Data Sharing, and Gender and youth.

# West Africa Context Overview

- A regional approach to migration and development is necessary as approximately 72% of people in West Africa move within the region.<sup>1</sup> Intra-regional migration flows in West Africa are circular in nature and it is difficult to neatly categorise countries as origin or source countries.<sup>2</sup>
- Human mobility is essential in recovering from COVID-19 as migrants, communities, and economies struggle due to border closures in the region. Moreover, migrants' contributions to recovery, through their essential labour and their facilitation of intra-regional mobility and development, cannot be ignored.
- MADE WA has focused on the importance of the relationship between migration and development- bringing the two topics and their stakeholders together with a focus on the local level and multi-stakeholder platforms.

Migration and free movement within the region have directly contributed to the development of West African countries, for example, through remittance contributions that range between 5-26% of national GDPs in West Africa.<sup>3</sup> Remittances and diaspora engagement (e.g. skills sharing, expertise) also support families, businesses, and more to facilitate access to services including agriculture, education, health, housing and business development.<sup>4</sup>

Map showing the major flows of migrants from top four ECOWAS migrant-source countries



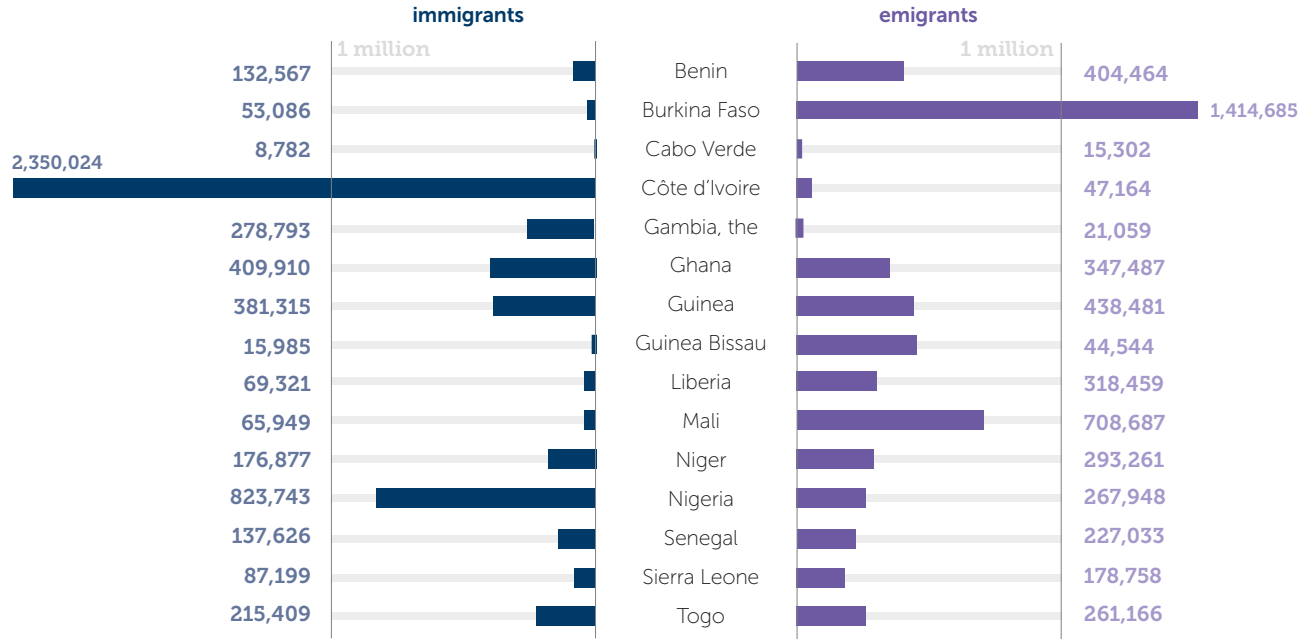
Source: Awumbila et al, 2014.

However, slow to non-existent economic growth, conflict, youth unemployment, and high population growth influences the rapid increase in migration in the region.<sup>5</sup> Due to these circumstances, many look for opportunities elsewhere, but international labour recruitment and/or irregular migration can be wrought with deception and exploitation. Under the guise of false promises, many West Africans face abuses along their journey or in their country of destination in other West African countries, North Africa, the Gulf States, Europe, and North America. Nevertheless, mobility in the region has improved regional integration under the auspices of the ECOWAS Free Movement Protocol.

While lower than other regions, COVID-19 infection rates have grown in June 2020 and continue to spread in all 16 West African countries. The crisis also has the potential to spark a food security crisis in Africa, with agricultural production potentially decreasing by between 2.6% to 7% if there are trade blockages.<sup>7</sup> Moreover, shrinking job opportunities in the informal sector and restrictions on movement and trade, which are integral, historical, and vital to the region, have already made an impact.<sup>8</sup>

Current trends require tremendous support to enhance the governance and services regarding migration at a multi-sectoral level in most West African countries. See [page 15](#) for a list of existing initiatives and frameworks for implementation.

### Stock of ECOWAS immigrants and emigrants<sup>6</sup>





# Made West Africa Cross-cutting Themes

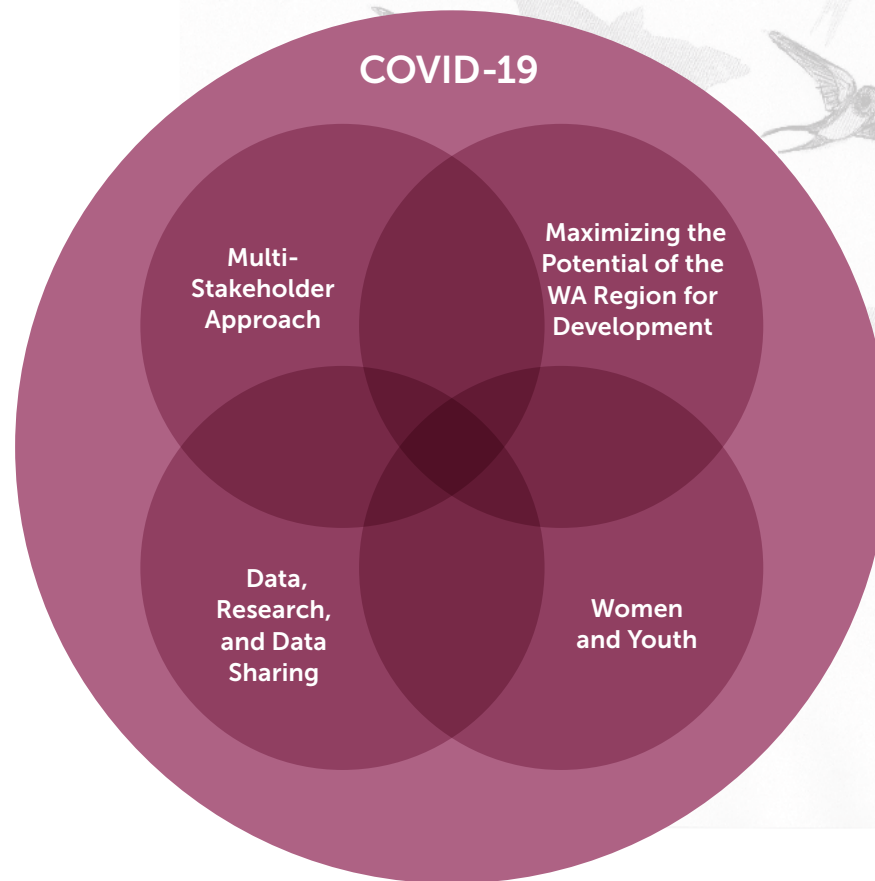
The objectives are also directly related to the implementation of specific SDGs goals and targets including, but not limited to:

10.7: Facilitate orderly, safe, regular, and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies

8.7: Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms

10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

10.c: Reducing the cost of remittances by 2030, reduce to less than 3% the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5%





# COVID-19



Migrant Health and Wellbeing



Effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on Intra-Regional Migration and Livelihoods



Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on Migrant Workers and Families



Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Contribution of Diasporas and Remittances





## Migrant Health and Wellbeing

Although all populations in West Africa have been affected by the pandemic, migrants are disproportionately affected by the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19. For instance, the IOM reports that migration flows in West and Central Africa were nearly halved between January and April, 2020, leaving tens of thousands of people stranded and requiring assistance with shelter, health care, and food.<sup>9</sup>

Migrants are at high risk of exposure as essential workers, in transit centers or while travelling, which is further complicated by limited access to health care, limited knowledge of health services, and/or fear of repercussions when accessing services.<sup>10</sup> These factors may be amplified due to reported increases in xenophobia and discrimination.<sup>11</sup> Many people, particularly internal and intra-regional migrants (including internally displaced persons) in West Africa, often live in crowded environments that lack adequate sanitation facilities to prevent contamination from COVID-19.



## Effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on Intra-Regional Migration and Livelihoods

COVID-19 restrictions have negatively affected the livelihoods of many nationals and internal and international migrants. Newspaper reports in Ghana, after the closure of the country's borders, indicate that West African Nationals who enter another country irregularly can be seen as 'illegal migrants' who could be repatriated. This also affected the return of nationals confined or detained in other countries.

Furthermore, some of the containment measures such as lockdowns, transport and trade restrictions, and market closures are difficult to implement in West Africa, where the majority of households will not be able to survive without some form of daily trade, thus putting their very survival at risk.<sup>12</sup> School closures bring additional challenges to intra-regional mobility in West Africa. The impact is likely to be felt on student mobility at the tertiary level particularly in migrant receiving countries such as Ghana and Nigeria, where students from West Africa constitute a large percentage of the student population.

As always, the local level has stepped in to fill gaps and meet needs, with new relationships being formed between grassroots organisations that could benefit migration and development now and in the future (see **MADE WA's seed fund initiative with five grassroots organisations**). This strength is also at the global level with mayoral dialogues and actions offering promising developments to move forward from COVID-19 and amplify the voices of their communities.<sup>13</sup> Such an approach mirrors the GFMD's **Mayor Mechanism**, which MADE WA was involved, that seeks to provide local authorities with a platform to interact with other states, exchange practices, and bridge the local level to the global level.





## Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on Migrant Workers and Families

The impact that migrant workers face from COVID-19 depends significantly on their country of origin or transit and their type of work. Now, as always, migrants around the world are essential workers in agriculture, health care, sanitation and janitorial services, and more,<sup>14</sup> but others are now unemployed. As social protections for migrant workers have been inadequate or non-existent, COVID-19 highlights the gaps and importance of protecting migrant workers now more than ever.

In certain contexts, the benefits and services that are available are restricted to migrants working in formal sectors with legal statuses, which can exclude domestic, agricultural, seasonal, and other informal economies.<sup>15</sup> Moreover, many social protections and bilateral agreements often include long-term benefits (e.g. social security/pension), but not short term benefits like health care.<sup>16</sup>

Some migrant workers who have lost their jobs have also lost their protections, benefits, and visas/work authorization, leaving them without legal migration status and income.<sup>17</sup> Migrants stranded in countries of transit or destination face extreme financial hardships as they are often unable to access informal labour markets and other financial resources, leaving them with limited options (e.g. lack of long-term integration, return) for an unknown amount of time.<sup>18</sup> This also has direct impacts on families and family separation.

Recent research has shown signs that migrants continue to be smuggled through the desert for either departure or return journeys.<sup>19</sup> However, due to the lower number of active smuggling networks, prices, scams, and the potential for exploitation are higher.<sup>20</sup> The loss of an expected future job is also problematic for migrants who may now owe recruitment fees without a source of income, which can cause debt bondage and human trafficking.<sup>21</sup> In that vein, some sources estimate that human trafficking is and will be on the rise as a consequence of COVID-19's economic downturn and mobility effects.<sup>22</sup>



## Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Contribution of Diasporas and Remittances

The existing economic, health and infrastructure problems have only become exacerbated by COVID-19. A further drop in commodity prices, tourism, and a reduction in government revenue has also been worsened by cutbacks in remittances as most diaspora have also been impacted by lockdowns and income insecurity in the countries of residence.<sup>23</sup>

Remittances are essential for countries in West Africa, and the ongoing global economic crisis limits the ability of diaspora to send money home. The World Bank projects that remittances to Sub-Saharan Africa will fall by 23.1% from \$48 billion in 2019 to \$37 billion in 2020.<sup>24</sup> For example, West African diasporas in France have been greatly affected by the COVID-19 crisis and national lockdown. Although migrant workers have been at the forefront of essential jobs, they have also been more vulnerable in the face of the economic crisis, and were among the first to lose their job either temporarily or definitely.

Importantly, solidarity initiatives have been carried out by diaspora organizations, by bringing food and supplies to vulnerable members of their communities in both their country of destination and origin.<sup>25</sup>



# COVID-19 Policy Recommendations

The necessary measures implemented to contain the spread of COVID-19 may have extraneous, negative effects on free movement and the livelihoods of many in West Africa. However, migrants continue to be essential to the fight and recovery of their countries of origin and communities abroad. Therefore, the challenges and opportunities for mobility within the region must be met with responsive and inclusive policies.

Ensure that governments and international agencies fully include migrants and migration issues in COVID-19 response and recovery plans. For example, include migrants in national financial emergency distribution policies or schemes.

Support and equip nation states and local areas in building their capacity and financial resources to provide health, social, and financial services to their citizens and migrants.

Grant protections to migrants regardless of status as a prioritization of public health and recognition of human rights. Create inclusive social and health policies also targeting migrants, especially in the informal economy.

Ensure short term benefits be made accessible to all migrant workers (e.g. health care) amid and after COVID-19.

Increased legal migration pathways, including bilateral and multilateral cooperation and funding for repatriation and reintegration of migrants stuck outside their country of origin.

Funding and support for more effective use of multi-stakeholder approaches in national and local level policy formulation and implementation, moving beyond the usual stakeholder consultations.

Create an initiative to analyse the impact of COVID-19 and explore strategies to adapt the recommendations from the MADE West Africa programme in that context

# Multi-Stakeholder Approach

During the three-year course of the MADE West Africa program, the partners developed a multi-stakeholder, multi-governance approach in order to maximise the positive contribution of human mobility to the development of the ECOWAS area.

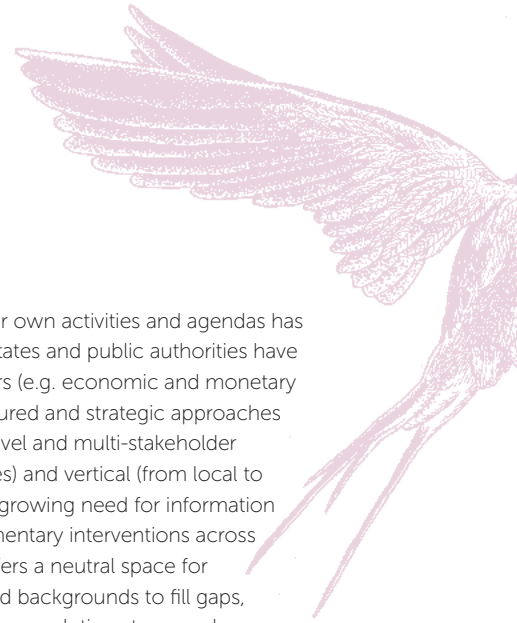
Amid COVID-19, it is especially important that different actors cooperate, contribute inputs, and share information with others as conditions, protocols, needs, and risks continually change. In fact, the importance and contributions of local communities and organisations have been vital to addressing COVID-19. With the usual structures not able to operate as intended during the pandemic, new ways of meeting needs were formed with actors who are not typically involved (e.g. grassroots organisations) and show the importance of a multi-stakeholder approach.

## Why a Multi-Stakeholder Approach?

The need to include a variety of actors, each with their own activities and agendas has long been recognized, especially in contexts where States and public authorities have limited administrative capacity either in specific sectors (e.g. economic and monetary policy, security) or in remote areas. Specifically, structured and strategic approaches to migration and development platforms with multi-level and multi-stakeholder dialogue, combining both horizontal (among Ministries) and vertical (from local to regional levels) scopes are essential. This stresses the growing need for information exchange and coordination that can ensure complementary interventions across countries and the West African region. Secondly, it offers a neutral space for collaboration between actors with distant agendas and backgrounds to fill gaps, enhance the understanding of social issues, and find new solutions to complex problems. Finally, such frameworks ensure stakeholders are able to participate and have ownership in the shared decisions, which can lead to better results when policies are set and transformed into practice.

## Which stakeholders?

The choice of actors to reach out to and engage is not neutral. However, widening the outreach to actors not typically involved (e.g. grassroots organisations, people with a migrant history, Mayors) is key to include different perspectives.



For example, the private sector and its national representatives, unions, or branches are now recognized as being central development actors for their investment capacities, financial flexibility, and job creation. In the same vein, media outlets can actively contribute, especially as migration dynamics are often misinterpreted and preconceived ideas need to be clarified.

### What format?

In order to truly engage these stakeholders, it is crucial to build up a neutral, structured, transparent space, with dedicated funding and staff. One-time “public” consultations, the kind that national institutions often organize, are not effective in creating the partnership dynamics required to produce concrete results. The search for allies within both public and private entities is critical to building trust and commitment. Rotating chairs and responsibilities, as well as venues, also favours collaboration and shared ownership.

### What actions?

Stakeholders are more ready to engage in collaborative efforts when concrete actions and agendas are embedded into the process. Most countries already have adequate legislative frameworks and action plans, but lack operational capacity for implementation. The constant back-and-forth between comprehensive strategies and on-the-ground activities contributes to the ownership of the approach by stakeholders whose time and resources are valuable.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Provide technical assistance and capacity-building support to successfully build multi-stakeholder approaches in development initiatives. This includes creating equitable, accessible, and virtual multi-stakeholder platforms such as WhatsApp groups.
- Build collaboration between actors with different agendas and backgrounds for a holistic understanding of social issues and solutions to complex problems.
- Decentralise interventions by supporting local and grassroots approaches (e.g. Mayors Networks, seed funding).
- Empower and further relationships with local and grassroots organisations that stepped in during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Financial and technical partners, including the EU, should support programs that include multi-stakeholder components and advocate for:
  - more cooperation between various levels of governance, and
  - for the inclusion of civil society, including the diaspora, in policy-making processes.
- Employ bottom-up approaches to decision making, prioritising input from those closest to the issue.



# Maximizing the Potential of the WA Region for Development

In an attempt to contain COVID-19, the necessary closure of borders by many West African states halted cross-border migration in West Africa, resulting in a loss of livelihoods for many, including migrants.<sup>26</sup> Nevertheless, ECOWAS recommended gradual reopening strategies that can revitalise the region and prioritise transporting health and safety products to places that need it most.<sup>27</sup>

The importance of migration for West African development is shown by remittance flows into the region. Migrant remittances have become an important and highly stable source of external funds for the economy and many rural and urban households in West Africa. Studies indicate that Burkina Faso's development depends largely on emigration to neighbouring countries and that about half of remittances from Côte D'Ivoire were used to significantly improve household living conditions.<sup>28</sup> Moreover, protecting migrant workers has positive impacts for development as justly treated and paid migrants are more consistently able to contribute to their families, communities in their country of origin, and communities abroad. However, merely viewing migrant workers as a solution to development is one of the contributing factors to their abuse and exploitation.<sup>29</sup> Therefore, it is imperative that the rights of all migrant workers in and from West Africa be upheld in their own right in addition to facilitating their economic potential and developmental utility.





The African Union has developed a number of policies and programmes which seek to support effective implementation of intra-regional migration policies on the African continent<sup>30</sup> as has ECOWAS at the regional level.<sup>31</sup> In view of the potential for migration to promote socio-economic development, migration management was included in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs.

Various initiatives at the sub-regional level are possible through cooperation with agencies such as the EU and West Africa governments and Civil Society Organisations. These are implemented under frameworks such as the new EU Strategy for Africa (2020), EU-Africa Valletta Action Plan (2015), Rabat Process, the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (2015), the Migration Policy Framework for Africa and 12-Year Action Plan (2017), ECOWAS Protocol on Free Movement (2018), AfCFTA (2018), and Single African Air Transport Market (2018).

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Mainstream free movement protocols into national development agendas for effective implementation.
- Develop national migration policies for the governance of migration.
- Promote good governance and the protection of West African migrant workers' rights as a human rights issue in addition to its development potential.
- Create programmes and projects to take advantage of the African Continental Free Trade Area to boost economic development of the West African sub-region.
- Create West African specific diaspora funds to support development efforts targeted at specific projects.
- Harness diaspora skills to fight COVID-19 (e.g. doctors, nurses, people with tracing experience).
- Stimulate intra-regional trade by leveraging the production and movement of essential products for COVID-19 responses.
- Equip border officials with proper training (e.g. contact tracing) and resources (e.g. PPE, COVID-19 screening tools), to allow borders to open safely.
- Address the risk of xenophobic attitudes by fighting stereotypes of migrants (e.g. spreaders of the virus).
- Publish and share information campaigns in the main languages spoken by communities and migrants.

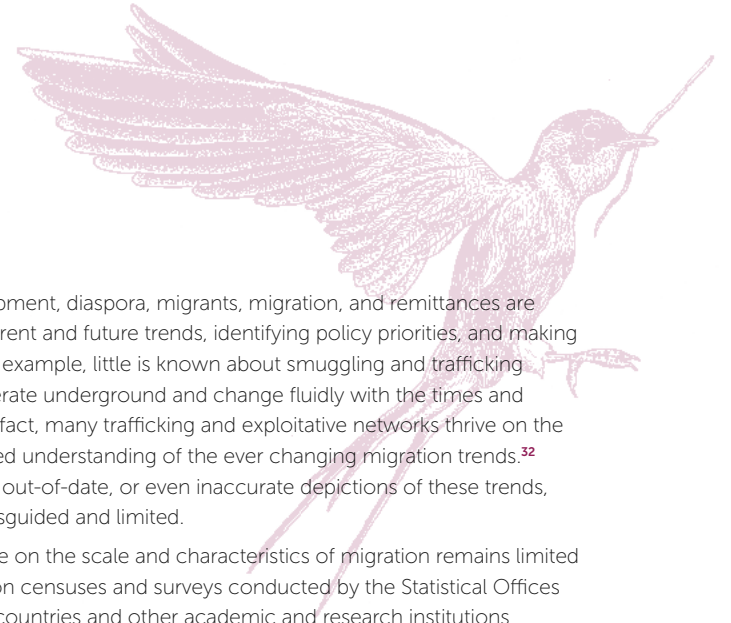


# Data, Research, and Data Sharing

Despite West Africa's history of high population mobility, migration is largely undocumented. This makes it difficult to provide accurate data and to understand migration flows for development and the safety of migrants. This is a key issue for COVID-19 as missing data, registration, and documentation make it unclear how many migrants there are and where they are located (sometimes in remote areas in exploitative conditions). Therefore, it is impossible to adequately respond to the number of migrants in need of information, extra protection and services due to the health crisis.

Reliable data on development, diaspora, migrants, migration, and remittances are crucial for assessing current and future trends, identifying policy priorities, and making informed decisions. For example, little is known about smuggling and trafficking networks that often operate underground and change fluidly with the times and obstacles they meet. In fact, many trafficking and exploitative networks thrive on the lack of general, organised understanding of the ever changing migration trends.<sup>32</sup> With underrepresented, out-of-date, or even inaccurate depictions of these trends, interventions can be misguided and limited.

Still, data and knowledge on the scale and characteristics of migration remains limited in West Africa. Population censuses and surveys conducted by the Statistical Offices of several West African countries and other academic and research institutions often do not contain adequate data on international and migration flows, migrant profiles, formal and informal labour migration, recruitment strategies, remittances, irregular migration, and displacement. For example, concepts and definitions are not harmonized across member states and data is often not adequately disaggregated by key variables (e.g. sex, age, educational status, labour market needs, professions and skills, working conditions and wages, social protection of migrants). This means the comparability of data is often problematic.



To address this problem, the ECOWAS Commission has adopted a trans-national holistic approach and is in the process of setting up a regional data sharing mechanism for migration and irregular migration and border management. ECOWAS is also promoting the coordination of data harmonization and quality in collection, comparability, data sharing and dissemination across the region through the development of a regional migration information system to provide an evidence base to inform policy.<sup>33</sup>

It is essential to indicate that data must not only be available and comparable, but it also needs to be shareable, translated, and adapted to the understanding of the general public and all stakeholders. This is enhanced by the fact that most West African countries have, or are moving towards, developing integrated migration policies and migration profiles, which include components on migration data management.<sup>34</sup>

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Develop a regional migration information system to provide an evidence base to inform policy.
- Develop reliable, comparable and timely migration data and data sharing mechanisms among ECOWAS States for successful implementation of the ECOWAS protocol.
- Harmonise concepts and definitions across member states for comparability of data across member states.
- Facilitate the creation of a centralised location for collecting migration and remittance data to support national and local development agendas.
- Improving data on remittances from intra-regional migrants in West Africa for planning purposes, and as evidence of the positive contribution that intra-regional migration has on improving household welfare and the regional economy.
- Review existing remittance processes to enable better data collection frameworks that facilitate in depth analysis in order to understand the market (flow, corridors, channels and operators). Research the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the market place.
- Promote research and data collection on underrepresented migrant groups and networks, such as smuggling and trafficking networks that often operate fluidly underground.
- Ensure data is accessible to all actors and the general public, translated and simplified when necessary.



# Women and Youth

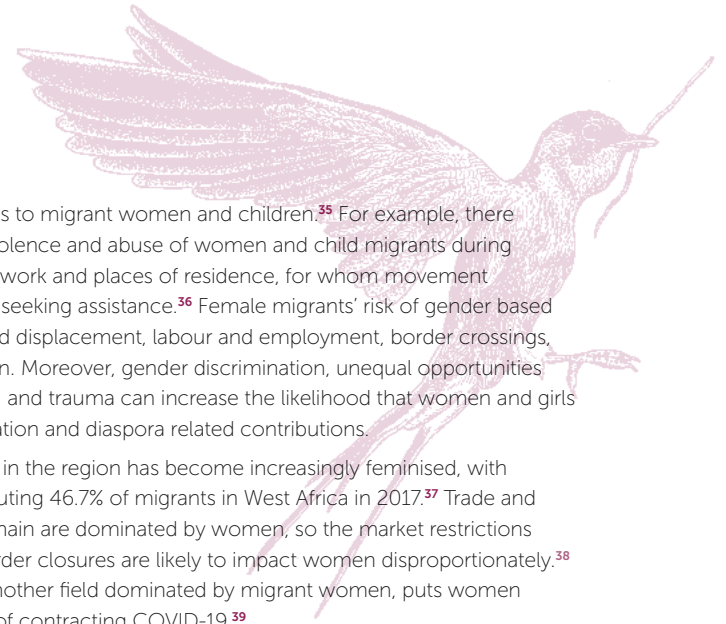
Gender and age influence why people migrate (e.g. opportunities, work), what they experience, and how they engage with communities abroad and countries of origin. It is important to take a gendered and age perspective so interventions do not adversely affect the people they aim to assist. This can be done by avoiding re-traumatisation and preventing the increase of vulnerabilities and/or perpetuation of inequalities.

COVID-19 increases risks to migrant women and children.<sup>35</sup> For example, there is concern over rising violence and abuse of women and child migrants during COVID-19, especially in work and places of residence, for whom movement restrictions can impede seeking assistance.<sup>36</sup> Female migrants' risk of gender based violence is high in forced displacement, labour and employment, border crossings, return, and re-integration. Moreover, gender discrimination, unequal opportunities and working conditions, and trauma can increase the likelihood that women and girls face obstacles in integration and diaspora related contributions.

Nevertheless, migration in the region has become increasingly feminised, with female migrants constituting 46.7% of migrants in West Africa in 2017.<sup>37</sup> Trade and the food sector/value chain are dominated by women, so the market restrictions from COVID-19 and border closures are likely to impact women disproportionately.<sup>38</sup> Moreover, care work, another field dominated by migrant women, puts women migrants at greater risk of contracting COVID-19.<sup>39</sup>

Unaccompanied children stuck in countries are increasingly at risk of exploitation and in need of child protection the longer they are unable to return to safe locations. With one of the most youthful regional populations in the world, migration and development actors must ensure proper child protection by accommodating age appropriate services and tailor activities to the youth. This is especially true for children on the cusp of adulthood.

However, it is crucial that interventions not only focus on the needs and risks of women and youth, as they are valuable sources of expertise and potential. Research from Future of Ghana (FOG) has shown that women between the ages of 18-34



were the most involved second generation demographic and most likely to financially and socially remit.<sup>40</sup> Still, women and youth may not have the same institutional access or opportunities as other migrants. The lack of programmes or opportunities for these populations stunts growth and potential.

Over the last decade a few models have been developed, tested, and replicated for engaging the second generation diaspora such as AFFORD's Africa Gives campaign and SEEDA<sup>41</sup> projects and FOG's WAM campaign.<sup>42</sup> Since primary remitters are first-generation Africans, the question remains: How will the remittance void be filled in 5 to 7 years, when the majority of first generation either retire or move back to their countries of origin within Sub-Saharan Africa? The next generation needs to be understood and provided with relatable structured pathways to engage, as they tend to be better educated than their parents and have greater surplus income, but have less of a connection with their country of origin even if they have an understanding of heritage, motivation, and intentions to remit.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Develop gender and age sensitive perspectives of migration to ensure opportunities or interventions do not increase vulnerabilities, and/or perpetuate gender inequalities.
- Develop and enforce gender and child protection training for actors that have most contact with child and/or female migrants.
- Develop female migrant centres that provide information and support services specific to women and girls, regardless of their legal status.
- Increase access to health, education, financial institutions, child care, social protection, psychosocial support, and other services for all female migrants.
- Engage women and youth, including second generation migrants, as valuable sources of expertise in planned interventions.
- Expand access and opportunities for female and young migrants in the diaspora as agents of development and senders of remittances.
- Ensure specific EU/Non EU funding be made available and governments to draft policies for initiatives that create structured pathways or provide digital platforms for women and second-generation diaspora to connect and engage with development within Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Ensure specific funding is made accessible to diaspora organisations for further research of other second-generation African diasporas to reveal data on trends, challenges, and opportunities to contribute to socio-economic development.



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