

**GFMD THEMATIC WORKSHOP ON OPERATIONALISING
MAINSTREAMING OF MIGRATION IN DEVELOPMENT AND
INTEGRATING MIGRATION IN THE POST-2015 UN
DEVELOPMENT AGENDA**

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Introduction

1. Introduction
2. Migration Trends
3. Trajectory of Migration and Development Issues in Ghana and Sectoral Responses
4. Exploring the Development Potential in Selected Sectoral Programmes
5. Highlights of Key Migration Issues
6. Consolidating the Gains made so far
7. Migration and Ghana's Post-2015 MDG Consultations
8. Mainstreaming Migration into National Development
9. Concluding Remarks

Migration Trends

- ECOWAS region hosts 71% of Ghanaian emigrant population; outside of ECOWAS, the highest concentration is in W. Europe and North America
- Female international migrants 41.8%
- Ghana has one of the highest emigration rates for highly skilled (46%) in W. Africa
- In 2007, Ghana hosted the largest refugee population in the West African sub-region.
- During the 2011 crisis in Libya, Ghana saw almost 19,000 single, unemployed men return home (52% to one region)
- Migration Profile for Ghana, launched in 2009

Trajectory of Ghana's Migration and Development Agenda

- Ghana's Population Policy (revised version,1994) highlighted the importance of migration in Ghana's Development agenda
- Ghana's Sectoral Programmes initiatives have been primarily shaped by responses to emerging issues with support from partners such as the UNHCR and IOM
- IOM in particular has undertaken several programmes and initiatives which are exemplify harnessing of the positive aspects of Migration

Economic Growth - Remittances

Policies

- With support from the World Bank and other donor partners through the MOFEP under the Economic Management Capacity Building (EMCB) project; ***a national remittances credit registry (NRCR)*** is to be established as a pilot project:
- To assist Government of Ghana to create new possibilities for diversification of the country investments financing for remitting Diaspora funds to enhance service delivery and development outcomes.
- To design and operate an e-platform of a centralized database for compiling national remittances flows.
- This is to capture the regularity of flows, and to enable the utilization of such information to generate financial benefits and investments opportunities to remitters, recipients and the country as a whole.

Economic Growth - Remittances

Policies

- Ghana has repealed the Exchange Control Amendment Law 1986 (P.N.D.C. Law 149), which was seen to hinder remittance inflows, and enacted the Foreign Exchange Act, 2006 (Act 723). Also, the Bank of Ghana (BOG) has introduced a centralized data collection and reporting system on inward remittances, which has resulted in better tracking of inflows and increased utilization of formal channels of remittances

Economic Growth - Remittances

Achievements

- The impact of the above-mentioned measures is reflected in the increases in the volume of remittances: for example, BOG records indicate that remittance inflows have increased from a low of USD 400.40 million in 1997 to an estimated USD 1,833.81 billion in 2007.
- The data further indicates that since the year 2000, remittance inflows have surpassed cocoa as a source of foreign exchange for Ghana (year 2000 figures: cocoa, USD 437.10 million; remittances, USD 498.97 million; year 2007 figures: cocoa, USD 1,132.65 billion; remittances, USD 1,833.81 billion).

Economic Growth - Remittances

Achievements

- Remittance flows in recent years have grown rapidly –From 2001 to 2007, remittance receipts reported in the IMF's *Balance of Payments Statistics Yearbook* (measured as global receipts of “workers’ remittances” and “compensation of employees”) more than doubled to US\$336 billion.
- Similarly, the period of 2003 to 2011, remittance receipts reported in the *Balance of Payment Statistics (Bank of Ghana)* more than triple to US\$2.4 billion.

Economic Growth – Private Sector Response

Achievements

Two Savings Bonds which were issued to foster savings and investment by Ghanaian migrants and migrant associations were oversubscribed.

1. Private Sector Responses with Financial products – long term savings instruments
2. Mortgage Housing schemes for Ghanaians in the Diaspora
3. Investment Promotion through Expos/ Fairs

Economic Growth

Challenges

- Unresponsiveness of investment regime to Ghanaians in the Diaspora – cf. indigenous private sector
- Climate for doing business – registration, clearing of goods from the ports, bureaucracy
- Information Asymmetry between the highly skilled and unskilled
- Dual nationality, facilities for investment in Ghana, facilities for integration back into the Ghanaian community, eligibility to vote and hold public office in Ghana

The Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA) Ghana Health Project

The Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA) Ghana Health Project (2008-2012) and the Temporary Return of Qualified Nationals (TRQN) facilitated short-term transfer of Ghanaian health and education professionals in the diaspora to provide services.

Achievements

Over 30,000 health workers and students have benefited from the programme

Temporary Return of Qualified Nationals (TRQN III): Enhancing Government and Institutional Capacity by Linking Diaspora to Development

- The project will further build on the lessons learned and achievements of the previous TRQN projects and similar brain gain initiatives such as the MIDA Ghana Health project.
- The project's objective is to make a contribution to the national development policies and strategies of a number of selected countries by engaging their overseas migrant communities in improving the capacity of government and non governmental institutions.

Best Practices on Collecting and Sharing Labour Migration Data for the improvement of Labour Market Information Systems

Objectives

- The project was aimed at supporting the inclusion and proper management of labour migration information in labour market information systems (LMIS); contribute to policy making with a view to fostering greater intra regional labour mobility and international dialogue and cooperation and also to enhance the positive effect of migration on the economic development of six countries in the sub-region including Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, and Libya.
- The Specific objective was to strengthen the capacities of the target countries to collect and share labour migration data and feed it into the LMIS and labour migration policy process via mutual learning and exchange of best practices.

Linking the Ghanaian Diaspora to Development of Ghana

- The purpose of this project is to contribute GOG's effort to mobilise the country's diaspora toward its socio economic development through dialogue and subsequent developmental engagements in Ghana.
- The project targets Ghanaian diaspora associations in the 6 countries with the highest concentration of Ghanaian emigrants. Specific interventions include 1) a profiling of Ghanaian diaspora groups in target countries, 2) the holding of dialogue fora between the GoG and the diaspora, 3) the establishment of a national diaspora support unit, and 4) the creation of a diaspora database and diaspora website. It is envisioned that this project will serve as a platform for facilitating the engagement of the country's emigrants in sustainable development by the GoG.

Policies/Programmes on Social Inclusion

- Livelihoods Empowerment Against Poverty – cash grants for the aged poor, persons with severe disabilities, care-givers of HIV/AIDS and extreme poor households with child labourers - for the vulnerable and poor, (not for the productive poor) – Common Targeting mechanism developed and being used to target 35,000 households
- Implementation of a just launched Local Economic Development Policy which is expected to reduce the rate of rural-urban drift, especially among the Youth
- There are in place several legislations and programmes protecting and enhancing access to rights of women and children, and other vulnerable persons. e.g. Domestic Violence Act; Human Trafficking Act

Policies/Programmes on Social Inclusion

- Care Drain – evidence from TCRAS Project and the need for proper response from the educational sector
- Legal framework for portability of Social Security exist but needs to be reviewed and operationalised
- Domestic Workers Policy and Legislative instrument being formulated based on the GFMD checklist
- National Youth Employment Programme with several modules targeting unemployed Youth
- Reduction of gender, spatial and income inequalities
- Several other social protection programmes – spending is currently being rationalised

Migration and Ghana's Post-2015 Consultations

1. Ghana is among 50 countries chosen by the UN to conduct post-MDG consultations dubbed “The World We Want” using the UN guidelines.
2. There were focus group discussions targeting urban slums, fishing, farming, and mining communities; These were complimented by thematic reviews and consultations on the ICPD, Beijing Platform for Action; Inequalities;
3. Even though the guidelines for consultations did not refer to migration, the responses provide interesting insights into the inter-linkages between migration and development
4. The results of these consultations will feed into the next medium term development policy framework

Migration and Ghana's Post-2015 Consultations

The report recommends migration as one of the following 17 priorities for the global agenda:

1. Poverty Reduction and job creation
 2. Reducing inequalities i.e. better targeting of social protection interventions
 3. Employment for all, including PWDs
 4. Quality education for all up to the secondary level
- **Urbanisation and slum upgrading**
 - **Population management**
 - **International migration**

Migration and Ghana's Post-2015 Consultations

1. Migration as a fall-back mechanism for the poor
2. Highlight the inability of the poorest of the poor, especially the aged and children to migrate and their vulnerability to poverty
3. The impact of migration on local agriculture and implications for food security
4. The role of remittances in maintaining those left behind
5. Child migration – head porters
6. The environment, and livelihoods are at the heart of push factors

Consolidating the Gains

- Integration into National Development Policy Frameworks – Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS II); Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda;
- Development of Migration Policy – Overarching framework for harmonising initiatives within the migration and development sector and the basis for Policy / Legal /Institutional Coherence – How these are reflected in Employment, urban, rural, environmental policies, and in trade policies, investment and tax regimes
- Dealing with inequalities as the main driver of internal migration

Consolidating the Gains

- Mainstreaming into National Development based on:
 - Emerging domestic migration issues
 - Research findings, (Foresight UK),
 - Regional and Global Migration Dialogue (e.g GFMD)
 - shift of migration discourse into maximizing its potentials and minimizing its negative impacts, and as an enabler of development
 - Recommendations on migration in Ghana's Post-2015 Consultations and thematic reviews (ICPD/Inequalities, Population)

Mainstreaming Migration into Development Planning

The National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) was set up by Articles 86-87 of the 1992 Constitution and Acts 479/480, 1994 by the Parliament of Ghana to:

1. Advise the President and/or Parliament on Development planning policy and strategy; Coordinate policy formulation, planning, monitoring and evaluation; Formulate comprehensive national development planning strategies and ensure that the strategies including consequential policies and programmes are effectively carried out;
2. Prepare broad national development plans; and Keep under constant review national development plans in the light of prevailing domestic and international economic, social and political conditions and make recommendations for the revision of existing policies and programmes where necessary

Mainstreaming Migration into Development Planning



Concluding Remarks

4. Evidence Base/awareness is critical in galvanizing political will and action around migration and development goals- Research and Advocacy is needed to market migration among development options - evaluative research that compare options and showcase the value addition of migration and development goals and objectives
5. The ultimate Test of Ownership – How Government not only mainstreams it into its development planning, but also prioritizes it in its budgets and other national resource allocation frameworks.

Concluding Remarks

6. Partnerships from national, continental, regional and global levels are critical – (Post 2015 Agenda) in affecting national development agendas, providing a framework for building consensus and mobilising both political will and resources - as evidenced by the impact of New Aid Modalities – Budget support, SWAPs around the implementation of the MDGs and putting back the “social” on the development agenda in Ghana
7. Monitoring and Evaluation (key Indicators – what is measured is what gets done

Concluding Remarks

8. Sectors are important, but a holistic approach, emphasizing sectoral priorities is the way to go! The Centre must hold!

THANK YOU

MERCI BEAUCOUP

MUCHAS GRACIAS

DANKE