



ECOWAS COMMISSION

ADJUSTING PARTNERSHIPS TO CHALLENGES OF EMERGING MIGRATION PATTERNS

**SOUTH – SOUTH MIGRATION: PARTNERING
STRATEGICALLY FOR DEVELOPMENT**

GENEVA.



ECOWAS COMMISSION

- Migration in West Africa
 - Historically, West Africa was always a region of high human mobility
 - West African Migration is principally intra-regional
 - It is estimated that 80% of all migrants originating from West Africa live in another country in West Africa
 - Only Liberia (North America) and Cape Verde (Europe) have higher mobility beyond Africa
 - Migrants Profiles are changing and becoming more diversified
 - More women / Better educated / Youth
 - Migration will continue to be a defining element for ECOWAS
 - Population growth – more than doubled by 2050 (over 600 million)
 - More than 60% of the population under 24 years of age
 - Urbanization process – 60% of population in cities by 2020 – 2025
 - Climate change



ECOWAS Commission

Current Policy Framework

ECOWAS Free Movement Protocols

- Rights of entry, residence and establishment

ECOWAS Common Approach to Migration

- Specific provisions included for Mobility, Employment and Higher Education



ECOWAS Commission

ECOWAS Free Movement Protocols

ECOWAS Treaty

Adopted on May 28th 1975 and revised in 1993.

ARTICLE 59: IMMIGRATION

- 1 . Citizens of the community shall have the right of entry, residence and establishment and Member States undertake to recognize these rights of Community citizens in their territories in accordance with the provisions of the Protocols relating thereto.
- 2. Member States undertake to adopt all appropriate measures to ensure that Community citizens enjoy fully the rights referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article.
- 3. Member ' States undertake to adopt, at national level, all measures necessary for the effective implementation of the provisions of this Article.



ECOWAS Commission

Protocol relating to the Free Movement of Persons, Residence and Establishment

– Core Principles

- Entry
- Residence
- Establishment

– First phase: Free Movement

- Travel without Visa – Passport and Health Certificate (Yellow Card)
- 90 days limit
- Entry restrictions for « inadmissible migrants »
- Guarantees in case of expulsion



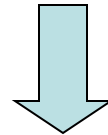
ECOWAS Commission

- Second Phase: Supplementary Protocol on the Right of Residence (July 1st, 1986)
 - Income earning employment
 - Apply for jobs effectively offered
 - Taking up a job according to national provisions
 - Remain in the country according to national provisions after ending the job
- Third Phase: Supplementary Protocol on the Right of Establishment (May 29th, 1990)
 - Access to non-salaried activities
 - Creation and Management of enterprises and companies
 - Principle of non-discrimination



ECOWAS COMMISSION

- ECOWAS Common Approach on Migration
 - The road to the ECOWAS Common Approach
 - Change of paradigm – Migration has raised in the global political agenda (Global Commission on International Migration, UN High Level Dialogue on Migration, Rabat-Process etc.)
 - Migration Management is key to the regional integration and development process



**Need for a coherent and comprehensive view of Migration
within the ECOWAS Region**



ECOWAS COMMISSION

- Migration and Development Action Plan
 - Actions to promote Free Movement within the ECOWAS space
 - Actions to promote the management of regular migration
 - Actions for Policy Harmonisation of Migration and Development
 - **Actions for controlling irregular migration and human trafficking particularly of women and children**
 - Actions to protect the rights of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees
 - Actions aiming to take into account the Gender and Migration dimension



ECOWAS COMMISSION

- **Challenges of irregular migration:**
 - **Security challenges across the ECOWAS Region**
 - Rise of cross-border organized crime (Boko Haram, Al Qaeda / Drug trafficking etc.)
 - Rising concern with regard to the Free Movement Framework
 - Large number of unprotected entry points
 - **Lack of protection of the rights of Migrants**
 - Lack of awareness of the rights enshrined in the free movement protocols
 - Costly and bureaucratic access to proper documentation
 - **Human Trafficking**
 - According to UNODC (2009) about 17 – 18'000 victims of human trafficking in Europe at any given point
 - No available data for victims within West Africa – only indications > up to 40'000 Nigerian Girls in Mali (NAPTIP)
 - **Human Smuggling**
 - Thousands of migrants die every year trying to reach „greener pastures“
 - Together with Human Trafficking this is a multi-billion dollar business worldwide
 - **Uncontrolled return of irregular migrants in emergency situations**
 - Libya crises has put enormous challenges on the ECOWAS region with the uncontrolled return of thousands of migrants



ECOWAS COMMISSION

- Possible solutions:
 - Strengthen human security in the sub-region
 - Enhancing human and economic development will reduce the pressure of migrating out of necessity and not out of choice
 - Facilitate assisted voluntary return and reintegration measures
 - Increase border management capacities
 - More adequate border management equipment
 - Training and capacity building of border guards
 - Joint border posts and in general strengthen cooperation or relevant agencies within the region and between the ECOWAS region and Europe
 - Monitoring Units at border posts
 - Better secured documents and civil registries
 - Facilitate access to affordable and secured documents based on a reliable civil registry



ECOWAS COMMISSION

- Possible solutions II:
 - Strengthen capacities to collect and manage data
 - Better knowledge of relevant data will allow for more tailored made responses in tackling irregular migration
 - Promote knowledge on the Free Movement Protocols
 - Counter the false pretext that the Free Movement Protocol hinders better control of cross-border organized crime
 - Enhance the protection of migrants within the region
 - Reduce cases of harassments at borders
 - Information Centers at border posts
 - Strengthen cooperation of involved stakeholders
 - Increase interconnectivity between border agencies
 - Establish working networks to share date and information and facilitate assistance



ECOWAS COMMISSION

- Selection of certain activities done by the Commission:
 - Regional Media Network for Free Movement
 - Strengthen the public scrutiny of activities at border posts to reduce harassments and facilitate the free movement
 - Monitoring Unit at borders
 - Reduce cases of harassment, suggest improvements for border management
 - Annual Heads of Immigration Meeting
 - Exchange information and establish networks of cooperation within the ECOWAS region
 - Several activities in the field of fighting irregular migration and cross – border crimes
 - Harmonization of the training curriculum in Immigration training institutions in Member States
 - Train the trainers courses in Member States



ECOWAS COMMISSION

- Support Received from international Partners
 - ECOWAS – Spain Fund on Migration and Development
 - EUR 10 mio for the implementation of the Common Approach
 - One part for the Governments of Member States
 - » Free Movement / Irregular Migration
 - A second part for the regional Civil Society
 - » Migration and Development / Free Movement
 - Support to Free Movement & Migration in West Africa (EU/ IOM)
 - 10th EDF – this project covers various areas (data collection, border management, human trafficking etc.) on a overall EUR 25mio portfolio implemented through IOM and consortium for up to five years,
 - Migration EU Expertise (MIEUX / ICMPD)
 - Development of a standard training curriculum on the Free Movement Protocols
 - ACP Observatory on Migration
 - Various trainings and capacity building activities and starting 2012 a study on south – south labor migration



ECOWAS COMMISSION

- Ideas for enhanced cooperation between ECOWAS, RECs and Partners
 - Frequent exchange of operatives between ECOWAS and other RECs – Practical work experience in different realities / get to know the other side of the migration reality
 - Enhanced capacity building support for data collection and management
 - Support in document safety and civil registry build-up
 - Joint efforts to enhance the cooperation with the private sector
 - Facilitate the portability of social benefits
 - Enhance cooperation and exchange of information in the field of transnational organized crimes (Human trafficking, trafficking of drugs and weapons)
 - Address the issue of climate change and forced migration and a rising root cause of irregular mobility
 - Increased support to protect migrants in emergency situations such as the Libya crises



ECOWAS COMMISSION

- THANK YOU !
 - MERCI !
 - OBRIGADO!
 - GRACIAS !