International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency

IOM Ghana
2018 Year in Review

IOM CELEBRATES **INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY 2018** WITH A FOOTBALL COMPETITION IN ACCRA

On December 18, IOM commemorated International Migrants Day and the two-year anniversary of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative on Migrant Protection and Reintegration in Ghana with a football competition at the Kotobabi Wembley Sports Complex in Accra.

Sylvia Lopez-Ekra, Chief of Mission, congratulates players at IOM's International Migrants Day football competition at Kotobabi Wembley Sports Complex in Accra.

Safe migration starts at home and it starts first and foremost with preventing Ghanaian youth from undertaking dangerous migration journeys. In order to continue spreading the important message of safe migration, four migrant-sending communities in the Greater Accra region, including Maamobi, Nima, Accra Newton and Madina, took part in a football competition that promoted safe migration. The communities were represented by Malaga FC, Los Angeles FC, Paradise Base FC and Madina Youth respectively, with Madina Youth taking the trophy home. The safe migration football competition attracted about 1,000 spectators from all four communities as well as Government and non-government partners who have been integral in IOM's work in Ghana, including EU Ambassador to Ghana H.E. Diana Acconcia and Zongo Development Minister Dr Mustapha Abdul-Hamid.

The football competition included a presentation that highlighted the dangers of irregular migration and the hardships that migrants faced on routes to Europe. Participants also had the opportunity to listen to two returnees, a man and a woman, whose return was facilitated by IOM.

Sylvia Lopez-Ekra, Chief of Mission, highlighted that the football competition was an opportunity to bring youth together to emphasize the dangers faced by irregular Ghanaian migrants during their journey. She also underlined the importance of including youth in the promotion of safe migration.

Movement from Ghana to other parts of the world has grown substantially in recent years. Many young Ghanaians attempt to reach Europe in search of greener pastures by traveling irregularly through Libya due to misinformation and limited opportunities for safe and regular migration. Many end up losing their lives in the desert en route or while trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea or suffer human rights abuses at the hands of smugglers and traffickers and in detention centres.

Providing more channels for safe and legal migration, creating more opportunities for youth as well as raising awareness of communities will help counterpart irregular migration in the country. *To read more, see the press release here.*

Top photo: IOM Ghana staff take in the football competition on International Migrants Day.

Bottom left photo, from left: Sylvia Lopez-Ekra, Chief of Mission, with Dr Mustapha Abdul-Hamid, Zongo Development Minister and Diana Acconcia, EU Ambassador to Ghana.

VALIDATION OF THE **NATIONAL LABOUR MIGRATION POLICY** FOR GHANA

On December 17 and 18, IOM, in partnership with the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations (MELR) and more than 20 key national and international stakeholders, including the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and several Ministries, validated the National Labour Migration Policy (LMP) for Ghana. Sylvia Lopez-Ekra, Chief of Mission, said the event came at a key international point, when more than 150 member states came together to adopt the Global Compact on Migration (GCM).

The LMP aims to strengthen the labour migration governance system and promote policy coherence, collection and analysis of reliable data, and the protection of the rights of migrants and their families. The policy seeks to promote the effective management of labour migration in the country and to optimize the benefits of labour migration for development, ensuring a positive impact on migrants, sending and receiving countries, and communities.

The policy also includes an implementation plan, which outlines roles and responsibilities of key actors, a monitoring and evaluation framework, and a budget for the implementation. *To read more, see the press release here.*

From left: Akua Asumadu, International Labour Organization; Sylvia Lopez-Ekra, Chief of Mission of IOM Ghana; Albert Boateng, Support Free Movement of Persons and Migration in West Africa; and Emma Ofori, Evaluation at the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations.

TRAINING CONSULAR OFFICERS, JOURNALISTS, AND COMMUNITY-BASED SURVEILLANCE VOLUNTEERS

Between mid-September and early October of 2018, IOM conducted five capacity building training sessions across Ghana. Beginning in the Northern Region, IOM prepared community volunteers to recognize and report signs of disease in border communities. In the Eastern Region, IOM received consular officers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration in a workshop on protecting vulnerable migrants. Lastly, in the Western and Brong Ahafo Regions, IOM provided journalists with frameworks to strengthen migration coverage.

In total, 30 consular officers, 58 journalists, and 317 Community-Based Surveillance Volunteers were trained between September 11th and October 2nd, 2018.

Training Consular Officers to Protect Vulnerable Migrants

For five days in Akosombo in the Eastern Region, internationally- and locally-posted Ghanaian officers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration were trained in the first-ever workshop for Ghanaian consular officers dedicated to effectively manage vulnerable migrant cases. Vulnerable migrants include victims of trafficking, such as for labor and sexual exploitation, and unaccompanied minors.

Community-Based Surveillance Volunteers

Consular Officers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Journalists

International consular officers were invited from missions based in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Togo, Sierra Leone, Côte D'Ivoire, and Burkina Faso, where populations of Ghanaian migrants exist. Hafiz Issahaku, Consul-General in Jeddah, writes to IOM Ghana, "The workshop gave me a bird's-eye view of a migration-related concepts, equipping me with the skills to deal professionally with the ever-increasing migrant abuse cases that confront colleagues and I on daily basis." *To read more, see the press release here.*

Training Journalists to Strengthen Irregular Migration Coverage

In two-day sessions in October, each in Takoradi in the Western Region and Sunyani in the Brong Ahafo Region, journalists from Ghanaian newspapers and radio stations were briefed on migratory routes from West Africa to Europe and on key terms and migration law in order to inform their reporting. The journalists also received training on ethical reporting and data protection.

IOM previously conducted media training sessions in February 2018. The training provided an overview of global migration trends before focusing on Ghana's migration landscape, demystifying legal terminology, and examining the power of images. During this initial session, 56 mid to senior level Ghanaian journalists were trained, with 64 per cent of the participants originating from print media, 20 per cent originating from radio and television networks, and the remainder selected from social networks, blogs, and civil society.

Since the European refugee and migrant crisis and the discovery of widespread labor trafficking in Libya, media coverage on irregular migration has spiked in West Africa and internationally. However, Florence Kim, IOM's Regional Media and Communications Officer for West and Central Africa, adds, "Awareness raising on irregular migration is about relaying information on the risks but also on the positive alternatives already existing home. Raising awareness is not only about launching a campaign but also about creating a constant and trustful environment where people are not ashamed to talk about what they have experienced". *To read more, see the press release here.*

Training Community-Based Surveillance Volunteers to Prevent the Spread of Disease

For four days each in the Tatale Sanguli and Mamprugu Moagduri Districts of the Northern Region, IOM Ghana trained Community-Based Surveillance Volunteers (CBSVs) to identify and report symptoms of illness. While members of rural communities have volunteered for the Ghana Health Service in surveillance capacities since the late 1980s, IOM's training in the wake of the West African Ebola outbreak has focused on teaching CBSVs to identify patterns of symptoms before diagnoses are known. The locations for the CBSV trainings were selected by proximity to borders; Tatale Sanguli borders Togo and Mamprugu Moagduri borders the Upper East Region of Ghana. *To read more, see the press release here.*

Testimonials from trainings:

The resource personnel opened my eyes to the fact that ***migrants could be assets rather than liabilities during crises***.

It all depended on how I as a consular officer identified the different traits each individual possesses and how I could exploit them to benefit the group during a crisis.

Tatsu Selormey
Head Consul
Freetown, Sierra Leone

IOM UN MIGRATION

After receiving a Community-Based Surveillance Volunteer ID card:

"Now when I go on the street with my card, everyone knows we are also a part of the Ghana Health Service."

Abdulai S. Abukari (right)
Community-Based Surveillance Volunteer
Mamprugu Moagduri, Northern Region

IOM UN MIGRATION

A TRIBUTE TO

KOFI ANNAN

Change was in the air this September. In our office at IOM Ghana, for the global IOM, and for the United Nations, we said goodbye to old faces and hello to new ones. After the passing of Kofi Annan in August, heads of state and dignitaries paid their respects to the former UN Secretary-General in a state funeral held in Accra in September. September was also the last month in which William Lacy Swing held office, capping his 10-year tenure as the Director General of the International Organization for Migration.

LAYING TO REST THE 7th SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN HIS HOMELAND

A FOND FAREWELL AND WARM WELCOME

ANTÓNIO MANUEL DE CARVALHO FERREIRA VITORINO REPLACES WILLIAM LACY SWING AS IOM DIRECTOR GENERAL

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S ADDRESS TO UN GHANA STAFF

Secretary-General António Guterres answers a question from an audience member after delivering his address.

From left: Yeboah Ofori, Elizabeth Mensah, Victoria Kankam, Ethan Way and Patricia Aikins of IOM Ghana.

From left: Anita Wadud, Sara Hamo, Alexander Billings and Christian Polner of IOM Ghana.

At IOM Ghana, we bid farewell to one intern and welcomed eight more! Through government placement programs, both domestic and international, IOM Ghana is happy to introduce recent university graduates to careers in international civil service. Finally, let's not forget the celebration of the birthday of our Chief of Mission, Ms. Sylvia Lopez-Ekra.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR CHIEF OF MISSION!

We said goodbye to Emma Liegard who interned with the Technical Cooperation Department and in communications for 16 months. Good luck with graduate school, Emma!

INTRODUCING OUR NEW INTERNS

Upper photo, from left: Divine Adu Asare, Priscilla Atoklo, Sylvia Lopez-Ekra, Gertrude Mensah, Linda Acquah, Godwin Kunale, and Ransford Maclean of the National Service Scheme of Ghana.

Left photo, from left: Xizi Luo and Ethan Way of the International Development and Diplomacy Internship Programme of Canada.

CONTRACT WITH **NATIONAL VOCATIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTE** SIGNED TO PROVIDE SKILLS TRAINING TO RETURNEES

On September 25, IOM Ghana entered into an agreement with the National Vocational Training Institute (NVTI) to train 25 returned migrants in the Western Region of Ghana.

The returnees will be prepared for the trades of auto-mechanic and heavy-duty machine operation through practical and on-the-job training, interactive and group sessions, project work, and field trips. Each returnee's curriculum will be customized according to his educational background. Basic financial literacy and entrepreneurial skills will also be provided to increase the employability of returnees. Prior to teaching the returnees, existing NVTI trainers will be trained.

Sylvia Lopez-Ekra, Chief of Mission of IOM Ghana (left), and Mawusi Nudekor Awity, Executive Director of the NVTI (right), sign copies of the agreement.

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING LAUNCHED IN VOLTA REGION

Following the April launch of the Standard Operating Procedures to Combat Human Trafficking in the Greater Accra Region, the SOPs were launched in the Volta Region on September 27. The SOPs are a five-chapter document which covers Identification and Screening, Direct Assistance, Investigation, and Prosecution of cases of trafficking in persons, particularly children. The SOPs were developed as part of the Child Protection Compact Partnership between the Governments of Ghana and the United States, with funding from the US Department of State's Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons. Government officials in the Greater Accra, Volta, and Central Regions were selected for training on the use of the SOPs. The final launch of the SOPs occurred in the Central Region in October 2018 . *To read more about the spring launch in Accra, see the press release here.*

Left photo: Alexander Billings, Project Manager of IOM Ghana's Counter-Trafficking Department, speaks to the audience at the September 27 launch in Ho, the capital of the Volta Region.

Right photo (from left) at the April launch in Accra: Adelaide Anno-Kumi. Ministry of the Interior; Rustum Nyquist, U.S. Embassy in Ghana; Sylvia Lopez-Ekra, IOM Ghana; Kwesi Armo-Himbson, Ministry of Gender, Children and SociaVI Protection; Elizabeth Sackeyfio, Attorney General's Department; Victoria Natsu, Human Trafficking Secretariat of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection.

AUDITING OF **MIGRATION-RELATED SDG TARGETS** IN DISTRICT AND SECTOR DEVELOPMENT PLANS

In February, IOM launched a two-year project to integrate migration-related Sustainable Development Goals into the medium-term national development plans of Ghana and Ethiopia. The project, titled "Integrating migration into national development plans: towards policy coherence and the achievement of SDGs at national and global levels", seeks to ensure migration policies are consistent with the migration-related targets in the 2030 Agenda.

An inter-agency Technical Working Group on migration in Ghana was established during the project launch in February, as co-chaired by the Migration Unit of the Ministry of the Interior. The Technical Working Group is responsible for tracking progress on the achievement of migration-related SDGs in Ghana such as by ensuring that migration is mainstreamed in national development policies. Additionally, based on priorities identified by the Technical Working Group, two initiatives from Ghana's 2016 National Migration Policy will be funded and implemented by the IOM project.

In August, a subcommittee of the Technical Working Group was created to audit the level to which migration-related SDGs have already been incorporated into select medium-term national, district, and sectoral development plans of Ghana.

Representatives from the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations, National Development Planning Commission, Ghana Statistical Service, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, and the Centre for Migration Studies at the University of Ghana attend auditing sessions at Akosombo.

Evaluated by the auditing subcommittee were the National Medium-Term Development Policy Framework (2017-2021); four sectoral Medium-Term Development Plans for the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, and the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations; and four district Medium-Term Development Plans for North Tongu, Dormaa East, Wa, and Accra.

A content analysis was conducted on key statements reflecting keywords pertaining to migration-related SDG targets and indicators, specifically, goals 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 16, and 17. Keywords included social protection for migrants, remittances, migrant health and data collection and disaggregation, improving migrants' financial inclusion and integration, reducing violence targeting migrant communities, smuggling, irregular migration, trafficking in persons, migration and development, institutional accountability, diaspora affairs, and participation in international dialogues regarding migration. The team assessed the level of integration of the respective plans under the following descriptive terminologies: Not Covered, Partially Covered, Significantly Covered, and Fully Covered.

Project funding is provided by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Sub-Fund of the Peace and Development Fund.

RENOVATIONS COMPLETED FOR GOVERNMENT SHELTER FOR CHILD TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

Ambrose Dery, Minister of the Interior, and Sylvia Lopez-Ekra, Chief of Misson, at the event.

Alexander Billings, Project Manager of IOM Ghana's Counter-Trafficking Department, shows a newly renovated dormitory. Each dormitory, one for girls and one for boys, consists of five rooms with four beds each.

On July 28, IOM Ghana joined Ghana's Ministers for Gender, Children and Social Protection and the Interior; the US Ambassador to Ghana; the UN Resident Coordinator; key government officials involved in anti-trafficking response; and civil society actors to celebrate the reopening of the only government-owned shelter dedicated to child victims of trafficking in Ghana.

The renovated shelter, which has not been operational in the past eight years, will be a safe environment capable of housing 40 children recently removed from human trafficking situations. Trained social workers can provide comprehensive and trauma-informed services and assistance, including psychosocial counselling, family tracing, and nutritional feeding.

In total, the IOM has provided over USD $50,000 to refurbish and refurnish the shelter. Through a regional initiative funded by the Kingdom of Sweden to improve direct assistance to child migrants, IOM supported the installation of a new septic tank and compound lighting. IOM has also funded renovations to the dayroom block, including two classrooms, an office, two staff toilets, a library and a storage room.

Through funding from the United States, IOM oversaw the renovation of two dormitory blocks and their adjacent bathrooms, as well as a dining hall and storage area. The organization also donated tables, benches, cabinets, mattresses, stoves, a freezer, a refrigerator, a television, mosquito nets and lamps.

Support from the United States of America is part of the Child Protection Compact (CPC) Partnership between the Governments of Ghana and the United States, with funding from the US Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP Office).

As an implementing partner of the CPC, IOM provides technical support to government stakeholders responsible for protecting victims of trafficking and prosecuting perpetrators. Since 2016, IOM has trained 150 social welfare officers from the Department of Social Welfare (DSW) on direct assistance to child victims of trafficking. The reopening of a dedicated shelter for child victims of trafficking provides a place for trained social welfare officers to provide assistance that aligns with the recently launched Standard Operating Procedures to Combat Human Trafficking in Ghana.

CPC funding will enable IOM Ghana to support 140 resident and non-resident child victims of trafficking while at the shelter, by offering return and reintegration support to unite children with their families, amongst other initiatives.

Through the CPC partnership, IOM also collaborates with the Government of Ghana to provide logistical support to law enforcement for operations involving child victims of trafficking and will assist those children who participate as witnesses in criminal proceedings.

To read more, see the press release here.

Monica Amoah, 32

Returned from Libya in April 2016
Currently lives in Greater Accra

"If not for your help to get home from Libya, I would have died.

You brought me home safely. At home, you gave me support so I could buy groceries to sell. I'm making a profit selling the groceries.

I thank you for the support you've given and for bringing me back to Ghana."

SAFE MIGRATION INFORMATION CAMPAIGN CONCLUDES

IOM Ghana speaks to high school students during an awareness raising session in Seikwa in the Brong Ahafo Region of Ghana in February.

From February 5 to 10, five communities in the Brong Ahafo region in Ghana took part in the final awareness sessions organized by the Aware Migrants Information Campaign – Engaging West African Communities Programme. The programme is funded by the Federal Foreign Office of Germany and aimed to raise awareness among community members, especially youth, regarding the realities of irregular migration. Aware Migrants aimed to share the stories of irregular migrant returnees with potential migrants and youth. It further focused on raising awareness concerning the growing trend of West African youth risking their lives in the Sahara and the Mediterranean hoping to reach Europe.. The awareness sessions reached over 3,000 senior high school students and 400 community members as well as prospective passport applicants at the Sunyani passport office. *Read more here.*

COUNTER SMUGGLING NATIONAL ACTION PLAN UNVEILED WITH GHANA IMMIGRATION SERVICE

From left: Mark Asamoah-Boakye, Ghana Immigration Service; Sylvia Lopez-Ekra, IOM Ghana; Laud Affrifah, Ghana Immigration Service; Chris Ache, Consultant to the ACCBP Project; Elizabeth Sackeyfio, Attorney-General's Department.

IOM, in collaboration with the Ghana Immigration Service (GIS), launched a new Counter Migrant Smuggling National Action Plan (NAP) and Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) on Information Sharing and Regional Cooperation in February 2018. The launch was part of a reflection event to conclude IOM's counter migrant smuggling project "Addressing Counter-Smuggling and Protection Gaps in Ghana, Benin and Togo: Strengthening National and Regional Mechanisms." The project was funded by the Government of Canada through its Anti-Crime and Capacity Building Programme (ACCBP).

The NAP is formulated by over ten Ministries, Departments and Agencies and presents a whole of government approach to counter migrant smuggling in Ghana through the identification of specific tasks and their associated required resources.

IOM Ghana Chief of Mission, Sylvia Lopez-Ekra shared that "Both the NAP and the SoPs are major achievements. However, this is only the beginning of the work ahead. We need to ensure that there will be a solid and sustainable implementation of both documents. Our success will measure in how effective we will be at preventing the proliferation of those networks in the three targeted countries as well as in terms of the positive impact we will have in migrant protection."

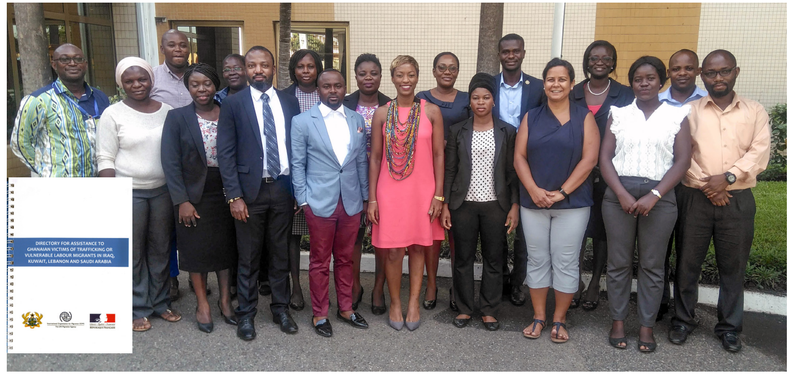
The implementation of the 46-page NAP is estimated to cost GHS 81 million over a five year period from 2019 to 2023. The document is structured into six pillars including: Improved Legislation, Stringent Law Enforcement, Public Awareness Creation, Improved Information Gathering & Sharing, Rights Protection of Smuggled Migrants and Regional Cooperation. *Read more here.*

MIGRANT ASSISTANCE DIRECTORY LAUNCHED

Ghanaian migrants, particularly women, are increasingly recruited through licensed and unlicensed employment agencies to work in various countries, including those in the Middle East. Fraudulent advertisements for job opportunities are now commonly seen in the streets of Ghana as well as on social media channels. Once recruited, migrants often find themselves in vulnerable situations, exposed to phenomena such as trafficking, forced labour, psychological trauma and physical abuse, sexual exploitation, poor working and living conditions, the confiscation of their travel documents, and the withholding of salaries and debt bondage.

Vulnerable migrants are considered victims of trafficking, smuggled migrants, stranded migrants, unaccompanied minors, irregular migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. For these migrants, vulnerability may arise before the journey, in transit, upon arrival at their destination, or as they attempt to establish a life for themselves in a new country. Migrants in need should have access to protection and assistance services along the migration continuum.

Access to diplomatic and consular assistance is a critical element in ensuring Ghanaian migrants' protection abroad. Ghanaian consulates often constitute a lifeline for migrants in vulnerable situations. To be effective however, consular assistance needs to be grounded in the best interests of the migrant. Consular assistance should be fast, well informed, and rely on the network of support services available in the countries of destination.



A validation and training workshop on March 22 with representatives from governmental, non-governmental, and intergovernmental agencies.

Guided by law, best practices and relying on the IOM's international expertise and networks, the "Directory for Assistance to Ghanaian Victims of Trafficking or Vulnerable Labour Migrants in Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia" provides a catalogue of assistance services and structures available to migrants located both in Ghana and in key destination countries in the Middle East.

The directory is primarily meant for the use of first responders and will be supplemented by SOS cards to be distributed to victims of trafficking and other vulnerable migrants. SOS cards contain the names and contact numbers of agencies who can provide support.

The development of the Directory was funded by the Embassy of France in Ghana with participation of various relevant departments of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, the Ghana Immigration Service, the Office of the President, the Ghana Police Service, and the Ministry of Employment and Labor Relations.
Non-governmental agencies that assisted in the development of the Directory are Migrant Watch and SEWA Foundation.

GOODWILL AMBASSADOR KOFI KINAATA RELEASES "NO PLACE LIKE HOME"

From left: Prosper Delali Asima, Ghana Immigration Service; Kofi Kinaata, IOM Goodwill Ambassador; Robin Cordes, Embassy of Germany in Ghana; Sylvia Lopez-Ekra, IOM Ghana.

On April 26, IOM Goodwill Ambassador Kofi Kinaata released "No Place Like Home", a song and accompanying music video produced to sensitize Ghanaian youth about the dangers of irregular migration.

"The song encourages the listener to think critically about the choice to migrate irregularly," said Kofi Kinaata. "In our haste to make money, we forget that the grass is not always greener on the other side and that there are opportunities in Ghana."

Kinaata, a popular artist in Ghana, drew inspiration for the song from personal experiences of friends from Takoradi who have migrated irregularly, as well as from a recent trip to the Brong Ahafo Region where he joined IOM in awareness raising events.

The launch event for the song release was part of a three-day awareness-raising campaign conducted in Takoradi, the capital city of Ghana's Western Region, one of the main areas of origin for Ghanaian returnees from Libya. Kofi Kinaata was appointed IOM Goodwill Ambassador in November 2017. *Read more here and watch the music video here.*

"Be patient, there is no place like home

We are all in haste to make money, but the grass is not always greener on the other side

Life is in phases, one step at a time, from Benz to Bugatti

The future is bright, we shall build, we shall travel, we shall enjoy....or what do you say?

If you must migrate, you must migrate safe…"

KOFI KINAATA
"NO PLACE LIKE HOME"

GHANAIAN MIGRANTS RETURN HOME

An IOM Ghana staff member records the contact details and migratory process of a returnee and disburses pocket money to him at Kotoka International Airport.

On May 15, the IOM, in partnership with the Government of Ghana and the Airport Authorities, facilitated the return home of 148 Ghanaians from Libya. The group represented the fourth chartered flight organized by the IOM through the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration.

When the Joint Initiative began in June 2017 the plan was to bring 650 men and women home within three years. IOM met – and exceeded – that initial target, bringing home its 1001st Ghanaian beneficiary in January 2019 as part of a successful initiative that exceeded all parties' expectations. The majority (70 per cent) of the returnees are being returned from various detention centres in Libya, while the rest are from urban areas. Returnees will have the opportunity to benefit from reintegration assistance which can consist of counselling, referrals to services (including psychosocial and medical), and other support — as needed and depending on the services available in the country. *Read more here.*

TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS INFORMATION SYSTEM DONATED TO GOVERNMENT

From left: Alexander Billings and Sylvia Lopez-Ekra, IOM Ghana; Otiko Afisa Djaba and Victoria Natsu, Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection; Rustum Nyquist, U.S. Embassy in Ghana; Patricia Adusei-Poku, Data Protection Commission.

On May 21, the IOM donated USD $17,831 worth of equipment to the Government of Ghana to facilitate the use of the Trafficking in Persons Information Systems (TIPIS). The TIPIS aims to collect aggregate and anonymous reporting on human trafficking from district, regional and national levels in order to provide policy makers with accurate information to guide the national counter-trafficking response.

Ghana is a source, transit and destination country for men, women, and children subjected to forced labour and sex trafficking. Equipment donated include computers, printers, uninterruptible power supplies, and modems with internet bundles. *Read more here.*

"More than ever, we need to stand united as **'One UN'** in order to foster the bold changes that are needed for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals."

- Sylvia Lopez-Ekra, Chief of Mission, IOM Ghana

Town Hall Meeting with United Nations Secretary General António Guterres and UN Ghana Staff
September 13, 2018