



## GHANA INTEGRATED MIGRATION MANAGEMENT APPROACH

An estimated 232 million people or 3.2 per cent of the world's population live outside their country of origin, this makes migration and the networks it creates a defining feature of the 21st century. Migration is driven by development opportunities that enable people to lead better lives.

Migrants and the resources they generate in the form of remittances and diaspora investment can serve as catalysts for positive development. Individual migrants often gain valuable skills during the migration process that enable human development at the household level and further contributes to national development and resilience to economic and environmental risks and shocks. However, mobility can also bring new inequalities and vulnerabilities, especially when it is poorly governed and occurs under conditions of insecurity. Too many individuals are forced to risk their lives and dignity in search of better lives.

### MIGRATION AND GHANA

Ghana has a long history of dynamic population mobility and recent years have seen an increase in the complexity of migration patterns both regular and irregular that traverse national borders. Like other West African countries, Ghana has porous borders. As a result, there has been an increase in both the smuggling of migrants and the trafficking of foreign nationals for forced labour and sexual exploitation.

Increasing numbers of young Ghanaians are risking their lives in search of better opportunities abroad. The country is also constantly affected by conflicts and regional crises. The Ebola crisis (2014-2015) served to underscore the importance of migration and the inter-connectedness of Ghana with other countries.

### THE GIMMA PROJECT

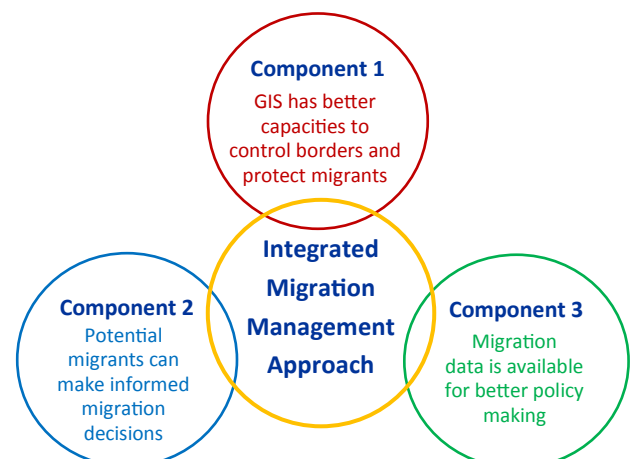
In order to respond effectively to these complex migratory challenges, supported by the 10<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund (EDF) of the European Union (EU), the International Organization

for Migration (IOM) and Ghana Immigration Service (GIS) are jointly implementing the Ghana Integrated Migration Management Approach (GIMMA) Project. The three year project (2014 – 2017) aims to contribute to the Government of Ghana's efforts to manage migration effectively through the establishment of an integrated migration management approach.

### INTEGRATED MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

Migration is a complex issue that needs a multi-dimensional approach. Although capacity building is one major strategy in managing migration, it does not address all resulting issues. The **Integrated Management Approach** is a comprehensive, transparent and coherent means to address migration and border management processes.

The GIMMA project utilizes three main strategies: capacity building for officials at the forefront of migration management, information outreach on safe and legal migration, and the establishment of a national database for effective migration related policy making activities.



## COMPONENT 1

### Enhancing the institutional capacities of law enforcement officers to effectively manage borders

West Africa is one of the most mobile regions in the world. A tremendous increase in the movement of people and goods in the region requires enhanced immigration and border management structures to manage the cross-border flow of people. The GIMMA project is strengthening institutional capacity on migration and border management, including:

- **Development of a legal reference handbook** to enable officers to interpret and apply relevant laws
- **Establishment of an IT laboratory** at the Immigration Service Academy and Training School (ISATS) to help officers gain necessary IT skills to perform their duties effectively and professionally
- **Restructuring of GIS training curriculum** to meet evolving training needs of officers and to facilitate the implementation of GIS training policy
- **Support to improve the physical structures, equipment and capacities of Border Patrol Units** to prevent irregular cross-border movement such as human smuggling and trafficking



Border assessment in Volta Region. © IOM 2015

## COMPONENT 2

### Promoting safe and legal migration

Since the tragic drowning of more than 300 migrants off the coast of Lampedusa in October 2013, the situation in the Mediterranean remains dire. According to IOM research, in 2015 at least 5,350 migrants lost their lives while attempting to cross borders around the world. The majority of these migrants (65%) originated from Sub-Saharan Africa.

An additional concern is the growing number of unlicensed employment agencies that are facilitating the trafficking of Ghanaians, especially women, to the Middle East by making false promises of lucrative job opportunities. It is essential for migrants to make informed decisions so they travel in a legal, voluntary and protected way; the GIMMA project provides support in the following areas:

- **Restructuring of the Migration Information Bureau (MIB) in Accra and Migration Consultation Centre (MCC) in Sunyani** to provide a hub for information and services for migrants
- **Information outreach** to sensitize migrants on the risks of irregular migration and safe migration options
- **Support to livelihood enhancement activities** in communities prone to irregular migration to highlight opportunities in Ghana



Sensitization at school in Sunyani. © IOM 2014

## COMPONENT 3

### Strengthening migration data management for evidence based policy making

Despite the growing importance of migration for development, data on migration is not readily available to inform policy decisions in Ghana. Migration data is scattered among agencies and ministries, which makes it difficult to access data as data sharing is limited and a common reporting system is lacking. A more coordinated approach to migration data management would bolster Ghana's capacity to map its migration dynamics and design appropriate migration and development policies.

In response to growing calls for better data on migration and better use and presentation of migration data, GIMMA is working with a number of stakeholders in the following areas:

- **Establishment of a national migration data sharing framework** to produce periodic statistical reports
- **Training on migration data collection and analysis**
- **Updating of the Migration Profile** for Ghana



Members of Inter-ministerial working group on migration data. © IOM 2015

The Ghana Integrated Migration Management Approach (GIMMA) is based on the priorities identified by the Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda (GSGDA); the gaps and needs expressed in the GIS Strategic Plan 2011-15; the recommendations of previously implemented projects; and most importantly, the extensive consultation process conducted during the development of the national migration policy.

This project is generously funded by the European Union and is implemented jointly by International Organization for Migration (IOM) and Ghana Immigration Service (GIS)



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