



65
YEARS

International Organization for Migration

IOM GHANA
ANNUAL REPORT
2016



Publisher:

International Organization for Migration, Ghana
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ABOUT IOM

Established in 1951, IOM is the leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration and works closely with governmental, inter-governmental and non-governmental partners. With 166 member states, (a further 8 states holding observer status) and offices in over 100 countries, IOM is dedicated to promoting humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all.

In September 2016, IOM officially joined the United Nations family as a related organization, further underscoring the role that IOM plays in the field of human mobility.

PRESENT FOR 30 YEARS IN GHANA

IOM has been active in Ghana since 1987 and has contributed to the Government of Ghana's efforts to manage migration effectively through a wide variety of projects and programmes. In Ghana, the mission has a wide range of activities, including on voluntary return and reintegration, refugee resettlement, migrant health, counter trafficking and counter-smuggling, border management, safe migration, global health security, travel services for migrants, migration and development, emergency assistance and capacity-building on all relevant migration issues. The IOM main office, the Canada Visa Application Centre (CVAC) and the Migration Health Assessment Centre (MHAC) are all located in Accra, with one sub-office in Sunyani in the Brong-Ahafo region. IOM has always and continues to work within the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) whose strategic areas derive from the Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda (GSGDA).



#Together #ForMigration

FOREWORD

2016 has been a year of many milestones for IOM. We celebrated our 65th Anniversary, joined the United Nations family and have seen migration get unprecedented prominence on the international scene including through the UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants.

2016 was also the year that Ghana, with the support of IOM, took the farseeing step of adopting a comprehensive National Migration Policy outlining its whole-of-government vision for managing migration.

Before that, in 2015, critical gains had been made at the Valletta Summit as well as during the Sustainable Development Summit that saw the historical inclusion of migration into the Sustainable Development Agenda.

For me, one common and crucial denominator to all these game-changing moments was the recognition of a shared responsibility and the commitment to



international partnership to better govern migration.

A partnership to find common solutions to challenges that are of global importance, a partnership to leave no migrant behind but above all a partnership to save lives.

In Ghana, 2016 has seen a significant increase in our protection-related activities. Saving lives for us meant conducting safe migration campaigns on the dangers

of irregular migration, raising awareness on migrant exploitation including counter-trafficking and counter-smuggling, capacity building of government officials, especially frontline officers and last but not least direct assistance to a variety of migrants.

Reflecting on the trends we have witnessed in 2016 – an increasing number of young people driven by disillusionment and lack of employment prospects seeking to reach Europe and even the Middle East at the risk of their lives – protection will continue to be a major priority for IOM Ghana in 2017 and the years to come.

In 2016 alone, approximately 30,000 migrants including men, women and children refugees, survivors of trafficking (internal and cross-border), smuggled migrants, diaspora and returnees have benefitted from IOM staff's dedication and hard work. In addition, we have made tremendous progress in the area of border management, global health security and migration, migration data collection as well as in harnessing the

development impact of remittances.

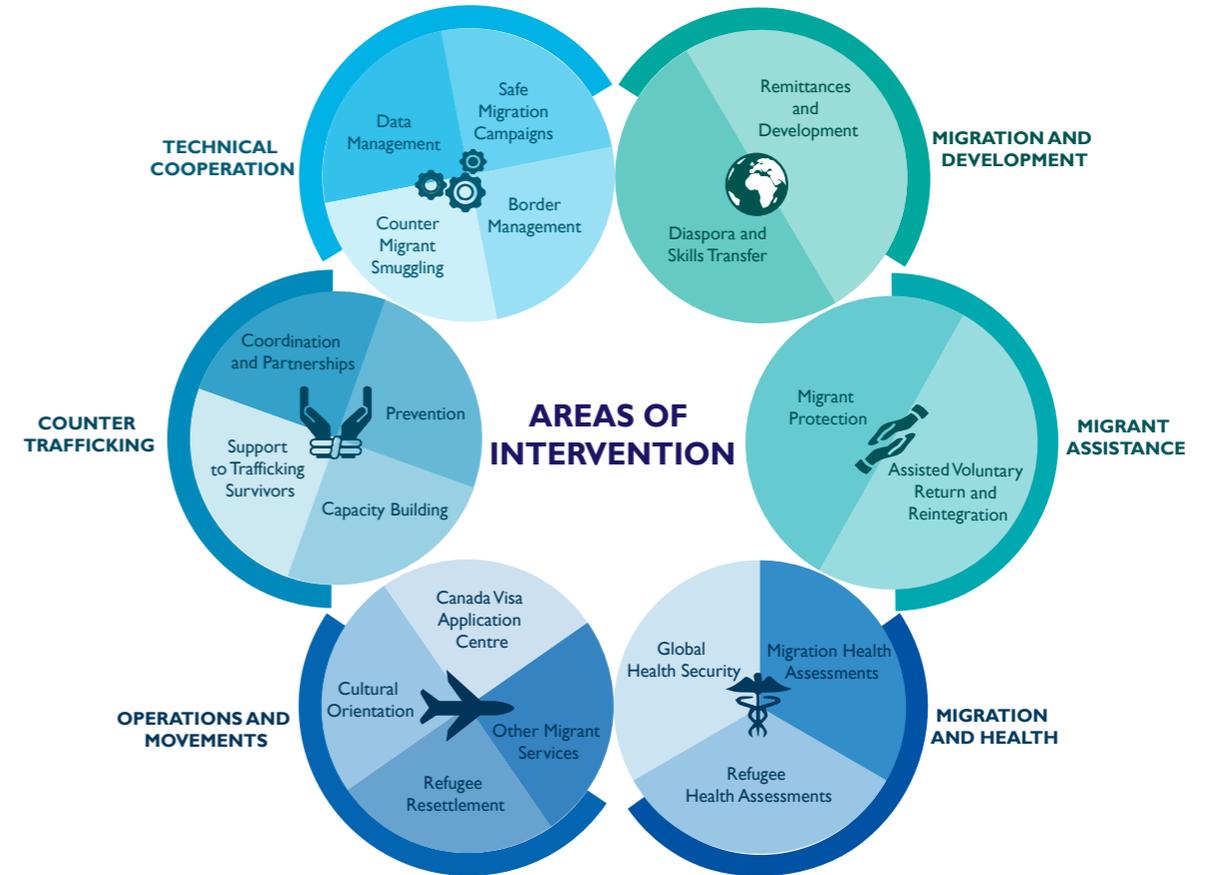
As we report on the great strides and achievements made in 2016 in partnership with the Government of Ghana, our development partners and the civil society, we are also more aware than ever of the important work that lies ahead.

IOM's key strengths have always been its responsiveness and its capacity to meet new and emerging challenges. As the UN Migration Agency – we will continue to build on these strengths and continue to support the Government of Ghana, Ghanaian migrants and migrants in Ghana to harness the full developmental potential of safe and orderly migration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sylvia Lopez-Ekra'.

Sylvia Lopez-Ekra
Chief of Mission
IOM Ghana

IOM GHANA'S AREAS OF INTERVENTION



IOM GHANA'S ACHIEVEMENTS - 2016



136 Ghanaians assisted to return home



538 migrants including refugees provided cultural orientation



8,611 visa applications for Canada received



21,343 migrants including refugees provided medical screenings and assessments



1,654 refugees resettled



109 returnees assisted with reintegration support



843 officials and volunteers trained



80 trafficked children provided education/vocational opportunities



12,000 community members reached through awareness raising sessions



MIGRATION AND HEALTH - BACKGROUND AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The Migration Health Division (MHD) at IOM Accra, coordinates migration health activities for Ghana and 23 countries in the West and Central African region. It also manages a Migration Health Assessment Centre (MHAC) in Accra. In 2016, a total of 21,338 migrants were assisted by MHD through its various activities.

Health assessments: IOM conducts health assessments to evaluate the physical and mental health status of refugees and visa applicants prior to their departure at the request of receiving countries such as Australia, Belgium, Canada, New Zealand, Spain, the UK and the US. Health assessment requirements differ from country to country – they may be general or specific to detect diseases of public health importance such as tuberculosis (TB). When TB and other diseases of public health concern are detected migrants are referred to relevant departments and specialists at the Ghana Health Services. In countries where there is a sizeable refugee case load, but limited migration health presence, health professionals from Accra and other IOM Missions conduct medical missions to complete health assessments. In 2016, medical missions were coordinated to Cameroon, Chad, Mauritania and Togo.

In 2016, the department carried out a total of 3,733 health assessments for refugees and visa applicants.

UK Tuberculosis Detection (UKTB): IOM conducts screenings to detect tuberculosis in any migrants planning to travel to the UK for more than six months. IOM Accra also coordinates the UKTB detection programme in Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal, Sierra Leone and The Gambia.

A total of 16,593 migrants bound for the UK were screened for TB in 2016.

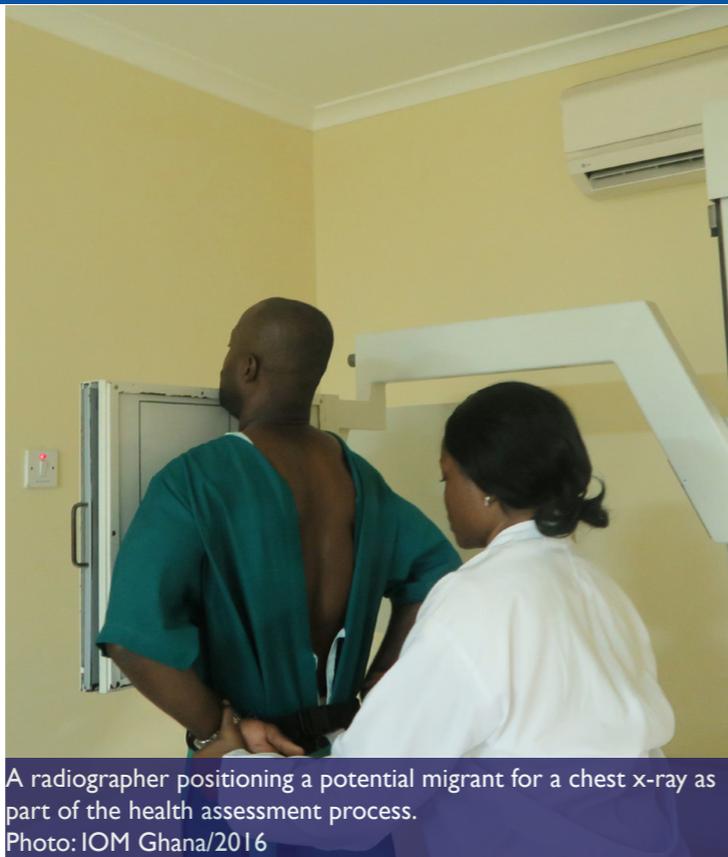


DNA Sampling: IOM Accra collects DNA samples on behalf of several IOM member states, ensuring verification of identity to prevent fraud. The samples are couriered to labs for processing. The results are typically required to support migrant family reunification cases.

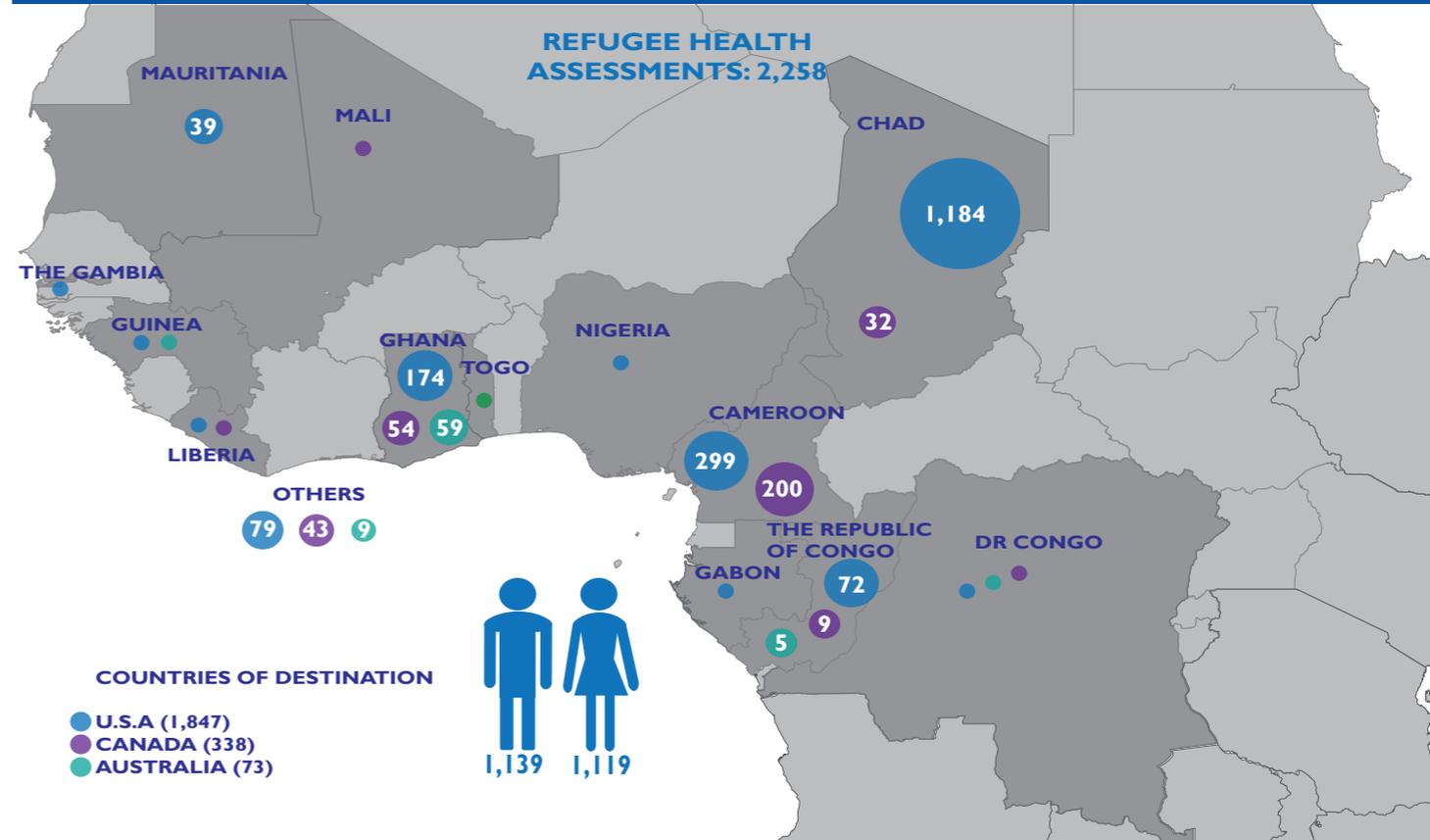
In 2016, 972 DNA samples were collected for processing in Accra.

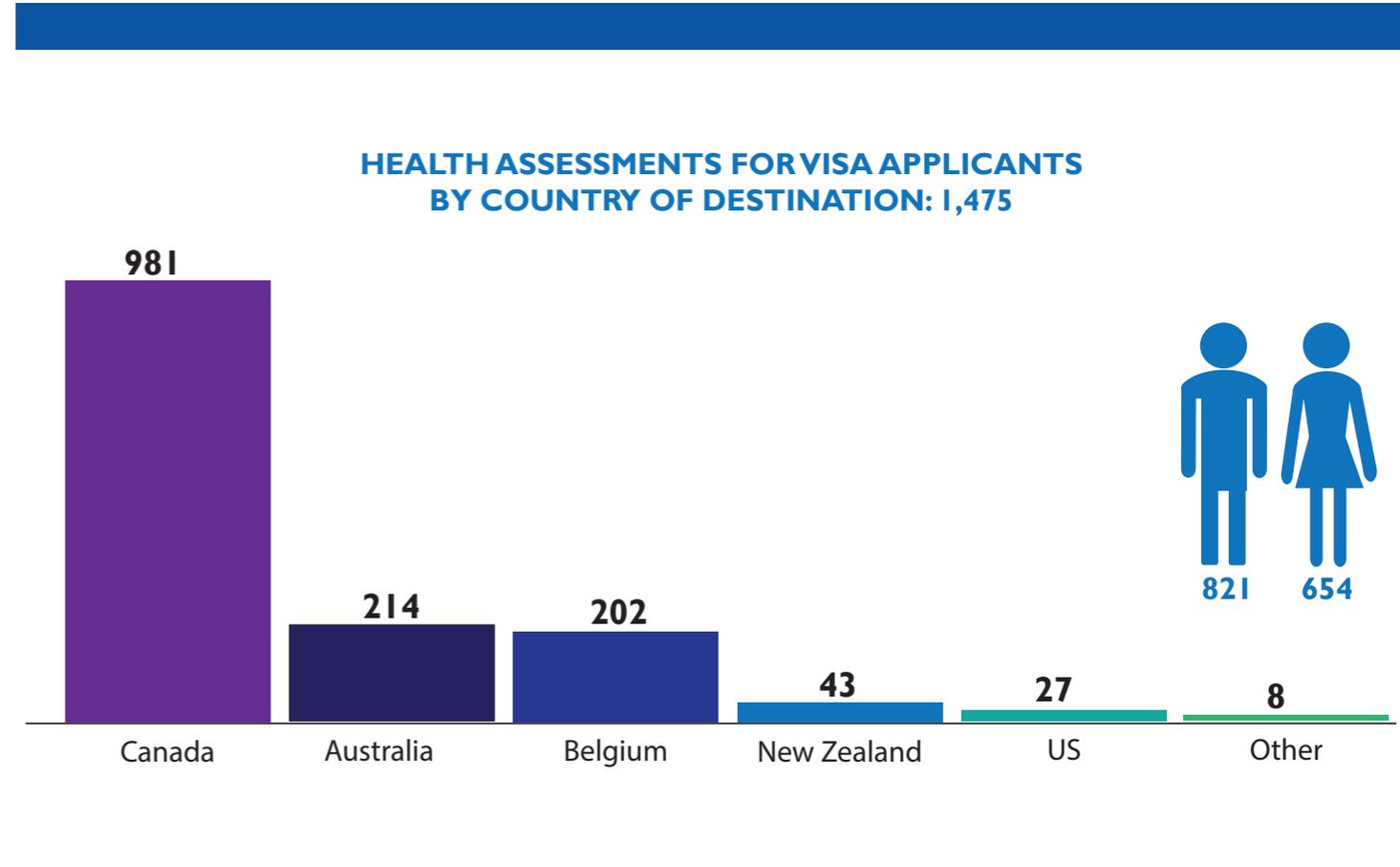
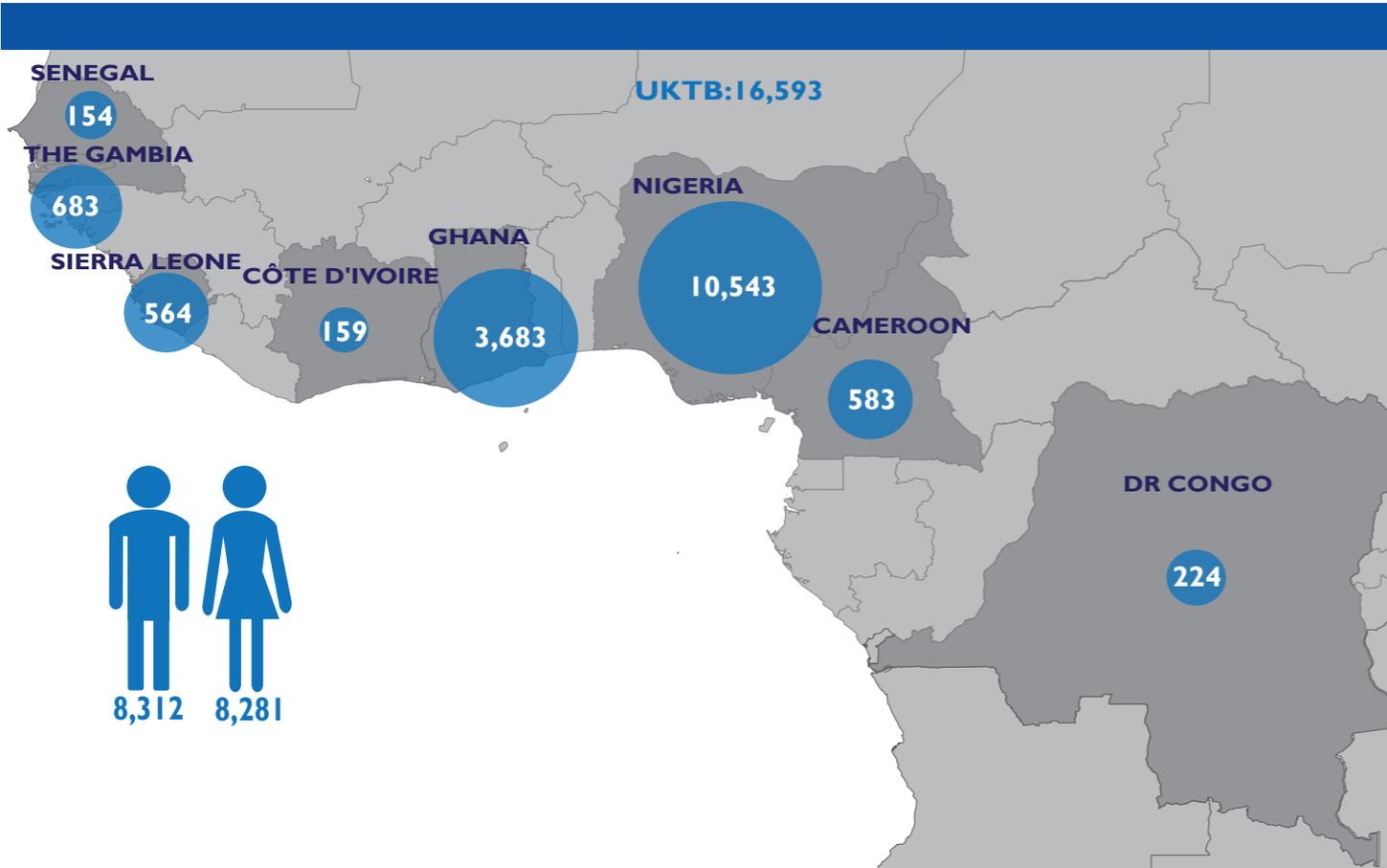
Migration Health Travel Assistance: MHD conducts and coordinates pre-embarkation checks (PECs) and pre-departure medical screenings (PDMSs) to assess migrants' fitness to travel and provide medical clearance. Migrants with medical conditions are referred to appropriate medical services in the country of destination. Migrants who need medical assistance and care during travel are escorted by qualified medical escorts.

MHD provided medical escorts for 40 cases in 2016 – 38 refugee resettlement cases and two beneficiaries of IOM's Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration programme.



A radiographer positioning a potential migrant for a chest x-ray as part of the health assessment process.
Photo: IOM Ghana/2016







A joint team of IOM/CDC conducting field assessment of the Public Health Emergency response measures at the Aflao Land Border. Photo: IOM Ghana/David Pwayidi 2016

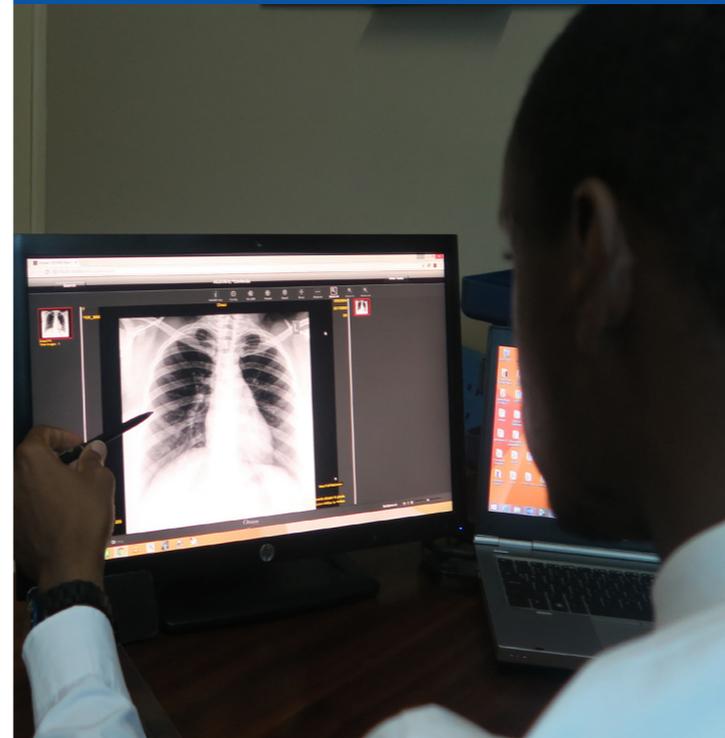
Global Health Security: Since the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) epidemic in the region, IOM Accra has been implementing the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) project. It aims to respond to the mobility dimensions of disease outbreaks and other health emergencies through the IOM Health Border and Mobility Management (HBMM) framework.

In 2016, the GHSA project strengthened the Government of Ghana's capacity for preparedness and response to infectious disease outbreaks and Public Health Emergencies of International Concern (PHEICs).

Additionally, the capacity of 3 land points of entry (Aflao, Akanu and Paga) and surrounding border communities as well as the Kotoka International Airport were strengthened to detect and respond to public health emergencies. The project also strengthened public health information sharing and capacities to respond across the Ghana-Togo and Ghana-Burkina Faso borders.



PRIORITIES FOR 2017



An IOM doctor examines a chest x-ray at the Migration Health Assessment Centre in Accra. Photo: IOM Ghana/2016

- Expanding cooperation with Ghana Health Services particularly on the mental health needs of returning migrants.
- Introducing an expanded immunization programme under the Canada and US refugee resettlement health assessments.
- Launching a Community Based Surveillance system in two pilot border districts at Burkina Faso and Togo borders. Additionally, launching the Public Health Emergency Response Plan and associated Standard Operating Procedures at the Kotoka International Airport and enhancing the Ghana-Togo cross-border information sharing and response.



OPERATIONS AND MOVEMENTS - BACKGROUND AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The Department of Operations leads IOM Ghana's resettlement and movement programmes and is responsible for overseeing IOM's activities related to movement, logistics, humanitarian emergencies and preparedness and response. A total of 11,960 migrants were assisted by the department in 2016.

Refugee resettlement: IOM Ghana coordinates refugee resettlement for 23 countries in West and Central Africa in close coordination with IOM missions in countries of departure and arrival, and other partners including UNHCR, Resettlement Support Center (RSC) and embassies. As part of its services, IOM facilitates the acquisition of travel documents, makes travel arrangements including purchasing of flight tickets, transportation to the airport and provides assistance at departure, transit and arrival airports.

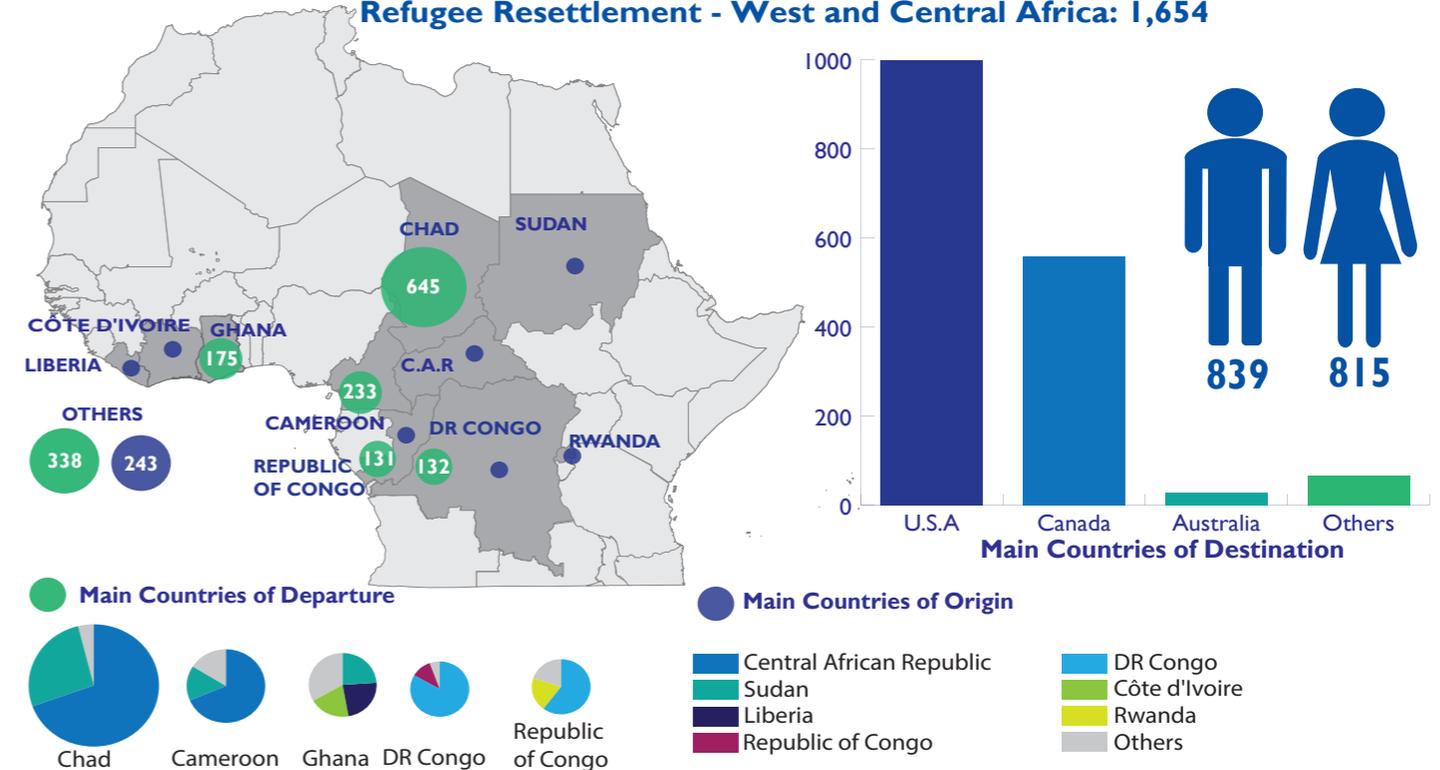
In 2016, a total of 1,654 refugees were resettled by the department.

Cultural orientation: An important aspect of IOM's refugee resettlement programmes is the pre-departure cultural orientation component – the Australian Cultural Orientation (AUSCO) and the Canadian Orientation Abroad (COA) compliment the Australian and Canadian Resettlement Programmes. Pre-departure cultural orientation help to prepare refugees accepted for resettlement by providing them with relevant information about their host countries. It also empowers refugees by enhancing their abilities to become self-sufficient and ultimately to better integrate in their new countries. In 2016, IOM Accra's trainer provided cultural orientation for several countries in the region as well. The COA programme was expanded to include Guinea-Bissau and Burkina Faso.

A total of 538 refugees were provided with pre-departure cultural orientation in 2016.



Refugee Resettlement - West and Central Africa: 1,654



CANADIAN VISA APPLICATIONS AND DOCUMENTS PROCESSED: 9,268



8,611
Applications
Received



603
Passports
Transmitted
(for online applications)



54
Biometric
Registrations

Canadian Visa Application Centre (CVAC): As part of IOM's global partnership with VFS Global (an outsourcing services specialist for governments and diplomatic missions worldwide), IOM operates the CVAC in Ghana. It accepts applications for various visas (visitor, student and work permits) for nationals from Ghana as well as from Ascension, Benin, Liberia, Sao Tome and Principe, St. Helena, The Gambia, Togo and Tristan da Cunha.

It also provides additional administrative support to the Canadian High Commission by reviewing visa applications for accuracy, processing and dispatching applications, conducting biometric registrations and transmitting passports to the High Commission.

A total of 9,268 applications, passport transmissions and biometric registrations were completed in 2016.

Migrant assistance: The Operations Department also assists stranded and vulnerable migrants and victims of trafficking through facilitating their dignified return home.

The department assisted a total of 104 migrants through such interventions in 2016.

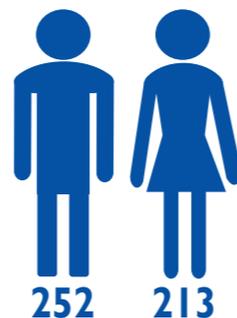
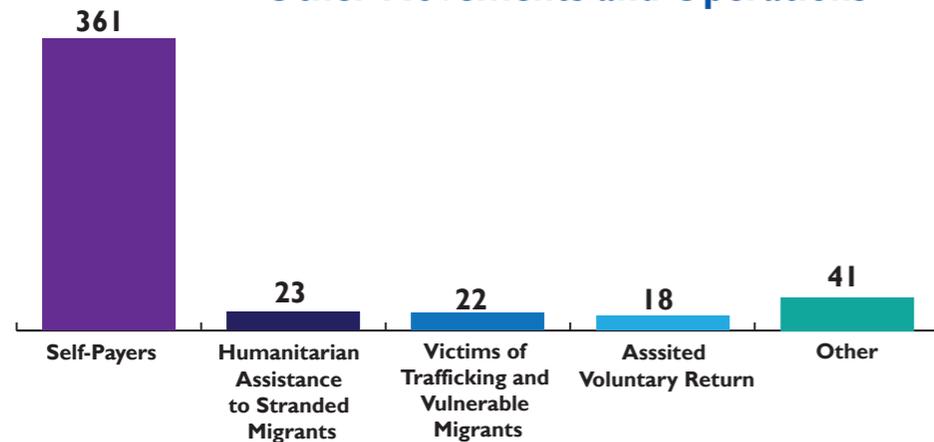
Other migration services: Given its long standing relationships and agreements with various airlines as the lead migration agency, IOM also provides discounted fares for nationals of Ghana and the sub-region who have immigrant or family reunification visas for Australia, Canada and the US. The department also provides document verification services for the Government of Australia.

In 2016, the department conducted 35 document verifications and 361 immigrant and/or family reunification visa holders with discounted fares.

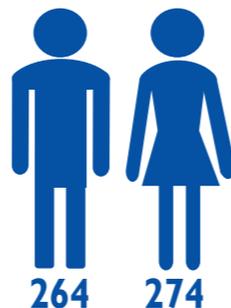
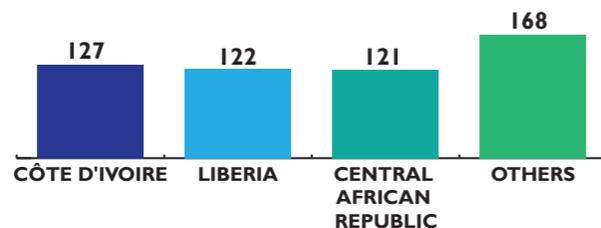


Refugees bound for Australia take part in a cultural orientation programme conducted by IOM Accra.
Photo: IOM Ghana/Patience Lartey 2016

Other Movements and Operations

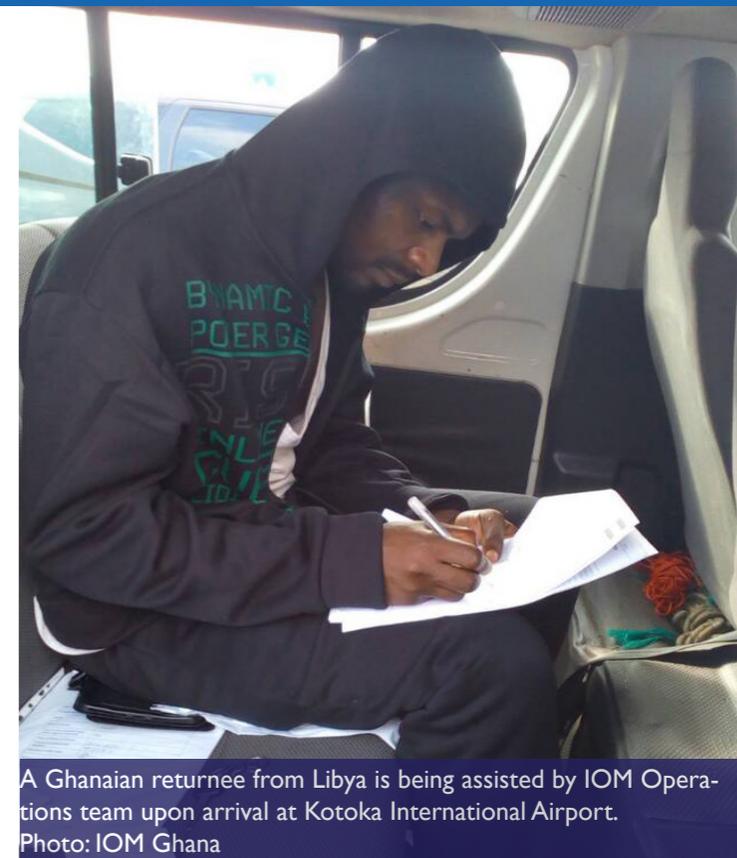


Main Nationalities of Beneficiaries for Cultural Orientation: 538



PRIORITIES FOR 2017

- Expanding activities under the Canadian Orientation Abroad targeted at youth and incorporating feedback mechanisms into all its cultural orientation programmes.
- Extending activities to provide pre-consular support, document verification, migrant orientation, and movement support to governments and migrants.
- Continuing to address the needs of refugees and other vulnerable migrant groups through resettlement programs and migrant assistance.
- Supporting the Government of Ghana's efforts to address natural disaster response within the cluster approach and by tracking and monitoring the displacement and population mobility through Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM).



COUNTER-TRAFFICKING - BACKGROUND AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The Counter-Trafficking unit at IOM Ghana works to address trafficking in persons, especially trafficking of children in partnership with the Government of Ghana, international development organizations, the diplomatic community and the civil society. Ghana is a source, transit and destination country for men, women and children subjected to forced labour and sex trafficking. The most prevalent type of trafficking is internal trafficking, especially of children subjected to forced labour in the fishing, mining, agricultural and informal (street hawking, begging and portering) sectors.

Protection: IOM Ghana utilizes concrete measures to enable individuals at risk, especially victims of trafficking, to enjoy the rights and assistance guaranteed by national and international law. The counter-trafficking unit coordinates comprehensive protection for victims of trafficking, including (but not limited to) shelter, medical and psychological assistance, family tracing, return, and reintegration.

Reintegration assistance provided in 2016 consisted of vocational training, education, microbusiness loans and provision of food packages. A total of 81 children benefited from one or more of these.

In 2016, the counter-trafficking unit partnered with international NGOs—including Breaking the Chain through Education (BTCTE) and the US Association for International Migration (USAIM)—as well as the Government’s Department of Social Welfare (DSW) to provide reintegration assistance to child victims of trafficking.

Prevention: The unit has taken an innovative approach to preventing trafficking in persons among communities with a high prevalence of child trafficking in Ghana. Through the “Free to be Me” project being implemented in partnership with UNICEF, IOM raises



awareness about human trafficking within a broader child protection context and with the goal of changing the behavior of parents who may traffic their own children. The awareness raising activities amongst community members and leaders are carried out in the Volta Region, with a focus on child protection and child rights.

In 2016, over 5,000 community members were sensitized in the trafficking prone communities in Volta Region, as well as 127 community volunteers trained on prevention and protection of child trafficking victims. Additionally, over 2,000 copies of an illustrated booklet on the National Human Trafficking Law were printed and distributed among communities in Volta and Central Regions with the aim to raise awareness of human trafficking in Ghana, including illustrated guidelines of how to identify and report cases, the legal rights of victims, and the consequences for perpetrators.

Prosecution: IOM Ghana strengthens the Government of Ghana’s capacity to successfully prosecute perpetrators of human trafficking. Through advanced trainings on investigation and prosecution, IOM Ghana advocates for a victim-centered and trauma-informed approach to the prosecution process. Trainings are also provided on identification and screening of child victims of trafficking.

A total of 193 Government officials were trained in identification, screening, investigation and prosecution in 2016.

Partnership: A critical element in any comprehensive strategy to combat trafficking in persons, IOM Ghana is actively engaged in strengthening the mechanisms for partnerships, especially among Government stakeholders. By developing referral tools and an information management system, IOM Ghana forges new partnerships with national stakeholders, as well as reinforces existing ones.



PROTECTION SUPPORT: 81



81 children and their families assisted with quarterly food packages



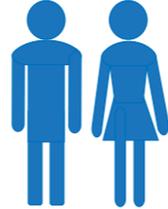
61 trafficking survivors provided with educational support



19 trafficking survivors provided with vocational training



44 families of rescued children provided with micro-business assistance



69 12

PREVENTION



192 Government officials and 127 community volunteers trained



5,000 community members sensitized on issues of trafficking of children



2,300 copies of an illustrated booklet on the national human trafficking law printed, translated and distributed among communities in Volta and Central regions

PRIORITIES FOR 2017

- The implementation of newly adopted procedures for identification and removal of children from trafficking situations, including children in forced child labor in the fishing industry.
- Provision of comprehensive, gender sensitive, trauma-informed care and case management services with community integration and follow up for child trafficking victims.
- Establishment and operation of a systematic referral mechanism with protocols for timely interagency response to suspected cases of child trafficking.
- An increased number of successful investigations and prosecutions of perpetrators of forced child labor and child sex trafficking.
- Improved interagency coordination of anti-trafficking efforts.
- Implementation of mechanisms for data collection designed to monitor the results of anti-trafficking prosecution, protection, and prevention activities.



A victim of trafficking enrolled in vocational training (metal fabrication) at work.
Photo: IOM Ghana/ Piesie Anto-Agyepong 2016



IOM Ghana's Chief of Mission is joined by French Ambassador François Pujolas and the Director of Human Trafficking Secretariat, Victoria Natsu, to launch an illustrated booklet on human trafficking in Ghana. Photo: IOM/2016

COMMUNITY VOICES

“On behalf of the leaders of Toklosu community, I promise that, we will not engage our children anymore in child labour but rather enrol them in school.”

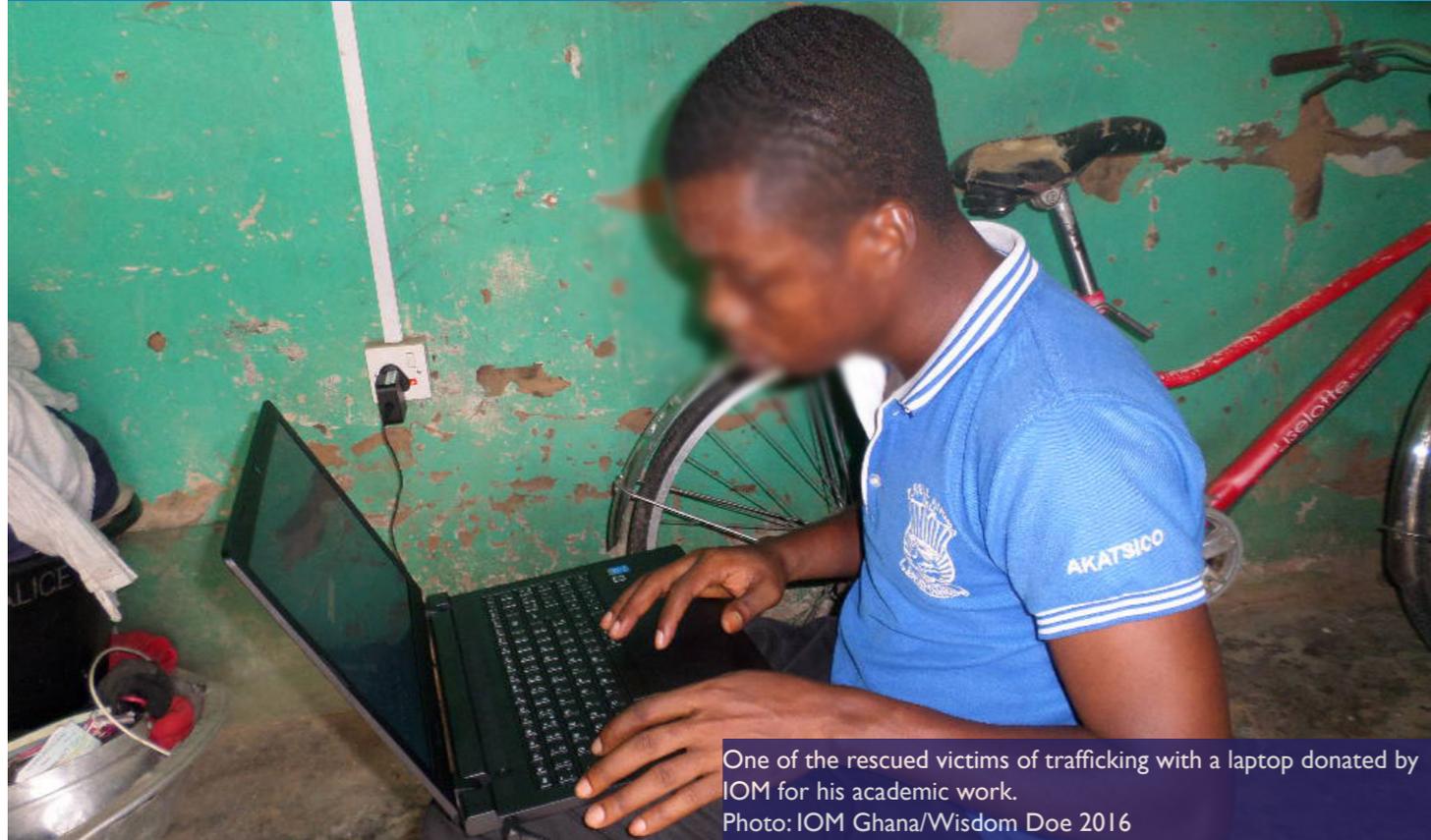
- Quansah Kplorla, Opinion Leader, Toklosu, Biakoye

“Thank you IOM for exposing the hidden agenda of traffickers. We will now be watch-dogs for our children in this community to prevent traffickers from taking our children away.”

- Mother, Anoenu community

“Parents should allow their children to go to school and become great personalities in future for us and the nation.”

- Regina Fodea, Parent, Toklosu, Biakoye



One of the rescued victims of trafficking with a laptop donated by IOM for his academic work.
Photo: IOM Ghana/Wisdom Doe 2016

From victims of trafficking to teachers

In July 2016, two survivors of trafficking supported by IOM Ghana —Simon and James—graduated from college and embarked on careers as teachers. They received postings from the Ghana Education Service in September 2016. Simon and James were rescued by IOM eleven years ago and had endured years of abuse in the form of forced labour at the hands of fishermen in the Lake Volta region.

At a young age, Simon lost his father and his mother was sick and unable to work. With six children to feed, Simon’s mother was forced to turn him over to fishermen, who in return, promised to ease her financial burden and help her seek medical attention. James was also trafficked as a result of extreme economic hardship on. His parents were promised financial assistance in exchange for their son. The promises made to both families were never fulfilled and instead, their children were taken away from them for years and forced to endure harsh labour in the fishing industry.

The two boys spent the early stages of their lives as victims of trafficking until they were rescued from the Lake Volta region by IOM. Following their rescue, they were reunited with their families, rehabilitated and enrolled in school. IOM provided Simon and James with the basic necessities such as food, shelter and school supplies. They also covered their school fees and equipped the boys with a laptop which proved especially helpful when completing their college theses.

Simon and James were determined to make a better lives for themselves and with the help of donor funding and continued support from IOM, were able to attain a high level of education that will set them up for successful careers. As they entered the next phase of their lives as teachers, they remained grateful for the support and opportunities provided to them by IOM and its donors.

Eager to give back to society, they have offered to serve as role models and motivators for other survivors of trafficking who are currently receiving support from IOM to ensure these children are able to put their past behind them and envision a bright and positive future.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION - BACKGROUND AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The technical cooperation department works closely with the Government of Ghana to build migration management capacity, including promotion of safe migration options. In 2016, IOM Accra carried out various activities under two projects – the Ghana Integrated Migration Management Approach (GIMMA) and the Anti-Crime Capacity Building Programme (ACCBP).

Border management

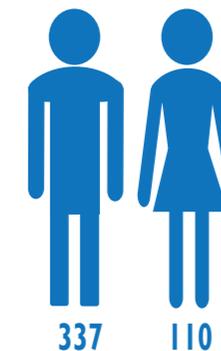
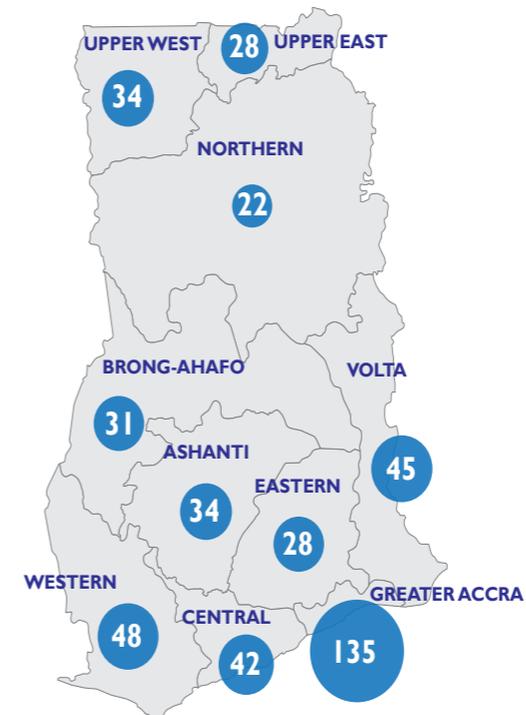
- A Ghana Immigration Service (GIS) Legal Handbook and Training Modules were developed to increase immigration officers' knowledge and understanding of relevant legal frameworks. Nationwide sensitization workshops on the handbook were also carried out.
- A new GIS Training Syllabus to facilitate the implementation of the training policy was completed. A team of nine facilitators and IOM staff conducted nation-wide sensitization workshops on the syllabus, training 567 officers.
- An Information Technology (IT) Laboratory was opened at the Ghana Immigration Training School and Academy (ISATS) in the Central region, consisting of 70 computers with internet access and a projector with screen to enhance the capacity of officers.

Counter migrant smuggling

- A Project Steering Committee comprised of ten ministries and agencies was established. A Working Group from the committee developed a draft five year National Action Plan on Counter Smuggling with seven primary objectives.
- Fifteen officials each from Ghana and Togo were trained in counter migrant smuggling with the aim to increase awareness and to equip them with essential skills to identify, arrest and process perpetrators. The programme further provided a platform for improved communication, networking and cooperation on border management and specifically migrant smuggling between Ghana and Togo. A post training survey indicated that 93 percent of participants felt that the training improved their capacity to perform their duties.



SENSITIZATION OF GIS STAFF ON NEW TRAINING POLICY AND SYLLABUS, LEGAL HANDBOOK AND MIGRATION SERVICE ACT 2016 (ACT 908): 447



Data management

- A National Migration Data Management Strategy was developed, providing a common platform for effective migration data collection and sharing. It ensures that reliable data is available to policy makers. The strategy was validated by Technical Working Group Members. A total of 47 senior officials, data entry and research staff from 17 governmental and academic institutions were trained on the strategy.

Safe migration campaigns

- Migration Information Centre of the Ghana Immigration Service was launched in the Sunyani, Brong Ahafo Region. It offers a neutral space to obtain reliable information on migration. It also conducts public education and awareness raising activities. In 2016 (Feb – Dec), the Centre recorded 174 visits and 983 phone calls/messages on various migration issues.
- In commemoration of International Migrants Day, events were organized in Brong Ahafo and Accra. In Brong Ahafo, an event on 'Empowering Youth to Promote Safe Migration' was organized with GIS and Ghana Education Service, with over 500 participants. In Accra, a workshop was organized on the plight of Ghanaians trafficked internationally for domestic work. It resulted in a Joint Statement by key Ghanaian Ministries, Departments and Agencies and IOM on responding to this growing phenomenon.



An officer of the Ghana Police Service completes a pre-test assessment during a training.
Photo: IOM/Alex Billings 2016



PRIORITIES FOR 2017

Border management

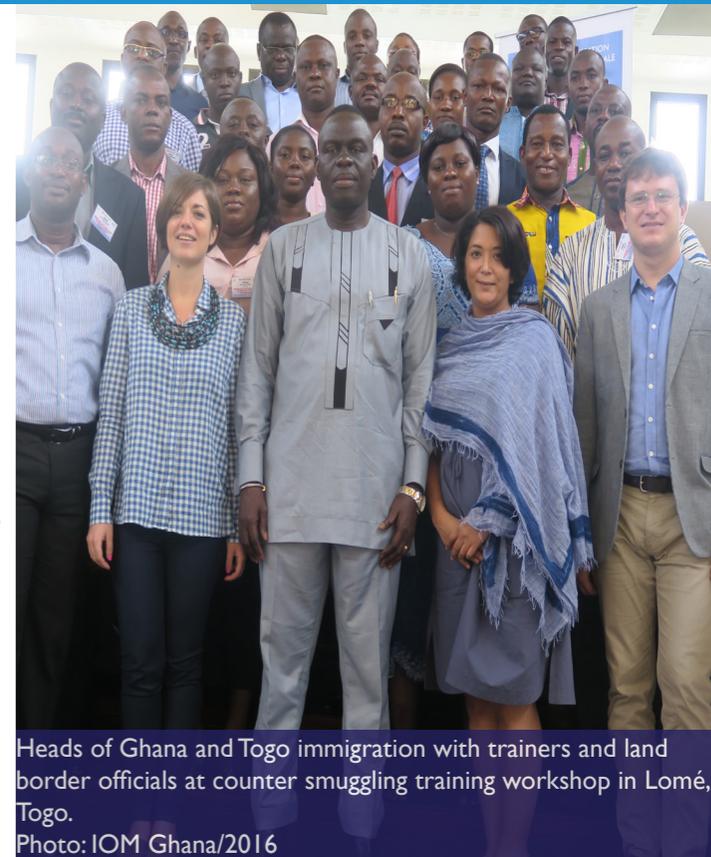
- Implementation of a Training of Trainers and nation-wide trainings on immigration laws in all 10 Regions
- Provision of border patrol equipment and training as well as completion (commissioning) of 5 border post offices in the Western and Volta Regions
- Provision of fraudulent travel document detection equipment to the GIS.

Safe migration campaigns

- Relaunch of the Migration Information Bureau of the Ghana Immigration Service in Accra and information outreach activities in the Greater Accra Region
- Implementation of livelihood enhancement project to highlight opportunities in Ghana as alternative to irregular migration in Nkoranza, Brong Ahafo Region

Counter migrant smuggling

- Finalization of the NAP on counter migrant smuggling.
- Development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on information sharing and regional cooperation for the key actors in counter smuggling. This will facilitate communication and collaboration at the national inter-sectoral and regional levels.



Heads of Ghana and Togo immigration with trainers and land border officials at counter smuggling training workshop in Lomé, Togo.
Photo: IOM Ghana/2016





Senior High School students enacting an irregular migrant's predicament across the Sahara Desert during International Migrants Day 2016.

Photo: IOM/Kazumi Nakamura 2016



A young member of the audience at the Global Film Festival for International Migrants Day 2016 tells us how she feels about migrants and migration.

Photo: IOM Ghana/Anita Wadud 2016



MIGRANT ASSISTANCE - BACKGROUND AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The Migrant Assistance Division provides support to migrants requiring protection, return and reintegration assistance. Beneficiaries assisted consist of irregular and regular migrants, failed asylum seekers, stranded migrants and migrants in vulnerable situations – such as victims of trafficking and migrants with medical needs. In 2016, a total of 154 migrants were assisted by the division.

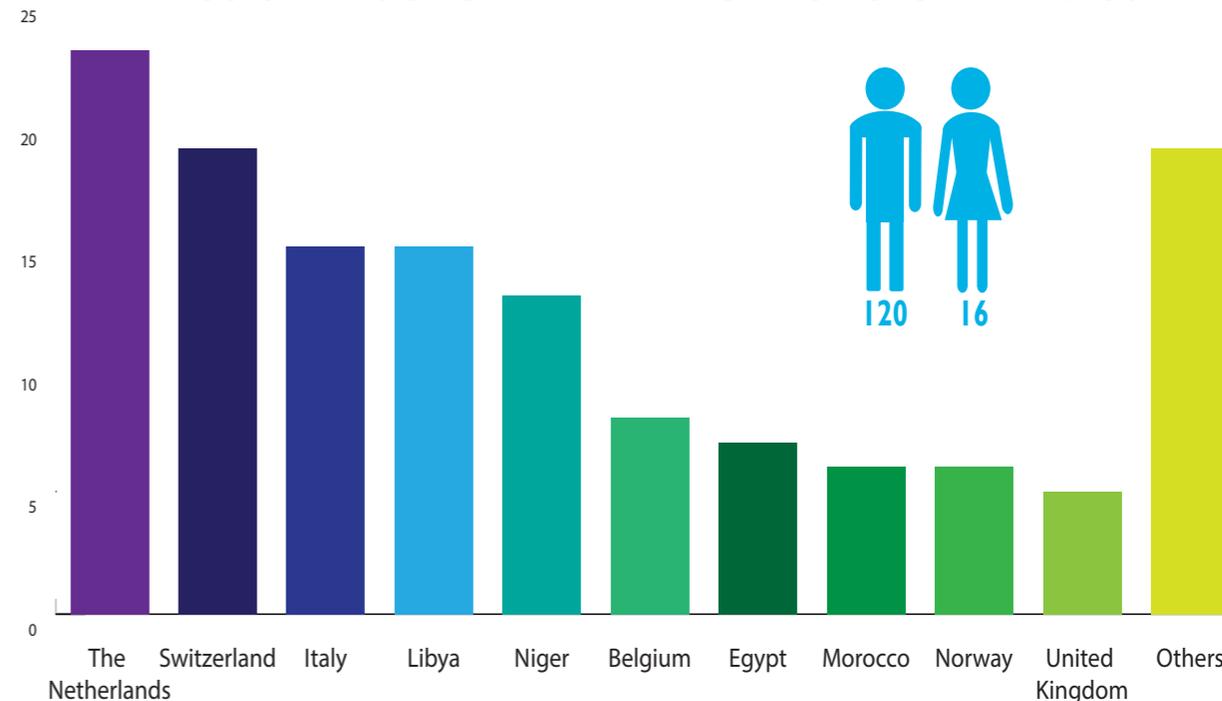
Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) to Ghana: This is a core activity of IOM and is part of a comprehensive approach to migration management. Through its AVRR programmes, IOM provides administrative, logistical and financial support – including reintegration assistance – to migrants who are unable or unwilling to remain in their host/transit country and volunteer to return to their countries of origin. To support their reintegration, IOM provides migrants with financial assistance to either establish a small business or further their education at school or through a vocational training. Reintegration activities also include the provision of psychosocial counselling, medical support, linking returnees to support systems, monitoring reintegration activities and community assistance projects. IOM Ghana has been providing reintegration support to Ghanaian returnees since 2002.

The reintegration assistance IOM provides aims to cover economic, social and psychosocial support through adequate training, counselling, networking and financial assistance. Assistance is provided through tailored information, post-arrival counselling, support with developing and implementing a business plan, as well as monitoring the reintegration process. A key feature of the reintegration support is the “in-kind” assistance migrants receive to start a micro-business or an income-generating activity. In order for the migrant to achieve a sustainable return, returnees actively participate and engage in the reintegration process.

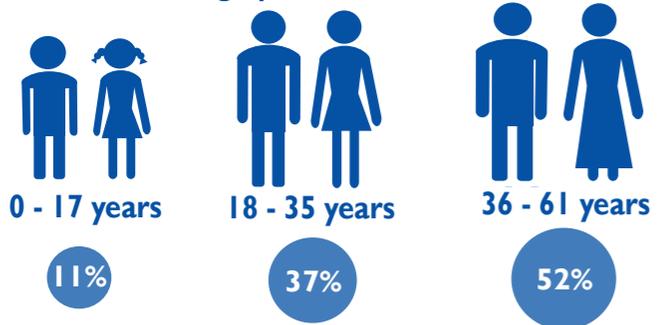
In 2016, a total of 136 migrants returned through IOM and of them, 108 returnees were eligible for reintegration assistance (92 men and 16 women). The number of victims of trafficking assisted with AVRR services in 2016 was five (4 women and 1 man) from Kuwait (3), Kenya (1) and Niger (1). All five were provided with return and reintegration assistance upon arrival.



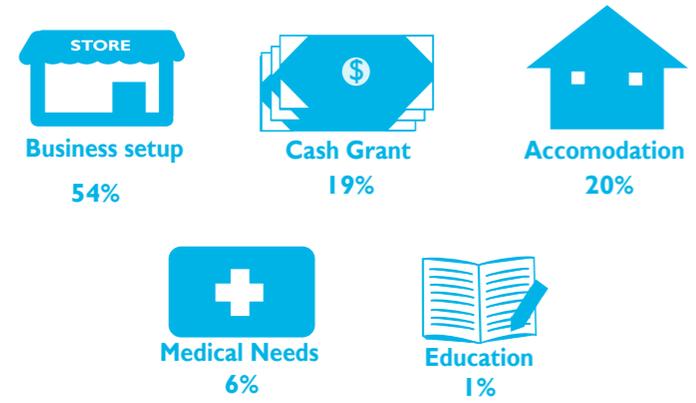
ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURNS TO GHANA: 136



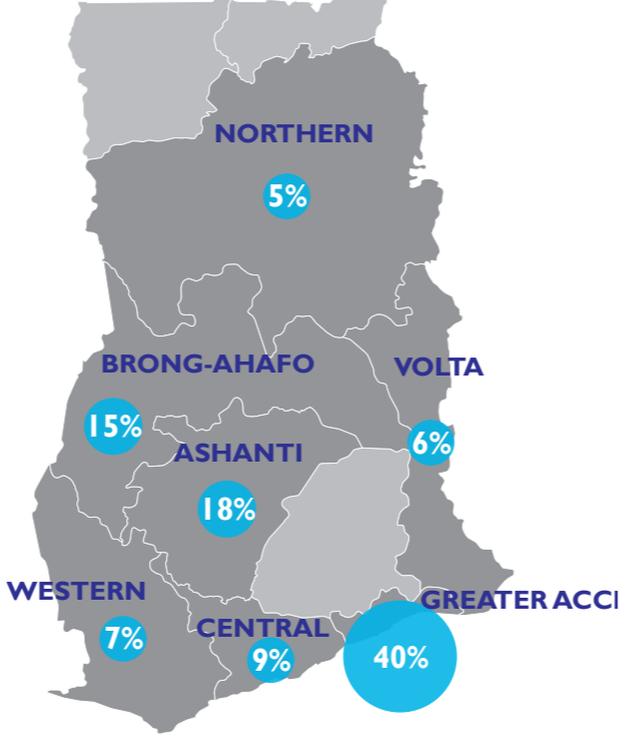
Demographics: AVRR Returnees



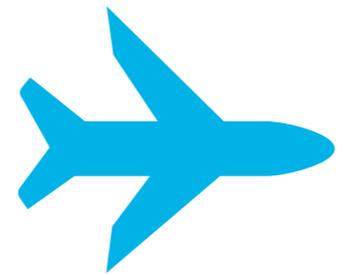
Type of Reintegration Support



Regions of return in Ghana



AVRR FROM WEST AFRICA TO SRI LANKA (GAIM IV): 18



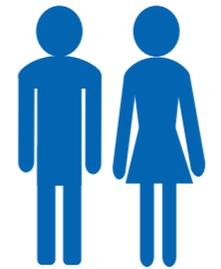
18 Smuggled migrants assisted to return to Sri Lanka



18 Smuggled migrants assisted to set up micro-businesses



7,827 potential migrants reached through safe migration campaigns



17 of smuggled migrants were men and 1 woman

Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration from West Africa: Since 2012, IOM has successfully implemented an AVRR programme in West Africa referred to as Global Assistance to Irregular Migrants (GAIM). Since the inception of this programme, 636 Sri Lankan nationals – who were stranded in dire circumstances in various countries across the West African region – were provided with assistance to return home. Upon their return in their country of origin, they are provided reintegration assistance which includes business development training and financial assistance to set up small businesses.

In 2016, a total of 18 migrants were identified and assisted with return and reintegration. Support provided also included emergency food and shelter, medical assistance and acquisition of travel documents.

Additionally, over 7,000 potential migrants were reached in target districts in Sri Lanka through awareness raising activities on safe migration, while, over 6,000 communication exchanges were recorded from migrants via comment cards, mobile text messages and phone calls in response to IOM surveys, competitions as well as to request assistance for stranded migrants. Moreover, over 1,000 youth at risk of resorting to irregular migration (from high migration-prone areas) were provided with information on safe migration, as well as information on career options in Sri Lanka, including training opportunities to facilitate employment.



PRIORITIES FOR 2017

The priorities for the division in 2017 include continuing to provide support to migrants through the timely provision of reintegration assistance as well as collecting feedback from returnees in order to further improve the services currently provided.

Furthermore, the division will be prioritizing data collection, particularly on perceptions from returnees and communities of return to inform future programming in migration prone communities including safe migration campaigns and counter-migrant smuggling initiatives.

A Sri Lankan returnee from West Africa works in his onion field, which he set up using the reintegration grant provided upon return under GAIM.

Photo: IOM/Francesco Malavolta



MIGRANT VOICES

“ I really appreciate the help I received from IOM. The reintegration assistance helped to stabilize my fear of returning home. Just thinking about what I was going to do when I returned to Ghana gave me a headache - since I was aware of the high unemployment rate and I was also a nursing mother at the time. The assistance and support I received was definitely a major stress-reliever. Today I am the proud owner of my own business. I'm extremely grateful to IOM and I believe their continuous efforts to assist people who find themselves in a situation similar to mine, will benefit immensely. ”

- Priscilla, a Ghanaian returnee from The Netherlands

“ Looking back at what happened, I'm glad that I'm now engaged in a livelihood that can help to take care of my family. Choosing to voluntarily return home was the best decision I made and I have no desire to go abroad again. ”

- Thiruchchittampalam, Sri Lankan returnee stranded for 10 months in Guinea

MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT - BACKGROUND AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The Migration and Development Unit at IOM Accra, has been in operation since IOM opened its offices in Ghana to run the Returns of Qualified African Nationals (RQAN II) programme in 1988. The objective of IOM's migration and development programmes is to contribute to a better understanding of the links between international migration and development in order to harness the development potential of migration for the benefit of both societies and migrants and to contribute to sustainable development and poverty reduction.

National Migration Policy: In 2016, the National Migration Policy – developed in 2015 with funding and technical support from IOM's Development Fund (IDF) – was launched, with the aim of managing Ghana's migration flows for national development. The policy presents a comprehensive approach to migration management, indicating implementation period and key institutions responsible for specific action points.

Research on Migration and Development: Through the IOM Development Fund and in collaboration with the Ghana Statistical Services, 16 field enumerators were trained to collect data on remittances from 1,200 households in six local administrative units in Brong Ahafo and Ashanti Regions.

Additionally, qualitative study was conducted on remittance related services and practices of financial institutions in Ghana. The study highlighted that while there are challenges with sending remittances to Ghana, the contribution of remittances act as a vital means for households to address basic needs. Remittances flows to Ghana increased during the re-opening of schools, indicating the contribution of remittances to the education of the future generation of Ghanaians. Overall, the study recommends that Government of Ghana should give international migrants viable and affordable options to remit to their families in addition to promoting financial inclusion and education.



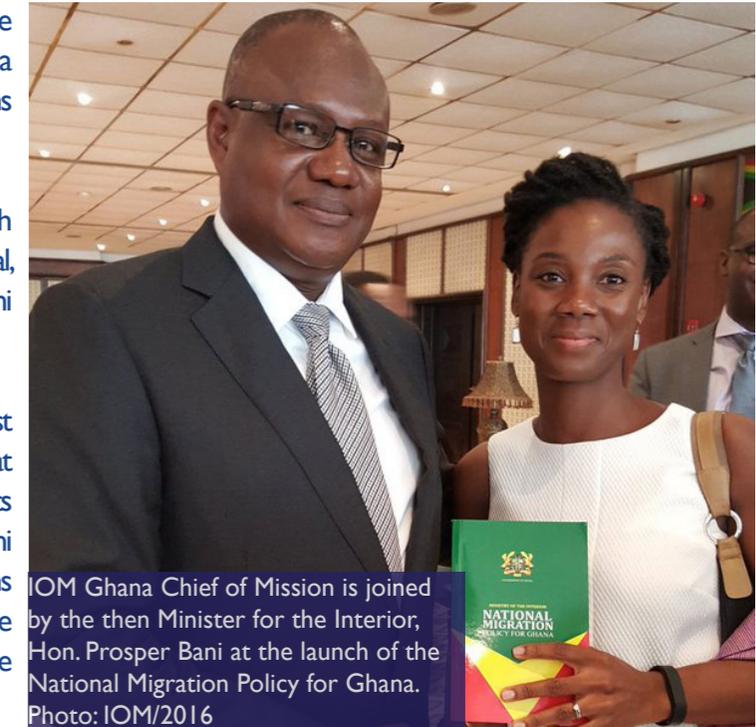
PRIORITIES FOR 2017

Connecting Diaspora for Development (CD4D): The CD4D project builds on previous diaspora engagement projects and supports the development of prioritized sectors by engaging qualified diaspora through physical and virtual assignments, with funding from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The priority sectors for Ghana include food security, health and information and communications technology (ICT).

During the last quarter of 2016, the project commenced with assignments of diaspora experts to Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital, Cape Coast and Tamale regional hospitals as well as Sunyani Technical University.

The assignments to Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital, Cape Coast Regional Hospital and Volta Regional Hospital were aimed at improving the ICT infrastructures through needs assessments and/or implementation of redesigned systems. At Sunyani Technical University, the Diaspora expert carried out interventions to improve the value chain in the food security process. The assignment in Sunyani aims to increase food production in the selected community of Buoko.

One of the main priorities for the Migration and Development unit will be to facilitate the implementation of the National Migration Policy.



MIGRATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)



4.b SCHOLARSHIPS
(STUDENT MOBILITY)



5.2 TRAFFICKING
(FOCUS ON
WOMEN AND
GIRLS)



8.7 TRAFFICKING
8.8 MIGRANT
WORKER RIGHTS
(ESP. WOMEN
MIGRANTS)



10.7 WELL-MANAGED
MIGRATION POLICIES
10.c REMITTANCES



16.2 TRAFFICKING



17.16 GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP
17.17 PUBLIC, PRIVATE AND CS
PARTNERSHIPS
17.18 DATA DISAGGREGATION
(INCLUDING BY MIGRATORY
STATUS)



3.8 ACHIEVING
UNIVERSAL HEALTH
COVERAGE



1.5 RESILIENCE TO
CLIMATE EVENTS
AND SOCIO
ECONOMIC SHOCKS



13.1-3 RESILIENCE
TO CLIMATE
HAZARDS AND
NATURAL
DISASTERS



11.B CITIES IMPLEMENTING
INTEGRATED POLICIES



DONORS AND PARTNERS



Budget of USD 8.25 million

Made possible because of our donors and partners:



Australian Government



Government
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Gouvernement
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CDC
CENTERS FOR DISEASE
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Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Netherlands



IOM Development Fund
DEVELOPING CAPACITIES IN MIGRATION MANAGEMENT



USAIM
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