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The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society.

Established in 1951, IOM is the leading inter-governmental organisation in the field of migration and works closely with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental partners. With 172 member states, a further eight states holding observer status, and offices in over 100 countries, IOM is dedicated to promoting humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all. It does so by providing services and advice to governments and migrants.

IOM has been active in Ghana since 1987, and is contributing to the Government of Ghana’s efforts to manage migration effectively. IOM works with its partners to meet the growing migration challenges, and to advance the understanding of migration issues in Ghana, encourage social and economic development through migration, and uphold the human dignity and well-being of all migrants.

Within the broader UN system in Ghana, IOM works closely with other UN Agencies present in the country. In 2017, as a member of the Ghana UN Country Team (UNCT), IOM played an active role in the development of the UN Sustainable Development Partnership (UNSDP) signed with the Government of Ghana in 2018. Within the UNSDP, IOM takes the lead on mainstreaming migration issues into broader UN priority areas related to economic, social, and environmental development, as well as governance, encouraging that migrants’ needs are addressed.

The IOM main office, the Canadian Visa Application Centre (CVAC) and the Migration Health Assessment Centre (MHAC) are all located in Accra.
The year 2017 was an eventful one for IOM globally. The international community held consultations that will lead to the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) at the end of 2018. The GCM will be the first, intergovernmentally negotiated agreement prepared under the auspices of the UN, to cover all dimensions of international migration. In Ghana, at the earliest stages, IOM supported the Ministry of Interior in national and regional consultations to ensure that priority issues for the country, such as irregular migration, labour migration or counter-trafficking, were thoroughly discussed, in a whole-of-society manner.

2017 was also the year when IOM Ghana celebrated 30 years of presence in the country and 30 years of cooperation with the Government of Ghana, civil society, development partners, private sector, the academia and migrants themselves, to manage migration for the benefit of all.

In 2017, IOM focused its work on interventions related to voluntary return and reintegration, refugee resettlement, migrant health, global health security, counter-trafficking and counter-smuggling, border management, safe migration, travel services for migrants, migration and development, emergency assistance and capacity-building on all relevant migration issues.

Approximately 25,000 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.

As part of its migrant assistance programmes, IOM helped over 600 Ghanaian return from Libya, Niger and various countries in Europe, and supported 20 female victims of trafficking stranded in the Middle East.

IOM Ghana has stepped up its efforts around protection related activities and information campaigns to raise awareness on the risks and realities of migration. We have appointed our first Goodwill Ambassador, Kofi Kinaata, who, through the power of his music, will help us sensitise the Ghanaian youth about the dangers of irregular migration.

2017 was also an important year for the UN family in Ghana, as it developed the new partnership agreement between the UN and the Government, the UN Sustainable Development Partnership (UNSDP), which will span from 2018 to 2022. IOM actively contributed to this document, mainstreaming migration, to ensure that migrants are served well, not only by IOM but by all UN agencies across their respective work areas in Ghana.

Through this report, we are proud to highlight the achievements made in 2017 in partnership with the Government of Ghana, our development partners and the civil society. We started 2018 with eager expectations regarding the GCM, but remain acutely aware that many Ghanaian migrants and migrants in Ghana continue to face important challenges. Our commitment to them is as strong as ever – 30 years strong.

Sylvia Lopez-Ekra
Chief of Mission IOM Ghana
The Migration Governance Framework (MIGOF) provides the overarching framework within which the mission in Ghana operates. MIGOF presents a consolidated, coherent and comprehensive approach to ensure that migration is humane and orderly and benefits migrants and society. IOM Ghana works according to MIGOF’s three principles and objectives:

1. **Adherence** to international standards and fulfillment of migrants’ rights.
2. **Formulates** policy using evidence and “whole-of-government” approach.
3. **Engages** with partners to address migration and related issues.

1. **Advance** the socioeconomic well-being of migrants and society.
2. **Effectively** address the mobility dimensions of crises.
3. **Ensure** that migration takes place in a safe, orderly and dignified manner.

The state of migration governance in Ghana was assessed in 2017 through the roll-out of the second phase of the Migration Governance Indicators (MGI). Broad consultations involving state actors, civil society and migrant organisations were organised to discuss and validate the findings. The meeting which was attended by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, Honourable Charles Owiredu, allowed participants to reflect on gaps and good practices.

The Ghana country snapshot describes Ghana to be strong in the areas of partnerships and safe and orderly migration, with room for improvement when it comes to migrant rights and socioeconomic well-being of migrants.

The MGI is a collaborative effort between the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU). It is a tool based on policy inputs, which offers insights on policy levers that countries can use to develop their migration governance, and aims to assist in advancing the conversation on migration governance by clarifying what “well-governed migration” might look like in the context of the SDG target 10.7.
Areas of Intervention

IOM staff talks to parents in the Dzebetato community about the Free to Be Me toolkit, raising awareness about child protection, child trafficking, and human rights (Photo: IOM 2017)
Major Achievements 2017

**Migration & Health**
- 4,954 health assessments for visa applicants (2,451 men, 2,503 women) conducted at the Migration Health Assessment Centre (MHAC)
- 398 Community-Based Surveillance Volunteers and 87 supervisors trained

**Operations & Movements**
- 2,279 migrants and refugees (1,206 men, 1,073 women) supported to depart from West and Central Africa
- 827 refugees (409 men, 418 women) resettled to 10 receiving countries
- 9,126 applications, passport transmissions and biometric registrations completed

**Counter-trafficking**
- 420 government officials (273 men, 147 women) trained on Identification and Screening, Direct Assistance, and Adjudication related to child trafficking
- 1,025 community members (272 men, 243 women, 268 boys, 242 girls) in trafficking-prone areas reached by prevention activities, resulting in the family-led return of 57 children
- 50 child survivors (45 boys, 5 girls) of trafficking received education, food and medical support

**Migrant Assistance**
- 634 Ghanaians (585 men, 49 women) assisted to return to Ghana from Libya, Niger and various European countries
- 22 victims of trafficking (all women) assisted to return to Ghana from the Middle East

**Technical Cooperation**
- First-ever National Action Plan on migrant smuggling launched
- 41 migrant smuggling law enforcement stakeholders (37 men, 4 women) trained and supported with document authenticity verification devices
- A new platform to enhance migrant-smuggling information sharing and law enforcement coordination between Benin, Ghana and Togo launched
- 5,050 copies of the first Ghana Immigration Service (GIS) Legal Handbook distributed - 521 GIS officers (381 men, 140 women) trained
- Five new prefabricated border post offices as well as border patrol and office equipment provided to GIS in the Volta and Western regions
- 24,000 individuals (ca. 70% men, 30% women) from 49 communities in the Brong Ahafo and Greater Accra regions sensitised on safe migration
- 50 computers, IT equipment and a Statistical Analysis Software provided to GIS for better migration data management

**Migration & Development**
- Significant progress in the knowledge base on remittances in Ghana at macro and household level
- Mainstreaming of IOM policy recommendations to leverage remittances for development in the national medium-term development policy framework
- 25 stakeholders (19 men, 6 women) from Government, Civil Society, Private Sector and Academia trained on maximising remittances for development
- 20 diaspora skills transfers substantially improved the healthcare delivery at four national health institutions
Migration & Health

The Migration Health Division (MHD) at IOM Ghana conducts migration health assessments and travel health assistance for refugees and immigrant visa applicants for selected countries at its Migration Health Assessment Centre (MHAC) in Accra. Health promotion, assistance to migrants and migration health programmes for crisis situations are also implemented. MHD Ghana has regional responsibilities for health assessment and travel health assistance, and provides technical assistance and coordination to 23 countries in West and Central Africa. Medical missions are conducted to strengthen health assessment and travel assistance capacity within the sub-region.

Achievements 2017

- 4,954 health assessments for visa applicants (2,451 men, 2,503 women) conducted at the Migration Health Assessment Centre (MHAC)
- 396 Community-Based Surveillance Volunteers and 87 supervisors trained

MIGOF

- Objective 1: Socio-Economic Well-Being
- Objective 3: Safe, Orderly Migration

SDGs
IOM conducts health assessments to evaluate the physical and mental health status of refugees and visa applicants prior to their travel, at the request of destination countries such as Australia, Belgium, Canada, New Zealand, Spain, the UK and the US. Health assessment requirements aim to detect diseases of public health importance such as tuberculosis (TB), Sexually Transmitted Infection (STIs), HIV, hypertension, diabetes and mental disorders. When TB and other diseases of public health concern are detected, migrants are referred to the Ghana Health Service (GHS) for treatment.

In countries where there is a sizeable refugee caseload, but limited or no migration health presence, a medical team of staff from Accra and other IOM Missions in Africa conducts medical missions for health assessments and pre-departure medical screenings. In 2017, MHD coordinated medical missions to Cameroon, Chad, Mauritania, and Brazzaville, and conducted 685 health assessments for refugees.

Health Assessment Programmes for self-paying visa applicants: Currently, the programme with the largest number of visa applicants is the UKTB programme. IOM Ghana conducts screenings to detect tuberculosis in any migrants planning to travel to the UK for more than six months. 3,715 UK visa applicants were screened for TB at the MHAC Accra in 2017. An additional 1,239 health assessments were conducted for visa applicants for other countries, such as Australia, Belgium, Canada, New Zealand, and the US.

IOM Ghana also coordinates the UKTB detection programme in Cameroon, Cote d’Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal, Sierra Leone and The Gambia. 6,095 migrants bound for the UK were screened for TB in 2017.
Radiology services: Since May 2017, IOM Ghana has sent X-ray images from Cameroon, Congo-Brazzaville, Ghana, Guinea, Mauritania, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and The Gambia to the IOM Teleradiology Centre in Nairobi for interpretation and reporting. This ensures quality control, prevents fraud, and strengthens the capacity of radiology services in the sub-region. Between May and December 2017, a total of 4,332 X-ray images were sent to the IOM Nairobi Teleradiology Centre (3,149 from Accra and 1,183 from the other countries in West and Central Africa). Chest X-rays are the primary screening method required by all the destination countries for the screening of tuberculosis. It is therefore important that the radiological services provided by IOM are of a high standard. All cases suspected of pulmonary tuberculosis as a result of radiology and/or physical examination, are required to produce sputum. The sputum collection area in MHAC Accra was improved in 2017 to enhance customer care and make it more client friendly. DNA services: IOM Accra conducts DNA sample collections on behalf of several IOM member states, ensuring verification of identity to prevent fraud. DNA samples are collected as part of visa applications for family reunification for Australia, Canada, Italy, Spain, the US, and other countries as requested. In 2017, 1,089 DNA samples were collected at MHAC Accra.

Global Health Security

Since the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) epidemic affected several countries in the region, IOM Accra has been implementing a 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 2017, IOM Ghana piloted an enhanced Community Based Surveillance (CBS) model in two districts (Kassena Nankana West District and Ketu South Municipality). First put in place in the 1980s, the CBS is a disease surveillance model which engages community members to be on the look-out for signs of infectious diseases and other events of health concern; and promptly report any observations to health officials for further investigations. The pilot focused on rural border districts, enhanced Community Event-Based Surveillance through including precisely-defined unusual health events, re-training of 398 volunteers and 87 supervisors, provision of logistics (such as community registers, phone credits, Wellington boots, rain coats, solar lamps, and vests), and enhanced supervision. IOM recorded increased reporting of priority conditions/diseases from CBS volunteers: 35% and 100% reporting rates respectively for pre- and post-intervention phases. The GHSA project established periodic cross-border meetings at Aflao, Akanu and Paga borders in cooperation with Ghana Health Service (GHS). These meetings brought together health and border officials from both sides of the respective borders (Burkina Faso, Ghana, Togo) to share information on health trends, health risks and best practices. It established Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for cross-border notification of priority health conditions at local (border) and national levels. As part of Points of Entry (POEs) public health preparedness, IOM helped develop, test and integrate SOPs for the detection, notification, management and response to sick travelers (Aflao, Akanu, Paga and Elubo ground crossings). It trained more than 80 frontline agencies (Disease Control, Immigration, Port Health, Airline Operators, Ghana Civil Aviation Authority, Ghana Airports Company Limited, Airport Clinic, Ground Handlers, Aviation Security, Veterinary, Plant Protection and National Security Officers) on the RING concept (Recognise signs of infectious diseases or an ill traveler; Isolate an ill person from crowd; Notify appropriate health authorities and supervisors; Give support).

The Kotoka International Airport Public Health Emergency Response Plan (PHERP) was developed and launched in 2017. The response capacities of key stakeholders were assessed in a table-top exercise. Airport officials demonstrated a good knowledge of emergency operations, however, the need for further training and coordination of emergency response was highlighted.
Operations & Movements

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, preparedness and response.

Achievements 2017

- 2,279 migrants and refugees (1,206 men, 1,073 women) supported to depart from West and Central Africa
- 827 refugees (409 men, 418 women) resettled to 10 receiving countries
- 9,126 applications, passport transmissions and biometric registrations completed

IOM Ghana provides pre-departure cultural orientation for refugees to Australia, amongst other countries (Photo: IOM 2017)

MIGOF

- Objective 1: Socio-Economic well-being
- Objective 2: Effective Responses to the Mobility Dimensions of Crises

SDGs
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, the Resettlement Support Center (RSC) and embassies. Along the resettlement continuum from identification to integration, IOM Ghana’s Department of Operations works in three main areas: 1. logistical support to health assessments and selection missions; 2. movement management and operations; and 3. pre-departure and post-arrival assistance. As part of its services, IOM facilitates the acquisition of travel documents, makes travel arrangements including purchasing of flight tickets and arranging transportation to the airport, and provides assistance at departure, transit and arrival airports.

In 2017, 827 refugees (418 women, 409 men) were resettled by the department (for details on country of departure, country of destination, and nationalities, see info graphic).
The Operations Department also assists stranded and vulnerable migrants and victims of trafficking by facilitating their return through Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) Programmes, or through IOM’s emergency funds such as the Humanitarian Assistance to Stranded Migrants and the Global Assistance Fund. The department assisted 79 (44 women, 35 men) migrants through such interventions in 2017.

Cultural orientation

Pre-Departure Orientation activities took place in the West and Central African sub-region to prepare refugees for their new countries of resettlement. It equipped them with relevant skills and information about life in the destination country, and was also an opportunity to discuss and correct some misconceptions they harboured about their countries of resettlement. These interventions greatly aid in their initial adaptation and subsequent integration process. Altogether, 214 Canada and Australia bound refugees (139 men, 75 women) were provided with orientation sessions before their departures from the region (192 refugees under the Canadian Orientation Abroad (COA) programme, and 22 refugees under the Australian Cultural Orientation (AUSCO) programme). Pre-departure orientation activities took place in 12 countries in the region, and the caseload reached across 13 nationalities.

Migrant assistance

The Operations Department also assists stranded and vulnerable migrants and victims of trafficking by facilitating their return through Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) Programmes, or through IOM’s emergency funds such as the Humanitarian Assistance to Stranded Migrants and the Global Assistance Fund. The department assisted 79 (44 women, 35 men) migrants through such interventions in 2017.

Canadian Visa Application Centre (CVAC)

As part of IOM’s global partnership with VFS Global (an exclusive service provider for visa services to the Government of Canada), IOM operates the CVAC in Ghana. It accepts applications for various visas (visitor, student and work permits) to Canada from nationals from Ghana as well as from Ascension, Benin, Liberia, Sao Tome and Principe, St. Helena, The Gambia, Togo and Tristan da Cunha. IOM also supports the Canadian High Commission by reviewing visa applications for accuracy, processing and dispatching applications, conducting biometric registrations and transmitting passports.

9,126 applications, passport transmissions and biometric registrations were completed in 2017.

Document Verification

IOM Ghana provides Verification Services to the Government of Australia, and coordinates and implements verification activities in Ghana and the WCA region. 36 documents were verified in Ghana in 2017.
Trainings

Trainings rolled out in 2017 included the Fraud and Malfeasance Prevention training, and briefing sessions on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) persons fleeing persecution. LGBTI persons face a complex array of challenges and threats at all stages of the displacement cycle. These include discrimination, prejudice, violence, difficulty accessing humanitarian services and barriers to articulating protection needs during asylum procedures and other interactions with protection and humanitarian actors. The training covers a wide variety of topics, including terminology, international law, communication, protection, conducting interviews and durable solutions.

The aim of the Fraud and Malfeasance Prevention training is to support shared moral values and an ethical work environment. This is accomplished by ensuring all staff members are able to identify instances of fraud and understand the motivations behind fraudulent actions. The training also gives tips for reducing opportunities for fraud to occur and instructs staff on the appropriate ways to report and respond to fraud, if it does occur.

Both trainings have been rolled out in Ghana for 17 participants.

Other migration services

Given its long-standing relationships and agreements with various airlines as the lead migration agency, IOM provides discounted fares for nationals of Ghana and countries in the sub-region who have immigrant or family reunification visas for Australia, Canada and the US.

In 2017, the department supported 651 immigrant and/or family reunification visa holders with discounted fares for one-way tickets.
IOM Ghana works together with the Government of Ghana, development partners, as well as civil society to address trafficking in persons in the country. The most prevalent type of trafficking in Ghana is internal child trafficking, especially of children subjected to forced labour in the fishing, mining, agricultural and informal sectors, including street hawking, begging and portering. Ghanaian men, women and children are also recruited and sent to the Middle East, West Africa and Europe for forced labour and sex trafficking.

IOM supports rescue and - when in the best interest of the child - the safe and dignified return of child victims of trafficking to their families (Photo: IOM 2017)

Achievements 2017

- IOM Ghana coordinated endorsement of SOPs to Combat Human Trafficking in Ghana
- 420 government officials (273 men, 147 women) trained on Identification and Screening, Direct Assistance, and Adjudication related to child trafficking
- 1,025 community members (272 men, 243 women, 268 boys, 242 girls) in trafficking-prone areas reached by prevention activities, resulting in the family-led return of 57 children
- 50 child survivors (45 boys, 5 girls) of trafficking, received education, food and medical support


SDGs

- Objective 1: Socio-Economic Well-Being

MIGOF

- Objective 1: Socio-Economic Well-Being
IOM advocates for a comprehensive approach to victim protection. This means considering the unique experiences and circumstances of each person, and addressing immediate, medium and long-term needs as part of a holistic, victim-centred, and trauma-informed assistance plan. In Ghana, IOM partners with Government and civil society to coordinate comprehensive protection for victims of trafficking (VoTs), including shelter, medical and psychological assistance, family tracing, return, and reintegration.

In 2017, IOM partnered with the international NGO Breaking the Chain through Education (BTCTE) to offer health, education and food support to over 50 survivors of child trafficking (45 boys, 5 girls) previously exploited for labor on Lake Volta. This assistance consisted of vocational training (i.e. auto mechanics, carpentry), educational support (such as boarding school, school fees/supplies), medical assistance, microbusiness loans to parents/guardians, the provision of quarterly food packages, and regular monitoring (including with teachers, guardians or families).

IOM coordinated the development and endorsement of new Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to Combat Human Trafficking in Ghana. During a workshop with Government and civil society, the draft SOPs were reviewed and validated. Subsequently, IOM coordinated technical input from key Government counterparts, and received letters from key Ministers (Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection; Minister of Employment and Labour Relations; Minister of Justice; and Minister of the Interior) endorsing the document and supporting national implementation in 2018.

Building on these SOPs, IOM trained 283 officials (194 men, 89 women) in screening and identification and 122 social workers (71 men, 51 women) in direct assistance to victims of trafficking. Also, with support from the Government of Sweden, IOM began the refurbishment of a Government shelter, making a shared commitment by IOM and the Government of Ghana to reopen a Government-run shelter for child victims of trafficking a reality.

Since 2015, IOM Ghana has taken an innovative approach to prevention among communities with a high prevalence of child trafficking. Through the “Free to Be Me” project, which is implemented in partnership with UNICEF, IOM raised awareness about human trafficking, and educated communities about human rights – all within a broader child protection context. The goal is to empower parents who may traffick their children to take better, informed decisions for the well-being of their children. Awareness-raising activities on child protection and child rights involved 1,025 community members and leaders (272 men, 243 women, 268 boys, 242 girls) in both sending and receiving communities in the Volta Region.

127 community volunteers (84 men, 36 women) were trained in prevention and protection of child trafficking victims. IOM also supported previously trained staff from the Departments of Social Welfare and Community Development to work with community volunteers to foster and monitor behaviour change within the communities. Following those community prevention activities, 57 child victims of trafficking were proactively taken out of exploitative situations by their families. These voluntary rescues were the result of parents and guardians taking action after having acquired new knowledge and understanding about child protection.

During the project closing event on 2 November 2017 in Ho, 66 community members and volunteers, discussed with government officials and Hon. Joseph Zaphenat Amenowode, Chairman of African Parliamentarians Against Child Labour, national best practices for child trafficking prevention and child protection. Participants agreed that effective prevention requires understanding and support at the community level, and that stakeholders should join forces to promote proven awareness raising tools and approaches like IOM’s Free to Be Me toolkit. The focus should be on addressing child trafficking as part of a much broader, long-term child protection and prevention approach.
IOM works with the Government of Ghana to strengthen the capacity to successfully prosecute perpetrators of human trafficking. Through advanced trainings on investigation and prosecution, IOM Ghana advocates for a victim-centred and trauma-informed approach to the prosecution process. Through the Child Protection Compact (CPC) partnership, IOM procured and handed over six vehicles and equipment to Ghana Police Service’s Anti-Human Trafficking Unit in the Central, Greater Accra, and Volta regions, to enable these specialised units to conduct intelligence-led rescue operations which lead to stronger investigations and successful prosecutions.

15 judges (8 men, 7 women) were trained on the adjudication of human trafficking cases, with a specific focus on cases involving child victims of trafficking.

In 2017, IOM held consultations with Government and civil society partners on developing a Trafficking in Persons Information System (TIPIS). As envisioned, TIPIS will increase data management and sharing among key stakeholders, while providing policy makers with reliable data to inform decision-making.

IOM South Korea partnered with the crowdfunding platform KAKAO to host a series of “Storyfunding” posts to raise awareness about IOM’s global work and provide users with an opportunity to make direct donations. One of the posts highlighted the work of IOM Ghana and its partners. As a result, IOM raised over $800 through individual donations to support ongoing assistance activities to child victims of trafficking rescued on Lake Volta.

### Capacity-building in figures

- **420** Government officials were trained in combatting human trafficking
- **283** Officials were trained in screening and identification service
- **122** Social workers were trained in direct assistance to victims of trafficking
- **15** Judges were trained on the adjudication of human trafficking cases, with focus on child victims of trafficking
- **127** Community volunteers were trained in prevention and protection of child trafficking victims

**Born To Be Loved – Crowd-funding support to child victims of trafficking**

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A Call to Duty: Fighting Child Trafficking on the Volta Lake

A story by Police Detective Agbesi, Regional Police Office, Ho

November 2017

“...The manifold blessings nature affords us with are so great and refreshing but unfortunately sometimes the same things that can bless mankind are the very things that become a curse to us. The Volta River is such a wonder to look at and serves not only the people from my region but the entire people of Ghana and even beyond. It has become common in recent times to see more and more children on the lake who engage in fishing activities. These children live far from home, far from their parents, and at the mercy of people they do not know. I have lived in the Volta Region my entire life and have many great memories about the Volta Lake. Some of the memories make me smile and others make me feel so sad. What I never liked, was seeing children involved in the fishing industry on Volta lake. I always wondered to myself how parents could allow their children to work instead of enrolling them in school. One thing that I did not even question at the time was whether the children were the fishermen’s children or someone else’s. As I got older, I realised my dream of joining the security forces, and learned about child trafficking, suddenly making the connection between all the children I had seen working on fishing boats on Lake Volta. I realised that many of them were victims of trafficking and were subjected to much more abuse and exploitation than my young self at the time had the capacity to understand. I have vivid memories of the cruelty some of these children go through. Despite this realisation, I did not feel that this was a priority as I felt that there were worse criminals out there who needed to be arrested. The truth is, even if I had wanted to do something – resources were inadequate and my understanding of trafficking issues was still quite limited.

This changed when I could participate in a training organised by IOM for police investigators on child trafficking issues in Ghana. What jumped out at me were the statistics on child trafficking in my region, the cruelty these children face, and the fact that the Volta Region is a main source and destination for child trafficking.

IOM also donated two vehicles and a computer to the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit of the regional police headquarters in Ho which had a double effect of boosting our meagre resources and motivating us to combat child trafficking.

Since then, I have led three major rescue operations. During my third rescue operation, I travelled over 367 kilometers to rescue 17 victims of trafficking. Till date, I have successfully helped to rescue 77 potential trafficking victims, and have arrested 30 suspects involved in this act. As at the time of telling my story, one suspect is currently going through trial, and I am waiting for the Attorney’s General advice on the other suspects. My interactions with the survivors of trafficking help to remind me of the importance of my work, despite its many challenges. I have really become an ambassador of combating child trafficking. I spend part of my work time to educate community members and to warn them of the dangers of trafficking, and the punishment outlined in the Trafficking Act.

In this line of work, it is difficult not to get attached to the children you rescue – there are times I continue to follow up with them, and I have even provided direct assistance, even though it is not part of my duties. I do all this in the hopes that one day my region will be free of child trafficking.”
Achievements 2017

• First-ever National Action Plan on migrant-smuggling launched
• 41 migrant smuggling law enforcement stakeholders (37 men, 4 women) trained, and 45 IOM Passport Examination Procedure Manuals, 50 compact magnifiers and 4 document authenticity verification devices provided
• A new platform to enhance migrant-smuggling information sharing and law enforcement coordination between Benin, Ghana and Togo launched
• 5,050 copies of the first GIS Legal Handbook distributed, and 521 GIS officers (381 men, 140 women) trained
• 5 new prefabricated border post offices and border patrol and office equipment provided to GIS in the Volta and Western regions
• 24,000 individuals (ca. 70% men, 30% women) from 49 communities in the Brong Ahafo and Greater Accra regions sensitised on safe migration

Technical Cooperation

The technical cooperation department works closely with the Government of Ghana to build migration management and institutional capacity, and strengthen technical knowledge, aiming at long-term sustainability. In 2017, IOM Ghana carried out various activities under two projects – the Ghana Integrated Migration Management Approach (GIMMA) and the Anti-Crime Capacity Building Programme (ACCBP).
Border management

Through the EU-funded GIMMA project, a Legal Reference Handbook was developed to enable Ghana Immigration Service (GIS) officers to interpret and apply relevant laws. 5,050 copies were printed and distributed to GIS officers. 25 GIS officers (6 women, 19 men) took part in a training of trainers (ToT) to improve their training facilitation and presentation skills, and subsequently trained 496 GIS officers (134 women, 362 men) in all ten regions of Ghana on the content of the Legal Reference Handbook. This included 277 junior officers (83 women, 194 men) and 219 senior officers (51 women, 168 men). Thus, overall 521 officers (140 women, 381 men) improved their knowledge on domestic, regional and international laws relevant to Ghana, and on how to effectively use the handbook to manage borders and protect migrants.

To support GIS’ Border Patrol Unit and improve border control in remote areas of the country, IOM constructed five new border post offices in the Volta and Western regions. The new prefabricated border offices also received equipment for effective border patrols (two patrol vehicles, five motor bikes, military tents, night vision binoculars, five sets of communication devices, 40 handsets, five sets of solar power generation systems and 40 raincoats). 83 GIS officers (76 men, 7 women; 42 from the Volta Region, 41 from the Western Region) were trained on effective border management and efficient use and maintenance of the new equipment.

Safe migration campaigns

IOM supported the re-opening of the GIS Migration Information Bureau (MIB), through refurbishment support and donation of IT equipment (11 computers, printer, copier, public address system, generator, projector, screen, megaphone). An induction training on IT, customer care and communications was conducted for 17 MIB officers (11 men, 6 women).

In partnership with the Migration Information Centre (MIC) in Sunyani, previously established with IOM support, and the MIB in Accra, diverse strategies were adopted in 2017 to sensitise people on safe and legal migration. Approximately 24,000 people were reached in 49 communities in the Brong Ahafo and Greater Accra regions through, amongst others, sensitisation campaigns on 17 radio stations and in ten Community Information Centres in the Brong Ahafo Region, and on five radio stations in Accra. Furthermore, four Open Day activities were organised at the MIC in Sunyani to make it more attractive to targeted audiences. In total, 466 people (332 men, 144 women) visited the MIC to access migration information.

IOM assisted in developing SOPs for the MIB and MIC. The SOPs, which provide a well-defined management structure, detailed work procedures and unified templates to keep records of visitors and the type of information requested, will improve the operational capacity of both centres.

Three billboards were mounted at the Paga, Elubo and Afiafo borders, and 16 murals have been fixed at the GIS Headquarters in Accra. Also, 5,100 information sheets (flyers), 100 posters, 5,000 stickers and 5,000 brochures have been distributed in the Greater Accra and Brong Ahafo regions. A jingle in both English and Twi languages is being aired on radio stations; it highlights the dangers of irregular migration and informs about the existence of the MIB and the MIC as places where potential migrants and the general public can receive reliable information.

To highlight alternative livelihood options in Ghana, IOM supported the Nkoranza community (which is noted for outward migration) with a project to cultivate chili, shallots and watermelons, in close consultation with local authorities, community members, stakeholders, land owner, traditional authority and agricultural experts.
Counter-Migrant Smuggling

Under the Counter-Migrant Smuggling (CMS) project, a five-year National Action Plan (2019-2023) was developed and validated in 2017 as a comprehensive and coordinated framework for a multi-sectoral fight against migrant smuggling in Ghana. Stakeholders agreed for the National Action Plan to start in 2019 to allow Government to capture some of the activities and expenditure in its 2019 budget.

One priority of the project was to increase the pool of qualified CMS trainers in Ghana. Seven instructors/trainers (all men) from various institutions participated in a Training of Trainers (ToT). A CMS manual was developed and incorporated into the curricula of the Ghana Immigration Service, Ghana Police Service, Ghana Revenue Authority – Customs Division, and Ghana Navy. A cascade training was carried out for 24 participants (2 women, 22 men). In addition, 30 maritime/naval immigration and border officials, industry regulators, and port and harbour officials (4 women, 26 men) from Benin, Ghana and Togo were trained on CMS. Ten officials from Ghana (2 women, 8 men) benefitted from this training.

Data Management

To fully implement the National Migration Data Management Strategy (i.e. a platform for integrated migration data collection and sharing), GIS was supported to establish migration data scanning and processing centres at four major entry ports of Ghana (Kotoka International Airport, Aflao, Elubo and Paga) with the goal to make accurate and reliable migration data available, to enhance the migration data management capacity, as well as to improve border statistics collection and analysis and migration data transfer in real time. IOM provided 50 computers and IT related equipment to the GIS Headquarters and the four entry ports, and a Statistical Analysis Software (SAS) to the Management Information System (MIS) Unit of GIS, and organised a training for 82 GIS Officers (18 women, 64 men) on using the data scanning and processing system. Furthermore, to ensure stakeholder commitment to and smooth implementation of the National Migration Data Sharing Strategy, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Migration Data Harmonisation and Sharing has been developed and signed by 12 key stakeholders, with the goal to make accurate and reliable migration data available to government officials and policymakers, and to support evidence-based policy development.

MIGOF

- Principle 1: Adherence to International Standards
- Principle 2: Evidence & Whole-of-Government Approaches
- Principle 3: Partnerships
- Objective 1: Socio-Economic Well-Being
- Objective 3: Safe, Orderly and Dignified Migration

SDGs

- Principle 1: Adherence to International Standards
- Principle 2: Evidence & Whole-of-Government Approaches
- Principle 3: Partnerships
- Objective 1: Socio-Economic Well-Being
- Objective 3: Safe, Orderly and Dignified Migration
Migrant Assistance

The Migrant Protection and Assistance department provides support to migrants requiring protection and/or 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, Unaccompanied Migrant Children (UMCs) and migrants with medical needs.

Achievements 2017

- 448 Ghanaians (416 men, 32 women) have been assisted by IOM to return to Ghana primarily from Libya (362) and Niger under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative on Migrant Protection and Reintegration in Ghana.
- 186 Ghanaians (169 men, 17 women) have been assisted to return from various European countries.
- 22 victims of trafficking (all women), were assisted to return to Ghana primarily from the Middle East (namely Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Jordan).
- 21,000 potential migrants, particularly youth, in migration-prone areas in Sri Lanka were informed of the dangers of irregular migration through awareness raising activities.
Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) is a core activity of IOM. It is part of a comprehensive approach to migration management, which has been provided in Ghana since 2002. 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 countries, and voluntarily opt to return to their countries of origin. Furthermore, AVRR programmes provide economic, social and psychosocial support to facilitate migrants’ reintegration. This includes in-kind assistance, help with developing and implementing a business plan to establish a small business, and support to further their education at school or through vocational training. Reintegration activities also include the provision of psychosocial counselling, medical assistance, linking returnees to support systems, implementation of collective (returnee groups) and community based projects, and monitoring of the reintegration process. For migrants to achieve a sustainable return, they are encouraged to actively participate and engage in the reintegration process.

Since 2012, IOM Ghana has successfully implemented an AVRR programme in West Africa referred to as Global Assistance to Irregular Migrants (GAIM). Since the inception of the programme, 655 migrants (all but four were Sri Lankan nationals, 556 men, 99 women) were provided with assistance to return home. Upon their return to their country of origin, they are provided reintegration assistance. In 2017, 19 migrants (13 men, 6 women) were identified and received return and reintegration assistance. Additionally, over 21,000 potential migrants were reached in target districts in Sri Lanka through awareness raising activities on safe migration. Moreover, almost 400 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.

Our number one priority is to work with the Government of Ghana to offer a dignified return home to Ghanaians in Libya, some of whom have gone through unspeakable ordeals. Our collective support also needs to go beyond their safe arrival at Kotoka International Airport, but should facilitate their sustainable reintegration in their local communities once back home.

Sylvia Lopez-Ekra
IOM Ghana’s Chief of Mission
Migrant Assistance

Returns by Regions in Ghana under the EUTF and AVRR programmes: 634

- Upper West: 26
- Upper East: 6
- Northern: 4
- Brong Ahafo: 112
- Volta: 15
- Ashanti: 81
- Eastern: 18
- Western: 73
- Central: 77
- Greater Accra: 25

Unidentified Region: 7

EUTF
Total: 448
- 416
- 32

AVRR
- 169
- 17

Type of Reintegration Support

- Business setup: 47%
- Cash Grant: 40%
- Accommodation: 5.3%
- Medical: 5.3%
- Education: 1%
- Other: 2%

Returns under the AVRR programme - by country of return:
- Italy: 45
- Germany: 44
- Libya: 36
- Switzerland: 6
- Niger: 8
- Malta: 5
- Other: 26
- Morocco: 2

Returns under the EUTF programme - by country of return:
- Morocco: 2
- Libya: 36
- Germany: 44
- Italy: 45
- Switzerland: 6
- Niger: 8
- Malta: 5
- Other: 26
Migrant Assistance

Objective 3: Safe, Orderly and Dignified Migration

Principle 3: Partnerships

SDGs

Listen to Fuseini’s story on IOM Ghana’s facebook page at www.facebook.com/IOMghana/videos.

I missed many things about Ghana. Because here, you are free. I don’t want to travel again. Even if I haven’t gotten a job yet, I am free, and I’m happy that I came back to my family. I didn’t lose my life.

Fuseini, Ghana

When you’re abroad, people mistreat you and only give you the jobs they don’t want to do themselves.

Mary, Ghana

Read Mary’s and other migrants’ stories on the #iamamigrant campaign website at www.iamamigrant.org/stories/ghana.

www.iamamigrant.org/stories/ghana

MIGOF

Migrant Assistance

• Objective 3: Safe, Orderly and Dignified Migration
• Principle 3: Partnerships

• Objective 3: Safe, Orderly and Dignified Migration
• Principle 3: Partnerships
Migration & Development

The very first project when the IOM office was opened in Ghana in 1987 was a Return of Qualified African Nationals project. Since then, the objective of IOM’s migration and development programmes has always been to contribute to a better understanding of how migration can contribute to sustainable development and poverty reduction, as well as to harness its potential to benefit both societies and migrants.

Dutch Ambassador Ron Strikker, with some members of the Ghanaian diaspora, participating in IOM knowledge and skills transfer programme (Photo: IOM 2017)

IOM Chief of Mission at the Ghana Diaspora Homecoming Summit 2017 (Photo: IOM 2017)

IOM capacity building workshop on leveraging remittances for development (Photo: IOM 2017)

Achievements 2017

- Significant progress in the knowledge base on remittances in Ghana at macro and household level
- Mainstreaming of IOM policy recommendations to leverage remittances for development in the national medium-term development policy framework
- 25 stakeholders (19 men, 6 women) from Government, Civil Society, Private Sector and Academia trained on maximising remittances for development
- 20 diaspora skills transfers substantially improved the healthcare delivery at four national health institutions
In 2017, under the IOM Development Fund (IDF) supported project “Improving capacities to leverage remittances for development in Ghana”, IOM facilitated two key research activities, a Baseline Assessment of Household Remittances and an Assessment of Remittance-Related Services and Practices of Financial Institutions in Ghana in partnership with the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) and the Centre for Migration Studies (CMS). Key findings included:

- 45% of the households interviewed received remittances;
- The average remittances received by each household in the 12-month period before the study was USD 1,069, which almost equals the USD 1,208 average household income in Ghana;
- Remittances contributed to support daily needs (including nutrition), education and health;
- Household recipients spent a paltry proportion of remittances on savings and investments;
- Almost 40% of remittances are still sent through friends and relatives, as opposed to official channels; and,
- Remittances cost in Ghana can be as high as 20%.

Both the survey and the research were instrumental in enhancing the knowledge and understanding of the remittances landscape and practices in the country and provided much-needed information which will be used as the basis for future policy interventions.

In April 2017, IOM organised a meeting in Accra to disseminate the results of those two research activities. 34 stakeholders (25 men, 9 women) from key institutions participated, including the financial and telecommunication industries, International Development Partners, Academia and Government Institutions. Subsequently, a workshop was organised for 25 key stakeholders (19 men, 6 women) with the objective of building their capacities in identifying and developing appropriate initiatives that could leverage the flow of international remittances for broader economic development. The participants also contributed to the development of a Remittances Policy Recommendation and Strategy Paper which was subsequently shared with heads of public institutions working on remittances in Ghana, such as the Bank of Ghana, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of the Interior.

**Remittances Facts & Figures**

- 45% of households with relatives abroad received remittances per household (the average annual income is approx. USD 1,200)
- 20% highest % of transfer costs to Ghana
- 13% of households received advice on investing their remittances
- 2,1% of remittances are used for savings and investment

**Remittances sent through:**

- 52,6% Money Transfer Operators
- 39,4% Friends, relatives
- 4,5% Post office

**Households used remittances for:**

- 79,1% Daily needs
- 21,9% Education
- 16,4% Health
In 2017, IOM facilitated 19 visits by eight Ghanaian diaspora experts (6 men, 2 women) residing in The Netherlands, who went on assignments to Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital-Accra, Tamale Teaching Hospital, Saint Dominic Hospital-Akwatia and Sunyani Regional Hospital. The assignments consisted of the installation of IT equipment, donation of healthcare equipment, and training that contributed to strengthening the capacity of Information Communication Technology (ICT) staff in the installation and operation of IT tools including the Hospital Administration and Management Software (HAMS). Virtual assignments were also facilitated by IOM Netherlands to ensure regular follow-ups and mentoring by diaspora experts.

SDGs

- Principle 1: Adherence to International Standards
- Principle 2: Evidence & Whole-of-Government Approaches

Connecting Diaspora for Development (CD4D)
Awareness Raising Activities

IOM’s awareness raising activities are an opportunity to educate the public on various migration issues affecting Ghana. In 2017, the major activities included the celebration of International Migrants Day, the Global Migration Film Festival, the appointment of Ghanaian Rapper Kofi Kinaata as IOM Ghana’s Goodwill Ambassador on Safe Migration, and a photo exhibition.
Within the framework of the Free Movements of Persons and Migration (FMM) West Africa project, 80 frontline journalists were trained by the NGO Media Response on investigative journalism, free movement, migration as well as ethical reporting on migration. The objective of the training was to promote free movement and migrants' rights in West Africa.

A Network of Investigative Reporters on Free Movement and Migration has been created. IOM Ghana is responsible for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the project by Media Response.

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Ghanaian rapper and songwriter, Kofi Kinaata, has become IOM Ghana’s first Goodwill Ambassador to promote safe migration. He supports IOM’s advocacy and fundraising efforts, including educating young Ghanaians about the dangers associated with the journey across the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean Sea to reach North Africa and Europe. “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,” says Kofi Kinaata.

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On 18 December 2017, IOM Ghana commemorated International Migrants Day and celebrated 30 years of IOM in Ghana with all its stakeholders including government officials, the diplomatic community, development partners and UN sister agencies, academia, migrant organisations and civil society as well as the private sector. The event, which included a photo exhibition and testimonies from migrants (a survivor of trafficking and a returned irregular migrant), culminated in a special appearance by IOM Ghana Goodwill Ambassador Kofi Kinaata – who performed a preview of the song “No Place Like Home” on the dangers of irregular migration for the first time in public. The song, launched in 2018, aims to encourage the Ghanaian youth to value their lives and not take unnecessary risks in chasing illusory greener pastures.

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IOM appoints Ghanaian Rapper as Goodwill Ambassador to promote safe migration

International Migrants Day

Global Migration Film Festival

Photo Exhibition on Migrants and Refugees

Improving reporting on migration

Global Migration Film Festival

In December, IOM Ghana participated in the IOM Global Migrantsion Film Festival. The 3-day film festival at Alliance Française d’Accra was an opportunity to inform high school and university students, as well as the general public, on the challenges migrants face, and to dissuade Ghanaians from migrating irregularly. The film screenings were followed by discussions and debates with the audience on the issues raised.

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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,” says Kofi Kinaata.

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IOM, UNHCR, and the Embassy of Mexico partnered to hold a photo exhibition, entitled “A Day in the Life of Migrants and Refugees”. Photos displayed by IOM included images of migrants along the migratory routes from Sub-Saharan Africa to Europe, highlighting the challenges of travelling through the desert and the Mediterranean. Photos exhibited by UNHCR were captured from visits of the Egyptian Refugee Camps. “A Day in the Life of Migrants and Refugees” provided an opportunity to tell the human stories behind migration statistics.

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Migration & Gender

IOM Ghana is committed to gender mainstreaming in all its migration management activities. Being part of the UN system in Ghana, IOM supports the national commitment to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment and to work towards achieving SDG 5 in Ghana.

Gender is central to effective and sustainable migration governance. It is recognised that a person’s sex, gender, gender identity and sexual orientation shape every stage of the migration experience. Gender influences reasons for migrating, who migrates and to where, how people migrate and the networks they use, opportunities and resources available at destinations, and relations with the country of origin. Risks, vulnerabilities and needs are also shaped in large part by one’s gender, and often vary drastically for different groups. It is therefore crucial to understand how gender interacts with migration in general, and in the Ghanaian context, and to respond accordingly. Considering gender-specific migration trends is therefore crucial for any project IOM implements.
The UN system in Ghana is supporting the efforts of the Government of Ghana to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment. The inter-agency UN Gender Team (UNGT), composed of gender representatives from the various UN agencies, ensures a strong and coordinated support. IOM is an active member of the UNGT, and the IOM Chief of Mission serves as the inter-agency Champion on Gender in Ghana. The UNGT works to ensure that gender perspectives are addressed within the UN’s assistance to Ghana, primarily within the context of the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and its successor, the UN Sustainable Development Partnership (UNSDP), and the SDGs. In 2017, IOM participated in UNGT’s joint activities. As part of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, all IOM staff became advocates against gender-based violence, as IOM is working to prevent and address violence against women migrants. For 2017 International Women’s Day, the UN agencies in Ghana joined forces, and commissioned some young students to reflect on the future for women in the informal economy through their art. IOM hosted the students during a special town hall meeting.

In 2017, two IOM gender focal points underwent training in gender mainstreaming organised by the UNGT and UN Women. The training highlighted the importance of addressing gender in the new UNSDP. The country office also followed up with the implementation of the recommendations of a gender peer-review exercise carried out by the UNGT in 2016. For the period under review, IOM received overall positive feedback in all areas of assessment. During a roundtable organised at the occasion of International Women’s Day 2017, IOM staff discussed the “changing roles of women in the changing world of work – planet 50:50 by 2030”. IOM acknowledged the achievements and challenges that migrant women face in the world of work at any stage of migration.

IOM Ghana has achieved a near gender balance in staffing (39 men, 31 women). Furthermore, IOM encourages its country staff, including interns, to undertake trainings on Gender (66 out of 70 staff completed), Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (52), and Ethics and Conduct (all).

Of particular concern to IOM are the Kayayei – girls, as young as six years old, who migrate mainly from the three northern rural regions of Ghana in hopes of generating income for themselves and their families in urban centres such as Accra and Kumasi. Their work consists of carrying loads for traders and other customers in exchange for money. In 2017, IOM, in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, hosted a stakeholders’ meeting to pool knowledge and expertise from Ministries, UN Agencies, NGOs working with the Kayayei, as well as representatives of Kayayei associations. IOM presented the results of a baseline study to consolidate background information on known areas of origin and migration patterns, profile and organisation of the Kayayei, key protection issues, and past and current interventions by Government, UN and civil society. 280 solar lamps were given to Kayayei (and some trained group leaders) to help the women and girls access electricity and protect themselves, especially those who sleep in the open.

Focus: The Kayayei

IOM Ghana Chief of Mission, Sylvia Lopez-Ekra, handing solar lanterns to Mohammed Salifu, Head of the Agbogbloshie Head Porters Association (Photos: UN 2017)
Migration & Environment

Migration, climate change and the environment are interrelated. Just as environmental degradation and disasters can cause migration, movement of people can also entail significant effects on surrounding ecosystems. This complex nexus needs to be addressed in a holistic manner, taking into account other possible mediating factors including, inter alia, human security, human and economic development, livelihood strategies and conflict.

Globally, IOM applies its comprehensive migration management approach to the complex linkages between climate change, the environment and migration. Through its activities, IOM helps to reduce the vulnerability of populations exposed to environmental risk factors; assists populations on the move as a result of environmental causes; and builds the capacities of governments and other actors to face the challenge of environmental migration.

In April 2017, IOM Ghana organised a Capacity Building Workshop on Migration, Environment and Climate Change (MECC) to build capacity and foster a much needed conversation between both migration and environment and climate change stakeholders, who normally don’t participate in each other’s policy work. 16 key participants (10 men, 6 women), including representatives from the academia and UN agencies, met over two days to discuss the migration-environment nexus as well as the impact of the environment on human mobility in Ghana.

The workshop was instrumental in discussing entry points to address environmental migration, both in relation to disasters and slow-onset events. Areas predicted to be most affected by environmental change in Ghana are drylands, low-elevation coastal zones, and deltas, including the Volta Delta region.

The group agreed that policies must be formulated to intervene at every stage of the migration cycle, from prevention, preparedness, response, mitigation, and presentation of durable solutions. Recommendations include the necessity to improve data collection on environmental migration, and to strengthen the implementation of risks mapping and early warning systems.

We are likely to witness a steady rise in the scale of migration and displacement as a result of climate change and the poorest and most vulnerable communities, including in Ghana, will bear the brunt of these events.

Sylvia Lopez-Ekra
IOM Ghana’s Chief of Mission
Migration & the SDGs

The main reference to migration in the SDGs is made under SDG 10 on “Reduced Inequalities” (target 10.7), which strives to “facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.” But migration is well mainstreamed throughout the SDGs, which are interconnected and indivisible: progress in one area is linked to progress in all areas.

The 2030 Agenda recognises, for the first time, migration as a cross-cutting, core development issue. To achieve development, migration must be integrated into national development plans. No ministry can do it alone, success needs partnership. The ‘leave no one behind’ commitment means leaving no migrant behind, too.

IOM Ghana is implementing a two-year project entitled “Integrating Migration into National Development Plans: Towards Policy Coherence and the Achievement of SDGs at National and Global Levels”, funded by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Sub-Fund of the UN Peace and Development Trust Fund. The project supports the Government of Ghana in mainstreaming migration into national development policies and achieving policy coherence in line with the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda, as well as provide capacity building training for national stakeholders, and raise awareness on the SDGs.

As part of that project, an inter-agency Technical Working Group (TWG) on migration, co-chaired by the Migration Unit of the Ministry of Interior, was established to track progress on migration-related SDGs and to ensure that migration is mainstreamed in respective national development policies. Based on priorities identified by the TWG, two initiatives will be selected from the 2016 National Migration Policy (NMP) action plan and will receive technical and financial support for implementation.

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“...The SDGs are ambitious, they require partnership and coordination. Migration is a vital part of development, captured in different SDGs and targets. The ‘leave no one behind’ commitment means leaving no migrant behind, too.”

Christine Evans-Klock
UN Resident Coordinator
The Way Forward

IOM will continue to support Government by contributing to the implementation of the MIGOF and of the newly adopted UN Sustainable Development Partnership 2018-2022 (UNSDP). Key priorities in 2018 include:

• support to the development of a Labour Migration Policy, and capacity building for officials in charge of labour migration;
• assisting the Government of Ghana to combat child trafficking, including ensuring the implementation of the SOPs to Combat Human Trafficking, and the opening of a shelter for Child Victims of Trafficking;
• supporting migrants to return voluntarily to Ghana, especially from Libya, Niger and Europe, and helping them reintegrate into society;
• improving access to migration data, as well as information on migration trends to support the development of relevant policies;
• improving international partnerships to address counter-smuggling;
• increasing cross-border cooperation and strengthening capacities to respond to public health emergencies across borders with neighbouring countries (Togo, Benin, Ivory Coast, and Burkina Faso);
• continuing engagement with the diaspora, and maximising positive impact of remittances on Ghana’s development;
• community sensitisation and awareness raising on the dangers of irregular migration, the possibility for safe migration, and the opportunities that are available for the youth in Ghana; and,
• resettlement and repatriation assistance for refugees and vulnerable migrants in West and Central Africa.

Two areas of the UNSDP in which IOM will make major contributions to, include youth unemployment and child protection.

In all these interventions, partnerships will be key. More can be achieved for migrants and societies alike by working collaboratively rather than individually. IOM Ghana will therefore continue to join forces with Government, CSOs, development partners, researcher, private sector, and the media.
### IOM Ghana Staff by Department

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Staff</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resource Management</td>
<td>22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Migration and Health</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>EUTF / AVRR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operations</td>
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<td>CVAC</td>
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<td>Counter-Trafficking</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical Cooperation</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### By Country

- **Ghana**: 63
- **Austria/Mexico**: 1
- **Bangladesh/Russia**: 1
- **France/Ivy Coast**: 1
- **Italy**: 1
- **UK/Sierra Leone**: 1
- **Ukraine**: 1
- **USA**: 1

Total number of staff: **70**

### IOM Ghana 2017 Financial Contribution by Programme: USD 5,8 Million

- **Remittances**: 94.584,00
- **Canada Visa Application Centre**: 147.600,00
- **Counter-Trafficking**: 733.316,00
- **Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration**: 667.460,00
- **Migration and Health**: 1.223.976,00
- **Migration Management**: 1.270.937,00
- **Operations and Movement**: 1.634.314,00

Total: **5,8 Million USD**
### Donors & Partners

- United Nations Peace and Development Fund
- IOM Development Fund
- World Health Organization
- United Nations Peace and Development Fund
- Canada
- New Zealand
- Australia
- FMM West Africa
- Zeepay
- Alliance Française Accra
- NUBUKE Foundation
- West and Central Africa

### Abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>ACCBP</td>
<td>Anti-Crime Capacity Building Programme</td>
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<td>AUSCO</td>
<td>Australian Cultural Orientation</td>
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<td>AVRR</td>
<td>Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration</td>
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<td>BTCTE</td>
<td>Breaking the Chain through Education</td>
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<td>CBS</td>
<td>Community-Based Surveillance</td>
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<td>CD4D</td>
<td>Connecting Diaspora for Development</td>
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<td>COA</td>
<td>Canadian Orientation Abroad</td>
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<td>CSO</td>
<td>Civil Society Organisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>CVAC</td>
<td>Canadian Visa Application Centre</td>
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<td>DSW</td>
<td>Department of Social Welfare</td>
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<td>DTM</td>
<td>Displacement Tracking Matrix</td>
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<td>EVD</td>
<td>Ebola Virus Disease</td>
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<td>GAIM</td>
<td>Global Assistance to Irregular Migrants</td>
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<td>GCM</td>
<td>Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration</td>
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<td>Ghana Health Service</td>
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<td>Global Health Security Agenda</td>
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<td>Ghana Police Service</td>
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<td>Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda (2014-17)</td>
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<td>Ghana Statistical Service</td>
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<td>HBM</td>
<td>Health Border and Mobility Management</td>
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<td>IDF</td>
<td>IOM’s Development Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>MIA</td>
<td>Migration Assessment Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MHD</td>
<td>Migration Health Division</td>
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<tr>
<td>MIB</td>
<td>Migration Information Bureau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSG</td>
<td>Migration Governance Framework</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH-EIC</td>
<td>Public Health Emergency of International Concern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RSC</td>
<td>Resettlement Support Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TIPIS</td>
<td>Trafficking in Persons Information System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBM</td>
<td>Tuberculosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UKTB</td>
<td>UK Tuberculosis detection programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDAF</td>
<td>UN Development Assistance Framework</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNRRC</td>
<td>UN Refugee Agency, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>United Nations Children’s Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNSDP</td>
<td>UN Sustainable Development Partnership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USAIM</td>
<td>US Association for International Migration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCA</td>
<td>West and Central Africa</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- ACBBP: Anti-Crime Capacity Building Programme
- AUSCO: Australian Cultural Orientation
- AVRR: Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration
- BTCTE: Breaking the Chain through Education
- CBS: Community-Based Surveillance
- CD4D: Connecting Diaspora for Development
- COA: Canadian Orientation Abroad
- CSO: Civil Society Organisation
- CVAC: Canadian Visa Application Centre
- DSW: Department of Social Welfare
- DTM: Displacement Tracking Matrix
- EVD: Ebola Virus Disease
- GAIM: Global Assistance to Irregular Migrants
- GCM: Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
- GHS: Ghana Health Service
- GHSA: Global Health Security Agenda
- GIMMA: Ghana Integrated Migration Management Approach
- GIS: Ghana Immigration Service
- GPS: Ghana Police Service
- GSGDA-II: Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda (2014-17)
- GSS: Ghana Statistical Service
- HBM: Health Border and Mobility Management
- IDF: IOM’s Development Fund
- MSG: Migration Governance Framework
- PH-EIC: Public Health Emergency of International Concern