

# Newsletter

Ghana Integrated Migration Management Approach

n° 1 ●●● March 2015



## GIMMA PROJECT OFFICIAL LAUNCH

The European Union is supporting GIMMA with three million Euros to complement Government of Ghana's efforts to manage migration effectively. The three year project (2014 - 2017) has three main objectives (capacity building, information outreach, migration data management) and is implemented in support of the draft National Migration Policy and GIS Strategic Plan.



Attendees of the official launch ceremony for GIMMA. ©IOM 2014

On 26 June 2014, the Ghana Integrated Migration Management Approach (GIMMA) project was officially launched in Accra in the presence of Commissioner of Police (COP) Dr Peter A Wiredu, Director of Ghana Immigration Service (GIS), Mr Judikael Regnaut, Charge d'affaires of the European Union Delegation to Ghana, Ms Dyane Epstein, Chief of Mission of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Ghana, representatives from ministries and agencies, civil society organizations, and development partners.

Supported by the 10<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund (EDF) of the European Union, the overall objective of the project is to contribute to the Government of Ghana's efforts to manage migration effectively through the establishment of an integrated migration management approach.

Specifically, the project aims to enhance the institutional capacities of GIS to implement effective migration management measures, increase the awareness of (potential) migrants on safe and legal migration and alternative livelihood options, as well as strengthen the migration data management system.

***The GIMMA project is coming at a critical time as the GIS Strategic Plan is in the final year of implementation and therefore requires robust action to realize positive results.***

The GIMMA project builds upon close consultations with various stakeholders and achievements and lessons learnt from previous projects. The launch was an opportunity to share information about the

GIMMA project, including the ways in which relevant stakeholders will benefit from the activities and how the project relates to the strategic objectives of GIS.

The meeting was opened by the GIS Director, who stated that Ghana is finalizing its first-ever national migration policy. The policy seeks to facilitate and guide the management of Ghana's internal and international migratory flows that would enhance national, sub regional, regional and global development.

The GIS, as the lead state agency for migration management and with the mandate to operate fair but firm immigration control, developed measures and strategies to tap into the benefits of positive migration while limiting the incident of irregular migration. Consequent to this, GIS

launched its first Four Year Strategic Plan in 2011 that seeks to position GIS to effectively manage migration in the national interest and contribute to national development. To achieve the objectives, several projects were outlined to be implemented within the plan. Legal restructuring, strengthening of the Border Unit, developing an ICT strategy, and developing a credible migration database are some of the 17 projects set forth in the plan. The GIMMA project is coming at a strategic time as the GIS Strategic Plan is in its final year of implementation and therefore requires robust action to realize positive results.

Mr Regnaut said in his speech that the EU, has over the past six years provided substantial financial support to Ghana's main stakeholders in support of the migration management process, including the development of a National Migration Policy

and Diaspora engagement in national development. The GIS has previously received EU funding with two grants awarded under the EU Asylum and Migration Programme amounting to EUR 3.6 million.

Mr. Regnaut also said governments cannot make effective migration policies in isolation. They need to talk to civil society, businesses, international organizations and academia. This kind of dialogue is already happening but often informally. He suggested that both Ghana and the EU need to reinforce dialogue with key stakeholders, and that GIMMA can provide an important platform for putting this dialogue on a firmer and more systematic footing.

The programme continued with presentations about GIMMA, including a project overview by Ms Kazumi Nakamura, GIMMA Project Manager. Assistant



*GIS Director delivers opening remarks. ©IOM 2014*

Comptroller of Immigration (ACOI) Noah Yeboah, Acting Head of Policy Planning Monitoring and Evaluation (PPME) and GIMMA Primary Project Focal Point explained in his presentation how the GIMMA objectives address the needs identified in the GIS Strategic Plan. At the close of the meeting, participants pledged to cooperate for the smooth implementation of GIMMA activities.

## GIMMA LAUNCHED IN BRONG AHAFO REGION

**A second launch meeting was organized in Sunyani, Brong Ahafo Region to introduce the GIMMA project to GIS officers and stakeholders and to receive their inputs and recommendations on the enhanced role of the Migration Consultation Centre (MCC). The initiatives to rehabilitate the MCC and conduct information campaigns were welcomed as irregular migration is a major issue in the region.**



*GIS officers and stakeholders gathered in Sunyani. ©IOM 2014*

The GIMMA project held a second launch in Sunyani on 25 September 2014 in the presence of Comptroller of Immigration (COI) Faisal Disu, Regional Commander for the Brong Ahafo Region, Nana Bofotia Boa Amponsem II, Kronthihene (traditional chief) of Sunyani, Mr George Apae-Nyelcom, Assistant Director of the Brong Ahafo Regional Coordinating Council, Ms Agnes Kusi, District Chief Executive for Sunyani West, Mr Samuel Donkor, Sunyani Municipal Chief Executive, representatives of academia, civil society organizations, and decentralized agencies.

In the opening remarks, COI Faisal Disu expressed his appreciation to the EU for their support to rehabilitate the MCC in Sunyani and the enormous benefits it will bring to the people of the Brong Ahafo Region. Irregular migration is common in the region, particularly among the youth in search of a better future.

The Kronthihene of Sunyani elaborated on the worsening situation of irregular migration in the region. Nana sees citizens, especially the

youth, engage in irregular migration through the Sahara desert in an attempt to reach Libya and other North African countries or to cross the Mediterranean Sea to Europe. Once faced with distress, these migrants and their families seek assistance from the traditional authorities. He urged authorities including GIS to crack down on unscrupulous agents, sensitize the community members and to tighten border controls to monitor the flow of irregular migrants.

In the second session, ACOI Belinda Sika Anim, Head of Migration Information Bureau



*Participants discuss recommendations for the MCC. ©IOM 2014*

gave a presentation on the current migration situation in Brong Ahafo Region and the roles of the MCC in Sunyani. She mentioned that available statistics collated at the major entry points put the Brong Ahafo Region as the highest recipient for deportees to Ghana. The MCC in Sunyani was established in 2007 to offer advice to potential migrants on safe migration but it faces many operational challenges. As such, she welcomed the initiatives of GIMMA and requested support for economic empowerment programmes to benefit returnees and potential migrants.

In the plenary discussion session, participants provided many recommendations for the MCC. The target group of the MCC should be the youth, as unemployed youth and youth in farming areas often see irregular migration as the only alternative to be successful in life. It was also suggested that the MCC should engage a wide range of actors ranging from travel agencies to the media. Additionally, the MCC should be located outside of the Ministry/GIS area to encourage visits from all potential migrants. The meeting ended with the closing remarks of COI Faisal Disu.



# A MESSAGE FROM GHANA IMMIGRATION SERVICE

**(COP) Dr Peter A Wiredu, Director of Ghana Immigration Service**

Ghana Immigration Service is Ghana's frontline agency working to address migration challenges including irregular migration.

It is imperative at the outset to stress that the burgeoning of the significance of remittance flows to the ordinary Ghanaian and the economy of the country, has functioned to somehow tone down the urgency of devising measures to clamp down on the irregular movement of Ghanaians to various countries abroad.

However, there is no gainsaying that the issue of irregular migration has been the Sword of Damocles hanging over our heads, regardless of pragmatic measures taken to ensure safe and meaningful migration. As a result, the country is losing its exuberant youth and skilled professionals to migration. This loss, cannot be quantified in monetary terms. This is the more reason why the Ghana Immigration Service (GIS) has not rested on its oars to ensure that unregulated migration which has dire consequences on the country is largely nipped in the bud.

As a significant member of the international community, the Ghana Immigration Service has relentlessly taken a hard line against irregular migration and executed its mandate with all professionalism. It is therefore not surprising that current statistics show considerable improvement in our work processes over the years.

All these have been made possible with the collaborative efforts of its strategic stakeholders in the management of migration in Ghana. Over the years, the GIS has collaborated with the EU, Danish, American, UK and the Spanish Governments in providing essential infrastructure in support of the works of the GIS.

Through these collaborative approaches, the Service has been able to and is implementing its first ever Strategic Plan, install CCTV cameras at selected entry points, develop GIS Training Policy, the GIS Training Curriculum and Syllabus, Human Resource Policy and the construction of critical training facility including the ultra-modern ICT Laboratory among others.

The Service is presently implementing several

collaborative projects, notably; the e-immigration project which seeks to provide an integrated e-immigration system to regulate passenger flow across our borders, check fake identities and provide a case management system for permit processing to meet the future needs of the Service and improve its quality of service to the public. This project is being funded by the World Bank and Government of Ghana (GOG) respectively.

Another project worth mentioning is the 3-year Ghana Integrated Migration Management Approach (GIMMA) project, which is in its first year of implementation. Currently, the Service, with the financial support of the EU is collaborating with the IOM to implement GIMMA. This project looks at strengthening the institutional capacity of the Service and other relevant stakeholders to manage migration effectively, increase awareness on safe migration and strengthen Ghana's migration data management system.

The GIMMA project, I must emphasize, has come at a very strategic time as the GIS Four-(4) Year Strategic Plan is in its final year of implementation and therefore require a great boost to complete on a good note. The various components outlined in the GIMMA project, particularly those akin to the core activities of the Service, were strategically selected from the list of projects outlined in the GIS Strategic Plan.

GIMMA, the project which offers a comprehensive approach to meeting the challenges of migration has therefore come in handy and understandably so because, the migration of Ghanaians to other countries still remains very germane and crucial in all aspects of the development dialogue of the country. Hence the need to embrace this collaborative measure to tap into the positives of migration.

It is evident from the above analysis that, the Ghana Immigration Service has indeed been able to achieve a lot with collaboration and is more poised to work on this project and looks forward to its successful implementation. It is the projection of the Service to further collaborate with its partners to review and draft a new Strategic Plan, since as has been earlier noted, the current one is in its final year of implementation.

Another significant project the Service looks forward to is to collaborate with its partners to revamp the Border Patrol Unit to effectively discharge its mandate and to strengthen the surveillance capacity of the GIS at the various entry points by extending the digital surveillance system to all those critical border entry/exit points.

Thank you most sincerely for offering me this platform to share a few thoughts with all who may have the opportunity to read this message.



*A border post in Ghana ©GIS 2011*

# A MESSAGE FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION

**Ambassador William Hanna, Head of EU Delegation in Ghana**

**Holistic migration policies are necessary to promote regular flows and prevent irregular migration tragedies, such as the recent boat fatalities off the coast of Italy.**

The GIMMA project is a great opportunity to further strengthen the dialogue between Ghana, the EU and Specialised International Agencies such as IOM, in the area of migration and mobility as we are facing together significant challenges in a fast-changing world.

The recent tragic events, with the deaths of hundreds of migrants, including children and women, off the Coast of Italy are a constant reminder of the need to work together to ensure migration policies are adequate to prevent further casualties.

Migration is a multifaceted phenomenon and is driven by a range of economic, personal

and cultural considerations. Migration can help the European Union meet some of those challenges. Even today, when unemployment is exceptionally high, many EU Member States are facing labour and skills shortages

in some sectors.

West Africa and Ghana on the other hand have witnessed a flow of irregular immigrants risking their lives to get to Europe, with many perishing in the desert or on high seas, particularly in the Mediterranean. Beside irregular migration, brain-drain of skilled workers especially in the health sector has taken place at a worrying rate.

The growing threat posed by the twin crimes of human trafficking and migrant smuggling can only be mitigated if European and African countries cooperate. For the European Union, migrants can be instrumental in reaching greater competitiveness, but only if we tap this potential in intelligent and innovative ways.

EU migration policy with non EU countries has been developing rapidly over the past few years and it has taken a prominent place

in the dialogue and cooperation with third-countries including in the context of development policy.

It is within this context that the EU is supporting

Ghana with a EUR 3 million project, the Ghana Integrated Migration Management Approach (GIMMA), entirely funded under the 10th European Development Fund (EDF) channelled through the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Governments cannot make effective migration policies in isolation. They need to talk with civil society, business, international organisations and with academics. This kind of dialogue is already happening, but often in a rather informal way. I believe both Ghana and the EU need to reinforce dialogue with main stakeholders — and this new programme, GIMMA can provide an important platform for putting this dialogue on a firmer and more systematic basis.



## GIMMA IN A NUTSHELL

### ACTIVITIES

**COMPONENT 1:** Strengthening the capacity of GIS to implement effective migration management measures

- Development of legal handbook and nation-wide training
- Capacity building support to the Immigration Service Academy and Training School
- Capacity building support to select border posts

**COMPONENT 2:** Strengthening national outreach and information resources on safe and legal migration options

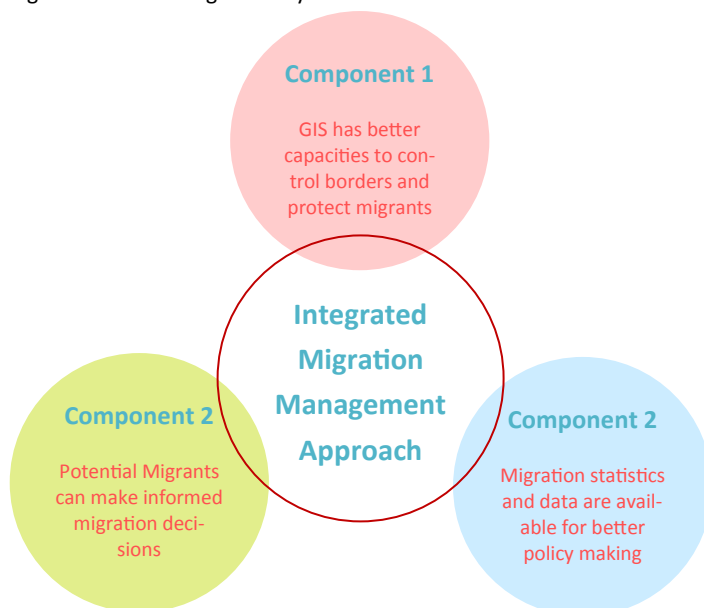
- Rehabilitation of Migration Information Bureau (MIB)
- Information outreach on safe migration
- Provision of reintegration support to Ghanaian returnees to showcase alternative livelihood options

**COMPONENT 3:** Enhancing the existing knowledge management system on migration

- Development of a national migration data sharing framework
- Capacity building support on data collection and analysis
- Production of an updated migration profile for Ghana

Supported by the 10<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund (EDF) of the European Union, the overall objective of the project is to contribute to the Government of Ghana's efforts to manage migration effectively through the establishment of an integrated migration management approach.

Specifically, the project aims to enhance the institutional capacities of GIS to implement effective migration management measures, increase the awareness of (potential) migrants on safe and legal migration and provide alternative livelihood options, and strengthen the national migration data management system.



# A MESSAGE FROM IOM

Ghana has a long history of dynamic population mobility and recent years have seen an increase in the complexity of migration patterns both inside as well as outside the borders of the country.

When it comes to internal migration, urban centres continue to attract massive flows of young people particularly young women, with many unable to access basic services and left vulnerable to human rights abuses. What started as a spontaneous coping strategy from youth originating from the most impoverished areas of the country is now morphing into a more complex phenomenon involving internal trafficking as well as – and this is most concerning – recruitment by unscrupulous agents for work as domestic workers abroad. At the same time, increasing numbers of young Ghanaians are risking their lives journeying irregularly through the Sahara desert and across the Mediterranean Sea in search of better opportunities. Finally, like other West African countries grappling with

porous borders, Ghana has seen an increase of both smuggling of migrants and trafficking of foreign nationals for forced labour and sexual exploitation.

In this context, how can Ghana effectively manage migration – curbing smuggling, trafficking and irregular migration - while at the same time upholding migrants’ human rights and promoting safe migration?

For more than 25 years IOM has contributed to the Government of Ghana’s efforts to help minimize the negative impacts of migration and maximize the benefits of migration through a wide variety of projects and programmes.

We now have, thanks to the unique platform offered by GIMMA, an unparalleled opportunity to collaborate with our long-standing partner Ghana Immigration Service (GIS) to comprehensively address gaps and challenges related to migration management. The end result will be a new legal reference handbook on migration to orient immigration officers in the web of norms and legal instruments existing at various levels and appropriately enforce the laws. Border posts will be enhanced at key strategic areas to better control irregular migration flows. In

addition, the well-resourced Migration Information Bureau will serve as a useful reference point for Ghanaian candidates to migration and facilitate legal, voluntary and safe migration.

Finally the national migration data sharing platform will allow both government officials and migration stakeholders to make informed decisions when it comes to migration management. I am confident that the collaborative and integrated approach adopted by IOM and GIS for the implementation of GIMMA will create a lasting legacy confirming Ghana as a leader in effective migration management in West Africa. I commend the EU for its support and the GIS and stakeholders for their vision and commitment.

Together we can ensure migration is truly for the benefit of all.



Sylvia Lopez Ekra, Chief of Mission, IOM Ghana

## PROJECT FOCAL POINTS

GIMMA has 7 project focal points (FP) for each activity. The key role of the focal point is to liaise between the project support team (IOM) and Ghana Immigration Service.

### What are the roles of Project Focal Points ?

- Coordination of respective activities
- Information sharing among officers, project team and stakeholders
- Facilitation of communication between the project team and GIS
- Provision of information and advice on organizational and substantive matters related to the project
- Follow up on requests sent by the project team
- Support of visibility activities



DSI Abigail Dabuoh  
**FP for: Legal Handbook**



DSI Anita A Gyasi  
**FP for: Migration Data**



ACOI Noah Yeboah  
**Primary FP**



ACOI Fred Amankwa  
**FP for: Border Patrol**



COI Faisal Disu  
**FP for: SUNYANI**



COI Justice Aमेvor  
**FP for: ISATS**



ACOI Belinda Sika Anim  
**FP for: MIBS**

As part of GIMMA capacity building support for the development of a GIS legal handbook, Assistant Director of Immigration (ADI) Victoria Baaba Asare and ADI Laud Ofori Affrifah participated in a five day course on international migration law in Sanremo, Italy (29 September to 3 October 2014).

The training was designed for government officials, academics, representatives of international and non-governmental organizations, and members of civil society; and brought together 65 participants from 50 countries.

The most useful topic identified by the GIS officers was: authority and responsibility of states: nationality, admission, stay detention, and expulsion.



Participants visited the Riviera in Monaco. ©IOM 2014

# INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION LAW TRAINING IN ITALY

The key objective of the training was to raise awareness of the importance of international legal instruments in migration management, as well as to help prepare for the legal handbook development.

Of particular importance is for officers to treat migrants humanely and respecting their human rights. The manual used for the training gave a clear indication as to how the legal handbook should be created. The training afforded the participants ideas and structures to be added in the handbook.

“It made us understand that domestic laws have some international principles underpinnings and that in implementing domestic law, states and agencies must be conscious of their obligation under international laws.” said the participants

The training session included other interesting topics such as law of the sea, climate change and migration, migration and business. Those topics could be further discussed within the context of Ghana.



ADI Laud Affrifah acting as a lawyer appeals to the court to defend refugee’s asylum applications. ©IOM 2014



ADI Baaba Asare received a training certificate. ©IOM 2014

## FIRST TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) MEETING ON THE LEGAL HANDBOOK

In Ghana there is currently no consolidated guide containing relevant policies, legal instruments, or regional and international conventions for immigration officers. The GIMMA project will develop a legal reference handbook to ensure compliance with laws and policies. This will be followed by a training of officials on the implementation of the laws.

Following the international migration law training in Italy, the first Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting was convened from 2 to 5 December 2014. The members of the TWG are: ADI Baaba Asare, ADI Laud Affrifah, COI Kojo Oppong, ACOI Francis Palmdeti, ACOI Noah Yeboah, Deputy Superintendent of Immigration (DSI) Issac Ghansah, and DSI Abigail Dabuoh.

The meeting was opened by the remarks from ADI Baaba Asare. She urged the members to attach immense seriousness to the work at hand since it will enhance the activities of GIS.

During the four day meeting, the group reviewed all existing Ghanaian laws and compiled the relevant Ghanaian immigration laws. An assessment of the Immigration laws that should go into the handbook was made. They also discussed the structure of the handbook and training modules and

***The legal handbook to be developed will serve as a compass for GIS staff on the implementation of immigration laws.***



GIS officers review legal documents. ©IOM 2014

developed timelines for upcoming activities.

The members agreed to hold the next TWG meeting within three months. This will be followed by regional consultative meetings, for TWG members to receive inputs from all ten regions. The legal handbook is scheduled to be distributed to the regions in 2015.

The training of trainers and regional trainings for immigration officers are expected to take place in 2015 and 2016.

# INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY

Raising awareness on the risks of irregular migration and promoting safe migration.

In commemoration of International Migrants Day (18 December), IOM Ghana in cooperation with GIS, Ghana Education Service, traditional authorities, civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders conducted an information outreach campaign on the risks of irregular migration and the promotion of safe migration in the Brong Ahafo Region, the main migrant sending region of Ghana. The campaign – with the theme “Know the risk, Migrate safely” - fits within the framework of the GIMMA project.

In Brong Ahafo, an increasing number of



*DSI Adjowa Wadee-Agyemang, MCC Sunyani, speaks about migration with students. ©IOM 2014*

young Ghanaians risk their lives looking for greener pasture abroad. Many of them perish while crossing the Sahara desert into North Africa or the Mediterranean sea into Europe. The purpose of the campaign was to inform potential migrants and the general public about the risks of irregular migration, regular migration options and what to expect when considering migration to Europe.

During the awareness sessions, immigration officers, the traditional chief, and IOM staff participated in local radio programmes. They discussed International Migrants Day, basic facts and figures about migration, some findings from the recently released IOM report “Fatal Journeys: Tracking Lives Lost during Migration”, dangers and risks of irregular migration, and legal migration options such as how to obtain travel documents.

In addition, documentaries were shown to community members in Nkoranza and students at Sunyani Senior High School that highlighted the dangers of crossing the Sahara desert and the harsh realities that Ghanaian



*DSI Haruna Alhassan, MCC Sunyani, speaks on a radio sensitization programme. ©IOM 2014*

migrant workers face in Europe. The Krontihene (traditional chief) of Sunyani then advised the students to desist from migrating uninformed.

***International Migrants Day is a day to recognize and respect the fundamental rights and freedoms of all migrants***

ACOI Justice Bosomtwi-Ayensu urged the students to take their education seriously so they can take advantage of the opportunities that exist within Ghana and to avoid irregular migration after school graduation. The outreach activity was part of the GIMMA project’s efforts to rehabilitate the Migration Consultation Centre (MCC) of GIS in Sunyani.

## FIRST TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING ON MIGRATION DATA MANAGEMENT

The first Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting on migration data management took place on 4 November 2014 to introduce the project to relevant stakeholders and to discuss current gaps and needs.

The TWG meeting was attended by a variety of stakeholders including Centre for Migration Studies, Bank of Ghana, National Identification Authority, Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, Ghana Tourism Authority, National Population Council, UNHCR and the EU.



*The plenary session of the TWG. ©IOM 2014*

In the opening remarks, ADI Louis Aikins, Head of Management Information System (MIS) of GIS, highlighted that GIS faced many challenges on data collection, disaggregation of data for effective analysis, and data sharing with relevant institutions.

DSI Anita Gyasi, MIS Unit, presented on the current status of the migration data collection and sharing mechanism within GIS. She spoke of some obstacles, which among others heightened the need for modern data storage technics. Mr Godwin Odei Gyebi, Head of Data Production Unit of Ghana Statistical Service (GSS), explained how migration data is currently shared among stakeholders in Ghana.

In the second session, participants discussed the different types of migration data their institutions have and how data is shared.



*Technical Working Group Members. ©IOM 2014*

They also discussed the kinds of migration data currently missing and obstacles to collecting and sharing data. Some of the difficulties are: how to include diaspora data, how to capture irregular migrants, and data on different types of remittance flows. Some participants stressed the need for training and ICT equipment. It was also recommended that the project include more stakeholders and develop a plan for project sustainability.

The participants all agreed on the need for well-defined roles to ensure the timely update and better coordination of migration data. The meeting was closed by Ms Sylvia Lopez-Ekra, Chief of Mission, IOM Ghana. She stressed the need for data sharing mechanisms within key institutions on migration to ensure that the country derives the maximum benefits of managed migration.

# PROJECT WORKPLAN

	First Year	Second Year	Third Year
<b>Legal Handbook</b>	Development of Handbook & Module		Training
<b>Support to Training School</b>	Assessment , Procurement		Training
<b>Support to Border Posts</b>	Assessment , Procurement		Training
<b>Rehabilitation of MIB/MCC</b>	Rehabilitation of MIB/MCC		Information Campaign
<b>Migration Data</b>	National Migration Data Strategy	Training	Dissemination

## MEET THE IOM PROJECT SUPPORT TEAM

IOM's project support unit (and GIMMA project lead) is pleased to be partnering with the Government of Ghana and GIS in particular, on effective migration management. The project team is thankful to the EU for funding the GIMMA project.

The project team members are Kazumi Nakamura, Project Manager; Kojo Wilmot, National Project Officer and Focal Point for Component 3 (Migration Data); Prince Ahinakwah-Wilson, Project Assistant for Component 1 (Capacity Building for Border Management); and Daniel Nyarko-Afriyie, Project Assistant for Component 2 (Information Outreach and Alternative Livelihood). The team is supported by the IOM Chief of Mission, Resource Management Office, and all other staff.

The unit will receive technical support from the IOM Regional Office for West and Central Africa based in Dakar, Senegal; IOM Office for Liaison with the EU in Brussels; IOM Headquarters in Geneva; and other missions with related experience. The African Capacity Building Centre (ACBC) in Tanzania will provide its expertise in support of the project as relevant.



We promise to work assiduously to ensure that the overall objectives of the GIMMA project are achieved, and we look forward to working with you!

Meet the team (from left): Daniel, Kojo, Kazumi, and Prince

## DO YOU KNOW..?

According to the recent IOM publication, *Fatal Journeys: Tracking Lives Lost During Migration*:

- Nearly **5,000** migrants lost their lives in 2014 while crossing the sea, remote deserts or mountains?
- This is over 100% higher than the number recorded in 2013 (2,400). 2014 was the **deadliest year** on record in terms of migrant deaths.
- Since 2000, at least **40,000** migrants have died globally during migration.
- Close to **70%** of deaths (3,224) recorded in 2014 occurred in the Mediterranean.
- Deaths in Mediterranean region more than **quadrupled** in 2014 vs. 2013.
- At least **22,400** migrants died in the past 15 years trying to reach Europe.
- An estimated **1,790** migrants died in the Sahara desert from 1996 to 2013, although this is certainly an underestimate.

For more Information, please download *Fatal Journeys* from the IOM Publication site at <http://publications.iom.int/> and visit Missing Migrants Project at <http://mmp.iom.int/>

GIMMA Newsletter is published three times per year. This special edition combines the first and second period to provide the readers with information about the project, launch activities and recent events. For any comments and suggestions, please contact: GIMMA Project Support Team at IOM at Phone: +233 302 742930 and Email: [gimma@iom.int](mailto:gimma@iom.int)

### ABOUT INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)

Established in 1951, IOM is the leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration and works closely with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental partners. With 157 member states, a further 10 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.

