

International Dialogue on Migration 2017

Understanding migrant vulnerabilities: A solution-based approach towards a global compact that reduces vulnerabilities and empowers migrants

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Applying Policy and Operational Frameworks in a Migration Context

1. Nigeria is seeing an unprecedented outflow of migrants both within and outside Africa. With a projected population of 400M by 2030, this is a critical conversation to be had at policy level both at regionally and globally.
2. The main demographics migrating across the Sahara across the Mediterranean and into Europe are those within the age bracket of 18-35 years. This bracket represents the most economically productive segment of our societies. The main purpose of moving given by those interviewed; HOPELESSNESS. No hope in a future for themselves or their children. This root cause is what needs to be addressed.
3. Asides from the quest for hope being a major cause of migration, Conflict is another reason people migrate from some parts of Africa into Europe. Taking North Eastern Nigeria as a case study, the primary reason for migration is to escape conflict. As a consequence of the insurgency, violence and civil war, persons displaced, migrate to seek basic amenities that have been destroyed as a result of the conflict...Food, Shelter, health etc.

4. Nigeria, and other countries suffering from food insecurity are likely to see an increase in migration. WFP highlighted that coupled with conflict spurred migrations, a slight rise in hunger will increase migration numbers five-fold.



<p>10 out of 13 largest hunger crises are conflict-driven</p>	<p>FOR EACH YEAR OF CONFLICT an extra 40 people out of 10,000 will flee their country</p>	<p>A 1% RISE IN HUNGER MEANS an extra 200 people out of 10,000 will leave their country</p>
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Source: United Nations World Food Program

5. As reported by MSF, a high number of migrants rescued on the Mediterranean are Nigerians reportedly fleeing instability and seeking a new beginning. Nigerians continue to be the most common nationality crossing the Mediterranean Sea and through other dangerous routes into Europe. IOM has assisted more than 1,770 stranded Nigerians to return safely from Libya alone since February. Nigerians are the highest number of Arrivals by Sea (14,118) to Italy between January 2017 to June 2017.
6. Additionally, there are over 200,000 displaced Nigerians from three states (Borno, Adamawa and Yobe) that have been forced to flee to Chad, Niger and Cameroon in order to avoid conflict. Given the chance, having access to a safe environment and social amenities, all of the 200,000 people would not have any reason to move.
7. Preventing migration in this context will mean preventing the violent rhetoric that destabilised the region. Preventing violent rhetoric implies that the root causes of the violence be addressed – Education, Health, Jobs, Security.
8. Where migration has occurred, vulnerability of migrants to violence, exploitation, abuse and rights violations during the migration process can be minimised by promptly and adequately mobilising the support along with the effective coordination structure to provide emergency assistance and services to the migrants.
9. Often times, reports of migrants being forced to return to their places of origin are flagged up and to stop this, the migrants fleeing the conflict zone needs to be aware (informed) that unless the area of return is safe and the return is voluntary, the migrant is not obligated to move back to an unsafe region. Achieving this to reduce further vulnerability of migrants will amongst other things require a multi-dimensional approach, cutting across affected countries and responding agencies.

10. At policy level in Nigeria there are ongoing efforts to boost the economy, provide social safety nets and provide a safe and secure environment for those living in conflict areas. On the continental level, we are also leading the African Union Peace and Security Council this month of July. Nigeria is taking active steps through the African Union apparatus to escalate the discussion into the root causes of migration by addressing youth disenchantment and lack of economic opportunities.