



IOM International Organization for Migration  
OIM Organisation internationale pour les migrations  
OIM Organización Internacional para las Migraciones



# IOM GHANA ANNUAL REPORT 2014

## ABOUT IOM GHANA

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.

### **PRESENT IN GHANA FOR OVER 25 YEARS**

IOM has been active in Ghana since 1987 and has contributed to the Government of Ghana's efforts to manage migration effectively through a wide variety of projects and programmes. Migration support includes: travel assistance, voluntary return and reintegration, resettlement, migrant health, counter-trafficking, capacity-building in the areas of migration management and policy development, migration and development, and emergency assistance. The IOM main office, the Canada Visa Application Centre (CVAC) and Migration Health Assessment Centre (MHAC) are all located in Accra, with additional sub-offices in the Northern and Brong-Ahafo regions. IOM is also part of the United Nations System in Ghana and works within the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) whose strategic areas are derived from the Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda (GSGDA).

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## ACRONYMS

AUSCO	-	Australia Cultural Orientation
AVRR	-	Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration
BIN	-	Bureau for Immigration and Naturalization
BTCTE	-	Breaking The Chain Through Education
CO	-	Cultural Orientation
COA	-	Canadian Orientation Abroad
CRM	-	Community Response Map
CVAC	-	Canada Visa Application Centre
DAB	-	Diaspora Affairs Bureau
ECOWAS	-	Economic Community of West African States
EDF	-	European Development Fund
EVD	-	Ebola Virus Disease
GAIM	-	Global Assistance for Irregular Migrants project
GIMMA	-	Ghana Integrated Migration Management Approach project
GIS	-	Ghana Immigration Service
GOG	-	Government of Ghana
IDF	-	IOM Development Fund
ILO	-	International Labour Organization
IMSCM	-	Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee on Migration
IOM	-	International Organization for Migration
LRRRC	-	Liberian Refugee Resettlement and Repatriation Commission
MCC	-	Migration Consultation Centre
MFARI	-	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration
MHAC	-	Migration Health Assessment Centre
MIDA	-	Migration for Development in Africa
MIDWA	-	Migration for Development in West Africa
MMDP	-	Migration Management Diploma Programme
MOI	-	Ministry of Interior
NLCO III	-	The Netherlands Cultural Orientation III
NHIS	-	National Health Insurance Scheme
RSC	-	Resettlement Support Centre
TB	-	Tuberculosis
TRQN III	-	Temporary Return of Qualified Nationals III
UNHCR	-	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNIDO	-	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
USRAP	-	United States Refugee Admissions Program

## FOREWORD

Reflecting on the past year, it is evident that migration continued to be a defining feature of Ghana's socio-economic life. Longstanding dynamics such as the internal trafficking of children for forced labour, the rural – urban migration of adolescent girls from the North or the irregular migration of Ghanaians seeking greener pastures abroad continued unabated.

What was new and certainly most concerning was to observe how these known migration trends are now morphing into a new phenomenon, regrettably for the worse. In 2014, boys, at an increasingly young age, risked their lives in the desert and on unseaworthy vessels on the Mediterranean Sea to reach North Africa and Europe respectively; young women also entrusted their future to unscrupulous agents who lured them abroad with promises of well-paid domestic work.

The Ebola Virus Disease also presented itself in 2014 and brought devastation and sorrow to West Africa. It was a painful reminder of the important links that exist between human mobility and public health. Ghana, a country on the periphery of the outbreak, remained Ebola-free but its position as a regional hub ushered in high risk factors. For the first time, the central role of border health surveillance was brought to the fore.

In the midst of these old and new challenges, IOM Ghana continued to work tirelessly to provide assistance to migrants in need and to provide support to the Government of Ghana and partners. From making steady progress on the development of a dedicated migration policy, to welcoming the creation of the Diaspora Affairs Bureau, to launching an ambitious three-year programme on integrated migration management, we achieved remarkable strides in both migration policy and technical cooperation.

As a team we feel that our greatest success lies with the thousands of lives that our diverse programmes have impacted over the last year. These include Ghanaian diaspora, returnees, stranded migrants, child trafficking survivors, refugees, immigrants and students. Behind each, a unique story. Stories of transformation: from trafficking to freedom, from refugee camps to new beginnings, from danger and uncertainty to the safety of one's home, from longing to giving back.

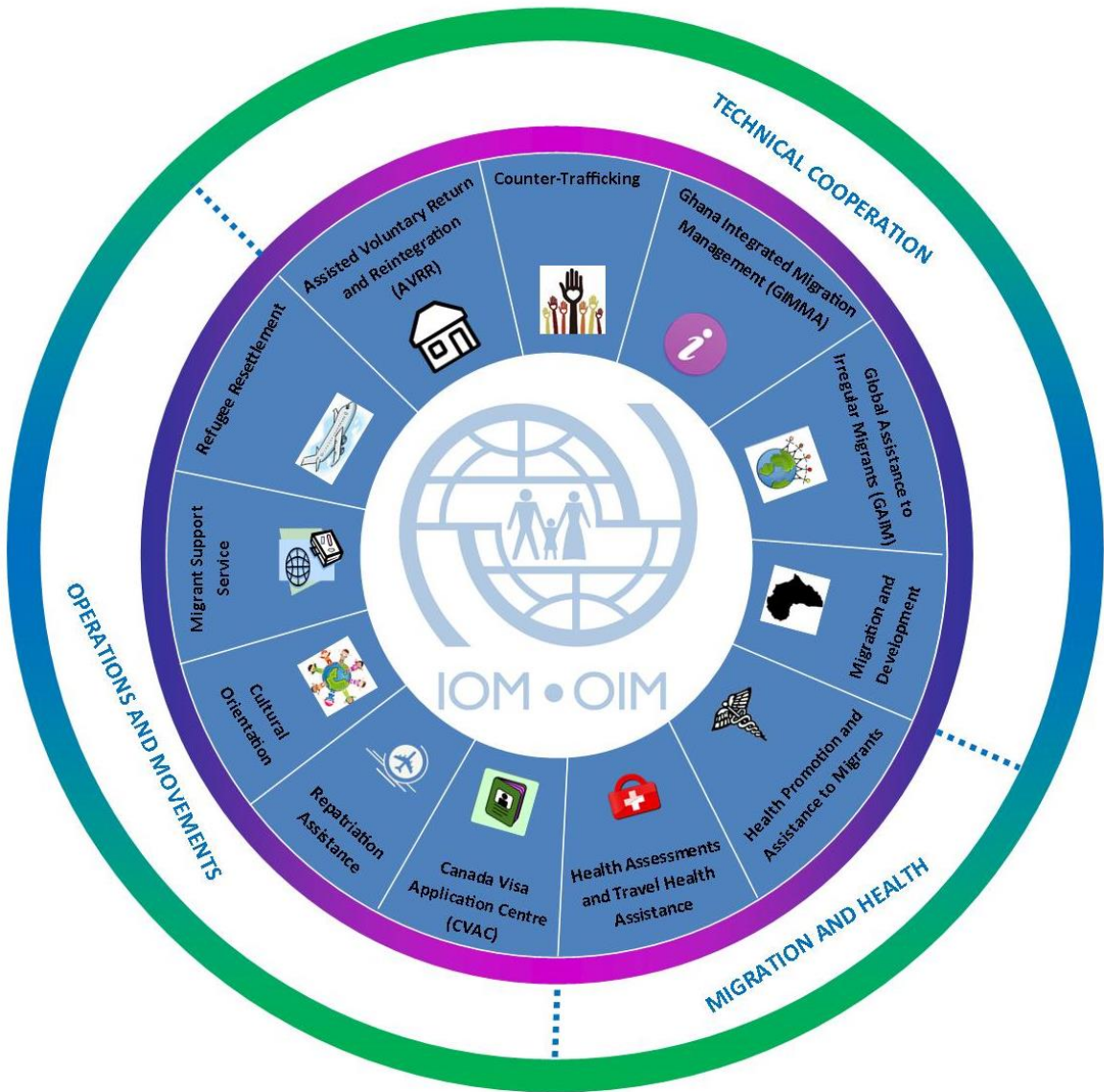
This annual report is about them. By showcasing our work, we wish to take you along with us to reflect on what migration management means in concrete terms and hope that through this read, you will understand what it contributes to people's lives in Ghana and beyond.



Ms. Sylvia Lopez-Ekra  
Chief of Mission  
International Organization for Migration - IOM Ghana



# PROGRAMMATIC FOCUS

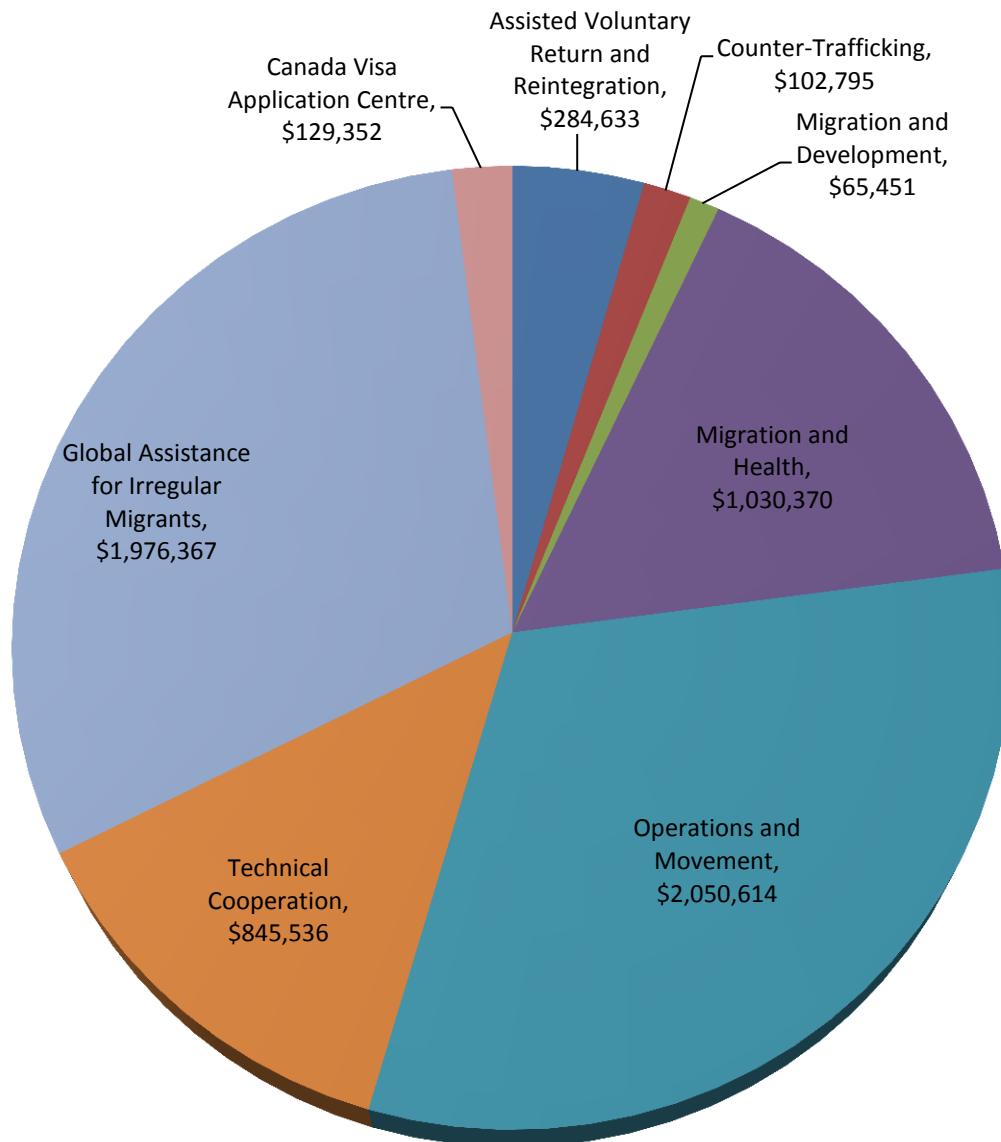


## SUMMARY OF 2014 IOM GHANA MISSION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **9,243** visa applications received for Canada
- **5,040** migration health assessments and medical assistance for travel
- **1,433** refugee health assessments
- **1,080** refugees resettled
- **512** migrants assisted with travel arrangements
- **386** refugees and migrants provided with cultural orientation classes
- **209** Liberian migrants repatriated
- **208** Ghanaian returnees assisted
- **142** migrants assisted with family reunification
- **119** community education sessions on child protection organized
- **108** students assisted to travel to UK and Ireland in partnership with the British Council
- **34** children survivors of trafficking supported
- **22** assignments by **13** diaspora experts
- **20** stranded migrants assisted by GAIM project

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Table 1. IOM Ghana 2014 Financial Overview by Programme	
Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration	USD 284,633
Global Assistance for Irregular Migrants	USD 1,976,367
Counter-Trafficking	USD 102,795
Migration and Development	USD 65,451
Migration and Health	USD 1,030,370
Operations and Movements	USD 2,050,614
Canada Visa Application Centre	USD 129,352
Technical Cooperation	USD 845,536
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>(Average) USD 6,500,000</b>



Total contributions to IOM Ghana in 2014: USD 6.5



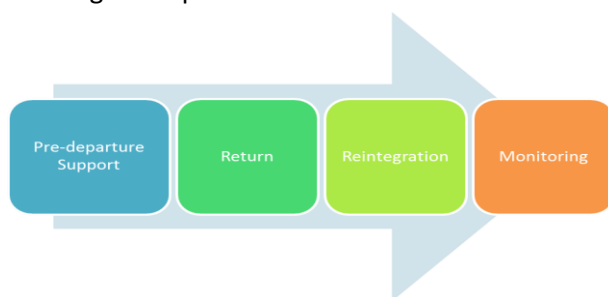


*Kwame was assisted to return from Malta and now runs a successful provisions shop. ©IOM 2014*

## ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN AND REINTEGRATION

Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) is a core activity of IOM and is part of a comprehensive approach to migration management. The aim is to assist with the orderly and humane return and reintegration of migrants who are unable or unwilling to remain in host countries and wish to return voluntarily to their countries of origin. In 2014, IOM Ghana facilitated the voluntary return of 207 Ghanaian.

There are four stages within the return and reintegration process:



Return assistance includes pre-departure and post-arrival information and counselling, flight arrangements, and airport arrangements.

*208 AVRR cases in 2014*

Migrants are then provided reintegration support to establish a small business or engage in further education and training. IOM reintegration activities also include the provision of psychosocial counselling, medical support, linking returnees to support systems, monitoring reintegration activities and community assistance projects.

IOM Ghana has been providing reintegration support to returnees since 2002. The main countries where Ghanaians returned from include the United Kingdom, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Italy, Belgium and Malta. Returnees also come from other African countries including Niger, Libya, Morocco, South Sudan and Egypt. In 2014, a total of 208 individuals (186 men and 22 women) were assisted to return from various destination countries, out of which 131 returnees completed their reintegration process. There

are currently 56 on-going cases as some individuals returned in late 2014, while others are in the process of finalising their business plans and launching their new enterprise.

Table 1 provides AVRR statistics for 2014 according to returns, completed, on-going and closed cases.

**Table 1 - Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Cases in 2014**

COUNTRY	RETURNS			COMPLETED CASES			ON-GOING CASES			CLOSED CASES		
	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL RETURNS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL COMPLETED	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
ITALY	34	8	42	20	1	21	10	6	16	4	1	5
NETHERLANDS	25	5	30	18	3	21	6	2	8	1	-	1
UK	22	1	23	20	1	21	-	-	-	2	-	2
TUNISIA	20	-	20	11	-	11	8	-	8	1	-	1
NIGER	16	-	16	9	-	9	-	-	-	7	-	7
MALTA	13	1	14	11	-	11	2	1	3	-	-	-
SWITZERLAND	13	1	14	3	-	3	10	1	11	-	-	-
BELGIUM	11	1	12	8	1	9	3	-	3	-	-	-
LIBYA	8	-	8	5	-	5	-	-	-	3	-	3
BULGARIA	4	2	6	3	-	3	1	2	3	-	-	-
MOROCCO	5	-	5	3	-	3	1	-	1	1	-	1
FINLAND	2	1	3	-	1	1	2	-	2	-	-	-
NORWAY	3	-	3	3	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
ARGENTINA	1	1	2	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
MALAYSIA	1	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
BELARUS	1	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
CANADA	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
EGYPT	1	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
GEORGIA	1	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
GREECE	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
INDONESIA	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
POLAND	1	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
ROMANIA	1	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
SOUTH SUDAN	1	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>21</b>



Participants gathered in The Hague to discuss AVRR best practices.  
©IOM 2014

## INCREASING MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND IDENTIFYING BEST PRACTICES FOR ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN AND REINTEGRATION

IOM Ghana and its governmental counterparts attended a three day Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) forum (2-4 April 2014) hosted by IOM the Netherlands and sponsored by the European Return Fund and the Dutch Repatriation and Departure Service. The purpose of the conference was to exchange information and experiences on existing AVRR policies and practices and to strengthen coordination among stakeholders. Over 100 government/EU officials, diplomatic representatives, migrant workers, civil society representatives and IOM global reintegration assistant attended.

Martin Wyss, Chief of Mission of IOM the Netherlands, set the tone of the conference by saying that, “reintegration policies and practices tend to be planned in country of destination and implemented in countries of origin. The purpose of the conference is to have both sides listen to each other to increase mutual understanding and to start identifying best practices to achieve more humane and more sustainable reintegration of returning migrants together.”

As a growing area of work, AVRR provides vital assistance to tens of thousands of migrants returning home every year in many countries. IOM Ghana aims to help address the challenges migrants face during return and reintegration, through close cooperation with the IOM global AVRR network, governmental and non-governmental agencies. The conference highlighted the need to employ good practices such as psychosocial counselling aimed at managing skills, empowerment coaching, and strengthened coordination among stakeholders. AVRR also requires a holistic and sustainable approach supported at the country level through tailored reintegration interventions that meet the needs of each migrant.



IOM Ghana reintegration assistant, Valentina Dickson, presented the current practices and situation of AVRR in Ghana. The mission works closely with IOM the Netherlands and returnees during the pre-departure stage, to discuss the return and business plan whilst presenting the socio-economic situation of the country. Once returnees arrive home they contact IOM and business plans are adjusted to their local context. Additional support includes advising returnees on how to conduct a feasibility study, an orientation and business management training, any psychosocial counseling to address stress and social challenges resulting from return. Additionally, IOM Ghana monitors returnees through frequent monitoring calls and occasional field visits.

As part of the three day conference, IOM Ghana AVRR staff met with stakeholders in The Hague, Rotterdam and Amsterdam. Potential returnees indicated that AVRR is the most desirable form of return given that it takes the individual’s decision into account and provides a viable and humanitarian response to migrants who are stranded and destitute.





## **#MIGRATION MEANS: NEW BEGINNING**

Kingsford had big dreams of a new life when he left Ghana for Libya. A carpenter by trade, he was looking to expand his skills and seek new opportunities. He made the treacherous journey through the Sahara desert to reach Libya. After one year he sought to reach Europe and took a boat ride to Malta. Eventually, he was detained by authorities for his irregular entry and he was informed of IOM's AVRR programme.

Kingsford saw this as an opportunity to begin anew at home. With the grant provided by IOM, he was able to invest in construction materials and since then he has reopened his carpentry business. With this new beginning he hopes to expand his business further to include a provisions shop.

Kingsford was featured as part of the [#MigrationMeans](#) social media campaign.



IOM Ghana staff counsel three Ghanaian youths who were assisted to return home after a failed migration attempt. ©IOM 2014

## IOM GHANA ASSISTS YOUTHS TO RETURN HOME

Irregular migration can have serious and even deadly consequences. Many migrants from the West African Sub-Region, including Ghanaian nationals, take their chances in finding a better future by taking an irregular journey through the Sahara desert to North Africa. Still others continue on hoping to reach Europe by crossing the Mediterranean Sea at the hands of human smugglers. According to a new IOM report [Fatal Journeys: Tracking Lives Lost during Migration](#) nearly 5,000 migrants died in 2014 while crossing the sea, remote deserts or mountains; making it the deadliest year on record in terms of migrant deaths(see page 14).

Ghanaian migrants, particularly the youth, are among those seeking opportunities abroad. Most originate from the northern regions of Ghana that experience severe poverty. Many are unaware of the dangers associated with irregular migration, while others take the risk, pack a few belongings and set off.

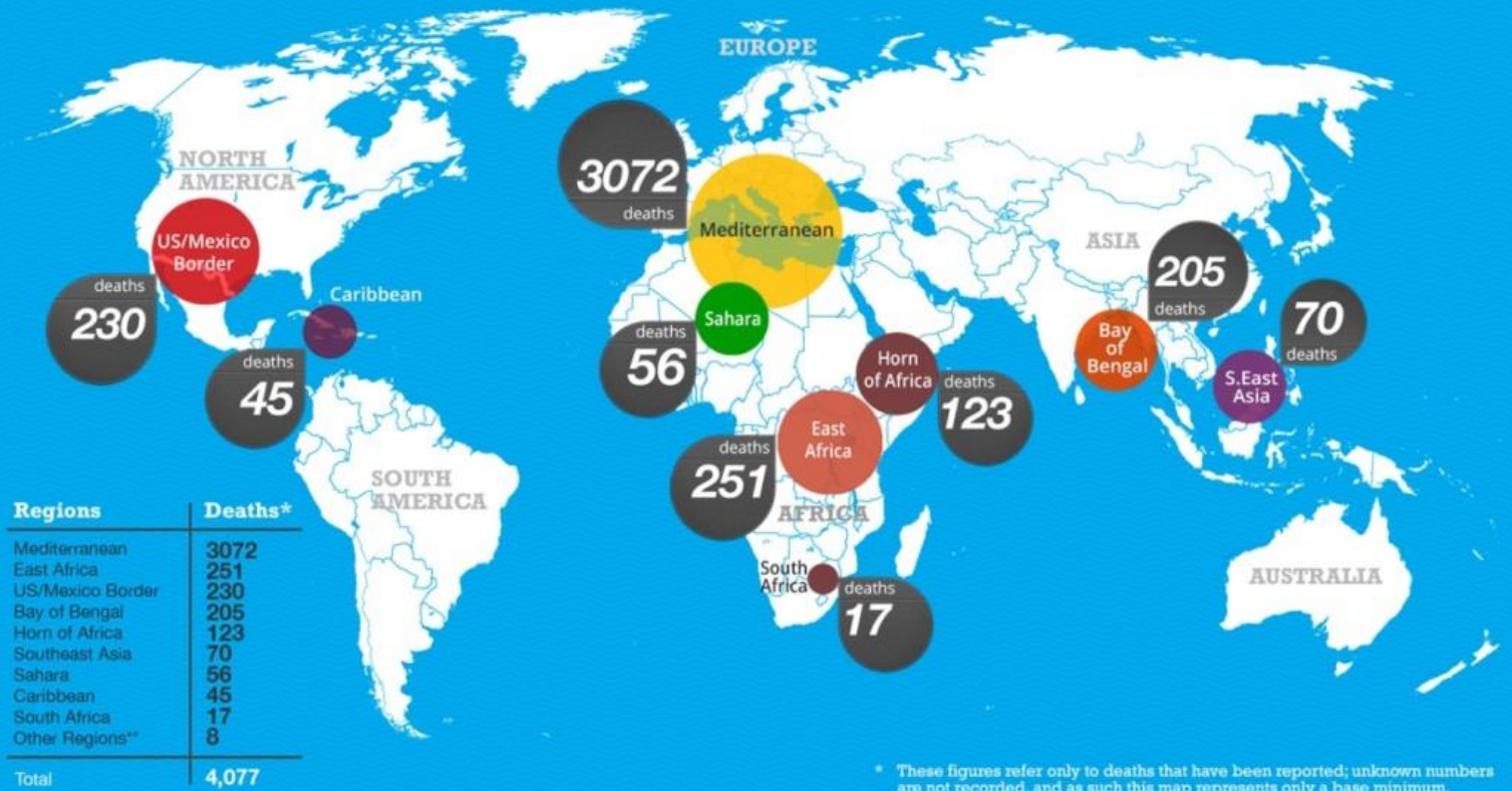
The very real consequences of this journey hit home for three Ghanaian minors in 2014. After making the gruelling trip through the Sahara the youths arranged for onward transport by boat to Italy with human smugglers. Most of the vessels used by smugglers are not seaworthy or lack any knowledgeable crew, thus the boat carrying the 3 minors and 75 other migrants became stranded at sea in August 2014. The vessel was rescued by the Tunisian coast guard and the migrants were further assisted by the local Red Cross. The three Ghanaian minors were among those who indicated that they wished to return home voluntarily. IOM quickly launched into action by conducting a family tracing mission to find their families in Northern and Brong -Ahafo regions.

The outcome of the assessment revealed the push and pull factors that motivated the youths to embark on such a perilous journey. “The time is now to educate Ghanaian youth about the risks associated with irregular migration. An open dialogue is needed to strengthen local support systems,” urges Ms. Sylvia Lopez-Ekra IOM Ghana Chief of Mission.



# THE MISSING MIGRANTS PROJECT

## Migrant Deaths on World Borders, Jan-Sept 2014



\* These figures refer only to deaths that have been reported; unknown numbers are not recorded, and as such this map represents only a base minimum.  
 \*\* This refers to deaths that occurred in Europe other than the Mediterranean (7) and India (1). Although deaths are occurring in Central America, non-disaggregated data makes it difficult to isolate migration-related deaths.

<http://missingmigrants.iom.int>

### FATAL JOURNEYS: TRACKING LIVES LOST DURING MIGRATION

In September 2014, IOM released “Fatal Journeys: Tracking Lives Lost During Migration,” the world’s most comprehensive tally to date of migrant fatalities across land and sea. With a count surpassing 40,000 victims since 2000, IOM calls on all the world’s governments to address what it describes as “an epidemic of crime and victimization.” “Our message is blunt: migrants are dying who need not,” said IOM Director General William Lacy Swing, “It is time to do more than count the number of victims. It is time to engage the world to stop this violence against desperate migrants.”

The report, compiled under IOM’s Missing Migrants Project, indicates Europe is the world’s most dangerous destination for “irregular” migration, costing the lives of over 3,000 migrants in 2014. An estimated 1,790 migrants died in the Sahara desert from 1996 to 2013, although this is certainly an underestimate. At least 22,400 migrants died in the past 15 years trying to reach Europe. Nearly 5,000 migrants lost their lives in 2014 while crossing the sea, remote deserts and mountainous areas. Over 100% higher than the number recorded in 2013 (2,400). 2014 was the deadliest year on record in terms of migrant deaths.

Going forward, the Missing Migrants Project will lend a powerful voice of deterrence to keep future victims from embarking on these dangerous journeys. “We want to turn #MissingMigrants into a powerful voice to warn future migrants against taking these high risk journeys. It is not doing it with a poster or a radio spot, but with the most persuasive means out there - the voices of survivors and the family members of missing migrants,” says IOM Spokesperson Leonard Doyle.

“Fatal Journeys” uses statistical data compiled by governments and other agencies, as well as NGOs and media sources, but collecting data on migrant deaths has never been a priority for most governments around the world. Many deaths occur in remote regions of the world and are never recorded. No organization at the global level is currently responsible for systematically monitoring the number of deaths which occur. IOM believes the publication of “Fatal Journeys” will begin to provide some clarity to what many consider to be a growing epidemic of crime against migrants. It represents an initial step towards a more comprehensive accounting of what is happening to the victims and a wake-up call for governments.

Access the full report at: <http://publications.iom.int/bookstore>





IOM Ghana counter-trafficking team speaks with school children about how they can protect themselves from child trafficking. ©IOM 2014

## COUNTER-TRAFFICKING

IOM Ghana has been working with the Government of Ghana, communities and local partners to counter the occurrence of human trafficking within the country for over a decade. The counter-trafficking team focuses on three key principles: Prevention, Protection, Prosecution (Law Enforcement Trainings), with an additional emphasis on Partnership. The main activities include direct assistance to children, child's right education targeting families and fishermen in the community, and capacity-building of Ghanaian officials. Direct assistance includes the rescue, rehabilitation, reintegration and long-term monitoring of trafficked children.

In 2014, the IOM counter-trafficking team provided monitoring, as well as education and food assistance to 34 children survivors of trafficking; sensitized communities utilising the IOM-developed and UNICEF-supported Child Protection Toolkit; and started planning the 2015 Rescue of 20 children.

### CHILD PROTECTION TOOLKIT

In 2013, IOM launched a new initiative called 'Free to Be Me' aimed at building the capacity of local communities to address and prevent

child trafficking and protection violations. A Child Protection Toolkit featuring 12 modules was developed as part of Phase I of the project *Technical Support to the Government of Ghana to Address Child Trafficking and other Child Protection Abuses in the Ketu South, North and South Tongu Districts of the Volta Region*.

The first six modules were piloted in six communities (three districts) in the Volta Region of Ghana in 2013. The main topics focused on community participation, child

protection, child trafficking, children's rights and birth registration.

With support from the Dream Project Foundation (Freedom to Walk), training sessions were replicated for community volunteers in three additional communities in the Western Region.

### **TOOLKIT TRAINING (Modules 7-12)**

As part of Phase II, a five-day training was held for 22 selected volunteers, district officials and IOM staff to learn about modules 7-12 of the Child Protection Toolkit. Participants included 3 district officials from Ketu South Municipal, North Tongu and South Tongu districts, 16 community volunteers and 3 IOM staff.

The training was conducted by the International Development Associates (IDA) consultancy firm in Sogakope, Volta Region. Participants were taken through various methodologies including facilitation skills to enable them to conduct toolkit module sessions within their communities.

Following the child protection toolkit training, IOM staff and volunteers undertook 119 roll-out sessions in the six target communities. Volunteers and the IOM counter-trafficking team ensured that six modules were rolled out in each community. Child-centered modules were also conducted with local schools and children within the communities. Community members including community leaders, children and teachers from the six communities benefited from the roll-out or training sessions.

### **DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS**

In addition to the roll-out sessions conducted, child protection messages were printed on T-Shirts and distributed to all pilot communities.

Messages for adults included 'I AM AN ADVANCED PARENT', 'MY CHILDREN COME FIRST!!' and 'MY COMMUNITY SAYS NO TO CHILD-TRAFFICKING'



Community members display their new messages. ©IOM 2015, Picture by Julia Liebisch

During the distribution sessions, community members once again expressed the need for them to change their attitudes and behaviours if they want a better future for their families and community.

Messages for children included 'I BELONG IN THE CLASSROOM AND NOT ON A BOAT' and 'CHILD PROTECTION STARTS WITH ME'. The shirts were distributed in the community schools and most teachers suggested they would be used as Friday wear to reinforce messages from the toolkit.

In addition, children received 'MY LITTLE BOOK' that they can fill in with their personal information and what they have learned during IOM's education sessions.

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### *119 community sessions of the child protection toolkit*

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A child displays his new T-shirt. ©IOM 2015, Picture by Julia Liebisch





The donation of the toolkit in Anoenu community. ©IOM 2014

## TOOLKIT DONATION

Community and district officials in each of the six target areas, as part of the ‘Free To Be Me’ child protection project, received a copy of the remaining modules (7-12) following the toolkit training, to complete their toolkit package. The first set of modules (1-6) was provided as part of Phase I in 2013. Districts and communities are now able to facilitate or roll-out any of the modules after the end of the project to continue to address and prevent child abuse.



Community leaders inspect the toolkit. ©IOM 2014

“We the community members, need to take such educational sessions like the ones done by IOM, seriously so as to avoid future misfortunes for our children.”– (Male Parent, Anoenu)





A role play session in Agbagorme community. ©IOM 2014

## PRE-ASSESSMENT EVALUATION AND TOOLKIT ROLL-OUT

In July 2014, the counter-trafficking team with the help of an internal evaluator and translator undertook a pre-assessment in all six target communities to enable a comparison of behaviour patterns at the beginning and at the end of the project roll-out. The assessment focused on testing knowledge of topics related to toolkit modules 7-12: harsh realities of child labour, child trafficking and the law, a good start to life for children and the importance of play, responsible and advanced parenting, self-protection and aspirations for children

The purpose was to be able to measure the change in knowledge and behaviour at the end of the project. Overall, 322 community members were reached during assessment sessions and an additional 1,610 were reached indirectly (those who received messages from family members). Community assessments were conducted in Anoenu, Aveyiborme, Memodzi-Sikor, Kanyakope and Agbagorme. Community members from the sixth community; Hlevi, did not attend due to an emergency funeral.

Implementation of the roll-out took place between August and December 2014. A total of 7,092\* individuals from the six target communities were trained during 119 sessions by IOM staff and community volunteers.

Additional sensitization and awareness creation activities were organized to reinforce messages delivered. These activities aimed to ensure a protective environment for children from trafficking and other child abuse, and to strengthen community-based response and accountability.



\*Note: it is possible that the same individuals attended multiple sessions.

Photos: Top– Pre-assessment activities in Aveyiborme. Bottom –IOM discusses child protection with children. ©IOM 2014

## MONITORING AND SPONSORSHIP SUPPORT

Children survivors of trafficking who are assisted to return and reintegrate in their communities are monitored and supported for 2.5 years. Those who come to the end of the IOM monitoring period but still require additional assistance can be considered for private sponsorship. In 2014, IOM Ghana partnered with the US based NGO, Breaking the Chain Through Education (BTCTE) to support the sponsorship of 30 children. Additionally, 4 children were sponsored by private donors through the United States Association for International Migration (USAIM). Sponsored children benefit from enrolment in school or apprenticeship programme.

Additionally, all 34 children (9 girls and 25 boys, aged 7 to 21) received food packages during the year. Each package contains four portions of basic items such as 'Gari', maize, beans, sugar, oil and rice, which benefits the

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*34 children survivors of trafficking supported*

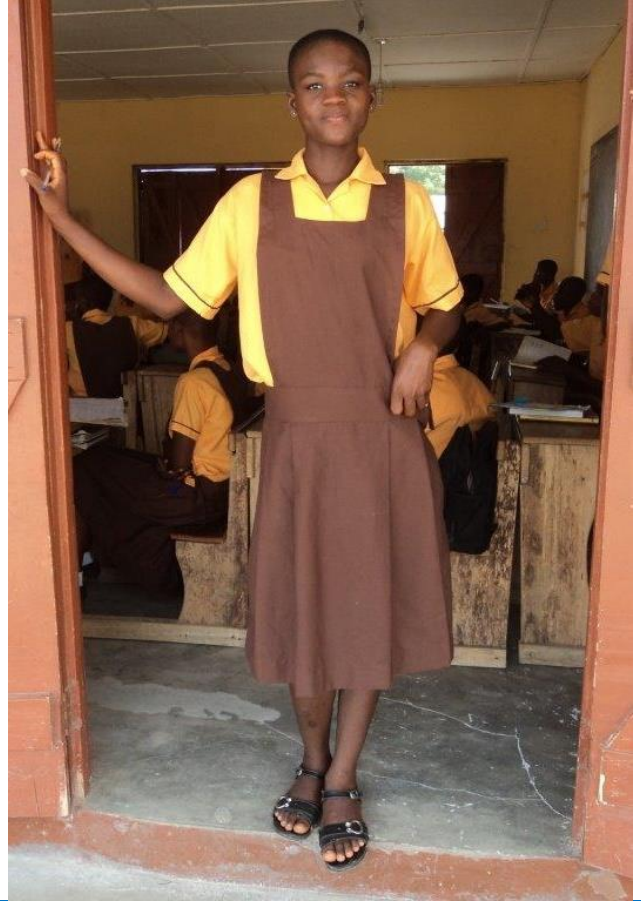
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child and the family as a whole. The children were also enrolled in the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) for access to medical support.



*A survivor child proudly displays his first-ever health insurance card. ©IOM 2014*





*Left: Enyonam shortly after her rescue in 2008. Right: Enyonam proudly posing in front of her classroom. ©IOM 2008 and 2014*

## **TRAFFICKING SURVIVOR REACHES TOP OF THE CLASS**

Enyonam\* was among the 36 trafficked children rescued by IOM Ghana in 2008. Her mother, who is poor and was struggling to take care of her children, gave her away to a fisherman at the age of five. Her mother was unaware of the fate that soon awaited Enyonam; as the fisherman had promised that her daughter would be well looked after and receive an education. Sadly, Enyonam endured over seven years of forced labour working under dangerous and harsh conditions along Volta Lake.

Before being rescued by IOM, Enyonam had to work from dusk till dawn, casting and pulling nets, scaling, smoking and selling fish. She also had to help with domestic chores and most days, went to bed exhausted and hungry.

Shortly after her rescue, she was reunited with her mother and immediately enrolled in school. Thanks to her determination and hard work she is currently in Junior High School, Form Three (8th grade), soon to write her Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE). Her academic performance is excellent and she has consistently ranked first in her class and is currently the girls' prefect of her school.

Despite the disadvantage of missing school while she was trafficked and the economic difficulties of her family, Enyonam is determined to succeed in life.

During a recent monitoring visit Enyonam said "I am so thankful to you [IOM] for rescuing me and enrolling me in school. I'm happy to be in school. May God bless you".

IOM is grateful to all its donors and sponsors for their support. Thanks to their donations, many children like Enyonam have been given a second chance in life and can now experience the joys of childhood to play, laugh and learn. However much remains to be done. Thousands of children remain enslaved in fishing communities and are in desperate need of help and hope for a better future. Community sensitization is also needed to help end the cycle of child trafficking and prevent child abuses.

\*Note: name was changed.



## RESCUE 2015

Since 2002, 732 child victims of trafficking have been rescued and reunited with their families. Despite successful joint rescues of children trafficked on Lake Volta, many more remain in dire situations, exploited on the lake. In order to respond to their needs, IOM Ghana started the planning process for the rescue of 20 trafficked children engaged in forced labour on Lake Volta.

Throughout 2014 various fundraising initiatives were held in the US and UK, benefiting upcoming rescues.



*The Urban Strings Youth Orchestra, Columbus Ohio, held a benefit concert in September 2014 for the Rescue 2015.  
©Urban Strings*



*IOM Ghana COM (to June 2014), survivor of trafficking child Never and Director of the Columbus Council on World Affairs.*

IOM's US charity partner [USAIM](#) together with a Ohio civic group '[GlobalGrandparenting](#)', and Breaking the Chain Through Education ([BTCTE](#)) in New Jersey, organized fundraising events in the first week of October featuring IOM staff and a child survivor of trafficking (see next page) who provided a [testimonial](#) about child trafficking and the positive impact of IOM's rescue programme.

As a result of the events, GlobalGrandparenting provided a generous donation towards the 2015 rescue. Meanwhile, the IOM office in the UK organized [Fashioned For Freedom](#) an ethical fashion show that raised awareness of human trafficking, on 16 October. All proceedings of this event were donated towards the 2015 rescue.



# NEVER'S STORY OF SURVIVAL AND GIVING BACK.



Ten years ago Never started his childhood and life anew after being rescued from forced labour in the fishing industry on Lake Volta, Ghana. At the tender age of 10, Never was sent away with a fisherman who promised his parents he would be educated in return for his work. However, this promise was soon broken as he worked from 4am until 3pm with no breaks and only 'gari' (powdered cassava) to eat at the end of the day. He worked to detangle nets from the bottom of the lake, bail and repair boats, catch and clean fish. This grueling work was combined with other physical and psychological hardships, such as little or no contact with family and no access to education. Never explains, "It is important to me to share my experience and my work with my master when I was trafficked. The more who understand this situation the more people will extend their hand to other children."

## Never is trafficked

"It was one Wednesday morning when I came from school and my dad asked me to drop my bag and speak with him. My father said a man was here to take me to work, and in return he said he would pay for my education. But I thought it was a bad idea for me because how could I go to school when I was working?"

"I left with the man to Yeji, to the river where the water was so strong. There were a lot of changes. Looking at the Lake Volta river was so scary. I was so worried I saw children on boats on the water and the wind blows so strong. The language they speak there is different than the language I was used to speaking."



## Living in fear

"The master was strict and made me stay in the house when I wasn't working. And I received many beatings, especially when he felt I wasn't working well enough."

Sometimes children are thrown into river and drown, a very close friend died, I felt so much pity for the boy. Maybe if I had not been rescued by this time I might have died by now."



## The rescue

"My master was wicked. I was so surprised when he said I would leave with IOM. He told me when you go try to go to school. I was so happy and excited. Freedom has come, I have to go back and see my mom, is she still alive?"

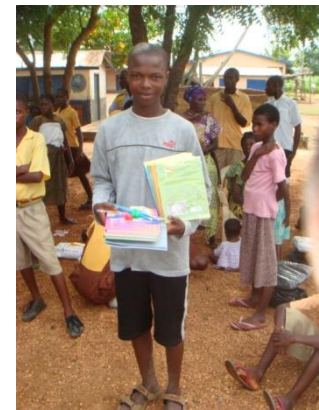
IOM took us to rehab centre, gave us clothing, proper meals, nice environment to sleep, I met my other siblings there and I was happy they were also alive and saved the same day."



## Realizing the dream of education

"After IOM rescued and saved me they placed me back into school and I continued to junior and senior high and now I am taking exams for university."

"The sound of the drum has changed. We have to stop child trafficking. Every child has a right to go to school."



Photos: Never holds a basketball and receives stationary in Basic School. ©IOM 2009



Never receives a monitoring visit at his secondary school. ©IOM 2010



October 2014, Never travelled to the United States to speak about child trafficking. ©IOM 2014.





Stakeholders gather in Sunyani to discuss ways to enhance activities for the migration consultation centre. ©IOM 2014

## GHANA INTEGRATED MIGRATION MANAGEMENT APPROACH (GIMMA)

Supported by the 10<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund (EDF) of the European Union, the GIMMA project aims to contribute to Government of Ghana's efforts to manage migration effectively. The three-year project (2014-2016) has three main objectives: capacity-building, awareness-raising and migration data management.

### PROJECT LAUNCH

On 26 June 2014, the GIMMA project was officially launched in Accra, attended by various stakeholders and development partners. The project specifically aims to enhance the institutional capacities of the Ghana Immigration Service (GIS) to implement effective migration management measures, increase the awareness of (potential) migrants on safe and legal migration and to strengthen Ghana's migration data management system.

A second launch was organized in Sunyani, Brong - Ahafo Region on 26 September 2014 to introduce the GIMMA project to stakeholders and to receive their inputs and recommendations on the enhanced role of the Migration Consultation Centre (MCC) of



The official launch of the GIMMA project. ©IOM 2014

the GIS in Sunyani. The initiatives to rehabilitate the MCC and conduct information outreach campaigns were welcomed as irregular migration is a major issue in the region.

Two separate technical working groups (TWG) were established in 2014 to achieve the aims of a legal reference handbook and migration data management platform.

### LEGAL REFERENCE 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.

In October 2014, two GIS legal officers participated in a five-day training course on International Migration Law (IML) in Sanremo, Italy. The objective of the training was to raise their awareness about the importance of international legal instruments in the management of migration and to help prepare participants for the development of a national legal handbook.

The added knowledge from the IML training course also afforded participants the opportunity to support handbook development and to serve as resource persons for the training of trainers scheduled for 2015.

Following the IML training in Italy, the legal reference handbook TWG meeting was convened in December 2014. The four-day meeting was the kick-start of the development of the handbook that will serve as a guide to GIS in the implementation of

migration laws. The outcome of the meeting was the development of a work plan on the handbook and training modules.

### MIGRATION DATA MANGEMENT

Reliable migration data is key to effective policy making and harmonized migration management. There is currently no comprehensive migration data management platform in Ghana. This has resulted in migration data that is collected by various government departments and ministries.

The GIMMA project will establish a national migration data sharing framework and update the Migration Profile which was published by IOM Ghana in 2009. In November 2014, a one-day TWG meeting on migration data management was held in Accra to introduce the project to relevant stakeholders and discuss the gaps and needs, the type of migration data they have and how it can be shared.



*TWG members discuss the development of a legal reference handbook for Ghana. ©IOM 2014*





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

## INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION LAW TRAINING

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 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.

The most useful areas identified by the ADI officers was : authority and responsibility of states, nationality, admission, stay detention, and expulsion. It is particularly important for officers to treat migrants humanely and respect their human rights.

The manual used for the training gave a clear indication as to how the legal reference 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 implementing domestic law, states and agencies must be conscious of their obligation under international laws.” said the ADI officers.

The training session included other topics relevant to Ghana, such as law of the sea, climate change and migration, and migration and business.



*Sri Lankan migrants stranded in West Africa, assisted to return home as part of the GAIM project. ©IOM 2014*

## GLOBAL ASSISTANCE FOR IRREGULAR MIGRANTS (GAIM)

Increasing numbers of destitute and stranded irregular migrants are found in West African countries, lured by agents in their countries of origin by promises of ‘greener pastures’ and jobs in Western countries. Many of these individuals once stranded endure inhumane conditions, exposed to disease, hunger and restricted mobility. IOM offices in West and Central Africa have received requests for assistance from both regional and non-African migrants (many from South Asia) wishing to return to their country of origin, and from governments seeking assistance and protection measures for vulnerable migrants. To address the needs of both migrants and governments, IOM Ghana initiated the Global Assistance for Irregular Migrants (GAIM) programme in December 2011. A total of 612 stranded migrants have been assisted to return to their country of origin and provided reintegration assistance during Phase I-III.

During 2014, under GAIM Phase III, assistance was provided to 20 stranded migrants. Supported by the Government of Canada, this Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) project includes pre-departure counselling, departure, transit, arrival and reintegration assistance for stranded migrants. The first two phases of the project provided AVRR support specifically to stranded Sri Lankan migrants in West Africa. Additionally, government officials from West Africa and Sri Lanka were provided with

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*612 stranded migrants assisted to date*

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capacity-building trainings on irregular migration and migrant protection issues.

In 2014, IOM continued support to stranded migrants and further aimed to support West African governments to address irregular migration and smuggling through the



establishment of referral and voluntary return mechanisms for stranded migrants; capacity-building activities on counter-smuggling; and an information campaign on the risks and dangers of irregular migration.

## ASSISTANCE TO IRREGULAR MIGRANTS

As part of GAIM Phase III assistance activities, in 2014 20 stranded migrants voluntarily returned home from 5 countries in the West Africa sub-region and 1 from the Caribbean.

### Return statistics

COUNTRY	RETURNED Phase III	RETURNED Phase II	RETURNED Phase I
Benin	3	5	204
Cameroon	2	5	
Ghana			27
Guinea	3	22	102
Mali	6	8	22
Mauritania			1
Niger		1	
Nigeria			2
Senegal		1	1
Sierra Leone			6
St. Lucia	1		
Togo	5	2	183
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>548</b>

### Assistance statistics

TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	NUMBER OF MIGRANTS PHASE III	TOTAL # OF MIGRANTS PHASE I+II+III
Joint Assessments Completed	21	636
Health Assessment	20	612
Travel Documents Obtained	5	76
Emergency Support	20	N.A.
Flight Arrangements	20	612
Transit Assistance <sup>1</sup>	20	464
Arrival Assistance Onward	20	612
Transportation	19	610
Orientation/Business Dev. Training	14	581
Business Plans in Process	4	-
Reintegration Assistance Completed	12	560
Monitoring (Initial)	14	383
Monitoring (Final)	0	431



A returnee cultivates his paddy field, thanks to reintegration assistance from IOM. ©IOM 2014

<sup>1</sup>Migrants are assisted by IOM staff at transit points wherever there is IOM presence, incl. Dakar, Nairobi, Dubai, etc. Movements usually require more than one IOM transit airport, e.g. Nairobi and Dubai, Dakar and Dubai, Panama and Amsterdam, etc.

## MIGRANT ASSISTANCE TRAINING

IOM is committed to provide the highest quality of services to its beneficiaries, notably when it comes to protection and emergency assistance. In order to harmonize the level of the services delivered in the region under the GAIM project, a regional migrant assistance training was conducted in Saly, Senegal, in February 2014, for 20 participants from 15 IOM missions in West and Central Africa.



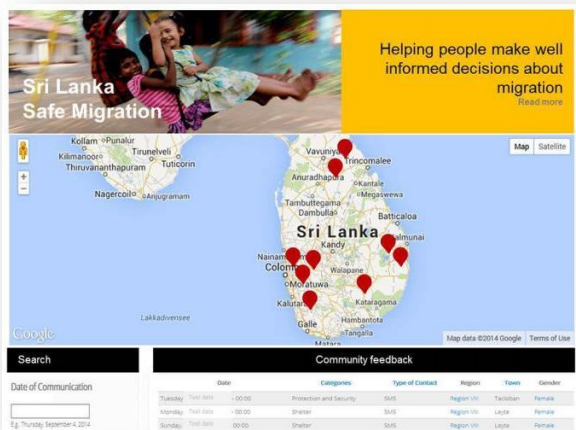
Participants of the migrant assistance training. ©IOM 2014

The training was initiated by IOM Ghana and organised by the Regional Office in Dakar with the support of the Migrant Assistance Division (MAD), which is dedicated to improving and developing global, regional and national responses to protect and assist vulnerable migrants, including victims of trafficking and victims of abuse and exploitation. Among the main objectives of the workshop was a presentation and discussion on lessons learned from the West Africa AVRR project. Breakout sessions served to analyse lessons learned and provide a comparison with the regional AVRR project for South East Asia (also called the Bali Process).

## SAFE MIGRATION INFORMATION CAMPAIGN - SRI LANKA

Knowledge is key to ensuring that individuals are able to make informed decisions about their migration choices.

As part of Phase III, the Safe Migration Campaign was revamped to incorporate lessons learned and new technology to



provide real-time analysis of the scope and impact of campaign activities. Community Response Mapping (CRM) is a web-based interface linked to a system called Frontline SMS; when an individual sends an SMS to the IOM hotline number this information is uploaded to the CRM. From there IOM staff members are able to view messages, respond to requests for assistance and information,



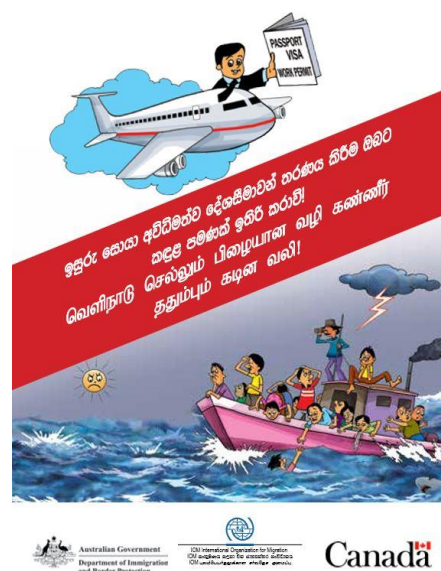
Students participate in safe migration awareness sessions. ©IOM 2015

and perform follow-up outreach for analysis of campaign activities and messaging.

The CRM initiative was launched in September 2014 with the activation of a hotline number (0774410086), creation of the Safe Migration CRM site, and hiring of CRM Manager and Assistant. As of December 2014 the safe migration team has received 631 SMSs, 26 calls and 182 question cards (distributed during awareness sessions).

In addition, activities conducted by the safe migration team during 2014 included: training of trainers; community awareness sessions; awareness sessions in schools and universities; and forum theatre shows.

Feedback from participants shows great support for the information campaign.



**In Their Words**

*“We did not have prior knowledge of human trafficking and smuggling; this was very useful as we are aware now what both of these words mean”.*

*“We are migrating due to economic difficulties; will IOM help us with economic opportunities or job referrals”?*

*“We have gained a lot from the campaign, we are thankful to IOM for giving us such information about irregular migration and regular migration”.*

*“We would like you to visit and conduct these programs in all villages”.*





Lavan with his new video camera in Colombo, Sri Lanka. © IOM 2014

## **AVRR REINTEGRATION IN COLOMBO: A second chance to capture success**

Lavan returned from Benin to Colombo, Sri Lanka, in July 2012 as part of GAIM managed by IOM Ghana.

Prior to leaving Sri Lanka, Lavan was a 32-year-old videographer running a small studio with a friend. He was living with his parents and aunt at the time and had an elder brother who was unemployed in Abu Dhabi.

One day Lavan was approached by a friend who mentioned the opportunity of going abroad to Canada. He did not hesitate to take the opportunity, believing it would be more economical and less troublesome with documents. He gave 800,000 LKR (est. USD 6,100) as a down payment to the agent. "I had to sell my video camera and had to borrow money from my parents, relatives and friends to find the money," he explained.

Finally, all the arrangements were made and Lavan was told they would first fly to Mali and from there take a ship to reach Canada. As planned Lavan and four other Sri Lankans arrived safely in Mali, then they travelled to Benin where they were forced to stay in a house with 60 other Sri Lankan migrants. However, this would be the end of his journey to reach Canada.

The agent demanded first 200,000 LKR (est. USD 1,500) and then another 100,000 LKR (est. USD 764) from those being kept in the house. They were provided dry food that they prepared, but after eight months they remained without hope of reaching their destination.

The group was eventually discovered by Beninese authorities and taken to a football stadium in anticipation of their return where they had more space and better facilities. Lavan says they spent a few days at the stadium while their return trip was organized by IOM Ghana, and they were assisted by IOM with food, accommodation and medical assistance. He also learned of the opportunity to start a livelihood project as part of IOM AVRR assistance.

He quickly took the opportunity to re-start his video business and was provided a video camera as part of the reintegration assistance. Lavan also started to produce wedding albums for additional income. Currently, Lavan is working to pay off his debts and support his parents and aunt. "With my current earnings I have managed to cover these expenses. And I don't think I would migrate again even if I get a chance to migrate in a regular way."

"I want to thank IOM again and again for helping us like this to re-start our lives when we lost everything."



Workshop participants discuss migration and development issues.  
© IOM 2015

## MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

IOM migration and development programmes seek to harness the development potential of migration for the benefit of both societies and migrants and to contribute to sustainable development and poverty reduction. In Ghana, these programmes are centred on the Temporary Return of Qualified Nationals (TRQN) III, the Diaspora Engagement Project, and support for the formulation of a national migration policy.

### DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT PROJECT

Since 2011, IOM Ghana has partnered with the Government of Ghana to advance migration and development and migration management through diaspora engagement. As part of the diaspora engagement project a Diaspora Support Unit (DSU) was established within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and open dialogue between the government and diaspora was created.

With support from IOM's International Development Fund (IDF), the diaspora engagement project had four key components: diaspora mapping in five pilot countries; diaspora dialogue; establishment of a national Diaspora Support Unit (DSU); and

### *Diaspora Affairs Bureau established in February 2014*

creation of a diaspora association database and website.

The IOM-led DSU transitioned to the Diaspora Affairs Bureau in February 2014, through the political will and direct support of the President of the Republic of Ghana and the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration. The Bureau provides a sustainable link between the Ghanaian diaspora and various government agencies and key partners to achieve development and investment goals. It is responsible for national



diaspora engagement matters within the Ministry.

## TEMPORARY RETURN OF QUALIFIED NATIONALS (TRQN III) GHANA

The Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA) Ghana Health project was implemented from 2005 until 2012. It facilitated the short-term transfer of vital human resource skills from Ghanaian health professionals in the diaspora for the development of Ghana. The current migration and development project, the Temporary Return of Qualified Nationals (TRQN) III, focuses on the education and health sectors to consolidate the gains made from the MIDA Ghana Health project.

IOM Ghana in coordination with IOM the Netherlands started the implementation of TRQN III in December 2012. The project strives to contribute to national development policies and strategies by engaging diaspora communities in improving the capacity of governmental and non-governmental institutions.

### **Strengthening government capacity in Health, Education and Agriculture (Food security)**

IOM Ghana continued with its assistance to temporary return assignments in 2014. A total of 13 individuals, 4 women and 9 men (22 assignments), were matched with host institutions in Ghana and provided logistical support.



*IOM TRQN resource person, an ICT Consultant from the Netherlands (right), presents IT hardware to the CEO of Tamale Teaching Hospital. ©IOM 2014*

## 22 TRQN III assignments in 2014

Apart from skills and knowledge transfer, most of the host institutions benefitted from in-kind equipment donations, especially in the health sector. The returned professionals were predominantly from the Netherlands and Germany. The professionals were engaged in different fields of expertise (as needed by the beneficiary host institutions in Ghana). The minimum period per assignment is 6 weeks to a maximum of 3 months.

Each resource person was monitored and evaluated in an effort to improve the quality of assignments and the overall impact of the project.

*"It has always been a joy coming back home. There is an increase in the level at which people are prepared to sacrifice to make things better. This makes me happy to do more for the home country"...Dr. Clement Jafani Nabare (Urologist/Surgeon)*

Additionally, IOM promoted TRQN III among the Ghanaian diaspora directly and through posting to the IOM Ghana website and social media, notably the IOM global 'Migration Means' campaign (see page 50).



***Strengthening the capacity of governments in Countries of Origin with regard to Migration and Development: Internships***

Under the Migration Management Diploma Programme (MMDP), designed for government officials with experience in the field of migration and asylum, two government officials from the Migration Unit (Ministry of the Interior) were sponsored by TRQN III for a one-month study programme to undertake courses in Migration and Development and Migration Policy at the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance (MGSoG) and the United Nations University MERIT (UNU-MERIT) at Maastricht University.

**NATIONAL MIGRATION POLICY**

Currently, Ghana lacks a strategic framework on migration to drive the debate on migration, as well as to provide relevant information related to migration. Addressing migration issues requires a coordinated and multi-level response, thus the Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee on Migration (IMSCM), spearheaded by the Migration Unit of the Ministry of Interior, has been engaged in the formulation of an innovative migration policy that clearly defines the migration legal framework and a coordinating mechanism, and creates synergies with national development goals.

Since the creation of the IMSCM, IOM Ghana has been assisting the Government of Ghana to develop a national migration policy by

mobilizing national and international experts and providing programmatic and financial support to government institutions.

The current 18-month IOM Development Fund (IDF) project ‘*Developing a Migration Policy to Integrate Migration into the National Development Framework for Ghana*’, aims to contribute to the Government of Ghana’s efforts to effectively manage and harness the benefits of migration by mainstreaming migration into the national development framework. The specific objectives are to improve the regulatory framework for effective migration management and also enhance the capacities of policy makers and practitioners to implement the national migration policy.

The project was launched in the second half of 2014, and a two-day high-level validation workshop was organized by IOM Ghana in December 2014 in Koforidua, Eastern Region. The session brought together 41 officials from 10 government agencies including Ministers, Deputy Ministers, and Chief Directors of relevant ministries, in order to receive high-level technical inputs into the policy document. The 18-member Parliamentary Select Committee on Defence and Interior was also engaged for further discussion and subsequently contributed to the policy for onward submission to the Cabinet for review in the first quarter of 2015.







An applicant collecting a certificate at the IOM Migration Health Assessment Centre (MHAC) in Accra, Ghana after undergoing a Tuberculosis screening as part of the process of migrating to the United Kingdom. ©IOM 2012 (Photo: Nyani Quarmyne)

## MIGRATION AND HEALTH

IOM Accra implements migration health-related programmes in West and Central Africa on behalf of governments. Health services are provided to migrants supported under the main refugee resettlement programmes. In addition, there are a variety of self-payer and government-sponsored health services offered, including: migration health assessments and travel health assistance, assistance to crisis-affected populations, health promotion, mental health and psychosocial support, as well as research into health and migration.

**5,040** migration health assessments  
and medical services for travel in 2014

### HEALTH ASSESSMENTS AND TRAVEL HEALTH ASSISTANCE: Immigrants (self-payers)

In 2014, the IOM Migration Health Assessment Centre (MHAC) in Accra, Ghana conducted migration health assessment and travel health assistance for a total of 5,040

immigrants (Table 1). Of the total examined, men accounted for 51.7% and women 48.3%. Compared to the 2013 health assessment caseload (n = 4880), the caseload increased by 3.3% in 2014.

**Table 1: Migration Health Assessment Program (Immigrants)**

Migration Health Assessment Program	2,014
UK TB Detection Program	3,641
Australia Migration Health Assessment	210
Canada Migration Health Assessment	463
Other Migration Health Assessments	191
DNA sampling (Canada, Australia, UK and Italy)	535
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,040</b>

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**1,433** refugees examined in 2014

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## HEALTH ASSESSMENTS AND MEDICAL TRAVEL ASSISTANCE: Refugee Resettlement

Health assessments in the context of refugee resettlement are one of IOM's core activities. Refugees are a particularly vulnerable population, with health profiles that vary according to the displacement experience, pre-existing health conditions, and epidemiological profiles, among other factors. Health assessments and travel health assistance ensures that refugees are fit to travel and meet the requirements of the resettlement country.

Through its pre-departure screening and treatment service, IOM provides presumptive and targeted anti-parasitic treatment prior to travel to minimize international transmission of diseases of public health importance. Fitness to travel checks and stabilization of chronic conditions are also done prior to travel.

IOM upholds safe and dignified resettlement by providing individual or group medical escort services for refugees requiring medical attention and monitoring during travel.

In 2014, a total of 1,433 refugees were examined in the West and Central Africa region (Table 2). Of the total examined, 50.7% were men and 49.3% were women.

**Table 2: Migration Health Assessment, USA bound refugees from West and Central Africa region**

Program	No. examined in 2014
United State Refugee Admissions Program	711
Canada Refugees Resettlement Program	524
Australia Refugee Resettlement program	198
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,433</b>

## HEALTH PROMOTION AND ASSISTANCE TO MIGRANTS

### ***Ebola Preparedness and Prevention in Ghana***

In response to the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) crisis, IOM is implementing an EVD preparedness programme in West Africa to provide assistance in affected countries and prevention in bordering countries, including Ghana. Target groups include local authorities, community and civil society organisations, and various mobile populations and host communities.

Even though Ghana does not have any confirmed case of EVD, the country is a hub for various movements to and from the region. Proactive measures have to be put in place to build the capacity of some key actors to prevent the spread of the EVD across to Ghana. IOM's prevention activities are focused on two main areas: capacity-building on border health surveillance and information outreach on EVD to raise community-awareness of infection prevention and control.

Thus far, IOM has conducted assessments on EVD infection prevention and control measures at select entry points and health facilities in cooperation with WHO and Ghana Health Service.

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**354,654** individuals received

*information on TB in Western Region*

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### ***TB REACH - TB Screening in Western Ghana***

In December 2012, IOM was selected as one of 37 participants in the global TB REACH programme that is spearheaded by the Stop TB Partnership and funded by the Canadian International Development Agency. The stated objective of TB REACH is to "achieve early and increased TB case detection using innovative approaches in populations that are poor and vulnerable and have limited access to care."

IOM partnered with Ghana's national, regional and district TB control programmes in five implementation sites (Sekondi-Takoradi Metropolitan, Tarkwa-Nsuaem Municipal, Prestea-Huni Valley Municipal, Ellembelle District and Jomoro District).

The tuberculosis (TB) detection project was launched in the Western Region of Ghana on 29 May 2013. Specific project components included: (1) coordination and monitoring among stakeholders; (2) community mobilization and cough screening; (3) TB screening utilising a mobile TB diagnostic van with GeneXpert machine; and (4) capacity building of selected TB diagnostic centres.

Between 04 June 2013 to 16 May 2014, 190 communities were mobilized and a total of

354,654 individuals were reached by volunteers through door-to-door visits corresponding to 11.7% more than the target (n=317,495).

Of the total reached, 6,108 individuals aged 15 years or older who had TB symptoms were referred to the mobile TB Diagnostic Van for further TB screening. The mobile medical team registered and screened for TB a total of 4,358 individuals. Among those screened, 3,060 met the national TB case definition and were tested for TB by collecting sputum samples on the spot. Of the total tested, 231 were positive for TB and referred for treatment. The mean time-to-treatment measured in days from the referral date was 11 days with a median of 4 days.



The TB outreach van. © IOM 2013 (Photo: Francis Dagbah)



A community health volunteer speaks with a woman about TB. © IOM 2013 (Photo: Francis Dagbah)





Children wait for their connecting flight at the airport in Newark, USA. ©IOM 2013

## OPERATIONS AND MOVEMENT

IOM Ghana coordinates movement operations in much of West and Central Africa for refugee resettlement, family migrants, immigrants and students. In addition, IOM Ghana organizes repatriation and voluntary return movements for refugees, stranded or irregular migrants. IOM provides cultural orientation trainings to help prepare migrants for their future in the destination country. Since 2013, IOM has been operating the Canada Visa Application Centre in partnership with VFS Global.

### REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

Refugee resettlement continues to be a core activity of IOM operations worldwide. IOM Ghana coordinates movement operations in support of resettlement in most of West and Central Africa. In 2014, IOM Ghana facilitated the resettlement of and family reunification for 1,080 refugees, in close coordination with IOM missions in countries of departure and arrival, and other partners including UNHCR, Resettlement Support Centers (RSC) and embassies.

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*1,080 refugees resettled in 2014*

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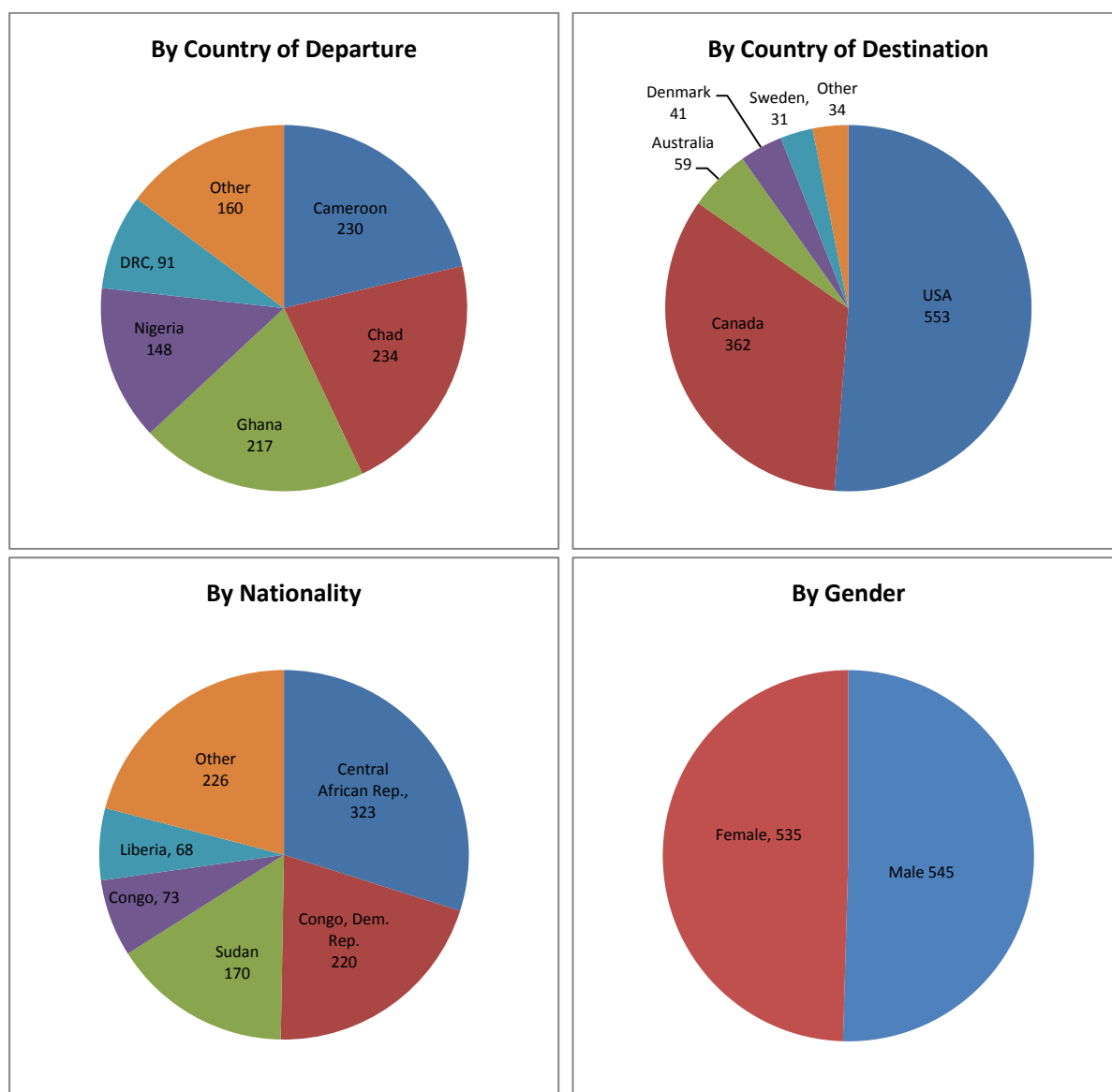
Five hundred and fifty three (553) refugees resettled from the region (23 countries) to the United States under the United States Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP). Another 362 resettled to Canada, while Australia received 59 refugees. Various European countries including Denmark,

Sweden, France and the Netherlands accepted a total of 106 refugees.

Major countries of departure were Chad (234), Cameroon (230), Ghana (217), Nigeria (148) and Democratic Republic of Congo (91). Smaller groups or individual cases departed from Gabon, Republic of Congo, Sierra Leone, Togo, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, and several other countries. The nationalities of the refugees who were resettled include Central African Republican (323), Congolese (Democratic Republic of, 220), Sudanese (170), Congolese (Republic of, 73), and Liberian (68).

Aside from the actual travel arrangements, which include obtaining exit permits and transit visa waivers; providing airport assistance on departure, in transit and on arrival; and ensuring safe and efficient international transportation; IOM also provides extensive logistical support to interview, medical and cultural orientation missions, organised by Church World Services (RSC Nairobi), embassies or IOM. In 2014, such missions were organised in Chad, Cameroon, Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, and other locations.

Refugee Resettlement West and Central Africa in 2014\*



\*Except for USRAP, excludes departures from Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Senegal, Gambia, Mauritania, Mali, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau

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**142** migrants assisted with family  
reunification in 2014

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## MIGRANT SUPPORT SERVICES

IOM Ghana provides migrant support services to various types of migrants, both in Ghana and the greater region. These migrants, who have been granted long-term or permanent permission to reside in their destination country, either fund their own travel arrangements, or are sponsored by an organisation, institution or family members. Services can include discounted fares and other favourable ticket conditions, extra luggage allowance, assistance at the airports of departure, transit and arrival, and escorts for minors or other vulnerable migrants.

### IMMIGRANTS

Immigrants who have obtained a visa for permanent settlement in a destination country, for example as a skilled worker, can make use of these support services. IOM Ghana successfully assisted 512 immigrants to travel to the US (280), Canada (208), and Australia (24). The majority (314) departed from Ghana and the remainder (198) from Nigeria.

### IOM AND BRITISH COUNCIL PARTNERSHIP

In 2014 for the third consecutive year, IOM partnered with the British Council in Ghana to support flight arrangements for students who received a scholarship from the British Council to study in the United Kingdom and Ireland. In the 2014 academic year, 108 students from Ghana, Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Uruguay and Guyana travelled to pursue a Master's Degree at various universities across the UK and Ireland. IOM organised the flights, which are fully sponsored by the British Council, making use of its negotiated airline agreements for reduced airfares and other favourable conditions.

### FAMILY REUNIFICATION

In 2014 a total of 142 migrants were assisted to join their family members who had already settled in other countries. The majority of those travelled to the United Kingdom (38), Australia (27), Belgium (18), France (16) and the Netherlands (9), but other destinations included Argentina, Mexico, the United States and Canada.

Almost 45 per cent departed from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC, 61), 20 per cent from Sierra Leone (28), 13 per cent from Cameroon, 7 per cent from Ghana (10), and the remaining from Benin, Togo, Chad, Congo and Liberia.

While the majority of migrants departed from their home countries, including the 61 from DRC and 24 from Sierra Leone, other nationalities included Rwandese, Sudanese, Nigerian, Liberian and Burkinabe.



with their parents in Buenos Aires, Argentina, after many years and a long journey from DRC. IOM offices in Accra, Kinshasa, Goma, Kigali, Dubai, Buenos Aires and Geneva were involved in this family reunification, as were other organizations including UNHCR, the Refugee Commission in Argentina and Aviations Sans Frontières who provided the escort.

Photo:©UNHCR

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**512** migrants assisted with travel  
arrangements in 2014

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## CULTURAL ORIENTATION

Moving to a new country where you don't know the language, culture, customs, climate and the daily rhythm of life, can be a daunting prospect for anyone, not least for refugees who have had to flee their country of origin.

In Ghana and the region at large, IOM has provided Cultural Orientation (CO) training sessions for refugees and other migrants travelling to various destinations for over a decade to help them prepare for life in their destination country, help manage their expectations and contribute to a smooth integration. CO trainings are facilitated for refugees resettling to Canada through the Canadian Orientation Abroad (COA) project, to Australia (AUSCO, or Australia Cultural Orientation), and both refugees and family migrants travelling to the Netherlands (NLCO III and CO-Nareis).

CO classes address a variety of subjects over the course of 3 or 4 days. Beneficiaries are keenly interested to learn more about employment opportunities, education for the children and the climate, while more sensitive topics such as equal opportunities for women and men and equal rights for Lesbians, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) are also discussed. Under the COA, a separate special one-hour session targets the youth to address their specific questions and concerns. The youngest children are cared for by a childminder so that they do not interrupt the



An elderly woman in Chad practices how to sign her name.  
©IOM 2014

learning process of their parents.

In 2014, CO trainers from Ghana conducted trainings in various locations, including Chad, Cameroon, Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana. As a result of the Ebola Virus Disease outbreak, IOM was unable to provide classes in Guinea. A total of 386 refugees and migrants benefited from these trainings, their nationalities ranging from Central African Republican, Sudanese, Congolese, Liberian, Togolese, and Eritrean to even Afghan. The majority of those resettled to Canada (334), or will do so in the course of 2015. 44 refugees travelled to Australia, while 8 are now settled in the Netherlands.

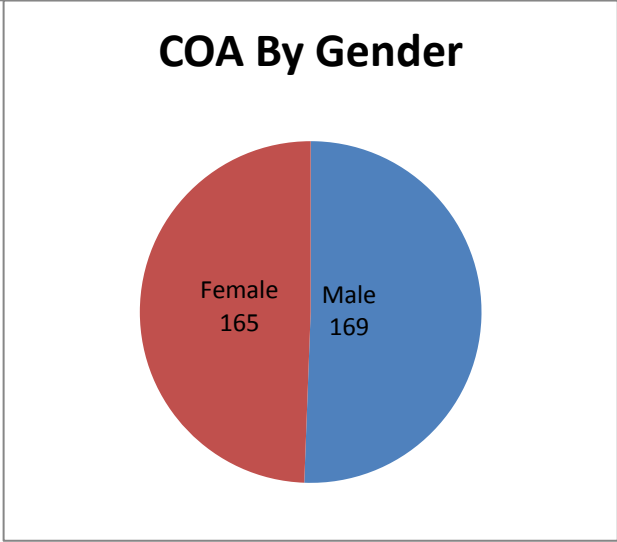
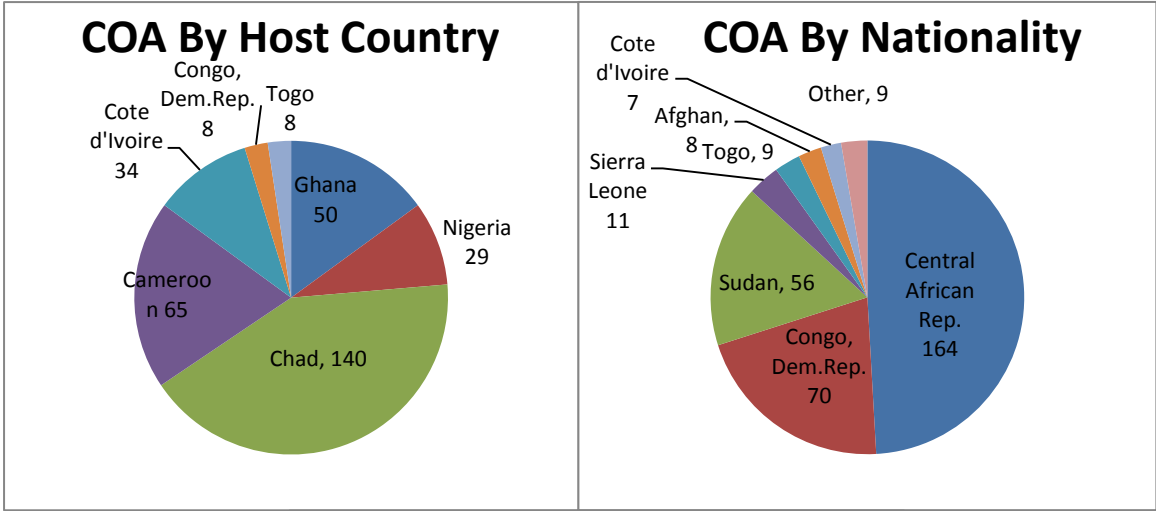
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*386 refugees and migrants benefited from Cultural Orientation trainings in 2014*

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*Not bad for a first time on a bike. Elizabeth\* is starting a new life in the Netherlands with her Aunt. Before leaving IOM Ghana provided her with a 1-day cultural orientation session as part of the CO-Nareis project. She enjoyed this opportunity to discover what life would be like in the Netherlands and was determined to master her new skill of riding a bicycle. Although biking is not part of the official curriculum it is a very useful skill to have when relocating to bike-friendly Netherlands! \*Note: name has been changed.*  
©IOM 2014





A discussion session held in Cameroon with some young people between the ages of 10 to 16 years. ©IOM 2014

## Refugee Youth in Cameroon Prepare for Life in Canada

Refugee youth have a unique set of challenges and concerns that they face when resettling to a new country. Many things that youth around the world take for granted, they have learned to live without.

During a COA session held in Cameroon, the IOM Ghana COA Trainer led discussions with young refugees preparing to resettle to Canada. In order to create a safe environment for them to freely express themselves, a separate focus group discussion was organized for them. During this session many youth who were previously nervous about speaking up in public, transformed, opened up and actively contributed to the discussion on a variety of topics.

Additionally, girls were encouraged to actively participate in sessions without fear of being ridiculed. Those girls who expressed specific needs were counselled by the trainer at the conclusion of the class. This included one young mother who was pregnant and had concerns about traveling. She was informed that provided the pregnancy was not more than 7 months she was still able to travel with her family, otherwise the mother and baby would travel after delivery. Other girls wanted confirmation that they would be allowed to attend school in Canada and that they would be provided food and school supplies.

As refugee youth most of their current problems include getting access to food, and the inability to go to school if their parents could not pay school fees and materials. During the orientation session, the youth wanted to know how their situation would be different in Canada. These young people were worried about their lack of language skills and how to make friends in their new country. They were also pleasantly surprised to learn about the diversity of the country.

Education is very important to this young group of refugees and they were relieved and happy to learn that they would have the opportunity to attend good public schools in Canada for free. Many expressed the desire to study very hard so that they may become teachers, lawyers, doctors etc.

As the discussion session came to a close the youth expressed their appreciation to learn more about what life would be like in Canada. They look forward to “play in the snow”, “discover new things”, “start a new life”, and “continue with schooling”.



## REPATRIATION ASSISTANCE

### IOM AND UNIDO JOIN HANDS

IOM Ghana established a partnership with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to repatriate Liberian nationals in Ghana after completing a skills training course. Funded by the Government of Japan, UNIDO's project *'From Ghana to Liberia: Reintegration of Liberian refugees through multi-skills training for sustainable livelihoods and poverty alleviation'*, aimed to contribute to sustainable returns by developing migrants' technical and entrepreneurial skills with the purpose of enhancing opportunities for finding suitable employment in Liberia.

The skills training courses varied from construction to home decoration, ICT to baking, and dress-making to beauty care, and were conducted over a six-month period from October 2013 to March 2014. All participants took and passed an examination at the end of their training courses.

Following the exams, UNIDO referred those migrants who were interested in and eligible for repatriation to IOM. Building on experience from previous repatriation projects, IOM coordinated the repatriation with key partners including the Liberian Embassy, the Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC), the Liberian Bureau for Immigration and Naturalization (BIN), Buduburam Camp Management, Social Welfare representatives in Buduburam Camp and St. Gregory Catholic Hospital in the camp. Representatives from LRRRC and BIN interviewed the beneficiaries and their dependents to establish Liberian nationality, while IOM determined voluntariness to return to Liberia. The Liberian



*IOM/UNIDO joint information session for Liberian nationals before their repatriation in Chrida Church, Buduburam.  
©IOM 2014*

## 209 Liberian migrants repatriated in 2014



*Liberian migrants learn sewing prior to their repatriation to Liberia. ©IOM 2013*

Embassy subsequently issued travel documents.

Prior to return, fitness-for-travel assessments were conducted and vaccinations provided to all migrants. The assessments included a briefing on the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD), as the outbreak had already caused some deaths in Liberia in the months preceding the repatriation flights.

A total of 209 Liberian migrants were repatriated in the period May-June 2014. IOM organized transportation from the camp to Accra, ensured all luggage was weighed and tagged, assisted with check-in and other formalities at the airport, and arranged the flights to Monrovia. On arrival in Liberia, the migrants were met by a team of IOM and UNIDO staff, and LRRRC and BIN officials. Overnight accommodation was provided before migrants continued onwards to final destinations across Liberia. In addition to a small cash grant for every person to support initial needs after return, the trainees received a vocational toolkit from UNIDO to start up a small business in the sector they were trained in.

This joint initiative set a model that should be replicated in future projects to maximize the sustainability of returns.



A potential migrant submits a visa application at the CVAC. ©IOM 2014

## CANADA VISA APPLICATION CENTRE (CVAC)

IOM Ghana has operated the Canada Visa Application Centre (CVAC) in Accra, Ghana, since October 2013 as part of a global IOM partnership with VFS Global. The CVAC is located on the same premises as the IOM main office in Accra.

CVAC is the exclusive service provider for the Government of Canada, authorised to accept applications for visit visas and study and work permits from residents of Ghana and other neighbouring countries including Togo, Benin, Gambia, Liberia, Sierra Leone, São Tomé and Príncipe, Ascension, St. Helena, and Tristan da Cunha. CVAC provides administrative support services, such as the review of visa

*9,243 applications received in 2014*

applications for accuracy, processes the applications and dispatches them to the embassy. Decisions are made by the Canadian embassy after which CVAC notifies applicants to collect their decision envelopes.

In 2014, a total of 9,243 applications were received by the CVAC. On average, 15-20 applications are submitted per day in the low season (October – May) and 80-150 per day in the high season (June – September).



CVAC Main Entrance



CVAC Waiting Area



## EVENTS AND SOCIAL MEDIA

### SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY ABROAD:

#### Internship

IOM Ghana held its annual summer internship programme (June and July 2014), fostering humanitarian and development knowledge for future aid workers. Six students participated from Syracuse University, in upstate New York.

The aim of the summer programme is to educate students to the workings of an international organization. The students participate in an eight-week programme that includes an orientation, and field work on a community project in the Central Region.

The community development projects were carefully chosen by each student after consultation with community members, teachers and leaders. All project materials had to be sourced from local markets, and for a total of USD 200.

Thanks to the community projects implemented by the students, there is now a shaded pavilion on the school grounds; a larger water harvester for students and teachers; a refurbished community library; and a collection of traditional musical instruments at the school.



*Children enjoying the newly refurbished library, part of Joanna and Julia's community development project. © Joanna Kitts 2014*



*2014 IOM Ghana summer interns. © Joanna Kitts 2014*





TODAY IS #GIVINGTUESDAY

# SHARE — FOR — IOM GHANA

DONATE, SHARE, LIKE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR  
MIGRATION IN GHANA TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

**#GhanaChildRescue | IOM.INT/GhanaChildRescue**

IOM Ghana works to protect vulnerable children in Ghana, not all have been trafficked.  
As per IOM's data protection policy, information related to children is treated as confidential.

## GIVING TUESDAY

IOM Ghana with the support of private donors will conduct a rescue in 2015. A total of 20 children will be freed from forced labour on Lake Volta and provided with rehabilitation and reunification assistance. In support of this aim various fundraising initiatives were held in 2014 under the banner #GhanaChildRescue.

For the first time, IOM Ghana participated in #GivingTuesday, a global social media initiative that encourages private donors to give to charity on the first Tuesday of December. Targeted messages, images and updates were posted in the weeks and days leading up to #GivingTuesday.

Our goal was to raise awareness and funds for the Rescue 2015 as part of #GhanaChildRescue. Over 1,800 individuals were reached with our 'Share for Ghana' post on Facebook.

<https://www.facebook.com/799779106721303/photos/a.805679646131249.1073741828.799779106721303/875534699145743/?type=1&theater>



*ECOWAS MIDWA participants, the Hon. Hannah Tetteh, Ghana's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration is fourth from left in front row. ©IOM 2014*

## **ECOWAS MIDWA: A REVIEW OF THE FREE MOVEMENT PROTOCOL**

On 6-8 May 2014 the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) convened a meeting of the Migration Dialogue for West Africa (MIDWA) in Accra, Ghana. Ministers from 15 ECOWAS member states together with experts from the European Union, IOM, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) deliberated on the theme, "Free Movement of Persons for Regional Integration and Economic Cooperation". The two-day MIDWA session focused on the status and review of the ECOWAS Protocol on Free Movement of Persons, the Right of Residence and Establishment (the Protocol); the economic benefits of free movement for intra-regional trade; and the dynamics of the Protocol implementation. These discussions were followed by a Ministerial Meeting that validated the recommendations of the experts and approved MIDWA operational modalities, which provide for its structure, mandate and administration. Ghana's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, the Honourable Hannah Tetteh, referred to human mobility as one of the defining features of today's world. She mentioned Ghana's efforts to mainstream migration and development into national policies. She stressed that to enhance the benefits of such endeavours ECOWAS members need to harmonize their national policies and procedures relating to free movement of persons, goods and services.





*Ms Sylvia Lopez-Ekra, IOM Ghana Chief of Mission (left) and Ms Laura Carpini, Italian Ambassador at the International Migrants Day film screening. ©IOM 2014*

## INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY

Although migration can mean an opportunity for a better life for many migrants around the world, IOM warns that for youth opting to take an irregular journey, the experience often results in disappointment, danger and sometimes death. The organization pleads for action to curb this trend, including public awareness campaigns, access to education, and increased employment and livelihood opportunities for young people.

On the occasion of International Migrants Day on 18 November, IOM Ghana partnered with the Italian Embassy to organise a film screening and discussion on 'Saving Migrants Lives'. The film 'The Bright Flight' was viewed at the residence of the Italian Ambassador and a returnee (minor) who was assisted by IOM shared his experience at the event.

The screening aimed to create awareness about the dangerous nature of irregular migration and to encourage discussion about addressing the migration push factors for Ghanaian youth.

### **GIMMA: “Know the risk, Migrate safely”**

Additional International Migrants Day events were conducted by IOM Ghana in cooperation with GIS, Ghana Education Service, traditional authorities, civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders as part of 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 theme was “Know the risk, Migrate safely”, funded by the European Union.

In Brong-Ahafo, an increasing number of 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 of Brong - Ahafo, and IOM staffs 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

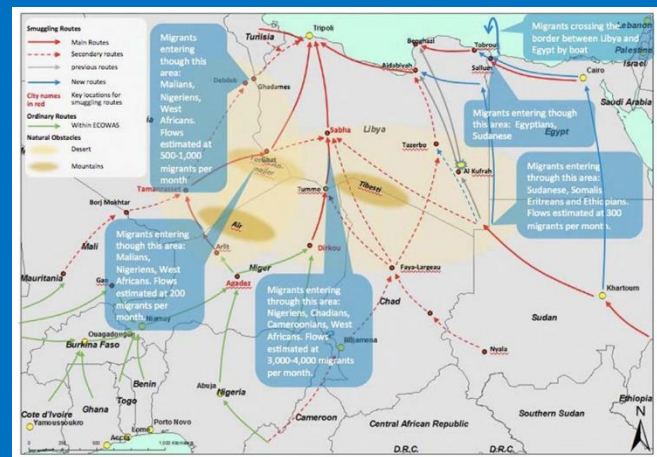
risks of irregular migration, and legal migration options such as how to obtain travel documents.

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

# IOM GHANA RAISES CONCERN ABOUT GHANAIAN YOUTH EMBARKING ON PERILOUS JOURNEYS

An increasing number of young Ghanaians are risking their lives looking for better opportunities abroad, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Ghana said on the occasion of International Migrants Day, 18 December.

The lack of employment opportunities and family poverty are major drivers of migration among youth in Ghana. They often rely on hearsay, their families sell property and acquire debts to finance the journey and they entrust their lives to unscrupulous human smugglers who promise them easy access into the country of their choice. However, many of them in addition to using increasingly dangerous routes, will experience poor care, abuse, torture, or abandonment at the hands of their smugglers, leading to significant trauma and even death.



Map: Mixed Migration Into Libya ©IOM Migration Policy Practice December 2013-January 2014

“We need to make potential migrants - especially the young, poor, and those lacking education or skills - aware of the realities and risks of irregular migration. Providing accurate information in a way that will resonate with the youth and in places where they normally spend time is urgent to dispel many misconceptions that exist”, says Sylvia Lopez-Ekra, IOM Chief of Mission in Ghana.

Through the recently launched project, Ghana Integrated Migration Management Approach (GIMMA) funded by the European Union, IOM intends to continue to support the Government of Ghana to increase the capacity of its Migration Consultation Centers in Sunyani and Accra and to organize youth focused information campaigns.

These campaigns, however, need to form part of a much larger intervention. “For younger people, the pressure to leave is heightened at specific life transition points such as high school graduation, when job searching or financing marriage. It is at these key moments in their lives that they need additional support”, continues Lopez-Ekra.

IOM advocates for targeted efforts to support the poorest and most vulnerable adolescents, in migration-prone regions of Ghana, to remain in school, especially after Junior High School (JHS). The direct and indirect costs of schooling represent a major obstacle preventing the poorest children from transitioning to JHS. Many such children drop out of school and migration is often seen as the natural next step to start earning a living. Social protection schemes including cash-transfers, an area where the Government of Ghana has made significant strides, could have an important positive impact in addressing this push factor of youth migration.

Lastly, more employment and livelihood opportunities should be made available to young people in key sending regions such as Brong - Ahafo and Northern, as meaningful rural employment is critical to enable young would-be migrants to remain in their communities.

Ghana has a long history of migration. In recent years, neighbouring countries have lost their economic draw and an important part of Ghanaian out-migration flows has been directed to North Africa where migrants look for work in countries such as Egypt, Morocco and Libya. However, the various crises in that region have pushed more and more migrants to continue their journey and try to cross the Mediterranean Sea to Europe. Given the illicit nature of irregular migration, accurate data is not available on the number of Ghanaians crossing the desert and the sea each year, but the numbers are far from negligible. For example, in 2011, during the first Libyan crisis, IOM assisted the Government of Ghana to repatriate nearly 19,000 Ghanaians from Libya, many more returned through their own means and evidence shows that these flows continue today.

The dangerous outcome of irregular migration attempts for Ghanaian youth was made all too evident last August, when a boat was rescued off the coast of Tunisia. IOM Ghana supported the reintegration of three minors who expressed a desire to come home. They received psychosocial support and a micro-grant and are eager to build a future for themselves in their communities of origin. However, their stories, ripe with accounts of abuse and exploitation, reinforce IOM’s concerns that Ghanaians at an increasingly young age are risking their lives in search of greener pastures.



*Ali is an experience tailor who went abroad in search of opportunities. After five years in Belgium he returned home to Ghana with IOM assistance. ©IOM 2014*

## MIGRATION MEANS

IOM launched a social media campaign – #MigrationMeans – to raise awareness of migration in all its forms and to highlight the positive impact of migration from the perspective of the migrants themselves. “This campaign aims to be the voice of the migrants for whom IOM works,” said IOM Director General William Lacy Swing. From June through November 2014, migrants told the world their story in photos.

IOM Ghana responded to the [#MigrationMeans](#) campaign with a [collection](#) of stories that reflect the great diversity of Ghanaian migrants. According to these migrants the meaning lies with: love, dreams, opportunities, freedom, business, new life, new beginning, knowledge exchange, reuniting with family, and shared knowledge.

The top 25 photos from around the world were voted on, including a submission from IOM Ghana. The top photo was [featured](#) on IOM’s website and Facebook page on International Migrants Day (18 December).



## SOCIAL MEDIA

In 2014, IOM Ghana sought to increase the visibility of its projects among its partners and migration stakeholders and the greater public through the use of social media. To this aim, an IOM Facebook page was launched in July 2014 and Twitter @IOM\_Ghana was launched in October 2014 with 391 Likes and 151 Followers respectively (as of February 2015).



In support of IOM's global #MigrationMeans campaign, IOM Ghana has developed 11 profiles of Ghanaian migrants; each are featured on the IOM Ghana Facebook page. Those profiled include IOM assisted returnees and TRQN III participants.

Additionally, ahead of the Rescue 2015, articles were featured on Facebook to highlight #GhanaChildRescue.

<http://www.iom.int/cms/en/sites/iom/home/news-and-views/feature-stories/feature-story-listing/children-united-against-traffick.html>

<http://www.iom.int/cms/en/sites/iom/home/news-and-views/press-briefing-notes/pbn-2014b/pbn-listing/iom-community-partners-act-to-pr.html>

The most read post come on December 2 for 'Giving Tuesday' and reached 1,886 people

<https://www.facebook.com/799779106721303/photos/a.805679646131249.1073741828.799779106721303/875534699145743/?type=1&theater>



## QUICK LINKS TO IOM GHANA STORIES FROM 2014

- Landmark Diaspora Affairs Bureau Launched in Ghana (16 May)  
<http://www.iom.int/cms/en/sites/iom/home/news-and-views/press-briefing-notes/pbn-2014/pbn-listing/landmark-diaspora-affairs-bureau.html>
- IOM Screens Over 347,000 for TB in Western Ghana (30 May)  
<http://www.iom.int/cms/en/sites/iom/home/news-and-views/press-briefing-notes/pbn-2014/pbn-listing/iom-screens-over-347000-for-tb-i.html>
- IOM, Community Partners Act to Prevent Child Trafficking in Ghana (25 July)  
<http://www.iom.int/cms/en/sites/iom/home/news-and-views/press-briefing-notes/pbn-2014b/pbn-listing/iom-community-partners-act-to-pr.html>
- Children United Against Trafficking in Persons (30 July)  
<http://www.iom.int/cms/en/sites/iom/home/news-and-views/feature-stories/feature-story-listing/children-united-against-traffick.html>
- Fresh Talk on Migration (21 August)  
<http://www.iom.int/files/live/sites/iom/files/Country/docs/Fresh-Talk-on-Migration.html>
- Award Winning Charity Raises Funds for Ghana Child Rescue (7 October)  
<http://www.iom.int/files/live/sites/iom/files/Country/docs/Award-Winning-Charity-Raises-Funds-for-IOM-Ghana-Rescue.html>
- Students Innovate in Ghana (10 October)  
<http://www.iom.int/files/live/sites/iom/files/Country/docs/Students-Innovate-in-Ghana.html>
- #GhanaChildRescue (16 December)  
<http://www.iom.int/files/live/sites/iom/files/Country/docs/GhanaChildRescue.html>
- Ghana Paves Way for New Migration Policy (18 December)  
<http://www.iom.int/files/live/sites/iom/files/Country/docs/Ghana-Paves-Way-for-New-Migration-Policy.html>
- International Migrants Day (18 December)  
<http://www.iom.int/files/live/sites/iom/files/Country/docs/IOM-Ghana-raises-concern-about-Ghanaian-youth-embarking-on-perilous-journeys.html>

## IOM GHANA DONORS and PARTNERS

For over 25 year, the IOM mission to Ghana has built dynamic partnerships among governments, businesses, non-governmental organizations and private partners. Below is a listing of our donors and partners for 2014.

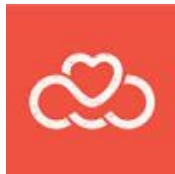
### Canada Visa Application Centre (CVAC):



Canada



### Counter-Trafficking:



### Ghana Integrated Migration Management Approach:



European Union

### Global Assistance to Irregular Migrants:



Canada

### Summer internship programme:



### Migration for Development:



The Netherlands



### Migration and Health:



### Operations and Movement:



United States of America







*IOM Ghana staff during the annual staff retreat in June 2014. ©IOM 2014*

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