NATIONAL VOLUNTARY REVIEW TOWARDS THE INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION REVIEW FORUM 2022

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

CONTENT

Abbreviations and acronyms

Abbreviation	Description
API	Advanced Passenger Information
BEST	Basic – Entrepreneurship and Skill Training
BMIS	Border Management Information System
CBN	Central Bank of Nigeria
CD4D-2	Connecting Diaspora for Development
CRA	Child's Right Act
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CVE	Conflict/countering violence extremism
DOT	Directly Observed Therapy
ECOWAS	Economic Communities of West African states
ESME	Eco-Social Market Economy
EU	European Union
FIIAP – ATIPSOM	Ibero- American Foundation for Administration and Public Policies - Action Against Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants in Nigerian
FMBNP	Federal Ministry of Budget and National Planning
FMEd	Federal Ministry of Education
FMH	Federal Ministry of Health
FMHADMSD	Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development
FMLE	Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment
FMoJ	Federal Ministry of Justice
GCM	Global Compact for safe orderly and regular Migration
GFBTU	General Federation of Bahrain Trade Union
HuCaPAN	Human Capital Providers Association of Nigeria
ICMPD	International Centre for Migration Policy Development
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMRF	International Migration Review Forum
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPCR	Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution
JCs	Job Centers

MATCH	Migration of African Talents through Capacity Building and Hiring
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MDMWG	Migration Data Management Working Group
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MIDAS	Migration Information and Data Analysis System
MIDWA	Migration Dialogue for West Africa
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRCs	Migrant Resource Centers
MPF	Mobility Partnership Facility
MPHSS	Mental Health and Psycho-social Support
N-SIP	National Social Investment Program
NAPTIP	National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons
NBS	National Bureau of Statistics
NCCPEA	Nigeria Code of Conduct for Private Employers Agencies
NCFRMI	National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons
NDC	National Defense College
NECA	National Employers Consultative Association
NELEX	National Electronic Labour Exchange
NEMA	National Emergency Management Agency
NHRC	National Human Rights Commission
NiDCOM	Nigerians in Diaspora Commission
NIDO	Nigerians in Diaspora Organization
NIS	Nigeria Immigration Service
NISS	Nigeria Institute for Security Studies
NLAC	Nigeria Labour Advisory Council
NMP	National Migration Policy
NNVS	Nigeria National Voluntary Service
NPC	National Population Commission
NOA	National Orientation Agency
NRM	National Referral Mechanism
NVR	National Voluntary Review
OCWAR-T	Organized Crime: West African Response to Trafficking
PoEs	Ports of Entry
RCs	Reintegration Committees
RRR	Return, Readmission and Reintegration
SBIR	Small Business Innovative Research Program
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SOM	Smuggling of Migrants

SoPs	Standard Operating Procedures
SPWP	Special Public Works Programme
TIP	Trafficking in Persons
TRS	Telling the Real Story
TWG	Technical Working Group
UN	United Nations
UNCT	United Nation Country Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programmes
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Funds
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
VoT	Victims of Trafficking
WACPTISOM	West African Coalition Against Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants
WHO	World Health Organization

1.   Introduction

Nigeria is a major player in the global migration dynamics, sharing in the abounding gains and numerous challenges of migration. As a country of origin, transit, and destination, Nigeria's perception and response to migration have evolved from a problem to be solved, a challenging reality to be managed, to a potential to be harnessed. Migration management in Nigeria is known for the holistic approach to migration issues that holds together all the aspects of the migration phenomenon. Nigeria's efforts in migration management achieved a major stride in 2015 with the adoption of the National Migration Policy (NMP).

The policy laid out the framework for the institutionalization of the migration management process with strong governance architecture. The governance architecture provides for the inclusive participation of all relevant state and non-state stakeholders that consist of various ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) of government, civil society organizations (CSOs), academia and other partners. The governance structure of the Nigerian migration mechanism involves four levels of coordination namely, the Inter-ministerial; the technical working group (TWG), the thematic working groups and MDAs/non-state actors. The entire governance process is overseen by the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI). This mechanism has assured efforts in the direction of better management of migration in Nigeria, including the well-being of individual migrants, their families as well as the development of the country. Much of the success story of Nigerian migration governance is due to the strong governance mechanism, the strong partnership with relevant stakeholders and collaborations especially with international organizations and allies.

Nigeria received the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration initiative with all enthusiasm and commitment as an active participant in the international cooperation for effective management of global migration. Beginning with the consultations in 2017, Nigeria participated in all the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) processes as a demonstration of the country's eagerness to journeying with the international community in the effort to promote and adopt such measures to protect the dignity, rights and freedoms of all persons on the move, including forced migrants, victims of human trafficking, asylum seekers, refugees and internally displaced persons.

Following the GCM adoption, Nigeria has engaged in different efforts of achieving national ownership and implementation of the Compact, starting with the adoption of a framework of the action plan for the national implementation of the Compact. This first international review forum (IMRF) presents an auspicious opportunity for a national stocktaking of Nigeria's implementation of the GCM. Adopting the guiding template in line with the UN Network on Migration's proposed framework to assist Member States in conducting reviews of GCM implementation, this national voluntary review looks at Nigeria's status of implementation of the GCM to identify its impact on national and international cooperation efforts on migration, and the enhancement of migration governance in the country. The exercise underscores Nigeria's GCM implementation process including activities done, the means, and partners involved in the implementation. It as well highlights the challenges, lessons learned and proffers suggestions for the way forward.

2. Methodology

National consultation for the review of the GCM was convened on April 11-13, 2022. It involves about 98 participants' comprising the Government, UN organizations, international partners, CSOs, academics, researchers and other relevant stakeholders in Nigeria, as recommended in the NMP. Gender Inclusion and perspectives were ensured in the composition of the participants, as evident in the disaggregation of the participants – 46 females and 52 males. The consultation was chaired by the NCFRMI, the coordinating agency of the national migration governance under the supervision of the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development (FMHADMSD). The relevant government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) working in migration-related areas involved in the review include Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development (FMHDMSD); Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA); Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment (FMLE); Federal Ministry of Education (FMEd); Federal Ministry of Budget and National Planning (FMBNP); Federal Ministry of Justice (FMoJ); Federal Ministry of Health; National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI); Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS); National Population Commission (NPC); National Bureau of Statistics (NBS); National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP); Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM); Nigerian National Volunteer Service (NNVS),

Department of the Secretary of the Federal Government; National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA); Nigeria Institute for Security Studies (NISS); National Orientation Agency (NOA); National Defence College (NDC); Federal Medical Centre, Azare; Association of Medical Social Workers in Nigeria; Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR); Delta State Taskforce on Human Trafficking in Persons and National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

The governance architecture provided for the active involvement of federal and state authorities in the review consultation, as participation reflected the six geopolitical zones of the country. Building on the whole-of-government and whole-of-society principle of the GCM, an intentional effort was made to include non-state actors comprising of CSOs, academia (institutions and scholars), unions (Nigeria Labour Congress), and employers (National Employers Consultative Association (NECA) and migrants in the review consultation.

The review considered all the 23 objectives of the GCM using the IMRF parallel roundtables format and their background documents, as well as other relevant documents including the report of the Nigerian 2020 National Voluntary Review (NVR) of the GCM submitted to the African regional review process; Secretary General's report on the GCM implementation, the IMRF zero draft, the Rabat declaration of the Champion countries and the Nigeria action plan for the national implementation of the GCM.

The UN Country Team of the Network on Migration and other international partners were actively involved in the entire process of the review from the planning to the implementation. They provided both technical support and financial assistance directly or through the funding partners. These involved logistic and technical meetings leading to the consultation with the UN Network on Migration, international partners and the government. During a three-day review consultation, the UN Network members presented their experiences in the implementation of the GCM at a plenary panel discussion and as well chaired the technical session of group works. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) provided the coordination of the country team of UN Network engagement and directly worked with the government of Nigeria in the technical, logistical planning and delivery of the review process. Members of the UN and international partners involved in the review included, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC),

International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Health Organization (WHO), IOM, as well as International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) and International and Ibero-American Foundation for Administration and Public Policy (FIIAPP).

3. Policy and Enabling Environment

The Nigerian government has continued to build collaborations among various stakeholders from government, regional and international bodies in designing and implementing migration-relevant projects and encouraging multi-stakeholder dialogues. Relevant and focal government MDA such as the FMHADMSD, NCFRMI, National Population Commission, Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment (FMLE), Federal Ministry of Health (FMH), FMoEd, NEMA, NiDCOM, Central Bank of Nigeria, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Internal Affairs, FMoJ, Ministry of Women Affairs, NAPTIP, National Bureau of Statistics amongst others continue to play different roles in policy formulation and implementation, in collaboration with Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), European Union (EU), the UN and other international agencies.

Moreover, the government has integrated the GCM implementation into the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and efforts are ongoing to ensure that the GCM is aligned with the African Union Agenda 2063. The action plan for the national implementation of the GCM had significant reference to the SDGs especially as it pertains to the specific migration-related SDGs targets.

The Government of Nigeria towards domesticating and institutionalizing the 23 objectives of the GCM has developed and adopted a National Diaspora Policy (NDP), 2021. Nigeria also reviewed the National Migration Policy's Implementation Action Plan to reflect the GCM objectives **(2019)**. Further to the above, Nigeria reviewed and validated the 2014 National Migration Profile (NMP) to **2019** NMP and the 2014 National Policy on Labour Migration (NPLM) in **2020** with special attention paid to gender and youth responsiveness of the policy which was previously absent.

Nigeria strengthened its engagement in humanitarian and migration coordination through the creation of the FMHADMSD. The government's establishment of the Ministry with the mandate including to

oversee the activities of NCFRMI, the coordinating agency of all migration issues, has been viewed as having a great influence for Nigeria's participation in the GCM processes. The Ministry ensures coordination and change in the mode of operation of some institutions that are positively impacting migration governance in the country. The Ministry's recently adopted "Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus" framework of action, included management of migration as one of its five pillars, drawing significantly from the objective principles and pillars of the GCM.

At the regional level, Nigeria participated in the inter-ministerial meeting in Lusaka, on June 18-19, 2019 to develop the African 3-year implementation plan of action for the GCM. Also, the country is an active participant in the ECOWAS Migration Dialogue (MIDWA). The MIDWA event held in July 2020 focused on implementation of regional legal instruments for free movement of persons while strengthening the existing synergies between the Ministers responsible for security and interior in order to facilitate the application of regional instruments relating to migration in the light of new realities and frameworks such as the GCM. At the global level, as one of the Champion countries, Nigeria participated in the various engagements leading to the development of the "Rabat Declaration" of the Champion countries.

In the area of policy and facilitating an enabling environment, some challenges including those of security and finance continue to hinder effectiveness of the implementation of the regional, sub-regional and global frameworks and implementation plans. The COVID-19 pandemic and its surrounding issues affected the national implementation of the GCM as activities were either slowed down or put on hold within the period of the lockdown year 2020.

4. Progress on GCM Objectives

The Nigerian government in collaboration and partnership with various United Nations Agencies, International Non-Governmental Organization (INGOs), National Non-Governmental Organization, Civil Society Organizations and the Private sector has made significant progress on the objectives of the GCM.

Under **objective 1 of the GCM**, to **Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies**, Nigeria has been able to strengthen, review or develop elaborate migration-related policies such as NMP 2015, National Policy on Labour Migration 2020; National Migration Profile, 2019, National Diaspora Policy, 2021; National Policy on IDPs. These policies, the outcome of several studies, surveys and stakeholders' engagement provides the structural frameworks for varied migration data management. There is also a high capacity being built on data collection and dissemination and management. The strengthening of the Migration Data Management Working Group (MDMWG) of the Nigerian migration management architecture through capacity building of its members on different levels of data management, development of the migration database, development of mobility tracking tool (MDT) and deployment of border management information system (BMIS) to (14) land, (4) sea and (5) airport and (8) state commands. These biographic and biometric data have essentially improved the collection and utilization of accurate data in Nigeria. The MDMWG is led by two strong government institutions on national data management namely, the National Population Commission (NPC) and the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

Also, other things done to enhance evidence-based policies within this period under the ambiance of the GCM, include various studies covering smuggling of migrants (SOM) observatory research, return, readmission and reintegration programmes, youth migration survey, trends patterns and dynamics of trafficking in persons (TIP). Others are factors propelling the popularity of migration routes in the Northwest, Nigeria, and the scale and dynamics of trafficking from North-East Nigeria among internally displaced persons. It is important to note that a number of these researches were implemented by the CSOs on behalf of the government, implementing partners and donors as a true demonstration of the all-inclusive, whole-of-government, whole-of-society approach guiding the Nigeria migration governance.

The UNICEF is also piloting Child Protection Information Management System as an interoperable real-time system for data on all children within the protection system either as refugees, IDPs, or Survivors of Trafficking. In 2019, the ILO supported the NBS to introduce a labour migration module into the socio-economic household survey as well.

In an effort to **Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin (Objective 2 of the GCM),** the government through MDAs such as FMHADMSD has created a number of programmes providing direct support and creation of opportunities for people living in poverty. Some of such programmes include Presidential empowerment (N-Power), N-Tech, Basic entrepreneurship and skill training (BEST), YOUWIN connect Nigeria, Anchor borrowers, Project 774,000 Special Public Works Programme (SPWP), IOM MATCH Project, Labour based technology by the National directory of employment, Agricultural guarantee scheme fund, Tradermoni, Social intervention fund, Small Business Innovation Research program (SBIR), National Social Investment Program (N-SIP), CBN interventions e.g., tertiary institution entrepreneurship scheme, FGN Nigerian youth investment fund, FGN NDE skills on wheels' scheme for youth, FGN National Electronic labor exchange and NITDA Digital job creation program.

Job Centers (JCs) were established in the six geo-political zones of the country to facilitate job placement, eco-Social Market Economy was established in Enugu, Nigeria (ESME) to encourage foreign direct investment toward creating jobs and training opportunities for returnees and Nigerian youth. This has helped in tackling some of the root causes of irregular migration. The National Electronic Labour Exchange (NELEX) web portal was also upgraded to facilitate job placement. In addition, the Nigerian government is leveraging research findings conducted by the Government agencies and other non-government actors around the drivers of conflict/countering violence extremism (CVE) in Nigeria, Climatic Change & Environmental crises in the Nigerian Border Communities. In addition, the Nigeria Labor Congress is championing advocacy and campaigns for ratification and domestication of relevant ILO instruments on better Migration Governance and ILO built the capacity of social service providers on labor migration governance and COVID-19. "Generation Unlimited," a private sector-led initiative with the support of UNICEF is addressing the unemployability of some youths with skill transfer which has reached 500,000 Nigerians in 2021 and targets 2.5 million in 2022.

Again, under **Objective 3,** to **provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration,** Migrant Resource centers (MRCs)[1] were established in Abuja, Lagos and Edo States to serve as a one-stop-shop for relevant and accurate information on migration, biometric Migration Information Systems (MIDAS) were installed in 31 Ports of Entry (PoEs) and Foreigner registration facilities. While emergency tracking tools are utilized for data collection in displacement camps to provide adequate and timely information. Through an improved digital information and communication system coupled with robust awareness creation, migrants are provided with timely and accurate information on migration while the National education system is used to maximize the reach of anti-trafficking awareness among Nigerian school children. In addition, the Nigeria Government recently reviewed and updated its action plan of National Migration Policy, currently profiling and collecting biometric identification of foreigners under the NIN and developing pre-departure and post-arrival training/orientation manuals to assist agencies. Media Officials were also trained across all six geopolitical zones on migration reporting.

On **GCM Objective 4, ensuring that all migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation,** the Nigerian Government through the National Population Commission (NPC) in partnership with UNICEF and UNHCR is using IOM-DTM biometric registration data to conduct birth registration exercises for immigrants' children under the age of 5 years in Borno State and has so far completed/provided birth certification to over 37,000 children. Also, Foreigners' and birth registration have been digitized, and 20 out of 40 sites are currently provided with upgraded devices. Furthermore, the government is undertaking the harmonization of national identity with the passport of Nigerian citizens and conducting biometric registration for Africans/non-Africans in the country. IOM through the IBM programme also provides support to the immigration service in registering foreigners. Other activities implemented by the NCFRMI and CSOs on behalf of the government, implementing partners and donors include supporting the regularization of children born with no identity; registration of children born in the IDP camps, registration of returnees, IDPs and foreigners.

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[1] The establishment of MRCs in high burden states of the country has helped to make migration information more accessible to potential migrant, create awareness and counseling for victims. However, there is room for improvement especially in the establishment of more migrant resource centres and instalments of more digital information and communication equipment.

In a bid to contribute to **Objective 5 of the GCM, to enhance the availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration,** Nigeria Government in collaboration with different implementing partners is exploring various ways of achieving flexible pathways to regular migration. United Nations and IOM are currently piloting a labor mobility project (MATCH) between 4 EU countries (Belgium, The Netherlands, Italy, and Luxembourg) and Nigeria to relocate talented young persons from Nigeria to EU countries for job recruitment opportunities. Other activities contributing to this objective include the establishment of the Mobility Partnership Facility (MPF) in partnership with ICMPD on regular migration; supporting innovative partnerships between Lithuania and Nigeria; Belgium and Morocco; France and Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia; and Spain and Morocco. Also of note is the case of Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka which collaborated with the University of Alberta in Canada to access research grants for early-career Post-Doctoral Fellowships for lecturers and research grants for postgraduate students who travel to Canada to work with research mentors doing exchange programs using the University's Centre for Migration Studies as residency for foreign researchers while placing Nigerian Postgraduate researchers in Residencies in Canada. Other Nigeria Universities will be encouraged to adopt a similar approach.

Under **GCM Objective 6, to Facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions that ensure decent work,** Nigeria Government is currently reviewing the Nigeria Labour Laws (Labour Act, Cap. L1; Trade disputes Act, Cap.T8; Trade disputes Essential Services Act, Cap. T9; Trade Union Acts, Cap. T14; Trade Union (International Affiliation) Act, Cap. T15; Factories Act, Cap. F1) in line with the recently reviewed National Policy on Labour Migration (NPLM) 2020 and adopted code of conduct for Private Employment Agencies in Nigeria, the Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment is working collaboratively with NECA and the Human Capital Providers Association of Nigeria (HuCaPAN) on promoting fair recruitment practices and monitoring mechanisms.

A comprehensive gap analysis of ILO conventions C181, 97 and 189 was facilitated by the Government in collaboration with the ILO in view of processes towards ratification of these internationally recognized standards by Nigeria. The government has also convened meetings of the National Labour Advisory Council (NLAC) and facilitated Sensitization Workshops on the ratification of ILO conventions C143 – on migrant workers' supplementary provisions and C181 on Private Employment Agencies. The revision of the Nigeria Code of Conduct for Private Employers Agencies (NCCPEA)

was achieved during this period. Non-Government partners are supporting Nigeria Government to facilitate a national landscape of recruitment hinged on disseminating information on the General Principles and Operational Guidelines on fair recruitment, the Implementation of the Migration of African Talents through Capacity Building and Hiring (MATCH) project in Nigeria and Defending the rights of IDPs to quality public services aimed to advocate for IDP access to public services in the northeastern part of the country.

Also, through the ILO-SDC (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation)'s FAIRWAY programme, the Toolkit for Media reporting on Fair recruitment and forced labour was adapted to the country's context and capacity building around the application and use of the toolkit for relevant stakeholders completed across the country.

On **Objective 7 of the GCM,** in the area of **addressing and reducing vulnerabilities in migration**, stakeholders have been actively involved in promoting pre-departure training for migrants, and in developing and facilitating policies such as labour migration policy in other to manage the mental health and psycho-social needs of vulnerable migrants. Steps have been taken to manage vulnerable migrants by providing rehabilitation shelters, family tracing and unification of unaccompanied children, providing vaccines, tuberculosis diagnosis, treatment and exposing them to entrepreneurial skills. In addition, key local stakeholders were trained to tackle human trafficking and to deal with its evolving dynamics, trends, forms, and modus operandi, with specific attention paid to female children, while promoting knowledge-based policy-making and reinforcing transnational cooperation. About 13,400 children on the move were reunited with their families in 2021 by the state's social welfare department with the support of UNICEF in some states in northern Nigeria and Niger. In collaboration with the ILO, the government has also commenced the development of training manuals to be used during Pre-Departure Orientation Seminars across the migrants' resource centres (MRCs). Of importance under this objective also, is the tuberculosis diagnosis and treatment under Directly Observed Therapy (DOT) for resettlement purposes provided by IOM through her Medical and Health assessment centers in Abuja and Lagos to destination countries.

On GCM Objective 8, to save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants, the Nigeria Government through the Federal Ministry of Justice recently updated the Nigeria

draft migration management agreement template (an example is the Nigeria/South Africa agreement). Another activity related to this objective includes the implementation in collaboration with non-government actors of the Organized Crime: West African Response to trafficking (OCWAR–T) which involves strengthening the regional and national planning, coordination, and monitoring capacities regarding the implementation of the ECOWAS Plan of Action against TIP in West Africa, 2018–2022 and fostering regional dialogue and cooperation in the field of combatting TIP as part of its response to trafficking.

On **GCM Objective 9, strengthening the transnational response to smuggling of migrants,** the Nigerian Government through its law enforcement agencies established a National Border Management Strategy and utilizes INTERPOL I 24/7 data – connecting to 182 countries data of migrants where timely information of migrants in need of attention is harvested on through the biometric system.

Between 2021 and 2022, under the Enhancing Cross-Border Cooperation on Border Management and Counter-Trafficking Between Niger and Nigeria, IOM conducted a perception study of interactions, interdependence and mutual perceptions between the border communities and law enforcement, immigration/border, criminal justice sector and protection agencies. Also, an assessment of the impact of enhanced border management on the socioeconomic structure of the border communities and livelihood opportunities across the communities was carried out with the aim of identifying viable livelihood opportunities that would boost the socio-economic status of the transit and border communities.

On **Objective 10 of the GCM**, which is a further effort to **prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration,** Nigeria has signed MOUs to prevent and suppress trafficking in persons, especially in children, developed an action plan on human trafficking, developed and adopted the protocol for identification of safe return and rehabilitation of trafficked persons, established coalition against trafficking in persons and SOM, created awareness to the general public on border and awareness campaigns against trafficking in persons and SOM, the establishment of an anti-human trafficking unit in the NIS, creation of an emergency call center for Nigerians in diaspora called the "Complainant redress mechanism" and the establishment of state taskforces on

human trafficking and anti-human trafficking unit in law enforcement agencies in 21 states of Nigeria. Equally, the UNHCR mixed migration flagship project "Telling the Real Story" (TRS), has enhanced narrative framing and effective sensitization/awareness creation on the risks and dangers of trafficking in persons, especially of women and girls to enable them to make informed decisions. In addition, the Nigerian government through NAPTIP is working with ANLTP-TIM Niger in strengthening international cooperation between Nigeria and Niger in the fight against Human trafficking. Also, of note is that NAPTIP signed MOU to prevent and suppress TIP especially in children, in Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, and Niger republic. In response to Objective 10, CSOs equally carried out some activities with the support of implementing partners like FIIAPP, Expertise France and IOM. The activities include the establishment of the West African Coalition against TIP and SOM (WAPTISOM), border campaign activities, trafficking in persons Prevention with school activities.

On **Objective 11 of the GCM**, the **management of borders in an integrated, secure and coordinated manner**, the establishment of the "Working Group on Border Management" in the NMP provides for an institutional structure for collaboration that is driving the country's border management today. This working group is led by NIS and assisted by the NAPTIP. Nigeria through the NIS developed the NIS border management strategy, and with the support of implementing partners has engaged in Advanced Passenger Information (API), building the capacity of NIS officers. BMIS was deployed to the five main international airports in Nigeria (Kano, Lagos, Enugu, Abuja and Port Harcourts); land and sea borders, connected to the central server at immigration headquarters as well as the INTERPOL database. In addition, to manage data of migrants, Nigeria through the NIS utilizes the interconnectivity of command-and-control centers at Points of entry and state commands. Further, non-government actors are supporting the Nigeria Immigration Service in its institutional reform effort to modernize its Human Resource Management System by developing a career progression framework linking staff training to deployment and promotion; and developing a gender policy. Other activities contributing to this objective include research study on climatic and environmental changes in Nigerian border communities' socio-economic livelihoods as a threat to human security and sovereignty.

Under **Objective 12, to strengthen certainty and predictability in migration procedures for appropriate screening, assessment and referral,** the Nigeria Government in collaboration with international actors and the UN system constructed a Secondary Inspection Unit (SIU) at 5 international

airports for carrying out secondary inspection checks for persons with security concerns entering and leaving the country, re-mapped active victim assistance service providers and updated the flowchart for the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) of Victims of Trafficking (VoTs). With efforts from non-government partners through the Mental, Health and Psycho-Social Support (MPHSS) working group, Nigeria has established its MHPSS referral mechanism in Edo and Delta states; and with UNHCR support trained first responders on international protection and mixed movement, especially with a view to supporting VoTs in need of international protection.

On **Objective 13** which is on **using migration detention only as a measure of last resort and working towards alternatives,** the government developed a Legal framework prohibiting the detention of children through the domestication of the Child's Rights Act (CRA) – Sokoto, Borno, Jigawa and Kebbi States.

On **Objective 14 of GCM** which is an effort to **enhance consular protection, assistance and cooperation throughout the migration cycle,** the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has carried out emergency evacuation activities in conjunction with other government Ministries and Agencies to bring back to the country Nigerians stranded from other parts of the world. Of particular mention is the evacuation of Nigerians especially students from Poland and Slovakia as a result of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Also important was the evacuation, return and reintegration of Nigerian migrants from Libya and other African countries. Nigeria with support from the IOM'AVRR Programme has evacuated over 20,000 migrants from various countries. Libya accounted for about 16,000 evacuees while about 4, 000 came from other countries such as Niger, Mali, etc. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has also enhanced the capacity of its officials and developed a template to enable it to profile and identify Nigerians abroad before facilitating their return to Nigeria.

In line with **Objective 15 of GCM,** Nigeria has made a lot of efforts in the implementation of **providing basic services to migrants**. The Federal Ministry of Health has been involved in the provision of essential healthcare services including promotive, preventive, palliative, rehabilitative and curative care for all as a vehicle for achieving universal health care for the country and inherently for migrants. The Ministries of health in all the states have continued to provide universal access to immunization for all children including migrants, refugees and IDPs with the support of UNICEF and

WHO. The COVID-19 immunization is provided free of charge by the government of Nigeria to all including refugees and migrants.

On **Objective 16, to empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion,** the NLC and its affiliates are organizing migrant workers into unions to give them a voice and representation for better protection and empower them for sustainable integration into the society for inclusion. The Almajiri children – street children mostly in Northern Nigeria have integrated as actors in the governments and implementers' effort of reintegrating these children into their families. Derived from its Arabic root "Al muhajirun", "an emigrant," almajiri refers to one (child) who migrates from his home to a popular teacher in the quest for Islamic knowledge. A good number of these children are from other neighboring countries - Niger, Chad, etc. Having no financial support and resorting to begging for survival, the students roam the street most times with no bearing, thus giving rise to the predicament of the Almajiri system today. The Almajiri children assist in their family tracing and reunification. Nigeria employs IDPs as ad-hoc staff with stipends in camps to give some form of empowerment. A survey that was carried out on labour migration shows that 70% of children who are sales girls in some other countries are from Benin City, Edo State, and other States in Nigeria and they work in dehumanizing conditions including sexual exploitation, emphasizing the need for increased support to migrants.

To address **Objective 17 of the GCM, to eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration**, Nigeria through a community-led participatory initiative using community dialogue and community theatre methods, combined with a robust media campaign and advocacy, also piloted by the National Orientation Agency, is addressing the issue of discrimination and stigmatization and constructing a positive narrative based on the facts of migration. Considering the interlinkages of all the GCM 23 objectives, the awareness and sensitization programmes carried out in relation to objective 10 also helped to realize this objective. This is changing the perception of migration and stemming the tide of false narratives around returnees and potential migrants who are able to make informed choices. A lot, however, still needs to be done to make migration information available, especially at the grassroots. A survey was also carried out by NBS, titled 'Pilot Study on the Awareness and Perception of Intending and Returned Migrants on the dangers of irregular migration in Nigeria'. The study provided evidence-based information on the level

of knowledge, Attitude and Perception of respondents; this was carried out in four high returnees' states in Nigeria.

Under **Objective 18 of the GCM, (Invest in skills development and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competencies),** the Nigerian Government in collaboration with UN-IOM provided Training of Trainers on the provision of cascaded entrepreneurship training to returned migrants. With additional support from other Non-Government actors (ICPMD), a College of Practical Skills project has been implemented in Enugu state where project beneficiaries are trained and issued European standard certification to aid their mobility to Europe and/or work in European companies in Nigeria.

Under **GCM Objective 19**, to **create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries,** the establishment of the NiDCOM in 2019 was a significant stride in the national effort to better manage the diaspora engagement in national development. The NiDCOM, through the adoption of the National Diaspora Policy in 2021, provides for the institutionalization of diaspora engagement in national development. NiDCOM hosts events aimed at diaspora engagement, including an annual National Diaspora Day (NDD) that has been celebrated every year since 2005 and the Nigeria Diaspora Investment Summit (NDIS) which has been held since 2019, as well as hosting a diaspora registry on its website. In July 2021, an event that brought together the NDD and NIS was held on "Diaspora Integration for National Peace and Development". Other activities by the NiDCOM include building the capacity of its staff and other stakeholders on diaspora engagement for national development and developing further initiatives for the engagement of the diaspora, such as a Diaspora Investment Fund. The Government further supports Nigerians in Diaspora Organizations (NIDO), an umbrella body of Nigerians in the diaspora which serves as official platforms through which individual Nigerian diaspora members, their community organizations, and corporate bodies can channel their developmental efforts to Nigeria. In addition to NIDO, NiDCOM works with various diaspora groups in destination countries. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as the first point of contact with the Nigerian diaspora, has continued to enlighten them through its Missions abroad on the numerous opportunities available for investment in Nigeria. There is also improved constant engagement with various Nigerian social cultural and intellectual organizations.

Also, the Nigeria National Volunteer Service (NNVS) has facilitated a voluntary community medical mission involving Anambra State associations worldwide in five communities of the State in December 2021. About 3000 people received free treatment for tropical ailments from volunteer health personnel from abroad. Of importance also is the IOM's "Connecting Diaspora for Development" (CD4D-2), this has contributed to the significant participation of the Nigerians in diaspora in the varied aspects of national development including providing technical support.

Under **Objective 20, to promote faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial inclusion of migrants**, following the fall in forex and the decline in the remittance due mainly to COVID-19, the Central Bank of Nigerian on 05/03/2021 introduced Circulars amending and clarifying the procedure for receipt of diaspora remittances. The Circular titled "Introducing CDN's Naira 4 Dollar Scheme for Diaspora remittances," aimed to liberalise, simplify and improve the receipt and administration of diaspora remittances into Nigeria. Also "the clarifications and amendments are aimed at stabilising and deepening the foreign exchange market, providing more liquidity, and creating transparency, especially in the administration of diaspora remittances into Nigeria. Part of the liberalization include relaxation of the previous instruction stopping the reception of remittances in dollars as well as the incentive to pay remittance recipients NGN5 for every USD1 inflow received through CBN's authorized International Money Transfer Operators (IMTOs)".[2]

Under GCM **Objective 21 (Cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration)**, the Nigeria Government in collaboration and partnership with International Non-Governmental affiliates and the UN has implemented a series of activities contributing to objective 21 in the areas of development and adoption of Return, Readmission and Reintegration (RRR) SOPs, creation of case management expert team, setting up of Reintegration Committees (RCs) in some States, business structures for returnees, facilitating smooth return and reintegration of migrants including children, identification of nationality of returnees to ascertain the nationality with a view to issuing travel documents when not available in order to enable seamless readmission into Nigeria. These SOPs provide a guide and means of monitoring and evaluation for all

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[2] Central Bank of Nigeria. (2021). "Introduction of CDN's Naira 4 Dollar Scheme for Diaspora Remittances."

stakeholders and their RRR-related activities. In addition, the FMoJ has signed bilateral agreements to ensure sustainable reintegration. Further, the National Labor Congress recently validated a Trade Union Information Guide on Return and Reintegration for migrant workers in Nigeria. IOM in collaboration with the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) supported the safe and orderly return and reintegration of Nigerian nationals into Nigeria. Remarkably, CSOs actively engage in activities responding to this objective. For instance, the creation of shelters including the first male shelter in West Africa, provision of skill acquisition training, return and reintegration, and establishment of entrepreneurship centers for returnees are part of CSOs' contribution to objective 21. UNICEF with the support of the EU is implementing a three-year programme to provide access to justice for children on the move and other vulnerable children including intra-country movements by the 'almajiri children'. Under this programme, two states were supported to enact the Child Protection laws that prohibit all forms of pre-trial and arbitrary detention of children including child migrants.

Concerning the reintegration of IDPs, the government recently adopted the National Policy on IDPs. Also, the United Nations for Development Program (UNDP) is working with the Nigerian Government to implement a socio-economic reintegration of IDPs and refugees in Northeast and Northwest Nigeria thus, creating stabilization and ensuring IDPs can go back to their homes, building back livelihood pathways and disbursement of cash grants. In addition, supporting structures - increasing the size of the market, building security posts, primary healthcare and schools.

Under Objective 22 which to establish mechanisms for the portability of social security entitlements and earned benefits, not much is done yet. Nevertheless, effort is made to ensure the inclusion of the issues of portability of social security and entitlement and earned benefits in the bilateral negotiations on return and reintegration between Nigeria and partner countries.

GCM Objective 23, is on the effort to **strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration**. The Nigeria Labour Congress is facilitating consultations with the General Federation of Bahrain Trade Union (GFBTU) in view of entering a Memorandum of Understanding that enables improved collaboration between workers' organizations. In addition, Nigeria has a draft agreement on labour migration and SOPs on employment for different MDAs and implementing partners. Nigeria continues to develop a relationship with consular

authorities. For example, Nigeria recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the government of the United Kingdom on the safe return of migrants. Old MoUs awaiting review include the one signed with the governments of Austria. The MoU has become necessary to ensure easy movement and profiling of Nigerians in the country and for improvement in ensuring that Nigerians migrate regularly to the country. Indeed, since the institutionalization of migration governance in the country, Nigeria has benefited from the inherent value of multiple actors' collaboration as evident in its most recorded achievements in migration management. Trilateral cooperation between Nigeria, the EU and the UN agencies is one of these multiple actors' collaborations with an enormous impact on national migration programmes, particularly in the area of GCM implementation and review. The partnership is built on mutual respect for individual priorities and interests and executed within GCM's all-inclusive principle, whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach.

In summary, the review identified the following most and least implemented areas.

- ✓ **Most implemented areas**
   Objectives 1, 3, 6, 10, 15 and 21.
- ✓ **Least implemented areas**
   Objectives 13 and 22.

Challenges

The challenges in the implementation of the GCM in Nigeria relate mainly to insufficient data. Although the existing migration data management working group is working to enhance the availability of data, components inhibiting the effective gathering of data ranges from the capacity gap, lack of harmonization of data, insecurity challenges thus inability to reach some areas, unmanned expanse borders thereby constraining the capturing of inflow and outflow of migrants in some areas, and inaccessibility to data when available, still exist.

Closely related to the prevalent data challenge is the issue of funding which is a deterring determinant in the effective implementation of the GCM. Virtually, all activities necessary for the attainment of the objectives contained in the GCM require financial resources. However, there is an ongoing push for the government to invest more in migration management by providing budgetary allocation for migration activities in Nigeria if successful.

The need to continually build the capacities of migration stakeholders, especially in relation to data, programmes, policy and border management is a lingering challenge that if successfully addressed, other challenges such as ineffective capturing of an all-inclusive component in policies, programmes and action plans will no longer pose as challenges. Over time, the capacities of stakeholders have been built but the training and retraining of stakeholders cannot be overemphasized especially because of the official rotation and impromptu deployment of officials.

It is necessary to highlight the fact that the COVID-19 pandemic and its surrounding issues which affected migration activities globally, also played a huge role in affecting the implementation of the GCM activities within the period of the lockdown year 2020.

It might also be important to mention that lack of effective cooperation between the Nigeria mission and some host countries has often inhibited the easy and effective voluntary return of Nigerians. This situation is majorly caused by the lack of SOPs and other bilateral agreements between Nigeria and these countries. A deliberate attempt to sign agreements on various issues in the best interest of the country would help alleviate the plights of stranded migrants and ease their return process.

The crux of achieving the GCM lies solely on the coordinated, collaborative and concerted effort of all involved at the global, regional and national levels. Seamless coordination of implementing partners in cases of program planning and implementation would expedite actions and ensure activities address the issues adequately without hindrance. Such cooperation is expedient in areas of facilitating regular pathways through actions such as the regularization of migrants in irregular status, provision of various labour and humanitarian visa corridors; and combating xenophobic and racial discrimination and attacks against Migrants.

5. Means of implementation

To consolidate and implement the GCM objectives, international organizations, MDAs, CSOs and other relevant stakeholders have employed various means to actualize results. In Objective 1, the major means employed were research, survey, training of data working group, assessing and procurement of

software to borders, building the capacity and financial support to security personnel. In objective two, technical support was administered to job centers and advocacy to private sectors for better engagement with employers to employees. More so, a different initiative such as integrated, socio-economic and psycho-social community-driven approaches was used. Also, Research through the means of survey and direct observation, awareness creation, advocacy and training were employed by stakeholders to achieve this objective.

In objective 4, registration and biometrics of children under five years were collected to ensure that all child migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation. To enhance the availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migrants in objective five, a pre-selection committee for recruiters was set up. The success of this procedure led to the project expansion that initiated partnerships with some European and African countries. Also, exchange programs, research and information, education and communication (IEC) materials were distributed to migrant workers.

To improve the working conditions of migrant workers, relevant stakeholders were engaged and capacities built, IEC materials were distributed, training and surveys were conducted especially by relevant MDAs and CSOs. In Objective seven, the most frequent means used in the implementation of this objective was capacity building for MDAs and CSOs to enlighten them on the degrees of migrants' vulnerability. Also, technical support was provided for the technical working Committee on Labour to improve the migrant referral system and family tracing for vulnerable migrants. For objective eight, regional and national planning, coordination and monitoring capacities were strengthened with regard to the implementation of the ECOWAS plan of action against trafficking in persons. Again, the referral system, family psychoeducation, assessment, and mentoring of peers were strengthened.

To prevent, combat, and eradicate TIP/SOM (objective 10) in the context of international migration, taskforce in different states were inaugurated, and community dialogue, street campaigns, exposition and community theaters were adopted. For objective eleven, prioritizing border management on baseline study on climate and environmental change on Nigerian border communities' socio-economic livelihood as a threat to human security and sovereignty was engaged. Supports were further given to Nigerian Immigration Service through the provision of MIDAS.

6. Next steps

Partnership: Towards strengthening international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration in line with Objective 23 of the GCM, Nigeria signed a partnership agreement with South Africa. With the success of the agreement signed between Nigeria and South Africa on migration, the replication of the practice with other European and African countries will be considered. Advocacy for the engagement of relevant government agencies for the development of a standard operating procedure will be taken into consideration.

Policy: Data is of utmost importance to migration. To further ensure Objective 1 of the GCM on data collection and utilization of accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies, there will be continuous engagement with the government and relevant stakeholders on the ownership and management of Migration Data in Nigeria. The utilization of the developed migration database has become necessary. Beyond data gathering, data use is important. Therefore, the government will ensure that all the MDAs and non-state actors working on Migration data make input into the already established national migration database and the database is adequately available to all data end-users. Equally the review of the NMP to reflect present-day migration realities and GCM perspectives is a priority for the country.

To facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions that ensure decent work as stipulated in GCM Objective 6, Nigeria will work towards the review and effective implementation of the Nigeria Labour Laws (Labour Act Cap. L1, Trade Disputes Act Cap.T8, Trade Disputes (Essential Services) Act Cap. T9, Trade Union Acts Cap. T14, Trade Union (International Affiliation) Act Cap. T15, Factories Act Cap. F1) ensuring conformity with International Labour Standards.

Furthermore, the Government of Nigeria in collaboration with its partners is working towards ensuring adequate capacities are developed through stakeholder engagement and training on ethical recruitment and bilateral labour migration agreements to government officials in other to promote social justice and decent work.

Capacity: in line with Objective 10, which is towards the prevention, combating and eradicating trafficking in persons in the context of international migration, migration implementing federal

government agencies will build synergy with state government officials through advocacy visits to various state governors and attorney generals to obtain buy-in and commitment to eradicating trafficking in persons and addressing irregular migration by setting up a migration desk at the office of the Secretary of the State Government. Also, efforts will be made to engage community structures for awareness-raising/sensitization activities to expand capacity-building programmes to the sub-national levels.