

YOUTH MIXED MIGRATION IN GATEWAY CITIES IN WEST AFRICA

Side-Event at the International Migration Review Forum, co-sponsored by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Mixed Migration Centre (of Danish Refugee Council)

Date: 20 May 2022 | Time: 8:30 – 9:32 am (EDT) | Format: Virtual

Background

With the adoption of the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular Migration (GCM) in 2018, there has been growing international cooperation to make migration work for all. Likewise, attention to migration and refugees has increased, as has the number of persons affected, leading to widespread concern over the challenge of securing data on persons affected, their needs and the drivers of migration. There is a specific need for data in urban transit hubs, where mixed migration is the norm, as traditional sources of descriptive information do not capture the demographic profile of migrants, their needs and motivations.

There is also a very specific need to gather more data on youth migrants, both male and female, as they represent a disproportionately large share of migration flows into transit cities. Many are unaccompanied and without adequate fiscal or social resources, and their needs define key areas of potential intervention to maximize their prospects for improving their capabilities and contributing meaningfully to their communities of origin, transit and/or destination.

In line with objective 1 of the Global Compact on Migration,¹ and in an effort to inform interventions aimed at reducing vulnerabilities among young migrants, UNFPA in partnership with the Mixed Migration Centre of the Danish Refugee Council, and with the support of the Government of Denmark, conducted a study on policy and service needs of young international migrants in 7 major transit cities in two phases between 2017 and 2021. The study paid particular attention to the young migrants' access to essential services including Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH), identification documentation, and protection, including from Gender Based Violence. Phase 1 of the study was conducted in four cities (Cairo, Lebanon, Nairobi, Tunis) in 2017/18 while phase 2 was conducted in three cities in West Africa (Bamako, Niamey and Ouagadougou) in 2019-2021.

Objectives of the Side-Event

The aim of the side-event is to share the key findings and recommendations from phase 2 of the UNFPA-MMC/DRC study on youth mixed migration and it will feature evidence on the reasons and aspirations for migration among young migrants in West Africa, their exposure to violence, interactions with authorities and aid agencies, access to healthcare and other services, and SRHR vulnerabilities while in transit. It will also discuss key policies, strategies and actions needed to facilitate access of young migrants to reproductive health services in transit cities. The panelists

¹ Objective 1 of the GCM underscores collection and utilization of disaggregated migration data as a basis for evidence-based policies

will discuss variations in vulnerabilities in different gateway cities, and implications for the implementation of the GCM, migration-related SDG targets, and related work on the ICPD Program of Action.

Format: Virtual

Interpretation will be provided in English and French.

Register here. bit.ly/youthmixedmigration

Suggested agenda

Date: 20 May 2022 Time: 8:30 – 9:32 am (New York)		
Time allocation	What	Who
3 mins	<i>Welcome (and facilitation)</i>	Roberto Forin , Global Programme Coordinator, Mixed Migration Centre (TBC)
8 minutes (4 mins each)	<i>Opening remarks</i>	Government of Denmark (TBC) Mme Sophie Nonnenmacher , Deputy Regional Director, (IOM) (Confirmed)
20 min	<i>Youth mixed migration in 3 West African Cities: Drivers, Vulnerabilities and Access to Services</i>	Rachel Snow or Sandile Simelane, Technical Division, UNFPA (Confirmed)
10 minutes (5 mins each)	<i>Government Statements on the Research Results</i>	Mr. Sidibe Moussa , National SWEDD Project Coordinator of Mali (Confirmed) Mr. Malagoni Ibrahim , Director General of Civil Status, Migration and Refugees, Ministry of Interior and Decentralization, Niger (Confirmed)

16 minutes (4 mins each)	<p>Panel Discussion:</p> <p><i>Implications for the Global Compact on Migration</i></p>	<p>Panel of proposed Speakers:</p> <p>Professor Ndioro Ndiaye: President of Alliance for Migration, Leadership and Development (Confirmed)</p> <p>Prof. Fall Demba, Director of Research, University Cheikh Anta Diop, Senegal, and Director of the African Migration Study Network (Confirmed)</p> <p>Dr. Mulubrhan Amare, Research Fellow in the Development Strategy and Governance Division at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) (Confirmed).</p> <p>Mr. Sabelo Mbokazi, HoD Labour, Employment and Migration Division, African Union Commission (AUC) (TBC)</p>
3 min	Closing remarks	Ms. Argentina Matavel, Regional Director, West and Central Africa, (UNFPA) (Confirmed)
2min	Wrap up and session close	Roberto Forin, Global Programme Coordinator, Mixed Migration Centre (TBC)