

Notes

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 and time: 20th May 2022 - 08.30am (EDT)

Notetakers: UNFPA

Notes of the session	Member State/UN/Stakeholder
<p>Presentation of the Youth Migration Project led by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Mixed Migration Center (MMC) with the Support of the Denmark Refugee Council.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- Introduction to the project 2- General profiles of migrants 3- Key drivers of migration 4- Life en route to and in the gateway cities 5- Analysis by route (focus on Bamako) 6- Recommendations and actions <p>Followed by Panel Interventions.</p> <p>Key requests from panelists and speakers were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- The need to accurate, timely and detailed data on migration and more specifically youth migration 2- Collaboration between public and private sectors to strengthen the support given to young migrants 	<p>UNFPA/MMC</p>
<p>Summary (500 words max)</p>	

Introduction

- Discussion of Objective 1 of the GCM which underscores collection and utilisation of disaggregated migration data as a basis for evidence-based policies
- Virtual side event with over 90 attendants moderated by Mr. Roberto Forin and Ms Aurélia Donnard, from the Mixed Migration Centre
- Opening remarks by Mr. Nicolai Ruge, Ambassador for Migration, Return and Readmission, Denmark and Mme Sophie Nonnenmacher, Deputy Regional Director, West and Central Africa (IOM)
- Presentation of the project by Mr. Sandile Simelane, Technical Division, UNFPA
- Government remarks by Mr. Sidibe Moussa, National Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend (SWEDD) Project Coordinator of Mali, Mr. Ibrahim Malangoni, Directeur Général de l'État Civil des migrations et des réfugiés au Ministère de l'Intérieur, Niger
- Panel interventions by Prof. Fall Demba, Director of Research, University Cheikh Anta Diop, Senegal, and Director of the African Migration Study Network, Dr. Mulubrhan Amare, Research Fellow in the Development Strategy and Governance Division at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and Professor Ndioro Ndiaye: President of Alliance for Migration, Leadership and Development
- Closing remarks by Ms. Argentina Matavel, Regional Director, West and Central Africa, (UNFPA)

Presentation summary

- Key takeaways from a sample of 2,008 young migrants in Ouagadougou, Bamako and Niamey:
 - Majority of the young migrants in the 3 transit cities are in a regular situation, first-time migrants and want to remain in Africa
 - Economic & personal/familial reasons are key drivers of youth migration
 - Despite health and security concerns during their journey, most migrants would still embark on the trans-national journeys
- Recommendations:
 - Countries [sending & receiving], should create opportunities, by implementing wrap-around programmes as well as provide access to services and protections during the journeys and in gateway cities
 - Enhance efforts to regularly collect accurate, timely and disaggregated data to systematically improve our understanding of young mixed migration to inform evidence based policies.
 - Promote access to information and services among youth and generate youth-led knowledge and advocacy

Panel discussion

- Prof. Demba highlighted the importance of coordination in the world of research especially regarding the mobility of young girls as this will allow to get a better global picture that takes into consideration intersectionality.
- Mr. Moussa focused on potential drivers of migration in Sub-Saharan Africa by drawing examples from Nigeria. By using GIS technology, they looked at urban-rural differences providing data on migration patterns and pull and push factors.



- Prof. Ndiaye highlighted the importance of cooperation between the transit countries and the departure cities and the importance of dialogues by cluster and also that this is not just about the lack of data but rather about the capacity to use the relevant data.

Closing remarks

- Ms. Matavel made a pledge for all to identify the missing data and take the necessary action to ensure the gap is filled and congratulated the Panel and the YMMC project for contributing to the GCM. Indeed the GCM requires the collection and use of migration data to achieve safe, orderly and regular migration. She reminded the audience that tackling the issue of migration in West Africa is long overdue and that investing in young people is key.