



GUIDELINES FOR THE HARMONIZATION OF MIGRATION DATA MANAGEMENT IN THE ECOWAS REGION

Prepared by Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (IOM GMDAC)



EUROPEAN UNION



FMM West Africa

Support Free Movement of Persons & Migration in West Africa

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This document was prepared by Ann Singleton (Senior Research Fellow, University of Bristol and Senior Adviser) and Denis Kierans (Data and Research Officer) from the Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC) of the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

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Publisher: International Organization for Migration
11, Haile Selassie Street
Asokoro District
Abuja, Nigeria
Tel.: +2348140671127, +234.9.87.66.857
Fax: +234 8072093133
Email: iomnigeria@iom.int
Website: www.iom.int

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

CRF	Central Register of Foreigners
DTM	Displacement Tracking Matrix
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EGRIS	Expert Group on Refugee and IDP Statistics
EGRS	Expert Group on Refugee Statistics
EU	European Union
FCP	National Migration Focal Contact Point
FMM	Support to Free Movement of Persons and Migration in West Africa
GIMMA	Ghana Integrated Migration Management Approach
ICMPD	International Centre for Migration Policy Development
IDMC	Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
IDPs	Internally displaced person
IHSN	International Household Survey Network
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IOM	International Organization for Migration
KNOMAD	Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development
MEDSTAT	Euro Mediterranean Statistical Cooperation
MMC	Mixed Migration Centre
MP	Migration Profile
NAPTIP	National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (Nigeria)
NSO	National Statistical Office
OUA	Organization for African Unity
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PHAMESA	Partnership on Health and Mobility in East and Southern Africa
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
TOR	Terms of Reference

TWG	Technical Working Group
UEMOA	Union économique et monétaire ouest africaine
UN	United Nations
UN DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNESCWA	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Africa
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNSC	United Nations Statistical Commission
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
WGMD	(Regional) Working Group on Migration Data
WHO	World Health Organization

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1. THE AIM OF THE GUIDELINES

These guidelines have been prepared for use by a wide range of stakeholders in migration management. They are a key element of the activities of the "Support to Free Movement and Migration in West Africa (FMM West Africa) Project", which is funded jointly by the EU and ECOWAS. FMM West Africa supports the ECOWAS Commission, ECOWAS Member States and Mauritania¹ in maximizing the development potential of free movement of persons and migration in West Africa. FMM West Africa recognizes that:

"In order to maximize this potential, it is essential that there is a reliable and robust evidence base on free movement and migration for the ECOWAS region. Essential to the creation of such an evidence base is the creation and development of a regional system of data collection and exchange, which will allow for the identification of the main trends in mobility and migration."

The guidelines are not the solution to all the data problems. They cannot in themselves create new data sources, but it is hoped that they might help users to ask the questions which can help to identify which types of data are needed for policy, how best to collect and analyse the data and where potentially useful, but hitherto unexploited, datasets might be found.

The guidelines aim, primarily, to help build an evidence base on migration for decision-making in the most important policy areas facing the ECOWAS region. The salient features of the policy environment, the policy challenges and the socioeconomic context for migration in the ECOWAS Region have been identified by Devillard et al. (2015) as follows:

- "A growing, young population (the median age in 2010 was 18);
- Most ECOWAS countries (apart from Benin, Cabo Verde and Guinea-Bissau) are experiencing strong economic growth, with growth rates higher than five per cent at the beginning of 2014;
- Increasing urbanization;
- Insecurity and instability over recent decades: armed conflicts, transnational criminality, smuggling of arms and drugs, piracy, insurgencies, and kidnapping are all major threats to the region's security;
- High rates of unemployment;
- West African governments are increasingly interested in managing/handling migration and the respective challenges for the region. There is the will to make use of the development potential of migration;
- Intra-ECOWAS migration: 84 per cent of migration movements in West African countries are towards another country in the region, which is seven times greater than migration flows from West African countries to other parts of the world;
- Labour migration is the main form of migration in the ECOWAS region;
- Migration includes temporary, seasonal, and permanent migration, as well as short-term cross-border movements;
- Persons from same/similar regions tend to work in the same sectors abroad;"

¹ The purview of these guidelines encompasses ECOWAS Member States and Mauritania; in most cases in this document, "ECOWAS" implies and is inclusive of Mauritania.

In the context of the above key factors, the search for relevant empirical knowledge on the reality of migration and mobility in ECOWAS countries requires the use of regionally appropriate concepts and definitions, whilst conforming (as much as possible) with international standards. What is appropriate for the region is determined by the policy priorities of ECOWAS and the questions they raise. Hence the focus of these guidelines is on improving the evidence base in order to answer the following specific policy questions:

- What is the scale and composition of immigration and emigration flows?
- How many nationals return from outside the ECOWAS region?
- Can more be known about the characteristics of labour migration in the region?
- How many ECOWAS citizens are living and working in each ECOWAS country?
- What is known about irregular migration, cross-border movements and trafficking?
- How can policy outcomes maximize the regional benefit and development potential of migration flows?
- What is the regional progress towards implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and how could this be measured?

These Guidelines are also designed to support activities which will identify data sources which can provide the evidence needed to answer these key policy questions. It should be noted that gaps in data availability may also indicate gaps in policy and practice. The ECOWAS Commission has a timely strategic opportunity to pioneer good practice in developing a regional migration information system, which will meet international standards and be designed in the light of national practices. The Commission will be able to build on the experience of ECOWAS and in particular ECOWAS External Trade Statistics (ECOSTAT), with regard to trade statistics. For the ECOWAS region, there is a need to enhance the visibility of migration as a significant policy concern, with a core policy need being for data and analysis on intraregional migration and mobility of ECOWAS citizens. The existence of a free movement policy framework (encompassing entry, residence and establishment), the Commission's experience with trade statistics and some well-established (and emerging) cooperation in migration statistics between national authorities in many of the West African countries, provides the opportunity to pioneer good practice with wider application.

2. RATIONALE AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

The guidelines and the related training kit are designed to support capacity-building activities in the area of migration data collection and management in order to foster the development of evidence-based migration policies in the regional and at national levels in individual ECOWAS Member States.

They provide recommendations for standardized procedures to collect, process, analyse and disseminate migration-relevant data. They include precise recommendations presented to the workshop² by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and IOM and expert contributions about data collection, including the potential for collaboration across the ECOWAS region. The activities proposed here support those of the existing policy framework and governance structure for cooperation between data suppliers at national and regional levels.

The regional migration policy framework is drawn from the ECOWAS 1979 Protocol on the Free Movement of Persons, the Right of Residence and Establishment and subsequent supplementary Protocols.³

Subsequent ECOWAS strategic documents have reinforced the importance and potential of free movement and migration for the economic and social development of the region (see the ECOWAS Strategic Plan 2011–2015 and the 2008 ECOWAS Common Approach on Migration).

2.1 THE ROLE OF ECOWAS

ECOWAS has a unique strategic and supportive role in the region, with a mandate to encourage, support and coordinate data harmonization and quality in collection, data sharing and dissemination across the region.

The extensive experience of the ECOWAS Commission in the field of trade, unemployment and agriculture statistics provides invaluable know-how and insights into the challenges and potential of building regional data collaboration and data sharing on migration between the Member States. It provides a regional framework and activities to build upon the national level projects and collaborations already underway. As such, ECOWAS is uniquely placed to lead and facilitate capacity-building and harmonization of migration data within the ECOWAS region by providing a regional organizational approach, a vision and strategy and an organizational structure and support for training.

In line with this, ECOWAS can lead the process of creating a regional migration information system by:

- Introducing a Regional Action Plan on migration statistics;
- Coordinating the activities of national Technical Working Groups (TWGs), in relation to regional data sharing;

² Regional Workshop on Migration Data Collection and Management, hosted by FMM West Africa, 15–18 March 2016, Lomé, Togo.

³ 1985, Supplementary Protocol A/SP.1/7/85 on the Code of Conduct for the implementation of the Protocol on Free Movement, Right of Residence and Establishment; 1986 Supplementary Protocol A/SP.1/7/86 on the second phase (Right of Residence) on the Protocol on Free Movement, Right of Residence and Establishment; 1989 Supplementary Protocol A/SP.1/6/89 amending and complementing the provisions of Article 7 of the Protocol on Free Movement, Right of Residence and Establishment; 1990 Supplementary Protocol A/SP.2/5/90 on the implementation of the Third Phase (Right of Establishment) of the Protocol on Free Movement, Right of Residence and Establishment.

- Building on the existing protocols of the Research and Statistics Directorate of the ECOWAS Commission’s to facilitate the creation and coordination of a network of national migration Focal Contact Points (FCPs) in the national TWGs. These FCPs could coordinate the national TWGs with the relevant ECOWAS officials to support regional migration data activities, including the production of a regional migration profile;
- Providing guidance on harmonized practices in collection, analysis and dissemination of migration data;
- Supporting national training activities; and
- Organizing regional workshops to share experience and best practice.

The guidelines propose how ECOWAS could now begin to develop, in partnership with the national migration Focal Contact Points, a regional system to support the exchange of migration (and related) data. The whole process will require the endorsement of ECOWAS, national commitments to support the activities, resources (financial and human), and training at ECOWAS as well as national levels.

These activities and the policy area of migration and free movement primarily concern the following Directorates of the ECOWAS Commission: the Research and Statistics Directorate; the Humanitarian and Social Affairs Directorate; and the Free Movement Directorate. In order to be successful in implementing the activities, there will need to be close collaboration and working relationships, with effective coordination across the ECOWAS Commission directorates.

2.2 THE POLICY NEED FOR A RELIABLE EVIDENCE DATABASE

The success of free movement policies and ECOWAS integration goals in general, as well as progress towards implementing measures to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will depend to a large extent on how well migration and mobility is mainstreamed across all policy fields relating to development and the SDGs in the region. As such, it is necessary to collect data on migration and the socioeconomic context (detailed guidelines for mainstreaming migration are provided in the GMG’s “Mainstreaming Migration into Development Planning: A Handbook for Policy makers and Practitioners”).⁴

The proposed activities are conceived and designed to create a platform to produce the evidence base needed to address the above policy challenges. They are prepared in the light of IOM experience and the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) international experience and guidance in applying common UN concepts and definitions. The proposals are also informed by experience of regional migration data capacity-building in the European Union, in the West African region and in the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Statistical Cooperation (MEDSTAT) Programmes. They also reflect IOM’s experience of supporting the process of migration profiles across the region and globally.

2.3 OVERVIEW OF SELECTED DOCUMENTS

Official Document	Year	Summary
Protocol on Free Movement of Persons and the Right of Residence and Establishment	1979	The protocol on Free Movement of Persons and the Right of Residence and Establishment, along with supplementary texts, “testifies to member countries’ determination to place the free intraregional movement of persons at the heart of the regional integration process” (ECOWAS, 2008). The Protocol outlines the three phases to achieve a free intraregional movement of persons in ECOWAS and the strategies to be followed in order to implement these: PHASE 1: Right of Entry and Abolition of Visa PHASE 2: Right of Residence PHASE 3: Right of Establishment

⁴ Find here: <http://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/gmg2010.pdf>.

Official Document	Year	Summary
Revised Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)	1993	<p>The Revised Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) was signed by the governments of the Republic of Benin, Burkina Faso, Republic of Cabo Verde, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, Republic of the Gambia, Republic of Ghana, Republic of Guinea, Republic of Guinea-Bissau, Republic of Liberia, Republic of Mali, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, The Republic of the Niger, Republic of Nigeria, Republic of Senegal, Republic of Sierra Leone and the Togolese Republic.</p> <p>In the Treaty, the contracting Parties “re-affirm the establishment of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and decided that it shall ultimately be the sole economic community in the region for the purpose of economic integration and the realization of the objectives of the African Economic Community” (ECOWAS, 1993:4). In particular to the presented guidelines, the treaty is important when bearing in mind the rights of ECOWAS citizens as well as the responsibilities of Member States towards ECOWAS citizens on the move, as outlined in Article 59 of the Treaty.</p>
Recommendations of the OAU/ UNCHR Symposium on Refugees and Forced Population Displacement in Africa	1994	<p>The document draws attention to the continuing urgency of refugee and displacement crisis in Africa. It contains 34 recommendations which were to be presented to the appropriate organs of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the United Nations, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations (UNCHR, 1994).</p> <p>The 34 recommendations are divided into ten main headings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Root causes of refugee flows and other forces population displacements; 2. The 1969 OAU Convention governing the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa; 3. Refugee protection in Africa; 4. Material assistance to refugees; 5. Internally displaced persons; 6. Solutions for refugees; 7. Other populations in need of protection and humanitarian assistance; 8. Emergency preparedness and response; 9. From relief and humanitarian assistance to socioeconomic sustainability; 10. Institutional aspects.
Protocol on Education and Training A/P3/1/03	2003	<p>By the terms of this Protocol, ECOWAS Member States compromise to work cooperatively in the areas of education and training in order to achieve the following objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. To set up an efficient system linking the Member States, for the collation and exchange of information and data on the present and projected education and training needs of the Region; b. To mobilize resources of Member States for the creation of mechanisms and institutions which will produce the professional, technical, research and management cadres needed to facilitate the development of the Region in every sector; c. To encourage and coordinate efforts by the Member States to formulate and implement comparable educational and training policies, strategies and systems appropriate to their needs;

Official Document	Year	Summary
		<p>d. To formulate and implement policies and strategies involving the private sector, non-governmental organization and other parties interested in education and training;</p> <p>e. To encourage and coordinate the formulation and implementation of policies, strategies and programmes aimed at promoting the study and application of the sciences, technology, computer programming, and research and development;</p> <p>f. To reduce and eliminate the constraints preventing nationals of Member States, both men and women, from having access to a good education and from availing themselves of the openings for training;</p> <p>g. To promote the education of girls and ensure girls' full access to and achievement in all levels of the educational system.</p> <p>Particularly relevant to these guidelines, is Article 2(i) which calls for the <i>"simplification and ultimate elimination of immigration formalities in order to facilitate the free movement of students and workers within the Region for the specific purposes of study, teaching, research and any other pursuits to education and training"</i> (ECOWAS, 2003).</p>
ECOWAS Common Approach on Migration	2008	<p>On 20 December 2006, the ECOWAS Mediation and Security Council reaffirmed the priority of defining a common regional approach to migration and requested the Commission President to <i>"pursue the consultative process for the definition of a common approach to the management of intraregional migration and migration to Europe and all dimensions"</i> (ECOWAS, 2008:3).</p> <p>There are six main principles outlined in the Protocol:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Free movement of persons within the ECOWAS zone as one of the fundamental priorities in the integration policy of ECOWAS Member States; 2. Legal migration towards other regions of the world contributes to ECOWAS Member States' development; 3. Combating human trafficking and humanitarian assistance are moral imperatives to ECOWAS Member States; 4. Harmonizing policies; 5. Protection of the rights of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees; 6. Recognizing the gender dimension of migration policies.
ECOWAS policies and instruments relating to the trafficking of human beings ⁷		<p>The West African States Convention on Extradition (1994); The ECOWAS Declaration on the Fight against Trafficking in Persons (2001); The ECOWAS Initial Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons (2002–2003); the Multilateral Cooperation Agreement to Combat Child Trafficking in West Africa (2005); the African Union Ouagadougou Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, especially women and children, adopted in Tripoli in November (2006); the Joint ECOWAS/ECCAS Plan of Action on Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children in West and Central Africa (2006–2009);</p> <p>The ECOWAS Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons (2008–2011)</p>

7 From: 'Study on trafficking in persons in West Africa: an analysis of the legal and political framework for the protection of victims' www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Trafficking/Dakar_Saddikh_Niass_en.pdf.

Official Document	Year	Summary
ECOWAS Regional Action Plan on the Elimination of Child Labour	2008	<p>The Regional Action Plan supports the ECOWAS Commission and Member States to put in place mechanisms with the goal of eliminating child labour, especially its worst forms, while reinforcing their cooperation and capacity in addressing the problem (ECOWAS and ILO, 2008:8).</p> <p>The ECOWAS Regional Action Plan on the Elimination of Child Labour aims to “<i>eliminate the worst forms of child labour in West Africa by 2015, while laying foundations for complete elimination of child labour</i>” (ECOWAS and ILO, 2008:5).</p> <p>The Action Plan lays down the strategy to achieve its three objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creating a conducive environment for the elimination of child labour in all ECOWAS Member States; 2. Strengthening institutional mechanisms at ECOWAS for Monitoring and Evaluation, including peer review; 3. Increase knowledge of the dimension and incidence of child labour in the region.
African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention)	2009	<p>Signed by the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the African Union, the Convention presents five objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To promote and strengthen regional and national measures to prevent or mitigate, prohibit and eliminate root causes of internal displacement as well as provide for durable solutions; 2. Establish a legal framework for preventing internal displacement, and protecting and assisting internally displaced persons in Africa; 3. Establish a legal framework for solidarity, cooperation, promotion of durable solutions and mutual support between the States Parties in order to combat displacement and address its consequences; 4. Provide for the obligations and responsibilities of States Parties, with respect to the prevention of internal displacement and protection of, and assistance, to internally displaced persons; 5. Provide for the respective obligations, responsibilities and roles of armed groups, non-state actors and other relevant actors, including civil society organizations, with respect to the prevention of internal displacement and protection of, and assistance to, internally displaced persons. <p>The document develops further and indicates the general obligations relating to States Parties, obligations of States Parties relating to protection from internal displacement, obligations of States Parties relating to protection and assistance, obligations relating to international organizations and humanitarian agencies, protection and assistance to internally displaced person in situations of armed conflict, obligations relating to the African Union, obligations of States Parties relating to protection and assistance during internal displacement, sustainable return, local integration and/or relocation, compensation, and registration and personal documentation.</p>

Official Document	Year	Summary
Supplementary Act A/ SA. 5/07/13 Relating to the General Convention on Social Security of Member States of ECOWAS	2013	<p>The Supplementary Act outlines the responsibilities of Member States when addressing the branches of social security related to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Disability benefits; Old age benefits; Survivors' benefits; Occupational diseases and work-related accidents; Family benefits; Maternity benefits; Health-care and sickness benefits; Unemployment benefits <p>The Act, moreover, aims for the composition of a committee of experts on Social Security and outlines its planned tasks. Particularly relevant to these guidelines is Task 5, which states that <i>“the Committee shall foster and develop cooperation between the contracting parties in the field of social security in the interest of migrants and members of their family”</i> (ECOWAS, 2013:32).</p>
Sustainable Development Goals Agenda	2015	<p>The goals and targets outlined in the Agenda aim to <i>“stimulate action over the next 15 years in areas of critical importance for humanity and the planet”</i> (United Nations, 2015).</p> <p>The Agenda is guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including full respect for international law (United Nations, 2015:4). Particularly relevant to these guidelines is Target 10.7, which aims to <i>“facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies”</i> (United Nations, 2015:21).</p>

2.4 STRATEGIC APPROACH TO CREATE A SUSTAINABLE REGIONAL MIGRATION INFORMATION SYSTEM

The regional policy framework is in place to provide the mandate for ECOWAS' role. Most countries have, or are moving towards, developing integrated migration policies and legislation. Countries with national policies on migration include: Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia; countries with strategies are: Cabo Verde, Burkina Faso and Mauritania. Those currently in different stages of the development process are the Gambia, Togo, Senegal, the Niger, Sierra Leone and Côte d'Ivoire (Devillard et al., 2015). Given this basis, a strategy based on a practical and pragmatic approach is proposed here to improve: the timeliness, coverage, comparability, availability and exchange of migration data, the quality and coverage of analysis, and dissemination. The main elements of the strategy are to develop a regional network of national actors to support efforts to both build national capacity and to create and build regional migration capacity.

The strategy is for ECOWAS to take the initiative in coordinating the agreed activities within the Action Plan, through a network of national migration Focal Contact Points and the national Technical Working Groups which have been (or will be) established for the Migration Profile exercises. This will facilitate a sustainable regional capacity with enhanced and improved migration governance to provide an evidence base to inform policy.

3. IMPROVING THE EVIDENCE BASE ON MIGRATION FOR POLICY: CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

3.1 CURRENT STATE-OF-THE-ART

The importance of censuses and surveys and the need to use common core concepts has been stressed in all exercises undertaken to date in the region. An earlier study for IOM, developed to support the preparation of migration profiles in West and Central Africa, also provides a useful discussion of the key definitions and concepts relating to international migration used in the censuses (Poulain and Herm, 2011). Censuses have the advantage of being comprehensive and detailed in coverage, they include all the core variables needed for measuring migration. However, they may be inconsistent in terms of frequency (e.g. in times of political instability, or lack of resources), remain underused or unexploited as a source for migration data (IOM, 2011). In such circumstances, the data quickly lose the advantage of timeliness. All sources have potential but also bring with them different problems: for example, household surveys can provide rich contextual detail, but can be expensive; administrative sources are potential mines of information, but are often undeveloped for statistical purposes. All ECOWAS countries have been collecting statistical flow and stock data on migration through national population and housing censuses. However, only in some cases, such as the National Population and Housing Censuses in Ghana and Guinea-Bissau, have questions on emigration been included. The problem across the region is that neither censuses nor administrative surveys adequately capture the migration movements of most interest to policymakers: labour migration, irregular migration and cross-border movements (IOM, 2011). Hence, it is likely that a large amount of migration and mobility remains unmeasured. In 2016, the Free Movement provisions remain the only element of the ECOWAS Protocol (1979) aims which has been fully achieved. When the Residence and Right of Establishment provisions are fully in place, the related administrative systems may become more robust sources of migration data.

The current situation regarding migration data was thoroughly assessed in a study conducted for FMM West Africa in 2014 by IOM, ICMPD and the Swiss Government (Devillard et al., 2015). The study investigated data collection and management in the 15 ECOWAS countries and Mauritania (as well as the ECOWAS Commission). It recommended that the publication of regional guidelines would also be an important step towards harmonizing data collection and management practices. Accordingly, these guidelines build on the experience already gathered in 2014, through previous and ongoing development of migration profiles and on the activities within individual countries, to develop harmonized practices at the national level.

The FMM West Africa 2014 study showed that population censuses and surveys are the most reliable sources on migration in West African countries (Devillard et al., 2015). Censuses and surveys provide the only evidence base which use common internationally comparable data across the region. They are primary sources of data on the stocks of international migrants and (to some extent, for certain time periods) on flows. They collect data using the common core concepts set out below (3.2) and in the corresponding document, "ECOWAS training kit for migration data management" which are essential for measuring international migration. Annex 2 provides proposed core tables from the United Nations on statistics of international migration to be compiled based on census data.

3.2 UN CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS

The core concepts (based on the UN Recommendations)⁶

- International migrant: Any person who changes his or her country of usual residence (long-term migration includes a twelve-month criterion; short-term migration a three-month criterion);
- Citizenship: the particular legal bond between an individual and his or her country (State), acquired by birth or naturalization, whether by declaration, choice, marriage or other means according to national legislation;
- Country of birth: The country of residence (in its current borders, if the information is available) of the mother at the time of the birth or, in default, the country (in its current borders, if the information is available) in which the birth took place;
- Usual residence: The place at which a person normally spends the daily period of rest, regardless of temporary absences for purposes of recreation, holiday, visits to friends and relatives, business, medical treatment or religious pilgrimage or, in default, the place of legal or registered residence;
- Immigration: The action by which a person establishes his or her usual residence in the territory of a country for a period that is, or is expected to be, at least twelve months, having previously been usually resident in another country;
- Emigration: The action by which a person, having previously been usually resident in the territory of a country, ceases to have his or her usual residence in that country for a period that is, or is expected to be, at least 12 months.

Term/Concept	UN Definition
International migrant	Any person who changes his or her country of usual residence.
Citizenship	The particular legal bond between an individual and his or her country (State), acquired by birth or naturalization, whether by declaration, choice, marriage or other means according to national legislation.
Country of birth	The country of residence (in its current borders, if the information is available) of the mother at the time of the birth or, in default, the country (in its current borders, if the information is available) in which the birth took place.
Usual residence	The place at which a person normally spends the daily period of rest, regardless of temporary absences for purposes of recreation, holiday, visits to friends and relatives, businesses, medical treatment or religious pilgrimage or, in default, the place of legal or registered residence.
Immigration	The action by which a person establishes his or her usual residence in the territory of a country for a period that is, or expected to be, at least twelve months, having previously been usually resident in another country.
Foreign-born	All persons who have that country as the country of usual residence and whose place of birth is located in another country.
Native-born	Citizens and foreigners born in the country of usual residence.

It should be noted that the UN international guidelines on concepts and definitions are often not reflected in national practices. In particular, the one year residence criterion for the definition of immigration and emigration is usually not reflected in the data collected through the national administrative systems. This means that ECOWAS will need to take a pragmatic approach and aim to collect comparable (if not harmonized) data. Detailed metadata should provide information on national definitions used for data in the national databases and the regional tables.

⁶ United Nations Statistics Division (1998): Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, Revision 1.

In ECOWAS countries, the experience is that effective censuses mainly provide information on immigration, whilst policy needs also include a strong need for emigration data and border control data (Devillard et al., 2015). There is also a problem with the periodicity of censuses and the fact that they are held in different years across the region. Moreover, census data often remain unexploited with regard to migration.

This means that in order to meet immediate and medium-term policy challenges, there is a need, in addition to census and survey sources, to also consider enhancing the capacity of administrative sources to collect migration and migration-related data. These administrative sources can be identified at the national level during the process of producing a migration profile and can be compiled in a *regional inventory of data sources*.

Practical Exercise:

To carry out a practical training exercise on the key concepts for the measurement of international migration see **Exercises 1 and 2** in the “ECOWAS training kit on migration data management”.

3.3 KEY FINDINGS OF THE 2014 DATA ASSESSMENT⁷ AND THE NATIONAL REPORTS TO THE REGIONAL WORKING PARTY (TOGO)⁸

The data assessment report conducted by (Costanzo, 2014) identified many problems and data gaps in the region and explored possible solutions. The report made recommendations for action, including:

“promoting the increased visibility of migration issues through reinforcing their linkages to economic development and peace and security and other priority areas of countries in the region; overcoming financial shortfalls in the area of migration data collection by including migration queries in other well-funded data collection activities carried out by national institutions, such as household surveys and censuses; ensuring that staff have access to basic IT tools and required training for migration data management; developing regional guidelines on migration data collection, reporting, and quality assurance; developing statistics on informal migration by improving access to travel/identity documentation to citizens of the region through developing a regional biometric identity card; and developing regional guidelines on migration data protection” (Costanzo, 2014).

All of the above points were addressed in the Regional Working Party held in Lomé, Togo in March 2016.

During each session, participants engaged in productive plenary discussions. Below is a summary of key recommendations offered during those discussions:

Understanding migration statistics and their importance to development policy

1. Participants acknowledged the need for timely, high quality, reliable, and disaggregated data to support policies to facilitate development through free movement and migration in the region and also to support broader development goals related to migration under the SDGs and other development frameworks, such as Agenda 2063 of the African Union.
2. National Statistics offices should advocate for activities on the dynamics of migration to be inserted into the normal business planning of statistics services.

⁷ Joseph M. Costanzo (2014) Migration Data Collection and Management in West Africa: Assessment and Recommendations. Draft Report July 2014.

⁸ The regional workshop on migration data collection and management was held from the 15th to 18th of March 2016 at the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID) in Lomé, Togo. The workshop was organized under the project “Support to Free Movement of Persons and Migration in West Africa” (FMM West Africa).

Sources of migration data

1. There is a need to improve the quality and reliability of data collected from existing data sources and to explore new data sources, including big data.
2. There is a need to harmonize concepts and definitions related to migration statistics in line with the United Nations recommendations and contextualize them to meet the policy needs of the region.
3. It is necessary to harmonize migration data collection with other regional data collection initiatives including current labour force and household surveys conducted by ILO and UEMOA respectively. A migration module should be added to such surveys.
4. Where possible, efforts should be made to harmonize census questions on international migration.
5. Where necessary, the FMM West Africa project should support Member States in outlining the methodology and defining questions for collecting data related to migration in order to meet international standards and support in building national capacity for conducting migration related research.
6. Steps should be taken to improve administrative data in the region and ensure easy access to administrative data by national statistics offices.

Establishing regional standards for migration data management in the ECOWAS region

1. Steps should be taken to improve coordination at the national level between Migration Data Agencies involved in migration data management and also improve coordination at the regional level between the ECOWAS Commission and Member States.
2. To coordinate migration data activities regionally, States should nominate focal persons/institutions to liaise with the ECOWAS Commission.
3. IOM should support all States to develop or update their national Migration Profiles and develop a regional Migration Profile in order to reflect the current status of migration in the region.
4. Participants endorse the ongoing efforts by the FMM West Africa project to develop regional guidelines on migration data collection and management and a training tool kit.

3.4 THE IMPORTANCE OF INTERNATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS AND A PRAGMATIC APPROACH TO NATIONAL PRACTICES

The Togo Workshop highlighted the difficulties of meeting international guidelines, as well as successes in relation to censuses and surveys. It was clear that there exists some excellent statistical expertise in the National Statistical Offices (NSOs), where often the challenge is not lack of expertise, but lack of resources. The NSOs have the expertise to exploit the census data and to meet the international recommendations. There is also potential to use the census data to meet national and regional needs in addition to the UN requirements. On the other hand, capacity-building is needed across the region. The most pressing need is for training in the collection of data from administrative sources, in analysing such data and in reporting for policy. A pragmatic regional and national approach is needed, to support building capacity and understanding of data from administrative and non-traditional sources.

Practical Exercise:

To carry out a practical training exercise on the UN recommendations for collecting migration statistics see **Exercise 3** in the “ECOWAS training kit for migration data management”.

4. IMPROVING THE EVIDENCE BASE ON MIGRATION FOR POLICY: A PRACTICAL MANUAL FOR DATA COLLECTION

In this section population groups of particular interest for policymakers in the ECOWAS region are identified and key questions posed. The ideal data sources to answer questions about characteristics and patterns of movement are located. Strategies to exploit the relevant data sources, including best practices to follow and common pitfalls to avoid, are discussed. Regional challenges and on-the-ground realities that may inhibit the exploitation of these data sources are introduced. Alternative, pragmatic data sources and capacity-building activities that can be employed to answer these key questions are therefore outlined, alongside best practices to follow and common pitfalls to avoid.⁹

The main population groups of interest in relation to migration in the ECOWAS region, as identified in the relevant Protocols and policy documents, are:

- Migrant workers;
- Internally displaced persons (IDPs);
- Asylum seekers and refugees;
- Minors;
- ECOWAS citizens;
- Women;
- Students;
- Trafficked persons.

4.1 MAIN NATIONAL DATA SOURCES

National sources vary in their coverage of migration and mobility data. Many sources collect data which are never exploited, yet which have potential use in identifying and analysing internal, international and regional migration flows. This section examines the relative strengths and weaknesses of the main sources.

Border Sources: head-counts, border control data, apprehensions. Such sources can often provide data (usually operational) for immediate policy concerns, but these data are usually of poor quality and partial coverage.

Administrative and registration sources: as for 4.1.1, plus ID cards, visas, permits. These are potentially useful sources. In particular data from visa applications represent a rich source of data on applications from outside the ECOWAS region.

Censuses and household surveys: these sources provide good quality data, although there are problems of timeliness. Household surveys, poverty, food, and nutrition surveys can supplement the census data and (although resource intensive) should be considered as a possible means of collecting region-wide data.

⁹ A wealth of material exists at international level on the global dimension of migration. IOM also collects data on a wide range of migration related topics, from its operational activities and from research and analysis of data. These activities are now presented, for the first time in an annual report. These materials, evidence from IOM's DTM systems, return data and other extensive IOM resources are made available for the migration profile processes.

Practical Exercise:

To carry out a practical training exercise on identifying sources migration data on various migration populations see **Exercises 4 and 5** in the “ECOWAS training kit for migration data management”. **Exercises 6 and 7** in the aforementioned training kit, are concerned with using census and administrative data, respectively.

4.2 KEY POPULATION GROUPS

4.2.1 Migrant workers

According to ILO, a migrant worker is a person who migrates or who has migrated from one country to another with a view to being employed other than on his own account. It is important to identify and analyse the dynamics of flows of migrant workers within the ECOWAS region. These will include the movements of ECOWAS citizens and of migrant workers from outside the ECOWAS region. The sources may be the same and/or different for these two broad groups.

4.2.1.1 What are the effects of labour migration on origin and destination countries (what sectors are migrants involved in)?

As noted in the [Revised Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States \(ECOWAS\)](#) in Article 26 paragraph 3 point j, it is a regional priority to “establish a regional data and statistical information base to support industrial development at the regional and continental level” (ECOWAS, 1993:19).

Labour migration has impacts on development in both the origin and the destination countries. Understanding these impacts requires a strong evidence base, and rigorous analysis which can illuminate the dynamics of labour migration, with reference to different economic sectors.

This section will look at the best ways to measure the effects of labour migration on origin and destination countries within ECOWAS and the relevant data sources within origin and destination countries.

4.2.1.2 Ideal data source(s) and how to exploit this/these data source(s) – best practices and pitfalls to avoid

The box below is based on ILO's *Statistics on International Labour Migration* (1995) and it is recommended to check each of the suggested administrative and statistical sources in order to identify the appropriate data source for the target population groups.

Origin countries	Destination countries
<p>Key groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outflow of migrant workers • Return flow of migrant workers • Stock of workers abroad 	<p>Key groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inflow of migrant workers • Stock of migrant workers
Administrative sources	
<p><u>New exit or emigration visa</u></p> <p>A few countries have implemented a system whereby citizens should have an exit visa to go abroad. When implemented the system can in principle provide statistical data on new applications, new visas granted and newly activated visas.</p> <p><i>Key groups:</i> outflow of migrant workers, return flow of migrant workers, stock of workers abroad.</p> <p><i>Pitfalls to be aware of:</i> for longer-term developments the comparability of data over time is likely to be more questionable; changes in the morale and attitude of staff and the incentives for and ability of the public to follow the regulations or misinterpret information may be influenced by the longer the period between the reference dates for the statistics.</p>	<p><u>New entry or immigration visas</u></p> <p>Systems provide information on application for visas, visas granted, and statistics on newly activated visas.</p> <p><i>Key groups:</i> inflow of migrant workers.</p> <p><i>Pitfalls to be aware of:</i> this source for statistics does not present the total numbers; this is related to the fact that part of the total inflow of workers consists of clandestine workers. Furthermore, some migrants do not need a visa to work in the country.</p>
<p><u>New permission to work abroad</u> (if relevant or applicable)</p> <p>Some countries have instituted a system whereby citizens obtain a permission to work abroad to take a paid job in the foreign country. The system can provide statistics on new applications, new permissions granted, and newly activated permissions. In principle, statistics on permissions granted by the origin country for a citizen to work abroad.</p> <p><i>Key groups:</i> outflow of migrant workers.</p> <p><i>Pitfalls to be aware of:</i> if permissions are only required for certain workers leaving the country of origin, then there are incentives to misrepresent the corresponding information.</p>	<p><u>New permission to work in the country</u></p> <p>The system can provide, in principle, statistics on new applications, new work permits granted, and newly activated permits.</p> <p><i>Key groups:</i> inflow of migrant workers.</p> <p><i>Pitfalls to be aware of:</i> this source is important for statistics on inflows of migrant workers. However, the problems of coverage limit the validity of these statistics to being indicators of the direction of short-term changes in total flows.</p>

<p><u>Border exit registrations</u></p> <p>Border controls will usually have entail checks on whether nationals have the required permissions for travelling abroad. The controls may be extended to include name of the person leaving the country, the type and serial number of the relevant permission, and the date of departure.</p> <p><i>Key groups:</i> outflow of migrant workers and stock of workers abroad.</p> <p><i>Pitfalls to be aware of:</i> it should be noted that the registrations at the border may be limited, due to lack of time as the procedure needs to be quick at the border. This means that not much information about outflows can be recorded in these registrations. Furthermore, administrative border registrations seen in isolation only play a marginal role as a basis for statistics on migration data.</p>	<p><u>Accumulated entry or immigration visas</u></p> <p>If a report of the visa and recipient is forwarded to the responsible agency in the home country, it can be used as a basis to create a <i>central register of foreigners</i> (CRF). The CRF can keep record of currently valid or activated entry or immigration visas. The assumption would be that those people with expired visas have either left the country or died in the country. A more satisfactory basis for the estimates would be if the border control procedures update the CRF in a timely basis.</p> <p><i>Key groups:</i> stock of foreign workers.</p>
<p><u>Reports to tax and/or social security authorities</u></p> <p>In countries where effective tax authorities administer a universal income tax system, there are incentives for individuals to make sure these authorities know that income for employment will be earned in another country. This is particularly the case if there exist agreements between the two countries. The same reasoning can be applied to social security contributions.</p> <p><i>Key groups:</i> outflow of migrant workers.</p> <p><i>Pitfalls to be aware of:</i> in some cases persons may lose social security payments or qualifying years for future payments of old age pension if they report departure to the authorities. Social security authorities may therefore have more problems in ensuring complete reporting of departure than tax authorities have.</p>	<p><u>Accumulated permissions to work in the country</u></p> <p>If the records of the issuing agency are well organized, it will be possible to make an estimate of the currently valid or active work permits issued to foreigners. The simplest assumption is that everyone with an expired permit has left the country, stopped working, died or became citizens. A more satisfactory basis for the estimates would include the cooperation with border control procedures outlined below.</p> <p><i>Key groups:</i> stock of foreign workers.</p>
<p><u>New registrations at national consulates</u></p> <p>Some countries have instituted the obligation/ possibility for their citizens residing abroad to register with the nearest consulate. Whether citizens register or not, depends on whether they know about this possibility/obligation, as well as whether they feel it to their advantage to do so.</p> <p><i>Key groups:</i> Outflow of migrant workers.</p> <p><i>Pitfalls to be aware of:</i> it is important to be aware that in some cases foreign workers may fear that regular contacts with representatives of their country of origin jeopardize their situation or chances for renewal of contracts of work permit.</p>	<p><u>Administrative entry registrations at the border</u></p> <p>The checks include the person's name, the type of serial number of the relevant visa and the date of entry. The registrations can be matched to the corresponding visas or permits.</p> <p><i>Key groups:</i> inflows of migrant workers.</p> <p><i>Pitfalls to be aware of:</i> it should be noted that registrations at the border may be limited, due to the need to avoid timely procedures. This means that not much information about new arrivals can be recorded in these registrations. Furthermore, administrative border registrations seen in isolation only play a marginal role as a basis for statistics on migration data.</p>

	<p><u>Apprehension of clandestine border crossers</u></p> <p>The border control authorities' records should provide an estimate of whether clandestine entries are increasing or decreasing.</p> <p><i>Key groups:</i> inflow of migrant workers.</p> <p><i>Pitfalls to be aware of:</i> it has been documented that variations in the number of apprehensions often reflect an enhanced, or reduced, capacity and effectiveness of the police force and not variations in the incidence of crimes committed. Another issue is the difficulty when differentiating the motivations for clandestine entrants (i.e. work, flight from human rights or criminal justice persecution, smuggling, etc.).</p>
<p><u>Reports from recruitment agencies</u></p> <p>Recruitment agencies keep records to control their own operations; and are frequently subject to regulations and controls by the state. It would be useful to request them to perform regular self-reports that may be used as basis of statistics on migration data.</p> <p><i>Key groups:</i> outflow of migrant workers, stock of workers abroad, and return-flow of migrant workers.</p> <p><i>Pitfalls to be aware of:</i> the coverage of the data based on these reports will be limited to the types of workers recruited by these agencies.</p>	<p><u>Reports from recruitment agencies</u></p> <p>The recruitment agencies need to keep records to control their own operations; and are frequently subject to regulations and controls by the state. It would be useful to request them to perform regular self-reports that may be used as basis of statistics on migration data.</p> <p><i>Key groups:</i> inflow of migrant workers, stock of foreign workers.</p> <p><i>Pitfalls to be aware of:</i> the coverage of the statistics based on these reports will be limited to the types of workers recruited by these agencies.</p>
<p><u>New members of special insurance schemes</u></p> <p>Provided that the rates charged by such schemes are affordable and provide reasonable coverage, statistics on the new registrations could provide a good basis for the description of the size of outflows.</p> <p><i>Key groups:</i> outflow of migrant workers, stock of workers abroad.</p> <p><i>Pitfalls to be aware of:</i> the terms and conditions of the schemes may be so advantageous that persons remaining in the country may try to join. On the other hand, there may be cases where persons obtain better coverage with other schemes and not apply for the one offered by their country.</p>	<p><u>New reports to population registers</u></p> <p>If such reports include information about citizenship and where the persons move from, they may be able to provide a basis on the statistics on the inflow of migrant workers.</p> <p><i>Key groups:</i> inflow of migrant workers.</p> <p><i>Pitfalls to be aware of:</i> the demographic focus of most population registers will place priority on the household or the family unit. This means that many individuals for reasons of work will not be regarded as a 'new resident' and, thus, will not be registered.</p>
	<p><u>New reports to tax and/or social security authorities</u></p> <p>Countries with reasonably effective tax authorities administer a universal income tax system to ensure that individuals who are starting a new job are registered with them. Such registrations may include information on employer and individual (i.e. including citizenship).</p> <p><i>Key Groups:</i> inflow of migrant workers.</p> <p><i>Pitfalls to be aware of:</i> only a limited number of countries have this system and are willing to consider them as a source of statistics.</p>

Statistical sources	
<p><u>Household surveys</u></p> <p>Household surveys can include questions that are designed to get information related to migrant workers. The surveys may be general or targeted. It is recommended, for the collection of migrant workers data, to use the targeted household survey; in this type of survey there will be a significant over-sampling of certain types of households and the phenomenon of interest is more likely to be represented there. Two approaches are possible to achieve the over-sampling for a targeted survey: (1) If information related to family members or relatives working abroad was collected in a recent population census, then it could be possible to over-sample those households, as further outflows are more likely to occur; (2) locate geographic areas where one knows, according to previous censuses, that it is more common than elsewhere to go abroad to work, and oversample the households of these areas.</p> <p><i>Key groups:</i> outflow migrant workers, return flow of migrant workers, stock of workers abroad.</p> <p><i>Pitfalls to be aware of:</i> the actual outflow cannot be observed in the survey, except retrospectively, as the persons are beyond reach as long as they are abroad.</p>	<p><u>Household surveys</u></p> <p>The sampling size for a general household survey usually covers all non-institutional households, including households in which some or all members are foreign citizens. These surveys, therefore, may contain questions designed to capture information related to the inflow of workers.</p> <p><i>Key groups:</i> migrant workers.</p> <p><i>Pitfalls to be aware of:</i> there are likely to be few “positive” observations and therefore a high degree of imprecision in all estimates because of sampling. Such imprecisions can be reduced if the survey is targeted, with a significant degree of over-sampling of households with higher representation of foreign workers or information of such workers.</p>
<p><u>Statistical border registration</u></p> <p>Countries from where most travellers of interest will use limited number of common carriers (i.e. train, bus, ship, airplane, ferry) and that will depart from specific limited exit “ports”, can request these passengers to complete a questionnaire to be handed in with their ticket or at passport inspection.</p> <p><i>Key groups:</i> outflow of migrant workers, return flow of migrant workers, stock of workers abroad.</p> <p><i>Pitfalls to be aware of:</i> there will always be some “leakage” through unguarded “ports” or by persons using private means of transport. Furthermore, the reliability of the information given on departure cards should have serious consideration. Persons travelling with a tourist/visitor visa, but with the intention to get employment abroad, might write visit/tourist as a reason for travelling. However, designing simple questions which reduce the chances for ‘defensive’ answers could decrease this to levels that do not represent a serious problem.</p>	<p><u>Statistical border registration</u></p> <p>The passengers/border crossers are requested to complete a questionnaire to be handed in when passing the point of passport inspection.</p> <p><i>Key groups:</i> inflow of migrant workers.</p> <p><i>Pitfalls to be aware of:</i> even if closely integrated with the border control procedures, the cost may be too high to justify the practice only in the interest of statistics on inflow of foreign workers.</p>

<p><u>Statistics from receiving countries</u></p> <p>This is the cheapest source of statistics on outflow workers.</p> <p><i>Key groups:</i> outflow workers.</p> <p><i>Pitfalls to be aware of:</i> (1) some of the main receiving countries for your country's outflow workers, might not have developed a comprehensive system to produce statistics on the inflow of workers of your country; (2) the country of origin has very little influence in the quality and timing of the statistics made available from the receiving countries.</p>	<p><u>Population censuses</u></p> <p>The big advantage of censuses as a source for statistics on foreign workers is that special efforts are made to capture "marginal" groups which may be too small. The problem of non-response from foreign workers should be less in population censuses than in regular surveys.</p> <p><i>Key groups:</i> stock of foreign workers.</p> <p><i>Pitfalls to be aware of:</i> one must expect that the non-response problem is likely to vary between groups of foreigners, depending on their regularity or work status. Those in an irregular situation are likely to make the most effort to not being counted.</p>
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Source: International Labour Organization, 1995.

Alternative Sources

Employers' registration data: Establishment surveys can be used as a basis for incomplete statistics on employment of foreign workers (ILO, 1995).

Pitfalls to be aware of: the incompleteness is based on several factors: (i) the usual exclusion of the agricultural establishments and establishments in the informal sector; (ii) establishments included in the survey are not likely to report clandestine workers (when surveying stock of foreign workers); (iii) some establishments do not include citizenship in their records and are not available to provide a separate number for foreign workers.

Source: International Labour Organization, 1995.

4.2.1.3 What are the regional challenges?

Challenges related to migrant workers in the ECOWAS region stem from irregular migration, especially the turning back of potentially vulnerable migrants and human trafficking (ECOWAS, 2008).

In addition, a central challenge to the collection of migration data is the extent of undocumented work and employment, combined with free movement and the fact that rights of establishment of residence (although they exist in the protocols) are not yet implemented into the legal frameworks across the region. As such, movement and mobility, and residence of persons, across and within national borders are largely unrecorded.

Lack of human, technical and administrative resources, and the absence of an inventory of administrative data sources on labour migration, further contribute to the regional challenges.

4.2.1.4 How is labour migration affecting labour markets in origin and destination countries?

Labour migration statistics are necessary, not only for informing policy debates at the national, regional and international levels, but also for analysing the migration policies that address the real effects of migration on labour markets and development at the national and regional levels (ILO, 2015).

Comprehensive and comparable official national data, as well as reliable estimates at the regional and global level, are still very scarce. Moreover, short-term migration remains difficult to capture. In order to know how labour migration is affecting labour markets in ECOWAS, statistical tables on labour force participation, employment and unemployment by sex and place of birth are required. One example of a database on labour market outcomes in use is the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Database on Labour Market Outcomes of immigrants.¹⁰

¹⁰ Available at: www.oecd.org/eco/labour/49850080.pdf.

4.2.1.5 What is the impact on socioeconomic development?

It is important for policymakers to consider the impact of labour migrants on the socioeconomic development of the country and region including population issues, fertility, ageing of the migrant and total population, as central components in formulating and implementing national policies and programmes for accelerated and balanced socioeconomic development, as articulated in the [Revised Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States \(ECOWAS\)](#), Article 64.2 (ECOWAS, 1993:39). In the context of the SDGs and Agenda 2063, it has become ever more crucial to understand these topics in an international context.

4.2.1.6 How do labour migrants access jobs (private agencies, informal networks, public employment services)?

The understanding of labour market access is key to protecting the labour rights of all workers, *including migrant workers*, as per the [SDGs](#), Target 8.8 (United Nations, 2015:20). Studies have been performed to collect data on various aspects related to the way labour migrants access jobs abroad. For instance, the Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD) and the ILO surveyed migrant workers at the destination countries and after they returned to their countries of origin. The survey was performed to collect data on how much low-skilled workers pay to work abroad (Martin, 2016:2). The questionnaire collected demographic and education data on the migrant, recruitment processes, cost of borrowing money to pay migration costs, job search costs, the amounts that migrants earn abroad, and work-related issues (i.e., cost of housing and food while abroad, hours of work and work-related injuries) (Martin, 2016:3).

The study briefly described above does not focus on ECOWAS countries but can be useful when elaborating statistical data sources to collect migration data on how migrants within the ECOWAS region access work within and outside of ECOWAS.

Possible data sources here include national labour force surveys and work permits.

4.2.1.7 Percentage of migrant workers in national work force

As per Article 64.2, a) and d) in the [Revised Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States \(ECOWAS\)](#), “population issues are to be treated as central components in formulating and implementing national policies and programmes” (ECOWAS, 1993:39). Measuring and distinguishing between migrant and native workers in the national workforce is central to developmental planning. The importance of mainstreaming migration status into all aspects of development evident throughout the [SDGs](#), which calls for upon developing countries especially “to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by migratory status and civil status, disability, geographic place and other characteristics relevant in national contexts” in Target 17.18 (United Nations, 2015:27). Ideal sources to estimate the percentage of migrant workers in the national workforce include establishment surveys and labour force surveys (LFS).

As mentioned above, establishment surveys can be used as a basis for incomplete statistics on employment of foreign workers (ILO, 1995). One has to be careful when working with establishment surveys as they are likely to omit clandestine workers. Moreover, some establishments do not include citizenship in their records and are not available to provide a separate number for foreign workers.

Labour surveys are generally recognized as a comprehensive data source on national labour; individuals are asked their current economic activity, in particular whether they are working or seeking for employment (African Development Bank, 2012). The issue of irregular migrant workers is present here since they are likely not counted in this data source.

4.2.2 Internally displaced persons

According to IOM, internally displaced persons (IDPs) are persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border.

Although Agenda 2030 does not include a direct goal or target on IDPs, Paragraph 14 states that, “*Global health threats, more frequent and intense natural disasters, spiralling conflict, violent extremism, terrorism and related humanitarian crises and forced displacement of people threaten to reverse much of the development progress made in recent decades*”.

Moreover, the Expert Group on Refugee and IDP Statistics (EGRIS), which was established by the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) at its 47th session in 2016, has been tasked with the development of international recommendations for refugee and IDP statistics. UNSC requested that EGRIS submit the Recommendations for adoption at its 49th session in 2018.

Although IDPs have been included in the SDGs, and collective efforts to improve data on this population group are being made, data on this population group remain notoriously scant and difficult to collect, at least for the time being. The nature of population movements involved in displacement, often in crisis situations, means that the usual administrative infrastructures for data collection are likely to be disrupted.

4.2.2.1 Selection of international data sources for IDPs

The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) – collects data on displacement resulting from natural disaster and conflict. This includes sudden onset natural disasters, rather than displacement which is the result of slow-onset environmental changes. The [data and methodology](#) are available on the website; IDMC data are visualized on IOM’s “[Migration Flows – Europe](#)” website.

IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) – IOM’s DTM is a system to track and monitor the displacement and population mobility. It is designed to regularly and systematically capture, process and disseminate information to provide a better understanding of the movements and evolving needs of displaced populations, whether on site or en route. Their [data](#) are available on their website; DTM data are also visualized on IOM’s “[Migration Flows – Europe](#)” website.

4mi - Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism – Started in East Africa in 2014 and since expanded to other regions, the 4Mi is an innovative, cost-effective approach developed by the Mixed Migration Centre (as part of the Danish Refugee Council) to collect and analyse data on mixed migration flows,¹¹ including profiles, drivers, means of movement, conditions of movement, the smuggler economy, aspirations and destination choices, with a particular focus on protection and vulnerabilities. 4Mi uses a growing network of monitors stationed in key migration hubs along 7 major mixed migration routes globally, who are who are interviewing refugees and migrants on the move, as well as smugglers, on a continuous basis using smartphone- based in-depth surveys. As of 2018, 4Mi interviews approximately 1,200 refugees and migrants per month. Read more about 4Mi here: <http://www.mixedmigration.org/4mi/>.

UNHCR – UNHCR’s Statistics Database provides data, reports and other information essential for field operations. It also carries statistical reports on people of concern – refugees, asylum seekers, returned refugees, the internally displaced and stateless people. Detailed information on country of asylum, place of origin, gender, age, location and legal status of refugees is available. Indicators on the quality of refugee protection and UNHCR operations are increasingly being collected. Data on IDPs are available at UNHCR’s [Statistics Database](#) website and in their regular reportage, such as [Global Trends](#). The UNSC, at its 47th session in 2016, established an international Expert Group on Refugee Statistics (EGRS), which met for the first time on 7 and 8 November 2016. The Expert Group will develop a set of international recommendations for refugee statistics with a view to developing a refugee statistics compiler manual with operational instructions. The aim is that statistics on internally displaced persons and a Handbook on Data on Internally Displaced Persons will be included in future work.

¹¹ The principal characteristics of mixed migration flows include the irregular nature of and the multiplicity of factors driving such movements, and the differentiated needs and profiles of the persons involved. Mixed flows have been defined as “*complex population movements including refugees, asylum seekers, economic migrants and other migrants*”. Unaccompanied minors, environmental migrants, smuggled persons, victims of trafficking and stranded migrants, among others, may also form part of a mixed flow (IOM’s Ninety-Sixth Session, Discussion note: International Dialogue on Migration, 2008).

4.2.2.2 Do IDPs have access to social services?

As stated in the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention), article 9.2(b), “State Parties shall, provide internally displaced persons to the fullest extent practicable and with the least possible delay, with adequate humanitarian assistance, which shall include food, water, shelter, medical care and other health services, sanitation, education, and any other necessary social services, and where appropriate, extent such assistance to local and host communities” (African Union Commission, 2009). Furthermore, “Ensuring assistance to internally displaced persons by meeting their basic needs as well as allowing and facilitating rapid and unimpeded access by humanitarian organizations and personnel” (African Union Commission, 2009), as per Article 3.1 (j) of the [African Union Convention for the protection and assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa \(Kampala Convention\)](#), is predicated on the state’s capacity to first measure whether or not IDPs have access to social services. Member States’ obligation to provide sufficient protection and assistance to IDPs (Article 5.6), which may include access to social services, is echoed in the [Sustainable Development Goals](#), under Goal 10 (United Nations, 2015:21).

Locating data sources, where they exist, is first a matter of looking at the relevant national policies and practices. Where there is provision for providing social services to IDPs, there will be national and/or municipal administrative sources. The next step is to query these relevant administrative and service delivery bodies, such as hospitals and schools and any assistance programmes devoted to IDPs. It will be important to check if the data are recorded in such a way that administrative events IDPs can be distinguished from those involving other categories of persons.

Recommendation:

Although IDP data are difficult to collect, due to the probability that a country would be undergoing a crisis and normal administrative structures might be compromised, if a functioning administrative system exists, it is recommended that data are recorded in such a way as to distinguish IDPs from other populations. This could result in informing the introduction of relevant policies to meet their needs.

National sources may not be available for IDP data because IDPs tend to be present in countries that have weak governance structures and/or precarious security situations. By virtue of this, governments are often operating with reduced capacities in all activities. In this context (and perhaps for political reasons), the collection, analysis and dissemination of data on IDPs is not necessarily a top priority.

Most comprehensive data sources relating to displacement include the UNHCR Statistical Yearbook¹² and the IOM DTM.¹³ The UNHCR is updated yearly and relies on registrations, surveys, censuses, and estimations from Member States. One pitfall to be aware of is that populations registered here are only those populations displaced solely because of social conflict and that are assisted directly by the UNHCR, many may not be included in the dataset.

IOM DTM currently works in three ECOWAS countries: Mali, the Niger and Nigeria. The database includes relevant information on all sectors of humanitarian assistance, such as water and sanitation, health, food, protection and individual documentation.

4.2.2.3 Do IDPs have access to employment?

According to Principle 22.1 in the United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, “Internally displaced persons, whether or not they are living in camps, shall not be discriminated against as a result of their displacement in the enjoyment of”, among other rights, “the right to seek freely opportunities for employment and to participate in economic activities” (United Nations, 1998:12).

Despite this provision, access to formal employment is often limited. Further, access depends a great deal on whether IDPs are residing in camps or host communities. In the case of the latter, it is likely that IDPs are engaged in the informal economy.

¹² Last published is the 14th edition: UNHCR Statistical Yearbook 2014 available at: www.unhcr.org/statistics/country/566584fc9/unhcr-statistical-yearbook-2014-14th-edition.html.

¹³ Available at: www.globaldtm.info/.

It is important to emphasize that, as with access to social services, to start with policy inputs rather than outputs. However, a lack of data may indicate there is a gap between policy and practice (but not prove that there is this gap). The availability of data on employment (other than through special schemes for IDPs) will depend on the same factors as for the general population.

4.2.2.4 Reasons for displacement

Guidelines referring to the responsibility of displacement are as follows: (1) the [African Union Convention for the protection and assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa \(Kampala Convention\)](#), which sets out that Member States should “prevent political, social, cultural and economic exclusion and marginalization that are likely to cause displacement” (African Union Commission, 2009) and “ensure individual responsibility for acts of arbitrary displacement, in accordance with applicable domestic and international criminal law” (African Union Commission, 2009); (2) the [Sustainable Development Goals](#), which urge States to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration under Target 10.7 – reliable data on drivers of displacement are key to encouraging safe migration, and deterring unsafe and dangerous migration (United Nations, 2015:21).

According to Principle 6.1 of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, “every human being shall have the right to be protected against being arbitrarily displaced from his or her home or place of habitual residence” (United Nations, 1998:6).

Policies to tackle internal displacement should be based on reliable data that describe the reasons for displacement. It should be noted that sometimes it is not obvious who is a displaced person. Some time may have passed since the events which caused the displacement. So although the reason for displacement might be very obvious in the context of a recent disaster or security crisis, at other times there are several overlapping reasons and related time-lags. For example, a woman working in a café in an urban area might be recorded as a labour migrant but could also have moved many times within the country as a result of displacement (either over a short or a long period).

Most comprehensive data sources relating to displacement include the UNHCR Statistical Yearbook¹⁴ and the IOM DTM.¹⁵ The UNHCR database is updated yearly and relies on registrations, surveys, censuses and estimations from Member States. One pitfall to be aware of is that populations registered here are only those displaced solely because of social conflict and who are assisted directly by the UNHCR; many may not be included in the database.

IOM DTM currently works in three ECOWAS countries: Mali, the Niger and Nigeria. The data collection includes: mobility tracking, flow monitoring, registration and surveys that gather specific information through population sampling, on return intention, displacement solutions, community perception, and other thematic information in relation to displacement.

4.2.2.6 Living conditions and constitution of household

Living conditions of IDPs are included in the [African Union Convention for the protection and assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa \(Kampala Convention\)](#): “State Parties shall bear the primary duty and responsibility for providing protection of and humanitarian assistance to internally displaced persons” (ECOWAS, 2009:9). Furthermore, Principle 7.2 in the United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, states that “the authorities undertaking such displacement shall ensure, to the greatest practicable extent, that proper accommodation is provided to the displaced persons that such displacements are effected in satisfactory conditions of safety, nutrition, health and hygiene, and that members of the same family are not separated” (United Nations, 1998:7).

The ideal sources on living conditions are household surveys, living standards surveys, poverty surveys and migration surveys. These are costly and infrequent, but where they exist, can prove to be rich sources of information.

14 Last published is the 14th edition: UNHCR Statistical Yearbook 2014 available here: www.unhcr.org/statistics/country/566584fc9/unhcr-statistical-yearbook-2014-14th-edition.html.

15 Available here: www.globaldtm.info/.

4.2.3 Asylum seekers/refugees

Stated in the [Recommendations of the OAU/UNHCR symposium on refugees and forced population displacements in Africa](#), “Member States of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the OAU Secretariat, in collaboration with the relevant inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, should examine all factors which cause or contribute to, civil conflicts, with a view to elaborating a Comprehensive Plan of Action for tackling the root causes of refugee flows and other displacements” (UNHCR, 1994).

The Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, signed by all ECOWAS countries, is another clear example of ECOWAS’ shared commitment to provide international protection to refugees.

Article 1 of the 1951 Convention (as per 1967 Protocol) defines a refugee as “A person who owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it”.

According to IOM, an asylum seeker is “a person who seeks safety from persecution or serious harm in a country other than his or her own and awaits a decision on the application for refugee status under relevant international and national instruments. In case of a negative decision, the person must leave the country and may be expelled, as may any non-national in an irregular or unlawful situation, unless permission to stay is provided on humanitarian or other related grounds”.¹⁶

It is important to pay attention to the operational and legal definition(s) of “refugee” and “asylum seeker” when exploring the below questions and data sources.

4.2.3.1 Are refugees registered?

The [ECOWAS Common Approach to Migration](#) outlines that: (1) ECOWAS is aware of the increasing movement of refugees in West Africa; (2) in view of the difficulty in managing them and regularizing their status after conflicts, Member States undertake to put in place regional integration mechanisms (ECOWAS, 2008:5). Furthermore, target 16.9 in the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) include a provision to ensure that legal identity is established (United Nations, 2015:25).

The most comprehensive source up to date on refugee registration is the UNHCR Statistical Yearbook. The UNHCR is updated yearly and relies on registrations, surveys, censuses, and estimations from Member States. One pitfall to be aware of is that populations registered here are only those populations displaced solely because of social conflict; those who are assisted directly by the UNHCR. Many may not be included in the dataset.

National data sources may include censuses and surveys. However, the coverage of refugees in censuses and surveys is uneven. In many countries, refugees are required to stay in camps and lack freedom of movement; in these cases, population censuses may ignore refugees. Moreover, when refugee flows happen rapidly in situations of conflict, it is uncommon that population censuses take place soon after the fact and to reflect the newly arrived refugee population (ILO, 2015:26). Consequently, for many countries hosting large numbers of refugee populations the only source for refugee statistics comes from international agencies focusing on the topic (ILO, 2015:26).

Alternative data sources could include the combination of administrative sources and/or using administrative sources as proxies. Nevertheless, these sources will be limited and the observance of data protection in relation to refugees should limit access to such data where they exist.

4.2.3.2 Do refugees have access to social services?

The [Supplementary Act A/SA. 5/07/13 Relating to the General Convention on Social Security of Member States of ECOWAS](#) “applies to refugees or stateless persons who have acquired social security rights in the territory of a Contracting Party and are resident in the territory of a Contracting Party” (ECOWAS, 2013:9).

¹⁶ Available at: www.iom.int/key-migration-terms.

Considering the absence of official protection services may in many instances preclude safe migration, Target 10.7 of the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) is also relevant.

(As above, alternative data sources could include the combination of administrative sources and/or using administrative sources as proxies. However, these sources will be limited and the observance of data protection in relation to refugees should limit access to such data where they exist).

4.2.3.3 Do refugees have access to employment?

Fuller implementation of the ECOWAS Protocol, particularly its Phase II dealing with residence, would entitle all citizens of West African Member States willing and able to work, including refugees, to secure residence and the right to seek and carry out employment (Adepoju, Boulton and Levin, 2007:15).

(As above, alternative data sources could include the combination of administrative sources and/or using administrative sources as proxies. However, these sources will be limited and the observance of data protection in relation to refugees should limit access to such data where they exist).

4.2.3.4 Living conditions and constitution of household

The collection of these data is important when fulfilling the recommended roles of Member States in collaboration with UNCHR and other international bodies in addressing refugee aspects in Africa. Recommendation 7 (ii) in the [Recommendations of the OAU/UNHCR symposium on refugees and forced population displacements in Africa](#) states that “governments should use their best endeavours to treat refugees according to the standards established under refugee law. In particular, they should ensure the personal safety of refugees, locate them in areas which are accessible, safe and where basic services and amenities can be provided, and enable them to regain a normal way of life” (UNHCR, 1994). Furthermore, recommendation 8 (ii) in the same document advises the international community, the United Nations, the UNCHR and other relevant organizations to support and assist host governments, among other things, with the provision of “food, water, shelter, sanitation and medical services on a timely basis so that refugees and local populations alike are not put in a life-endangering situation” (UNHCR, 1994).

The UNHCR Statistical Yearbook includes an overview of “location characteristics”. The database provides information on how many refugees live in planned/managed camps, self-settled camps, collective centres, individual accommodations, or transit camps. The pitfall to be aware of here, as noted above, is that numbers outlined in the database only include populations that have been displaced solely because of social conflict and that are directly assisted by the UNHCR (UNHCR, 2015:66). Moreover, calculation excludes accommodation types that are unknown (UNHCR, 2015:66).

4.2.4 Minors

Collection of data on children (minors) is essential in order to monitor the adherence of states policies and practices to the observance of requirements under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. In all ECOWAS countries the age of majority is 18, except for Côte d’Ivoire, where it is 21. This means that the task of aggregating data at a regional level, on children, should be possible. Children must be treated as children first, regardless of their migrant status. Ethical and privacy requirements must be observed regarding the collection of data on children.

4.2.4.1 Are minors registered in school?

The [Protocol on education and Training A/P3/1/03](#) dictates that “Member States shall, as a measure for the eradication of illiteracy, undertake to take individual measures to ensure that every child of school age shall enjoy a minimum of nine years basic education” (ECOWAS, 2003: Article 5.3). Furthermore, [Sustainable Development Goals](#) envision, under Target 4.1, that “all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes” (United Nations, 2015:17); SDG Target 4.5 calls for States to “eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations” (United Nations, 2015:17).

Policymakers require data on minors: disaggregating this data by their education and migratory status as per Target 17.18 is, in the case of such a vulnerable group as minors, especially important.

School registers are important sources of registration and deregistration data which can reveal internal mobility that is common to migrant families. When the migratory status of a child is not given in the document, language and name might serve as a proxy.

4.2.4.2 Are minors involved in labour activities?

The [ECOWAS Action Plan on the Elimination of Child Labour](#) outlines the need to create “a conducive environment for the elimination of child labour in all ECOWAS Member States with the strengthening institutional mechanisms at ECOWAS for Monitoring and Evaluation, including peer review,” as well as, “increasing knowledge of the dimension and incidence of child labour in the region” (ECOWAS and ILO, 2008:5). It should be noted that undocumented child labour, as well as trafficking of children for labour occurs in the ECOWAS region, within countries and possibly between them.

Ideal sources on child labour could include the ministry of Labour at the national level; UNODC and IOM (trafficking) at the regional/international level.

Alternative data sources may include a combination of sources: census and survey data (total school-aged children in the area) combined with school registration data (how many children in the area are registered). If the children are not in school they are likely to be working. The problem, however, is that registration at school does not mean attendance; therefore, combination of sources still requires understanding at a local level to be correctly interpreted.

A useful handbook for migration data on minors involved in labour activities is ILO’s *Sampling elusive populations: Applications to studies of child labour*;¹⁷ the handbook outlines data needs, strategies for data collection and useful data sources related to child labour.

4.2.4.3 Do minors have access to health care and other social services?

Guidelines on minors’ access to health care and other social services are included in the [Supplementary Act A/SA.5/07/13 Relating to the General Convention on Social Security of Member States of ECOWAS](#): “The provisions of Articles 38 and 39 shall be applicable by analogy to the family members with regard to the enjoyment of benefits in kind” (ECOWAS, 2013:29). Moreover, and in addition to SDG Target 10.7 and 17.18, Indicator 1.3.1 specifically calls upon States to measure the “proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work-injury victims, the poor, and the vulnerable” (United Nations, 2015:21).

Ideal data sources at the national level may include ministries such as the ministry of Health and the ministry of Education.

4.2.5 ECOWAS citizens

Understanding the dynamics of the movements of ECOWAS citizens within the region is crucial to developing appropriate regional policies for this group, for social and economic purposes. However, it is also the case that the administrative infrastructure does not capture the establishment and residence of ECOWAS citizens in countries other than their own. The collection of migration and mobility data on these populations is a challenge.

4.2.5.1 Are ECOWAS citizens able to access their rights to residence or establishment?

Enshrined in the [Revised Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States \(ECOWAS\)](#) are the rights of ECOWAS Citizens who “shall have the right of entry, residence and establishment and Member States undertake to recognize these rights of Community citizens in their territories” (ECOWAS, 1993:36).

Data sources for migration data on ECOWAS citizens’ access to rights to residence or establishment may include specialized survey of migrants, municipal records and employment registers.

¹⁷ Available at: https://www.ilo.org/global/statistics-and-databases/WCMS_314425/lang--en/index.htm.

4.2.5.2 What are the working conditions of ECOWAS citizens?

Ideal sources to collect data on working conditions for ECOWAS citizens in the region may include sources provided by the Ministry of Labour as well as specialized surveys and Labour Force Surveys. ECOWAS citizens will be included in all the sources on the national working population. It will be necessary to find out for each source whether or not citizenship is recorded.

Alternative data sources can include: *Surveys of employment establishments* with a migrant variable. One pitfall to be aware of is that migrants might be ‘hidden’ or unrecorded in their workplace or workplaces staffed entirely by migrants might not be included in the surveys.

4.2.5.3 Do ECOWAS citizens work in formal or informal sectors?

The importance of knowing this is outlined in the [Revised Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States \(ECOWAS\)](#), which mandated the Member States to include “*population issues as central components in formulating and implementing national policies and programmes for accelerated and balanced socio-economic development*” (ECOWAS, 1993:39).

Some data sources include establishment surveys, employment surveys, specialized surveys of migrants, tax records, national insurance records, social security records and censuses. Establishment surveys can be helpful when complementing other national sources. However, there might be exclusion of the agricultural establishments and establishments in the informal sector. Furthermore, some establishments do not include citizenship in their records and are not available to provide separate number of migrant workers.

An alternative data source can be household surveys carried out in the countries of origin. The household surveys can include questions designed to collect information related to occupation and country of destination of family member who is away; amount and regularity of remittances received may also provide data and/or corroboration of occupation.

4.2.5.4 Do ECOWAS citizens have access to social protection?

As outlined in the [Supplementary Act A/SA. 5/07/13 Relating to the General Convention on Social Security of Member States of ECOWAS](#), “*this Convention shall apply to the general and special compulsory regimes of a contributory nature of the Contracting Parties*” (ECOWAS, 2013:8).

Ideal data sources would be the responsible national ministries.

4.2.5.5 Do they pay taxes?

It is important to gather evidence on this in order to avoid double taxation as well as tax evasion as outlined in the Revised Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS): “*Member States undertake to avoid double taxation of Community citizens and grant assistance to one another in combating international tax evasion*” (ECOWAS, 1993:29). The extent of employment in the informal (and unrecorded) economy makes gathering this evidence problematic.

4.2.6 Women

The labour migration of women is of specific importance within the ECOWAS States, across the region and to and from countries outside the region. In particular, data are needed on women’s migration within the global care chain¹⁸ and on the trafficking of women for sexual exploitation. Female migrants work largely in the informal sector and are consequently not usually documented by public administrations.

4.2.6.1 What is the scale and composition of flows of women moving within the region?

The importance of understanding gendered movements in the region is outlined in the [Revised Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States \(ECOWAS\)](#): “*Member States should seek to identify and assess all constraints that inhibit women from maximizing their contribution to regional development efforts*”

¹⁸ “Women on the Move”, a forthcoming WHO report will address the global picture of women, migration and health, including the topic of the global care chain.

(ECOWAS, 1993:39). When analysing the composition of flows of women moving within the region two kind of data sources can be examined; national data sources and international data sources. It is important to disaggregate information by age and gender when collecting the information.

National data sources may include border data, relevant line ministries, residence and work permits, censuses and surveys and national agencies dealing with issues of trafficking (for example NAPTIP in Nigeria).

Border Data – include both administrative entry registrations in the receiving countries and border exit registrations in the sending countries. These checks include the person’s name, date of entry or exit (ILO, 1995). This information includes disaggregation by sex and age. Such administrative border registration data, however, taken in isolation have only marginal use as a basis for statistics on migration data (ILO, 1995).

Relevant responsible ministries – may include, for example, the ministries of Labour, Education, Social Protection.

Work permits – Residence and work permits can provide information about applications, permits granted, and newly activated permits. If disaggregated by gender, permits can present the inflow of women migrant workers to the receiving country. A pitfall to be aware of is limited coverage (ILO, 1995); not all women who come into receiving countries might work there. Furthermore, within ECOWAS some migrants might not need a permit to work, and thus, not be counted.

Censuses and surveys – the advantage of censuses as a source for statistics is that they can “capture” “marginal groups” which may be missed by other data sources (ILO, 1995). Census data disaggregated by sex and country of birth may be useful information regarding women on the move within ECOWAS. Pitfalls to be aware of include non-response; those in an irregular/informal situation are likely to avoid being included (ILO, 1995). Special labour surveys of the informal market could elicit further information.

4.2.6.2 Women migrants in different economic sectors

According to Article 13 in the [Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women](#), recalled in the [African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa](#), “States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in areas of economic and social life in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, in particular: (a) the right to family benefits; (b) the right to bank loans, mortgages and other forms of financial credit” (African Union Commission, 2009).

Many women work in domestic labour or in other sectors that are not systematically regulated by the government. Standard sources are likely to miss these groups. (Further guidance on this can be found in ILO’s 2014 [Women and Men in the Informal Economy: A statistical Picture](#).)¹⁹ In 2011, the ILO compiled statistics on employment in the informal economy, disaggregated by sex from 47 medium- and low-income countries (ILO, 2014) including Côte d’Ivoire, Liberia, and Mali. In all of these countries, the percentage of women in the informal economic sector was recorded to be higher than that of men (ILO, 2014).

Other relevant data sources include household surveys carried out in the countries of origin. The household surveys can include questions designed to collect information related to occupation and country of destination of the absent family member. The amount and regularity of remittances received may also provide data on occupation.

4.2.6.3 What is the household situation of migrant women?

This is important for [SDGs](#) target 5.4, which recognizes the value of “unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate” (United Nations, 2015:18). Some national sources for data on household situation of female migrants are population censuses and household surveys.

19 Available at: www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---stat/documents/publication/wcms_234413.pdf.

4.2.6.4 Do women have access to health care and other forms of social security?

As outlined in the [Supplementary Act A/SA.5/07/13 Relating to the General Convention on Social Security of Member States of ECOWAS](#), “employed women who are resident or temporarily resident in the territory of a Contracting shall receive daily maternity benefits. These benefits shall be paid by the competent institution in accordance with the legislation which it applies, as if the persons concerned were resident or temporarily resident in the territory of the competent State” (ECOWAS, 2013:27). Furthermore, and in addition to Target 10.7 and 17.18, Indicator 1.3.1 of Target 1.3 of the SDGs specifically calls upon States to measure the “proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work-injury victims and the poor and the vulnerable” (African Union Commission, 2015: Annex 3).

4.2.6.5 What are the reasons for migration?

Knowing the reasons for migration can provide more information on possible injustices or violence committed against women. Such information could be useful in the process of achieving the elimination of “all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation” as per target 5.2 in the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (United Nations, 2015:18), as well as in addressing comprehensively the paths to “adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels” (United Nations, 2015:18).

4.2.6.6 What labour rights do women have and can access in their place of work?

Article 11, paragraph 1 point a) of the [Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women](#), establishes that: “States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the field of employment in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, the same rights, in particular the right to work as an inalienable right for all human beings” (United Nations, 1979). Data are needed to monitor the existence of local policies and practices to ensure that these rights can be accessed and exercised.

4.2.7 Students

4.2.7.1 Are ECOWAS migrant students able to access education in other ECOWAS countries using the diplomas earned from their countries or do they need to write further examinations or conversion courses?

Currently under the [Protocol on Education and Training A/P3/1/03](#), “Member States shall undertake, in order to prevent expensive duplication of courses, and as a contribution to the mutual recognition of certificates and other qualifications by the authorities throughout the subregion, to direct the universities to devise mechanisms to facilitate the inter-university transfer of credits and knowledge” (ECOWAS, 2003:13). Furthermore, according to the [Revised Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States \(ECOWAS\)](#), Member States have agreed to “consolidate their existing training institutions, improve the efficacy of their educational systems, encourage exchanges between schools and universities, establish equivalences of academic, professional and technical qualifications, encourage literacy, promote the teaching and practice of the official languages of the Community, and establish regional centres of excellence in various disciplines” (ECOWAS, 1993:37).

Useful data sources could include the examination of national education policies, targeted sampling of ECOWAS students studying in another country and surveys of education providers.

4.2.7.2 Are there any incentives to encourage student mobility?

There are several policy incentives to encourage student mobility, which require careful and accurate monitoring: the [Protocol on Education and Training A/P3/1/03](#)²⁰ states that “Member States shall direct the Heads of universities and other tertiary institutions reserve at least 5 per cent of admissions for students from other ECOWAS countries” (ECOWAS, 2003:13); “Member States shall undertake to grant to students from other

²⁰ Available at: http://documentation.ecowas.int/download/en/legal_documents/protocols/Protocol%20on%20Education%20and%20Training.pdf

ECOWAS countries the same privileges as to their own students in terms of fees and accommodation” (ECOWAS, 2003:13); and the [Revised Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States \(ECOWAS\)](#), which “encourages exchanges between schools and universities” (ECOWAS, 1993:37).

Regional data sources for the analysis of student mobility within the ECOWAS include targeted sampling of ECOWAS students studying in another ECOWAS country. An extra form could also be issued to a student at the point of entry, asking why they have decided to study in the particular country.

4.2.7.3 Comparison of data on male and female students

The [Protocol on education and Training A/P3/1/03](#) outlines the necessity of setting up an “efficient system linking together Member States for the collation and exchange of information and data on the present and projected education and training needs of the Region” (ECOWAS, 2003:8). The same protocol also aims to promote “the education of girls and ensure girls’ full access to and achievement in all levels of the educational system” (ECOWAS, 2003:8).

Ideal data sources include school registers that collect data on sex and age.

4.2.8 Trafficked persons

Freedom of movement within the ECOWAS space contributes to making human trafficking, as well as smuggling, an elusive phenomenon (Carling, 2016). One principle outlined in the [ECOWAS Common Approach for Migration](#) states the importance of combating human trafficking as a moral humanitarian imperative. ECOWAS Member States reaffirmed “their willingness to combat all entities, in the North and South, which promote the recruitment, transportation and exploitation of irregular migrants, particularly women and children” (ECOWAS, 2008).

National data sources on trafficking include national police reports, Ministry of Justice reports and national trafficking in persons reports. One of the most comprehensive international data sources on trafficking data is the UNODC [Global Report on Trafficking in Persons](#). The statistical information for this report is collected in two ways: through a short, dedicated questionnaire distributed to governments and by the collection of publicly available official information (mainly from the national sources mentioned above). Official statistics from national authorities account for 92 per cent of the information collected for the UNODC report (UNODC, 2014).

Some pitfalls to be aware of are that reports from Member States are not uniform in content. The questionnaire for the UNODC Report provides a standard set of indicators, but many countries report only partially. It is equally important to bear in mind that data from court cases are unrepresentative and provide only a part of the full picture of the global (and in this case, regional) manifestations of trafficking in persons (UNODC, 2014).

Practical Exercise:

To carry out a practical training exercise on using administrative sources to identify migrants see **Exercise 7** in the “ECOWAS training kit for migration data management”.

5. DISSEMINATION OF MIGRATION STATISTICS

Timely dissemination of data, statistics and analysis to address policy needs is one of the most important objectives of building and improving capacity. Suggested activities are outlined in Section 6 as part of an action plan and include:

5.1 PROVIDING ANALYSIS AND REPORTING TO POLICYMAKERS

- Preparation by the ECOWAS Commission of monthly electronic reports and quarterly summaries;
- Establishment and updating of electronic dissemination networks;
- Preparation by the ECOWAS Commission, in close cooperation with data providers, of reports on migration in the ECOWAS Region;
- Statistical Factsheets on migration, for the general public.

5.2 MIGRATION PROFILES AS TOOLS FOR POLICYMAKERS²¹

A migration profile is both a report and a process for building capacity, which is “country-owned” and prepared in consultation with a broad range of stakeholders.

Migration profiles can be used to enhance policy coherence, evidence-based policymaking and the mainstreaming of migration into development plans. They bring to the attention of policymakers and other stakeholders:

- Migrant “stocks” and characteristics;
- Ways of setting up systems to measure migratory events over time;
- Methods for evaluating the link between migration and development;
- Assessments of the socioeconomic impact of migration.

As accessible reports, migration profiles offer an internationally comparable – yet nationally relevant – framework for monitoring migratory processes against the background of existing regulatory systems, policy frameworks and international cooperation initiatives.

Using a standardized template and pre-designed report structure, migration profiles enable policymakers and other stakeholders to identify the data and analyses that are important to them, as well as to consider national migration dynamics in the broader context.

The template offers various migration trend and impact indicators, which countries may select depending on their national priorities and the specific migration context. It also recommends resources that may be used to generate data for these indicators – both statistical and administrative – while highlighting the potential drawbacks and limitations of such sources.

In their latest, extended form, migration profiles also serve as capacity-building instruments for State, research and international stakeholders, while serving to enhance cooperation among them.²²

²¹ Ibid.

²² For more on Migration Profiles please refer to IOM, [Migration Profiles: Making the Most of the Process](#), 2011.

The production of a national Migration Profile involves initiating a process which results in a national report on migration and mobility and helps to build a national system for future system-building and reports on an ongoing basis. The overall logic is to contribute to the improvement of the evidence base for policy and to the design of better and more coherent policies.

As mentioned, a Migration Profile is both a report and a process for building capacity (a concept as well as a tool). They have been prepared by IOM in more than 30 countries in different parts of the world, including Eastern Europe, the Black Sea region, South America and Africa. Migration profiles were first proposed by the European Commission in the *Communication on Migration and Development* in 2005.

The process of producing a Migration Profile is catalytic in nature, bringing together the key actors: data suppliers from the relevant ministries, officials from statistical institutes and offices. This serves as a process to collect, analyse, and report on migration-related data across a wide range of ministries, departments, and agencies. It is envisaged that the findings and recommendations issuing from the Migration Profile would contribute to evidence-based policymaking and inform migration-related programmatic interventions at a national and regional level, as well as internationally, in relation to the SDGs.

The IOM has extensive and in-depth experience of assisting countries in producing migration profiles. The process of producing these reports on migration in individual countries across the globe, has shown that a MP serves as a catalyst to stimulate further data collection and to improve collaboration and systematic coverage of migration. Using a common approach and format, they serve to “ventilate” the available data and can be a practical way to test how robust the information is at a national level.

For the ECOWAS region, migration profiles present an opportunity to produce timely reports which are of value for each country and are comparable across the region. Migration profiles have been prepared in recent years in 10 of the ECOWAS countries (six of these being in 2009 and one in 2010, 2011, 2014 and 2015, respectively), providing a solid basis for future development of this activity. The list below includes html links to the published migration profiles for these ten ECOWAS countries.²³

National Migration Profiles

Benin, [2011](#)
 Cabo Verde, [2010](#)
 Côte d'Ivoire, [2009](#)
 Ghana, [2009](#)
 Mali, [2009](#)
 Mauritania, [2009](#)
 the Niger, [2009](#)
 Nigeria, [2014](#)
 Senegal, [2009](#)
 Togo, [2015](#)

FMM West Africa project is supporting the update and development of the migration profiles in twelve ECOWAS countries (Benin, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, the Niger, Senegal, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Sierra Leone).

Central to the success and sustainability of the migration profile as a capacity-building exercise is establishing a functional coordination platform of key stakeholders that includes inter-agency cooperation.

To this end, the formation of a Technical Working Group (TWG), expert committee or steering committee (or group) are all proven strategies to foster a “whole-of-government” approach towards the creation of the Migration Profile and, more broadly, migration management in the country.²⁴ The convening of a TWG to support the Migration Profile exercises across ECOWAS and Mauritania is highly recommended.

²³ Accurate at time of publication. For a full, continuously updated list of Migration Profiles worldwide please visit the [IOM Bookstore](#) or [GMDAC online](#).

²⁴ Please see Annex 1 of this document, “Sample Terms of Reference (TOR) for a Technical Working Group (TWG) in support of a migration profile”.

The coordination platform, i.e. a TWG, should be comprised of members from the technical level (e.g. NSOs) and the decision-making level in order to account for the practical challenges of collecting data and compiling of statistics, while also ensuring that the report meets policy needs and has the required political buy-in. Members may include non-State actors.

The TWG should be seen as a vehicle to ensure sustainability of the exercise, such as updating the MP when needed. In some countries, an additional positive outcome of this exercise has been the trust and joint inter-agency workflow that evolved over the course of creating the MP and continued after the report's finalization, as illustrated in Ghana and Nigeria. For example, the TWG may dedicate its collective expertise to the development of a National Migration Strategy and/or migration data trainings for NSO officials or policymakers.

That migration profile exercises are being, or have recently been, launched across ECOWAS and Mauritania as part of the FMM West Africa project, invites the opportunity to leverage another additional positive outcome of the TWGs: the creation of a regional network of national migration Focal Contact Points (FCPs).

A regional network of FCPs could be established, in line with ECOWAS Statistical Commission protocols, as a *de facto* "Regional TWG". Possible activities and outcomes are outlined in greater detail in Section 6 of this document, especially subsection 6.3, "Action Plan for the Collection and Analysis of Statistics in the Field of Migration 2017–2019". They may include:

- Develop and update a regional migration profile;
- Build regional migration statistical capacity;
- Steer or advise on the implementation of the Action Plan.

5.3 POLICY DATA BRIEFS

Data briefings on selected topics are a cost-effective and efficient means to communicate the latest knowledge and analysis. For the reports available at the links below in 6.4, please see the examples of [IOM GMDAC Data Briefings](#).

5.4 ONLINE DISSEMINATION PRACTICES (ILLUSTRATIVE NOT EXHAUSTIVE)

Source	Website
AfriStat	www.afristat.org/
Benin, National Institute of Statistics and Economic Analysis	www.insae-bj.org/
Burkina Faso, National Institute of Statistics and Demography	www.insd.bf/n/
Cabo Verde, General Statistics	www.governo.cv/index.php/dados-gerais
Côte d'Ivoire, National Institute of Statistics	www.ins.ci/n/
CountrySTAT	http://countrystat.org/
ECOWAS Statistics	www.ecowas.int/documentation/statistics/
Eurostat	http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat
The Gambia, Bureau of Statistics	www.gbos.gov.gm/
Ghana Statistical Service	www.statsghana.gov.gh/
Global Health Data Exchange	http://ghdx.healthdata.org/

Guinea, National Institute of Statistics	www.stat-guinee.org/
Guinea-Bissau, National Institute of Statistics	www.stat-guineebissau.com/
IPUMS, Minnesota Population Centre	https://usa.ipums.org/usa/
IOM	www.iom.int/
IOM's GMDAC	http://gmdac.iom.int/
IOM's Migration Flows – Europe	http://migration.iom.int/europe/
Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services	www.tlcafrica.com/lisgis/lisgis.htm
Mali, National Institute of Statistics	www.instat-mali.org/
Mauritania, National Office of Statistics	www.ons.mr/
the Niger, National Institute of Statistics	www.stat-niger.org/statistique/
Nigeria, National Bureau of Statistics	www.nigerianstat.gov.ng/
Open Data for Africa	http://opendataforafrica.org/
Senegal, National Agency for Statistics and Demography	www.ansd.sn/
Statistics Sierra Leone	www.statistics.sl/
Togo, National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies and Demography	www.stat-togo.org/#
UNHCR	http://data.unhcr.org/mediterranean/regional.php
World Bank	www.worldbank.org/en/topic/migrationremittancesdiasporaissues

6. SHARING DATA AND PRODUCING STATISTICS AT A REGIONAL LEVEL

The following activities are recommended, as linked elements of an Action Plan. They include the necessary first steps and effective ways to identify and develop the baseline of data availability in ECOWAS, leading to collaborative activities to and a system to support the production of regionally comparable data, analysis and reports for policy. The activities need not take place in consecutive, chronological order and some are already in place in some of the ECOWAS countries.

6.1 ACTION PLAN OVERVIEW

The Action Plan presented here consists of five main sections, with key objectives and the proposed steps necessary to achieve them. These are the measurable results, the necessary actions, the time frame for creating the basis for a robust regional system.

Sections of the Action Plan as recommended by the Regional Migration Data Working Group

Section A. Adoption of new practices, common statistical methods and harmonization with international standards

Objective: Contribute to the adoption of new practices, common statistical methods and harmonization with international standards on migration data in the ECOWAS region.

Transparency

Initial activities require establishing agreement on transparency. This includes the adoption of common rules on statistical confidentiality and demonstrable sensitivity concerns. Transparency is needed for good practice purposes and in order to bring to light the hidden and unexploited administrative data, which are collected, but not always accessible. It is also important as it allows for data exchange and for feedback from users and for checks and balances to improve data quality and activities.

Electronic dissemination

Essential elements include: introducing electronic data exchange, establishing the activities of a network of national migration Focal Contact Points (FCPs) and collaboration with international organizations and users. An effective dissemination strategy will be needed for this objective to be achieved.

Section B. Coordination, information exchange and decision-making

Objective: Contribute to fact-based decision-making process through regular information exchange and strengthened coordination of migration data actors within the region.

Network of national migration Focal Contact Points

This objective, to establish a network of migration data contact officers through the FCPs in ECOWAS countries and in the ECOWAS Commission, will establish who is to be responsible for queries and regular working contacts between national authorities and the ECOWAS Commission.

Exchange and accessibility of information, survey data and microdata

To support these activities and the daily working of the network it will be important to establish an intranet website for the exchange of information relating to migration and (as appropriate) to share datasets using an open access web based system, such as the International Household Survey Network (IHSN) website for household survey data (www.ihsn.org/). This website allows data providers to release data for public use, whilst retaining ownership of the dataset. One important advantage is that it facilitates data exchange and provides a full archiving system.

Census data can also be shared via IPUMS, the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series of the Minnesota Population Center (www.ipums.org/).

Regular Task Force and annual meetings of the data providers, the FCPs and the ECOWAS Commission will foster intraregional cooperation and effective liaison with other actors producing statistics on migration (including ILO, OECD and IOM).

Seminars and meetings should be held for experts from national administrations, international organizations and academia to promote the production and dissemination of good quality statistics on migration; to address common related problems and opportunities and exchange expertise in order to develop a regional system.

Section C. Data collection and management processes

Objective: Increase policy relevance of statistical report through enhanced quality of migration data management process.

Data collection on legal system

This will be achieved by introducing a data collection on legal entry (permit data), updating (where possible) historical data and making publicly available an historical set of statistical outputs. Data validation procedures will be updated and linked to the introduction and updating of an annual report.

A questionnaire should be sent to data providers to follow-up gaps shown up in the responses to the 2016 UN questionnaires. An annual process will be introduced for updating and completing national databases on: international migration; administrative data on applications for and issues of permits; return and the implementation of enforcement measures.

Task Forces (see also Sections B and E)

Task Forces are a means to explore in depth specific data needs and data collection problems already identified, or which might become clear needs during the deliberations of the regional and national technical working groups. They bring together policymakers, statisticians, data suppliers and legal or other academic experts to investigate how problems of data needs and data comparability might be addressed. It is proposed that ECOWAS convenes initially two Task Forces: one on legal entry statistics and one on administrative data sources.

1. **Task Force on legal entry statistics:** a Task Force should be held on national proposals for statistical legislation on migration. Subsequent and ongoing written consultation on technical matters, with data providers and users.
2. **Task Force on administrative data sources:** This should examine ways of improving administrative cooperation between ministries and national statistical offices on migration statistics.

Section D. Dissemination of statistical outputs by the ECOWAS Commission and awareness raising

Objective: Migration statistics produced within the ECOWAS region are made available for a wider use.

ECOWAS reports

The ECOWAS Commission could consider preparing monthly, quarterly and annual electronic reports and summaries of the latest situation regarding migration, including analysis of historical trends. This will entail establishing and updating electronic dissemination networks at national and regional levels.

Preparation of annual reports by the ECOWAS Commission could take place in close cooperation with data providers, with the time schedule, structure and a uniform format for migration profiles to be adopted as an ECOWAS approach, to facilitate the production of a regional profile. The aim should be for ECOWAS to adopt and publish annual reports in electronic format.

Policy briefing

Policy-relevant briefings and statistical factsheets should be produced on a regular basis for the general public. Overview statistical tables should be made available on an ECOWAS Commission website.

Section E. The establishment of a sound and comprehensive legal and political framework

Objective: Contribute to the establishment of a sound and comprehensive legal and political framework in the field of migration data.

National legislation

Preparation of proposals for national legislation on statistics in the field of entry and immigration (current, proposed and future data collections). Informal and written consultation with data suppliers, including a Task Force on legislative proposals. Activities to take place throughout 2018 and 2019.

Regional system

ECOWAS Commission's proposal for a regional system to be presented at the end of 2018. Data collections to be adjusted to the newly adopted national legislation (preparation of border data collection; ECOWAS Commission document). All collections and statistical definitions brought in line with the national policies and legislation.

Practical Exercise:

To carry out a practical training exercise on sharing and coordinating migration data see **Exercise 8** in the "ECOWAS training kit for migration data management".

6.2 ECOWAS ACTION PLAN FOR THE COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS OF STATISTICS IN THE FIELD OF MIGRATION (2017–2019)

ACRONYMS:

- ECOWAS Economic Community of West African States
- MS Member States
- WGMD (Regional) Working Group on Migration Data

SECTION A: ADOPTION OF NEW PRACTICES, COMMON STATISTICAL METHODS AND HARMONIZATION WITH INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS				
OBJECTIVES	RESULTS	ACTIONS	IN CHARGE	TIMEFRAME
1. Contribute to the adoption of new practices, common statistical methods and harmonization with International standards on migration data in the ECOWAS region	1.1 Common rules on statistical confidentiality (privacy of the individual) and demonstrable sensitivity concerns are agreed upon	1.1.1 Elaboration and approval of common guidelines for publication of international migration statistics	ECOWAS WGMD MS	Dec 2018
		1.1.2 Elaboration of common rules on data protection/confidentiality and on demonstrable sensitivity concerns related to migration statistics	ECOWAS WGMD MS	Dec 2018
	1.2 Data collection and management tools are harmonized with International standards on migration data	1.2.1 Implement activities related to Migration Data jointly with International agencies working on Migration Statistics (UNHCR, ILO, OECD, IOM, UN DESA, UNSD) – i.e. elaboration of common tools, joint questionnaires on migration, data collection	ECOWAS MS	Continuous
		1.2.2 Enhance comparability of migration data within the West African region through harmonization of tools and policies related to migration data	ECOWAS WGMD MS	May 2019
	1.3 Migration data quality and verification procedures are enhanced	1.3.1 Elaborate a document defining a common approach for the revision and correction of data in all national migration databases	ECOWAS WGMD	Dec 2018
	1.4 Policy sensitive indicators and estimates are developed and approved	1.4.1 Commission a scientific study for the elaboration of policy sensitive indicators and estimates	ECOWAS WGMD	June 2018
		1.4.2 Production of a tool/guideline for the establishment of national databases that are in line with international standards, regional indicators and allow comparability	ECOWAS WGMD MS	May 2019
	1.5 Electronic dissemination and exchange of data and statistical outputs between national data providers and the ECOWAS Commission is in place	1.5.1 Establishment of regular working contacts between ECOWAS/Research and Statistics department and national statistical offices focal point for migration	ECOWAS WGMD	31 November 2017
		1.5.2 Elaboration of quarterly summaries of migration statistics for electronic dissemination	ECOWAS WGMD	Dec 2018
		1.5.3 Elaboration of annual regional reports of international migration statistics	ECOWAS WGMD	Every 2 years

SECTION B: COORDINATION, INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND DECISION-MAKING				
OBJECTIVES	RESULT	ACTIVITIES	IN CHARGE	ACTIVITY
2. Contribute to fact-based decision-making process through regular information exchange and strengthened coordination of migration data actors within the region	2.1 A network of focal point is established	2.1.1 Member States appoint a national migration data Focal Contact Points (FCPs)	MS	By the end of 2017
		2.1.2 Appoint a migration data contact officer in the ECOWAS Commission	ECOWAS	By the end of 2017
		2.1.3 MS/ECOWAS focal points respond to queries and facilitate regular working contacts between national authorities and the Commission	ECOWAS WGMD	Continuous
	2.2 An online platform for information exchange on migration is established	2.2.1 Establish access protocol and guidelines for information/data sharing/ uploading on the online platform	ECOWAS WGMD	March 2018
		2.2.2 Create an online platform for the exchange of information relating to migration data	ECOWAS	June 2018
		2.2.3 Appoint a person for regular update of the online platform	ECOWAS	June 2018
	2.3 Coordination amongst stakeholders involved in statistical migration data production in the region is improved	2.3.1 Organization of one annual meeting of the regional working group on migration data	ECOWAS WGMD	Continuous
		2.3.2 Ensure participation of national focal points to international fora on migration data	ECOWAS MS	Annual
		2.3.3 Establish a channel of regular communication with other African regional working groups on migration data	ECOWAS WGMD	May 2019
	2.4 Coordination amongst stakeholders producing and analysing administrative migration data in the region is improved	2.4.1 Set up a Task Force for improving quality of administrative migration data	ECOWAS WGMD	June 2018
		2.4.2 Elaborate a strategy to improve the quality of administrative sources for migration statistics	ECOWAS WGMD	August 2018
		2.4.3 Organize a conference aiming at reaching a consensus on ways to improve cooperation between ministries and national statistical offices on collection of administrative migration statistics (i.e. asylum, IDPs, legal entry/exit, working permit)	ECOWAS MS	October 2018
		2.4.4 Organize technical stakeholders' meetings at the national level aiming at improving coordination on capturing data (i.e. IDPs) based on regional deliberations	MS	June 2019
	2.5 Advocacy for increased resources on migration data collection and management is reinforced	2.5.1 Hold consultations on technical matters, with data providers and users in view of preparing background information for fund raising events	ECOWAS WGMD	First semester 2018
		2.5.2 Hold seminars of experts to identify common challenges and opportunities and exchange expertise in order to develop a regional intervention framework	ECOWAS WGMD	Second Semester 2018
2.5.3 Organize Donor/Government meetings to discuss national and regional proposals on migration data collection and management		ECOWAS WGMD MS	December 2018	

SECTION C: DATA COLLECTION AND MANAGEMENT PROCESSES				
OBJECTIVES	RESULT	ACTIVITIES	IN CHARGE	ACTIVITY
3. Increase policy relevance of statistical report through enhanced quality of Migration Data management process	3.1 A system of data collection on legal entry and exit (permit data) is established	3.1.1 Elaboration of a data collection system on legal entry/exit (link to Activity 2.4.1)	ECOWAS WGMD MS	June 2018
		3.1.2 Set up a pilot action of data collection in three countries based on the recommendation on the data collection system established (activity 3.1.1)	ECOWAS WGMD MS	Dec 2018
	3.2 National Statistical Data on Migration are reviewed based on the agreed regional procedures	3.2.1 National Institute of Statistics review their internal procedures for data validation and protection based on the agreed regional standards	MS	May 2019
		3.2.2 Data collection and management tools are created by stakeholders following regional standards	MS	May 2019
	3.3 Migration data are regularly updated	3.3.1 Data stakeholders in Member States contribute to complete missing information highlighted within the national migration profiles	MS	May 2019
		3.3.2 National Institute for Statistics initiate and promote new data collection and survey in order to cover information gaps on migration	MS	May 2019
		3.3.3 Database on migration are regularly updated (i.e. international migration; administrative data on working permits; returns)	MS	Annually

SECTION D: DISSEMINATION OF STATISTICAL OUTPUTS BY THE ECOWAS COMMISSION AND AWARENESS RAISING				
OBJECTIVES	RESULT	ACTIVITIES	IN CHARGE	ACTIVITY
4. Migration Statistics produced within the ECOWAS region are made available for a wider use	4.1 The ECOWAS Commission consolidates and publish periodic reports on regional migration	4.1.1 Elaboration and publishing of annual reports on migration in the region	ECOWAS	Yearly (end of the year)
		4.1.2 Establishment and updating of electronic dissemination mailing list on migration statistics	ECOWAS	Yearly (end of the year)
	4.2 The ECOWAS Commission elaborates and disseminates information tools for awareness raising for the general public	4.2.1 Elaboration and distribution of regional migration profile	ECOWAS	June 2018
		4.2.2 Elaboration of briefs (factsheets and flyers) on migration statistics for printing and distribution to a wider audience	ECOWAS	Yearly
		4.2.3 Publications (profiles and briefs) made available for the general public on migration on a Commission website	ECOWAS	Yearly
		4.2.4 Historical set of statistical outputs is made available on the web platform	ECOWAS	June 2018

SECTION E: ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOUND AND COMPREHENSIVE LEGAL AND POLITICAL FRAMEWORK				
OBJECTIVES	RESULT	ACTIVITIES	IN CHARGE	ACTIVITY
5. Contribute to the establishment of a sound and comprehensive legal and political framework in the field of migration data	5.1 A legal framework on migration data is established at the national and regional level	5.1.1 A Task Force on legislative proposals is appointed	ECOWAS WGMD	June 2018
		5.1.2 Proposals for national legislations on statistics in the field of entry and immigration (current, proposed and future data collections) are prepared (link to 5.1.1)	ECOWAS WGMD	Second semester 2018
		5.1.3 Organization of informal and written consultations with data suppliers	ECOWAS WGMD MS	By end of 2018
		5.1.4 ECOWAS Commission presents a proposal for a regional system on statistics law	ECOWAS	Dec 2018
		5.1.5 Sensitizations conducted for data stakeholders on the statistics law	MS	First semester 2019
	5.2 Data collection systems are adjusted to the newly adopted national legislation	5.2.1 Consolidation of the legal entry data collection system based on the established legal framework	MS	May 2019
		5.2.2 All data collection tools and statistical definitions are consolidated according with the national and regional legislation	MS	May 2019
	5.3 Full implementation of the Action Plan	5.3.1 Evaluation of the progress made during the implementation of the Action Plan and way forward	ECOWAS WGMD	May 2018
		5.3.2 ECOWAS Commission to request a progress report by an independent evaluating authority	ECOWAS	May 2019
		5.3.3 Commission and Council to draw conclusions on the report for possible future work on statistics in the field of migration	ECOWAS	Second semester 2019

7. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduce an ECOWAS Regional Action Plan on migration statistics, to build a sustainable regional migration information system: a “common approach”. This should include the following actions:

- Develop and promote the use of common migration modules for censuses and surveys;
- Facilitate the creation of and coordination of national Technical Working Groups, convened to support the Migration Profile exercises;
- Establish a network of national Focal Contact Points to comprise a regional Technical Working Group;
- Through the regional Technical Working Group, coordinate activities including regional data sharing; provide guidance on harmonized practices in collection, analysis and dissemination of migration data; support national training activities; develop a regional migration profile;
- Organize regional workshops to share experience and best practice;
- Create a regional inventory of data sources, identifying and evaluating all possible administrative sources of data across the ECOWAS region;
- Harmonize the timing of censuses across the region;
- Exploit existing census datasets to better effect in relation to migration;
- Identify possible practical solutions to resource problems at national and regional levels, for example, this could include the use of open access online software for networking. Such solutions can overcome existing blocks to effective regional cooperation. They will require agreed common architecture and standards for data harvesting, using common flexible open source database and data sharing software. Where internet problems impede the possibilities of immediate regional data exchange, at the level of data collection, consider technical solutions including mobile phone access to the internet, as an important source of timely (or real-time) data;
- Engage expert advisors to support the development of harmonized migration modules for household surveys across the region and to develop census data analysis tools to maximize the use of migration variables from the census datasets;
- Ensure that all activities are assessed and evaluated, in order to improve practice on an ongoing basis.

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9. ANNEX I – SAMPLE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP IN SUPPORT OF A MIGRATION PROFILE

Terms of Reference for an Interministerial / Technical Working Group

Case: Development of an extended national migration profile in the [INSERT COUNTRY NAME], within the EU and ECOWAS funded project “Support to Free Movement of Persons and Migration in West Africa (FMM West Africa)”.

Technical Working Group (TWG)

Members: 12 public institutions (policymakers/data users and data producers)

Observers: International development partners (UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, ILO, WB), ECOWAS Member States, other destination countries of [INSERT COUNTRY NAME] migrants

Functions:

- Platform for inter-agency dialogue between data users and producers to jointly assess the existing data and statistical capacity;
- Guiding and supervising the entire implementation process;
- Formulating recommendations addressing the issues of information sharing, capacity-building and coherent policy development related to migration;
- Help identifying gaps in the currently collected migration data;
- Providing inputs regarding indicators to be included during the development of the template for establishing the Migration Profile;
- Supporting the expert team in the research and data collection activities, facilitating the access to the data;
- Supporting the development of a national data management and dissemination strategy;
- Designing and promoting policy options to increasingly manage migration for the benefit of national development;
- Approving capacity-building measures in mainstreaming migration into development plans, data collection and management;
- Identifying a national institution which will:
 - Henceforth be known as the Focal Contact Point (FCP);
 - Take over the responsibility for regularly updating the Migration Profile;
 - Lead the process of implementing the regional strategy as per the regional guidelines, including, *inter alia*, the coordination of stakeholders and data at national and regional levels.
- Discussing the perspective and feasibility of utilizing the Migration Profile as a tool for monitoring and evaluating the impact of, *inter alia*, the National Migration Strategy, ECOWAS Treaties and Protocols, including, *inter alia*, the Protocol on Free Movement of Persons, Residence, and Establishment, as well as measuring progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the objectives of the African Union’s Agenda 2063.

10. ANNEX II – PROPOSED TABLES FOR INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

The following tables are based on the core tables from the United Nations Recommendations on statistics of international migration, Revision 1.

Table 1: Total population by country of birth, sex and age

[**Source** (encircle one): 1 (census); 2 (register); 3 (survey); 4 (issuance of work permits); 5 (other, please specify: _____); **Date:** dd/mm/yy: __/__/__; **Reporting country:** _____]

Sex	Country of birth ¹	0–4	5–9	10–14	15–19	...	100+	N.S.	Total
Male	Native Born								
	Country a								
	Country b								
	...								
	Unknown place of birth								
	Foreign-born but unknown country of birth								
	Total								
Female	Native born								
	Country a								
	Country b								
	...								
	Unknown place of birth								
	Foreign-born but unknown country of birth								
	Total								

Note: (1) Present geographical designation.

Table 2: Total population by country of citizenship, sex and age

[**Source** (encircle one): 1 (census); 2 (register); 3 (survey); 4 (acquisition of citizenship); 5 (other, please specify: _____); **Date**: dd/mm/yy: __/__/__; **Reporting country**: _____]

Sex	Country of citizenship ¹	0–4	5–9	10–14	15–19	...	100+	N.S.	Total ²
Male	Citizens - Nationals								
	Country a								
	Country b								
	...								
	Stateless								
	Foreigners but with unknown country of citizenship								
	Total								
Female	Citizens - Nationals								
	Country a								
	Country b								
	...								
	Stateless								
	Foreigners but with unknown country of citizenship								
	Total ²								

Notes: (1) Current international citizenship accepted; (2) Totals do not add up because of dual citizenship.

Table 3: Total population by country of birth,¹ sex and educational attainment level (ISCED-1997)²

[**Source** (encircle one): 1 (census); 2 (register); 3 (survey); 4 (issuance of work permits); 5 (other, please specify: _____); **Date:** dd/mm/yy: ___/___/___; **Reporting country:** _____]

Sex	Country of birth ¹	No education	Pre-primary (level 0)	Primary (level 1)	Secondary (level 2 and 3)	Post-secondary and above (level 4, 5, and 6)	... ³	Total
Male	Native born							
	Country a							
	Country b							
	...							
	Unknown place of birth							
	Foreign-born but unknown country of birth							
	Total							
Female	Native born							
	Country a							
	Country b							
	...							
	Unknown place of birth							
	Foreign-born but unknown country of birth							
	Total							

Notes: (1) Present geographical designation; (2) For ISCED-1997 definitions please see www.unesco.org/education/information/nfsunesco/doc/isced_1997.htm; (3) If further disaggregation of levels of educational attainment is possible please add additional columns.

Table 4: Total population by country of citizenship,¹ sex and educational attainment level (ISCED-1997)²

[Source (encircle one): 1 (census); 2 (register); 3 (survey); 4 (acquisition of citizenship); 5 (other, please specify: _____); Date: dd/mm/yy: __/__/__; Reporting country: _____]

Sex	Country of citizenship *	no education	Pre-primary (level 0)	Primary (level 1)	Secondary (level 2 and 3)	Post-secondary and above (level 4, 5, and 6)	... ⁴	Total ³
Male	Citizens - Nationals							
	Country a							
	Country b							
	...							
	Stateless							
	Foreigners but unknown country of birth							
	Total ³							
Female	Citizens - Nationals							
	Country a							
	Country b							
	...							
	Stateless							
	Foreigners but unknown country of birth							
	Total ³							

Notes: (1) Current international citizenship accepted; (2) For ISCED-1997 definitions please see www.unesco.org/education/information/nfsunesco/doc/isced_1997.htm; (3) Totals do not add up because of dual citizenship; (4) If further disaggregation of level of educational attainment is possible please add additional columns.

Table 5: Immigration / Emigration by country of previous (next) country of residence

[Source (encircle one): 1 (census); 2 (register); 3 (border controls); 4 (other, please specify: _____);
 Data (encircle one): 1 (flow); 2 (stock); Date dd/mm/yy: __/__/__; Reporting country: _____]

Immigration					
Country of previous residence	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Country a					
Country b					
Country c					
Country d					
Not Stated					
Total					

Emigration					
Country of next residence	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Country a					
Country b					
Country c					
Country d					
Not Stated					
Total					

Table 6a: Immigration / Emigration) by type of entry

[**Source** (encircle one): 1 (census); 2 (register); 3 (border controls); 4 (other, please specify: _____);
Data (encircle one): 1 (flow); 2 (stock); **Date** dd/mm/yy: ___/___/___; **Reporting country:** _____]

Immigration			
Entry category	2013	2014	2015
Education and training			
Employment			
Environment			
Family reunification			
Humanitarian protection			
Settlement			
Not stated			
Other			
Total			

Emigration			
Entry category	2013	2014	2015
Education and training			
Employment			
Environment			
Family unification			
Humanitarian protection			
Settlement			
Not stated			
Other			
Total			

Table 6b: Immigration (emigration) by type of entry

[Source (encircle one): 1 (census); 2 (register); 3 (border controls); 4 (other, please specify: _____);

Data (encircle one): 1 (flow); 2 (stock); Date dd/mm/yy: __/__/__; Reporting country: _____]

Immigration			
Entry category	2013	2014	2015
Border workers			
Persons in transit			
Visitors			
Tourists and excursionists			
Business travellers			
Other reason for visiting			
Diplomatic/consular and military personnel			
Study			
Training			
Employment			
Family reunification and formation			
Free establishment or settlement			
For humanitarian reasons (incl. refugees, asylum seekers, persons granted temporary protected status)			
Other, specify: _____			
Unknown			
Total			

Emigration			
Entry category	2013	2014	2015
Border workers			
Persons in transit			
Visitors			
Tourists and excursionists			
Business travellers			
Other reason for visiting			
Diplomatic/consular and military personnel			
Study			
Training			
Employment			
Family reunification and formation			
Free establishment or settlement			
For humanitarian reasons (incl. refugees, asylum seekers, persons granted temporary protected status)			
Other, specify: _____			
Unknown			
Total			

11. ANNEX III – GLOSSARY

(in alphabetical order)

Assimilation	Adaptation of one ethnic or social group - usually a minority - to another. Assimilation involves the subsuming of language, traditions, values, mores and behaviour or even fundamental vital interests. Assimilation is the most extreme form of acculturation.
Assisted voluntary return (AVR)	Administrative, logistical, financial and reintegration support to rejected asylum seekers, victims of trafficking in human beings, stranded migrants, qualified nationals and other migrants unable or unwilling to remain in the host country who volunteer to return to their countries of origin.
Asylum seeker	A person who seeks safety from persecution or serious harm in a country other than his or her own and awaits a decision on the application for refugee status under relevant international and national instruments. In case of a negative decision, the person must leave the country and may be expelled, as may any non-national in an irregular or unlawful situation, unless permission to stay is provided on humanitarian or other related grounds.
Border management	Facilitation of unauthorized flows or persons, including business people, tourists, migrants and refugees, across a border and the detection and prevention of irregular entry of non-nationals into a given country.
Brain drain	Emigration of trained and talented individuals from the country of origin to another country resulting in a depletion of skills resources in the former.
Brain gain	Immigration of trained and talented individuals into the destination country. Also called "reverse brain drain".
Capacity-building	Building capacity of governments and civil society by increasing their knowledge and enhancing their skills. Capacity-building can take the form of substantive direct project design and implementation with a partner government, training opportunities, or in other circumstances facilitation of a bilateral or multilateral agenda for dialogue development put in place by concerned authorities. In all cases, capacity-building aims to build towards generally acceptable benchmarks of management practices.
Circular migration	The fluid movement of people between countries, including temporary or long-term movement which may be beneficial to all involved, if occurring voluntarily and linked to the labour needs of countries of origin and destination.
Citizenship	The particular legal bond between an individual and his or her country (State), acquired by birth or naturalization, whether by declaration, choice, marriage or other means according to national legislation

Country of birth	The country of residence (in its current borders, if the information is available) of the mother at the time of the birth or, in default, the country (in its current borders, if the information is available) in which the birth took place.
Country of origin	The country that is a source of migratory flows (regular or irregular).
Diaspora ²⁸	The International Monetary Fund (IMF) defines diaspora as group of persons who have migrated and their descendants who maintain a connection to their homeland. The African Union defines its diaspora as “consisting of people of African origin living outside the continent, irrespective of their citizens and nationality and who are willing to contribute to the development of the continent and the building of the African Union.”
Emigrating citizens	Residents leaving the country. Important to note purpose of leaving.
Emigrating foreigners	Foreigners leaving the country of their usual residence.
Emigration	The action by which a person, having previously been usually resident in the territory of a country, ceases to have his or her usual residence in that country for a period that is, or is expected to be, at least 12 months.
Facilitated migration	Fostering or encouraging of regular migration by making travel easier and more convenient. This may take the form of a streamlined visa application process, or efficient and well-staffed passenger inspection procedures.
Forced migration	A migratory movement in which an element of coercion exists, including threats to life and livelihood, whether arising from natural or man-made causes.
Foreign-born	All persons who have that country as the country of usual residence and whose place of birth is located in another country.
Freedom of movement	A human right comprising three basic elements: freedom of movement within the territory of a country (Article 13 (1), Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948: “Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders or each state.”), the right to leave any country and the right to return to his or her own country (Article 13 (2), Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948: “Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country”). See also Article 12, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Freedom of movement arrangements between States at the regional level (for instance, European Union, ECOWAS).
Immigrant stocks	Among usual residents of the country, all native-born persons, whether citizens or foreigners, who emigrated and returned thereafter; plus all foreign-born persons, including citizens born abroad who immigrated, together constitute the totality of immigrant stock.
Immigrating citizens	Include citizens who are returning after having been abroad for at least 12 months as well as foreign-born citizens entering for the first time.
Immigrating foreigners	Non-resident foreigners entering the country. Are usually subject to the most administrative control in the country receiving these immigrants.
Immigration	The action by which a person establishes his or her usual residence in the territory of a country for a period that is, or expected to be, at least 12 months, having previously been usually resident in another country.

28 There is no internationally agreed definition on diaspora. The African Union and IMF definitions are often useful for delineating two fairly distinct approaches for considering and measuring diaspora.

Internally displaced persons (IDPs)	Persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border.
International migrant	Any person who changes his or her country of usual residence.
Irregular migration	Movement that takes place outside the regulatory norms of the sending, transit and receiving countries. There is not clear or universally accepted definition of irregular migration. From the perspective of destination countries it is entry, stay or work in a country without the necessary authorization or documents required under immigration regulations. From the perspective of the sending country, the irregularity is for example seen in cases in which a person crosses an international boundary without a valid passport or travel document or does not fulfil the administrative requirements for leaving the country. There is, however, a tendency to restrict the use of the term “illegal migration” to cases of smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons.
Labour migration	Movement of persons from one State to another, or within their own country of residence, for the purpose of employment. Labour migration is addressed by most States in their migration laws. In addition, some States take an active role in regulating outward labour migration and seeking opportunities for their nationals abroad.
Migrant	Any person who is moving or has moved across an international border or within a State away from his/her habitual place of residence, regardless of (1) the person's legal status; (2) whether the movement is voluntary or involuntary; (3) what the causes for the movement are; or (4) what the length of the stay is.
Migration	The movement of a person or a group of persons, either across an international border, or within a State. It is a population movement, encompassing any kind of movement of people, whatever its length, composition and causes; it includes migration of refugees, displaced persons, economic migrants, and persons moving for other purposes, including family reunification.
Migration flows	International migrant flow refers to the number of migrants entering or leaving a given country during a given period of time, usually one calendar year.
Migration management	A term used to encompass numerous governmental functions within a national system for the orderly and humane management for cross-border migration, particularly managing the entry and presence of foreigners within the borders of the State and the protection of refugees and others in need of protection. It refers to a planned approach to the development of policy, legislative and administrative responses to key migration issues.
Native-born	Citizens and foreigners born in the country of usual residence.
Naturalization	Granting by a State of its nationality to a non-national through a formal act on the application of the individual concerned. International law does not provide detailed rules for naturalization, but It recognizes the competence of every State to naturalize those who are not its nationals and who apply to become its nationals.

Orderly migration	The movement of a person from his or her usual place of residence to a new place of residence, in keeping with the laws and regulations governing exit of the country of origin and travel, transit and entry into the destination or host country.
Receiving country	Country of destination or a third country. In the case of return or repatriation, also the country of origin. Country that has accepted to receive a certain number of refugees and migrants on a yearly basis by presidential, ministerial or parliamentary decision.
Refugee	A person who, “owing to a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinions, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country”. (Article 1 (A)(2), Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, 1951 as modified by the 1967 Protocol).
Remittances	Monies earned or acquired by non-nationals that are transferred back to their country of origin.
Resettlement	The relocation and integration of people (refugees, internally displaced persons, and so on) into another geographical area and environment, usually in a third country. In the refugee context, the transfer of refugees from the country in which they have sought refuge to another State that has agreed to admit them. The refugees will usually be granted asylum or some other form of long-term resident rights and, in many cases, will have the opportunity to become naturalized.
Stateless person	A person who is not considered as a national by any State under the operation of its law. As such, a stateless person lacks those rights attributable to national diplomatic protection of a State, no inherent right of sojourn in the State of residence and no right of return in case he or she travels.
Stock	The total number of international migrants present in a given country at a particular point in time.
Stock of citizens living abroad	Citizens who are not usual residents of the country they have citizenship with.
Stock of foreign-born persons	Refers to the stock of population born abroad. They were not part of the country at the beginning of their lives.
Stock of foreigners	The stock of population who do not have the citizenship of the country of enumeration. Stock of foreigners is also widely used in countries to represent the stock of immigrants. Whereas by definition virtually all foreign-born persons qualify as immigrants, many foreigners are not.
Stock of returned migrants	Citizens of the country of enumeration who emigrated and subsequently came back to live in the country.
Usual residence	The place at which a person normally spends the daily period of rest, regardless of temporary absences for purposes of recreation, holiday, visits to friends and relatives, businesses, medical treatment or religious pilgrimage or, in default, the place of legal or registered residence.



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