



# MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT POLICIES AND STRATEGIES IN THE ECOWAS REGION: THE ROLE OF DATA

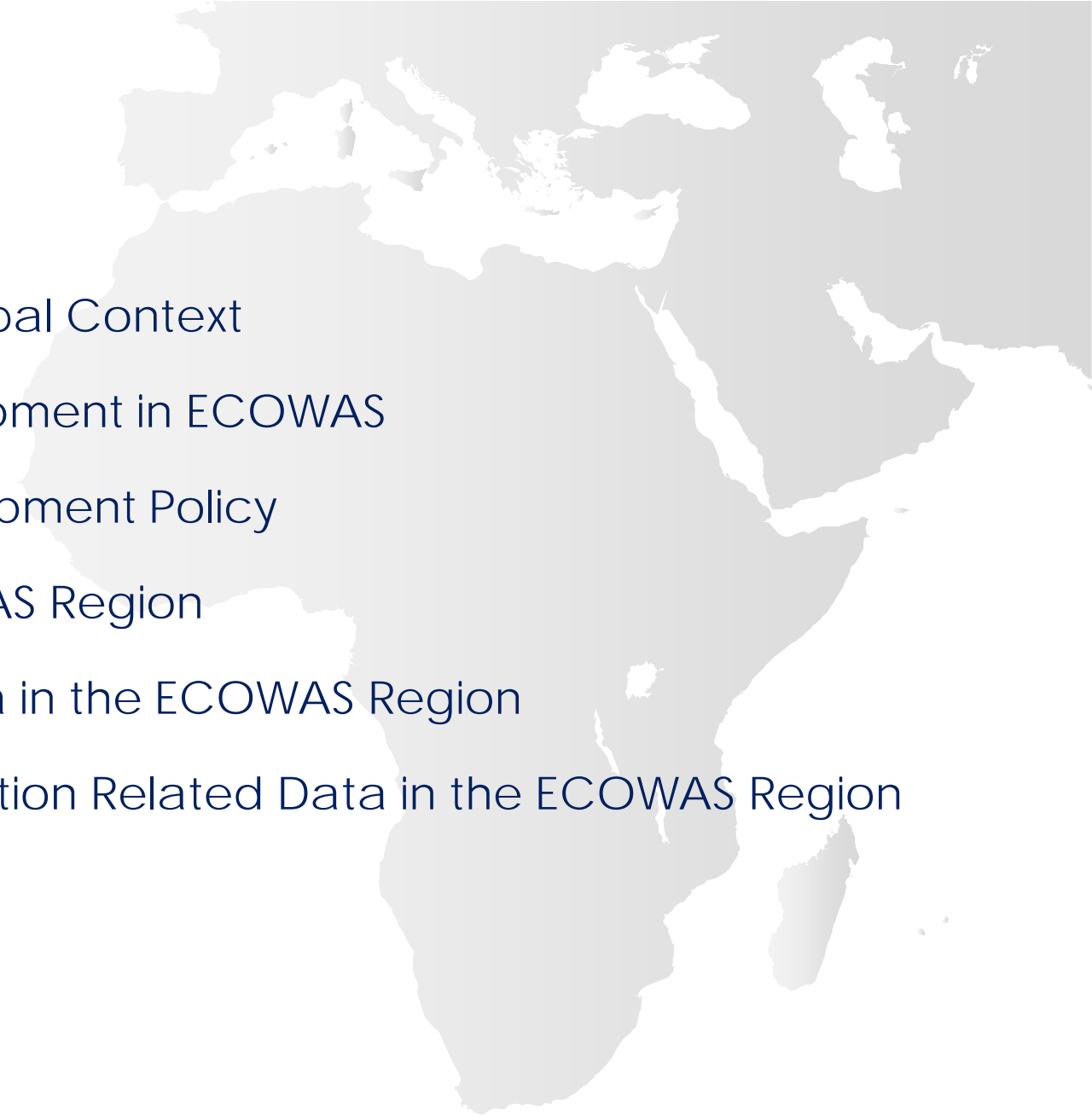
Regional workshop on strengthening the collection and use  
of international migration data for development  
Dakar, 8-11 September 2015

Presented by: Geertrui Lanneau, IOM



# Outline

- Migration and Development in a Global Context
- Framework for Migration and Development in ECOWAS
- Role of Data in Migration and Development Policy
- Migration Related Data in the ECOWAS Region
- Challenges of Migration Related Data in the ECOWAS Region
- Recommendations to Improve Migration Related Data in the ECOWAS Region



# Migration and Development in a Global Context



## Mega-Trends in Contemporary Migration

- 232 million international migrants worldwide (UNDESA)
- 405 million international migrants by 2050 (World Bank)
- Feminization : almost ½ of migrants are women; more female migrants as heads of households
- Mixed Flows, including economic migrants, smuggled persons, victims of trafficking, refugees, migrants moving for environmental reasons, etc.
- 84 per cent of international migration in West Africa is to another state in the region

# Development Potential of Migration



*It has been proven that well managed migration and mobility have positive impacts on migrants' well-being and the development of both countries of origin and destination*

## Country of Destination

- Fills labour shortages /gaps (unskilled & skilled)
- Catalyst for entrepreneurial innovation
- Sustainable economic growth
- Increase in cultural diversity
- Cultural links that improve international trade

## Country of Origin

- A livelihood strategy for people in hardship
- Unemployment strategy
- Remittances
- Skills and technology transfer

# ECOWAS

- Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
- 15 Member States



# Migration in ECOWAS



- ECOWAS is a region characterized by a high mobility of its population
- Predominance of intra-regional migration: migration flows within the region are far more important than migration flows to other regions
- The main flows go from the poorer hinterland (Niger, Mali) towards the coastal countries (Sénégal, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, etc.)
- Intra-regional migration in ECOWAS is characterized by low skilled migrants working in the informal sector

# Framework for Migration and Development in ECOWAS

## ECOWAS Free Movement Protocols

*Free intra-regional movement of persons is at the heart of the ECOWAS regional integration and development process*



# Framework for Migration and Development in ECOWAS (cont.)

## ECOWAS Common Approach on Migration

*6 Principles to maximize the developmental potential of migration and mobility in the region*

### ECOWAS Common Approach on Migration

Free movement of persons within the ECOWAS zone is fundamental to integration

Legal migration to other regions of the world contributes to development

Combating human trafficking is a moral and humanitarian imperative

Harmonizing migration related policies

Protection of the rights of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees

Recognizing the gender dimension of migration



# Role of Data in Migration and Development Policy



## Role of Data

Developing evidence-based migration and development policies

Allows institutions managing migration to plan, and budget accurately

Allows institutions managing migration to evaluate the impact of migration policies accurately

Open and accessible data ensures accountability and transparency in the development process

# Migration Related Data in the ECOWAS Region

Common traits in the region:

- ✓ Similar data sources and content of data
- ✓ Similar challenges

## Sources

### Population Censuses

main source of information on migration amongst states in the region

### Household Sample Surveys

general / multi-topic surveys, specialized surveys

### Administrative data

collected at border posts, embassy registration, residence/ work permits

### Diaspora Mapping Exercises

# Challenges with Migration Data Sources in the Region



## General population censuses

- Differences in the level of data collection and analysis
- Conducted decennially (many countries have not carried them out consistently)
- Not efficient in tracking changes in migratory patterns in the period between two consecutive censuses
- Quite expensive

## Household sample surveys

- Few specific household surveys on migration in the region
- Migration modules have been added to some surveys but this has not been done in a consistent manner
- Differences in the level of data collection and analysis

## Administrative Data

- High incidence of irregular migratory movements make data collected unreliable and incomparable
- Difficulty of consular and diplomatic posts to reach the whole population of nationals abroad

# Other Challenges with Migration Data in the Region



- Limited activities in the area of migration data collection and management at the regional level (data collection and management still solely at national level)
- Limited institutional framework for cooperation among national institutions collecting migration related data
- Differences in administrative/ statistical capacities
- Equipment and human resources
- Utilisation of migration-related data

# Recommendations to Improve Migration Data in the Region



- The capacity of the ECOWAS Commission to be the focal point for harmonization of migration data collection and management should be enhanced
- Developing the human and technological capacity for migration data management
- Enhancing the financial capacity of competent institutions
- Improving the structures for migration data collection, reporting, and quality assurance
- Creating means for tracking irregular migration
- Establishing institutional coordination amongst agencies



**THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR ATTENTION!**

**GLANNEAU@IOM.INT**