



International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The UN Migration Agency

IOM LAUNCHES NEW PROJECT ON MIGRATION & DEVELOPMENT

In many countries, the topic of migration stirs up lively debates. Oftentimes, among considerations ranging from irregular migration to security, or even identity. The positive impacts of migration on countries' development, such as remittances and diaspora contributions, remained overlooked. Perhaps, this is because migration had not, until recently, officially been introduced into the global development landscape. This oversight was corrected with the adoption by world leaders of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), where the importance of migration for development is, finally, fully acknowledged.

In Ghana, to encourage a more comprehensive look into the linkages between migration and development, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has launched a new project entitled, *"Integrating Migration into National Development Plan: Towards policy coherence and achievement of the SDGs at national and global levels"*.

This project is particularly important at this moment in time because it is expected to drive current national efforts in integrating migration issues into national development plans,

as clearly defined in the SDGs. It is being implemented in Ghana and Ethiopia and funded through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Sub-Fund for Peace and Development, of which the People's Republic of China is a major contributor.

the Head of the Migration Unit at the Ministry for Interior, Mr Dominic Afriyie Agyemeng, and the Chief of Political Section of the Chinese Embassy in Accra, Ms. Lou Danzhu.



Participants at the workshop

Launching the project, the IOM Ghana Chief of Mission, Ms. Sylvia Lopez-Ekra, noted that migration is useful and necessary for growth if it is well governed. She said "the project seeks to support government and partners to advance policy formulation and push for effective coordination around migration and development". Present at the launch of the project were the UN Resident Coordinator, Ms Christine Evans-Klock

Key activities of the project include the creation of a national Technical Working Group (TWG) to track progress on migration-related SDGs. The TWG comprises representatives from various sector ministries, national institutions and CSOs. The TWG participated in a 2-day workshop to build an understanding on how the migration-related SDGs can be mainstreamed into national

development policies.

A carefully developed workshop agenda presented the interlinkages between migration and other sectors such as health, education, employment, labour rights, agriculture, etc. It also provided the participants with an understanding of how they can work together with other sectors within the framework of sustainable development. Another key aspect of the training workshop was the session on awareness raising activities on migration in the SDGs during which participants were taken through the importance of raising public awareness and ensuring understanding of migration and development within and across sectors.

From all indications, it is clear that IOM is committed to ensuring that migration is taken seriously as a source of development and that the attainment of the SDGs would be far from realization if migration were to be sidelined. But how do the participants feel about the entire workshop and the work of the TWG?

"Hitherto, some of us have not read much about the issue of migration and development. I have learnt a lot from the workshop and as such my operations would be carried out with this topic in mind. For instance, I have learnt by data is very necessary in development planning. Understanding data in the areas of migration and child trafficking for instance can inform our approach towards

finding solution to crime in the country. I also find it necessary to share knowledge and information on migration and the SDGs with my colleagues" DSP Al-meyao Abass – Commanding Officer, National Rapid Deployment Force, Police Headquarters, Operations



"NDPC has always included migration in its national development framework and therefore policy framework. What this workshop made clear is the need for the inclusion of data disaggregated by migration within its results matrix. For me, the TWG is necessary because it keeps us focused on migration. What we need to do however is to set key priorities and work towards achieving them"

Lila-Karen Amponsah – Planning Analysts, National Development Planning Commission

"These kinds of workshops are very useful because they bring out good ideas and constructive approaches at working. Mainstreaming migration into national development plans are also very brilliant ways of tackling our development challenges. However, we will require logistics support from the various sectors to be able

to put in practice whatever we discuss. It is obvious that no one single sector can handle the issues of migration alone. We must join efforts and resources to be able to attain the desired results".



Ms. Victoria Natsu, Acting Executive Secretary, Human Trafficking Secretariat, Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection



"I have learnt from the workshop how migration dynamics will help me to better position education resources. Migration is not bad. It can either develop or derail our objective settings. As an expert in the field of education, I can now better understand how and why we need to understand migration and development".

Mr. Ernest Wesley-Otoo – Development Partners Coordinator, Ministry of Education