



FMM West Africa

Support to Free Movement of Persons & Migration in West Africa

ECOWAS REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON MIGRATION DATA MANAGEMENT

Concept Note

1. Introduction: the FMM West Africa Project and Migration Data Management

The FMM West Africa Project, funded jointly by the EU and ECOWAS, supports the ECOWAS Commission, ECOWAS Member States and Mauritania in maximizing the development potential of free movement of persons and migration in West Africa. In the area of data collection and management, the Project seeks to support the development of standardized procedures to collect and process migration-relevant data as well as the analysis and dissemination of such data.

At the regional level the project aims to support the development of regional guidelines and standardized procedures in the management of migration data; to support the development of a regional migration profile; and to build capacity of targeted ECOWAS Directorates on migration data management.

At the national level, the project will reinforce the collection and analysis of migration data, through the strengthening of data management tools and approaches. It will also support the update or development of national migration profiles in countries in the region. Further, the capacity of national institutions of ECOWAS Member states involved in migration data management will be enhanced through national workshops on migration data management.

2. The Context for the ECOWAS Regional Workshop on Migration Data Management

A comprehensive assessment was conducted by FMM West Africa in 2014 on migration data collection and management in ECOWAS and Mauritania, which lays the groundwork for the project's activities in this area. The priority areas of intervention identified during the assessment, include enhancing the capacity of key staff of the ECOWAS Commission and national institutions involved in migration management; raising awareness on the importance of migration data collection and management on policy development and on the implementation of the framework on mobility within the region; and developing standardized processes for migration data management in the region, including common



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migration concepts and common migration-related statistical definitions in order to facilitate comparison data across countries.

To this end, this workshop, organized in collaboration with the ILO, brings together focal persons in the management of migration data at the regional and national levels, international development partners involved in migration data management, and migration experts to discuss, amongst other things, best practices in migration data management; current regional and global initiatives in migration data collection and analysis and regional guidelines and standardized procedures in migration data management.

Further, in line with the priority areas of intervention identified under the assessment, the FMM West Africa project has been collaborating with the United Nations Department of Social Affairs (UN DESA) and the Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC) respectively on the development of a template for the tabulation of migration related census data and a regional migration data management guideline. The template for the tabulation of migration-related census data has been shared with national statistical institutions to complete and this workshop will serve as an opportunity to assess the effectiveness of this exercise. Further, the workshop will review and endorse the draft regional guidelines on migration data management.

This activity is in line with the objectives of the Joint Labour Migration Programme (JLMP), an AU/ILO/IOM/ECA initiative, adopted by the African Heads of State and Government during the 24th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly (January 2015) on establishing coherent, accurate, and up-to-date data and statistics on migration in Africa.

3. Objectives of the Workshop

- To increase awareness on the importance of international migration data policies and share good practices;
- To strengthen the capacity of key staff of the ECOWAS Commission and national institutions managing migration on the comprehension of migration data collection and analysis;
- To enhance understanding of the uses and limitations of migration data for policy purposes;
- To assess the outcomes of the regional exercise to tabulate migration related data collected from national censuses; and
- To review and endorse the draft regional guidelines on migration data management.

4. Expected Outcomes of the Workshop

- Increased knowledge of key staff of ECOWAS and national institutions on existing standards and norms for collecting migration data;
- Enhanced understanding of the uses of migration data for policy purposes;
- Endorsed regional guidelines on migration data management; and
- Tabulated migration related data collected from countries in the region during the last round of population censuses.

5. Target Audience

ECOWAS Commission: Directorate of Research and Statistics, Directorate of Free Movement, Directorate of Humanitarian and Social Affairs, Directorate of Gender, Youth, Sports, CSO, Employment and Drug Control; ILO, IOM, AU, UN DESA, UN ECA, ICMPD and key Staff of national statistics institutions of ECOWAS Member States and Mauritania.