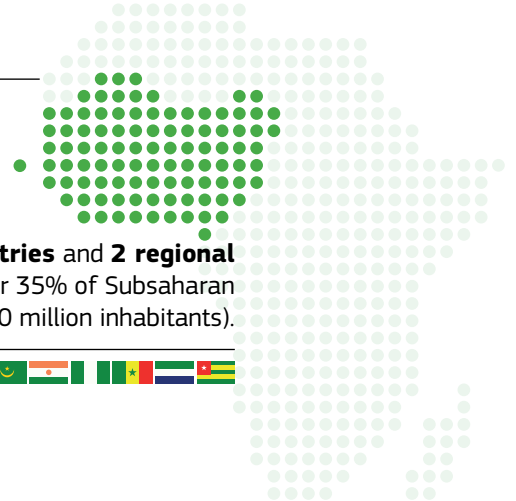




European Commission

Mobility and Migration in West Africa



West Africa represents **16 countries** and **2 regional organisations**, and accounts for 35% of Subsaharan Africa's population (more than 330 million inhabitants).



Facts and Data

West Africa is one of the most mobile regions in the world. There are greater flows within the region than towards the Maghreb or Europe: **90% intra-regional compared with 10% extra-regional.**

Contemporary migratory flows in West Africa are rooted in socio-economic, political and historical-cultural factors which have had serious impacts on intra-regional migration of cross-border workers, professionals, female traders, clandestine workers and refugees.

The emigration configuration is also highly diversified, with some countries serving as source, origin and transit routes for migrants.

Main West African migration routes



Source : IOM (2015)

— Land migration routes	— Central Mediterranean route
- - Maritime migration routes	— West Africa route
	— Mediterranean route

EU development policy

Since 2011, the EU has allocated a total of 85 M EUR in West Africa to support migration policy development, border management, labour migration and counter trafficking, migrants and refugees' protection as well activities to enhance the positive impact of migration on development (e.g. secure and enhance remittances).

The EU has specifically encouraged policies to facilitate regional labour mobility and efforts to exploit the interrelationship between migration, mobility and employment in line with:

- **ECOWAS' Protocol on Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Establishment** (1979), and supplementary protocols, guaranteeing for example Community citizens visa free entry into Member States for ninety days.
- **ECOWAS Common Approach on Migration** (2006)

EU's strategic framework for dialogue and cooperation on migration

More than €1billion has been spent on more than 400 projects on migration between 2004 and 2014, and more than half of those projects are in support of our African partner countries.

Strategic framework to promote dialogue and cooperation on migration with African countries:

- The **Global Approach to Migration and Mobility** (GAMM) first adopted in 2005.
- The **EU-Africa Migration and Mobility Dialogue** renewed at the 4th EU-Africa Summit (April 2014).
- The **Rabat Process** (July 2006) brings governments of 55 European and African countries (North, West and Central Africa), together with the European Commission and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

FMM – Free movement of persons and migration – West Africa

Context

The EU funded project Support to Free Movement of Persons and Migration in West Africa (FMM West Africa) aims to maximize the development potential of free movement of persons and migration in West Africa, by supporting the effective implementation of the ECOWAS Free Movement of Persons' Protocols and the ECOWAS Common Approach on Migration.

Total budget: €26 000 000 (2013-2018)

Expected results

LOCAL LEVEL

- Inform ECOWAS citizens of their mobility rights and obligations
- Fund actions of civil society and local authorities to promote and implement regional & national policies locally

NATIONAL LEVEL

Assist ECOWAS Member States and Mauritania in:

- Developing national migration profiles
- Elaborating and adopting national migration policies
- Deliver tailored technical assistance for national institutions through a Demand- Driven Facility

FMM West Africa is driven by the ECOWAS Commission and implemented by the International Organization for Migration, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development and the International Labour Organization.

REGIONAL LEVEL

Support the ECOWAS Commission in its role as a regional platform for migration policy development and harmonization.

Strengthen the Migration Dialogue for West Africa (MIDWA) to become a structured, fact based and result-oriented regional dialogue.

Build ECOWAS capacities in:

- Migration data management
- Border management
- Labour migration
- Counter-trafficking



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