

opportunities

for a fair narrative on migration

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

In Search of a Balanced View on Migration

Conference of Accra 2024

On February 20, 2024, the Centre for Migration Studies (CMS) at the University of Ghana (UG) hosted a Dialogue event titled "In Search of a Balanced View on Migration" as part of the "Opportunities for a Fair Narrative on Migration" project. This initiative seeks to address the imbalances and biases prevalent in discussions surrounding migration. In this policy brief you find an overview of the conference and the recommendations from the dialogue.

The Conference

On February 20, 2024, the Centre for Migration Studies (CMS) at the University of Ghana (UG) hosted a Dialogue event titled "In Search of a Balanced View on Migration" as part of the "Opportunities for a Fair Narrative on Migration" project. This initiative seeks to address the imbalances and biases prevalent in discussions surrounding migration. The research program OPPORTUNITIES is anchored on the metaphor of the "Level Telling Field," signifying the necessity for equitable representation and consideration of diverse perspectives on migration. This metaphor underscores the importance of ensuring that every voice, regardless of its origin or stance, is given due attention and respect. In essence, the dialogue endeavors to uphold principles of multi-perspectivity, ethical listening, and equitable access to resources, thereby challenging existing policies to facilitate a more inclusive discourse. The Accra Dialogue aims to establish a platform where the African viewpoint on migration is given prominence, emphasizing the unique needs and challenges faced by African nations. Moreover, it seeks to integrate the research findings and insights of African experts on migration, thereby striving to rectify the prevalent Eurocentric biases in migration discourse. At its core, the objective of the dialogue is to foster a balanced narrative that acknowledges and addresses the perspectives of both prospective migrants and individuals who have already migrated. By doing so, it endeavors to create a more holistic understanding of migration dynamics and advocate for policies that cater to the diverse needs and aspirations of migrant populations. The Accra Dialogue serves as a pivotal step

towards achieving a more equitable and inclusive dialogue on migration, one that is informed by the voices and experiences of all stakeholders involved.

EVENT DETAILS

The one-day event commenced promptly at 9:30 am at the Institute of Statistical Social and Economic Research at the University of Ghana. Participants were warmly welcomed and guided through the registration process, accompanied by a captivating traditional dance performance by the NOYAM Cultural group. The event brought together a diverse array of participants, including policymakers, representatives from academic institutions, and members of the private sector, all eager to engage in the dialogue. Dr. Sylvia Gyan and Mr. Nii Tettey expertly moderated the proceedings, with Prof. Daniel Ofori serving as the esteemed Chairperson for the event.



A remarkable turnout of over one hundred and forty (140) attendees graced the occasion, representing key stakeholders such as international and local organizations and institutions which includes the Ministry of

OPPORTUNITIES | info@opportunitiesproject.eu | www.opportunitiesproject.eu

The OPPORTUNITIES-project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and Innovation program under grant agreement n° 101004945



Education, University of Ghana, Ghana Immigration Service, Ghana Police Service, Social Welfare and Community Development, researchers, Migrant representative associations, CSOs, various Radio and Television stations, the National Commission for Civic Education, Ghana Refugee Board, and the International Organization for Migration, GIZ, among others. The dialogue aimed to facilitate an exchange of perspectives between African, European, and international stakeholders on migration issues. Throughout the dialogue, Ghanaian experts and representatives of international institutions contributed insightful interventions, enriching a broad-ranging dialogue facilitated through a World Café format led by national and international institutions. The dialogue's deliberations culminated in the formulation of pertinent policy recommendations aimed at addressing the multifaceted challenges and opportunities associated with migration dynamics.

NEWS ON TELEVISION:

<https://x.com/JoyNewsOnTV/status/1762087775627530299?t=s61Ywyjcl10t0kCmNnnalw&s=08>

<https://gna.org.gh/2024/02/conference-to-address-imbalances-in-global-migration-narratives-held-in-accra/#:~:text=Accra%2C%20Feb.%2026%2C%20GNA,in%20the%20global%20migration%20narrative>

<https://www.facebook.com/100063529345697/posts/939554914838811/?mibextid=rS40aB7S9Ucbxw6v>

<https://www.facebook.com/cmslegon>

PROCEEDINGS OF THE DIALOGUE

Opening Prayer by Pastor William Aubyn Francis

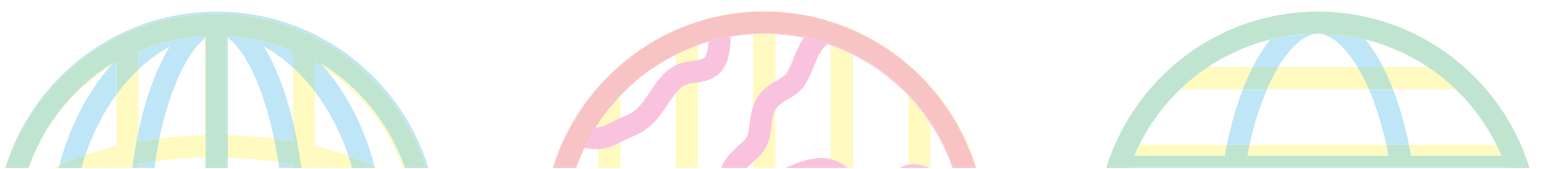
The Dialogue event was rolled out with an opening prayer by Pastor William Aubyn Francis, which set a tone for a successful outcome of the dialogue. Pastor Francis's prayer inspired reflection and guided participants toward constructive dialogue. Throughout the event, his words resonated, encouraging open-

mindedness and empathy. With Pastor Francis's invocation, participants embarked on a journey of shared inquiry and collaboration, united in their commitment to promoting justice and human dignity.

Welcome address by Prof. Mary Boatemaa Setrana (Director, Centre for Migration Studies)



The welcome address delivered by Prof. Mary Boatemaa Setrana, Director of the Centre for Migration Studies, commenced with a warm greeting to all attendees, setting a tone of inclusivity and anticipation for the day's proceedings. Prof. Setrana extended her greetings and gratitude to the distinguished guests and participants, acknowledging the tradition of welcoming them to both Ghana and the Centre for Migration Studies. Prof. Setrana provided an overview of the program's theme, "Rebalancing the Views and Policies on Migration," highlighting its significance in contemporary discourse. She underscored the pivotal role of the University of Ghana's Centre for Migration Studies as a member of the consortium of the Opportunities Projects, generously funded by the European Commission. The Director elucidated the primary aim of the project, which is to facilitate constructive dialogue among migrants, citizens, and stakeholders from Africa and the EU on migration-related issues. She introduced the Ghanaian team spearheading the project, led by Professor Joseph Teye, alongside Dr. Leander Kandilige and herself. She also acknowledged the invaluable contributions of global partners in enriching the discourse. Prof. Setrana outlined the thematic focus of the discussions, centered around colonization and decolonization, a critical milestone in human



migration. She urged participants to engage critically with questions concerning legal pathways, open borders policies, transnational skills partnerships, and the shift towards more egalitarian and rights-based border control systems. The Director emphasized the relevance of regional dynamics, particularly within ECOWAS, raising pertinent questions about the implications of free movement, especially in light of recent exits involving Burkina Faso, Niger, and Mali. In conclusion, Prof. Setrana expressed her sincere hope that the dialogue would yield expert insights and practical lessons to optimize the benefits of migration while mitigating its negative impacts. She thanked the audience for their participation and encouraged active engagement throughout the proceedings.



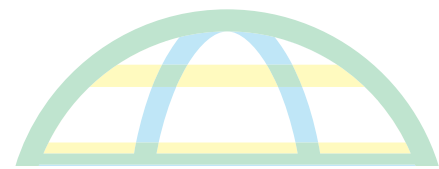
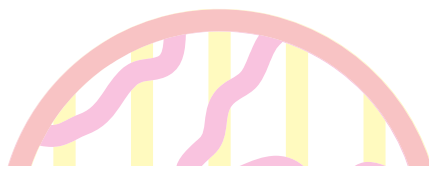
Chairperson Remark: Prof. Daniel Frimpong Ofori (*Provost of the College of Humanities of the University of Ghana*)

Prof. Daniel Frimpong Ofori, the Provost of the College of Humanities at the University of Ghana, assumed the role of the chairperson for the workshop with a warm greeting to all participants and a courteous acknowledgment of the present protocols. Expressing gratitude for the honor bestowed upon him to preside over the workshop, he extended a hearty welcome to all participants, setting a convivial tone for the dialogue. In his opening statements, Prof. Ofori highlighted the contemporary relevance of addressing migration issues, emphasizing the significant movement of Africans across the continent in pursuit of better opportunities. He underscored the importance of the dialogue as a platform for researchers and stakeholders to address the imbalances prevalent in global migration narratives. Acknowledging the

commendable initiative by the Centre for Migration Studies to promote fair discussions on migration in Africa, Prof. Ofori articulated the dual purpose of the dialogue: not only to unveil expert perspectives on migration but also to garner insights from diverse stakeholders in Africa. He recognized the recent ECOWAS free protocol movement, facilitating easier and faster mobility across the region, and emphasized its impact on the historical narrative of African mobility. Expressing optimism, Prof. Ofori hoped that the discussions would furnish policymakers with alternatives to ensure regular, safe, and orderly migration. As a poignant note, he drew attention to the concerns of Ghanaian onion importers, grappling with the logistical challenges posed by the segregation of Burkina Faso from ECOWAS. Prof. Ofori concluded his remarks by extending his best wishes for a successful dialogue and thanked all participants for their engagement.

Remark by Isaac Owusu Mensah (*Deputy Comptroller General, Ghana Immigration Service*)

In his address, Isaac Owusu Mensah, Deputy Comptroller General of the Ghana Immigration Service, emphasized the multifaceted nature of migration and the necessity for a nuanced and inclusive approach to address its complexities. He began by highlighting the various social, economic, and cultural adjustments experienced by both host communities and migrants, stressing the importance of acknowledging genuine concerns and crises arising from these changes. Mensah underscored the need for an evidence-based understanding of migration's impact, urging a departure from sensationalism toward reliance on factual information, research, and the voices of those directly affected. He emphasized the crucial role of education in promoting a balanced narrative on migration, advocating for increased awareness of migrants' contributions to societies in both economic and cultural dimensions. Furthermore, Mensah emphasized the imperative of prioritizing the protection of migrants, advocating for fair and humane migration policies, combating xenophobia and discrimination, and ensuring migrants' access to essential services. He highlighted the importance of collaboration and dialogue



among governments, civil society organizations, academia, and communities in developing sustainable solutions to migration issues. In his closing remarks, Mensah stressed the multidimensional nature of migration and cautioned against reducing it to simplistic narratives. He called for a holistic and compassionate approach that considers the aspirations of migrants, the concerns of host communities, and the mutual benefits of meaningful integration and cooperation.

Remark by Mr Michael Debruyne (*General Coordinator, Opportunities Project*)

In his address, Mr. Michael Debruyne, General Coordinator of the Opportunities Project, extended warm greetings to all participants and commended the Centre for Migration Studies for hosting such a significant event. He expressed appreciation to those who had spoken before him, acknowledging their valuable contributions to the discourse. Debruyne emphasized the significance of the stakeholders' presence, highlighting the importance of discussing migration issues comprehensively. He outlined the essence of the Opportunities for Fair Narratives of Migration and elucidated the purpose behind organizing such a dialogue, underscoring the need for diverse perspectives and collaborative efforts to address migration challenges effectively. In conclusion, Mr. Debruyne expressed gratitude to all the participants for their attendance and contributions, extending his best wishes for a fruitful dialogue. His remarks encapsulated the spirit of cooperation and shared commitment to promoting fair and inclusive narratives of migration, setting a positive tone for the discussions ahead.

Performance by the school of performing arts, University of Ghana

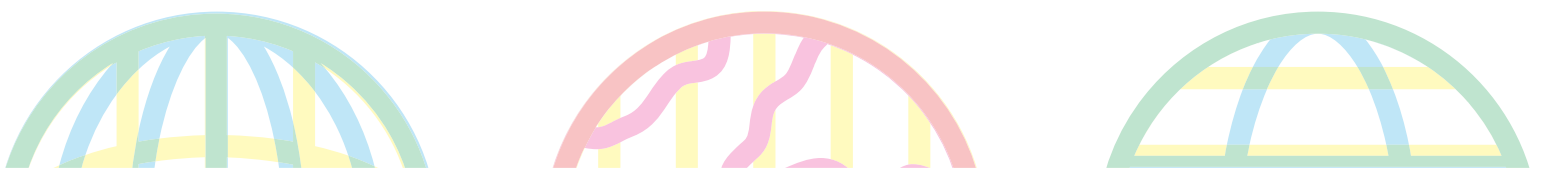
A powerful drama unfolded on stage, shedding light on the findings and stories from studies conducted revealing the harsh realities faced by individuals seeking to migrate abroad. The production vividly portrays the desperate measures people take, the sacrifices they make, and the risks they face in pursuit of a better life overseas. The narrative began with scenes depicting individuals who, driven by aspirations for a brighter future, fall prey to the deceptive promises of con men posing as migration

agents. These vulnerable individuals, often from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, were portrayed as borrowing substantial sums of money, selling their properties, and even seeking spiritual guidance from pastors to facilitate their migration. Amidst the backdrop of emotional turmoil and financial strain, the characters navigated through the complexities of the migration process, fueled by hope and determination. However, their dreams soon turned into nightmares as they discovered the harsh reality of being scammed by their supposed middlemen. The drama highlighted the devastating consequences of such scams, not only in terms of financial loss but also the shattered hopes and broken trust experienced by the victims.



It underscored the systemic exploitation and vulnerability faced by many aspiring migrants, particularly those from marginalized communities. Throughout the performance, the audience was confronted with the harsh truth that migration, often perceived as a pathway to prosperity, can become a trap ensnaring the most vulnerable members of society. The drama served as a poignant reminder of the urgent need for comprehensive measures to combat migration scams, protect the rights of migrants, and address the root causes driving individuals to seek migration. As the curtains fell, the audience was left with a profound sense of empathy and a heightened awareness of the struggles faced by migrants worldwide. The production served as a call to action, urging society to confront the harsh realities of migration and work towards creating a more just and equitable world for all.

Remark by Silvia Tizzi (*Representative of the European Union*)



In her remarks, Silvia Tizzi, Representative of the European Union, expressed appreciation for the Centre for Migration Studies, NOYAM, and the School of Performing Arts for their contributions to the discourse on migration. She acknowledged the longstanding presence of migration in human society, noting the evolving nature of migration within the context of the European Union (EU). Tizzi emphasized the EU's commitment to fostering a comprehensive perspective on migration for economic advancement. She underscored the EU's dedication to ensuring orderly and safe migration, as well as its focus on combating human trafficking and the abuse of migrants. Highlighting the EU's partnership with Ghana, Tizzi mentioned collaborative efforts with the Ministry of Interior, Employment and Labour Relations, and GIZ to enhance Ghana's capacity for migration for mutual benefit. She outlined various programs undertaken by the EU in Africa aimed at addressing human rights issues in migration and improving people's lives. In closing, Tizzi thanked all participants for their attention, signaling the importance of collective engagement in addressing the complexities of migration and fostering mutual understanding and cooperation.

Remarks by Mr. Collins Yeboah (*Return and Reintegration Officer, IOM*)

In his remarks, Mr. Collins Yeboah, Return and Reintegration Officer at the International Organization for Migration (IOM), began by acknowledging and respecting all present protocols. He commended the School of Performing Arts for their efforts in utilizing drama as a means to sensitize the community on pertinent issues surrounding migration. Mr. Yeboah underscored the importance of initiatives designed to absorb return migrants back into their countries of origin. He shed light on the significant challenges that return migrants often encounter during the process of reintegrating into their origin societies. Highlighting the collaborative efforts at various levels, Mr. Yeboah emphasized the importance of continental, regional, and national cooperation to enhance the reintegration of return migrants. He outlined several measures implemented by the IOM to support return migrants in their reintegration process. In summary, Mr. Collins Yeboah's remarks shed

light on the critical role of organizations like the IOM in facilitating the successful reintegration of return migrants. His insights underscored the importance of collaboration and support mechanisms at all levels to address the challenges faced by returnees.

BREAKOUT DISCUSSION



MIGRATION AND FAIR RECRUITMENT (GROUP 1)

Facilitator: Kamil Abubakari

Discussion: How can the benefits of migration be harnessed?

Key Takeaways

1. Diaspora Engagement.
2. Regulation of remittance flow.
3. Labor market information systems.

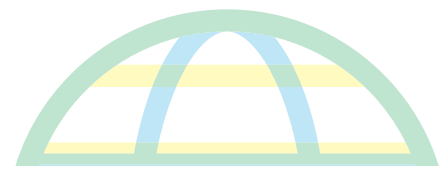
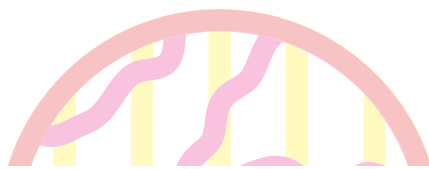
Summary of Recommendations from the Discussion

Diaspora Engagement

Diaspora communities represent important networks of influence, connections, and knowledge that can be leveraged for diplomatic, trade, and development purposes. States can engage with diaspora communities to facilitate knowledge transfer, promote trade and investment, and advance mutual interests on the international stage.

Regulation of Remittance Flow

Remittances sent by migrants to their home countries represent an important source of income for many households and contribute to poverty reduction, economic stability, and development. States can facilitate remittance



flows by implementing policies that promote financial inclusion, reduce transaction costs, and support diaspora engagement. Also, a system could be created by governments to channel remittances to support national projects.

Labour Market Information System

Migration can enhance labor market flexibility by providing a pool of workers with diverse skills and experiences that can adapt to changing economic conditions and labor demands. States can implement flexible immigration policies that allow for the recruitment of migrant workers based on evolving labor market needs. Also, States can attract skilled migrants through targeted immigration policies, such as skilled worker programs or visa schemes for entrepreneurs and investors, to fill critical gaps in the labor market and support economic development.

INTEGRATION OF MIGRANTS (GROUP 2)

Facilitator: Dr. Frank Ayisi

Discussion:

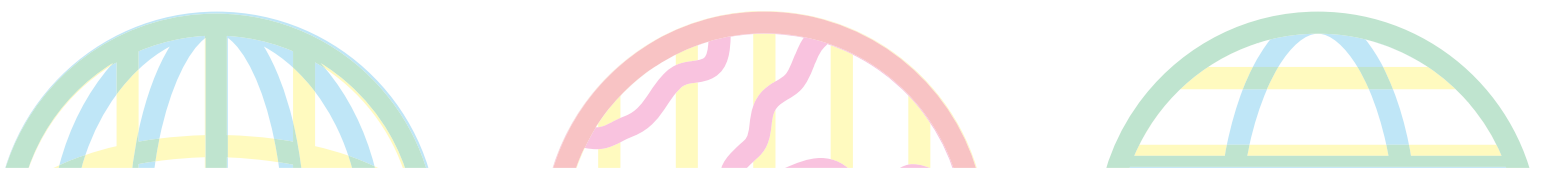
1. What is your understanding of Integration?
2. How can the effective integration of migrants be achieved?

Key Findings

There were diverse understandings of what integration is. Nonetheless, there are two ways to look at integration. That is; integration is the acceptance and respect of migrants' rights by the host society/country; integration is when the migrant adheres to the host country's laws. It is about migrants' ability to incorporate themselves into the host community. The effective integration of migrants can be achieved through a comprehensive and multi-dimensional approach that addresses various aspects of migrants' lives and their interaction with host communities. Effective integration of migrants requires a combination of supportive policies, social inclusion initiatives, economic opportunities, and community engagement efforts that address the diverse needs and challenges faced by migrants and promote their full participation and contribution to society.

Summary of Recommendations from the Discussion

1. **Understanding Diversity:** Recognize that integration encompasses diverse perspectives and interpretations. It's essential to acknowledge the multiplicity of backgrounds, cultures, and experiences among migrants and within host communities.
2. **Dual Perspective on Integration:** Understand integration both as the acceptance and respect of migrants' rights by the host society and as migrants adhering to the laws of the host country. This dual perspective emphasizes mutual respect, responsibility, and adherence to legal frameworks.
3. **Comprehensive Approach:** Embrace a comprehensive and multi-dimensional approach to integration. This approach should address various aspects of migrants' lives, including legal, social, economic, and cultural dimensions.
4. **Policy Support:** Implement supportive policies that facilitate the integration process. These policies should aim to remove barriers, promote inclusivity, and protect the rights of migrants within the host society.
5. **Social Inclusion Initiatives:** Foster social inclusion initiatives that promote interaction and understanding between migrants and host communities. These initiatives can include cultural exchange programs, language classes, and community-building activities.
6. **Economic Opportunities:** Provide migrants with access to economic opportunities that enable them to contribute to society and achieve self-sufficiency. This can involve job training programs, entrepreneurship support, and employment assistance services.
7. **Community Engagement:** Encourage community engagement efforts that involve both migrants and host communities in integration processes. This engagement fosters mutual understanding, cooperation, and collective responsibility for creating inclusive and welcoming environments.
8. **Addressing Diverse Needs:** Recognize and address the diverse needs and challenges



faced by migrants during the integration process. Tailor support services and interventions to accommodate different backgrounds, experiences, and circumstances.

MIGRANTS AND SOCIAL PROTECTION (GROUP 3)

Facilitator: Abena Annobe Asare

The principle of social protection may be to meet universal needs.

However, social protection is defined, organized, and provided in specific contexts. The right to social protection is defined by social norms, economic choices, and political contestation.



This generates contradictions between universal human rights and particularist rights to social protection.

- The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and their Families, 1990 (CMW) regulates the rights of migrant workers and members of their families including the rights to social security (Article 27) and access to services, such as health (Article 28) and education (Article 30). While this convention has been ratified by only 47 (mainly low- and middle-income) countries, this does not exclude migrant workers from the rights detailed in other human rights instruments.
- Today an estimated 245 million people live outside their country of origin.
- While responding to increased work demands for globalized labour markets,

international migration poses significant challenges for migrants and their families in terms of social security coverage.

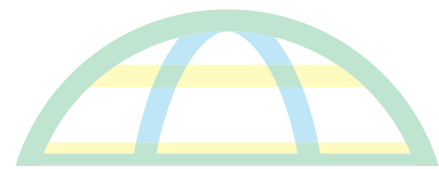
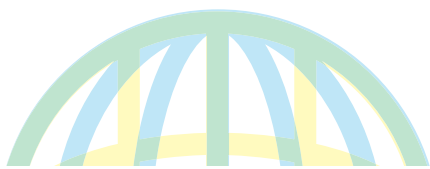
- Compared to nationals working their entire lives in one country, migrants face huge challenges in exercising their rights to social security.
- They may be denied or have limited access to social security coverage in their host country because of their status, nationality, or the insufficient duration of their periods of employment and residence.
- Their access may further be curtailed due to a lack of awareness of their rights and the State's obligations.
- At the same time, they can lose their entitlements to social security benefits in their country of origin due to temporary absence.
- Social Protection, Migration, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- This briefing considers the extent to which international labour migrants are covered by social protection and the implications this has for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda). More specifically, this brief shows that social protection coverage of international labour migrants varies considerably and outlines how this has a bearing on the achievement.

Social Protection, Migration, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

This briefing considers the extent to which migrants are covered by social protection and the implications this has on host and origin countries.

Social protection issues are already challenging for citizens hence a little challenging for those in the informal sector. Issues of pandemics like COVID-19 created a challenge.

- Compared to nationals working their entire lives in one country, migrants face huge challenges in exercising their rights to social security.
- They may be denied or have limited access to social security coverage in their host country because of their status, nationality,



or the insufficient duration of their periods of employment and residence.

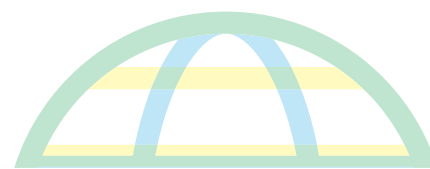
- Their access may further be curtailed due to a lack of awareness of their rights and the State's obligations.
- At the same time, they can lose their entitlements to social security benefits in their country of origin due to temporary absence.
- Understand the distinction between legal and illegal migrants. Remove the term illegal so migrants can access services as the support is not illegal. You make the services provided for them legal – like charity.
- Access to health: migrants should have access to health insurance, so it is subsidized
- Identity: the pricing of social services and categorization of service
- Those on the street begging and are migrants, the recruiters discriminate and use women and children to beg, and they are at a disadvantage.
- So, perceptions about who a migrant is and the type of support they give back home create an impression that they are rich. They struggle to take care of the immediate family in the host country but provide for the country-of-origin family members
- Legally: so legally no one is discriminated to access basic needs. The Ministry of Health has launched a NHIS for non-migrants.
- The Ghana card and the cost is 120 dollars and renewed after a year. The renewal time is small for migrants. It should be flexible to give migrants the opportunity to renew.
- The cost of the Ghana card is 120 dollars, and the work permit is 500 dollars. if a migrant does not have money, you have been denied access to various services already.
- ECOWAS members being addressed as international migrants attract international quotations for services. So, are they international migrants or local citizens?
- Regularize their documentation and not abuse systems. What do the free movement protocols stand for?

- Who bears the cost of social protection?
- Is not going to be easy for men and women in the same way.

Summary of Recommendations from the Discussion

FUTURE CHANGES/ CHANGING THE NARRATIVE/ BALANCING

- The human library – that is people sharing real-life stories and experiences to ensure we de-construct the narrative about migrants.
- Just support all humans according to the various human rights laws
- Country-to-country dialogues to change the rules and amend rules to accept or remove laws.
- Diplomacy and education
- Refugees and social protection issues based on their level of vulnerability. Their level of mobility. Do they have the potential to do what other citizens do?
- Inter-stakeholder collaboration and support.
- Strengthen associations for self-help and support.
- Intermarriages for documentation and access to services also create a protective environment for migrants.
- More education on social protection for migrants and citizens to understand what social protection is.
- On land issues, we should have policies to protect natives from migrants who have funds acquiring lands and the natives squander.
- How to leverage existing social networks to assist
- Cross-exchange program through education
- Media campaign and open discussions on migration for volunteerism and how to improve activism on the media for information dissemination.
- Workshops to let people know their basic rights on gender-based violence for migrants.



LEGAL/ REGULAR PATHWAYS **(GROUP 4)**

Facilitator: Seyram Aku Amakpah-Azasu
(Mrs.)

Discussion: What are some legal pathways that could be explored to facilitate safe, regular, and orderly migration?

Key Takeaways:

1. Labor mobility schemes.
2. Bilateral mobility schemes.
3. Flexible migration policy.
4. Cultural Exchange Programs.
5. Humanitarian Corridors.
6. Ethical and Fair Recruitment.

Summary of Recommendations from the Discussion

Labor Mobility Schemes

Labor mobility schemes facilitate legal migration by offering skilled workers opportunities in countries needing their expertise. These schemes prioritize professionals like engineers, healthcare workers, and IT specialists, often using points-based systems or specialized visa categories. Additionally, they may provide training to enhance migrants' employability. By matching workers with job opportunities, addressing labor shortages, and promoting economic growth, these schemes foster international cooperation and exchange.



Bilateral Labor Agreements

Sector-specific bilateral arrangements establish structured frameworks for the movement of workers between countries in specific industries

facing labor shortages. They begin by identifying sectors with imbalances in labor supply and demand. Through negotiation, these agreements define the legal framework for labor mobility, including employment duration, wages, and worker protections. By addressing shortages, meeting industry needs, and fostering economic cooperation, these arrangements facilitate legal migration pathways and promote orderly labor movement across borders.

Flexible Migration Policy

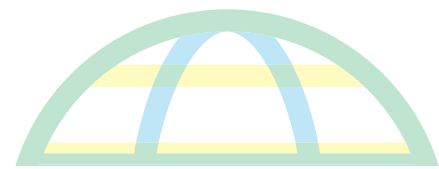
Flexible migration policies support legal pathways to migration by adapting to changing needs, simplifying application processes, providing various visa options, catering to both temporary and permanent migration, fostering regional cooperation, facilitating family reunification, and offering humanitarian protection. These policies promote orderly and humane movement across borders, ensuring migrants can access opportunities while maintaining legal compliance and safeguarding their rights and well-being.

Cultural Exchange Programs

Cultural exchange programs facilitate legal pathways to migration by fostering personal and professional connections between individuals from different countries. Participants gain cultural awareness and understanding, which helps them adapt to new environments and navigate social norms. Additionally, these programs offer opportunities for temporary work, internships, or study abroad, exposing participants to host country societies and labor markets. Through networking and skill-building activities, participants enhance their employability, making them attractive candidates for future migration opportunities, such as skilled worker visas or sponsorship by employers.

Humanitarian Corridors

Humanitarian corridors facilitate legal pathways to migration by connecting migrants with resettlement opportunities in destination countries, adhering to international law, including refugee and human rights law. They embody principles of compassion and solidarity, providing safe passage, coordinating assistance, and promoting humanitarian values. By offering a humane approach to migration,



humanitarian corridors contribute to protecting migrants' rights and well-being while upholding principles of dignity and solidarity.

Ethical and Fair Recruitment.

Ethical and fair recruitment practices ensure compliance with labor migration laws, anti-discrimination measures, and labor standards. They prioritize the protection of migrant workers' rights by promoting transparency, providing accurate information, and preventing exploitation, abuse, and trafficking. By preventing fraudulent practices and promoting transparency, fair recruitment reduces the risk of migrant exploitation and irregular migration.

SOCIAL INVESTMENT AND SUSTAINABLE RETURN (GROUP 5)

Facilitator: Collins Yeboah

Discussion: We are looking at the sustainable re-integration of migrants.

What are the social investments that can be undertaken to facilitate sustainable re-integration?

Key Takeaways:

Local Level

1. Capacity building.
2. Culture receptiveness.
3. Community association and networks.
4. Availability of social amenities and social services.
5. Bridging of infrastructure gap.

Institutional Level

1. Policy formulation and implementation.
2. Favorable laws.
3. Involvement of government and non-governmental organizations in migration issues.

Summary of Recommendations from the Discussion

Local Level

Ensuring access to education, literacy programs, and skills training promotes academic and vocational development, fostering social inclusion and enhancing long-term reintegration prospects. Providing access to healthcare services, including physical and

mental health support, is essential for the well-being and resilience of returning migrants, addressing their overall health needs. Investing in psychosocial support programs, counseling services, and trauma healing initiatives helps address emotional and psychological challenges during reintegration, supporting migrants' mental well-being. Establishing social support networks, peer groups, and community solidarity initiatives fosters a sense of belonging and mutual assistance, promoting social cohesion and resilience among returning migrants.

Institutional level

Governments can develop and implement policies that support the reintegration of return migrants, including providing legal frameworks for their rights and entitlements, access to services, and support programs. NGOs can advocate for migrant-friendly policies and provide input into policy development processes. Engaging with local communities is crucial for successful reintegration. Governments and NGOs can work together to raise awareness about the needs of return migrants, promote social inclusion, and foster community acceptance and support. Governments and NGOs can build the capacity of local organizations, community leaders, and service providers to effectively support return migrants. This may involve training programs, workshops, or resource-sharing initiatives.

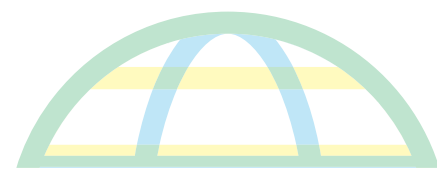
10



CLIMATE REFUGEES (GROUP 6)

Facilitator: Tetteh Padi

What do you think of the idea of an international climate fund for supporting climate refugees?



The Need for a “Climate Refugee Fund

Setting up a fund is critical in addressing a global phenomenon. There are socioeconomic and political dimensions resulting from climate change. e.g. Darfur. Climate change brings up differences between crop and animal farmers etc. Funding can target these remote and immediate causes.

Definition of “Climate Refugee”?

It is accepted that people indeed migrate due to climate change. However, the definition of who a refugee is does not include persons forced to migrate because of climate change. There is a need to redefine the term refugee to include climate-induced forced migrants. However, States may oppose this given that it may be perceived as overly broadening the definition of refugee and may in effect open the floodgates for economic migrants to take undue advantage of.



Summary of Recommendations from the Discussion

Targeting for a Climate Refugee Fund

Any Fund set up for addressing issues related to climate refugees must directly target the long-term and short-term causes of climate change that force people to migrate. Such a fund should

also directly target solutions to the refugee situation caused by climate change. For example, such a fund must be directed at improving the absorption capacity of communities that climate refugees migrate to.

Legislation must ensure that the fund is used to directly support persons who are displaced because of climate change and no other causes.

Polluter Pays Arrangement

Climate-induced migration does not occur in a vacuum. Climate change itself causes poverty injustice and inequalities within populations. These immediate factors then result in the need for people to migrate.

The long-term causative factors include pollution from the burning of fossil fuels. Countries’ development has resulted in harmful emissions into the atmosphere which damages the climate. Meanwhile, less developed countries are required to reduce emissions, thereby slowing the growth and development of their economies. The proposal therefore is that developed countries who have in the past contributed to climate degradation must pay for addressing climate change migration.

Disparities between the Global North and Global South imply that the Global North generally must be the source of a Climate Refugee Fund.

Long-Term vs Short Term Climate Refugees

Migration caused by climate change may be short-term with people moving short distances and returning home when the situation subsides such as in cases of flooding. However, it was accepted that some persons move over longer distances and stay for much longer or even migrate permanently.

Green Climate Fund

The existence of the Green Climate Fund within the Global Compact on Migration serves as an example of funding for addressing the ill effects of climate change. The modalities for accessing the Green Climate Fund can be studied and applied to a fund for Global Refugees.

