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Workshop – Return Migration and Gender: Assessing the Gender-Responsiveness of Return and Reintegration Programs of Migrants in West Africa.

Banjul, 10-12 November 2022

Concept Note

1. Background

International migration, driven by multiple overlapping factors, is a global phenomenon that presents a social and economic challenge for both origin, transit and destination countries. Although much of West African mobility takes place within the region itself, young West Africans facing limited access to legal pathways represent a sizeable portion of the irregular and trafficked migrants from Africa to Europe as well as to other continents. Most of this migration is taking place through dangerous routes. Some successfully reach their preferred destination countries in Europe where they seek asylum, while others get stuck along the way. This presents significant challenges to the countries in the EU and their transit and home countries.

Consequently, migration policies have become more restrictive in Europe, including measures of increased deportation and repatriation leading to an expanded engagement in return-led schemes, such as in ‘assisted voluntary return programmes’. One such program is the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration, a regional initiative covering 26 countries in North Africa, the Horn of Africa and the Sahel and Lake Chad region. The initiative, which involves key stakeholders such as migrants’ associations, community-based organizations and local communities, aims to facilitate the sustainable reintegration of returning migrants and to contribute to strengthening migration governance and to ensure that, in the future, young Africans will choose to migrate using regular means as a matter of choice, rather than necessity.

Gender is central to any discussion of the causes and consequences of migration as it shapes every stage of the migration experience. Even though the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (GCM) calls for more gender-responsive return and reintegration



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programs, the issue still largely remains thoroughly unexplored. West African returnees from Europe and transit countries are predominantly young men, while also featuring growing numbers of women and under-age boys and girls, as well as specific cases, such as trafficked persons, mostly women, and (discriminated) gender identities. It is therefore important that implementing partners and policy makers involved in return and reintegration are more sensitive to gender dynamics. How gender-responsive are return and re-integration programs for migrants? How does gender shape the reintegration process of migrants in West Africa? How does the migration experiences of women affect their reintegration into the communities to which they return? This workshop will provide a timely platform for International Organizations, NGOs, grassroots organizations, scholars and policy makers to examine these questions and more and to operationalize a more gender-responsive approach to return and reintegration programs.

To be held during the second week of November and hosted by the Political Science Department of the University of The Gambia, the workshop will feature policymakers, scholars and practitioners in a conversation reflecting on the challenges faced by returnee women, men and children and find ways to better integrate gender into reintegration programs for returned migrants and to promote good practices.

2. Objectives of the Workshop

The main objective of the workshop is to assess return and reintegration programs for migrants in West Africa, and their gender-responsiveness. The objective is also to contribute towards strengthening the understanding and capacities of stakeholders to implement return and re-integration programs that are gender-responsive. The meeting aims to promote the exchange of national and experiences and good practices from The Gambia, Senegal, Mali and Niger. The meeting will hold discussions on the emerging aspects of the dynamics of return migration and gender.



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8. Members of the Scientific Committee.

Ali Nobil

Heinrich Boll Foundation's African Migration Hub

Paolo Gaibazzi

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Ismaila Ceesay

The University of The Gambia.

9. Local Organizing Committee

DR. Ismaila Ceesay

Head of Political Science Unit

The University of The Gambia.

Mrs Matida Komma

Directorate of Research and Consultancy.

The University of The Gambia.



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Banjul Workshop

Return Migration and Gender: Assessing the Gender Responsiveness of Return and Reintegration Programs of Migrants in West Africa.

10-11 November 2022

Day One -Thursday, 10th November 2022.

Activity	Person Responsible	Time
Arrival, Breakfast and Registration	Glocal Consulting Staff	08:30 – 09:30
Welcome Remarks	Ali Nobil	09:30-09:40
Keynote Address	Paolo Gaibazzi	09:40-10:00
First Panel Migration, Repatriation and Reintegration Policies in West Africa 10:00 – 12:45		
Panel Chair-Paolo Gaibazzi		
Panelists	Title of Presentation	Affiliation
Kamal Dongo	The externalization of the European Union's migration policy and the Gender dilemma in the border region of Burkina Faso and Niger	LASDEL, Benin
Moctar Dan Yaye	Conséquences de l'Externalisation des frontières de l'UE au Niger sur la mobilité dans l'espace CEDEAO (perspective d'activistes)	Alarme Phone Sahara, Niger.
Short break 11:15-11:30		
Samba Mballow	The Role of GID in Return Process.	Gambia Immigration Department
Doudou Dieye Gueye	“It is much more difficult for a Man to come back than for a Woman”: Gender Aspects in the Reintegration Process of Return Migrants in Gambia, Guinea and Senegal”	University Assan Seck, Ziguinchor, Senegal.



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Lunch 12:45 – 14:00		
First Panel: Women, Migration and Return 14:00 – 17:00		
Panel Chair – Ismaila Ceesay		
Panelists	Title of Presentation	Affiliation
Saniwe Agnes Kone	Gender and Migration: A Case Study of Mali.	Femmes Leadership et Développement Durable, Mali
Mustapha Sonko	Problems Faced by Female Migrant Returnees in the Gambia".	National Youth Council.
Short break 15:30-15:45		
Fatou Jagne Senghore	Return Migration and Gender Stereotypes in The Media and Access to Information.	Center for Women Rights and Leadership (CWRL, The Gambia.
Laura Lanzini	The experience of return of Senegalese women migrants.	University Niccolo Cusano, Rome.
END OF DAY 1		



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Day Two- Friday, 11th November 2022.

Breakfast 08:00 – 09:00		
Second Panel Transit Returnees and Reintegration Trajectories 09:00– 11:00		
Panel Chair-. Solomon Ayegba Usman		
Panelists	Title of Presentaion	Affiliation
Sait Matty Jaw and Fatoumatta Gassama	Returning From The ‘Backway’: The Gendered Challengers of Re-integration in The Gambia.	University of The Gambia, The Gambia
Mamina Jallow	Gambia Returnees from The ‘Backway’: Activities, Achievements and Challenges.	Gambia Returnees from the Backway, Gambia.
Tombong Kuyateh	The Role of YAİM in reintegrating female returnees in society.	Youth Against Irregular Migration, Gambia
Short break 10:15-10:30		
Hamidou Manou Nabara	La gestion du retour et de la réinsertion dans le cadre des migrations sud-sud: cas des femmes nigériennes rapatriées d’Algérie	JMED-GAF-NE/Réseau REMIDDH, Niger.
Almamy Sylla	Associations de femmes rapatriées :entre volonté d’innover et de s’autonomiser par l’entreprenariat	Université des Lettres et des Sciences Humaines de Bamako (ULSHB), Mali
Short break 11:45-12:00		
Second Panel: Return and/after Trafficking 12:00-13:30		
Panel Chair- Jainaba Sonko		
Panelists	Title of Presentation	Affiliation
Sylvia Lorenzi	Migration and Mental Health: From a Gender Perspective.	Peace of Mind Organization, The Gambia.
Fatou Jagne	‘Life of a Survivor of Human Trafficking’.	Network of Girls Against Human Trafficking, Gambia
Arouna Amadou Oulide	Enjeux autour de la réinsertion des migrantes transfrontalières et jeunes désabusés au sein de l’UEMOA: cas des Béninois revenant du Nigéria.	Centre Solidarité et Initiative pour le Développement, Benin