

Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)



Labor Migration Statistics Report in Africa *Second edition: Regional Migration Profile*

SECOND EDITION OF THE AFRICA LABOR MIGRATION STATISTICS REPORT |

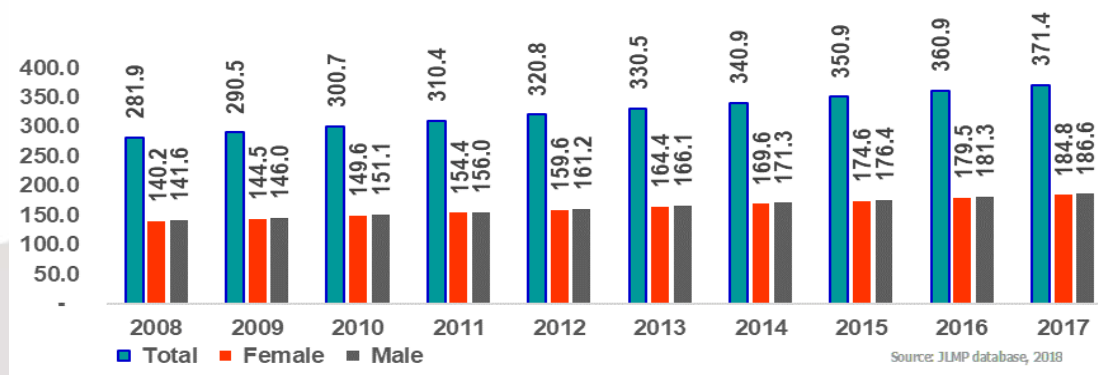
Introduction

The ECOWAS region comprises of 15 member states namely: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d' Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo. With a vision of creating a borderless region where the population can gain access and enjoy the regions abundant resources and diverse opportunities the ECOWAS region has created an integrated region where the population enjoys free movement and engages in economic and commercial activities under a sustainable environment.

POPULATION

In 2017, the total population for the region was 371.4 million people with 184.8 million women and 186.6 million men. This indicates a 31.8 percent increase in the population in the region in 2017 from the year 2008 and a 3.11 percent annual growth rate of the population in the region.

Figure 1. Population of ECOWAS Region by sex, 2017 (millions)



Source: JUMP Database, 2018

Nigeria is the most populous country in the region with 53.2% of the population in the region and 30.6% in Africa.

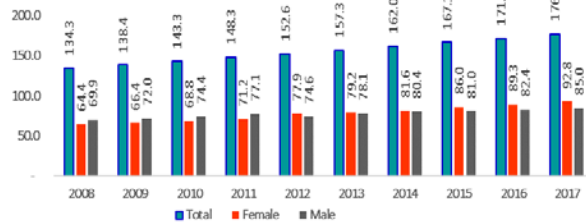
WORKING AGE POPULATION

The working age population for the region increased from 134.3 million in 2008 to 176.6 million in 2017, representing an increase of 31.6% (Figure 2 below). The male working-age population of the region increased from 69.9 million in 2008 to 85.0 million

in 2017 (an increase of 21.6 per cent),

while the female working-age population in the region increased from 64.4 million to 92.8 million over the same period (an increase of 44.1 per cent).

Figure 2. Working-age population in ECOWAS region, by sex, 2008–17 (millions)

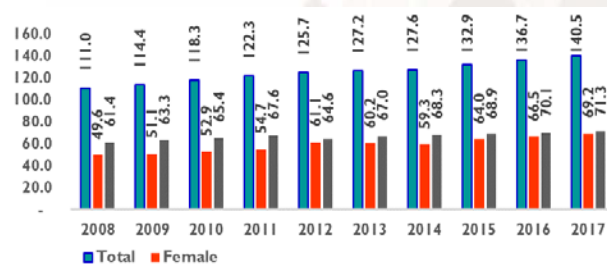


Source: JLMP Database, 2018

LABOUR FORCE AND LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE

The ECOWAS region recorded a 26.6 percent increase on the labour force in the year 2017 from 2008, that is from 111 million to 140.5 million. A similar trend is also noted for both male and female population in the labour force.

Figure 3. Labour force in ECOWAS region, by sex, 2008–17 (millions)



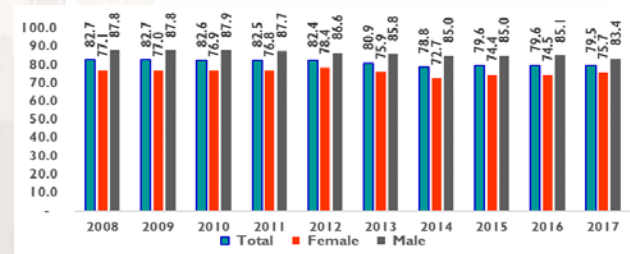
Source: JLMP Database, 2018

The number of females increased from 49.6 million to 69.2 million, thus representing a 39.4 percent increase while that of males increased from 61.4 million to 71.3 million, which

represents 16.2 percent. It is evident that men continue to dominate in the labour force in the region beside the fact that we have more women in the working age population than males. Therefore, there is ardent need to create policies to foster Sex equity and equality at member states and regional levels.

In general, the region accounted for 32.4 percent of the total labour force in Africa in the year 2017. Also, the region recorded a labour force participation rate of 79.5 percent in the year with males having a higher proportion of 83.9 percent compared with 74.5 percent for females. This trend is consistent over the years evaluated in this report with 2017 recording a 7.7 percent difference between males and females.

Figure 4. Labour force participation rate in ECOWAS region by sex, 2017 (%)



Source: JLMP Database, 2018

Stock of international Migrants

TRENDS IN THE SIZE OF THE INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT POPULATION

International migrant workers in the ECOWAS region continue to increase over the years. This is partly due to the host agreement between ECOWAS member states on free movement of people and freedom of establishment within the region amongst other socio-economic factors. In 2008 there were 5.3 million migrants in the region while in 2017 there were 6.9 million migrants, which represents an increase of 30.4 percent.

Figure 5. International migrant population in ECOWAS region by sex (millions)



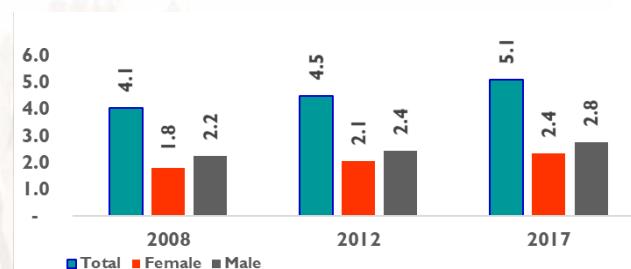
Source: JLMP Database, 2018

Similarly, disaggregating the number of migrants by sex, male migrants continue to dominate over female migrants. In 2008 there were 2.9 million male migrants while in 2017 there were 3.7 million, an increase of 27.8 percent while that of female migrants in 2008 was 2.5 million and in 2017 there were 3.3 million female migrants, which represents an increase of 33.5 percent.

WORKING-AGE INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS

The region has witnessed a growing number of working age migrants over the years. In 2017, the region recorded a 26.0 percent increase of working age migrants from 2008, that is from 4.1 million working age migrants in 2008 to 5.1 million in 2017.

Figure 6. Working-age international migrants in ECOWAS region by sex (millions)



Source: JLMP Database, 2018

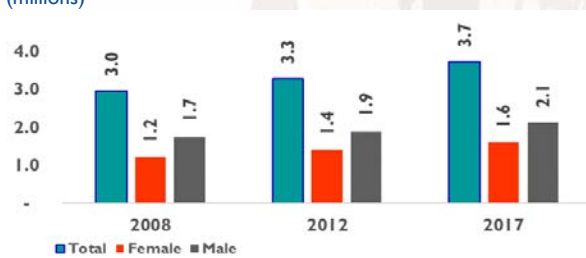
Similarly, the number of working age migrant women has also increased over the years unlike the presidency set earlier that migration was dominated by male migrants. There was a 29.5 percent increase in the number of working age migrant women in the region in 2017 from 2008 where the data collected from the region indicated that there were 2.4 million male migrant workers in 2017 and 1.8 million working age women migrant workers in 2008. Likewise, the working age male migrants also depicted a similar trend by recording a 23.2 percent

increase in 2017 from 2008 where there were 2.8 million working age male migrants in 2017 as compared to 2.2 million working age male migrants in 2008.

INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT WORKERS

The number of international migrant workers in the ECOWAS region in 2017 was 3.74 million an increase of 26.2 percent from the year 2008 where there were 2.97 million migrant workers in the region. As noted earlier, there are more male migrant workers than females in the region. In 2017 there were 2.14 million male international migrant workers as compared to 1.60 million female international migrant workers.

Figure 7. International migrant workers in ECOWAS by sex, 2017 (millions)



Source: JLMP Database, 2018

Even though there are more male international migrant workers in the region, female migrant workers show a higher annual increase than their male counterparts. Over the period female migrant workers showed a 3.19 percent annual increase per year as compared to their male counterparts who showed an annual increase of 2.37 percent.

YOUNG INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT WORKERS

The region has a youthful population spread across various member states. However, when assessing the number of youth migrant workers (15-35), many of the countries were not able to provide this information. For instance, in 2017, only 4 countries namely Ghana, Liberia, Niger and Nigeria out of the 15 member states were able to provide the number of youth migrant workers. The data from these member states indicated that there were 500,307 total youth migrant workers in the region with females accounting for 42.7 percent and males comprising of 57.3 percent in the year 2017.

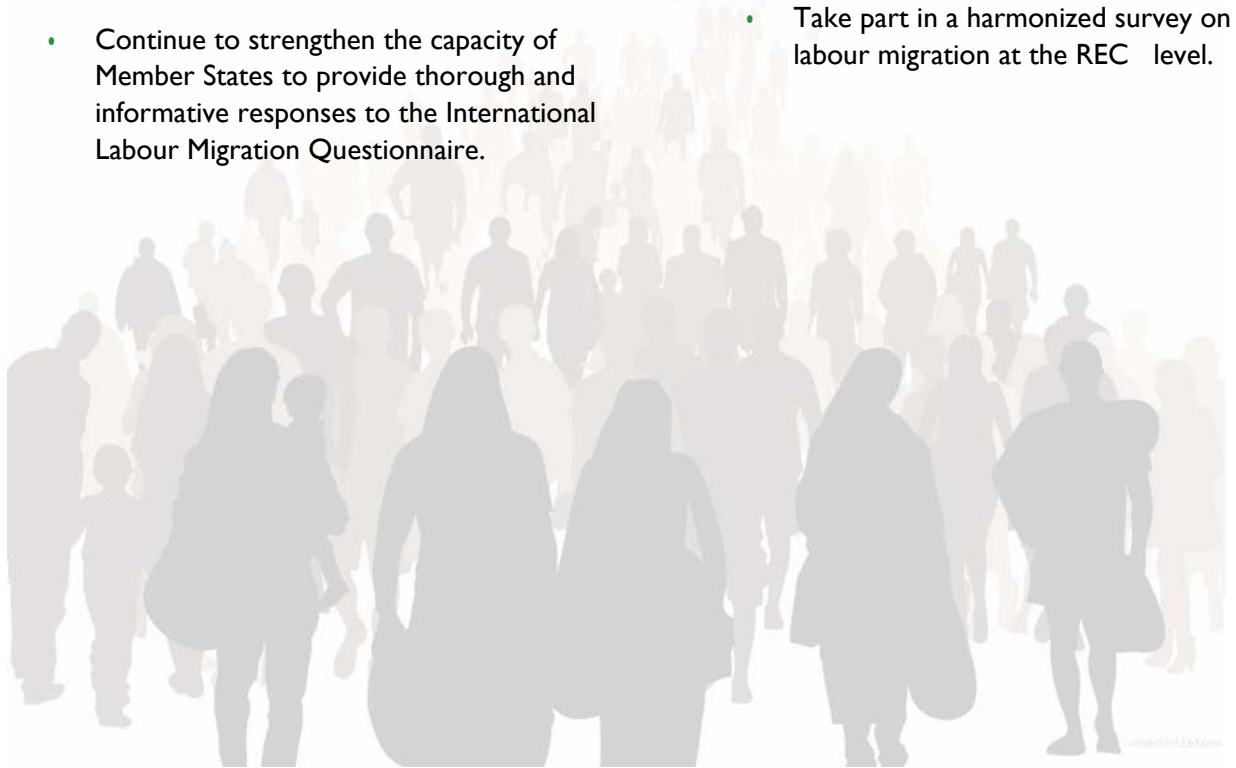
ADDITIONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT WORKERS

Additional migrant profiles were also assessed during the period 2008 to 2017. These include employment status, economic activity, occupation, and level of education. However, only a few countries were able to provide information on these indicators. These include Cabo Verde, Ghana, Liberia, Niger, and Nigeria. The need for these indicators is key to understanding migrant trends in the region. Therefore, more efforts and measures should be put in place to capacitate member states to produce data disaggregated by these key indicators for a better understanding of migrant needs, trends as well as their impact in the socio-economic aspect.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Bearing in mind the findings from this second edition of labour migration statistics report in Africa, but also the various constraints on the data analysis, the following recommendations were drawn up:

- Continue to strengthen the capacity of Member States to provide thorough and informative responses to the International Labour Migration Questionnaire.
- Monitor and coordinate the collection of data on labour migration within their blocs.
- Promote the use of administrative sources of labour migration data.
- Take part in a harmonized survey on labour migration at the REC level.



African Union Commission



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Nougbodohoue Samson Bel-Aube, Department of Economic Affairs, Bel-AubeN@africa-union.org

Brian Onsase Okengo, Department of Social Affairs, OkengoB@africa-union.org

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