

## The Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD)



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

SECOND EDITION OF THE AFRICA LABOR MIGRATION STATISTICS REPORT |

# Introduction

The Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD) was established on 4<sup>th</sup> February 1998, following the Conference of Leaders and Heads of States held in Tripoli, Libya. The region aims to achieve economic unity through the implementation of free movement of people and goods in order to make a free trade area.

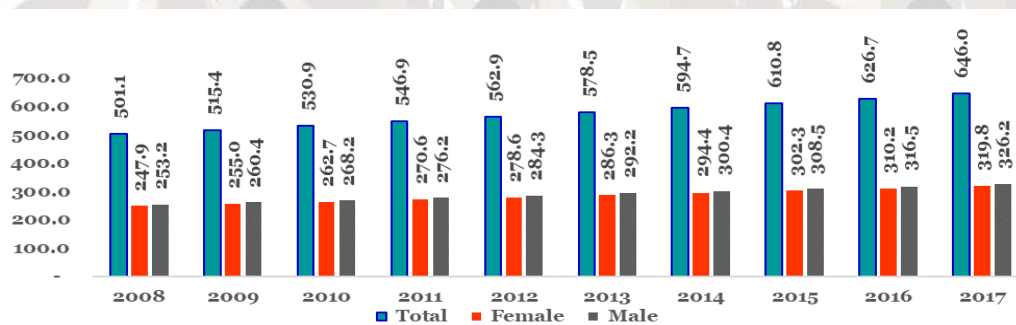
The region also aims at establishing a comprehensive Economic Union based on a strategy implemented in accordance with a developmental and investment plan in the agricultural, industrial, social, cultural and energy fields as well as put measures to facilitate free movement of individuals, capital, and meet the interest of member States citizens including freedom of residence, work, ownership and economic activity and freedom of the movement of national goods, merchandise and services among others.

The member States of CEN-SAD are: Benin, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, The Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, the Sudan, Togo and Tunisia.

## POPULATION

The region has 29 member states and is the most populous among the regional economic communities. The population in the region has been increasing gradually over the years. In 2008, the region recorded a total population of 501.1 million people. This number has increased steadily over the years with 2017 recording a total population of 646.0 million people. This represents an increase of 28.9 percent and an annual growth rate of 2.86 percent.

Figure 1. Population of CEN-SAD Region by sex, 2008-2017 (millions)



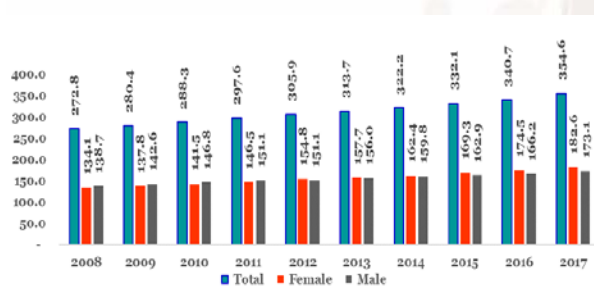
Source: JLMP Database, 2018

The number of females recorded in the region in 2008 was 247.9 million while in 2017 the region recorded a total of 319.8 million females in the population, this indicates an increase of 29.0 percent. Likewise, the number of males in the population showed a similar trend with 2008 recording a total of 253.2 million while in 2017 the region recorded 326.2 million males in the population. This represents an increase of 28.8 percent of the male population in the region.

## WORKING AGE POPULATION

The working age population of the CEN-SAD region in 2008 was 272.8 million while in 2017 the region recorded 354.6 million people, which represents an increase of 30.0 percent (Figure 2). The number of males in the working-age population of the region increased from 138.7 million in 2008 to 173.1 million in 2017 (an increase of 24.8 percent). Likewise, the number of females in the working-age population in the region increased from 134.1 million in 2008 to 182.6 million in 2017 (an increase of 36.2 percent).

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

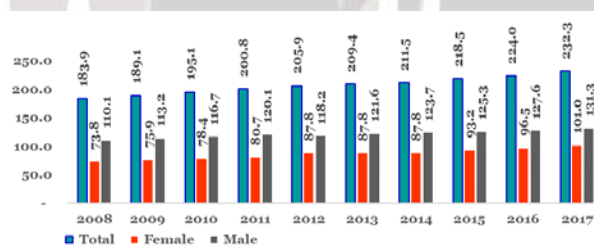


Source: JLMP Database, 2018

## LABOUR FORCE AND LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE

The CEN-SAD region recorded 183.9 million people in the labour force in 2008 while in 2017 the region recorded 232.3 million people, which represents an increase of 26.3 percent on the labour force in the region.

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



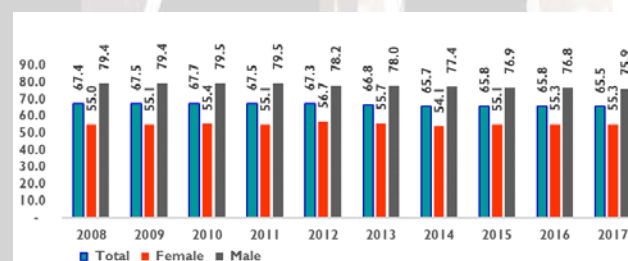
Source: JLMP Database, 2018

The population of females in the labour force in 2008 was 73.8 million while in 2017 the number of females in the labour force increased to 101.0 million. On the other hand, the population of males in the labour force increased from 110.1 million in 2008 to 131.3 million in 2017. The number of females in the labour force increased by 36.8 percent in 2017 as compared to 2008, while that of males in the labour force also increased by 19.3 percent in the same period.

Despite the fact that the rate of increase in the number of women into the labour force is higher than that of men, the number of men in the labour force is more than that of women. For instance, there is a difference of 13.1 percent in 2017 on the proportion of males in the labour force compared to that of females in the region. This indicates that there is need to put up measures that advocate for more females into the labour force so as to match with their male counterparts given that we also have more females in the working age population than males.

The labour force participation rate for the CEN-SAD region for the year 2017 was 65.5 percent with males having a higher proportion of 75.4 percent while females recorded a lower proportion of 55.3 percent. This trend is consistent over the years evaluated in this report with 2017 recording a difference of 20.6 percent between males and females. representation of females in the labour force given.

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



Source: JLMP Database, 2018

# Stock of international Migrants

## TRENDS IN THE SIZE OF THE INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT POPULATION

The number of international migrants in the CEN-SAD region has increased over the years. In 2008 the region had 8.0 million international migrants in the region, this has increased gradually over the decade with 2017 recording a total 11.1 million. This represents an increase of 38.9 percent.

Figure 5. International migrant population in CEN-SAD region by sex (millions)



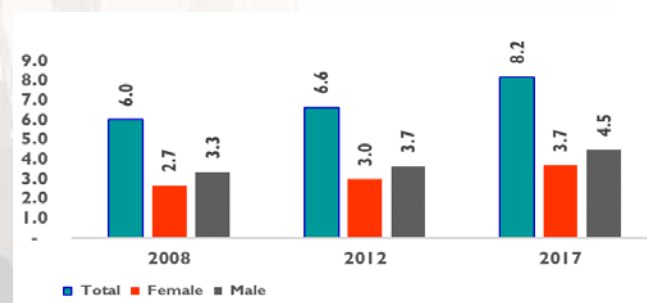
Source: JLMP Database, 2018

The disaggregation of migrant population by sex also depicted a similar trend. In 2008, the region recorded a total of 3.7 million international female migrants while in the year 2017 the region recorded a total of 5.2 million. Likewise, the number of international male migrants recorded in 2008 was 4.3 million while in 2017 the region recorded 5.9 million. These trends show that the number of international migrants increased by 41.1 percent from 2008 to 2017 amongst the females while the males increased by 37.1 percent.

## WORKING-AGE INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS

As noted in the total number of migrants, the population of working age international migrants in the CEN-SAD region has experienced a similar trend with a gradual increment over years. In 2008 the region recorded a total of 6.0 million working age migrants while in 2017, the region recorded 8.2 million working age international migrants. This represents an increase of 35.8 percent on the working age migrant population in the region.

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



Source: JLMP Database, 2018

Similarly, in terms of sex a similar trend was shown on both males and females. In 2008, the number of working age female migrants in the region was recorded as 2.7 million and this has increased over the years with 2017 recording 3.7 million working age population of international female migrants in the region. On the other hand, the working age international male migrants showed a similar trend over the years with 2008 recording a total of 3.3 million to a total of 4.5 million in 2017. The number of working age population of international female migrants in the region increased by 38.4 percent while that of the males increased by 33.8 percent.

## INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT WORKERS

The number of international migrant workers in the CEN-SAD region in 2008 was 4.4 million while in 2017 the region recorded 6.0 million, which represents an increase of 35.9 percent. A similar trend is shown when disaggregating the number of international migrant workers by sex. In 2008 the region reported 1.8 million international female migrant workers while in 2017 the region recorded 2.5 million. Similarly, the number of male migrant workers in the region in 2008 was reported as 2.6 million while in 2017 the region recorded 3.5 million international male migrant workers. The number of international female migrant workers increased by 39.7 percent while that of the international male migrant workers increased by 33.3 percent over the period.

Figure 7. International migrant workers in CEN-SAD by sex, 2017 (millions)



Source: JLMP Database, 2018

In any given year, there were more international male migrant workers than females. Therefore, there is more that needs to be done to bridge the gender gap in the work force between males and females for the international migrant workers in the region.

## YOUNG INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT WORKERS

Majority of the population in the region comprises of youths (15-35 years) 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. In CENSAD region only 4 countries namely Ghana, Liberia, Niger and Nigeria were able to provide information on young international migrant workers in their countries.

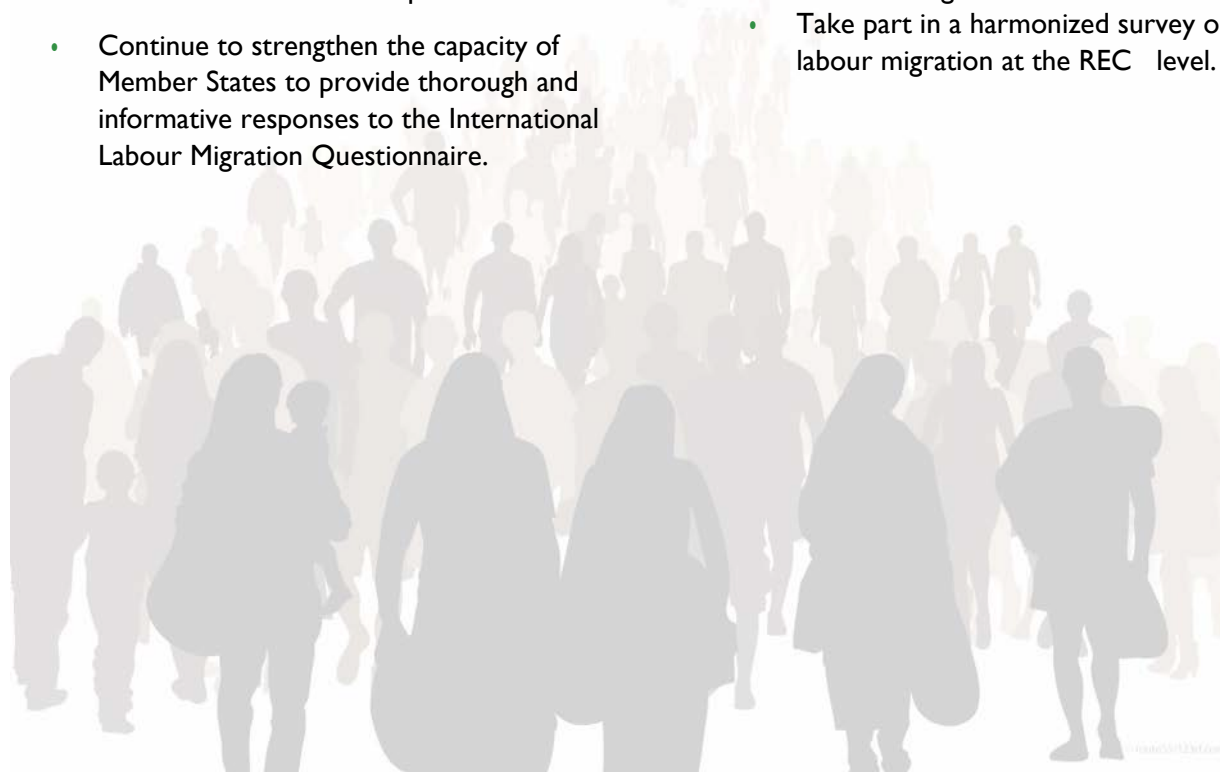
## ADDITIONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT WORKERS

Additional migrant profiles were also assessed during the period 2008 to 2017. These include employment status, economic activity, occupation and level of education. However, in the CEN-SAD region many countries were unable to provide the information. For instance, in 2016, when disaggregating migrant workers by economic activities and profession, the following countries were able to provide information on these indicators; Cape Verde, Chad, Ghana, Liberia, Mali, Niger and Nigeria. The information of migrant workers by occupation was provided by Cape Verde, Chad, Ghana, Liberia, Niger and Nigeria while the education indicator was provided by Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Niger and Nigeria. It is therefore clear that this indicators in the CEN-SAD partner states have not been provided, and even among the providing countries the information is not available in all the years. 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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