

Newsletter

Ghana Integrated Migration Management Approach

n° 2 ●●● January 2016



Farewell to 2015 - A Year of the Migrant



Migration dominated headlines and discussions in 2015. This year promises to be even more dynamic.

The year 2015 was a year of many significant migration events and challenges at the global, regional and national level.

The ongoing **migration crisis in the Mediterranean**, resulted in the deadliest year on record for migrants and refugees trying to reach Europe (3,772 deaths), as estimated by IOM. This accounts for 70 per cent of all migrant deaths worldwide in 2015 (5,350 deaths).

IOM also recorded over one million sea arrivals to Europe in 2015, almost five times the previous year's total of 219,000. Ghanaians are among the major nationalities who arrived in Italy by sea in 2015 with **4,431** individuals (3,995 men, 155 women, 41 accompanied minors and 240 unaccompanied minors).

In order to address these challenges, the **Valletta Summit on Migration** was held in November 2015 and brought together European and African Heads of State, including the President of the Republic of Ghana, in an effort to strengthen inter-regional cooperation. At the end of the Summit, a political declaration and a

common action plan were agreed, which are to be implemented in the coming years.

The year 2015 also saw landmark achievements that support the migration aspect of sustainable development. Migration and human mobility are included in four of the 17 Sustainable Development Goal targets, correcting its absence from the Millennium Development Goals. With the adoption of the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, world leaders vowed to protect the rights of migrant workers, combat transnational criminal human trafficking networks, and promote well-regulated migration and mobility.

The Paris Agreement at the COP21 (2015 UN Climate Change Conference) adopted by world governments on 12 December 2015 is a breakthrough for action on migration and climate change with a formal acknowledgement of "migrants" in the Preamble.

At the regional level, Accra hosted the first **Joint Annual Forum for Intra-Regional Consultations of Migration Dialogues and Regional Consultative Processes in Africa**, in

September 2015. The Forum provided a platform for African regional institutions and partners to share information and work towards durable solutions for migration challenges in Africa.

The **Ebola Virus Disease** was a significant regional challenge in 2015 that highlighted the impact of mobility. Although no cases were recorded in Ghana, risks still remain from its status as a transport hub, with significant cross-border movements.

At the national level, the long awaited **National Migration Policy** for Ghana was approved by the Cabinet. The adoption of the migration policy marks an important commitment towards stronger migration management in Ghana.

The year **2016** is expected to bring new challenges and opportunities for migration. The GIMMA team remains committed to observing important migration trends and events, while making steady yet important progress towards migration management goals. We look forward to our continued collaboration with you all!

New Legal Reference Handbook

A legal reference tool has been drafted to guide **immigration officers** with their daily duties

The Ghana Immigration Service (GIS) is mandated to control and facilitate the movement of people across Ghana's borders, as well as to operate a credible work and residence permit system that meets the socio-economic needs of Ghana.

This mandate is derived from the Immigration Service Act, 1989 (PNDC Law 226) and the Immigration Act, 2000 (Act, 573). The GIS in enforcing these laws regulates the work and residence of persons of other nationalities in Ghana among others. Additional functions performed by GIS include effort to countering human trafficking, anti-money laundering and aspects of refugee management, to name a few.

However, some of these roles and functions are scattered in various domestic laws, international protocols and conventions that are not readily accessible by **immigration officers** in the performance of their duties. This has led to the indiscriminate use of discretion on the part of immigration officers in the performance of their assigned duties and responsibilities.

To address the needs of the GIS and assist immigration officers with their daily duties, a legal reference handbook has been drafted by the Technical Working Group



Members of the TWG on legal handbook development working tirelessly. ©IOM 2015

(TWG) on legal handbook development.

The TWG is comprised of six senior officers and chaired by Deputy Director in-charge of Legal Research and Monitoring, Victoria Ninette Baaba Asare. A total of three workshops were held in March, April and August to complete a review of domestic and international documents relevant to the management of migration in Ghana. The findings of these workshops were then compiled into the legal handbook.

The handbook includes three main sections

aligned with specific areas of GIS operations. Part 1 covers immigration related laws; Part 2 is a compilation of security related laws; and Part 3 contains investment related laws. The final section is an Appendix that lists relevant international conventions/protocols, bilateral agreements and other domestic laws, which have a bearing on immigration operations.

In 2016, the TWG will create training modules based upon the handbook and organize Trainings of Trainers in preparation of nation-wide trainings.

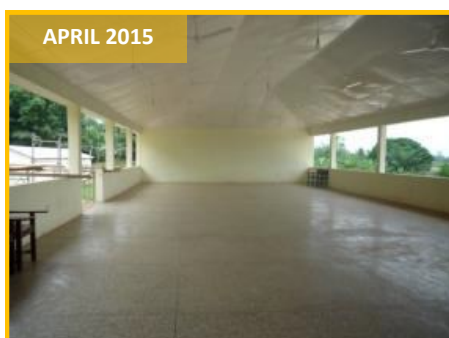
Computer Laboratory Completed in Assin Fosu

State of the art IT lab now ready for commissioning at the Immigration Service Training School

One of the major deliverables of the GIMMA project is the construction of a 70 capacity ultra-modern IT lab at the Immigration Service Training School in Assin Fosu, Central Region. It is fitted with a projector for lectures and illustration as well as an internet facility. The construction of the office space, procurement, installation and the testing of the lab has been carried out successfully.

Prior to the start of this activity, an assessment was conducted (April 2015) to determine the capacity and needs of the Immigration Service Academy and Training School (ISATS). Based on the assessment findings, the project together with GIS agreed to support the construction works and provide IT equipment and furniture to ISATS.

Until the completion of the project, the Training School unlike the Academy had no IT lab. This makes teaching and learning difficult especially in information technology related courses. The fully furnished lab (including 70 computers) will resolve this situation and make teaching and learning easier as it will afford recruits the opportunity to have hands-on experience on the information technology.



Border Assessment Conducted

An assessment team visited Volta and Western Regions to identify existing conditions, practices, capacity, requirements, and priorities of border crossing points for effective border management



Inadequate office facilities is one of the major challenges facing border patrol officers. ©IOM 2015

With the increasing mobility of persons and goods it is important to ensure the right balance between open but secure and controlled borders. As such, it is necessary that the border patrol officers have the necessary facility, equipment and trainings to effectively conduct their duties.

In April 2015, the GIMMA project undertook a two week assessment of select Border Crossing Points (BCPs) in the Volta and Western Regions of Ghana. The visits were to assess conditions, capacity and inhibitors of effective border management. The assessment also detailed prevailing practices and priorities of crossing points.

The assessment team was led by the GIS Border Patrol Unit with other team members from the GIS Policy Planning Monitoring and Evaluation Unit, IOM,

European Union and an international Consultant. The team visited: GIS Volta Regional Command, Agortime Afegame, Hedzokope, Akanu, Nyive, Atikpui, Shia, Kpoglo and Aflao Sector Command. In the Western Region, areas covered included: Dadieso Sector Command, Yaakese, Antokrom, Sewum, Kwabena Nartey, Gyato, Oscar, Kyensekokoo, Boinso and Elubo.

Additionally, the team visited the Immigration Service Academy and Training School (ISATS) to understand training gaps.

Key findings revealed some common challenges for BCPs such as the lack of: office facilities and accommodation, reliable means of communication, adequate transportation, equipment for patrol, basic amenities like electricity and water, poor staff and inadequate trainings.



An unapproved border crossing point in the Volta Region. ©IOM 2015

In addition to those gaps, most of the border posts visited are observed to be in remote areas with very difficult terrain, making the work of border patrol officers extremely complex.

However, despite these obstacles GIS officers are up to their tasks and continue to exhibit professionalism and dedication in their duties.

Recommendations on ways to improve border management were presented at the first Project Steering Committee Meeting in April 2015, and then subsequently submitted in the final report to the GIS. Based on these recommendations, the GIMMA team is currently working to procure equipment for five target border posts to improve their patrol capacities.



The officers in Nyive Sector Command together with the GIMMA assessment team. ©IOM 2015

Notes from the International Migration Law Training in Italy

The members of the TWG on legal handbook development—the Comptroller of Immigration (COI) and Deputy Superintendent of Immigration (DSI), together with the GIMMA Project Assistant - successfully completed the 11th International Migration Law (IML) training in Italy, in September 2015. The purpose of the training was to raise awareness of international legal instruments that pertain to the management of migration in Ghana.

“The entire course gave us a very enriching and enlightening experience. The most useful part of the course was the module on Authority and Responsibility of States: Nationality, Admission, Stay, Detention, and Expulsion, because it is a summation of the mandate of the Ghana Immigration Service.

Another very useful part was the module on Trafficking in Human Beings and Smuggling of Migrants. It was emphasized that both the victims of human trafficking and migrant smuggling should not be treated as criminals by states although those who are smuggled appear to have consented to the act.

The knowledge we have acquired would certainly help us with the completion of the Legal Handbook. The skills we learnt during the case study exercises will help us develop manuals in an effective way to ensure that trainees understand and can identify with the modules being taught”, says DSI Abigail Aatieretuo Dabuoh.



COI Kojo Oppong Yeboah (seated second from bottom) takes part in the IML training in Italy. ©IOM 2015

Migration Information Centre Opens in Sunyani

The Centre will be ready to welcome the public in February 2016!

An increasing number of Ghanaians, especially young people, are risking their lives by migrating through irregular means in pursuit of better opportunities abroad. In some cases communities and people involved in migration lack information about the dangers of irregular migration, alternatives to migration and opportunities for safe migration.

In response to the need for information, the GIMMA project has constructed an ultra-modern office complex in Sunyani to be used as a Migration Information Centre (MIC). The sod cutting ceremony was held in June 2015.

A number of dignitaries attended the event including Commissioner of Police (COP) Dr Peter A Wiredu, the then Director of Ghana Immigration Service (GIS), Hon Justice Samuel Adjei, Deputy Brong Ahafo Regional Minister, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCOP) Maxwell Atingane, the Brong Ahafo Regional Police Commander, Nana Bofotia Boa Amponsem II (Krontihene of Sunyani Traditional Area), Kazumi

Nakamura, GIMMA Project Manager of the GIMMA Project, and representatives of civil society organizations.

In his speech, Dr Wiredu (COP) stated that the construction of the new MIC was prompted by the large number of people from the Brong Ahafo Region who risk their lives in dangerous and exploitative journeys across the Sahara desert and on the high seas. These irregular attempts often have a devastating impact on migrants' families and society in general.

Construction of the Centre was completed in December 2015. An official commissioning is scheduled for February 2016.

The new building will offer a neutral space for potential and actual migrants to obtain accurate and reliable information on legal migration procedures and required documentation, the risks associated with irregular migration, and fraudulent practices of employment agencies.

LIKE/FOLLOW US!

The MIC offers a wide range of services to support migrants. Please share this information with your friends and families in the Brong Ahafo Region. It is located near the Regional NHIS (National Health Insurance Scheme) Office in Sunyani.

@ micsunyani@ghanaimmigration.org;
micsunyani@gmail.com

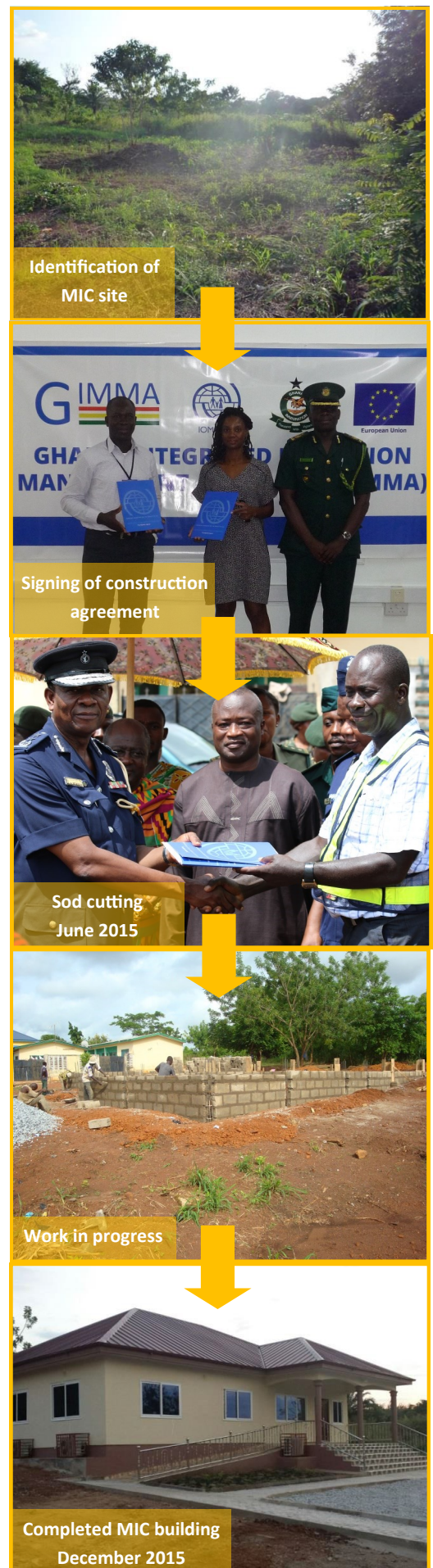
www.ghanaimmigration.org/mic

Migration Information
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Study Visit to Tunisia and Italy

Officials learned about the functioning of an established Migrant Resource Centre in Tunisia and observed the realities of irregular migration in Sicily, Italy.

In advance of the launch of the new Migration Information Centre (MIC) in Sunyani, a team of 11 people (8 Ghana Immigration Service officers and 3 IOM staff) undertook a joint study tour to Tunisia and Italy in November 2015.

Members of the GIMMA study group visited Tunis to gain practical knowledge of the set up and functioning of the Migrant Resource Centre (MRC) in Tunis and about the collaboration the Centre has established with key institutions in Tunisia to provide support to migrants.

The good practices acquired during the visit to Tunis will be replicated to promote the

effective running of the soon to be launched MIC in Ghana. The visit in Tunisia also allowed the team to learn about the implementation of information campaign strategies such as including youth in the development of safe migration documentaries targeting the public, especially young people.

According to the Assistant Director of Immigration (ADI), Laud Ofori Affrifah, "the visit to MRC and its partners were very eye opening and a lot of things will be replicated in Ghana such as the arrangement of the offices of the MRC, the collaboration with other agencies and information materials developed for the Centre."



A drawing of a Ghana flag hangs at the Migrant Reception Centre in Pozzallo. ©IOM 2015

The trip to Catania, Italy included visits to the Pozzallo and Augusta Landing Sites. The purpose was to provide the study team with an opportunity to observe the reality of the migrant crisis in the Mediterranean and gain the perspectives of receiving countries.

At the Migrant Reception Centre, the team met with Italian immigration officials, who shared the challenges they face to manage the ongoing crisis. Italian officials urged better information sharing and collaboration to help potential migrants avoid deadly and dangerous situations.



A meeting with MRC partner in Tunisia. ©IOM 2015



Ghanaian and Italian immigration officers at the Migrant Reception Centre. ©IOM 2015

Addressing Irregular Migration in Ghana: A Strategic Dialogue with Civil Society

GIMMA promotes information sharing and collaboration on the occasion of International Migrant's Day.

On the occasion of International Migrant's Day, 18 December 2015, GIMMA organized the first ever strategic dialogue with Ghanaian Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) actively involved in addressing irregular migration.

The meeting promoted discussion of practical and sustainable solutions for ongoing and future interventions as well as to foster further collaborations among key stakeholders.

CSOs are in a better position to provide accurate and grassroots intelligence regarding the conditions under which migrants transit, work and live. Their input is vital to migration policy making and to monitor the effectiveness of policies and programmes targeting migrants. CSOs are also uniquely positioned to meet the needs of vulnerable groups including irregular and returned migrants.



During the dialogue, both CSOs and returnees shared their migratory experiences, reintegration challenges, new trends, and perceived causes of irregular migration. Participants also discussed practical and sustainable solutions to address the root causes of irregular migration, recommendations to improve ongoing and future programmes, and inputs for information campaigns including effective messages and target groups.



Representatives from CSOs at the landmark dialogue. ©IOM 2015

GIS Training Curriculum and Syllabus take Shape

Enhanced training documents will be finalized in 2016 to revitalize key competences of GIS officials

The GIMMA project in joint implementation with the Ghana Immigration Service (GIS) is helping to finalize a revised version of the training curriculum and syllabus, with the aim of producing a training manual that ensures proper mainstreaming and sustainability, and which realizes training policy objectives.

Three successful workshops were organized in 2015 by the review committee consisting of nine selected senior immigration officers with diverse backgrounds and experience, headed by the Assistant Director of Immigration (ADI) Laud Ofori Affrifah, Head of Enforcement and Intelligence Bureau.

The first step was a week-long meeting held in April to conduct an initial review of the draft curriculum and syllabus, and to make

recommendations that would improve the documents. The specific aim was to align the training manuals to the training policy, and identifying mandatory training courses and programmes according to GIS rank.

The outcome of the first review session was the development of core courses and course codes to be used for both Cadet and Recruit trainings. The training manual was also rearranged and expanded from four initial parts to seven parts. Courses on drills and duty, office practice and languages were also introduced. Additional training courses were developed for retiring staff members.

A second workshop was organized in May to enhance the draft curriculum and syllabus and to align the training syllabus with the training policy, develop courses for career progression, and professional development for all ranks.

The third workshop was held in August and members of the review committee were joined by 20 subject matter experts to discuss and provide technical inputs to finalize the document.

Upon completion, the new curriculum and training syllabus will increase the training period for recruits and officer cadets from six



Members of the GIS review committee are working steadily to introduce a new training curriculum and syllabus for cadets and recruits. ©IOM 2015

to eight months and eight to twelve months respectively. Given the enhanced training period, the promotional levels for entry into Service will also increase from six to nine levels for recruits and seven to nine levels for officers. Officers of the Immigration Service will gain additional training for each level of promotion to ensure professional and career development.

Nation-wide sensitization sessions are planned to support the rollout of the new documents once finalized. These are intended to be information sharing sessions for officers in the various regions and sectors so that they are aware of changes and new structures developed, and training requirements.



Discussion at the review committee meeting in August. ©IOM 2015

Assessment on Migration Data Management

A new national migration data sharing strategy was produced in 2015, informed by the assessment findings

A data assessment was undertaken in 2015, following the first Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting on migration data management in 2014, which introduced the GIMMA project to relevant stakeholders.

The specific objectives of the assessment included: identification of existing practices, needs and priorities of relevant institutions in the area of migration data collection and management and analysis the capacity

building needs of these institutions.

Findings from the assessment show that there are gaps in data generation, analysis, reporting, and dissemination in Ghana. Challenges also exist in migration data coordination, and harmonization among stakeholders. The assessment team found inequity across the agencies in terms of human capacity and ICT infrastructures that would enhance quality data production and harmonization.

The evidence presented suggests an urgent need for training and capacity building of staff involved in migration data processing across agencies and ministries. Additionally, the quality of migration data could be improved through electronic data capture at Ports of Entry.

The assessment findings together with a draft data sharing framework were presented at the second Technical TWG meeting in September 2015.



The second TWG meeting. ©IOM 2015

Based on these inputs, a national migration data sharing strategy was drafted including capacity building activities and common operating procedures for migration data collection and management.

In 2016, meetings will be organized to discuss and validate the strategy before implementation begins.



Members of the TWG. ©IOM 2015

FOCUS: MIGRATION AND DATA



UN Sustainable Development Goals now include Migration

The inclusion of migration in the post-2015 SDGs means there will be an increased need and demand for better data



In September 2015, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted unanimously by the United Nation's 193 Member States during the post-2015 Summit.

For the first time, migration is part of the global development framework, signifying

the importance of planned and well-managed migration policies to sustainable development.

Several SDG targets mention or are relevant to migration, as illustrated in the table (above). Target 10.7 is exclusively dedicated to migration in the post-2015 development

framework. This target concerns the facilitation of orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and the mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies. Thereby recognizing the role of human mobility in reducing inequality within and across countries – a fundamental endeavour of the 2030 agenda.

The SDGs are now driving policy planning and implementation across borders and across sectors, recognizing the interlinkages between migration and development and the fundamental contribution of migrants.

The inclusion of migration into the post-2015 SDGs illustrates that the nexus between migration and development is tightening, thus, data on the migrant population will need to be disaggregated from non-migrant populations.

In Ghana, the National Migration Policy has been adopted and is now ready for implementation. Although data on migration is now an urgent need, data sharing is limited and a common reporting system is lacking.

The GIMMA project aims to contribute towards efforts to meet these challenges by making migration data available to policy makers and practitioners through the establishment of the National Migration Data Sharing Framework.

Data of Missing Migrants 2015 was the deadliest year for migrants

With **3,772 deaths**, 2015 was the deadliest year on record for migrants and refugees attempting to reach Europe by crossing the Mediterranean Sea, as reported by IOM. By comparison 3,279 deaths were recorded in the Mediterranean Sea in 2014.

Globally, IOM estimates that over **5,350**

migrants died in 2015. IOM also recorded total sea arrivals to Europe in 2015 at 1,004,356 or almost five times the previous year's total of 219,000.

April was the deadliest month of 2015 during which nearly 1,250 migrants died, mainly due to the worst tragedy on record

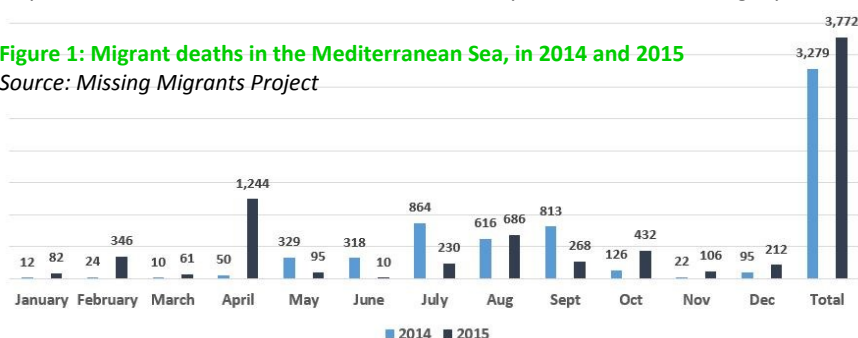
involving migrants crossing the Mediterranean Sea from North Africa. An estimated 800 migrant fatalities occurred when their overcrowded vessel capsized off the coast of Libya.

The **Missing Migrants Project** tracks deaths of migrants and those who have gone missing along migratory routes worldwide. It is an important information hub and advocacy source for media, researchers and the general public. This project is a good example of how data can serve to raise awareness and contribute to policy-making discussions.

For more information, please visit: <http://missingmigrants.iom.int/>

Figure 1: Migrant deaths in the Mediterranean Sea, in 2014 and 2015

Source: Missing Migrants Project



Project Steering Committee Update

A look towards sustainability of the GIMMA project

Two Project Steering Committee (PSC) meetings were held in 2015 to report on project progress and challenges, and to receive guidance to improve the implementation process.

The PSC is co-chaired by the Director of Ghana Immigration Service (GIS) and the Chief of Mission of IOM. Other members include: representatives from the European Union Delegation to Ghana, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Finance,

Ghana Statistical Service (GSS), GIS and IOM.

In both meetings, sustainability was the most salient topic; including, how to sustain project outcomes and equipment. With this in mind, the GIMMA project has taken measures to ensure sustainability.

At both meeting, PSC members commended the project implementation team on their tireless efforts and offered continued support.



PSC members discuss GIMMA progress and challenges. ©IOM 2015

EU and Italian Ambassadors Raise the Profile of Irregular Migration

Visits were conducted with local leaders, returnees and the MIC in Brong Ahafo Region

The EU Ambassador to Ghana, H.E. William Hanna, and the Ambassador of Italy, H.E. Laura Carpini, conducted a two-day visit to the Brong Ahafo Region of Ghana in October 2015 to meet authorities and local communities concerned with migration management and to learn lessons from the GIMMA project.

The delegation first arrived in Sunyani and met with the Comptroller of Immigration (COI) Faisal Disu, GIS Brong Ahafo Regional Commander to discuss migration issues in the region and to observe the construction

progress of the new Migration Information Centre (MIC) in Sunyani.

The delegation then paid a courtesy call on Hon Eric Opoku, the Brong Ahafo Regional Minister. Their discussions focused on the causes of migration in the Region, suggestions to address the issue and expectations for the new MIC.

Finally, the officials met with potential migrants and returnees in Nkoranza to interact with them and to see the efforts of returnees to re-establish their lives back home.



The ambassadors call on the BA Regional minister to discuss migration challenges in the region. ©IOM 2015

GIMMA Newsletter is published to provide readers with information about the project. For comments and questions, please contact **GIMMA project support team** at: gimma@iom.int or +233 302 742 930. Please also visit us <http://www.ghanaimmigration.org/>

ABOUT THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU) DELEGATION TO GHANA

The European Union (EU) is officially established in Ghana as well as in other 138 countries throughout the world. The EU Ambassador and his EU External Action team represent the European Union in Ghana and work in close cooperation with EU Member States and diplomatic services and other International Organisations. Their mandate includes the promotion of the values and policies of the European Union, the political dialogue with local authorities and civil society and the strengthening of EU-Ghana partnership.

Email: delegation-ghana@eeas.europa.eu ; Website: <http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/ghana/>
Twitter: <http://twitter.com/WilliamHannaEU> ; Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/EuDelegationToGhana>



European Union

ABOUT INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)

Established in 1951, IOM is the leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration and works closely with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental partners. With 162 member states, a further 9 states holding observer status and offices in over 100 countries, IOM is dedicated to promoting humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all. It does so by providing services and advice to governments and migrants.

For more information about our work in Ghana, please visit: <https://www.iom.int/countries/ghana>

