

IOM STRATEGY FOR NIGERIA

2023-2027

PUBLISHER

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IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental organization, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

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IOM STRATEGY FOR NIGERIA (2023–2027)

FOREWORD



"IOM seeks to ensure that the right to protection of migrants, displaced persons and affected communities is upheld and their needs fulfilled regardless of inter alia, their age, sex, gender, physical condition, nationality, ethnic group or religious affiliation."

(IOM Principles for Humanitarian Action, Part IV)

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is the United Nations (UN) leading agency on migration, working with its stakeholders to promote safe, orderly, regular and responsible migration. It does so through an integral and holistic perspective, including the links to sustainable development, to maximize the benefits and opportunities of migration and reduce the challenges posed to societies and migrants.

As recognized in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, human mobility is indivisible from sustainable development. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – and the commitment to leave no one behind and to reach the furthest behind – will not be achieved without due consideration of migration. The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration resolution, voted on by the General Assembly on 19 December 2018, is grounded in the 2030 Agenda and promotes the adoption of a whole-of-government and, amongst its guiding principles, a whole-of-society approach.

The IOM Global Strategic Vision 2019–2023, presented to IOM Member States in 2019, articulates how IOM plans to meet its emerging responsibilities, including the mandated role as the UN Network Coordinator and Secretariat of the UN Network on Migration as outlined in the Global Compact for Migration. It sets out the “direction of travel” for IOM, is forward-looking and encourages “joined-up thinking”.

The collaboration between the Federal Republic of Nigeria and IOM has increasingly developed in different areas of migration governance since 2001.

Based on such a solid partnership, IOM Nigeria is pleased to present its Strategy for 2023–2027. The IOM Strategy for Nigeria draws from the West and Central Africa Regional Strategy, which in turn expresses the regional priorities for IOM based on the IOM Global Strategic Vision.

As both Nigerian nationals and migrants may share common difficulties and challenges, IOM Nigeria engages with the whole-of-society towards achieving the objectives of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. While reducing the vulnerabilities of both migrants, displaced persons and their hosting communities, we need to celebrate the positive examples of the social, economic and cultural inclusion of migrants within various frameworks in Nigeria and harness the opportunities that migration provides accordingly.

In doing so, we ensure that human mobility becomes a source of prosperity, innovation and sustainable development for all.

We look forward to working with you on operationalizing our Strategy to leave no one behind.

Laurent M.J. de Boeck

Chief of Mission to the Federal Republic of Nigeria

International Organization for Migration



IOM's WASH interventions empower and enable vulnerable populations to take ownership and resolve current and future WASH needs: ©IOM 2022/Elijah Elaigwu

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ACRONYMS

AAP	Accountability to Affected Populations Framework
AU	African Union
DTM	Data Tracking Matrix
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
GCM	Global Compact on Migration
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GBViC	Gender-Based Violence in Crises
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GFMD	Global Forum on Migration and Development
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IHR	International Health Regulations
ILO	International Labor Organization
I/NGOs	International and Non-governmental Organizations
IOM	International Organization for Migration
LCBC	Lake Chad Basin Commission
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MCoF	Migration Crisis Operational Framework
MiGOF	Migration Governance Framework
MIDWA	Migration and Mobility Dialogue for West Africa
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NMP	National Migration Policy
RBA	Rights-Based Approach
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
UN	United Nations
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework



In Edo State, community-based projects contribute to the reintegration of returning migrants by encouraging the creation of social networks and reducing the potential resentment among the local communities, thus guaranteeing their sustainability. ©IOM 2023/Elijah Elaigwu

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Established in 1951, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is the leading intergovernmental organization on migration and is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. IOM is part of the United Nations system as a related organization.

With 175 member states and eight (8) states holding observer status and offices in over 100 countries, IOM is dedicated to promoting humane and orderly migration for all benefit by providing services and advice to governments and migrants. IOM works to help ensure the orderly and humane management of migration to promote international cooperation on migration issues, assist in the search for practical solutions to the shifting migration dynamics and provide support to migrants in need, refugees and internally displaced people.

In emergency situations, IOM seeks to strengthen the resilience of people on the move, particularly those in situations of vulnerability, as well as governments and other stakeholders' capacity to prepare, respond, mitigate and develop sustainable solutions.

In Nigeria, IOM has been present since 2001, with a 2,000 staff footprint in five sub-offices (Benin City, Lagos, Yola, Katsina and Maiduguri) and a main office in Abuja, leading its interventions in 30 States and the Federal Capital.

IOM Nigeria works closely with migrants, displaced populations and affected communities, Ministries, Departments and Agencies, and intergovernmental and non-governmental partners at the Federal and State levels.

IOM aims to support all aspects of the country's migration governance, including immigration and border governance, labour mobility, migration health, protection, recovery, peacebuilding, transitional justice, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. It does so by providing protection, empowerment, access to health and education, social cohesion and life-saving humanitarian assistance to mobile populations, internally displaced persons, hosting communities and vulnerable migrants such as victims of trafficking and victims of illicit smuggling of migrants, with a particular focus on women and children

1.2 Vision Statement 2023 – 2027

The IOM Nigeria Country Strategy focuses on a collaborative approach that emphasizes the role of the Federal and State Governments, the community and religious and traditional leaders, community-based and civil society organizations, researchers and the private sector in achieving better migration governance and building integrated communities.

This Strategy will support the Federal Government of Nigeria to ultimately leverage the potential of migration through a whole-of-government and a whole-of-society approach to achieve sustainable development outcomes.

The Strategy is enshrined in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, and contributes directly to the Sustainable Development Agenda and UN Secretary General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement. IOM is a member of the United Nations Country Team who launched United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2027 for Nigeria. As such, IOM contributes to accelerating the transformative initiatives to reach the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including the Africa Union's Agenda 2063.

1.2.1 Vision

Together, we envision a future in Nigeria where migration is safe, orderly, and beneficial for all individuals and communities to achieve sustainable development.

1.2.2 Mission

Promote whole-of-government and whole-of-society evidence-based solutions to enhance migration governance, and strengthen the resilience of individuals on the move and their communities, in the context of evolving migration dynamics.



IOM supports migrants and youths by providing skills training, and other capacity-building activities: ©IOM 2021/Elijah Elaigwu

2. CONTEXT ANALYSIS

2.1. Socio-economic context in Nigeria

Nigeria is the largest country in sub-Saharan Africa both in terms of population and size of the economy. As of January 2023, it has an estimated population of 220 million¹ with an annual growth rate of 2.4 to 2.5%. It is projected that by 2050, the country's population will reach 400 million, making it the third most populous country globally. The country's development is influenced significantly by its young population, with 63% under 24 years and women, who represent 49.3% of the population.

Nigeria is a federal country with diverse cultural and ethnic composition. It consists of 36 states, each with its own local government and political structure, along with the Federal Capital Territory (Abuja). The population is composed of over 250 ethnic groups, each with distinct languages, cultures, religions, and beliefs. Given that 63% of the population is under 24 years old, Nigeria's youth population holds significant potential to shape the country's future across various domains.

Though known for their entrepreneurial spirit and innovation in various sectors such as technology, arts, entertainment, and agriculture as well as increased involvement in civil society and politics, advocating for social change and pushing for reforms, they face numerous challenges. These challenges include limited access to quality education and skills development, high unemployment² and underemployment rates, poverty, inadequate healthcare, and social inequality. Additionally, issues such as insecurity, violence, and political instability negatively impact the youth population.

The Nigerian Government, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders have made efforts to address these challenges. Initiatives have been undertaken to improve education and skills development, create employment opportunities, promote youth empowerment, inclusion in decision-making processes, and address social issues such as gender inequality and discrimination. However, there is still much work to be done to fully harness the potential of Nigeria's youth population and address the challenges they face to ensure a brighter and more inclusive future for the country.

Women and girls constitute 49.3%³ of the population, calling for dedicated attention to the specific needs of women and girls, as the developmental cost of ignoring women is too high for a country such as Nigeria. Women and girls face many challenges, including gender-based violence with one (1) in three (3) women having experienced violence against them. Drivers of violence

against women include social norms, economic stress, family relations, patriarchal beliefs, and targeted assertions against female autonomy. Other challenges women face include economic inequality, despite contributing significantly to economic growth, political exclusion, education parity and discriminatory employment practices.

Nigeria's population is rapidly urbanizing, leading to a growing housing deficit and an increase in slum areas. Some States face challenges related to access and quality of basic services such as clean water, sanitation, health, and education.

In 2021, HE President Muhammadu Buhari declared that Nigeria exists in a "state of emergency"⁴ due to multidimensional and complex threats affecting many States, motivated by ethnic and religious identity and regional and federal cleavages⁵. Multiple forms of violence and volatile conflicts have waxed and waned over the past decade, from the North to the South. The violence between herder and farmer communities has escalated in recent years, spreading southward, with cattle raids by gangs increasingly becoming common, while grazing pastoral lands shrunk with the expansion of populations and agriculture. Banditry and kidnapping for ransom in the Northwest and other parts of the country have contributed to increased insecurity. These tensions lead to extensive displacement and secondary displacement for an estimated 3.45 million persons⁶, with increased protection needs and facing difficulties in accessing basic services.

Nigeria is also highly exposed to the effects of climate change. Floods, coastal erosion, ocean surges and swells, wind and dust storms are occurring more frequently and seriously across Nigeria. Land degradation, desertification and deforestation continue to threaten livelihoods due to lack of awareness and capacities among local communities, limited climate change adaption practices and a lack of early warning systems. The agricultural sector is key for Nigeria with a contribution of about 22% of the GDP and 45% of total employment but is at risk due to the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation.

At regional and continental level, Nigeria plays a major role in regional security and economic integration in West Africa, with its membership to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) based in Abuja, the African Union (AU) and the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC).

1. No official census since 2006, so estimates based on 1 World Population Prospects 2019 and National Population Commission – 2020.

2. The Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG) projects that the country's unemployment rate will hit 37 per cent in 2023, the country's highest due to a cocktail of economic challenges besetting the country. This will affect an annual estimated 4.5 million new labour market entrants.

3. World Bank Nigeria Population Data

4. President Buhari Charges New Service Chiefs. Federal Ministry of Information and Culture (FMIC), Nigeria.

5. Nigerians refer to violence as 'intergroup conflict': xenophobia is actually at play.

6. IOM DTM figures as at Feb 2023

2.2. Migration in Nigeria

Nigeria exhibits a diverse range of mobility patterns, encompassing various factors such as weak influx of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers mostly affected by conflicts and political instability, strong rural-urban migration, a strong diaspora and a steadily growing volume of Nigerians leaving the country regularly and irregularly, the return of vulnerable migrants, internal and international transhumance, significant internal displacement due to conflicts, and the growing impacts of climate change, economic challenges, and security issues.

In 2019, approximately 3.3 million emigrated contributing to an estimated 17 million Nigerians living abroad¹, remitting an estimated \$23.8² billion including skills, technology and culture. IOM's data indicates that one in three Nigerians consider migrating primarily due to the economic situation and a significant portion of them consider irregular routes as a means to an end. It is worth noting that while Nigeria is predominantly viewed as a source country, it is also a destination country. In 2022, Nigeria hosted 1.3 million migrants, mainly originating from West Africa, representing 0.05%³ of the country's population, falling significantly below regional and global averages.

Return migration to Nigeria has grown in recent years, with 618,610 migrants returning in 2019⁴ and an estimated of 4.5 million since 2013. However, many of these returnees, mostly women and children, are vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.

Cross-border transhumance, a time-honoured pastoral tradition in Africa, has been a lifeline for communities in West Africa, helping them adapt to long dry seasons and economic uncertainties. However, this practice is now facing unprecedented challenges that are destabilizing the country and the region. Historically, transhumance has been peaceful. Climate change and environmental pressures have altered migratory patterns, increasing tensions between herder and farmer communities. The scarcity of natural resources and unpredictable rainfall have resulted in struggles to find suitable pastures and agricultural land.

The mounting communal tensions require urgent attention for more inclusive and effective shared resource governance to restore social cohesion. Strengthening governance mechanisms and capacities is crucial to address the underlying issues and reducing the space for armed groups to exploit grievances among communities and recruit the youth, which only fuels violence in an already vulnerable region. Promoting peaceful co-existence between herders and farmers through improved governance is vital to sustain transhumance's economic, social,

and environmental benefits and ensure the region's stability.

Since 2009, the insurgency in the Northeast involving several armed groups has resulted in widespread violence, displacement of over two (2) million people⁵, and humanitarian crises, with significant social, economic, and political impacts on the affected communities and the country. The insurgency has its roots in multiple factors, including political, social, economic, and religious grievances. Poverty, inequality, corruption, and governance challenges have contributed to marginalization and disillusionment among some communities, particularly in the Northeast of Nigeria. The region has also faced environmental degradation, resource competition, and land use competition, further exacerbating tensions.

According to IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), as of February 2023, Nigeria is currently hosting 3.57 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) due to armed conflicts and other drivers of displacement. This figure represents an increase of over 19 per cent since 2018. This situation is exacerbated by extreme poverty, which affects some 80 million⁶ people in the country. According to IOM flood assessment data as of November 2022, the 2022 floods alone have affected 2.8 million individuals, with 921,782 internally displaced persons because of the floods and 765,295 returnees across the country. The tensions between farmers and herders, exacerbated by the increasing issues of accessing water and land, are forcing the population in Southeast, North-central and Northwest into internal displacement. Malnutrition, and waterborne diseases, including cholera, continue to plague mobile populations in fragile contexts.

The nature and scale of forced displacement in the country present humanitarian and development challenges, that require joined up approaches and response mechanisms from all stakeholders. Addressing the root causes of crises and associated population movements needs to be part of longer-term approaches towards recovery, transition and sustainable development. Responses to these crises must be rooted in the understanding that migration is an inevitable consequence, and that recovery and transition efforts require consideration of the needs of migrants and their communities. These include the specific needs of women and girls, including obstacles to sexual and reproductive health before, during and after humanitarian crises. IOM also recognizes that gender-based violence, trafficking and prostitution, and forced pregnancies and marriages are critical issues to be addressed in this context.

1. In 2020, NIDCOM: National Diaspora Policy 2021.

2. World Bank 2019

3. National Bureau of Statistics.

4. National Bureau of Statistics.

5. IOM Nigeria Emergency Tracking Tool Report 321

6. [Nigeria Poverty Assessment 2022: A Better Future for All Nigerians](#)



2.3. Migration Policies in Nigeria

Nigeria has demonstrated its commitment to addressing the challenges and harnessing the positive outcomes of migration and displacement through its national policies and regional and international commitments. Nigeria has shown an active engagement in mainstreaming the needs of migrants and internally displaced persons into national sectoral policies.

Migration in Nigeria is predominantly managed by the Federal Government and increasingly at the State level, led by the principle of whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach.

The Nigeria 2021-2025 National Development Plan adopted an integrated multi-sectoral approach as a cognizant of sustainable development. This approach encourages the Government institutions to consider mainstreaming migration when developing sectoral policies, by for example, fostering the integration of migrants into the Nigerian economy.

The Nigeria 2015 National Migration Policy (NMP) provides an institutional framework for migration governance that stipulates different coordination levels¹. IOM, within its secretariat capacities works closely with the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons in coordinating the activities of the Technical Working Group on Migration and Governance in Nigeria. IOM is supporting the Commission,

through the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, to review the NMP.

The Nigeria 2014 National Labour Migration Policy promotes the governance of labour, which is critical to creating circular and regular migration pathways.

The Nigeria 2021 National Diaspora Policy provides great opportunities for the Nigerian diaspora to directly contribute to the country economy. It provides a road map for state and non-state actors to comprehensively engage diaspora into national development policies and programmes.

The Nigeria 2012 National Policy on Internally Displaced Persons makes provision for the strengthening of institutional mechanisms and frameworks for the realization of the rights, dignity and well-being of vulnerable populations through the mitigation of impact and achievement of durable solutions to internal displacements in Nigeria.

The Nigeria 2016 National Health Policy calls upon multiple stakeholders to strengthen the country's health system to respond to health emergencies, strengthen primary health care, and reduce cross-border transmission.

1. The National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI) is responsible for the overall coordination of the migration governance at four levels: i. a Ministerial Committee; ii. a Technical Working Group (TWG); iii. Sectoral/Thematic Groups[1]; and iv. individual MDAs. There are five sector/thematic groups: the standing committee on diaspora matters (led by NiDCOM), the Labour migration working group (led by FMLE), the working group on forced migration and return, readmission and reintegration, RRR (led by the NCFRMI) and a working group on Migration Data Management (led by the NPC).

The Nigeria 2019-2023 National Youth Policy recognizes the criticality of investing in young men and women for their active participation in the social, economic, and political affairs of the country.

The revised National Gender Policy (2021-2026) advocates for gender mainstreaming, equality and gender sensitivity across the MDAs as an important factor for sustainable development.

The Nigeria 2021-2030 National Climate Change Policy for Nigeria outlines how to mitigate and adapt to climate change to reduce the risk of displacement and forced migration.

At the international level, Nigeria has engaged into international migration discussions, particularly in the context of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM). Nigeria has been identified as a champion country since 2021 and hasconsecutively submitted voluntary national reviews resulting from wide national dialogues.

Nigeria plays a significant role in several important international conferences, such as the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) and the Rabat Process and its Action Plan. It is a major participant in the African Union consultations on the African Common Position on Migration and Mobility and

has committed to the full implementation of the ECOWAS Free Movement Protocol.

The country has also been a driving force in establishing the regional dialogue on Migration and Mobility for West Africa (MIDWA). Through the support from IOM and its partners, Nigeria was at the forefront in developing a Regional Migration policy, regional border management training manual, MIDWA monitoring and evaluation plan, Regional free movement training manual, and guidelines for harmonization of migration data management.

The country has also ratified multiple international conventions related to the rights of all migrants, as well as to combat trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants, and other migration-related matters [2].

The IOM Nigeria 2023 – 2027 strategy is committed through research, data and evidence to support the country to operationalization and review its policies and strategies to address the drivers of irregular and forced migration, displacement, and conflict, and protection of mobile population along the mobility quantum, giving IOM the opportunity to leverage the established structures to further advocate for migrants' and internally displaced persons' rights.



IOM engages partners in policy development and review processes to ensure comprehensive, inclusive, and effective policies and practises in the field of migration: ©IOM 2022/Elijah Elaigwu

3. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

3.1 Strategic Priorities

IOM Nigeria works with its partners to strengthen measures that take a comprehensive view of the migration phenomenon. The aim of the IOM for the Strategy for Nigeria 2023-2027 is to provide a framework for responding to the migration and displacement challenges and identifying priorities for actions to guide IOM's response to the needs of the Government of Nigeria, and its population, displaced persons as well as migrants, migration-affected (host) communities and other relevant stakeholders.

Based on the IOM rights-based approach, IOM's interventions seek to contribute to the protection of the rights of migrants, nationals and the communities. It guides the many ways in which IOM upholds the rights, dignity and well-being of migrants. In line with the IOM global principle that humane and orderly migration benefits all, IOM Nigeria's overall strategic objective is to support the Government of Nigeria and relevant actors in governing migration effectively to maximize its positive impact while minimizing its potential costs on all migrants and society. The importance of protection is further highlighted in the SDGs,

GCM, Migration Crisis Operational Framework (MCoF) and the Migration Governance Framework (MiGOF) principles and objectives, which emphasize the fulfilment of migrants' rights and the aim of migration taking place in a safe, orderly and dignified manner.

The approach will build on Nigeria's engagement as priority and champion country of the GCM. It will also build upon Nigeria's strong role in supporting the ECOWAS Vision 2050, the ECOWAS Free Movement Protocol, the Regional Migration Strategy, and the African Union Migration Policy Framework for Africa and the AU Agenda 2063.

Based on the IOM Global Strategic Vision, the IOM Continental Strategy for Africa and the IOM Strategy for West and Central Africa, IOM Nigeria has developed a five-year approach to reinforce Federal government's governance capacities and increase migrants' resilience to migration.

A. Resilience

To enhance the resilience and protection of migrants, internally displaced persons and communities by addressing underlying vulnerabilities and drivers of irregular migration and displacement, ensuring timely and adequate support, and reinforcing capacities of these groups to identify, cultivate, and leverage means to find sustainable solutions and assure their enhanced resilience.

Strategic Priority 1 – Progressively shift to transition and recovery and sustainable solutions and development programming promoting legal, physical, and material safety and access to basic services, livelihood opportunities, and inclusive local governance

- Ensure the affected population, including the vulnerable groups and host communities, have access to multi-sectoral emergency life-saving support through shelter and settlement, camp coordination and management, livelihood, cash-based interventions, water and sanitation facilities and mental health psychosocial support. Through community-based planning approach IOM aim at providing sustainable support for the affected population and communities, establishing service provisions through rehabilitation of public service facilities, productive infrastructure, creating community-based livelihoods and building capacities of institutions;
- Promote sustainable solutions, transition and recovery actions, jointly implemented with partners (government and CSOs), aimed at offering affected population access to quality services, self-reliant life-saving support, restored inclusive local governance, and social and economic protection to promote peaceful co-existence;
- Strengthen the capacities of government institutions and community structures to manage emergency response, information dissemination and awareness-raising, community dialogue and reconciliation, transition, peacebuilding, social cohesion, preparedness and early recovery and self-resilience socio-economic activities;
- Scale up initiatives aimed at offering protection-grounded return opportunities by strengthening linkages to wider stabilization, prevention, and resilience activities and partnerships;

- Build on initiatives and lessons learned from the Adamawa State-level sustainable solutions coordination mechanisms to promote other State and Federal level coordination mechanisms on solutions;
 - Supplement return-oriented engagement at the Federal and States level to open additional pathways (settlement elsewhere and local integration) to Solutions as highlighted in the National IDP Policy;
 - Advocate and provide operational support to settlement
- elsewhere and local integration in urban and semi-urban areas as part of urban development planning;
- Promote peace and social cohesion between displaced populations and communities of return through enhancing grassroots inter-communal trust and cooperation, and
 - Improve evidence-based planning, decision-making, and monitoring and evaluation of Sustainable Solutions initiatives through systematic, regular, cross-sectoral qualitative and quantitative data for solutions to internal displacement.



When disasters, conflicts, or other humanitarian crises occur, IOM plays a crucial role in ensuring the immediate and temporary housing needs of affected individuals and communities are met: ©IOM 2022/Elijah Elaigwu

Strategic Priority 2 – Mitigate adverse drivers of irregular migration and promote sustainable solutions for returning migrants.

- Enhance the skills and employability of youth, women and vulnerable individuals, to build self-resilience, and acquire soft and technical skills and knowledge through apprenticeships, job placements, on-the-job training, entrepreneurship, business skills trainings and value chain integration, with a focus on green jobs, such as waste recycling, renewable energy and hydroponic agriculture systems.
- Increase support for vocational training centres and technical and vocational training in States reporting high levels of irregular migration, to address root causes of irregular migration of youth and promote regular migration pathways for Nigerians.
- Promote public-private partnership in youth's access to income generation through livelihoods promotion and sustainable economy to increase economic activities in a diversified market.



IOM's efforts to promote the social cohesion of migrants aim to create inclusive, diverse, and resilient communities where migrants can thrive: ©IOM 2022/Elijah Elaigwu

Strategic Priority 3 – Promote an effective provision of protection and assistance to affected potential and vulnerable population

- Engage border communities and authorities in the prevention of irregular migration and protection of migrants, victims of trafficking and smuggling, enhancing capacities of law enforcement authorities, including border guards, prosecutors and judges in their role and responsibilities prosecuting migration-related crimes, with a focus on the existing international and national legal and operational frameworks to collect and exchange evidence on criminal networks at national, regional and international levels, guarantee protection of witnesses and offer victims humanitarian assistance through improved national referral systems.
- Increase the tools for identifying and protecting victims of trafficking and smuggling through advocacy for temporary accommodation services and inclusive and accessible multi-operator national referral mechanisms, including operational and efficient hotlines with qualified and regularly trained civil servants.
- Scale up preventive measures by informing potential victims of trafficking and smuggling through large awareness-raising campaigns involving all sectors of society about the dangers of criminal networks and existing support mechanisms in the country.
- Advocate for inclusive policy development towards high-quality migrant health through a) facilitating and strengthening national coordination on migration and health; b) developing evidence-informed migration policies on humane and orderly migration to monitor the regional, sub-regional and country migration movements regarding health needs; c) developing sustainable health solutions with necessary health provisions and care.
- Address the population's vulnerabilities, through the promotion of health provision, including psychological and other counselling services, with special support to women, adolescents, unaccompanied and separated children, individuals in the process of reintegration, special support to victims of trafficking and survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), with the integration of measures for physical and psychological health, including service delivery and capacity development.
- Expand social protection mechanisms, particularly relevant since the 2019 global health crisis, in which cash-based interventions can serve as a safer and more effective modality to deliver life-saving humanitarian assistance and to respond to the multiple needs of the affected population, helping them to cope with the economic impact of pandemics.

- Enhance capacity for preparedness and response to epidemics and other public health emergencies in accordance with the IHR (2005).
- Expand protection schemes for foreign nationals with irregular status in Nigeria through regularization and the provision of legal identity documents.
- Enhance the protection of displaced persons and host communities by addressing underlying drivers of displacement and displacement, ensuring timely and adequate support, and reinforcing the capacities of these groups to identify, cultivate, and leverage means to assure their enhanced resilience.
- Provide protection services to people at risk and or affected by crises with a special focus on gender; how gender affects people's experiences of the crisis and how crises change gender roles and relations; addressing gender-specific protection and assistance needs; preventing and responding to the emergence of new forms of gender-based violence; and building on gender-specific capacities to respond to crises.



Investments in understanding risks and building preparedness capacities for pre-emptive and early action are important because disaster preparedness is cost-effective and saves money: ©IOM 2022/Elijah Elaigwu

Strategic Priority 4 – Reinforce climate adaptation as a tool for enhancing the resilience of the population affected by climate change, environmental degradation, and disasters

- To address the long-term impacts of human mobility and livelihoods in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters by developing joint programmes considering the root causes of vulnerabilities of affected populations and effective adaptation strategies integrating local knowledge.
- Advocate for integrating considerations related to human mobility and climate change, environmental degradation and disasters into relevant governance instruments and policy processes at regional (ECOWAS), Federal, Governorate and LGA levels.



- Provide operational support to the Government and other actors for increasing direct assistance to people on the move and manage all forms of displacement caused by climate change, environmental degradation and disasters, including evacuations, returns, seasonal migration, pastoralist movements, labour migration and planned relocations, and in full respect of the human rights of individuals and communities involved.
- Address the linkages between migration, rapid urbanization, the impacts of climate change, notably on rural livelihoods and in peri-urban areas, city planning and environmental sustainability. Considering the rapidly increasing rates of urbanization and rural-to-urban migration, priority must also be put on urban environmental and climate-smart sustainability.
- Produce, analyze and share contextualized research outputs and data on migration and displacement trends associated with climate change, environmental degradation and disasters (including data collection, analysis and information communication on transhumance and pastoralism), disaggregated by location, gender, vulnerabilities and age.
- Strengthen the national-wide early warning system to predict drought and other disasters and establish community response networks at the grassroots level.
- Contribute meaningfully to climate action in communities of origin and destination, with a focus on green jobs (agroecology, reforestation, clean energy, waste management, sustainable construction, circular economy, sustainable food systems), natural resources management and disaster risk reduction, including encouraging alternative cooking and heating fuel (i.e., agri-waste briquettes).

B. Mobility

To protect migrants and optimize the benefits of labour mobility for countries of origin, transit and destination and the migrants themselves by contributing to the African economic and social integration.

IOM Nigeria has two Strategic Priorities under this pillar:

Strategic Priority 1 – Promote sound labour migration governance

- Engage in dialogue with government, non-government and private sector counterparts to align efforts on labour mobility with national priorities and actual market needs.
- Support institutional mechanisms to collect, analyze and disseminate labour market information in countries of origin and countries of destination to help potential migrants make informed decisions.
- Conduct skills mapping and profiling exercises, including within the informal sectors of the economy.
- Promote IOM tools for ethical recruitment and build the capacity of local authorities, service providers and

non-governmental counterparts, to support the Government in increasing migrant workers' awareness of their rights and options regarding social safety nets, including those emanating from the ECOWAS Free Movement Protocol.

- Promote regular migration pathways by encouraging different mobility schemes, mobilizing and strengthening private sector partnerships, and allowing for short-term business-to-business mobility schemes.
- Support circular migration schemes in key sectors, especially blue and green economic activities, to support climate change adaptation efforts and increase the resilience at risk due to environmental degradation.

Strategic Priority 2 – Promote conditions that empower migrants and the Nigerian Diaspora contribute to sustainable development.

- Offer high-tech facilities for knowledge and skills transfer through programmes for return and/or virtual return of qualified nationals, especially to create and/or support youth businesses in Nigeria, using web platforms and online communities, following the successful examples of global projects such as iDiaspora.
- Map local communities' needs for know-how, and financial and technical support, matched with a network of Nigerian diaspora experts willing to engage in community programmes for employment creation and sustainable development.
- Develop a worldwide community network among Nigerian diaspora members and disseminate information on the potential engagement of communities abroad in development initiatives for Nigeria's growth and the poorest communities' inclusion.
- Provide access to better and more inclusive financial services through developing mechanisms for sustainable investments by Nigerians abroad and productive remittances transfer paths.
- Promote decent working conditions for migrant workers and the protection of migrant workers' rights.



C. Governance

To foster evidence-based national and regional processes to strengthen government capacities to integrate migration into improved policies and operations, with a broader range of stakeholders, for higher institutional and international cooperation.

Strategic Priority 1 – Strengthen migration governance to anticipate, plan for, and constructively respond to migratory patterns, dynamics and related emergencies

- Support the Government in developing and reviewing policies related to migration governance and natural disaster-induced migration crisis and displacement.
- Support strategic interagency coordination among humanitarian, development, Government, and non-government actors involved in migration governance, preparedness, early warning, crisis management and response.
- Support Nigeria in implementing the GCM and other migration-related international frameworks and best practices through developing lessons-learnt, exchanging good practices and active participation in international and regional migration dialogues.
- Develop tools for improving the availability, quality, analysis and dissemination and utilization of migration data for evidence-based policy formulation across sectors relevant to migration governance.
- Support the implementation of the ECOWAS Common Approach to Migration through the Free Movement Protocol, the facilitation of regular migration channels in and out of West Africa, and the policy harmonization in fields such as combatting irregular migration, trafficking in persons, protection of migrants at borders, with a focus on gender migration.

Strategic Priority 2 – Strengthen border governance in cooperation with neighbouring countries.

- Scale up capacities of stakeholder for improved border governance. This will include BMIS, data sharing, collection, management and analysis, better border management infrastructure, strengthened policy/procedures and capacity development on migration management and human rights based approaches along the migration routes.
- Enhance integrated border management for interagency and intercontinental cooperation.
- Enhance community engagement approaches to ensure communities' full participation in border governance.
- Develop Health, Border and Mobility Management collaborations to improve prevention, detection, of diseases, along the mobility continuum through integrated border governance in collaboration with key partners such as ECOWAS and WHO.
- Enhance capacities to combat transnational organised crime and provide assistance and protections to victims.
- Strengthen mechanisms to support and facilitate interregional trade at key borders.

Strategic Priority 3 – Ensure local ownership in policy-making and implementation.

- Create awareness of national policies and international standards at the State and local government levels.
- Support the Government in enforcing national policies at the Federal Government, State, and local government levels.
- Ensure participation and inclusion of all the relevant stakeholders in policy development, review and implementation through grassroots dialogues and participatory mechanisms.

D. Cross-cutting themes

4.1 Gender

Achieving gender equality and ending discrimination against women and girls is a fundamental human right and a foundation for a peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable society, as highlighted by Goal 5, "Gender Equality", of the Sustainable Development Agenda of 2030.

Based on the IOM Gender Equality Policy and the IOM Institutional Framework for Addressing Gender-based Violence in Crises (GBViC Framework), IOM Nigeria ensures gender mainstreaming. It adopts a gender-inclusive approach responsive to target beneficiaries' needs in all its interventions.

Its programmes and activities are tailored to create a comprehensive beneficiary-driven and inclusive approach where the needs of beneficiaries, irrespective of their sex and gender identity, are equally identified, understood and met. This also includes a gender-responsive budgeting and a gender-sensitive Monitoring and Evaluation system to support the implementation

of IOM's commitments towards achieving gender equality.

It is of utmost importance to guarantee that gender balance is achieved and aligned with IOM policies and programming. IOM is committed to further pursuing all efforts to empower more women and girls and ensure their rights are respected. In this regard, IOM Nigeria is actively seeking more sustainable partnerships to help offer more services for GBV survivors and identify more women community leaders to support more gender-sensitive migration-related policies, hire more female staff and improve the complaint mechanism to be accessible to everyone.

IOM Nigeria has developed a pluriannual plan for the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment. The plan engages all staff in constant training and awareness on preventing, supporting and denouncing abuse among staff, service providers and partners.



Photos: IOM 2022/Elijah Elaigwu



Inclusion of persons with disabilities in emergency and humanitarian programming enables IOM to meet broader commitments such as AAP and protection mainstreaming: ©IOM 2022/Elijah Elaigwu

4.2 Disability Inclusion

IOM is committed per the Accountability to Affected Populations Framework (AAP) to mainstreaming persons with disabilities needs. The needs of differently abled persons will be identified and addressed while ensuring accessibility to IOM services and job openings and making premises accessible to them.

IOM Nigeria will further ensure that all its services directed towards migrants, including access to health and social services, are available and affordable to all, including those with disabilities, and support interventions to bridge the gap between all community-based organizations working to provide support services to people with disabilities.

4.3 Climate Change & Environmental Degradation

IOM is committed to reducing its environmental footprint globally and in Nigeria.

Nigeria is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change due to its geographical location, population density, and dependence on natural resources for economic development. The steadily increasing temperatures, changing rainfall patterns, sea level rises, and desertification have an impact on human health, agriculture and livestock, transhumance pathways which has led to communal violence and displacement. Deforestation, land degradation, air and water pollution and particularly oil pollution have taken a toll on Nigeria's environment, reducing biodiversity and impacting agricultural activities and other forms of livelihoods. A combination of these two factors dramatically exacerbates

communities' vulnerabilities.

Understanding the links between migration, environment, and climate change through the lens of human security, IOM is committed to putting vulnerable people at the centre of its responses and together with partners, mitigate the adverse environmental and climate drivers that compel people to move, address and reduce risks and vulnerabilities in migration, boost community resilience to avert, minimize and address displacement, and support communities with adaption strategies in the face of ongoing challenges.



Flood area in Benue State: ©IOM 2022/Elijah Elaigwu

4.4 Human Rights-Based Approach and Accountability to Affected Populations.

IOM is mandated by its Constitution and the policy documents adopted by its Member States to contribute to protecting migrants.

This includes the IOM Guidance Note on Protection Mainstreaming in Crisis Response, the IOM Data Protection Principles, the IOM Right-based Approach (RBA) to Programming and the Accountability Framework to Affected Populations.

In line with this mandate as well as the international, regional

and national legal and normative frameworks, IOM Nigeria will continue to promote and protect the human rights of migrants and ensure that its interventions do no harm, promote non-discrimination and meaningful access, safety, dignity, participation, empowerment and accountability measures. IOM will continue to build its competencies to identify and respond to protection risks through staff training, guidance materials, and strengthening referral mechanisms and partnerships across its operational spectrum while promoting the integration of RBA into all its interventions to ensure that people on the move are protected.

4.5 Youth

IOM Nigeria seeks to ensure that every youth in Nigeria is empowered to achieve his or her full potential. Its programmes aim at ensuring that youth's capacities, resilience and positive contributions become agents of change.

IOM will continue to work closely with the Government of Nigeria, its international community partners, the civil society

and the private sector to enhance the skills and employability of the Nigerian and migrant youth to provide positive alternatives to irregular migration and enhance an inclusive society.

IOM will continue its work on advancing the social well-being of youth in their societies, advancing social cohesion and promoting youth as ambassadors of unity and change.

4.6 Data

Data remains central to IOM's operations and decision-making at all levels. In strengthening partners' capacities on the data front, IOM will continue to build on its experience and leverage new approaches and partnerships needed to understand and navigate a dynamic operating environment. The long-term goal is to enable IOM and its partners to anticipate changes and reduce risks; prepare, protect and respond in a timely and effective manner; and inform strategies and long-term planning to support good governance and help achieve a safer, more sustainable and

more equitable future through harmonized interoperable mobility monitoring methodologies. The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) will be a key tool to support the country office's data objectives. In addition, the Solutions and Mobility Index (SMI) will support IOM work in identifying root causes and factors associated with fragility and develop evidence-based actions geared towards delivering Sustainable Solutions to protracted displacement.

E. Partnership and coordination

Recognizing the strategic value and importance of whole-of-government and whole-of-society solutions to mobility challenges, IOM will continue to build on its long-standing relationship with the Federal Government of Nigeria, the State Governments where IOM has operational presence and respective MDAs while nurturing similar relationships in new areas of operational presence where IOM's unique operational mandate brings solutions to challenges at hand. As Coordinator and Secretariat of the UN Network on Migration, IOM works closely with UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes to strengthen collaboration and coherence on migration issues across the UN system. In addition, IOM's programming contributes towards the UN in Nigeria's 2023-2027 UNSDCF by ensuring that programming is aligned to the cooperation framework, including the transformative initiatives as part of efforts to accelerate action towards achieving the SDGs. This is achieved through sustained

engagement with traditional and non-traditional partners "whole of society / whole of government lens", including the international community (broadening the resource base through multilateral and bilateral partners), the private sector (strong private sector engagement and involvement in the migration discourse is a critical component of IOM's comprehensive approach) and involvement of the academia (investments in research and leveraging the wide interest in mobility dimensions by the academia for sound policy development). As a Grand Bargain signatory, IOM is committed to the localization agenda by supporting humanitarian response by providing more support and funding tools for local and national responders. Through its crisis preparedness and response programmes, IOM is committed to strengthening local and national actors' capacities to build resilience, support local ownership, and support durable solutions.

F. Institutional development

6.1 Research and Policy.

IOM Nigeria strongly creates close interlinkages between data collection and migration policy design. Working with academia and research institutes on migration is essential to developing policies and assessing impact.

All programmes are implemented through a data lens which

allows for gathering information on results, with disaggregated data reflecting the needs and profiles of individuals. Such data analysis allows IOM monitoring to address issues requiring a comprehensive response.

6.2 Strategic Communication and Innovation

IOM Nigeria regular communication with a large spectrum of partners to ensure coherence and a wider understanding of IOM's 'why' and 'how'.

Such partnerships encompass relations with governments, other UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes, the media, academia, I/NGOs, the private sector and local communities. The organization's work is led by regular dialogue on migration governance with all potential actors in the society. It includes disseminating data and knowledge to the widest audience using participatory approaches.

IOM Nigeria will seek new partnerships to encourage the inclusion of innovative methods and processes into all its actions. IOM will strengthen partnerships to ensure it is well-positioned to promote innovation and technology to support solutions for migrants and diaspora and end protracted situations for displaced populations and affected host communities.

IOM will use and expand its strong networks to ensure migration policy and cooperation that spans borders, regional and interregional, work with the UN Communications Group at the country level and enhance communication initiatives on country-level innovations in migration.

G. The Way Forward

Based on its expertise, IOM Nigeria will continuously promote migration governance through a comprehensive migration management approach. IOM Nigeria aims to lead its action plans for implementing the GCM and the execution of the most relevant actions and objectives pertinent to the priorities of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and ECOWAS.

Migration stages are interlinked and involve a variety of actors, partnerships and policy considerations at different levels and

varying degrees. Participants in the migration process in Nigeria are multifaceted and diverse. There are a series of important elements that need to be considered, which are linked to the impact and contributions of the Nigerian diaspora to the economic development and growth of the country, as well as cross-cutting themes, such as the need to address protection issues, particularly for women and children, to tackle climate change and to empower youth to achieve their full potential, capacities, resilience and positive contributions as agents of change.

IOM Nigeria will continue to engage with public and private entities, including all relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies working directly or indirectly on migration issues, as well as individuals, such as employers, family members, community organizations, international organizations and development partners.

IOM Nigeria will continue supporting the Government of Nigeria and its partners to operationalize various instruments, including the 23 objectives of the GCM, the 17 SDGs and the six elements of the MiGOF governing migration.

Overall, the migration process includes complex linkages between, inter alia, economic, social, trade, labour, health, cultural and security policy areas, as well as rights and obligations, including those of migrants and States under international law. In that sense, the IOM Nigeria Country Strategy seeks engagement and partnerships with new stakeholders involved in the migration discourse. In addition, the Strategy seeks to support more comprehensive policies that will account for the three strategic pillars of resilience, mobility and governance actions aimed at reducing the gap between policy and reality.



Through these art-based interventions, IOM supports the psychosocial well-being of migrants and VoTs, facilitates their healing process, and empowers them to rebuild their lives after traumatic experiences: ©IOM 2022/Elijah Elaigwu



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