Immigration into Ghana Since 1990

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Structure of Presentation

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- Immigration Trends
- Types of Immigrants
  - Refugees
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Ghana
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selected Indicator</th>
<th>Figure</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Area</td>
<td>238,537 km²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDP per Capita (2005)</td>
<td>US$ 2,601.00 (UNDP, 2009)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Human Development Index Ranking (2009)</td>
<td>0.467 (130 out of 169 countries) UNDP 2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Migration Rate</td>
<td>1 person per 10,000 of the population</td>
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Immigration Trends

- Size of immigrant population has been declining.
- It declined from 12.3% in 1960 to 7% in 1970.
  - Decline is due to enactment of Aliens Compliance Order in 1969.
  - It is estimated that between 155,000 and 213,000 aliens were expelled.
- It further declined to 3.6% in 1984 due to deterioration in the economy in the late 1970s and early 1980s.
- However, it increased marginally to 3.9% in 2000.
Immigrants in Ghana

• Total immigrants in Ghana in 2006 was 614,000, (2.78% of the total population (GIS, 2006).
• Sex composition:
• Males (50.8%) and females (49.2%).
• Minors (under 18 years) formed 42% (GIS, 2006)
• Immigrants are from all continents with Africans dominating.
• Major countries of origin - Nigeria, Niger, Mali and Burkina-Faso; then Togo and expectantly La Cote d’Ivoire.
Immigrants in Ghana by Region in 2000 (GSS, 2002)

- ECOWAS Citizens, 58.9%
- Other Africans, 23%
- Non-Africans, 18.1%
Refugees/Assylum Seekers

- Ghana is host of refugees and asylum seekers.
- They fled civil wars in Liberia and Sierra Leone; and political crisis in Togo and La Côte d’Ivoire.
- At its peak, the country provided refuge to over 150,000 persons in 1993 (Anarfi et al, 2003; Bump, 2006).
- Number of persons of concern to UNHCR in 2005 totaled 58,700 (UNHCR, 2005).
Refugees/Assylum Seekers (cont’)

- Liberians accounted for 77% of refugees in Ghana in 2007 (IOM, 2009).
- Minors (under 18 years) formed 40% of the refugees from Liberia and Togo (UNHCR, 2008).
- Until 2008, Ghana remained host to the fourth-largest population of asylum seekers and refugees in the region (IOM, 2009).
- Steep increase in the number of asylum seekers from 497 in 2004 to 14,016 in 2005.
Comparison of Females and Minors among Refugees by Nationality (2007)
Labour Migrants

- Historically, labour migrants have always been in the majority.
- Evidence of permanent labour immigrants in Ghana – Mines.
- Temporary/Seasonal labour migrants include Fulani cattle herdsmen, as well as seasonal workers from Burkina Faso, Niger and Mali.
- No national statistics EXISTS on labour immigrants.
- Immigrants work in mining, industry, services and agricultural sectors.
- Commencement of oil drilling is attracting immigrants e.g. Nigerians to Ghana; also from outside Africa.
Labour Migrants (cont’)

• Temporary-Seasonal labour migrants take advantage of the rainy season to farm in their countries of origin and come to Ghana to work when the rains cease there.

• Immigrants from Canada, US, the United Kingdom and other European countries (Netherlands and Germany).

• According to the GSS, Indians and Lebanese nationals formed the highest proportion of Asians who arrived in Ghana between 1999 and 2002.
Commercial Migrants

• Historically, also significant
  ▫ The trans-Saharan trade route was about commerce.
  ▫ A 1960 study in Accra – 60% of traders were Nigerians.
• Lebanese and Indians have also played a major role.
• Legacy of commercial migration.
  ▫ Hausas in Ghana.
  ▫ Remnants of Yoruba
  ▫ Lebanese descendants.
Students

- Student immigration is rising in Ghana particularly those from ECOWAS Member States.
- In 2007, 2,992 foreign students were granted resident permit (25% from ECOWAS Member States (GIS, 2008, IOM, 2009).
- Foreign students in University of Ghana rose from 1.5% (2001/2) to 3.8% (2006/7)- UG Public Affairs, 2008).
- In 2007/8 academic year, UG admitted 1,142 non-nationals from 42 countries .
- Nigerians and Americans (US) accounted for 46% and 31% respectively in 2007/8 academic year.
- There are 55,000 Nigerians in tertiary institutions in Ghana - Nigerian High Commissioner.
Drivers of Immigration to Ghana

- Economy (exploitation of natural resources timber, minerals) and cultivation of cocoa.
- Conducive agro-ecological conditions.
- Liberal economic environment.
- Relative peace and political stability (oasis of peace in the sub-region).
- Proverbial Ghanaian hospitality.
- Relatively higher standard of education (tertiary level).
Immigration Governance

• Absence of migration policy but legislations (Constitution, Immigration and Citizenship Laws).

• ECOWAS protocol on free movement, AU and NEPAD migration framework,

• Institutions (Ministries of Interior, Foreign Affairs and Labour, GIS, Ghana Refugee Board, National Migration Bureau, police and judiciary)

• Collaborating agencies: UNFPA, UNDP, UNHCR, IOM, EU, embassies, etc
Immigration Governance

• Universities (RIPS, CMS, ISSER) and Population Council (research, dissemination, capacity building, etc.

• Civil society groups:
  ➢ African American Association of Ghana,
  ➢ Liberian Refugee Welfare Council,
  ➢ Association of Nigerian Residents in Ghana.
Challenges

- Policy deficit (ad-hoc nature of decisions)
- Limited coordination among MDAs dealing with immigration issues
- Absence of reliable data to guide policy formulation for effective management
- Weak implementation of ECOWAS protocols
- Inadequate institutional capacity for effective management of immigration
Way Forward

• Improvement in Migration governance in terms of policy formulation and better coordination.

• Capacity building of MDAs working on migration related issues.

• Collection, processing and storage of reliable immigration data – Need for collaborative effort.

• Accelerate economic growth to regulate labour immigration.
THANK YOU!!!