#DEFYHATENOW

Social Media & Migration

MIGRANT MEDIA NETWORK
FIELD GUIDE
GHANA EDITION
PROTOTYPE OCTOBER 2019

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#migrantmedianet
#PlanB4UPack
#Smart2Migrate
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Social Media & Migration
FIELD GUIDE

The #defyhatenow Social Media Hate Speech Mitigation Field Guide is the basis of this training material. The Field Guide is designed to be modular and flexible, with practical strategies and hands-on methods to facilitate the responsible use of social media with relation to migration. Incorporating feedback and input from participants, the #MigrantMediaNet Social Media & Migration Field Guide is adapted to these scenarios for future applications and training.

The #MigrantMediaNet Social Media & Migration Field Guide offers an introduction to the contexts of migration, along with information, case studies, personal stories and resources to be used by potential migrants in order to make more informed decisions before embarking on the journey.

THIS INITIATIVE AIMS TO ASSIST PEOPLE IN MAKING INFORMED CHOICES ABOUT MIGRATION BY:
• Engaging members of the Ghanaian diaspora in social media sensitization
• Providing offline tools to disseminate information in remote regions of Ghana
• Creating a network of trainers in remote regions in Ghana
• Mitigating propaganda, hate speech & misinformation on social media
• Enabling an informed decision-making process in regard to migration to Europe

The guide contains information on the EU asylum system; profile of Ghana as an emigration country of origin, the main routes Ghanaian irregular migrants take and the dangers linked to them, personal stories of migrants reflecting on why they emigrated and the information and narratives they had about the destination countries. These stories may inspire potential migrants to think more deeply about the reasons motivating them to leave, and how well informed they are about the journey and destination countries.

Migrant Perspectives in each section are quotes from interviews and real-life stories recorded during the Migrant Media Workshop series in Berlin, July-August 2019.

Social Media & Migration Narratives

Social media is a primary source of information for many people, especially youth and young adults between the age of 15-35 years. In the case of migrants from sub-Saharan Africa, a significant number of individuals depend on friends' messages and posts when deciding on migration to Europe from their countries of origin for the promise of a better future. Additionally, many individuals who have arrived in Europe – despite all the trouble they may have gone through and situations they have encountered in their countries of residence, quite often send misleading messages on the ease or difficulty of life in Europe. Additional misleading information is shared by human traffickers whose aim is to get paid to bring people to Europe. Prospective migrants, on the other hand, take this information as fact, and based on this may decide to turn to irregular, strenuous and unsafe migration routes which can increase vulnerability to their abuse and exploitation.

For individuals who decide to migrate based on the erroneous information they find online, many will move without the right documents and not using the official channels.

As a consequence, some people end up in inhumane prisons in Libya - the main departure point for sea crossings to Europe - where they are traded for hard labour. Many die while trying to reach Europe across the Mediterranean Sea, while others fall into the depression of being unable to access the life they expected (as seen on the internet) upon arrival in Europe with no legal documents or refugee status. Ashamed to return home and afraid of being seen as failures they post pictures of 'the good life in Germany,' resulting in even more people trying to reach Europe.

> "
> One of the reasons why people resort to irregular migration is a lack of information about how to travel legally and the real dangers of irregular routes. Empowering migrants with correct knowledge is one of the most effective ways to protect potential migrants from unnecessary harm and loss of life. — Sylvia Lopez-Ekra, IOM Ghana Chief of Mission.
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Migration Contexts

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MIGRATION CONTEXTS

Why do people migrate?

The reasons for migration are complex and the decision to migrate is a personal and individual matter. In order to understand migration we need to ask two key questions:

What are the conditions in which people develop aspirations to migrate?
Under what conditions are they able to realize those aspirations?

The diagram below indicates that migration is not based on specific push/pull factors but is a process. A process that flows from the life conditions that potential migrants find themselves in, combined with the prospects they have for life at that particular stage.

MIGRATION ASPIRATIONS

People seek change in many ways, individually or together, sometimes developing migration aspirations. Conflict-threatened civilians, graduates at risk of unemployment, and farmers who have been harmed by environmental degradation may all conclude that their best option is to leave. This is the first step towards actual migration.

The concept of 'migration aspirations' seems to contradict the idea of forced migration. Surely people who are forcibly expelled have no desire to move? They do so in the sense that they have considered the options and considered flight to be the best survival strategy.
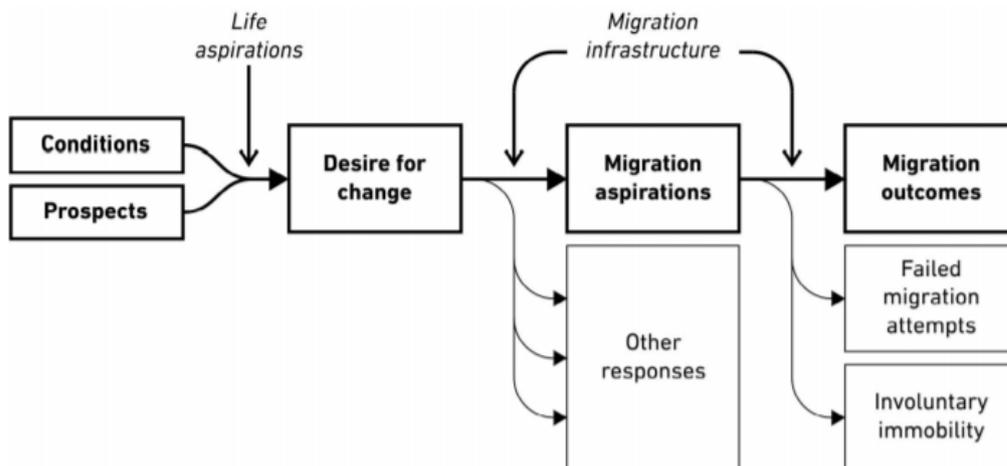
A model of the mechanisms that produce migration[3]

When people develop a desire for change in their lives, focusing that desire on migration is only one option, there are other paths that lead to different answers.

Another of the conditions that can lead to migration are the challenges faced by youth, which can result in halting their transition to independent adulthood. The resulting frustrations relate not only to poverty, but also to environmental: social, environmental and political structures that have marginalised young people. Migration is one possible response, but other responses include joining an insurrection or self-help group. The "root causes" of migration are the root causes of other, no less important, phenomena.

The desire for change can be a positive force. The frustrations and energies people direct into migration could potentially be channelled into education or entrepreneurship. However, this presupposes the right conditions. Education must be accessible and have a real impact on employment prospects. The business environment must be conducive to small-scale entrepreneurship. Where people eventually direct their desires for change depends on the relative attractiveness and feasibility of the various possible outcomes.

In the Ghanaian context, there are some structural problems that still need solutions. Many young people are unemployed and the youth doesn't have the chance to gain professional experience during high school with an internship in an enterprise. In spite of this, entrepreneurship is flourishing in Ghana, and access to skills and knowledge has proven to be key to escape poverty. President Akufo-Addo has declared 2019 as the 'Year of Return for Diasporans.'

"One of the things I normally say is: 'stay'. What is realistic is that the struggle is there. But what is also realistic is that attempting to go outside of your country, especially through Libya, which is the most popular route, is worse. If a young person didn't get the chance to learn about the journey, once he or she starts planning, it would be very good to listen to responsible authorities. If you stay, you have a lot of opportunities. The very first one is peace of mind. When you have that, no matter what struggle you are facing, you will find a future. I am the only graduate in my entire clan. I did not have people who had money and could give me security to start something after school, nor contact with academics. When I finished school, most people I talked to were very positive about going to Libya. I always asked further to find out what interest those people might have. I decided to stay because no matter what struggle I was facing, I had people who could help me. So even if I had to beg, I would do it from people I know. Even if I had to sleep in the street, I would know the environment. Even though I was desperate to succeed, I didn't pick any chance that came. I saw that there is hope in Ghana and there is still hope. You just need to move, to start something." Desmond Alugnoa, social entrepreneur and founder of Green Africa Youth Organization

Migration may not initially be an option in people's minds. But it is likely to become the case when many others have already left the same community. One of the strongest predictors of migration are social networks with former migrants. This is an aspect of migration infrastructure, a concept recently introduced into migration theory. Migration infrastructure has an impact on the likelihood that people's desire for change will be directed towards migration efforts. The migration infrastructure consists of human and non-human elements that enable and shape migration, grouped into five dimensions:

• Social networks (migrant networks) and Burgers (returnees in Ghana)

• Regulatory (state apparatus and procedures)

• Technological (communications, transport)

• Humanitarian (non-governmental organisations and international organisations)

• Social networks (migrant networks)

Migration infrastructure plays different roles. Firstly, it influences how people perceive the possibility of migration and whether or not they develop migration desires. Secondly, migration infrastructure influences whether or not such efforts are realized.

MIGRATION OUTCOMES

Migration aspirations are one step removed from actual migration. And this is a decisive step. For people who develop migration aspirations, there are three possible outcomes:

First, they could succeed in migrating. This does not imply that migration is a 'success' for the individual,

but it means reaching the destination. Possibilities for converting migration aspirations into actual migration depend on migration regulations, access to information, social networks, and other dimensions of migration infrastructure. The second possible result of migration aspirations is a failed migration attempt. The most extreme - but not uncommon - form of failure is death. Several thousand people die every year in the attempt to migrate.

Many others are apprehended and returned soon after arriving.

In addition, thousands of migrants manage to leave home, but get stuck on the way. Many Sub-Saharan Africans headed for Europe are trapped in North Africa without the means to make the final leg of the journey, due to extortion by people smugglers and facing the dangers of exploitation or forced labour along the way. Failed migration attempts are a serious burden also for migrants' families and communities of origin.

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KEY QUESTIONS FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

Why do you want to migrate?

How do you imagine your life there?

What other choices do you have?

· Why do you want to migrate to another country?

· How do you imagine life would change there?

· Do you have other choices to improve your life?

· Can I change my life situation or some aspects of it?

· Have I asked somebody to help me with my life situation?

· Can I find ways to have a happy and successful life here?

· Do I feel pressured by other migrants, returnees, friends or family to migrate?

· Am I seeking to gain recognition and respect from my community?

· Is the information I have about Europe mainly coming from people or did I also consider official and maybe more reliable sources of information?

· Am I aware of possible dangers during the journey?

REGULAR MIGRATION

Why does a person migrate?
People want a better life

· Further studies / training

· Work

· Highly skilled & Low Skilled

· Family reunion

· Tourism

· A person who needs protection (refugee, humanitarian protection & subsidiary)

What do you need to migrate? (document/ financial info/ connections)

· You can apply for a visa but high probability your visa will be rejected

· Cost/ease student visa application process

· Work contract

· Scholarships

· Loans

· Self-financed

· Arranged marriage

Responses from Migrant Media Network Workshop, Berlin 2019.

IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Why does a person migrate?
People are ignorant of the realities

· Economic / Greener pastures

· High skilled educated people overstaying visa

· No or low skilled workers

· Family reunion

· A person who needs protection (refugee, humanitarian protection & Subsidiary)

· Tourism (eg: regular migration changed to irregular due to tourist visa overstaying)

What do you need to migrate? (document/ financial info/ connections)

· Connections men are scams (connection men is a name used in Ghana for smugglers.)

· Ghana is considered a safe country asylum approach might not work and it takes time.

· It is not as easy as it seems, only a few people survive

· High probability your asylum will be rejected

· Human trafficking & smuggling

· Duration for visa and permit

· It is in most cases much more expensive

· border control

· Health assistance (psychological)

· Understand host country rules & regulations

PERSPECTIVES ON MIGRATION ASPIRATIONS

What would help new migrants to make the journey safer and with dignity?

"First of all, all these people have people they talk to on the ground before they come. Nobody wakes up and decides to come to Germany without knowing anybody or anything. But the question we need to ask is, are people getting the right information? Are they also trying to make them use the proper way of coming with a safe journey?

They can tell you; okay you can get a tourist visa and when you come to Germany, we will look for a girl to get married to, but at the end of the day this is not the right means."

"A student can apply for school, get the certificate, get a valid passport and visa, should be financially stable, get a scholarship or family support. Because most people take fake documents, like fake bank accounts, they just collect money from people to their account and submit them to the embassy to get a visa. But the fact is that the money is not theirs, so they are coming here to struggle from zero.

So, to avoid this, one has to prepare very well to be able to sustain yourself maybe a maximum of 2-3 or 4-6 months before you can start to look for a job. For a safe and secure journey, all these processes must be evaluated by the person himself/ herself; before they embark on the journey or the process.

GHANA MIGRATION PROFILE

About 3% of Ghana's population have emigrated since 2014, mostly to Europe for greener pastures (801,710 Ghanaians).[4] Although the economy has grown impressively over the past years, it has not been able to absorb the rapidly expanding youth labour force, driving high emigration amongst both highly-skilled and unemployed youth.

The majority of migrating Ghanaians are young, male and single. Many feel there aren't any job prospects in Ghana or a realistic chance to legally migrate to Europe if they come from a poor family. They believe that a journey across the desert and the sea is their only option. Often relying on hearsay, their families sell property and acquire debts to finance the journey and entrust their lives to unscrupulous human smugglers who promise to arrange easy access into the country of their choice.[5]

Reasons to leave, a comparison between genders

Research on socioeconomic profiles of migrants arriving in Italy based on a thousands of interviews realized between April and July 2016 in Cara, Cas and Sprar in different Italian regions

% ■ Men ■ Women

Reason	Women	Men
Economic causes	30.5	22.1
Study causes	5.7	2.5
Family causes	37.9	17.7
Discrimination	65	57.9
Insecurity or wars	28.3	45.8
Research of protection in the arrival country	2.8	5.4

Source: OIM

openmigration.org
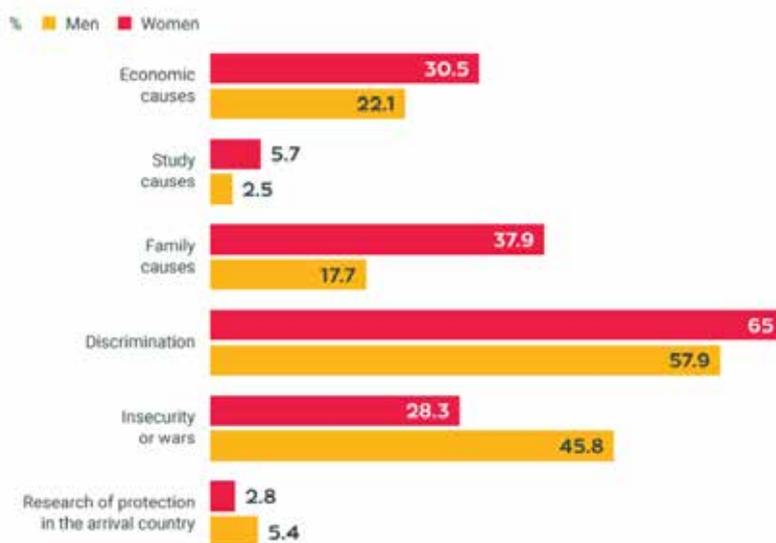
The 2019 study, "The perception of risk among unauthorized migrants in Ghana"[6] published in the Journal of Risk Research, by Sjoerd van Bemmel, has revealed that young men in Ghana who decide to emigrate to Europe tend to perceive themselves as being trapped in a vulnerable position and are convinced that there are no acceptable alternative options that can alter their current situation. This makes them likely to engage in high risk behaviour, hoping "for a radical change of the present circumstances even if the stakes are high or the probabilities for the hope to be realised are relatively low."

During interviews in this study, all participants displayed a high level of frustration and anxiety about their current living situation in Ghana. Of particular note was the prevalence of the idea that, due to lack of opportunities, it would be impossible for them to progress in life socioeconomically by remaining in their country. Most participants expressed their wish to obtain a 'small-small job' in Europe if they were unable to acquire any documents. For some, getting documents was not even a priority. All hoped to be able to work in the shadow economy for several years before returning to Ghana to finally begin the life they had envisioned for themselves.

In Ghana, the returned migrants, called 'Burger', are regarded as respectable people and form a distinct social class. Burgers are seen as winners of the 'European Lottery'. They are role models for many Ghanaian youngsters, since they have been able to establish a respectable life for themselves and are able to fulfil their roles as providers of their family. One aspect that enhances the social status of Burgers is the hardship they had to go through in order to collect the financial means to support their family.

An interviewee stated: "When I picture how Burgers are living ... mostly they suffer in Europe. But they bring back money and manage their money and resources very well." Burgers show the Ghanaian youth that embarking on a journey to Europe is indeed a serious and viable opportunity, if not the only one, for those trapped in a prolonged involuntary state of youth and longing to break out. Their appearance in Ghanaian society presents the evidence that rewards are high for those who are able to succeed.

In addition, social pressure within the family and in the community is sometimes so great that many young people feel "forced" to leave their country for Europe:

> **"**
> These days you simply cannot please parents. They constantly compare their children with the children of other families. If they see a young man from another family has made it to Europe and regularly sends money home, then you are berated, by your mother, your father that you don't do anything other than sleep and eat.[5]
> **"**

The data shows that mostly migrant women and to a lesser extent men, don't decide to leave their homeland independently, but rather have succumbed to pressure from other members of their community to do so. However, those putting pressure on individuals are often not completely aware of the dangers and challenges that can emerge when migrating, and migration is a life changing experience.

Both Burgers and the diaspora tend to downplay both the dangers that can emerge for irregular migrants during the journey - such as imprisonment, prostitution, rape, financial loss or deportation - and the challenges many have to face once they arrive in Europe and are forced to live clandestinely: no access to basic rights like education, legal work and health; rejection from the host society; difficulties learning the language; loneliness; financial struggle, etc. The lack of awareness of the potential risks, and peer pressure to migrate through irregular channels can cause a lot of damage.

WHO CAN APPLY FOR ASYLUM IN EUROPE?

Introduction to European migration laws to give potential migrants an informed perspective for their chances of being granted asylum in the European Union.

1951 GENEVA CONVENTION AND THE 1967 PROTOCOL

The second World War produced more than 30 million refugees. From the experience of the Holocaust and WWII there emerged a post-war frame of openness and redemption, resulting in the creation of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in 1950 and the ratification of the Geneva Convention (1951) and Protocol (1967) on Asylum and the Status of Refugees. The 1951 Geneva Convention is the main international instrument of refugee law. It was initially limited to protecting European refugees from World War II, that is, before January 1951.[6]

In the 1960s, migration became a global phenomenon, as the origin of migrants started to shift from developing countries, fleeing or moving to industrialized nations.[7] The 1967 Protocol broadened the applicability of the first Convention and removed geographical or time limits, including refugees from world regions who acquired this status after 1951. The rights for refugees gained a global dimension after the 1967 Protocol.[8]

PROTECTION CATEGORIES

REFUGEE
A person who, owing to well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is owing to such fear, is unable or unwilling to access the protection of that country.[9]

- Persecution can be related to action by the authorities of the State, but may also emanate from non-state agents, such as armed groups, criminal or organized gangs, family members or the general population, where the State is unable or unwilling to provide protection.

- The 1951 Convention protects persons fleeing armed conflict, whether international or internal, and other situations of violence. Armed conflicts and violence may be rooted in, motivated by, or conducted along the lines of race, ethnicity, or religion, or politics, gender or social group.[10]

SUBSIDIARY PROTECTION
Subsidiary protection can be given to a third country national or a stateless person who does not qualify as a refugee but would face a real risk of suffering serious harm if returning home. Serious harm can include: death penalty, execution, torture or danger of dying due to internal or international conflict.[11]

HUMANITARIAN PROTECTION
Humanitarian protection is a residual form of protection available to those not eligible for refugee status, who do not have a right to subsidiary protection but cannot be removed from national territory because of objective and serious personal situations. These are related to crisis situations, such as famine or an environmental disaster, and rely on humanitarian assistance in the short term. The permit is valid for two years and can be converted into a residence permit for work.[12]

DUBLIN III
The Dublin agreement is a mechanism in the European Union, to identify which country is responsible for processing the asylum application of someone belonging to a non-EU country or a stateless person. Usually, the responsible country is the first EU member state where the migrants set foot, which leads to Spain, Greece and Italy taking on the majority of responsibility. One of the main objectives of Dublin III is to avoid someone seeking asylum in the country of their choice (so-called "asylum shopping) or being present in Europe without any country taking responsibility for examining their request ("orbiting").

- When a migrant applies for asylum in another EU country than the country of entrance into the EU, there

are some considerations (family reunion, possession of visa or work permit and particular conditions of the state through which the asylum seeker entered the EU). If none of these apply, the state where the asylum seeker applied for asylum has to take responsibility.

· But if these don't apply, asylum seekers can't decide where to live in the European Union if they are granted refugee status.[13]

SAFE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN
One instrument of the Dublin III regulation is a list of "safe countries of origin".
In these countries, it can be shown on the basis of the legal and the general political circumstances, that there is generally and consistently no persecution, no torture or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and no threat by reason of indiscriminate violence in situations of international or internal armed conflict.

The countries included in the list are thus presumed to be safe to live. That means, nationalities included in that list (which differs among EU Nations) have extremely low chances to be granted asylum. Ghana is considered a "safe country of origin". Being considered a safe country of origin and not having any of the circumstances the European Refugee Law take into consideration for giving asylum, Ghanaian people have very low chances to be granted refugee status if they migrate to Europe.[14]

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT MIGRATION INFOGRAPHICS
People migrating to the EU are categorised as either: an asylum-seeker, a refugee, a beneficiary of subsidiary protection, an irregular immigrant or a legal immigrant.
http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/infographics/migration/public/index.html?page=intro

FREE MOVEMENT UK
"What is the legal definition of a refugee?"
https://www.freemovement.org.uk/what-is-the-legal-meaning-of-refugee/
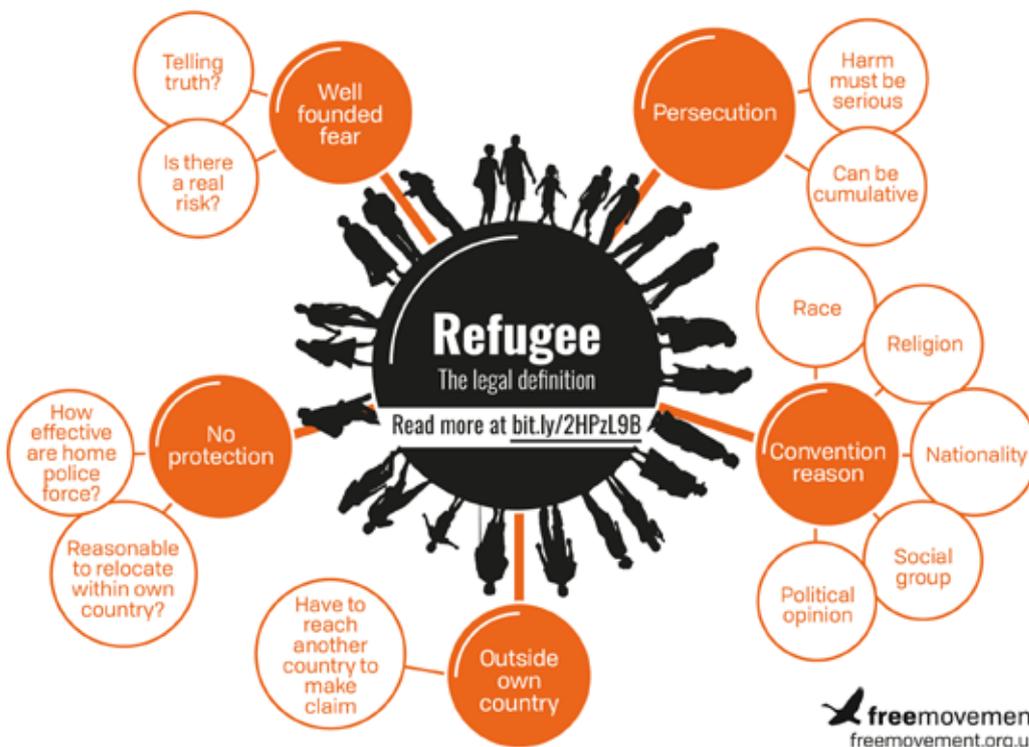
MIGRANT PERSPECTIVES: SAFETY & DIGNITY

What do you wish you knew before-hand?

"The most important thing for me was to learn the language. I should have known you have to work and pay for everything, you have to have a well-structured life, Although my life was quite structured before I came here, it wasn't as structured as it is back in Ghana. Getting your stuff together, doing things on time, time is actually the key point of interest here. Everything must be done on time. For me it was like you are going abroad, just pack your stuff, get on the flight and get what you need. But there is more to it than just coming. You have to have general knowledge about where you are going, and know the dos and don'ts."

Do you have any support structure from another fellow Ghanaian community?

"As a student, my University assisted me with most of the basic needs. There is a Ghana student union in Germany. I was introduced to this page by the Ghanaian embassy, I went there to register myself as a student living in Germany. They told me that there is a platform you can join and share your ideas and they can support you, but not financial support. It's a WhatsApp group platform, you can ask a question there at any time, someone will answer your questions and give you directions."

CASE STUDY: THE MIGRANT PROJECT

Reliable and trustworthy information on migration is very difficult to find. The media, smugglers, and even people from your community who have already migrated can give a false impression of the journey and life in a new country. Smugglers will lie to make a profit. And what was true for a migrants before may be out of date today – laws in destination countries change, and routes can become more dangerous.

They can tell you what the risks are before you start your journey, and what life is really like in common destination countries. They can also help you learn about legal migration options, training or business opportunities closer to home.

The Migrant Project uses channels that are easiest to access and most influential among likely migrant communities. That includes talking in person or over the phone to a counsellor in your own language; a website optimised for browsing on a smartphone; social media and facebook page; or informational events hosted in local communities. Look out for their events in your community before making any final decisions about migration. **The Migrant Project** is active on the ground in Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Europe.

https://www.themigrantproject.org/
https://www.facebook.com/TheMigrantProject
Bamako, Mali +22392577414
Nigeria +2348169229349
Nigeria +2348061637956

REGULAR MIGRATION PATHWAYS

Regular migration pathways include labor mobility regimes, sponsorship programs for high-skilled workers, student visas and protection for refugees.

EXAMPLES FOR SKILLED WORKERS

EU BLUE CARD

TheEuropean Union Blue Card, introduced in 2008, is a work permit that allows high-skilled non-EU citizens to work and live in any country within the European Union, excluding Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom. Who is eligible? People having a degree from an accredited university, highly qualified people in a 'shortage occupation' (engineers, doctors, mathematicians, scientists and IT- skilled workers) and people who have an employment contract in Germany with the amount of €50,800 per year.[15]

SKILLED IMMIGRATION ACT IN GERMANY[16]

Coming into force in 2020. The Skilled Immigration Act will create the framework under which qualified professionals from third countries can come to work in Germany. The key changes that the Skilled Immigration Act will introduce are as follows:

- Qualified professionals includes university graduates & vocational qualifications.
- They can take jobs for which they are qualified, not necessarily occupations that have a shortage. IT specialists without formal qualifications.
- The new Act does not offer any new opportunities for unqualified or low-skilled workers to gain access to the labour market in Germany.
- Persons with vocational qualifications will be able to come to Germany whilst they look for a job provided that they have sufficient German language skills and are able to sustain themselves financially.
- Opportunities to come to Germany in order to undertake training will be improved.[17]

MIGRANT PERSPECTIVES - STUDENT NETWORKS

What support structures do you have? What do you still need?

"I think one thing that I have is my sponsors (scholarship), the university where I study (I always could ask questions and get answers or direction where to get answers). But I would really have loved to have first-hand interaction with the African community here. If the Ghanaian community will have a system when you arrive, to welcome you and give you first-hand information about what you are supposed to do or not to do.

We have a different system from Germany. And when you first come you might still be behaving like you used to back at home which in a way wouldn't be offensive in Ghana, Nigeria, Togo or the other countries that I know, but very offensive here. So, if you have a community that will receive you and tells you some of these things that help. I would have loved to have been introduced to Ghanaian or African community."

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RESOURCES FOR STUDY: INFORMED MIGRATION CHOICES

Opportunities to study abroad and key visa information:

DAAD Ghana – Admission Requirements to study in Germany

The DAAD Information Center Accra offers information on the procedures and requirements involved in the process of gaining admission to a German university.
https://www.daad-ghana.org/en/study-research-in-germany/eight-steps-to-germany/admission-requirements/

Visa information for Ghanaian students to study in Germany

Visa Type D / Residence Permit
If you're a student from Ghana, you'll need the Visa Type D / Residence Permit to study in Germany. Information about the process to help decide what study is right for you.
https://www.mastersportal.com/visa-info/167-11/students-from-ghana-to-germany.html

Study in Germany

Opportunities & Visa Process
https://www.timelinetrust.com/study_in_germany.html

After School Africa Scholarships

German scholarships for international students from Africa and developing countries.
https://www.afterschoolafrica.com/scholarship/by-country/scholarship-in-germany/

🗨

MIGRANT PERSPECTIVES: LIFE IN GERMANY

Once you've arrived, how did you start to create a new life in Germany?

 "You wake up in the morning and you have to know what time the train comes and where you pick your train, what time you are supposed to be where you are supposed to be. Then, you have to also mingle with friends because I just couldn't be alone, and you have to move around with friends to know places around, to learn the German culture. I am still trying to adapt to my new life. I'm learning the language, so maybe I will get better. But I'm lucky, my study is sponsored and I have first-hand experience with international communities of students coming from different parts of the world."

"I wouldn't say it is a struggle. It is a process. I wasn't used to many things and I'm still not used to many things. You have to adapt to be able to live. "If you go to Rome you should do what the Romans do". Every single day is a learning stage. We need to learn the culture, tradition, and the way of life. I'm adapting to it and most people can actually adapt to it. Something new to me is to go to school and work. So, for me it was like okay you have to feed yourself, how you feed yourself? You have to pay your bills, to do that you have to take a job, plan your life and schedule, to take up the responsibilities."

What support structures do you have? What do you still need?

"The support structure is quite good. At the end of the day, everything is fixed. You have your insurance and

your other basic needs like shelter and etcetera you have to channel them to be able to have a sustainable life here. Once you are able to put all this in place the rest of the things that you need to do, you will have to figure them out every single day. Adopting the culture, it takes time to adapt into the culture and system."

Have you researched the Ghanaian community? Do you have any contacts?

"Yes, I just found out that today after four months. I've been trying a lot of survival tactics. When I see a black person, I try to speak either a particular Ghanaian language, if that doesn't work, I speak English. Sometimes I just speak as if I'm speaking on the phone. I spoke my language and one guy on the train heard who also speaks the same language. He asked me if I am from upper east Ghana? And I was like "Yeah how did you know? You just heard me speak". So, he has been here for more than 3 years and he belongs to this Ghanaian Community. He just added me on my way here, and Guess what they have 190 people in the Ghanaian Community WhatsApp group, and I was like "wow I thought we were less than 10 Ghanaians here." So, I finally found the Ghanaian community to interact with."

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2

Irregular 'Backdoor' Migration

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IRREGULAR 'BACKDOOR' MIGRATION

WHAT IS IRREGULAR 'BACKDOOR' MIGRATION?

According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) a migrant has an irregular situation when one or more of the following circumstances apply:

· Irregular entrance in the country, for example by having false documents or by entering the country without crossing an official border point.

· Irregular residency in the country, eg. by overstaying visa or residence permit.

· Irregular employment in the country, for example by having right of residence but no right to work, or by having none of both rights.[18]

Of more than 258 million migrants worldwide, it is estimated that 50 million have an irregular status.[19] Migrant smugglers, human traffickers, returnees 'Burger' and migrants abroad contribute to the widespread image of wrong perceptions of life in Europe, which gives an idealized and one-sided image of Europe, or is even shaped by misleading or false information. In this light, thousands of Africans leave their homelands for a dangerous journey, seeking to enter Europe irregularly in search of a better life.

According to IOM, of the 16,000 migrant women who arrived to Italy from Libya from 2016 to 2017, 80% were victims of trafficking and have been forced to work as sexual slaves in the streets and brothels of Europe.[20] However, since the country is considered a 'Safe Country of Origin' in EU refugee law, nationals of Ghana and Nigeria have some of the lowest success rates among Sub-Saharans. When their asylum claim is rejected, many opt to go underground and desperately search for any means of survival.

Resistance to going home is often linked with strong feelings of shame and failure, the fear of disappointing their communities and being rejected, strengthened by the belief that they wouldn't have any better opportunities back home. Existence underground is linked with greater vulnerability to falling into a net of exploitation and harm, as irregular migrants lack legal residency and working papers, access to vital services such as education, healthcare, social benefits or legal protection are not granted.[21]

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RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH IRREGULAR MIGRATION

CASE STUDY: DANGERS OF IRREGULAR MIGRATION VIA MEDITERRANEAN SEA

Ghanaian youths who embark on these dangerous routes at great personal risk talk of the difficulties and exploitations they encounter on this long and expensive journey. Irregular migrants are usually undocumented upon arrival in a host country, and then have to learn the language, try to find work and rapidly adapt to an unfamiliar culture and navigate the complexities of a new social environment. They

face serious challenges in accessing legal residence status, medical, housing and other social services and if they survive the journey, have a very high risk of being deported to their countries of origin.
Mr. Burger 1 comes from a rural community in Greater Accra Region.

After his Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE) he couldn't get family support to finance his secondary and vocational school education and was unable to find any alternative source of income. He worked very hard to get some money and borrowed from family and friends to raise a total of 1000 Euro to embark on his voyage to Europe. He explains that numerous times he was abused and exploited by smugglers and traffickers. He did manage to cross the Mediterranean through Spain and arrived in Germany in January, 2017. His asylum application was rejected and he was deported to Ghana in the end as the country is designated "safe" in 2018.

Mr. Burger 2 couldn't pass his West African Senior Secondary Certificate Examination and out of frustration decided to pursue his childhood dreams of travelling to Germany. He worked hard on his father's farm and moved to Accra to look for additional funds to embark on his journey by road to Germany. His journey to Libya took three weeks. The biggest struggles of his life started in Libya as he had to work as a houseboy for several families every day under the watchful eye of his smugglers. In the end, he arrived in Germany across the sea via Italy. Since he had no family or acquaintances in Germany, he was homeless for several months on arrival, and became very sick due to the cold weather conditions and no access to any social services. He had very limited opportunities and started working without proper documentation. He was finally deported to Ghana after all these life threatening challenges he had faced.

Most refugees who flee from Ghana to Europe usually try to do so through Libya, after traveling through Burkina Faso and Agadez, Niger, along the way.

· It is from Agadez that they join others trying to reach Europe. While many of these Ghanaians travel to Europe in search of better economic opportunities, they end up applying for asylum since they've entered irregularly.

· Of 28,223 child arrivals in Italy in 2016, 92% were unaccompanied children.

- 92% of those unaccompanied and separated children arrivals in Italy were between the ages of 15-17.

- Smuggling in Ghana is a significant problem.

- The US Department of State (USDS) reports that Ghana has been a known source, transit and destination country for migrant smuggling and trafficking over the past five years, and Ghanaian children within the country are at the greatest risk for exploitation, particularly in the form of forced labour and sex trafficking.

- Ghana is a transit point for West Africans in sex trafficking to Europe, i.e. Italy and Germany

- Sex trafficking is predominantly prevalent within the Volta region of the country and is starting to grow in other areas in the nation such as in the western regions that are known for producing oil.

- Ghanaian women and children are recruited and sent into the Middle East, West Africa, and Europe for sex trafficking.

- Migrants in transit in Libya are particularly vulnerable to poor living conditions, lack of access to health and education services, and negative coping mechanisms that come from a shortage in activities for youth, i.e. survival sex.

- IOM estimated that about 22,400 migrants and asylum seekers died since 2000 in their attempt to reach Europe - boat capsizing or crossing the Sahara desert.

- The Ghanaian migrants who make it to Europe, but do not receive asylum status and remain in their country of destination face the risks of undocumented status.
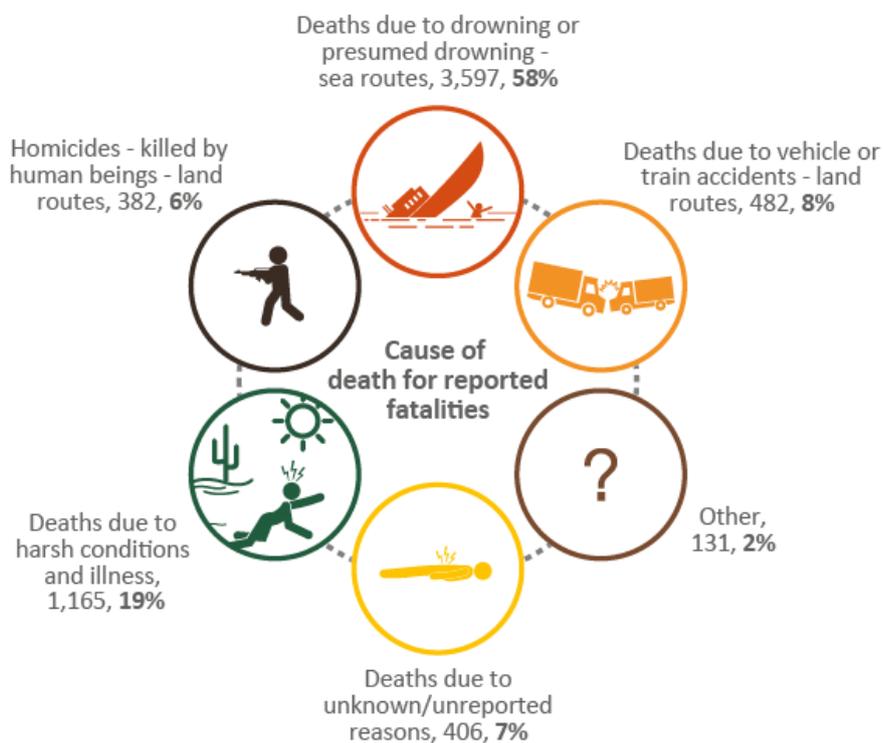
Deaths due to drowning or presumed drowning - sea routes, 3,597, **58%**

Homicides - killed by human beings - land routes, 382, **6%**

Deaths due to vehicle or train accidents - land routes, 482, **8%**

Cause of death for reported fatalities

Other, 131, **2%**

Deaths due to harsh conditions and illness, 1,165, **19%**

Deaths due to unknown/unreported reasons, 406, **7%**

Source: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime UNODC Global Study on Smuggling of Migrants

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KEY QUESTIONS FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

HOW AWARE ARE YOU OF THE DANGERS LINKED TO IRREGULAR MIGRATION?

> What are the risks?

> What effect do they have?

> How will you decide ?

- Do you know the risks of irregular 'backdoor' migration?
- What effect do these dangers have your choice of migration routes?
- How would you decide to migrate now - regularly or irregularly?

1   Ask everyone in the group to share their level of knowledge on dangers related to irregular migration. Have they heard of, seen or experienced any of these dangers or other risks related to irregular migration? Appoint someone to write down key points of the knowledge and stories shared on a flipchart, post-it notes or whiteboard as they are being given, to give the group a visual.

2   Discuss with your group, school or workshop participants the impact these dangers might have on the life of a migrant, for instance: inability to return home because they might feel ashamed of the experiences they had or feel like they are a failure.

3   Introduce your experiences and understanding of irregular migration linked dangers. Jot down notes and terms on flip chart or post-its or chalkboard as they arise.

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MIGRANT PERSPECTIVES - IRREGULAR ROUTES

Where does the migration journey start from Ghana to Europe?

People move from rural areas to the city centers and then get information about who can help them through this illegal migration journey. We recently heard about the Volta regional case where they are known to traffic a lot of women for the slavery trade."

"People migrate from everywhere, but if you look at the irregular one, anybody who gets that chance and information. If they can raise money and be 'brave enough' - or sometimes it is not about bravery, it is the fact that they don't know the full picture. They know it is a difficult journey, but they don't know that it is dangerous, that 'I can die'. Some of them know but they say if I stay here, I will die anyway. We have a saying in Ghana ''Every death is a death'', whether I die in the sea or I die in my bedroom. They will still take a chance and go.

What would you tell a younger brother or sister who was thinking of migrating to consider before they make the journey?

"There is a right way to come. The headache and difficulty of living here illegally, as a person I cannot handle that. So, if you are going to come here, then you have to do it legally. Regardless of the situation back home, I wouldn't encourage anybody to take the illegal route."

PROFILE OF GHANAIAN IRREGULAR MIGRANTS

Single, young & male in precarious circumstances:

Young and seeking to gain symbolic capital, i.e., social recognition and prestige.
Majority have no children, are not married and unattached, which may make the real or desired journey to Europe easier because they have no family ties.

Age of most irregular migrants: youth 18 - 35.

Gender breakdown: ~ 90% to 95% male

Town/region of origin: Brong-Ahafo Region; Ashanti Region; Greater Accra Region; Western & Northern Regions. The Volta region is known as a major sex trafficking and child trafficking hub.

Education: Majority completed Junior High, some are school dropouts and few have tertiary education.

Socio-economic Background: Migrants tend to work in the informal sector - farmers, taxi drivers, informal business/shop owners. To finance their journey which costs an estimated $2,000 - $5,000 paid to smugglers, they save money from their informal jobs, some receive money from family members, take out loans from Banks and/or sell their cars if they are taxi drivers etc.

EU destination countries of irregular migrants: Italy and Germany.

Conscious of the dangers of the journey to Europe:

- High levels of information are shared amongst migrants, and most have heard stories of migrants drowning, being stranded, or mistreated.
- Still need to "try their luck," belief that it will be different for them, that it is somehow their destiny to migrate.
- The desire to attempt the journey remains strong.
- Stories of migrants who have succeeded in their attempts to reach Europe tend to override all the stories of failed attempts.

RUMOURS & (MIS)PERCEPTIONS:

Dangers: 50/50 potential migrants are aware of the dangers of traveling through the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean Sea to get to Europe, the other half are not aware of the dangers ahead.

Perception - In order to elevate one's social status and have ones local communities/ family support and approval, the irregular migrants who've suffered in making it to Europe only share information on the opportunities there but not the dangers and difficulties in the journey they've experienced.

Smugglers - Able to persuade potential migrants by giving them specific quotes on how much money they can make in Libya and then Europe. Smugglers tell these young people they have secured jobs for them where they will make $500 - $700 a month, and even bonuses as well. Unskilled Ghanaians make

$100 - $150 a month in Ghana.

Social media: plays a huge role because of the pictures and videos potential migrants see on others living the life in Europe. Friends send them videos of the city centers, apartments, life etc.

Lack of awareness / information: Opportunities on how to study abroad is made available to people in Ghana once they are in University so not in primary, junior high school or secondary school - this is why most potential migrants drop out.

Returns by Regions in Ghana under the EUTF and AVRR programmes: 634
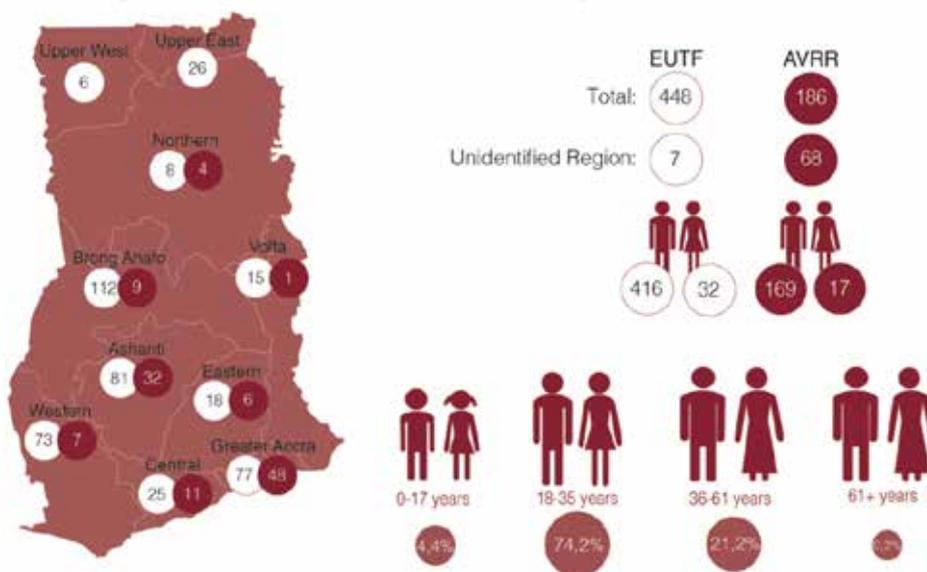
Source: Missing Migrants Project (IOM), 2017. Creative Commons (CC)

CASE STUDY: SECRET SPECTACLES, THE STORY OF A MIGRANT SPY

LISTEN: The Undercover Migrant

AUDIO FILE ON USB DRIVE
https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p07b0snz

The extraordinary story of an undercover migrant and his 'secret spectacles'. When Azeteng, a young man from rural Ghana, heard stories on the radio of West African migrants dying on their way to Europe, he felt compelled to act. He took what little savings he had and bought glasses with a hidden camera – his 'secret spectacles.

'Then he put himself in the hands of people smugglers and travelled 3,000 miles on the desert migrant trail north, aiming to document the crimes of the traffickers. Along the way he saw extortion, slavery, and death in the vast stretches of the Sahara. For Assignment, reporter Joel Gunter tells the story of his journey – a journey that thousands of young Africans like him attempt each year. Producer, Josephine Casserly

**Secret Spectacles, The Story of a Migrant Spy**
Joel Gunter, BBC Africa Eye May 2019
https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/resources/idt-sh/secret_spectacles_migrant_spy

"It was close to midnight when the young man crawled into the desert. All around him was darkness. A hundred metres away, a handful of Tuareg rebels and people smugglers, who worked together ferrying migrants through this unforgiving stretch of the Sahara, were gathered around three trucks, drumming and dancing and letting off long bursts of gunfire that rattled the night sky. The young man, who had given himself the name Azeteng, was somewhere in northern Mali near the border with Algeria. Behind him lay El-Khalil, a bleak and brutal waystation on the West African migrant route to Europe. Ahead of him, sand stretched for miles in every direction. He was a speck on the dark sea of the Sahara. Slowly, painfully, he pushed his body on, trying to keep as low as possible to the ground..."

WATCH: Undercover Migrant - Short Video clip
https://www.facebook.com/bbcworldservice/videos/435277873938945/
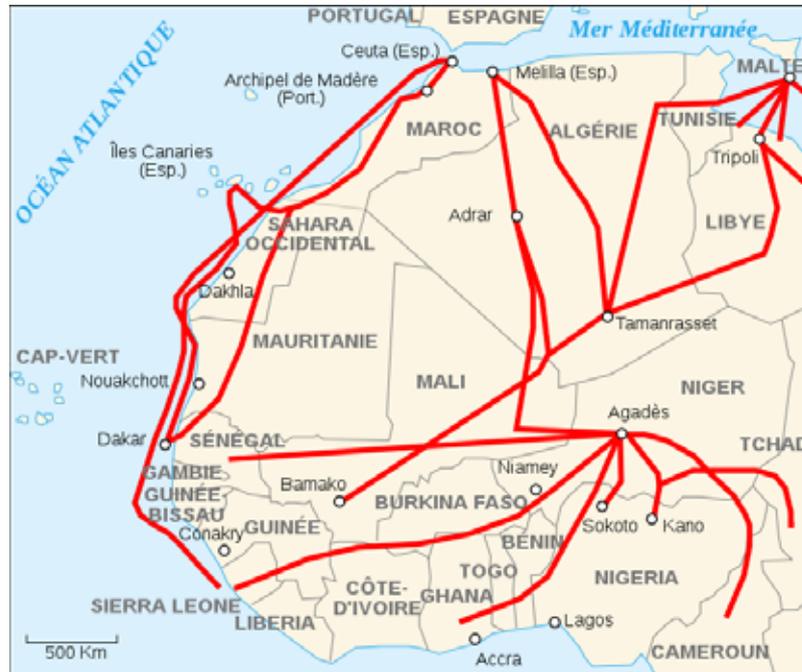
Map of African immigration to Europe. Source: Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung CC-BY-SA 3.0

DANGERS OF 'IRREGULAR' / BACKDOOR MIGRATION

DEATH - DROWNING AT SEA

In 2015 amongst the 1,015,877 people who arrived in Europe via the Mediterranean sea, 3,771 deaths were registered. In 2018, the number of arrivals dropped to 116,647, however, 2,275 people died in the Mediterranean. The average of six deaths per day shows that even while the number of arrivals was dropping - due to stronger border controls in Africa, interceptions in Libya and changing routes - the journey across the sea was becoming deadlier. Most deaths (more than 1,100) took place after departure from Libya. NGOs who rescued migrants at sea faced further restrictions on their activities and Italy no longer allowed migrant vessels to disembark in Italian harbors. Along the sea route to Spain, deaths during 2018 almost quadrupled as more people tried to cross the sea using unsafe vessels.[22]

DETENTION CENTRE WAIT & LOW SUCCESS RATE

During the first quarter of 2019, the recognition rate - people granted refugee status - in the 28 countries of the European Union was 36 %.[23] In Germany, the overall recognition rate in 2018 was 50.2%. However, "an exceptionally high number of asylum procedures were abandoned without an examination of the substance of the case (either because the application was considered 'inadmissible' or because the procedure was discontinued for other reasons)".[24] Ghana is considered a "Safe Country of Origin" in European law, the recognition rate of Ghanaian applicants is extremely low. From 3,920 applicants in the EU in 2018, 5,7 were granted asylum at the end.[25] During the wait for their asylum process, many migrants are held in detention centres in Europe.[26]

HUMAN TRAFFICKING & SMUGGLERS

Irregular migrants are subject to lies from smugglers and human traffickers. Some 80% of irregular migration to Europe is "facilitated" by smugglers or criminal groups who are paid to provide services such as transportation, fraudulent identification, corruption of border officials and settlement services. Social media channels are increasingly used as a tool for smugglers to contact migrants and spread false information about migration and Europe.[27] Some migrant smugglers engage in violent acts, such as rape, beatings, forced labour, kidnapping, extortion, or abandonment of the migrants.[28]

SAHARA – DEATH – IMPRISONMENT – VIOLENCE

Estimates show that at least as many migrants have died in the Sahara as in the Mediterranean in the last years.[29] The Global Migration Data Analysis Centre shows the number of migrants who died during the journey from Agadez to southern Libya or southern Algeria rose from 71 in 2015, to 95 in 2016, and to 427 in 2017.[30] For those who make it into Europe, the sea crossing is just the final step of a very dangerous journey, which might involve crossing unstable or armed conflict regions, going through the desert, being robbed and tortured, trafficked for labor or sexual exploitation, imprisoned or having suffered hunger. Over 400 migrants interviewed for a study reported witnessing a combined total of 2,600 deaths during their journeys.[31]

SEXUAL VIOLENCE - RAPE - TRAFFICKING

According to IOM, of the 16,000 migrant women who arrived in Italy from Libya from 2016 to 2017, 80% were victims of trafficking and have been forced to work as sexual slaves in the streets and brothels of Europe.[32] A 2018 UN report found out that of 1,300 migrant women and teenage girls interviewed in Libya, the "overwhelmingly majority" have either been victims of gang rape or have witnessed other women and girls suffering sexual violence.[33] Although women are more vulnerable to suffer sexual violence during their journey and in the host country, men and boys aren't exempt. The impacts of sexual violence on the victim, relatives and community are severe and long-term. Survivors remain psychologically troubled and many kill themselves.[34]

EXPLOITATION – FORCED LABOUR – SLAVERY

Trafficking is a process of enslaving people to exploit them. There are many forms of exploitation, such as forced prostitution, forced labour, forced begging, forced criminality, domestic servitude, forced marriage and organ harvesting.[35] 40 million people are estimated to be slaves worldwide.[36] According to the IOM, 7 out of 10 migrants crossing from North-Africa to Europe had experienced some kind of exploitation during their journey, for instance illegal detention, sexual violence, forced labour or kidnapping. Moreover, with the rising of anti-migration politics and discourses around Europe, many migrants in Europe are feeling forced to go underground, which makes them more vulnerable to exploitation.[37]

* Dangers of Irregular migration - Icons Attributions (All Creative Commons):
Icon 1: Freepik from www.flaticon.com
Icon 2: 'Mass deportation' by Matt Wasser from the Noun Project
Icon 3: 'Suspicious man' Freepik from www.flaticon.com
Icon 4: Death by Adrien Coquet from the Noun Project
Icon 5: 'Rape' by Cédric Villain from the Noun Project
Icon 6: 'Human trafficking' by Gan Khoon Lay from the Noun Project

MIGRANT DEATHS WORLDWIDE IN 2016
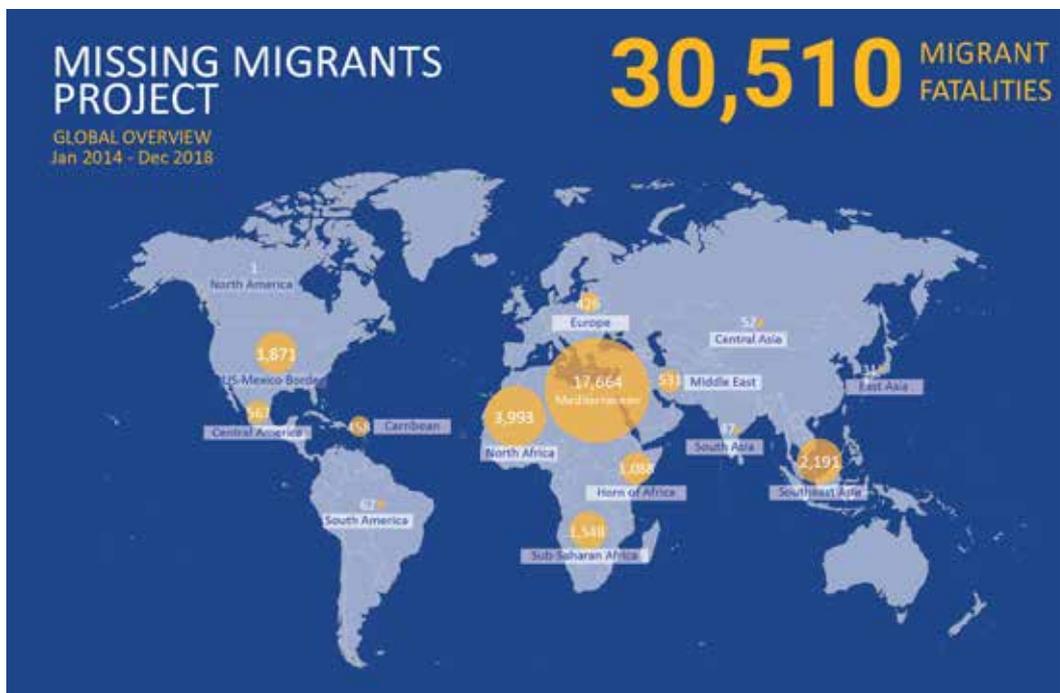
Source: Missing Migrants Project https://missingmigrants.iom.int/

MIGRANT PERSPECTIVES: THE RIGHT ROUTES

What are the right routes?

"What are the routes you need to take? Because if you don't take the right channels to travel out of your country, at the end of the day you would not be recognized. The worst of it is that when you are not recognized, you do not have control over your movement in another man's land. One thing that I have realized especially coming to Germany is that things are so different; in terms of health when you have a headache, it is not like our country that you walk into a pharmacy and get drugs or you go to a hospital you get someone treat you at minimum cost. Here things are so formalized, people registered themselves through insurance everywhere. If you come unapproved way, you wouldn't make it. You wouldn't have access to these systems, and you are left on your own."

What would you tell a younger brother or sister who was thinking of migrating to consider before they make the journey?

"You have to pick your career and your career path.
Then you have to align it where you are going into.
To get adequate information they need, you need to know what, where and why? It is like the SMART exercise on the workshop. (**#smart2migrate**)
Use the right means, get your document right.
It is not all about abroad you can also set-up something in Ghana by creating services."
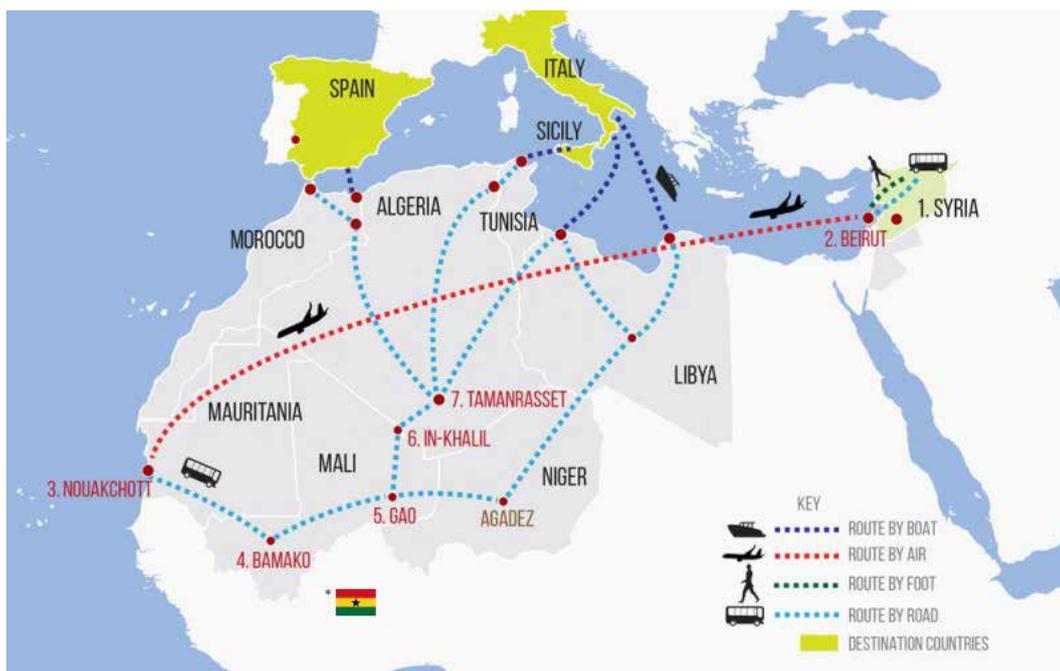
Source: Morocco's Triple Role in the Euro-African Migration System, Middle East Institute
http://newirin.irinnews.org/global-refugee-crisis *Ghana national flag added (not part of original art)

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KEY QUESTIONS FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

What are your expectations?

What are your reasons?

Is it attainable?

· What are the risks of irregular migration?

· Is 'backdoor' migration a viable option?

· What are your migration expectations?

· Having gained a deeper knowledge of the dangers related to irregular migration, would you still consider 'backdoor migration' as an option for a better life?

· Whether you answer Yes/No, can you explain the reasons for your choice?

· Did you have a realistic idea of what irregular migration can involve?

· Do you think your expectations are too optimistic?

· Do you think migrating regularly (work or study visa) could be an attainable option?

· Would you take steps to apply for a study or work visa in the near future?

· Would you consider joining young people in your community to start a business?

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INFORMATION ON 'IRREGULAR MIGRATION' ROUTES

InfoMigrants Personal Stories
https://www.infomigrants.net/en/stories/

A Deadly Journey for Children: The Central Mediterranean Migration Route
UNICEF Refugee and Migrant Crisis, NOVEMBER 2015
https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/EN_UNICEF_Central_Mediterranean_Migration.pdf

MIGRATION CONTROL, TAZ PROJECT
https://migration-control.taz.de/#en

"In order to make the road to Europe more difficult, many African borders are being equipped with high-tech infrastructure and fence systems. Fortress Europe is being expanded in Africa. Biometrics, fingerprint scanners, readers, monitoring systems, databases - Africa is thus becoming a market for European technology. This makes those borders increasingly impassable for many refugees and migrant workers towards Europe, but also for nomads and ethnic groups living on both sides of the borders. Free movement is limited. Europe is following the motto: Schengen for us, fences for Africa.

East and West Africa have guaranteed the free movement of labor and goods and want to introduce common passports. Integration rather than regu/lation could bring development for the continent - especially in a globalized world."

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PLAY VIDEO [USB STICK]
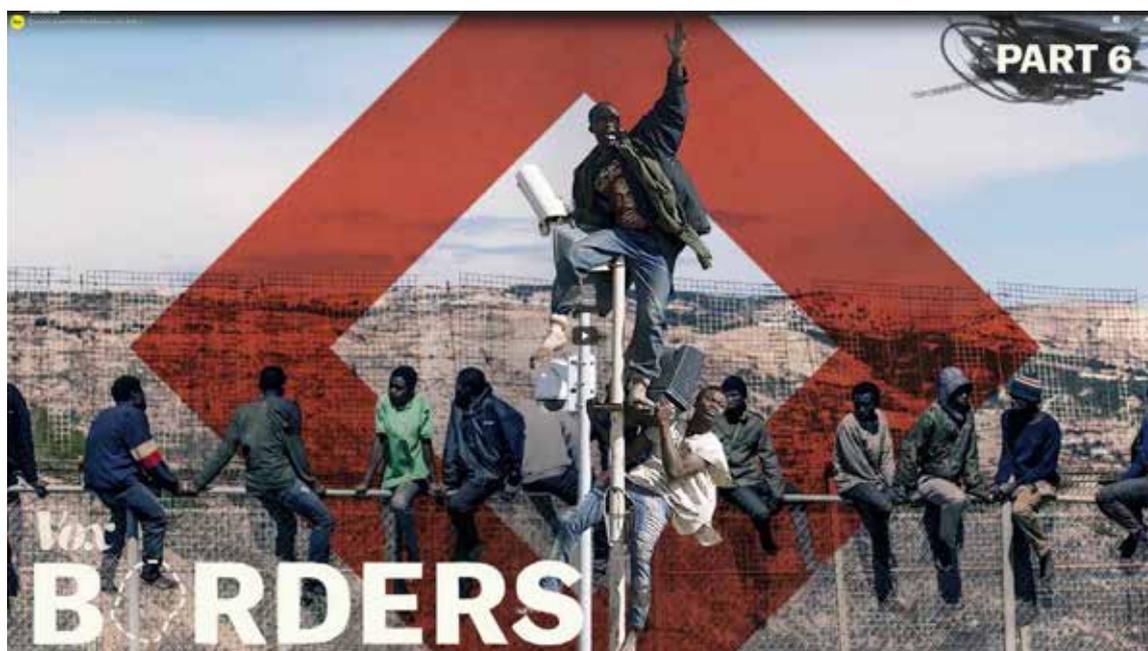
EUROPE'S MOST FORTIFIED BORDER IS IN AFRICA
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LY_Yiu2U2Ts

The sixth and last Vox Borders episode deals with a border between Morocco and Spain. The journey to asylum is never easy. And perhaps no one knows this better than would-be African migrants to the European Union. In North Africa, on the border of Morocco, there's a Spanish town called Melilla. It's technically Europe. So undocumented migrants and refugees, asylum seekers, wait in limbo for a chance to scale the fence and apply for asylum in Europe.

Vox.com helps you cut through the noise and understand what's really driving the events in the headlines.
http://www.vox.com

3

Opportunities in Germany & Ghana

03 OPPORTUNITIES IN GERMANY & GHANA
CONTENTS PAGE

#DEFYHATENOW | CHAPTER 3

OPPORTUNITIES IN GERMANY & GHANA

#PlanB4UPack
What are the opportunities for regular migration?
• Scholarships for studies
• Working for international NGOs or companies
What are the opportunities for a successful career in West Africa?
How do I explore, recognise, create or access opportunities in rural areas?

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES IN GERMANY

What sort of resources are useful, and where did you find them?

"Most Ghanaian students use the **DAAD** or **Uni-assist** websites. Mine was actually the website through the school. I checked the requirements and applied directly. Everything was online. A little phone call here and there. I got some information from the Embassy because you need to process your documents and validate them. While you do that you need to talk to people and get the information you need from them. I used the website from my school at Arden University campus in Berlin at the University of Applied Science of Europe in Potsdamer Platz."

Entervarsity
https://entervarsity.com/
A free university search engine, for students all over Africa looking for detailed and reliable information on universities and colleges. We collect information on tuition, programs, location, extracurricular activities, and everything else needed to ensure prospective students are fully prepared to apply and attend.

Online resources for prospective students
DAAD **https://www.daad.de/en/**
Uni-assist **https://www.uni-assist.de/**
Aachen university applied science **https://www.fh-aachen.de/en/**

Online resources for Graduates or Experts
CIM program - **https://www.cimonline.de/en/html/returning-experts.html**
Afrika Kommt - **https://www.afrika-kommt.de/**

MIGRANT PERSPECTIVES – GHANA TO GERMANY

Are there any existing Ghanaian community frameworks in Germany?

"Ghanaians are very social, we don't live in isolation. When I meet you here, we are already family. Back home we have a social system, we always want to recreate that."

How could the EU better support migrants from Ghana?
"The embassies need to liaise with the German Government. For example, to get a place to stay, to get a

good job, all these things need to be supported by the Ghanaian embassy. Creating a community where everyone feels at home.

Creating a community is not just online-based; like virtual contacts of people just sharing pictures. It has to do more with having physical contact, talking to them, getting advice and having a dialogue to know the current status and needs of their stay.
The Counselor (The Ghana Embassy), announced that they are trying to find a way so Ghanaians can send money back home securely. By doing that they are trying to open a bank here; which is going to help Ghanaians to transfer money back home."

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RESOURCES & INFORMATION FOR MIGRANTS IN EUROPE

Make it in Germany: **https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/en/**
Arriving in Berlin: **https://arriving-in-berlin.de/**
Couchsurfing: **https://www.couchsurfing.com/**
Centre for Entrepreneurs: **https://centreforentrepreneurs.org/networks/**
Give Something Back to Berlin: **https://gsbtb.org/de/#!/**
Mentor Project: **http://www.mentproject.eu/**
Migrant Women Network: **https://www.migrantwomennetwork.org/**
Migration Hub: **https://www.migrationhub.network/joinus**

Kiron University
https://kiron.ngo/
A free online portal for higher education entirely designated for refugees.

Refugees on Rails
http://refugeesonrails.org/en/
Teaches newcomers how to code, giving refugees tools to better integrate into society.

GHANA & REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

FACILITATORS: DISCUSS OPTIONS AT HOME
Introduce discussion for prospective migrants on the options at home:

· Realistic measures and things that they can do at home.

· Share success stories of people who have made it at home.

· Show the high cost and risky process of irregular migration, compared to what they could with the money to realize positive outcomes at home.

· Help them develop a plan of what else they could do with the money they spent years saving – a brief outline of what their money could be used for instead.

· Give examples of how people in Ghana can develop business/ NGO ideas which can pique the interest of Europeans and investors who will then be interested in what they are doing and can even fund them to come to Europe for a visit.

▶️

PLAY VIDEO [USB DRIVE]

YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS - GHANA EPISODE 1
https://youtu.be/Z5jN84SF79Q

Zoom Africa TV, 2019
Ghanaian young entrepreneurs share their experiences.

Women's Entrepreneurship in Africa
https://youtu.be/DJ5y8dsNwx4
GPA Interactive, December 2018

From securing capital and scaling a business to gaining access to buyers, the program addresses challenges that women entrepreneurs often face. U.S. and Africa-based business women share best practices and success stories. The increased participation of women in the economy is a valuable source of expertise and leadership for businesses but also empowers and strengthens families and communities. Women also reinvest a large portion of their incomes locally, advancing economic growth and stability.

Rural Africa, Women Entrepreneurs: Sohua's story
https://youtu.be/gh0aFtnZ8LA
Campaign for Female Education, 2016

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MIGRANT PERSPECTIVES - WHAT YOU CAN OFFER

If you put a framework for people who might say "either I take my chances or die," what would work as a structure for the person to follow through in Ghana?
Give them simple, visible, practical & tangible business ideas.
Creating a concrete thing, for example, in farming:
In Ghana, we have people working arts, artifacts and bags with local materials.
Getting people skills, they can use. For example, Batik tie and dye fabrics.
Many of these businesses have died out but it is very easy to train.

How would you help people making this decision having informed choices?

> " I tell people that you, first of all, need to know what you can offer, because wherever you are, I really believe there is a potential of you becoming whoever you want to become. So, I always encourage first of all, consider your skills. what can you offer? "

And once you identify two-three things you can offer even if it is one, where does the opportunity exist? Who needs the skill? Who needs my offer? If it is Germany or it is any part of Europe, the USA or within Africa, then you find a way to let them know that you exist. If they know that you exist and they really need you, the going becomes very easy. You don't need to struggle and now there are so many opportunities to make our skill popular. Because almost everywhere we have access to social media platforms.

So, if you think that you have something to offer. If it is a skill in speaking, drawing or whatsoever is; make sure that people within your locality know that you have that skill, make sure that people within your country know that you have that skill, maybe the next village somebody is there and willing to pay a price

you would demand, but they never knew that you have the skill. For me, that is the only way to actually realize whether you even need to travel to a European country or the US. Once you discover this you might not even want to travel.

CASE STUDY: ENTREPRENEURSHIP TO FIGHT POVERTY

According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Ghana will grow faster than any other economy in 2019, slowly leaving behind decades of economic crisis, a general impoverishment of the population and famine. However, in spite of a blossoming economy, Ghana's GDP per capita is roughly half that of developing and emerging economies.[38] Young people in Ghana between the ages of 15 and 35 make up about 33.5% of the population, and the youth enter the job market with limited to no work experience.[39] In 2018, unemployed youth made up 13,7% of the countries population.[40]

The president of All Across Africa, Alicia Wallace, states that "entrepreneurship can be harnessed to fuel positive, sustainable global impact much faster than any other form of social good."[41] In the Ghanaian context, a study from the Global Journal of Business Research argues that entrepreneurship in Ghana could be a solution for youth unemployment, underemployment and vulnerable employment. It stresses that given the fact that the majority of the African youth live in rural areas, entrepreneurship programs for the youth should also be primarily concentrated in rural regions.[42]

Educating for entrepreneurship has the goal to enhance the development of real life skills and behaviours, and some authors say that the ultimate goal is to shift thinking and behavioural patterns.[43] Online learning platforms such as Coursera, edX, Futurelearn, Iversity, Udacity, Openlearning, Openlearn, Alison and Canvas Network offer Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) devoted to entrepreneurship, skill building and business start-ups.[44]

Open Learning Guide by r0g_agency offers an introduction to open learning resources.
https://openculture.agency/open-learning-guide/
https://openculture.agency/outcomes/open-hardware-guide/

Class Central entrepreneurship courses:
https://www.class-central.com/subject/entrepreneurship

MOOC list provides more than 100 courses:
https://www.mooc-list.com/tags/entrepreneurship?static=true

GHANA JOB SEARCH RESOURCES

Student Jobs Ghana Online Platform
Online platform where students and graduates can find internships and job opportunities.
www.studentjobsgh.com

African Entrepreneurs Hub
My Business Friday, iHUB + Traction, My Business Circle. Inspiring young entrepreneurs to build sustainable businesses.
Dei Street Accra, Ghana
+233 30 290 1092
http://www.aehub.org/
https://www.facebook.com/Aehub.org/

HAPASPACE
Code4Girls, Thrive, Hatch, UWAT (Unlocking Women & Technology)
Collaborative hub which powers startup business with technology
https://hapaspace.com/
Tel : 0322000806 / 0200447661
Email: support@hapaspace.com
Post: P.O. Box KS 224, Kumasi, Ghana

HOPin ACADEMY
A non-profit educational organisation based in Tamale, Ghana designed for students to "hop in and hop out," rather than having strictly organised timetable structures. Offers training, web & social media, business incubator, mentorship, event space, entrepreneurial meet-ups and more!
Yaa Musah Storey Building, Waterworks Rd. Tamale
Tel: 0240466923
http://www.hopinacademy.org/
info@hopinacademy.org

MEST Incubator
MEST is a non-profit, Pan African training program, seed fund incubator and hub. Their mission is to create jobs and wealth in Africa by training, supporting and investing in the continent's most promising software entrepreneurs.
No. 20 Aluguntugui Street, Ambassadorial Enclave, East Legon, Accra, Ghana
accra@meltwater.org
https://meltwater.org/
Phone: +233 30 274 2921

Ghana Tech & BZ Hubs Network
Hubs in Ghana - innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem enablers across the country - who have come together to use shared ideas and resources to equip innovative individuals with the requisite skills, build capacity to grow local innovations & businesses, jobs creation and generate income.
205/6 2nd Emmause Ln, Labone, Accra
http://tech-businesshubsgh.org/
info@tech-businesshubsgh.org

iCODE
Meet. Learn. Build. IT training & mentorship, incubator for entrepreneurship and technology, co-working space and private offices with 24/7 4G internet.
3 Kumasi Rd, Takoradi, Ghana
+233 54 038 9600
http://icodegh.com/

TANOE
Hub of Hope for African Entrepreneurs. Offers business development, capacity building, digital marketing, Start-Up 101, financial management, leadership training and incubator for entrepreneurs.
+233 55 774 0130
+233 20 303 3733
+233-302-325844
info@tanoe.org

WORKSHED AFRICA
47 Nungua Link Baatsona
Spintex Road, Accra
+233 303 969 845
joinus@ourworkshed.com
www.ourworkshed.com

Start Finder
Find opportunities, advice and help on the following topics:
· Planning to return to your homeland?
· Searching for new opportunities in your country?
· Seeking advice in your native language?
· Looking for options for regular migration to Germany?
https://www.startfinder.de/en/home

Ghanaian-German Centre for Jobs, Migration and Reintegration (MIAC)
Gnat Heights Building, Ground Floor 30 Independence Avenue, Accra
migrationadvicecentreghana@giz.de
Tel:+233556758516
Tel:+233556758517

MIGRANT PERSPECTIVES: SKILLS & ENTERPRISES

What would be an ideal framework to help people who are migrating? For example, a person from a low skilled/ low education background?

It depends on the context. The person is coming here for economic reasons and to find jobs. Sometimes, it is difficult to go back and tell them, "Oh don't migrate through the back door, use the right route ". Then "Okay, how do I get through, as all the right routes are taking me out and I can't".

> "
> The best alternative is to have a good alternative back home for them. The most important things will be: Skills development. Creating enterprises and business that uses these skills back home.
> "

It is very important when you are telling them, "these routes are dangerous and these routes are not worth it", you need to give them an alternative.

But if you just give them empty messages, don't go to Libya... they will say if I stay here, I will die anyway, so why wouldn't I just take my chances? Even if Europe wants to reduce mass illegal migration, I think the way should be developing the people. There should be proper and consistent people-centered development.

In Ghana, toothpicks are imported. In Europe, they export everything back to Africa, what they have done is create a problem we have now. We have people who run to Europe because there are no jobs. We use toothpicks in every restaurant in Ghana, and this is something that can be done in Ghana, but they are imported. So, imagine if all the toothpicks used in the restaurant in Ghana, are produced in Ghana, that is a job. For a young man who dropped out of school, he will be making a decent living."

+

NEXT GEN GHANA: YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR'S GUIDE

Evans Ofori Gyebi has a positive view on the chances and momentum for Ghanaian youth to start a business. Resources available in Ghana include: seminars, workshops, meetings, hubs, accelerators, incubators, coworking spaces and funders. Evans says:

"As a student or young entrepreneur this is the best time in your life to try something new, whether to learn about the entrepreneurial journey or build a great brand. You're surrounded by the best resource you could ever have: peers as driven and brilliant as you are." The website includes success stories from people who made it in Ghana.

Next Gen Ghana Resources Guide
https://www.ngsummit.com/chapter-resource-guides/ghanaguide

Success Stories
https://www.ngsummit.com/successstories

Kumasi Hive

Kumasi Hive is an Innovation and Entrepreneurship hub which provides comprehensive support to local innovations and business/startups.The hub is a collaborative makerspace located in Kumasi, Ghana for entrepreneurs to prototype ideas, develop sustainable businesses and products that have market value. Offering Co-working space, Event space, Training Space, Maker-space and Hardware studios.
https://www.facebook.com/kumasihive/

BOOK 'HOW WE MADE IT IN AFRICA'

"**How we made it in Africa**", by Jaco Maritz, tells the stories of 25 Africans who have launched thriving businesses. The entrepreneur's stories are told honestly and don't hide the ups and downs that are linked to starting your own business, since founding an enterprise requires a lot of strength, patience, persistence and, of course, dealing with failure. These entrepreneurs share with the readers their success stories, but also the considerable challenges they had to face and hurdles they had to overcome.

https://book.howwemadeitinafrica.com/

MIGRANT PERSPECTIVES: RETURNING TO GHANA

"It is people who are migrating. It is how to develop people so they can contribute to society. One way of doing that is through education and building capacity. It opens the door for you. When you are done with your study program, even if it means you stay a couple of years more to gain work experience; you are better equipped to contribute to the knowledge transfer of know-how. You know we always talk about on migration 'brain drain', there is also 'brain-gain'! Your country is also going to benefit from the experiences you made.The time here should also benefit the career prospects.

As you are studying ask yourself: how do I gain this experience to better contribute when I go back, or if I stay here? After my master's studies, I didn't want to stay here (in Germany). When people's capacities are built, they will want to go home. You will never find a doctor who wants to come through a back door. "

4

Social Media & Truthful Storytelling

04 SOCIAL MEDIA & TRUTHFUL STORYTELLING
CONTENTS PAGE

#DEFYHATENOW | CHAPTER 4

SOCIAL MEDIA & TRUTHFUL STORYTELLING

An introduction to the use of social media and storytelling in the migration context.

Information on ethical ways to use social media; narratives from migrants and returnees about their journeys and experiences abroad because of shame; how to campaign on Social Media to help other migrants in their journey; advice on digital security online.

SOCIAL MEDIA & MIGRATION NARRATIVES

- Expectations of life in Europe are largely shaped by the Facebook posts and WhatsApp messages of friends and relatives who had previously emigrated.

- Prospective migrants see photos on social media posted from trusted friends living in Europe – in them, they have trendy haircuts and designer jackets smile next to luxury cars on clean, orderly German streets.

- They have friends in Europe that tell them how great life in Europe is, how they were making lots of money, and downplayed the dangers of the journey.

- Experiences of friends in Europe as conveyed on social media speak much more directly to prospective migrants than news footage of capsized boats and the dire advertising campaigns created by the national and foreign governments to dissuade potential migrants.

- The reality of irregular migrants once they arrive in Germany is there is no easy living and luxury cars; their friends live in cramped apartments, struggling to find work and integrate into a new and confusing culture.

- Because their families had invested so much to help them reach Europe, the men feel enormous pressure to show that they were happy and successful.

- Thus it is essential to take into account the substantial influencing capacity of social media and the centrality of personal connections. These platforms, which have become an element of daily life in nearly every part of the world, have the ability to both put people in harm's way and to help keep them safe.

- **http://globalmedia.mit.edu/2019/01/28/migrant-social-medias-influence-on-migration/**

RUMORS ABOUT EUROPE

GAME: True or False?

Which of these rumors do you believe are true and which are false?

· The ship for the crossing is very big, it even has a pool and a cinema.

· Every refugee receives a welcome payment of €2,000.

· If you don't like it in Germany, they'll just give you a visa for Canada

· Germany has reserved 800,000 slots for Afghan refugees alone.

· We have 25 years of experience, and your transport to Europe is 100 percent legal and achievable.

· Germany grants a house of their own to every refugee.

· German corporations need new workforce, Germany takes 5,000 migrants daily.

"Will your life in Europe be easy – true or false?" Life is difficult in an expensive country like Germany if you don't speak German or have the right education to get a job."

https://rumoursaboutgermany.info/

STORY-TELLING MIGRATION: THE TRUTH

Migration narratives for truth on social media

· Workshop participants discuss stories migrants or returnees tell back home; examples of realistic or misleading stories they heard about migration experiences; how on Social Media they share stories about their experiences.

· Reflect on why people lie about their journeys and life abroad on social media.

· Tools to post and share truthful, informative and ethical content on Social Media.

MIGRANT PERSPECTIVES - INFORMED CHOICES

What kind of steps people should take to make informed choices?

"I think people should seek information. Speak to the right people.
There are so many people that will talk to you, but you need to be disciplined to find out which information is consistent out of the many that you have spoken to.

Go online

· Not look at people who only post about the good.

· Ask and critique whatever you see.

· Find out if they are saying this is what is happening.

· What are the bad and good aspects?

· Make sure that you consistently get these answers to these questions and then you can actually decide if you have to travel.

SOCIAL MEDIA INFLUENCE ON MIGRATION EXERCISE

DISCUSSION ON THE IMPACT OF SOCIAL MEDIA ON MIGRATION NARRATIVES

Group Discussion:

· Invite everyone in the group to share their experiences of social media and migration.

· Ask someone to write down key points of knowledge and stories as they are shared on a flipchart, post-it notes or whiteboard to give the group a visual showing the impact of social media.

· What messages have you seen on social media & migration?

· Have you seen misleading stories or information about regular or irregular migration?

· Do you believe these stories, images or messages are truthful and reflect reality?

· What effect do these have on your own decisions and aspirations towards migration?

SOCIAL MEDIA INFLUENCE ON MIGRATION ⟶ HOW TO COUNTER SOCIAL MEDIA NARRATIVES

REGULAR MIGRATION

· Good standard of living

· Cultural exploration

· Activism (gay rights/ politics)

· Education

· Career opportunities

· Family reunion

· Aggressive recruitment efforts by universities on Social media:

· Education = Success

· A degree from a European/American University it gives you a good chance of employment.

· Social media could also be used by migrants to express their frustrations and difficulties.

· Social media for awareness creation on genuine opportunities and requirements.

· Social media skills training online, IT Skills

· Provide mentors, online coaches for people via social media

· Do you fact check or confirm details of social media posts, stories and messages?

· How would you counter these with more truthful and realistic messages?

· What kinds of stories, images and information would you like to see about migration?

Jot down notes and terms on flip chart or post-its or chalkboard as they arise.

SOCIAL MEDIA INFLUENCE ON MIGRATION ⟶ HOW TO COUNTER SOCIAL MEDIA NARRATIVES

IRREGULAR MIGRATION

- Images of good living
- Ability to travel around the world easily
- Connection Man Scam*
- Travel to Europe & a job is granted
- If you are a sports person, you can easily become a football star
- #one can become a star
- Once you get to Europe you become a citizen ''Noa waram mu-woa Wuramu''(Ghanaian saying ''once you are in you are in'')
- Get married to European citizens and you have permanent stay + cash
- Leaving the home country via connection man = arriving alive
- Ability to give a wrong perception of luxurious living Eg. Cars, houses
- Wrong impression about clothing food
- People show-off with money

Be Truthful And Realistic About Challenges

- Images of real-life struggle
- Information graphics of people who died in the process
- Statistics about asylum and refugee refusal Posting pictures about people who die trying to reach the West
- Personal stories from individuals who used the irregular migration paths
- Provide a good source of information for travelers
- Give an adequate account of real-life experience abroad via social media
- Show the consequence of irregular migrations and living without proper documents.
- Images/videos come with a real description.
- Real stories must be told

CAMPAIGNING FOR A SAFER JOURNEY

Learn to use your competence in Social Media to campaign to help other migrants with truthful, informative and ethical content related to migration.

PR Strategy Canvas on Migration
Workshop participants PR for Social Media on regular and irregular migration issues.

Core Messages:

- There are many legal ways to migrate to Europe
- Opportunities back home are numerous
- Back door may be your bad luck
- You can make it in Ghana.
- You too can make it like ''Despite''(Despite is a guy who used to be shoe shiner who is now a famous

Millionaire in Ghana). Sharing stories of people like him who succeed doing business in Ghana.

· #Thinkb4umigrate

· #homegrownopportunities

Channels to reach out to your Audiences?

· Radio stations (FMs) & Ghana TV stations (GTV)

· Workshops

· Blogs and newsletters

· Website

· Facebook & WhatsApp

· Schools

· Webinar

· Post & Photos on Facebook and twitter

How will you maintain & engage your Audience?

· Create a regional network for the migrant media network

· Constant update on social media

· Use the DAAD platform

· To pass information & maintain relationships with schools

Core objectives to leverage through the PR strategy?

· Create Awareness and to discuss migration ideas with young people

· Develop local opportunities as alternatives

· Equip people on facts & figures on survival rate

· Dangers & challenges with irregular migration

· Opportunities existing in Ghana

· Videos of individuals stories about migration

· Guide/mentor online community for MMN

· Publish statistics on people who die using irregular routes

· Asylum & refugee refusals

· Funding opportunities for further studies.

COMMUNICATION MEDIUMS USED IN GHANA

· Cybercafes are phased out in Ghana.

· Most people use smartphones, as long as the phone has internet and WhatsApp.

· When people buy phones, the first question is; "does it have WhatsApp?"

· Older people also use WhatsApp to make calls.

· The second most popular platform is Facebook.

· Twitter and Instagram are not popular outside school. Most students I'm sure use Instagram.

DIGITAL SAFETY

Basic knowledge on digital safety, special focus on safety by using Social Media.

SECURITY IN A BOX – DIGITAL SECURITY TOOLS AND TACTICS
The Tactics Guides in this toolkit cover basic principles, including advice on how to use social media and mobile phones more safely. The Tool Guides offer step-by-step instructions to help you install, configure and use some essential digital security software and services. The Community Toolkits focus on specific groups of people — sometimes in specific regions — who face significant digital security threats. Security in-a-Box developed by Front Line Defenders and Tactical Technology Collective, with a global network of thousands of activists, trainers and digital security experts.
https://securityinabox.org/en/
https://tacticaltech.org/#/
https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/

TACTICAL TECH: DATA, TRAVEL & ACTIVISM
Whether a non-governmental organisation or a human rights defender, in today's society, our data is collected, stored and analysed every step of the way. From visa applications to social media profiles, from attending a conference to meal choices on a flight, sharing a photo from a protest or simply walking past a CCTV camera – we are rendered into data which is quantified, cross referenced and compiled to form profiles about us as individuals and social graphs about us as groups.

Within the blurred lines between corporations and governments; and the elevated threats against the work of human rights defenders in many countries; these profiles take a different dimension beyond corporate interests, and can become at times, the center of the threat model. Under this project, the Data and Activism team aims to trace how this process happens, raise awareness on its different implications; and – where possible – explore protection strategies and creative responses.
https://tacticaltech.org/#/projects/toolkits-guides/

TAKE BACK THE TECH – SAFETY TOOLKIT
Four tips for better smartphone privacy and security

1.Password-protect your phone and use encryption. If someone gets their hands on your phone, you can prevent them from reading its stored data by putting a strong password on the phone and encrypting its contents.

2.Choose encrypted apps for calls and texting. Phone calls and text messages are easily tracked or intercepted. Use encrypted conversation apps like Android's TextSecure/ Telegram or Apple's FaceTime/iMessage.

3.Always update your Android or iOS system. Hackers and spies take advantage of newly discovered loopholes and backdoors, so always update your mobile's operating system.

4.Use a second phone for maximum security. Phones are designed to be locatable, and many apps are designed to share data even when you don't realise it. More apps on your phone equals more risk. If you are concerned about your privacy, keep one phone for essential communication only.
https://www.takebackthetech.net/be-safe/safety-toolkit

DIGITAL PRIVACY & SECURITY RESOURCES
Protect your data and privacy with these software and tools
https://medium.com/coinmonks/an-insight-to-digital-privacy-and-security-resources-401ded4a5ad6

ONONYMOUS ONLINE SAFETY OVERVIEW
https://ononymous.org/

MIGRANT PERSPECTIVES – REALITIES OF LIFE IN EUROPE

ARE THERE PARTICULAR STORIES PEOPLE TELL BACK HOME?

"People shares stories about good and bad. The ones I think are bad dominate. They are not bad in that they paint a bad picture of Europe. No, they are bad as they paint too good a picture of Europe. How you can easily be transformed to become rich, without showing how the person can become rich. Mostly this is stories people tell and make in movies. But it is not real life, that alone gave me a lot of bad influence by making me think that Europe is a paradise where things just happened that you don't have to work. Most of the time young people will look at the flashy aspect of people who have been to places. They also want to live a life that is kind of fictional. They don't really know in reality; they just look at images. These images are very addictive and influential. So, they want to look and be like somebody. But they are ignorant in the sense that they don't really know what they need to do to be like such a person and they don't know if what they are seeing is even real."

MITIGATING FALSE INFORMATION ON SOCIAL MEDIA

I just tell people that cheap things are not real. Anything that you didn't work for, when you receive a message and it looks too good to be true, you just know that it is not true. Because there are a lot of people who struggle to get those opportunities and they never get it. Besides, what did you do to deserve it?

You don't have a formula to tell people, you will know depending on the context of people you meet, and their education level. I show videos on the struggle on the sea when young people are crossing borders, the mistreatment of people who work as house help and I try to connect it with how people get themselves into such situations.

FACT CHECKING FAKE NEWS & LINKS

Offline tips for areas without internet access: One thing that could be done is to tell the person if you know someone who is knowledgeable in these things or who in your society knows about these things, cross-check with that person.
Let the person check it for you, cross-check with others whether this is true or fake.

We have to look for some stories to tell from the individuals who have hustled very hard and either have failed or succeeded in Europe; listing to both stories, there is always a tough struggle and no cheap way of making it. You have to work hard towards it.

SMUGGLERS AND TRAFFICKERS

UNDERSTANDING ONLINE MANIPULATION

Traffickers and smugglers provide wrong information and promise migration services to Ghanaian unemployed youth, with the aim to trap them into their fake deals. These services include guiding and escorting during the journey, connections via their established networks along the route and providing fake travel documents (Passports, I.D cards, Visas and Stamps) that could easily assist them in the host country. This proactive recruitment and misinformation increases the number of migrants who are willing to buy smuggling services.

Traffickers and smugglers advertise their business where migrants can be easily reached in schools, churches, neighbourhoods home to diaspora communities and various social media outlets online. They

target youth who are unemployed and lack aspirations in their communities mostly due to limited socio-economic opportunities.

Migrants are subject to lies from smugglers and human traffickers. Social media channels have become more widespread as a tool for smugglers both to contact migrants and to spread false information and lies about migration and Europe.

The media and researchers are starting to talk about the "**digital refugees**," because smart-phones, the internet and social media are becoming key tools used by migrants during their journeys, and central to have besides food, water and shelter.

Irregular migrants who fall prey to smugglers are highly likely to be exploited and become victims of violence, rape, theft, kidnapping, extortion and trafficking in persons. There are evidence of mass killings, systematic torture and sexual violence by unscrupulous smugglers and traffickers.

These migrants are vulnerable and face numerous human rights violations along all the smuggling routes. Smugglers' quest for financial gains leads them to neglect the safety of migrants during journeys. For example, smugglers may set off without sufficient food and drink, the vehicles they use might be faulty, and migrants who fall ill or are injured along the way might not receive any care, be abandoned and left to fend for themselves.

Gaining awareness of the way smugglers operate and being aware of the red flags that indicate manipulation, can improve the chances to protect themselves from this trap.

Factors determining the demand for smuggling

- Need to migrate due to armed conflict, persecution, socio-economic hardship or other reasons
- Mobility regulations and restrictions
- Expensive and lengthy procedures to obtain regular travel documents
- Marketing and misinformation by smugglers
- Smugglers' recruitment and community pressure

Services supplied by smugglers

- Transportation, guiding and escorting during irregular border crossing
- Accommodation along the route
- Planning and contacts along the route
- Information and corruption
- Travel documents (counterfeit, false, fraudulently obtained, etc.)

Sources: UNODC, Global Study on Smuggling of Migrants 2018 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.18.IV.9).

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KEY QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION
# MANIPULATION & HUMAN TRAFFICKERS

What is human trafficking?

What strategies are used by traffickers?

How to escape

- How does human trafficking operate?
- What strategies are used by traffickers?
- Does social media influence your decision to migrate?
- What is human trafficking?
- What strategies do human traffickers use to attract their victims?
- Examples and case studies of human trafficking.
- What can you do to escape if you are trapped by a human trafficker?

HUMAN TRAFFICKING & MIGRANTS

- 80% of irregular migration to Europe is "facilitated" by smugglers or criminal groups who are paid to provide services such as transportation, fraudulent identification, corruption of border officials and settlement services.
- Smugglers tell these young people that they have secured jobs for them in Libya where they will make $500 - $700 a month, and bonuses as well.
- Human traffickers and smugglers intentionally circulate misinformation, half-truths and avoid discussing unpleasant possibilities, danger or risks.
- Economic migrants send (mis)information home to influence others' decision to migrate, strategically 'editing' difficult experiences to appear more successful
- Social media plays a huge role because of the pictures and videos potential migrants see of others living the life in Europe.
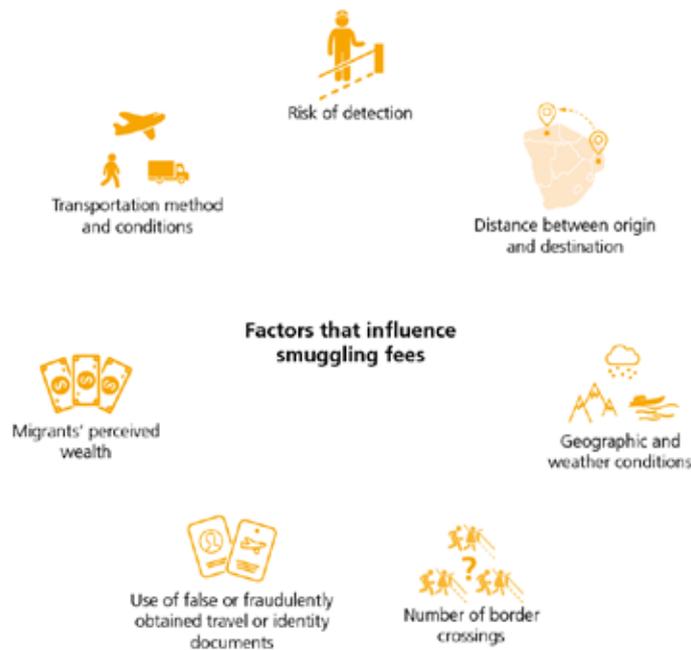
Factors that influence smuggling fees

- Risk of detection
- Transportation method and conditions
- Distance between origin and destination
- Migrants' perceived wealth
- Geographic and weather conditions
- Use of false or fraudulently obtained travel or identity documents
- Number of border crossings

source: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime UNODC Global Study on Smuggling of Migrants

CASE STUDY: HOW SMUGGLERS USE FACEBOOK TO ADVERTISE

People smugglers using Facebook to lure migrants into 'Italy trips'
Patrick Kingsley, migration correspondent, The Guardian

Using phrases more suited to tourist magazines and images of luxury yachts, smugglers based in Egypt and Turkey openly advertise services on social media. It reads like the website of a travel agency. "A trip to Italy next week in a big fast tourist yacht," says the Facebook post beneath a picture of a luxury ocean liner. "Two floors, air-conditioned, prepared for tourists. Recommended for families."

But a package holiday this is not. It is the Facebook page of a Turkey-based people smuggler, one of dozens if not hundreds of smugglers using the social network to advertise their services in plain sight. Smugglers along the southern and eastern shores of the Mediterranean are openly publicising their phone numbers, prices and schedules on social media to drum up business. The names of their pages euphemistically conjure images of tourism companies or advocacy groups, rather than smuggling routes that are bearing record numbers of migrants across the Mediterranean.

"Asylum and immigration to all of Europe – helping people in immigration and asylum" is the tagline for a second Turkish network. A third group, "Travel aid", offers fake visas and passports, while a fourth smuggler, based in Egypt, calls his group "The way to Europe", and illustrates its page with an image of Moses parting the Red Sea.

Different smugglers use their groups for slightly different purposes. Some simply advertise specific trips. Several smugglers use their pages to liveblog the progress of their clients across the sea. Other groups constitute a chatroom for migrants to share stories and advice. And many pages are used by smugglers to assuage concerns over migrant safety – with varying degrees of credibility.

In reality, migrants say they consume the propaganda with a pinch of salt. People largely use Facebook

to source smugglers' numbers, and often take a sceptical view of the smugglers' promises. "Not all of a smuggler's talk is believed," says Hashem, who found a range of smugglers' numbers online, ahead of a recent boat voyage to Italy. "Most people get their info about smugglers from relatives and friends."
https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/may/08/people-smugglers-using-facebook-to-lure-migrants-into-italy-trips

MIGRANT PERSPECTIVES – RED FLAGS

· Offering to take you to Europe for a fixed sum of money

· Promises of work that will pay you $500 - 1000 per month

· Scholarships that don't ask for your academic qualifications

· Travel agency promises based on what fee you can pay

· Anything that sounds too good to be true, probably is a lie!

What red flags do you see in the context of Ghana and misleading information?

> " When I started using WhatsApp, I received quite a lot of information from friends who forward messages like…"we will take you abroad" … "there is work there for you". "

You try to trace the information and there are contacts attached to these messages.

When you call, they will tell you that the process is quite simple you pay this amount of money and they will take you. I never tried because I didn't have money to pay and the information is not satisfactory. Another form is scholarships. Agencies sent a lot of information to me about the scholarship that they have, and they are willing to offer. But once I start sending emails, then they ask me, do you have this amount of money? if you have, it is really simple. Instead of talking about what is your qualification and how qualified you are. I learned in school if you are going abroad via education is better, so they would be interested in knowing about your qualification. These fake scholarships don't talk about that but for a fee they will take you to Germany or Europe."

"There are other communities like a diaspora community and some political groups who advise how to travel here safely or how to stay longer here. They don't actually have a framework, they only give you advice, this is what you need to do to come. It is always like the connection man outside Europe or in-home countries who try to give you some advice to come here because they do it for a living, they get paid for it. It is like a profession for them. But they don't actually tell you the pros and cons, they don't give you a detailed plan on how you are going to come here or how things look like here."

Misleading information

Those who came by the back route, basically they try to project the idea that going through the Mediterranean to come to Europe is hard work, a tough trip. To some extent, I give them credit but sometimes the images they put out on social media about where they are living, this is not true… the car they are driving which is also not true.

They completely show a false image of the cities they are living to the rural folks. I know them, I also live here, and when we do meet or talk one on one. I ask them to consider "What kind of image you are putting out there on WhatsApp?"

"'Have you ever sat inside a Lamborghini?"

Just because you are allowed to enter the shop; stand next to the car and take pictures and post it on WhatsApp or Facebook… I tell them personally what they are doing is wrong. But I haven't been able to comment on their post on social media.

"Some messages will be sent saying that UNESCO, UN or AU is taking this number of people to this place. This government is taking this number of young people to this country for training or whatever, then word of mouth follows. If I read something like that, I'm always quick to read and a lot of people who are also enlightened are quick to read to set up the other (correct) version for it. You can receive a message many times. Once one person says "this is a wrong message" or "it's fake news" in a group, because people often belong to two or more whatsapp groups, it keeps forwarding like that. So, the next time it comes around you can see the correction."

"I think red flags depends on who is assimilating the information. Some people might not see it as a red flag. If a person is in a desperate situation, where someone says there is a job opportunity through the internet and they are asking for payment, this guy is to some extent educated but he still didn't think it was fake. He didn't even think it was a scam. Because he is unemployed and looking for a job. So, he still tends to believe this could be true. Perceiving it as a red flag will depend on the individual."

"I think it depends on the topic. In Canada there were a lot of WhatsApp messages distributed over the internet telling people that they need this number of young ladies between this age 15-30 to go to Canada. "There are jobs whether you have a certificate or not." Such messages are not a red flag or fake per se, indeed there is somebody who will take your money and manage to send some people to the place. They have people who can directly tell you that this is true because I will connect you with someone who has gone through the same thing to talk to you. They do have people who also live abroad and have a foreign number and chat with you and tells you "oh I pass through the same", but this person is an influencer. So, in that context, it is difficult for you to receive the message and understand that this is fake. Because there are people who give testimony."

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Planning The Journey

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PLANNING THE JOURNEY

HOW TO DEFINE S.M.A.R.T. GOALS FOR MIGRATION (SPECIFIC, MEASURABLE, ATTAINABLE, RELEVANT, TIME-BASED)

#SMART2MIGRATE

Before deciding to migrate, take some time to think about your goals and set specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and time based goals. Having a clear intention and measure of success will help to attain your goals, regardless of whether you choose regular or irregular (Backdoor) modes of migration.

DEVELOPING SMART GOALS

S is for Specific

Migration, like any other undertaking needs planning. As you decide how and if you are going to migrate it is important to set goals that are clear, detailed and unambiguous.

A specific goal will answer the five "W" questions:

· **What:** What do I want to accomplish by migrating?

· **Why:** Specific reasons, purpose or benefits of accomplishing the goal.

· **Who:** Who is involved? Can you trust them? Do you have other options?

· **Where:** Where do you want to go? Do you know the place?

· **Which:** Identify requirements and constraints. What do you need to get there?

M is for Measurable

You need a concrete set of criteria for measuring progress towards your migration decision. If you choose irregular (backdoor) migration, how do you measure or predict success? If you take the formal / regular route, how much time will you need to plan? What are the true stories of those who have taken these routes before you? If a goal is not measurable, it is hard to know when progress toward success is being made.

A measurable goal will usually answer questions such as:

· How much? What resources do you need?

· Are there better measurable alternatives to investing these resources?

· Resources include time, money and effort.

· How will I know when it is accomplished?

· What needs to happen to know your goals have been met?

· Or have not been met? Listen to stories of others who have set similar goals.

· What stories can you relate to?

A is for Attainable

This term stresses the importance of goals that are realistic and attainable. While an attainable goal may stretch the goal-setter in order to achieve it, the goal is not extreme. An attainable goal may help to identify previously overlooked opportunities (such as entrepreneurship, vocational college, working in collaboration to explore local contexts) to bring themselves closer to the achievement of their goals.

An attainable goal will usually answer these questions:

· How can the goal be accomplished?

· What are the pros and cons of the method chosen?

· Is there an alternative to method?

· What other ways might I be able to achieve my goals?

R is for Relevant

A relevant goal must represent an objective that the goal-setter is willing and able to work towards.

A relevant goal will be able to help you ask and answer these questions:

· Does this seem worthwhile?

· Have I assessed and compared all the potential risks?

· Look at the measurement above?

· In doing so will realize there better and safe ways of arriving at the same goal?

T is for Time-Based

The fifth term stresses the importance of giving goals a target date. A commitment to a deadline helps focus efforts on the completion of the goal on or before the due date.

Timeliness is intended to prevent goals from being overtaken by the day-to-day crises that invariably arise in any project, undertaking or organization. By giving you yourself time to plan and evaluate the effort needed, you may realise that some goals cannot be attained with the resources you have available, given the time constraints.

A timely goal will usually answer these questions:

· When? Until when do I want to have accomplished what?

· Plan for the Long, Middle and Short term?

· Define your timeline. Break it up into small steps:

· What can I do 2 years from now?

· What can I do for 6 months from now?

· What can I do for 6 weeks from now?

· What can I do today?

MIGRANT PERSPECTIVES: RETURNEE EXPERT NETWORK

Are there existing community frameworks / social infrastructure to help those migrating in Ghana or Diaspora community in Germany?

The **CIM Program** supported by the German government, where returnees are given a choice to go back and work as experts in their home country, and they also pay them.

"The term 'returning expert' is used for those who have gained technical or managerial skills through study and work in Germany and who then go on to use their knowledge and expertise in their country of origin. We provide all the support you need for your return, from finding a job with a suitable employer through to establishing a network of contacts in your home country. We guide you through the entire process and ensure that your return is a success – for you, your employer and your home country."
https://www.cimonline.de/en/html/returning-experts.html

Afrika Kommt, established by a group of German companies to bring at least 20 African candidates who are qualified to enroll in school, to learn Deutsch and work as interns in these companies to get training depending on their profession. They return to their countries to establish something or stay retained to work further in the companies.
https://www.afrika-kommt.de/

FURTHER INFORMATION & RESOURCES

Information for migrants / potential migrants & refugees from reliable sources:
Safe migration pathways, rumors about Europe, EU and African Migration Policy.

ON THE MOVE

MigApp
App for migrants by the International Organization for Migration (IOM).
Provides information on the risks of migration, visa regulations and government policies, access to migration services and programs.
https://www.iom.int/migapp

· A trusted source of reliable information
· Assistance to migrate safely
· Low-cost money transfer
· Information on:
  · Migration risks
  · Visa regulations
  · Health guidelines
  · Migrants rights
  · Governments' migration policies
· Access to migration services and programmes
· A secure space to communicate and tell their story

International Organization for Migration
www.iom.int
migapp@iom.int
Tel: +41 22 717 91 118

InfoMigrants
news and information website addressed to migrants to counter misinformation at every point of the journey: before migrating, along the route and in the countries of destiny. It is available in Arabic, French and English.
https://www.infomigrants.net/en/

Refugee.Info
If you're looking for information on topics like asylum procedures, work permissions, registering children for school, or finding a doctor, you're in the right place. The project aims to help refugees in Europe access services and exercise their rights.
https://www.refugee.info/
Ask questions: https://www.facebook.com/refugee.info

Alarmphone
Hotline for boat people in distress. Offers support and organizes rescues.
THE ALARM PHONE IS NOT A RESCUE NUMBER, BUT AN ALARM NUMBER TO SUPPORT RESCUE OPERATIONS.

We ourselves cannot rescue anyone; we are not in the area and do not have boats or helicopters. If you are in distress at sea or are experiencing a pushback, please follow these steps:

1.Call the coast guard and tell them about your situation of distress.

2.Call the Alarm Phone. We will make sure that your distress call is acted upon.

3.If you are not promptly rescued by the coast guard, call the Alarm Phone again. We will inform humanitarian organisations and public media to put pressure on the rescue services.

In case of emergency call +334 86 51 71 61
https://alarmphone.org/en/about/

SAFETY AT SEA
https://alarmphone.org/en/safety-at-sea/
Emergency Contacts
Salvamento marítimo (Spain)
(Spanish and English): (+34) 900 202 202, (+34) 917 55 9 133, (+34) 956 684 740
Morocco Marine Rescue Organization
(Arabic, French and English) (+ 212) 537 625 877
Red Cross (Spain): (+34) 901 222 222
Coast Guards in Italy: + 39 06 592 3569 ·Malta: + 356 21 25 72 67

Open Migration, Italian Coalition for Civil Liberties (CILD)
Open Migration aims to provide quality information on refugees and migrations, to fill a gap in public opinion and in the media. Migrations tell the strongest story of our time. Open Migration chooses to tell this story through the analysis of data.
https://openmigration.org/
contact@openmigration.org

W2eu.info
Independent information for refugees and migrants coming to Europe. Information on rights, laws and the border situation of almost every European country (in English, French, Arab and Farsi). At the outer borders of Europe, people are refused entry, they are imprisoned and deported. Nevertheless people are coming. We welcome all travellers on their difficult trip and wish you all a good journey -because freedom of movement is everybody's right!
https://w2eu.info/

Rumours about Germany
The German Federal Foreign Office website to offer current and potential migrants reliable information to counter inaccurate information and false rumours spread by people smugglers and traffickers.
https://rumoursaboutgermany.info

Trace the Face
A number of National Red Cross Societies in Europe are publishing photos of people looking for their missing relatives in the hope of reconnecting families. Check if your family is looking for you or publish your photo to enable your family to contact you.
https://familylinks.icrc.org/europe/en/Pages/Home.aspx

STUDYING

Entervarsity
https://entervarsity.com/
A free university search engine, for students all over Africa looking for detailed and reliable information on universities and colleges: tuition, programs, location, extracurricular activities. Everything needed to ensure prospective students are fully prepared to apply and attend.

Resources for prospective students
DAAD **https://www.daad.de/en/**
Uni-assist **https://www.uni-assist.de/**
Aachen university applied science **https://www.fh-aachen.de/en/**

EUROPE / GERMANY

Arriving in Berlin
Digital map with helpful information for refugees and newcomers to Berlin.
https://arriving-in-berlin.de/

Make it in Germany
The German government's portal for qualified professionals from around the world.
Make it in Germany provides comprehensive information about entry and visa procedures, vocational training and higher education, finding jobs, and life in Germany. The job listings enable qualified professionals to look for suitable job vacancies and to find out what sectors and regions are looking to recruit.
www.make-it-in-germany.com/en

German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF)
Provides information on asylum, refugee protection procedures and life in Germany.
http://www.bamf.de/EN/Fluechtlingsschutz/fluechtlingsschutz-node.html

ANKOMMEN app

A guide for your first weeks in Germany
Practical Guide to living in Germany. In this
app you get to know the rules of this country
and learn what you have to pay attention to.
Try it! And start right now...
**http://ankommenapp.de/APP/EN/Startseite/
startseite-node.html**

Migrant Help

UK based charity that offers counseling to migrants and refugees relating the asylum system in the UK,
human trafficking and smuggling, resettlement programs and for free interpretation and translation
services.

Free asylum helpline: **0808 8010 503**
Head office: **01304 203 977**
Email: **info@migranthelpuk.org**
https://www.migranthelpuk.org

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MIGRANT MEDIA NETWORK
https://migrantmedia.network/