



IOM Ghana

MISSION OVERVIEW

Established in 1951, IOM is the leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration and works closely with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental partners. With 157 member states, a further 10 states holding observer status and offices in over 100 countries, IOM is dedicated to promoting humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all.

PROFILE - Present in Ghana for Over 25 Years

IOM has been active in Ghana since 1987 and has contributed to the Government of Ghana's efforts to manage migration effectively through a wide variety of projects and programmes. Migration support includes: travel assistance, voluntary return and reintegration, resettlement, migrant health, counter-trafficking, capacity-building for labour and development policy, and emergency assistance.

IOM currently operates in all 10 regions of Ghana. Its main office and Migration Health Assessment Centre (MHAC) are both located in Accra, with additional sub-offices in the Northern and Brong-Ahafo regions. IOM is also part of the United Nations System in Ghana and works within the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) whose strategic areas are derived from the Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda (GSGDA).

IOM Ghana Facts and Figures (2002 – 2014)	
Programme	# Beneficiaries Assisted
Refugee Resettlement, Repatriation and Migrant Services	43,773 refugee resettlements, 12,927 repatriations and 8,280 migrant travel services supported
Migration Health Services	108,921 migrants received health assistance
Emergency and Post-Crisis	29,265 migrants provided humanitarian assistance
Return and Reintegration to countries of origin	2,615 migrants assisted with return and reintegration to their countries of origin since 2006
Counter-Trafficking (survivors of trafficking assisted)	732 trafficked persons rescued, rehabilitated, reunited and reintegrated
Migration and Development in Ghana	Approximately 38,000 health workers and students in Ghana benefitted from diaspora support
Pre-departure Cultural Orientation	3,113 migrants provided cultural orientation
Canada Visa Application Centre	10,444 Visa applications received since October 2013



★ IOM Main Office ● IOM Sub-Offices

PROGRAMMES and ACTIVITIES

Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration of Migrants

IOM facilitates the voluntary return and reintegration of both Ghanaian and non-Ghanaian migrants. Assistance includes pre-departure and post-arrival information and counselling, flight arrangements, airport assistance and reintegration assistance to establish a small business or engage in further education and training.

The main countries where Ghanaians return from include the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Libya, the Netherlands, Italy and Malta.

Counter-Trafficking

The counter-trafficking programme provides assistance to survivors of trafficking and their families including the rescue, rehabilitation and reintegration of trafficked children. Since 2002, 732 children have been rescued and reunited with their families.

IOM also supports the Government of Ghana in preventing and combating this issue through capacity-building and technical assistance. The focus is on prevention, protection and capacity



IOM staff educates children about trafficking. © IOM 2014

building of law enforcement, prosecutors and the judiciary to effect prosecution.

In 2012, IOM launched a new initiative called 'Free To Be Me' aimed at building the capacity of local communities to address and prevent child trafficking and protection violations.



IOM staff assisting at a training of trainers workshop on International Migration and Development © IOM 2015

Migration and Development

The Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA) Ghana Health project was implemented from 2005 until 2012. It facilitated the short-term transfer of vital human resource skills from Ghanaian health professionals in the diaspora for the development of Ghana.

The current migration and development project, the Temporary Return of Qualified Nationals (TRQN) III, focuses on the education and health sectors to consolidate the gains made from the MIDA Ghana Health project.

Launched in 2011, the Diaspora Engagement Project supported the Government of Ghana in setting up a Diaspora Support Unit within the Ministry of Foreign and Regional Integration to facilitate the skills and knowledge transfer of diaspora in order to achieve development goals.

IOM is also assisting the Ghanaian government to develop and integrate into the country's development strategy, a migration policy that will help manage its internal, intra-regional and international migration flows for sustained national development.

Labour Migration

IOM through its partners has implemented two major labour migration projects leading to the development of a Labour Market Database, a Strategic Plan for Labour Department and the implementation of a pilot circular migration scheme between Ghana and Italy, as well as provision of capacity building support for stakeholders for improved migration management.

Refugee Resettlement and Repatriation Assistance

IOM facilitates the resettlement of refugees from Ghana and the greater West and Central African region to the United States, Canada, Australia and various European countries. IOM organises international flight arrangements and handles all pre-departure, in-transit and arrival aspects of movements, including exit permits and transit visa.

Between 2012 and 2014, IOM facilitated the voluntary repatriation of Liberian nationals in Ghana when refugee status ended for Liberians in Ghana. 2,860 refugees whose refugee status was revoked were repatriated in coordination with UNHCR, while 1,552 migrants without refugee status also returned to Liberia.

Facilitated Migration and Migrant Services

Travel support is offered to a variety of migrants, including family reunification migrants, immigrant visa holders and students. Typically, such services consist of flight arrangements and airport assistance and are paid for by the migrants or their sponsors. At the request of governments, IOM verifies the authenticity of documents with national and local institutions. For refugees travelling to Canada, Australia and The Netherlands, IOM provides Cultural Orientation trainings to help prepare migrants for their future in the destination country. Since 2013, IOM has been operating the Canada Visa Application Centre in partnership with VFS Global.

Emergency and Post-Crisis

Emergency assistance is provided to migrants and internally displaced persons (IDPs) who are affected by natural and man-made disaster. In recent years, IOM provided shelters and distributed non-food items (NFIs) to beneficiaries following severe flooding in Ghana, supported the evacuation and reintegration of over 18,000 Ghanaian nationals during the Libya crisis and assisted 13,958 refugees, Ghanaian returnees and Third Country Nationals affected by the Ivory Coast crisis. In response to the Ivory Coast crisis, IOM provided a total of 41,111 assistance services including internal and cross border transportation, medical services, emergency travel documents, food and accommodation, and arrival assistance.



IOM health staff member checks an xRay for TB. © IOM 2012

Migration Health

IOM Accra implements migration health-related programmes in West and Central Africa on behalf of governments. Health services are provided to migrants supported under the main refugee resettlement programmes. In addition, there are a variety of self-payer and government-sponsored health services offered, including: migration health assessments, travel health assistance, assistance to crisis affected populations, health promotion, mental health and psychosocial support, as well as research into HIV and population mobility. IOM with its partners is currently assisting the Government of Ghana with EVD preparedness for border officials at Ports of Entry.

IOM also runs tuberculosis (TB) programmes. In 2014, 3641 migrants who are eligible to travel to the United Kingdom under qualifying visas were screened through a tuberculosis control screening programme (UKTB Detection Programme). In the same year, over 3000 beneficiaries were tested for TB by IOM and its partners from a mobile diagnostic van in the TB REACH project, resulting in the diagnosis and treatment of 231 active TB cases in the Western Region of Ghana.

Technical Cooperation and Capacity-Building

Through technical cooperation and capacity-building support provided to the Government of Ghana, a variety of activities including trainings, exchange programmes and technical assistance to promote migration management continues to be implemented. For example, the Ghana Integrated Migration Management Approach (GIMMA) project, based on the Government's priorities, contributes to the Government of Ghana's efforts to manage migration effectively through the establishment of an integrated migration management approach. One of the project's objectives is to enhance the capacity of Ghana Immigration Service (GIS) so that it can apply migration-related legislation, promote legal migration, and to protect the nation's borders.

IOM Ghana also holds a regional cooperation to address irregular migration and reinforce the capacities of West African governments to counter migrant smuggling.