

Migration Governance Frameworks in Nigeria

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Victor Amadi

Introduction



Nigerian context

- Large population
- A source and destination country
- Unstable economy, insecurity, internal and irregular migration

Migration patterns and trends

- Approximately 1.6 million emigrants in 2020
 - 58% moving outside Africa
 - 42% migrating within Africa, particularly to ECOWAS countries like Niger, Benin, Ghana and Cote d' Ivoire
 - *'Japa'* syndrome?
- Approximately 1.3 million immigrants in 2020
 - 92% predominantly from West African countries, including Benin, Ghana, Mali, Togo and Niger
- Influence of sub-regional frameworks?

Migration governance frameworks

Normative assessment

- Subscription to sub-regional norms
 - ECOWAS Protocol on Free Movement of Persons, 1979 and Supplementary Protocols
- Influence of sub-regional norms on national laws and policies
- Implementation, discursive and efficacy assessment

Migration governance frameworks

- National Policy on Internally Displaced Persons, 2012
- National Policy on Labour Migration, 2014 (reviewed in 2020)
- National Migration Policy, 2015
- Immigration Act of 2015 and Regulation of 2017
- National Diaspora Policy, 2021
- New Visa Policy, 2020

Migration governance frameworks

Hierarchical structure of migration governance

- Ministerial Committee
- Technical Working Group - Coordinated by NCFRMI
- Thematic Groups - Specialised focus areas
 - Diaspora matters – Led by NiDCOM
 - Labour migration – Led by FMLE
 - Forced migration – Led by NCFRMI
 - Migration data – Led by NPopC
 - Border management – Led by NIS
- State & Non-State Actors - Includes NGOs, CSOs, and private parties

What challenges are there?

- Competing mandates among agencies
- Corruption
- Bureaucracy
- Weak administrative and enforcement mechanisms
- Weak data collection
- Limited public discourse on migration issues
- Abrupt border closures

Possible recommendations

- Transparency to combat corruption
 - Periodic audits of migration-related services and publicise findings
- Enhanced inter-agency coordination
- Sustained investments in critical migration management areas, including border management structures
- Building capacity for migration governance
- Streamlining bureaucratic processes
- Leveraging technology and data for effective migration policy
- Balancing security, economic benefits, and development in policy