



Beyond Irregularity

Facilitating effective return and reintegration programs of Nigerian Irregulars – Imperatives for Nigeria &

EU

By

..... (not sure if you should say drpc or oxfam/novib?????)





Irregular Migration from Nigeria to Europe:

- Nigeria - source & transit country for IR to Europe
- Estimates of Nigerian migrants in EU vary but considered to be approximately three million
- No distinction made between Irregular migration and trafficking in public discourse in Nigeria
- Source are locational specific e.g. Edo, Imo, Delta
- Internal & regional trafficking of vulnerable groups as pipeline into irregular migration to Europe
- Few NGOs active; public agencies dominant





Circular Migration, Nigerian Returnees and the global recession - since 2007:

- Increasing numbers of Enforced Deportation Orders under bilateral re-admission agreements with EU nations
- Increasing numbers of Nigerians accessing IOM Assisted Voluntary Return schemes from Austria, Libya etc.
- Falling Nos. of applications for asylum eg. Ireland Nigerians top list of seekers - 1028 in 2007 to 128 in 2011
- Immigration agencies/Diaspora Committee report increase in Voluntary unassisted returnees but no accurate data from Immigration authorities





Profile of Returnees – Homecoming study of Beyond Irregularity project:

- Semi-skilled male operators from Southern Europe with small business management skills
- Over-stayers (mostly Male) with European tertiary institution degrees/diplomas and ICT skills
- Female trafficked commercial sex workers
- Middle-age & older returnees (M&F) with savings
- Male entrepreneurs wishing to get into politics
- Criminal elements (Mostly male but some female)
- Young females with care providing skills





Benefits of facilitating return and reintegration Irregulars for Nigeria:

- IMs are a source of human capital for development
- With remittances to Nigeria higher than FDI and ODA, Irregulars are a source of finance capital
- Will support Nigeria's labour and migration in development policies and strategies
- Improve the country's image
- A pool for good governance & inclusive growth
- Support the Small and Medium scale business enterprise strategy of government





Benefits of facilitating return and reintegration Irregulars for the EU:

- Voluntary and AVR more cost effective than enforced deportation
- Improve EU image – EU currently viewed as selfish and exclusionary as more Nigerian IMs are in Africa (eg. South Africa & Morocco) & Middle East than the EU
- Prevent deportees returning to complete 'unfinished business'
- Support Nigeria's labour & migration in development policies and strategies





Good practices by Nigerian government to support effective return & reintegration:

- A recent policy shift from narrow focus on trafficking to migration management
- New responsibilities given to the National Commission for Refugees (NCFR) in 2009 to oversee issues relating to migration and IDPs
- Improved dialogue & bilateral agreements with EU
- Appointment of a Senior Special Assistant to the President on Diaspora Affairs
- Attempts to refocus NAPTIP through amendment to law





Good practices by the EU to support effective return & reintegration:

- Funding of the Beyond Irregularity project which collected primary data on AVR, UVR, deportees; youth focused campaign; poll; and NGO capacity building
- Support for IOM AVR schemes
- Robust evaluations and learning from evaluations
- Review & concern with human rights obligations
- Working with NGOs & networking capacity building
- Increased dialogue & agreements with GON
- Support for legal routes to migration projects with information dissemination through Nigerian Embassies





IMPERATIVES - What needs to be improved – Nigerian government (1):

- Improve inter-agency coordination, harmonize mandate, address and resolve conflicts amongst responsible government agencies, eg. NAPTIP, NCR and the Federal Ministries of the Foreign Affairs
- Improve coordination between government agencies and NGOs; NGOs & NAPTIP view each other as competitors for development funds





IMPERATIVES - What needs to be improved – Nigerian government Continued (2):

- Shift focus away from prevention of trafficking of women & children to genuine Migration in development policy with National human resource needs assessment
- Support the Federal Ministry of Labour & Productivity to enforce the National Labour and Migration Policy through International Labour Migration Desk to license Private Employment Agencies & manage the National Electronic Labour Exchange (Nelex) platform





IMPERATIVES - What needs to be improved – Nigerian government Continued (3):

- Political will, genuine and urgent needed to support the passage of the National Migration Policy of the NRC which is in Draft form for 5 years
- Harmonize this policy with Federal Ministry of Labour & Productivity, National Labour and Migration Policy and NAPTIP law
- Improve mechanisms for collaboration with NGOs
- Urgent need for return & reintegration strategy & implementation framework in current policies





IMPERATIVES -What needs to be improved– EU (1):

- European governments should encourage voluntary return & disseminate information on such schemes
- Reduce the number of forced returns to a minimum by encouraging uptake of voluntary returns
- Bilateral cooperation and agreements between European states and Nigeria, e.g. 2004 MOU between UK and Nigeria
- Differentiate between traffickers, victims and over-stayers in return procedures





What needs to be improved–EU (2):

- Research is needed to track whether forced returnees do reintegrate
- Pre-return period should be short & detention used if risk of absconding
- Facilitate platforms for information sharing between European and Nigerian NGOs
- Provide policy analysis & harmonization support to catalyse the migration in development strategy of the GON





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THANK YOU FOR LISTENING

