Our work in West Africa

Since 2009, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) has been partnering with West African governments to promote innovative, comprehensive and sustainable migration policies and programmes. In 2014, ICMPD set up an office in Nigeria to implement the project ‘Support to Free Movement of Persons and Migration in West Africa’ (FMM West Africa), which aims to maximise the development potential of free movement of persons and migration in West Africa. Our other flagship initiative, Migration EU eXpertise (MIEUX) has already supported 15 partner country administrations in the region, working both at national and regional levels.

Key Initiatives

**FMM West Africa**

FMM West Africa is an EU/ECOWAS-funded project being implemented at national, regional, and local levels by a consortium of partners comprised of the International Organization for Migration, the ICMPD and the International Labour Organization, in close coordination with the ECOWAS Commission.

The project activities cover the areas of border management, anti-trafficking, labour migration and migration data management and aims to strengthen the capacity of the ECOWAS Commission, its Member States and Mauritania.

ICMPD leads the ‘Demand Driven Facility’ for National Institutions’ component of the project, which is specifically designed to address existing institutional gaps and migration capacity-building needs in ECOWAS Member States and Mauritania in the following areas:

- Border management
- Labour migration
- Anti-trafficking

[www.fmmwestafrica.com](http://www.fmmwestafrica.com)

**MIEUX**

Migration EU eXpertise is a joint initiative of the EU and ICMPD which aims to enhance the capacities of partner countries in the management of all areas of migration, including irregular migration, migration and development, environment and climate change, international protection and legal migration.

MIEUX currently works with the administrations of 9 partner countries as well as with regional organisations to provide fast-tailored technical expertise and assistance.

[www.icmpd.org/MIEUX-II](http://www.icmpd.org/MIEUX-II)

**Support Project for the Rabat Process**

An EU-funded project that supports the implementation of the third phase of the Rabat Process, it provides the Rabat Process’ partners with an open framework for consultation, coordination and cooperation among countries of origin, transit and destination of migrants coming from West and Central Africa.

[www.processusderabat.net](http://www.processusderabat.net)
**MICIC**

‘Migrants in Countries in Crisis: Supporting an Evidence-based Approach for Effective and Cooperative State Action’ is an EU-funded project aiming to improve the capacity of states and other stakeholders to assist and provide protection to migrants who find themselves in countries in crisis and address the long-term implications of such situations. Supporting and complementing the global MICIC initiative, the project organises regional consultations, in West and Central Africa among others.

[www.icmpd.org/Cross-Cutting-Initiatives.2721.0.html](http://www.icmpd.org/Cross-Cutting-Initiatives.2721.0.html)

---

**MTM Dialogue**

The Mediterranean Transit Migration Dialogue is a consultative platform between migration officials in countries of origin, transit and destination along the migration routes in Africa, Europe and the Middle East. Ghana, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal have participated in the dialogue since 2009. The MTM AMEDIP project, implemented 2011-2014 in cooperation with IOM, has supported state institutions in Cape Verde, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal to strengthen diaspora policies through south-south exchanges.

[www.icmpd.org/MTM](http://www.icmpd.org/MTM)

---

**Thematic Areas**

**Border Management**

ICMPD is currently working with the ECOWAS Commission in the framework of the FMM West Africa Project to develop a border management manual for the region. This manual will be used to train border officials across the West Africa region.

The Rabat Process Support Project is working on border management issues mainly through the following activities: (1) The Interactive Map on Migration (i-Map), through the development of infographics, including on international cooperation in integrated border management (IBM), the impact of IBM, and on cross-border cooperation, mobility and border management between Mali and Burkina Faso. (2) The Support Project also provides short-term technical assistance and is currently working with the ECOWAS Commission to develop an ECOWAS methodology for the adaptation of IBM guidelines in the context of West Africa. The Support Project is also working with Togo and Benin for a bilateral assistance on border management issues.

**Trafficking in Persons**

Through the MIEUX initiative, ICMPD has supported the development of border management strategies and policies in Senegal and Sierra Leone, as well as provided expertise to develop training tools at regional level. In partnership with IOM and the French ‘Direction de la Coopération Internationale’, ICMPD has also provided technical assistance for the capacity building of government officials in Burkina Faso, Gabon, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal in the area of document fraud.

The FMM West Africa project is supporting the ECOWAS Annual Review Meeting on trafficking in persons as well as the capacity building of ECOWAS National Focal Points in combatting trafficking in persons. The project is also involved in ongoing consultations with ECOWAS on the Regional Action Plan on Trafficking in Persons.

The MIEUX initiative supports the development of a national strategy on the fight against trafficking in persons in Côte d’Ivoire.
Irregular Migration and Smuggling

In cooperation with Matrix Insight and ECRE, ICMPD is currently conducting an EU-funded international study on the characteristics, responses and cooperation on smuggling of migrants, which includes Nigeria as a case study for West Africa.

The ‘Mixed Migration’ layer of the MTM i-Map includes country profiles of MTM member states, along with information on detection, reception and detention, smuggling and trafficking in persons, forced return, asylum and refugee-related issues. One of the many outputs is a map on mixed migration routes from sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East towards the Mediterranean region and Europe.

Migration and Development

MIEUX currently provides assistance to the Togolese authorities in the drafting process of the first national migration and development strategy and supports Côte d’Ivoire in the development of a national strategy and methodology aimed at mainstreaming migration issues into development planning. MIEUX is also supporting the development of the Ghanaian Diaspora Engagement Policy with a view to facilitating stronger cooperation between the government of Ghana and its diaspora.

The Support Project for the Rabat Process is developing tailored guides on the use of migration data in 5 countries: Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, Niger and Senegal. The guides will support public policy-making and planning at the national level through the use of migration data, as well as support coordination efforts in the field of migration. In the framework of providing technical assistance, a training session on return and reintegration with Niger has been provided and one with Ghana is on the agenda.

The AMEDIP project supported diaspora policy development in Cape Verde, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal through the mapping of policies and practices, peer-to-peer exchanges, south-south technical cooperation, regional dialogue and networking.

The interactive map on migration (i-Map) provides news and information on M&D policies and practices in selected countries in Africa, the Middle East, Europe and Asia.

Legal Migration

Through MIEUX, ICMPD supported the efforts of Cape Verde in finalising the reform of its immigration policy and legislative framework, and ensured an appropriate implementation of the recently approved National Immigration Strategy under the scope of the EU-Cape Verde Mobility Partnership.

MIEUX also assisted the Gambia Bureau of Statistics in the completion, analysis and dissemination of the National Migration and Urbanisation Survey conducted in 2009 and the Ghanaian Immigration Service (GIS) in the areas of migration management, migration policy, communications, project management, institutional building and reform. Training on the EU’s Global Approach to Migration and Mobility was also provided through this action.

MIEUX also provided technical assistance to the national employment agencies of Benin, Mali, Cameroon and Senegal in their efforts to effectively manage labour migration, and develop and encourage cooperation and dialogue. This was in support of the regional initiative ‘African Operational Repertoire of Jobs and Professions’ (ROAME).
Over the past decade, ICMPD has facilitated several meetings and dialogues between European and West African officials in order to devise concrete and appropriate responses to migration. Some of the most recent meetings held in this regard include:

- Thematic meeting on asylum and international protection, Rabat Process, June 2015 in Rabat
- Senior Officials Meetings, Rabat Process, November 2014 in Rome and June 2014 in Rabat
- Thematic meeting on migrants in a crisis context, Rabat Process, April 2014 in Paris
- Thematic meeting on border management, Rabat Process, November 2013 in Madrid
- Thematic meeting on strengthening evidence-based policy making in the field of migration, Rabat Process, September 2013 in Dakar
- Expert meeting on the interconnections between North-South and South-South cooperation on diaspora engagement, MTM/AMEDIP, April 2013 in Berne

**Publications and Tools**

- **A Survey on Migration Policies in West Africa** analyses current policies in the 15 ECOWAS Member States, by ICMPD and IOM (funded by Switzerland, 2015)
- **Enhancing Diaspora Engagement: Operational Guidelines for South-South and Triangular Cooperation** is a step-by-step guide to diaspora policy development, by ICMPD and IOM (MTM/AMEDIP, 2014)
- The **Interactive Map on Migration (i-Map)** is an online platform that provides factual information on migration through country profiles, visualisations and a migration news centre. It covers West Africa through the Rabat Process and partially through the MTM Dialogue. [www.imap-migration.org](http://www.imap-migration.org)

Rabat Process Guides on the use of migration data for Burkina Faso and Mali are found on the i-Map under ‘profiles’.

Rabat Process infographics are found on the i-Map under ‘visualisations’ on the following topics:

- The evolution of the Rabat Process
- Promoting diaspora engagement
- Mobility Partnerships and Common Agendas on Migration and Mobility
- Civil status registration and mobility
- Borders at a glance
- The impact of Integrated Border Management
- International cooperation in the area of IBM
- Cross-border cooperation between Mali and Burkina Faso
- Cabo Verde’s road to migration data policy