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Deutsches Institut für  
Entwicklungspolitik

German Development  
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# Analytical framework for regional migration governance in Africa

Key features, patterns and impacts in the ECOWAS and IGAD regions

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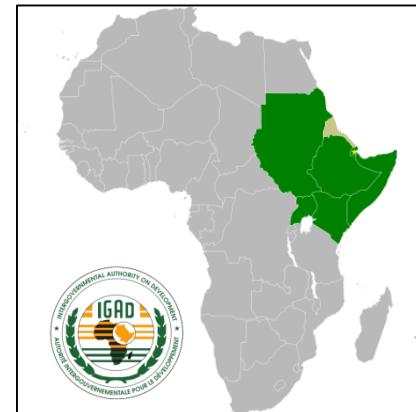


1. Project background
2. Key migration trends in case study regions
3. Regional migration governance framework
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  - > Contrasting IGAD/ECOWAS migration governance
4. Conclusion and outlook

# 1. Project background



- Title: „Reducing the root causes of forced displacement and managing migration: Global and regional perspectives“
- Funded by German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), duration of three years starting January/2017
- Two project components: Multidimensional analysis of causes of forced displacement and **regional migration governance**
- Case studies: Regions of Economic Community of Western African States (ECOWAS) and Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)



Source: Google

# 1. Project background cont.



## Research questions

- What are current migration trends and their impacts in the case study regions?
- What are the institutional set-ups and processes of regional migration governance?
- Who are the involved actors and their interests, what kind of interactions can be observed between regional, national and sub-national levels?

=> Effect(iveness) of regional migration governance

=> Implications for development co-operation, policy recommendations

## Methodology

Review of secondary literature, analysis of policy documents, expert interviews



## 2. Key migration trends in case study regions

### IGAD-region

- More than 50% of migration within the region, large flows also to Middle East and Europe
- Among “the major refugee producing and hosting regions in the world” (RMMS 2015: 18), even higher number of IDPs
- Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda among the top-10 refugee hosts

### ECOWAS-region

- More than 90% of intra-regional migration
- Long-standing patterns of seasonal and circular migration, importance of pastoralism
- Nigeria and Ivory Coast historical intra-regional ‘magnets’, but fluctuating developments

# 3. Regional migration governance framework



## Requisites

- All phases of the policy cycle are covered
- Institutional capacities and agenda setting power included
- Descriptive and explanatory qualities

## Challenges

- Few 'models' for analyzing regional level migration governance in such encompassing manner

=> Inspiration by different schools of thought in international relations and migration literature

# 3. Regional migration governance framework



## The framework

CRITERIA	SUB-CRITERIA	RATIONALE
<b>Foundational factors</b>	Role migration played in RO's foundation, development of that role over time, reason for change	Relevance of migration for institutional/regional identity
<b>Institutional structures and processes, actors</b>	Degree of formalisation of decision-making and operations, main aims and tasks, migration budget and its origin, dominant MS and external actors, data management	Evidence on functioning and scope of action of RO with respect to member states and external agents
<b>Normative approach</b>	Subscription to international and continental norms, dominant narrative(s) on migration, attention towards diverse types of migration	Assessment of content-related orientation
<b>Transfer into policies and practices</b>	Influence of normative agenda on regional, national and sub-national (written) policies and procedures, degree of harmonization of domestic migration legislation/procedures	Assessment of policy- and implementation-related effects and effectiveness of RO

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## Foundational factors

- IGAD: Relatively recent focus on migration; historical focus on drought and development (IGADD, 1986) and peace and security (IGAD, 1996); REC since 1998; migration programming only started in 2008
- ECOWAS: Migration agenda with Free Movement Protocol almost as old as the organization itself (1976); historical importance of intra-regional migration and trade; strongly related to regional (economic) integration agenda

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## Institutional structures and processes, actors

- IGAD: Secretariat's Migration Programme main operational structure; weak/absent mandate for decision-making -> intergovernmentalist orientation; generally asymmetrical influence of member states ("*Ethiopia is running the show*"), migration agenda highly influenced by external/EU interests and funding
- ECOWAS: Relatively strong decision-making competencies, since 2005 Secretariat has become a Commission with higher enforcement and implementation competencies -> supranationalist orientation; leadership role by Nigeria, smaller influence of European migration agenda

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## Normative approach

- IGAD: Main strategic documents (Regional migration policy framework and Action Plan) suggest comprehensive approach; conflicting internal vs. external interests -> development vs. security focus; little interest of strong MS for regional integration/free movement
- ECOWAS: Comprehensive Movement Protocol with three subsequent phases (visa-free entry, right of residence, right of establishment); Common approach to Migration and Development (2008) included migrants' and refugees' rights into agenda

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## Transfer into policies and practices

- Most **commonalities** of ROs in this regard; significant implementation gaps in both regions
- In the case of **IGAD** little cascading-down of regional policies to domestic migration policies and management -> weak national migration policy frameworks in almost all MS, however increasing programming at regional level
- In the case of **ECOWAS** third phase of free movement protocol remains to be implemented although intended for 1990; occasional breaches; outstanding implementation of Regional Labour and Employment Policy for support of regional labour market

## 4. Conclusion and outlook



- Framework makes encompassing analysis of regional migration governance possible
- Allows to identify and contrast important elements and determinants regional migration governance
- In spite of important differences between the two regions certain commonalities can be observed as well; most important being implementation challenges
- Framework ideally provides the basis for regional policy approaches (as well as on other levels) for addressing gaps or problem areas



# Thank you very much for your attention!

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