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

- 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

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<th>Rationale</th>
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Regional migration governance framework

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
### 3. Regional migration governance framework

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Regional migration governance framework

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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