RDH

IOM REGIONAL DATA HUB

West and Central Africa

Regional Data Hub 2022 | Snapshot

IOM Regional Office for West and Central Africa

Established in 2019, the Regional Data Hub (RDH) for West and Central Africa (WCA) aims to support evidence-based, strategic and policy-level discussion on migration through a combination of initiatives. The RDH was further strengthened in response to the recommendation presented in the first IOM Migration Data Strategy (MDS).

The RDH is largely funded through the generous support of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration (EU-IOM JI). Regionally, other donors contribute to supporting the technical activities of the RDH such as DFID, PRM and OFDA, while at the country level, programmatic activities and initiatives are funded through multiple donors and funding mechanisms.

The work of the RDH is structured along three pillars that reflect the objectives identified in the MDS, and it aims to **promote evidence-based, strategic and policy discussion on migration through the collection, analysis compilation and dissemination of migration data and thematic research**.

REGIONAL DATA HUB

OBJECTIVE 1

Strengthen the global evidence base on migration: The regional hub works to strengthen IOM information management and research capacity across the region, while promoting data and information sharing and increased access through its information products and its regional geoportal.

OBJECTIVE 2

Develop capacity of states and other relevant partners to enhance the migration evidence base: Provide technical support and capacity development to national governments and data producing bodies in the region for the improvement of official statistics, in line or for the development of national migration data strategies, in collaboration with national and regional observatories and statistics offices.

OBJECTIVE 3

Ensure more evidence-based IOM and UN-wide programming, operations, policy advice and communications: It supports mainstreaming data as underpinning the work of IOM and other partners and governments in the region and ensure that data features prominently in programming and policy development.

OBJECTIVE 1

STRENGHTEN THE GLOBAL EVIDENCE BASE ON MIGRATION

IOM seeks to effectively leverage its role as a key contributor in the international community's efforts to broaden and strengthen the evidence base on the movement of people at the regional level. IOM pursue this objective by increasing the availability of and access to migration data and its quality gender and diversity-sensitive analysis. In WCA, the Regional Data Hub supports three main primary data sources: the Displacement tracking matrix, the missing migrant project and the Migrant management operational systems application.

DTM
IOM DISPLACEMENT
TRACKING MATRIX

The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) is a system to track and monitor displacement and population mobility. It is designed to regularly and systematically capture, process and disseminate information to provide a better understanding of the movements and evolving needs of displaced populations, whether on site or en-route. Key workstreams supporting stronger evidence on migration are:

INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT	MIGRATION FLOWS	POINTS OF ENTRY	TRANSHUMANCE
Since 2012, in WCA, DTM gathers and analyses data to provide a better understanding of internal displacement in the region in order to inform humanitarian response, decision making and policy making to the benefit of Internally Displaced Persons and other affected populations.	In WCA, DTM collects data on the flows, profiles, experiences, needs and vulnerabilities of migrants throughout the region. DTM has been collecting data since 2016 at key transit points in the region to monitor regional mobility trends and conducts assessments on profiles of migrants.	The COVID-19 outbreak of has affected regional mobility in complex ways in the form of travel restrictions, suspension of air travel and border closures. In WCA, DTM supports global efforts to map these impacts on mobility, across regional and country levels collecting data on 400 Points of Entry.	IOM has developed the Transhumance Tracking Tool (TTT). Using data collected through a network of key informants, the TTT collects key data on transhumance movements in WCA, with the aim of providing the information needed to support programs for populations involved in transhumance.

GMDAC
IOM Global Migration
Data Analysis Centre

The Missing Migrant Project is a joint initiative of IOM's Global Migration Data Analysis Center (GMDAC) and IOM's Media and Communication Department, which work with various government and non-government entities to collect data on cases of death and disappearance of migrants, including asylum seekers and refugees, who disappeared during their journey to a country other than their country of residence. Through this collection, the Regional Data Hub supports the MMP in data compilation, quality, analysis and reporting across the region, with a focus on the risks and consequences of irregular migration.

Migrant management operational systems application (MiMOSA) is an institutional global information management system. It supports streamlined case management and reporting through four main modules (Movements, Migrant Assistance, Medical, Training). Data protection is ensured through tailored access rights for each module. Though capacity building and coordination, the Regional Data Hub supports MiMOSA compliance, data quality and analysis and reporting across the region with a focus on movements and MPA as part of EU-IOM Joint Initiative.

The Regional Data Hub produces and disseminate **Weekly Newsletters** providing summaries of information products published in the past week by all IOM units in WCA. To be added on the mailing list: rodakar-dataresearch@iom.int

OBJECTIVE 2

DEVELOP CAPACITY OF STATES AND OTHER RELEVANT PARTNERS TO ENHANCE THE MIGRATION EVIDENCE BASE

In collaboration with relevant partners, IOM undertakes comprehensive capacity development activities to enhance collection, analysis and use of quality migration data. These efforts help address country-specific needs for migration data to inform national policy and action. IOM combines delivery of technical support with facilitation of cooperation within and among States as well as support relevant capacity-development initiatives led by others. In WCA, the Regional Data Hub supports two main workstreams: Capacity Building and Partnerships with Civil Society Organisations.

Capacity building: the RDH works with National Statistical offices across the region and other national migration data providers to develop the capacities of national partners in providing and aggregating national migration datasets. Since 2017, the RDH trained most NSOs and National Civil Protection of WCA on data collection in case of sudden displacement of population. The RDH also currently supports IOM continental technical efforts provided with GMDAC and other regional data hubs to the African Union and AfricaStat.

Partnerships with Civil Society Organizations (CSO): IOM RDH works alongside various CSOs in West and Central Africa. These partnerships with the civil society aimed at raising awareness of CSOs on the importance of strong evidenced-based programs and building the capacities to ensure data ownership and sustainability. Currently, the RDH support the largest transhumant herders association in WCA (Réseau Bilital Maroobé) in the roll out of the transhumance tracking tool (see objective 1).

OBJECTIVE 3

ENSURE EVIDENCE BASED IOM AND UN WIDE PROGRAMMING, OPERATIONS, POLICY AND COMMUNCATION

IOM step up its efforts to leverage available data sources, including data gathered through its operations, for evidence-based action to more effectively help the people IOM serves, and to offer support and sound policy advice to its Member States and other stakeholders in fulfilment of its mandate. This includes enhancing IOM institutional data systems to enable sound information and knowledge management and to foster a culture of learning.

Research partnerships: Strong of many regularly updated datasets (displacement and migration data), the RDH frequently develops partnerships with research partners and universities. These partnerships result in the production of joint research papers, revision of data collection methodologies as well as research webinars.

Data Protection and Ethics: the RDH is IOM's regional data protection focal point. Using IOM Data Protection Manual, the RDH ensure the the protection of primary data collected by IOM as well as the ethical review of data collection methodologies.

Current structure of IOM Regional Data Hub: a RDH Coordinator, a Reporting Officer, a Research Officer, a Migrant Protection Assistant Information Management Officer, a GIS support, two data process support and a Missing Migrant support.

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Financial support provided by:

This project is funded by the European Union

UKaid from the British people

USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

aide humanitaire allemande DEUTSCHE HUMANITÄRE HILFE