



Migration and regional integration policy in west Africa: Sierra Leone' case



Authors

Mr Kalie Sillah
Pr Aly Tandian
Mrs Mariama Kesso Sow
Mr Cheikh Faye

January 2022

With the financial support of OSIWA and in partnership with the CNTS and the Forum Social Sénégal



Authors

Mr Kalie Sillah

Consultant

Pr Aly Tandian

*Sociologist, scientific coordinator of the project
Associate researcher IPAR*

Mrs Mariama Kesso Sow

*Associate scientific coordinator economist
IPAR*

Mr Cheikh Faye

Statistical engineer, IPAR

Disclaimer: "This publication was produced with the financial support of OSIWA and executed by the Initiative Prospective Agricole et Rurale in partnership with the Confédération Nationale des Travailleurs du Sénégal and the Forum Social Sénégalais. Its contents are the sole responsibility of these structures and do not necessarily reflect the views of OSIWA".

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS	5
2	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	6
3	INTRODUCTION	13
3.1	<i>Methodology.....</i>	<i>13</i>
3.2	<i>Survey Design.....</i>	<i>14</i>
3.3	<i>Study populations and geographical Scope</i>	<i>14</i>
3.4	<i>Training of researchers/ Data Collectors.....</i>	<i>15</i>
3.5	<i>Data Collection Process.....</i>	<i>15</i>
3.6	<i>Target Locations In Kambia District (Border Area).....</i>	<i>16</i>
3.7	<i>Sampling.....</i>	<i>18</i>
3.8	<i>The Quantitative Study on Migrants.....</i>	<i>18</i>
3.9	<i>Sampling and Survey Design.....</i>	<i>19</i>
3.10	<i>Survey tools and Equipment</i>	<i>20</i>
3.11	<i>Challenges and Limitations.....</i>	<i>20</i>
4	BACKGROUND	22
4.1	<i>REVIEW OF ECOWAS FREE MOVEMENT PROTOCOL</i>	<i>23</i>
4.2	<i>ECOWAS Free Movement Protocol within the Sierra Leonean Context.....</i>	<i>23</i>
5	POLICY CONTEXT OF SIERRA LEONE	25
5.1	<i>Milestones by the Migration Governance Sector of Sierra Leone</i>	<i>25</i>
6	THE CATEGORIES OF ECOWAS MIGRANTS IN SIERRA LEONE	27
6.1	<i>Cross border Ethnic Cousins.....</i>	<i>27</i>
6.2	<i>Economic Self-Interest Migrants.....</i>	<i>29</i>
6.3	<i>Cross border Traders</i>	<i>30</i>
6.4	<i>Migrant fishermen</i>	<i>30</i>
6.5	<i>Migrant Workers in the Mining Sector in Sierra Leone.....</i>	<i>31</i>
6.6	<i>Migrant Cattle Herders</i>	<i>33</i>
7	THE MAIN FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS	34
7.1	<i>Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Migrants and People on the Move/In transit</i> <i>34</i>	
7.2	<i>Level of Education of Migrants and Person on the Move/In Transit</i>	<i>35</i>

7.3	<i>Level of Education of Migrants and Person on the Move/In Transit according to Age</i>	36
7.4	<i>Read and write in French, English, Arabic, and other languages</i>	37
7.5	<i>Be able to Read in other Languages</i>	38
7.6	<i>Social and public services</i>	39
7.6.1	<i>Difficulties in accessing basic social services by status and gender</i>	39
7.6.2	<i>Difficulties in accessing basic social services by status and age</i>	40
7.6.3	<i>Access to Social Services</i>	41
7.6.4	<i>Difficulties in accessing Housing by Gender</i>	41
7.6.5	<i>Access to Housing, Proper Sanitation, and safer Environment.....</i>	42
7.6.6	<i>Access to Proper Health Care Service.....</i>	44
7.6.7	<i>Difficulties In Terms of Access to Land by Gender</i>	44
7.6.8	<i>Satisfaction of Migrants and Person on the Move/In Transit according to their Situation</i>	45
7.6.9	<i>Satisfaction of Migrants and Person on the Move/In Transit according to Age.....</i>	46
7.7	<i>Reasons for Satisfaction</i>	46
7.7.1	<i>Reasons for Satisfaction of migrants and people on the move/In transit according to age groups</i>	46
7.7.2	<i>Reason for Traveling of People on the Move/In Transit.....</i>	48
7.7.3	<i>Reason for Traveling of People on the Move/In Transit according to Age Groups</i>	49
7.7.4	<i>Wishing to Return to Country of Origin According to Gender</i>	50
7.8	<i>Having Heard of Ecowas According to Age Groups</i>	51
7.9	<i>Knowledge of ECOWAS Protocol and their Respective Rights Enshrined in the Document.....</i>	51
7.10	<i>Means to Defend the Rights of Migrants</i>	53
7.11	<i>Violence Experienced by Migrants during Journey.....</i>	53
7.12	<i>Types of Violence Experienced by Migrants according to Gender.....</i>	54
7.13	<i>Places Where Abuse Took Place</i>	56
8	CHALLENGES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ECOWAS PROTOCOL ON FREE MOVEMENT IN SIERRA LEONE.....	58
8.1	<i>Access to Public Sector Jobs.....</i>	58
8.2	<i>Harassment and Intimidation of Migrants at Official Border Crossing Points.....</i>	59
8.3	<i>ECOWAS Prescribed Travel Documents.....</i>	61
8.4	<i>Lack of knowledge and Understanding of ECOWAS Protocol</i>	62
8.5	<i>Resource Constraints and Border Management Challenges.....</i>	62
8.6	<i>Security and Public Health Concerns: Implication for Cross border Movement of ECOWAS Migrants and Person on the move/In transit.</i>	64
8.7	<i>The Gender Factor in Migration.....</i>	65
9	ANALYSIS OF MIGRANTS INTEGRATION AND SETTLEMENT IN SIERRA LEONE	67

9.1	<i>Trade Integration</i>	69
9.2	<i>Social and Cultural Integration</i>	71
10	CONCLUSION	73
11	RECOMMENDATIONS	74
11.1	<i>All actors</i>	74
11.2	<i>Institutions of Migration Governance sector in Sierra Leone</i>	74
11.3	<i>Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)</i>	76
12	BIBLIOGRAPHY	77
13	ANNEX	81
14	Locations in Freetown	82

1 ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACP	African, Caribbean, and Pacific Group of States
ADB	African Development Bank
CNTS	Confédération Nationale des Travailleurs du Sénégal
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
EU	European Union
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ELTS	ECOWAS Trade Liberalization Scheme
FSS	Forum Social Sénégalais
HRCSL	The Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone
ICPMD	International Centre for Migration Policy Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPAR	Initiative Prospective Agricole et Rurale
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MIDWA	Migration Dialogue for West Africa
NaCSA	National Commission for Social Action
NEC	The National Electoral Commission
NMP	National Migration Policy
OSIWA	Open Society Initiative for West Africa
PAFoM	Pan-African Forum on Migration
PPRC	Political Parties Registration Commission
RCPs	Regional Economic Communities,
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
UN	United Nation

2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the findings of a survey conducted in Sierra Leone as part of a wider sub-regional action research on migration and regional integration commissioned by Initiative Prospective Agricole et Rurale (IPAR), with the complimentary support of its partners namely: Confédération Nationale des Travailleurs du Sénégal (CNTS), and the Forum Social Sénégalais (FSS). The survey was funded by the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA) to examine the gaps and challenges in the implementation of the ECOWAS Protocol on free movement of people, goods, and service with critical attention to the promotion of good migration governance, mobility as well as the protection of migrants' rights in the ECOWAS sub-region.

The study design included the recruitment of a Country Expert whose deliverables included collating, analysing and interpreting data, as well as writing a contextual country report; the recruitment of National Coordinator charged with the responsibility to coordinate data collection processes and procedures, and also conduct one-on-one structured and semi-structured interviews with purposive samples of Senior Government Officers (Security and Immigration officers in the border area), staff of Embassies, members of Migrant's Associations and representatives of Local Civil Society Organizations in Sierra Leone. This also included the recruitment of twelve (12) intermediate and junior level researchers who were trained in research methods, as well as tools and equipment used throughout the survey.

The survey was conducted at the height of the raining season between August-September 2021. Despite some challenges encountered at this time of the year, the study was able to address some of the critical questions on migration governance in the Sierra Leonean context; deepened understanding of the gaps and challenges in the implementation of ECOWAS Protocol; and came up with key action-oriented recommendations and suggestions on how to better influence national migration policies and practice. The study was particularly able to identify and review migration laws, policies, and practices in the Sierra Leone, and propose advocacy-oriented options to foster state compliance to ECOWAS migration Protocol.

The survey results revealed that despite the social, political, economic, and environmental challenges the country has experienced in the past decades, Sierra Leone continue to attract thousands of migrants from other West African states for different reasons. The result also helped to affirmed existing claim that intra-regional migration has positive social and economic impacts on Sierra Leone owing to the significant economic contribution of ECOWAS migrants in the informal sectors. However, migrants are structurally discriminated to prevent them from competing for the same job with Sierra Leonean nationals in the formal sector.

It is anticipated that the outcomes of this study will contribute to influencing policy reform in line with ECOWAS vision towards fostering integrated West African society. It is also hopeful that the findings and recommendations will help to inspire other countries within the ECOWAS member states to effectively implement ECOWAS Protocol on free movement of person good and service.

SUMMARY OF PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

The findings of the study are succinctly summarised below to establish further clarifications and emphasis on some of the burning issues raised in various sections of the report.

- I. **Reason for traveling to Sierra Leone:** The result shows that 74,8% of men and 25,2% of women travel to Sierra Leone for business purpose.
- II. **Settling in Sierra Leone:** A total of 69,7% of respondents affirmed that they have no difficulties settling or staying in Sierra Leone. Among this percentage, 67,3% of men and 61,6% of women experienced no difficulties settling/staying in Sierra Leone. Whereas 64,9% of men among person on the move/ in transit did not experience difficulties in settling/staying in Sierra Leone.
- III. **Social and Public Service:** Out of the total migrant population targeted during this study, 68,7% of men, and 62,8% of women have access to land for construction; 85,4% of men, and 82,6% of women have access to public education; 73% of men and 88,9% of women have access to health care; whilst 73,2% of men, and 72,9% of women have access to accommodation.
- IV. **National Policy that Prevents Migrants and Person on the move/In Transit from Accessing Land for Construction:** Out of the total of migrants and persons on the move or in transition targeted, 78.6% of men and 74.0.% of women are affected by national policy to access land.
- V. **Satisfaction of Migrant according to their Situation:** The study result shows that out of migrant population targeted, 55.2% are satisfied with their situation, whilst 43.2% are not. Similarly, 75.7% of person on the move/in transit between the age of 15-24 are satisfied, whilst 17.9% of the age bracket are not.
- VI. **Reasons for Satisfaction:** The study result shows that 61.8% of migrants are satisfied with their actual situation owing to income, whilst 38.2% are not satisfied with their income.
- VII. **Reception Received:** The study result shows that 97.1% of migrants are satisfied with the type of reception acquired in Sierra Leone.
- VIII. **Free movement:** The result shows that 97.5% of migrants can move freely in Sierra Leone, whilst 8.5% affirmed that they cannot move freely.
- IX. **Living Condition:** It emerged that a total of 92.7% of migrants are satisfied with their respective living condition.
- X. **Wishing to Return to Country of Origin according to Gender:** The study result shows that 63.0% of migrants wishes to return to country of origin in the medium term, whilst 36.2% do not.

XI. Having heard of ECOWAS: It emerged that out of total migrants interviewed, 50.1% have heard of ECOWAS, whilst 49.9% have never heard of ECOWAS. On the other hand, 56.4% of those in transit/people on the move have heard of ECOWAS, whilst 45.6% have not heard of ECOWAS.

XII. Defending the Rights of Migrants

- **Right to Enter ECOWAS States:** The result shows that 69.7% of ECOWAS migrants understand their rights to enter other ECOWAS member states, whilst 30.3% does not.
- **Right to Stay in ECOWAS Member States:** The result shows that 97.6% of total migrants targeted understand their rights to stay in ECOWAS member states.
- **Right to Establish/Engage in Economic Activities:** It emerged that a total of 96.1% of migrants are conscious of their rights to establish or engage in economic activities, as against 3.7% who does not understand their rights to establish or engage in economic activities.
- **Labour law for foreigners:** Out of the total representative samples, 94.1% of migrant understand their rights to work for foreigners, whilst 5.9% does not.
- **Right to Access Medical Attention:** The total result shows that 96.7% of targeted respondents understands their rights to access medical attention, whilst 3.3% do not. Out of this representative result, 94.9% of male understand their right to medical attention, whilst 100.0% of female migrants understand their right to access medical attention.

XIII. Means to Defend the rights of migrants

- **Recourse to the Police:** The total result shows that 76.2% of migrants targeted during this research recourse to police to defend their rights, whilst 23.8% do not use the police to defend their rights.
- **Recourse to Local Associations:** It emerged that out of the total 43.0% of targeted respondents who recourse to local associations to defend their rights, 55.1% do not recourse to local associations to defend their rights.
- **Recourse to Local Diaspora Associations:** The result shows that total of 41.2% of migrants recourse to diaspora associations to defend their rights, whilst 58.8% does not.
- **Recourse to Associations/NGO/CSOs defending the rights of migrants:** The result shows that 38.2% of migrant recourse to organizations mandated to defend the rights of migrants, whilst 65.1% does not.

- **Recourse to Embassies:** The total result shows that 63.9% of migrant recourse to their Embassies to defend their rights, whilst 36.1% does not.

XIV. Violence Experienced by Migrants during Journey: The study result shows that 21.0% of migrants targeted experienced some forms of violence during their journey to Sierra Leone, whilst 77.2% did not experienced violence during their journey to Sierra Leone. The total representative respondents according to gender shows that 17.6% of male migrants experienced some form of violence during journey, whilst 81.3% did not. Likewise, 25.9% of female migrants experienced some form of violence, whilst 71.5% of female migrants did not experience any form of violence during journey.

XV. Types of Violence Experienced by Migrants/Person on the Move

- **Physical Violence:** the result shows that among migrants who experienced some forms of violence during their journey to Sierra Leone, 62.7% have experienced some forms of physical violence, as against 37,3% that did not experience any form of physical violence. Out of this total result, 49.8% are those between the ages of 15-24; 60.1% are those between the age of 25-34; 66.9% are those between the ages of 35-64 respectively.
- **Verbal violence/abuse:** The result shows that a total of 95.0% of migrants have experienced some forms of verbal violence/abuse. Out of this result, 100.0% of migrants between the age of 15-24 have experienced some forms of verbal abuse, whilst 87.2% of those between the ages of 25-34 have experienced some forms of verbal abuse.
- **Moral/Psychological Violence/abuse:** the result shows that 93.2% of migrants have experience some form of moral/psychological violence, whilst 6.8% did not experience any form of moral/psychological abuse. Out of this total representative samples, 100.0% of those between the age of 15-24 have experienced some forms of moral/psychological violence/abuse, whilst 89.8% of those between the age of 25-34 have experienced some forms of moral/psychological violence/abuse.

XVI. Places Where violence/Abuse Took Place

- **Boarder Area:** The result shows that among migrants who have experienced violence, 97.6% of migrants experienced violence/abuse in the border area, whilst only 2.4% did not experience violence/abuse in the border area.
- **Country of Origin:** The result shows that among migrants who have experienced violence, 44.1% of have experienced violence/abuse in their respective countries of origin, whilst 55.9% did not experience any forms of violence in their countries of origin.
- **Country of Destination:** The result shows that among migrants who have experienced violence, 91.8% have experienced violence/abuse while traveling to Sierra Leone. Out of this total, 92.5% of male and 91.2% of female experienced violence in Sierra Leone.

- **During their journey:** The result shows that among migrants who have experienced violence, 82.7% experienced violence during their journey, whilst 17.3% did not experienced any form of violence during their journey. Out of this total, 85.5% of male and 80.0% of female experienced violence during their journey.

XVII. Implementation of ECOWAS Protocol

- It emerged that Sierra Leone has made some milestones in the implementation of the Phase 1 (Right of Entry) of the ECOWAS protocol. Besides the abolition of visa and adherence to entry requirements for 90 days, the country has adopted the standardized ECOWAS Travel Certificate.
- Sierra Leone adopted migration policy in 2020 and has also ratified several complimentary international protocols and legal instruments to protect the rights of migrants and their families.
- The study revealed serious challenges towards the implementation of Phase 2 and Phase 3 of ECOWAS Protocol, as well as some aspects of Phase 1. Some of the key challenges identified including lack of effective enforceable measures instituted by the Government of Sierra Leone to prevent harassment, intimidation, and exploitations of migrants.
- It emerged that though Government officials in Sierra Leone expressed the willingness to implement other clauses of the protocol, the study results revealed the lack of financial and logistical supports towards effective implementation of ECOWAS Protocol particularly in border areas.

XVIII. Discrimination, intimidation, and access to legal Protection and Supports

- It emerged that migrants experienced different forms of intimidation and discrimination in transit and after their settlement in the country.
- Majority of those in transit interviewed could not defend themselves against intimidation and discrimination especially during border crossing.
- Security officials affirmed that majority of migrants residing in Sierra Leone are law abiding. Unfortunately, their respective embassies provide them with little legal support or protection against discrimination or violence of any kind, particularly in time of needs. This position has been articulated by cross section of migrants interviewed.
- As described by one senior government officer, public sector jobs are for citizens of Sierra Leone. However, ECOWAS migrants like other nationals working in International Non-Governmental Organization and other Agencies are given work permit as per request which is annually renewable.
- Migrants from neighbouring countries are easily integrated and benefit from employment opportunities in the informal sector with support of relatives or friends or Migrant Associations.
- It also emerged that Sierra Leone attract migrants in several informal sector including mining, fishing, taxi driving and petty trading. Majority of them work illegally in artisanal gold and diamond mining sites and their surroundings communities.
- Though Sierra Leoneans are tolerant to foreigners, migrants often suffer in silence owing to the lack of legal protection from their respective Embassies, and lack of Civil Society Organizations with the thematic expertise in the promotion and protection of their rights.

XIX. Strategies of Migrants' Rights Organizations

- Though the country has hundreds of Civil Society Organizations specialized in several thematic areas of interventions, local CSOs with thematic expertise in migration issues with the mandate to advocate for the rights of migrants in the country are scarce. Particularly Local CSOs with the thematic expertise in influencing state compliance to the ECOWAS migration policy could be hardly identified.
- The study result shows that there are Migrants Associations and networks that promote and protect the interests of their compatriots in time of need with less reliant on their respective Embassies to provide them protection of any kind.
- Cross section of the migrants interviewed affirmed that they belong to migrant networks based on interpersonal ties that connect them with other migrants that have spent more years in the country and have already fully integrated. The strongest of these migrants' associations and networks are found among the Fullah ethnic community from Guinea-Conakry.
- The study has observed that Migrant Associations and networks are based on origin and destination areas with ties to kinship, friendship, family relation and shared community origin.
- These migrant associations and networks are regarded as informally and coalesce around common traits such as country or region of origin, religious affiliation, tribal or ethnic linkages, language, culture. They support newcomers with employment opportunities, housing, and other logistics to getting them settled in the country.

1.2. Recommendations

It is hopeful that IPAR and its partners in Senegal will collaborate with local CSOs in Sierra Leone to jointly embark on public sensitisation and popularisation of ECOWAS Protocol in Sierra Leone. Part of this effort will also be to engage in advocacy towards influencing the Government's decision to effectively implement the action-oriented recommendations summarised below.

1.2.1. Institutions of the Migration Governance sector in Sierra Leone

- The responsible institutions of government should collaborate with stakeholders at border communities and local Civil Society Organisations to institute robust monitoring system to minimize the harassment and exploitation of migrants at the official and unofficial border crossings.
- Institutions of Government should continue embarking on multi-stakeholders' consultative dialogue meetings with counterparts in Guinea to discuss common challenges as part of joint effort to enhance cooperation towards the protection of migrants from both sides. It is hopeful that this will help to address discrimination, financial exploitation, and harassment during border crossing.
- Institutions of Government should establish fully equipped Information/Border Community Resource Centers with the requisite communication and internet facilities along the common borders and enhance the operational functions of the existing ones to help access to information, dissemination of information and communication. Part of this

is to enhance migrants' knowledge and understanding of ECOWAS protocol with respect to their rights and responsibility as citizens of West Africa sub-region.

1.2.3. Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)

- The study is recommending that, IPAR create partnership with Local Civil Society Organisations to embark on public sensitization, popularisation on ECOWAS protocol and joint advocacy to influence effective government policy implementation and protection system.
- IPAR should conduct joint independent study with local CSO in Sierra Leone to deepen understanding of the economic gains of ECOWAS Protocol in the Sierra Leonean context. Part of this effort will include conducting labour market analysis to identify imbalances and opportunities for skills matching and use the findings to influence Government's labour laws and policies in favour of ECOWAS migrants.
- CSOs should engage in advocacy to influence policy makers in Sierra Leone towards the review of measures instituted by the Government to address issues of residential and work permits for ECOWAS migrants. Part of this effort will be to lobby the government of Sierra Leone to examine some of the challenges experience by migrants and put favourable measures in place to address the challenges in compliance with ECOWAS protocol on the movement of persons, residence, and establishment.

3 INTRODUCTION

This survey was conducted in Sierra Leone as part of the sub-regional action research on migration and regional integration commissioned by Initiative Prospective Agricole et Rurale (IPAR), funded by the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA). The principal objective has been to examine the gaps and challenges in the implementation of the ECOWAS Protocol on free movement of people, goods, and service with the critical attention to the promotion of good migration governance, mobility as well as the protection of migrants' rights in the ECOWAS sub-region.

This action research consists of three key components: survey; capacity building and advocacy. For the research component, case study approach has been carried out in Sierra Leone - combining both quantitative and qualitative approaches to deepen understanding of challenges of migrants, and the extents at which Sierra Leone is complying with its obligations enshrined in the ECOWAS migration protocol and other complimentary legal instruments adopted to protect migrants, particularly those in distress.

This has also been to produce an in-depth analysis of the situation of migrants in terms of promotion and protection of their rights within the framework of ECOWAS Protocol with consideration to transit and living conditions. The study was particularly focused on how to contribute to improving social, legal, and institutional protection of migrants, as such provide evidence-based initiatives to engage in a policy-oriented dialogue and propose avenues for scientific and critical reflection on migrants' rights within the Sierra Leonean context.

The study is based on the administration of questionnaires, desktop review and in-depth interviews with samples of ECOWAS migrants and persons on the move/In Transit, as well as officials of institutions responsible for migration governance in Sierra Leone. The findings suggest that Sierra Leone have made modest progress in the implementation of the protocol. Apart from abolishing visa and entry requirements for 90 days, the country has adopted the standardized ECOWAS Travel Certificate.

3.1 METHODOLOGY

Qualitative and quantitative methods were adopted throughout the survey. These methods have been appropriate as they helped to collect rich quantitative and qualitative data, and the interpretation of data to elicit meaning, and gain an in-depth understanding of problems experienced by ECOWAS migrants in Sierra Leone; as well as those on the move/in transit. Therefore, the local researchers hired to conduct the survey were able to collect data from structured, semi-structured interviews and questionnaires administered.

An in-depth literature review was also conducted with most of the analysis based on articles, journals, books, reports, policy documents, electronic documents posted online and scholarly contributions on the prospect and challenges in the implementation of ECOWAS protocol within the ECOWAS Sub-region, but with specific attention to the Sierra Leonean context.

Questions were also focused on respondents' knowledge of the ECOWAS protocol; challenges to the implementation of the ECOWAS protocols; and migrants' rights, as well as perceptions and

personal experience of migrants either during transit or those residents and are fully integrated in the country. Attentions were particularly paid at how their rights are protected; whether they are provided the necessary support to foster their social and economic integration and wellbeing; and most importantly whether they have access to services such as health care, housing, education, and legal protection in Sierra Leone.

3.2 SURVEY DESIGN

This survey was designed to reach out to: i) the target populations within the geographical coverage of the study; ii) adopted the appropriate study techniques to reach out to the target populations: a) the execution of the sampling plan b) the development of data collection tools c) training of the collection agents d) the data collection and processing (Supervision, Auditing, Coding, Adjustment, Tabulation); and finally f) the analysis of the data and the writing of the report.

The target population of this study is nationals of ECOWAS member countries resident and in transit in Sierra Leone. Though the sampling frame is not available (the database of all migrants from ECOWAS countries), it was possible to compile a list of sites (universities/training centres, markets, lorry park, fishing communities, border areas, international organizations), where there are strong ECOWAS migrants' presence in the country.

Therefore, migrants were targeted in the capital and a border area where there is high concentration of migrant's population. In each of the locations, sites were selected and then, in each site, a sample of migrants chosen by quota. The choice of sites for meeting migrants naturally ensures that all professional categories, sectors of activity and status were considered.

3.3 STUDY POPULATIONS AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

The populations and geographical scope of the study are defined to guide the choice of collection methods and to conduct data analysis. To better respond to local realities and the orientations of the study, which are the economic and socio-anthropological determinants of migration in West Africa, data was required at two levels: namely information on the migrants, and actors involved in migration governance including Non-Governmental Organizations.

In a statistical sense, two population were identified namely: i) migrants and ii) actors of the migration governance sector including, associations, and the administration. In essence, the migrant population and people on the move are made up of all migrants originating from one of the ECOWAS member countries. Implicitly, any person who resides or intends to reside for 6 months in Sierra Leone. On the other hand, a person on the move is also defined as any person in transit or residing for a stay of less than 6 months in Sierra Leone. They may be students, workers in the private sector or in international organizations, traders, as well as those constantly crisscrossing the borders on a regular basis for various person reason.

The actors within the migration governance sector including transporters and transporters' unions, migrant associations, migrant rights associations, and central government officials including the Ministry of the Interior, Immigration Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International

Cooperation, the Police and Military personnel managing borders were targeted. Local community stakeholders including traditional authorities including Paramount Chiefs in border communities were also targeted

3.4 TRAINING OF RESEARCHERS/ DATA COLLECTORS

The IPAR research team in Sierra Leone made up of three senior officers from Senegal led by Professor, Aly Tandian trained twelve (12) researchers/data collectors hired in Sierra Leone (Junior and Intermediate levels) to conduct the survey in Sierra Leone. The training was focused on the research methods, tools, and equipment. The training took place in Freetown on the 24th of August 2021, whilst the second day (25th August) involved both training and pre-testing of tools and equipment (tablets) having unanimously identified the respective target locations with high ECOWAS migrants' concentration. The training included role-play to ensure each researcher/data collector adequately understand the methods to get the attention of respondents; how to ask sensitive questions both qualitative and quantitative with respect for ethical principles; how to administer the questionnaires; and most importantly how to conduct one-on-one interviews with migrants (residents and in transit).

A Terms of reference and guidance noted including tasks and deliverables also containing detailed information on the general purpose of the survey, instructions on the conduct of the interviews, detailed explanations of the questions, and references to the methodology and tablets for recording answers were shared with the researchers/data collectors during the training exercise before setting off to the field. They were also provided Identification Cards as a member of research team on behalf of IPAR.

3.5 DATA COLLECTION PROCESS

The data collection process commenced on the 26th August, 2021, immediately after the training; and also having completed the pre-testing of the tools and equipment. The twelve (12) researchers/data collectors were divided into two (2) groups, which comprised of four (4) intermediate level researchers deployed in Kambia districts to administer the questionnaires, and to also conduct structured or semi-structured interviews, whilst the eight (8) junior researchers were deployed in Freetown to administer the questionnaires. Implicitly, the intermediate level researchers had to travel to Gbalamuya in Kambia district, which is located on the north-western province of Sierra Leone. It is a major trading town that lies approximately 130 miles north-West of Freetown, and shares border with neighbouring Guinea. Furthermore, the senior researcher hired, who also served as coordinator of the study in Sierra Leone on behalf of IPAR research team in Senegal conducted one-on-one interviews with government officials, Embassy staff, security and immigration personnel and migrant associations.

The field exercise was expected to last for two weeks (14 days). However, owing to challenges encountered in some of the locations, and also owing to difficulties in moving to reach locations at the height of the raining season between August and September, some of the researchers were not able to complete the tasks within the expected timeframe. Meanwhile, each researcher was expected to target fifty (50) migrants from the fifteen (15) ECOWAS member states either in transit

or those resident in Sierra Leone, with particular focus on the Freetown in Western urban and western rural areas, in Freetown, and Kambia district in the North-western province of Sierra Leone.

Respondents were interviewed during border crossings, large lorry parks, markets where goods from Guinea are offloaded in Kambia and Freetown, as well as in fishing communities. Furthermore, a senior researcher, who also served as coordinator of the research in Sierra Leone on behalf of the IPAR research team conducted in-depth structured and semi-structured interviews with officials of Embassies, institutions of government, security and immigration officers at the border crossing points, officials at the local government level, key personalities within Civil Society Organizations, as well as leadership of traders and migrant associations.

With the above stated qualitative approach, the study paid particular attention to understanding how migrants are protected, whether they are discriminated against owing to their status as foreigners, and also understand policy-oriented measures put in place by the Government of Sierra Leone to promote and protect the welfare of migrants in compliance with ECOWAS protocol. The goal was to understand how the ECOWAS Protocol has been domesticated; understand whether ECOWAS migrants have access to resources including housing, education, health care, legal protection; whether they have access to employment opportunities; and most importantly whether and how their respective Embassies in Sierra Leone have been able to support or compliment the effort of the Government in ensuring that their rights are promoted and protected.

3.6 TARGET LOCATIONS IN KAMBIA DISTRICT (BORDER AREA)

Ghalamuya, Kambia Lorry Park, Magbema and Gbinle Chiefdoms in the Kambia District were covered during the field exercise in the north-western province of Sierra Leone. Though there are several border crossing points between Guinea and Sierra Leone, Gbalamuya new custom post was targeted as the official border crossing with purposive samples of the requisite state officials (customs, immigration, Phytosanitary Officers, Mines Monitoring Officers, Military and the Police). Besides, the Gbalamuya customs is characterized by higher volumes of vehicular traffic and transit point for imports of manufactured consumer goods from Guinea, and agricultural products to and from Sierra Leone to Guinea, as well as other parts of West Africa. It is located about 35 miles from Kambia town and about 130 miles north-west of Freetown.

Interviews were conducted in one of the biggest weekly markets called 'Bamoi Luma' situated in Gbalamuya community, which attracts huge number of traders from Guinea, Freetown, and other parts of Sierra Leone on a weekly basis. This community has access to a primary school, a health

center that attract not only the locals, but also Guinean and other ECOWAS migrants who are resident, and those in transit.



Photo 1 - This photo was taken by Petek Nicolai, a Swiss Tourist in his narrative of his Journey from Guinea to Sierra Leone



Photo 2 -photo of weekly cross border market in Bamoi, Kambia District

Significant number of Guinean and Liberian drivers were interviewed in the Kambia Lorry Park and Bamoi Luma. These target respondents were those constantly moving with passengers and goods

to and from Sierra Leone. It also worth stating that the drivers interviewed were in full possession of all ECOWAS travel documents including ECOWAS pass for their vehicles. According to this sample of respondents, goods bought by business owners with proof of receipts must bribe their way through these two borders. Implicitly, drivers are asked to pay unofficial payment to security and immigration officers despite being in possession of all necessary travel documents including vehicle pass as stipulated in ECOWAS protocol. Many of the respondents pointed out that to have a clear way with business, one must engage or rub hands in corrupt practices. It is not something they like to do but it left them with no choice other than to succumb.

3.7 SAMPLING

A quota, purposive and random sampling were adopted (qualitative and quantitative technics) to administer the questionnaires and to also conduct structured and semi-structured interviews with migrants and stakeholders of migration governance sector. Migrants interviewed in the targeted locations namely Freetown and Kambia District (border areas) were randomly selected using statistical formula to administer questionnaires, whilst senior government officers, immigration officers, security officers, staff of Embassies and representatives of migrant associations were purposively selected. On average, interviews were conducted each day by each of the data collectors including the research coordinator in Sierra Leone for more than a period of fourteen (14) working days.

A quota sample of six hundred (600) migrants constituted the total sample size of the study. The samples aimed at meeting the objectives of the survey, namely providing representative estimates agreed upon in each of the target countries in West Africa bases on the total migrant population (see statistical formula below).

3.8 THE QUANTITATIVE STUDY ON MIGRANTS

The focus has been on two different statistical populations. Due to the high number of migrants and people on the move and resource constraints, the survey method remains the most appropriate. For the population of migration actors, associations and/or organizations and the administration, the qualitative approaches were adopted to attain the objectives of the survey.

For practical reasons (too large, too expensive, too time-consuming, etc.), it was difficult to interview the entire population. To address the anticipated challenge, a sample of the population was chosen to reflect the population as closely as possible. The following lines highlight the different stages of the quantitative survey within the framework of the below stated formula.

3.9 SAMPLING AND SURVEY DESIGN

a. Sample size

$$n_1 = \frac{p(1-p)x^2}{e^2}$$

Where:

p: is the proportion of migrants in relation to a given character in a previous study. In practice, however, $p=0.5$ is often used because this value allows the maximum size to be obtained.

x: is the confidence level (taken as 1.96 at a threshold of 5%);

e: is the level of precision of the results. To achieve the objectives of this study, we set a precision of about 4%.

This size (n_1) was adjusted according to the population size (N). it was anticipated that this will only have an impact on small or medium sized populations. The formula is given by the following equation:

$$n_2 = n_1 \frac{N}{N + n_1}$$

With these different parameters, a minimum size of 600 migrants was targeted in each country. On this basis, to carry out a reliable study, a size of 600 migrants and people on the move per country is retained.

Distribution of Respondents

The table below shows that out of the total population samples interviewed, 58,8% were men, whilst 41,2% were women. Furthermore, 52,0% and 78,1% of respondents targeted in Freetown and Gbalamuya respectively were men. This has helped to affirm the results already acquired from the structured and semi-structured interviews and observation that most of migrants are found in cross border communities. The result also shows that, men were more willing to be interviewed than women. Likewise, out of the total number of people on the move or people in transit interviewed, the result shows that 60,2% of men and 39,8% of women participated in the study. Out of this percentage of targeted respondents among people on the move and those in transit, 61,2% and 58,7% of respondents in Freetown and Gbalamuya respectively were men. The difference in percentage of the location thus explains that Freetown being the capital city of Sierra Leone is more or less a transit location for more migrants on business. Out of this total, 38,8% and 41,3% of those interviewed in Freetown, and Gbalamuya in Kambia districts, respectively were women.

Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to status, gender and region studied (%)

		Region		
		Freetown	Gbalamuya	Total
Migrants	Man	52	78,1	58,8
	Women	48	21,9	41,2
	Total	100	100	100
Person on mobility/ in transit	Man	61,2	58,7	60,2
	Woman	38,8	41,3	39,8
	Total	100	100	100
Total	Man	53,9	71,5	59,2
	Woman	46,1	28,5	40,8
	Total	100	100	100

3.10 SURVEY TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT

A questionnaire and a one-on-one interview guide were used. Tablets with inbuilt questionnaire were used to record the interviews which were electronically transferred to IPAR system and reporting unit for collation and analysis. Given that there are many local languages spoken in Sierra Leone, most of which have no accepted written script and are not taught in schools, and also given that English is the official language, it was decided to translate the questionnaire into vernaculars or local dialect understood by every targeted migrant. However, many of the questions were broken down to generate a list of key words and translated into the lingua franca (krio). The data collectors were strictly advised to translate the words to their lowest denomination during data collection. This aspect was emphasized during the training.

3.11 CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS

The survey was conducted at the height of the raining season between August and September 2021, amidst some restrictions imposed by government to limit the movement of people in the fight against COVID 19 pandemic.¹ It was also conducted at the time when the official Guinea-

¹ As the first signs of COVID-19 was confirmed by the World Health Organization, International Monitoring Groups and Governments in West Africa in March-April 2020, the countries officially closed their borders. However, some countries such as Benin, Ivory Coast and Senegal adopted a flexible approach limited to essential crossings any arrivals or departures over land, and by adopting humanitarian corridors. Some of these policy directives were in compliance with Article 4 of the 1979 Dakar Protocol of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and Article 91 of the amended Treaty of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (known under its French acronym UEMOA), which stipulates those states should limit the freedom of movement and residence for reasons of public order, public security, or public health. The measures, however, have heavily impacted the legal regime of free movement of persons throughout the ECOWAS area.

Sierra Leone borders were closed following the overthrow of President Alpha Conde in Guinea. This explains the difficult context under which the survey was conducted.

However, some representatives of institutions of Government and citizens of moral authority expressed willingness to be interviewed. For instance, interviews conducted with the Paramount Chiefs of Magbema and Gbinle Chiefdoms in the Kambia District were excellent. Besides, discussing the issue of migration with some senior representatives of government including those targeted in border crossing points in Kambia have been very rewarding with emphasis on the need for constant engagements and continued dialogues between Guinean and Sierra Leonean governments to deal with migrations issues and challenges in compliance with ECOWAS protocol on the free movement of people, goods, and services.

Some of the challenges and limitations are also summarized as follows.

- Majority of the Officers targeted within institutions of Government demanded a formal request from the research team for permission to be granted by the leadership of their respective institutions to carry out interviews on behalf of their institutions. The delay in waiting for approval from senior government officials resulted to going beyond the stipulated period agreed upon to conduct all interviews (14 days). Likewise, getting to interview officials from the Embassies, and High Commissions of ECOWAS states in Freetown was challenging, whilst some Associations of Foreign Nationals refused to participate in the exercise owing to perceive lack of confidence in the study.
- Immigration and security officials from the Guinean side of the border in Pamlap refused to grant interviews following the overthrow of the Guinean President, being one of the main justifications for their refusal. It was also the same argument placed by officials at the Guinea Embassy in Freetown as justification for refusal to be interviewed.
- Not all samples of ECOWAS migrants were interviewed owing to very short time span and limited geographical scope of the study (Freetown Western Area and Kambia Districts in the north-western province). However, Guineans, Liberians, Gambians, Senegalese, Bissau Guineans, Nigerians, and Malians participated in the study.
- Majority of ECOWAS migrants interviewed were sceptical about the authenticity of the survey despite the presentation of the background of the study, and its expected benefit in the form of anticipated evident-based advocacy initiative to influence government compliance to the ECOWAS protocol. The scepticism came because of previous surveys conducted by other institutions or organizations, or independent researchers on the same subject without any improvement to the situation. As a result, cross section of them were reluctant to speak frankly about their experiences and their condition or situations.
- Some foreign nationals were afraid to provide response to some questions. Some even refused to give their names and address for fear of being contacted for anything that they might have said during the interviews that might be used against them afterwards. However, the ID Card distributed by the trainers helped to overcome this challenge to some extents.

- Most migrants on the move were difficult to track down owing to their busy schedules either in transit, in markets or in lorry parks where they transact businesses. Likewise, it was also difficult to track them owing to poor alignment of GPS to some of the prescribed locations.

4 BACKGROUND

Sierra Leone is rich in renewable and non-renewable natural resources. Despite its natural resource endowment, the country is one of the most impoverished West African states recovering from an eleven-year civil war that ended in 2002; the Ebola outbreak of 2014; the mudslides in 2015 that took the lives of thousands of Sierra Leone; and several governance challenges including economic mismanagement. Irrespective of these challenges, Sierra Leone continue to serve as a host country to migrants from across World, majority of whom are from neighbouring West African countries. According to UN DESA (2015)², the top country of origin for migrants to Sierra Leone is Guinea, which captures about 75% of the country's migrant stock.³

Besides the ECOWAS Protocol on migration, Sierra Leone is party to several international conventions and instruments adopted to address migration issues. Some of these includes the 1949 ILO Migration for Employment Convention, the 1951 Refugee Convention, the 1967 Refugee Protocol, the 1975 ILO Migrant Workers Convention, the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child, the 1990 UN Migrant Workers Convention, the 2000 Human Trafficking Protocol, and the 2000 Migrant Smuggling Protocol (UNICEF, 2013).

Despite the political will of the Government to sign and become party to several conventions, interpretation, domestication, and implementation have always been challenging according to several studies. Whereas implementation often requires resources and technical expertise and popularization of their respective contents within institutions of government. Though the country has policies that could be regarded as a mirror-reflection of the respective conventions, the technical and financial resource to implement these policies effectively or fully is limited. As also noted by ICPMD and IOM (2015), there is a lack of specialized training and of public information campaigns in Sierra Leone with respect to migrants in distress.

As further observed by ICPMD and IOM (2015), ECOWAS nationals in Sierra Leone are encouraged to regularize their stay, often with less bureaucratic bottleneck. This is also owing to the nature and characteristics of Sierra Leoneans as culturally and religiously tolerant people. It has also been observed that the country has been in constant struggle with minimal support to manage hundreds of its illegal border crossing points between Guinea-Sierra Leone and Sierra Leone-Liberia borders since the end of the civil war. As also noted by the European Commission (2007), irregular migration is common in Sierra Leone, hardened by the difficulty of border patrol as the country is only able to control one fifth of all its crossing points on its northern and south-eastern borders.

² United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (UN DESA) (2015b). World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision. Retrieved June 2017 from <http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Download/Standard/Population/>

³ Ibid

Guinea, on the other hand, secures only 37 points on its more than 1,400 km-long borders with Liberia and Sierra Leone (European Commission, 2007).

4.1 REVIEW OF ECOWAS FREE MOVEMENT PROTOCOL

Efforts to promote cooperation and integration of the ECOWAS countries date back to 1975, when the ECOWAS treaty was adopted by the leaders of the member states who were then inspired by sense of collective Pan African conviction and belief that migration is part of West African history, culture, and daily life of their people. As such, it will enhance cooperation, integration, and development of their respective countries, thereby justified the need to promote and accentuate the status of community citizenship of nationals of member states through the 1975 treaty (Protocol A/P.1/5/79). The treaty obliged member states to work towards the abolition of barriers to free movement of persons, services, and capital (Adepoju, 2005). In line with the ECOWAS treaty, the ECOWAS Free Movement Protocol was adopted in 1979 (ECOWAS, 1979) with significant emphasizes on the Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Right of Establishment.

The Revised ECOWAS Treaty of 1993 further provides in Article 3 (1) for “the removal, between member states obstacles to the free movement of persons, goods, services and capital, and to the right of residence and establishment. The major provisions on “Immigration” under Article 59 are (a) Community citizens are granted the rights of entry, residence and establishment and member states undertake to recognize these rights of Community citizens in their territories in accordance with the provisions of the Free Movement Protocols; (b) Member states undertake to adopt all appropriate measures to ensure that Community citizens enjoy fully the rights granted them; and (c) Member states undertake to adopt, at a national level, all measures necessary for the effective implementation of the provisions of this Article (ECOWAS, 1993).

These provisions are consistent with the 1979 Protocol Relating to the Free Entry, Right of Residence and Establishment (Agyei and Clottey, 2007; Awumbila et al, 2014). By this protocol, citizens of member states do not need to apply for a visa to enter another ECOWAS country for stays up to 90 days. However, it is stipulated that ECOWAS citizens with personal intention to stay for more than 90 days are required to obtain permission for an extension of stay from the appropriate authority in the member states. Other supplementary protocols have been passed following this major protocol. The 2008 ECOWAS Common Approach on Migration, for instance, provides guidelines for dealing with challenges affecting the implementation of the ECOWAS Free Movement Protocol. It also provides strategies for dealing with other key migration issues, including combating human trafficking; policy harmonization; protection of the rights of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees; and recognition of the gender dimension of the migration (ECOWAS, 2008).

4.2 ECOWAS FREE MOVEMENT PROTOCOL WITHIN THE SIERRA LEONEAN CONTEXT

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) adopted the Protocol on Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Right of Establishment in 1979 (Protocol A/P.1/5/79). This was followed by the formulation of several agreements and supplementary

protocols aimed at fostering free movement of labour and goods within the ECOWAS geographical space. Though these regional instruments provide guiding principles for the promotion of intra-regional mobility and regional integration, this study has affirmed the claims by several existing studies that the full implementation of the Rights of Residence and Establishment as enshrined in the 1979 ECOWAS Protocol relating to the Free Movement of Persons, and its supplementary protocols have not been fully realized (ICMPD and IOM, 2015). The Sierra Leonean case is no exception to this claim.

This study commissioned by IPAR to examine the Sierra Leonean context has affirmed several claims by numerous scholars and studies with respect to the state compliance to its regional obligation with respect to ECOWAS protocol. In other words, literature reviewed, and interviews conducted during this study has revealed little evidence of full commitment of the Government of Sierra Leone towards the implementation of certain principles or clauses enshrined in the ECOWAS protocols on free movement of persons, goods, and service. The result has also helped to affirm existing claims by several studies that some aspects of the ECOWAS Free Movement Protocol are poorly implemented in Sierra Leone owing to the Government's deliberate adoption of restrictive policies to prevent the flows of certain categories of immigrants who are likely to compete with nationals for jobs and scarce resources (Teye and Asima (2017). This is in line with the argument postulated by Mathias and de Haas (2013) that, while many governments sign agreements to facilitate free movement of skilled labour, they also adopt restrictive policies which seek to discourage the immigration and settlement of specific categories of migrants, such as low-skilled labour migrants. Such restrictive policies, according to Mathias and de Haas (2013) are intended to shape the skills and income composition of migrant inflows, based on perceived economic needs of the country, as well as social and economic desirability of different categories of immigrants.

This study also noted institutional weaknesses and resource constraints towards the implementation of the ECOWAS Protocol. As argued by a government officers interviewed, the implementation can only be effective when goals are clearly defined, when there are adequate resources. This observation has been earlier affirmed by Pressman and Wildavsky (1984).

So far, the ECOWAS Free Movement Protocol is expected to be implemented at three different phases. Phase one (1) related to right of entry and abolition of visa as enshrined in Article 3, which implies that member states are expected to allow free entry of citizens of member countries without visa. Whereas on the other hand, Phase two (2) and three (3) emphasize the granting of citizens of member states the right of residence and right of establishment in other ECOWAS countries that they may choose to migrate to.

From policy and operational perspective, the study result shows that Sierra Leone is satisfactorily implementing Phase one (1). This is self-evident by its removal of visa as entry requirements for 90 days for ECOWAS citizens. This was also affirmed by migrants interviewed in Freetown and border crossing points. This is also particularly related to ECOWAS citizens with valid travel documents. It was also noted that Sierra Leone has adopted the harmonized Immigration and Emigration Form of ECOWAS member states, which aims to facilitate and simplify cross-border

formalities by member states. The country now uses the ECOWAS common passport which was adopted by the Authority of Heads of State and Government in May 2000.

With regards to the second phase (Right of Residence), which came into force in July 1986, ECOWAS citizens who wishes to stay and work in Sierra Leone for more than 90 days are required to apply for and obtain residence permits or work permits. In relation to the third phase (Right of Establishment), migrants from ECOWAS member states have the right to access economic activities and to take employment, including pursuit of the liberal professions. However, discrimination may only be justified by exigencies of public order, security, or public health. As a result of these provisions, many ECOWAS citizens especially Guineans, Liberians and Nigerians are working mainly in the informal sector.

Despite the modest degree of compliance with respect to the implementation of Phase one (1), Teye and Asima (2017) earlier identified gaps in the implementation of both the Right of Residence and Right of Establishment components of the ECOWAS protocol in Sierra Leone, with references to the administrative bottleneck and procedures for issuing work permits. In a recent assessment conducted by Teye and Asima (2017) on work permit regimes in four West African countries, including Ghana and Sierra Leone, their study argued that the procedure for issuing work permits in these countries do not support the Right of Residence enshrined in the ECOWAS protocol. For Sierra Leone, as Teye and Asima noted, the requirements and procedures for issuing work permits are the same for both ECOWAS citizens and other nationals. In principle, work permits are expected to be issued to all foreigners, including ECOWAS citizens, only in situations whereby there is a proof that the skills possessed by the migrant do not exist locally (Teye and Asima 2017).

5 POLICY CONTEXT OF SIERRA LEONE

5.1 MILESTONES BY THE MIGRATION GOVERNANCE SECTOR OF SIERRA LEONE

Several institutions of Government are involved in the implementation of ECOWAS Protocol in Sierra Leone. However, Immigration Departments play leading role in particularly implementing phase I and II of the protocol. This implies that the Immigration Department possess significant policy and operational influence in the management of migration governance in Sierra Leone. However, several Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) also interpret and implement ECOWAS Protocols and other complimentary instruments within the scope of their respective institutional mandates.

In essence, the Government of Sierra Leone only recently adopted National Migration Policy (NMP, 2020), having received Cabinet approval with the Ministry of Internal Affairs playing a very pivotal role in the realization of such laudable venture. Government officials' interviews affirmed that more work must be done to address the issue of migration in the sub-region from a more holistic perspective as there is a need to look beyond irregular migration and focus attention beyond security issues with due consideration to the socio-economic conditions of migrants as the right atmosphere is created to make migration a positive and profitable pastime. Government officials further affirmed that it is part of an effort to create employment opportunity for migrants in

compliance with ECOWAS Protocols; and to also ensure the social protection of vulnerable segment of migrants' groups. The National Migration Policy is being regarded as gender-sensitive with measures designed towards enhancing migration processes and procedures aimed at preventing and fighting against irregular migration, also to protect the right of migrants in the country. This policy directives enshrined in the 2020 Migration Policy also recommends putting institutional measures and resources towards strengthening the immigration department responsible for effective migration flow to and from Sierra Leone.

Interviews conducted with purposive samples of respondents within the migration governance sector of the country further revealed that the Government of Sierra Leone has always expressed the political will and commitment towards addressing migration governance challenges in the country in compliance with the ECOWAS Protocol, and also in line with other related international legal framework. References were also made to strategic objectives and policy actions which officials interviewed believed are aligned with SDG. This implies facilitating orderly, safe, regular, and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies and Agenda 2063; free movement of persons and goods/services within REC member states. It was noted that Cluster 6 of the MTDP 2019 – 2023)⁴ is aligned with outcome 4 of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2019 – 2023) that seeks to protect and empower the most vulnerable segment of migrant community (GoSL 2020).

Furthermore, the result also shows that Sierra Leone has existing bilateral and regional arrangements towards the promotion and improvement of international cooperation dialogue agreed upon to share information on migration-related trends (GoSL 2020). With respect to the protection of irregular migrants that do not have any form of identification, it was noted that International Organization for Migration (IOM) in partnership with the Immigration Department and the Office of National Security has put institutional measures in place to virtually interview migrants with the intention to establish their identity, and to offer them temporal travel documents (GoSL 2020). These are part of the policy-oriented measures put in place with the support of IOM to address challenges experienced by irregular migrants without any form of identification and to protect them against any form of abuse including intimidation, discrimination, and harassment (GoSL 2020). However, majority of respondents during this survey questioned the effectiveness of these measures as immigration officials both within Sierra Leone and Guinea continue to exploit both regular and irregular migrants, as well as those in transit or people on the move.

It also emerged that the country has an existing bilateral mechanism with Guinea and Liberia to share relevant information and intelligence on smuggling routes, aimed at dismantling the smuggling networks and enhance joint responses towards human trafficking, smuggling and other cross border crimes. Furthermore, the result also shows that Sierra Leone has long been a member of the Migration Dialogue for West Africa (MIDWA) – a Regional Consultative Process (RCP) established in 2001, to discuss common migration issues and challenges in a regional context. As part of the Government effort to institutionalize the ideals of Migration Dialogue for West Africa

⁴ IMF (2019) Sierra Leone's Medium-term National Development Plan 2019–2023: IMF Country Report No. 19/218; International Monetary Funds, Washington DC; Web: <http://www.imf.org>

initiatives (MIDWA), it was affirmed that the National Commission of Social Action (NACSA) has mainstreamed locally integrated refugees and vulnerable migrants into National Development Programs, including the Sierra Leone Community Driven Development Project (GoSL 2020).

The study also revealed that Sierra Leone is a member of the Euro-African Dialogue on Migration and Development also known as the Rabat Process, which was established in 2006. The Rabat Process brought together countries from North, West and Central Africa, the European Commission, and the ECOWAS to tackle migration-related questions. Sierra Leone also participated in the African, Caribbean, and Pacific Group of States (ACP) – European Union (EU) Dialogue on Migration, the Pan-African Forum on Migration (PAFoM), AU regional economic communities, RCPs in Africa, UN agencies and intergovernmental organizations to deliberate on issues affecting migration governance in Africa. Sierra Leone also signed an MoU with Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, and Ghana in 2016 to accelerate the mobility of skilled workers and professionals amongst these countries to improve labor mobility. Despite the policy-oriented effort to deal with the issues of migrants, the country is struggling to meet its international obligations with respect to the protection and fostering the integration of ECOWAS migrants in the country.

6 THE CATEGORIES OF ECOWAS MIGRANTS IN SIERRA LEONE

It emerged that out of a total 58,053 enumerated migrants in the 2015 population census, Sierra Leone accommodate the following: Guineans 28.7%: Liberia 4.3% and Nigeria 3.5% (Statistics Sierra Leone, 2017). This study has also affirmed several earlier studies whose results have shown that Sierra Leonean immigration authorities have allowed nationals of these countries to remain, even though majority do not generally hold the required stay and work permits (ICMPD, 2015). Deportations and expulsions are also rare (European Commission Knowledge Centre on Migration and Demography, 2019). Information on socioeconomic, integration and employment trends for migrants is extremely limited. So far, the categories of migrants in Sierra Leone are discussed below:

6.1 CROSS BORDER ETHNIC COUSINS

The study has been able to affirm that ethnic groups have 'feet on each side' of the borders, owing to common language, culture, and family relations; with long history of cross border trade among ethnic communities and relatives constituting the economic dependability of local population for hundreds of years. Likewise, where the location of natural resources including farmlands, rivers and forest for hunting and animal husbandry are situated between neighbouring countries, gives reason for natural movement of ECOWAS citizens without any regards for documentation.

The reality is that Sierra Leone, Guinean and Liberia are inextricably linked by their geographical settings, socio-cultural fabric, economic structures, ethnic composition, and above all else similar customs and belief system. As such, majority of ECOWAS migrants in Sierra Leone are found in cross-border communities. The reality is that majority of their populations are ethnic cousins belonging to the same language groups and similar tradition, religious and customary practices. As a result, thousands of people cross the artificial borders that cut across, ethnic groups, villages and families, traditional water points, forests for cross border hunting, and farmlands daily in pursuit of economic, commercial, and social activities and in discharging traditional family obligations. In a study earlier conducted by Sillah, K. (2010) which analyzed the socio-cultural and security implications of the instability in Guinea on its neighbours, majority of respondents in border communities in Sierra Leoneans expressed the willingness to receive refugees coming from Guinea, in particular kin of the same ethnic and linguistic groups should there be any form of political instability in Guinea. They further affirmed that they consider their support to Guinean and Liberians as part of their traditional and moral obligation.



Photo 3 - Cross border ethnic communities and unofficial border crossing in the Mano River Basin

6.2 ECONOMIC SELF-INTEREST MIGRANTS

As a destination country, the country is still struggling with development issues and a general lack of economic opportunities for its citizens. As earlier noted by several studies, there is a lack of public disclosure on the information regarding work permits for foreign nationals (ICPMD & IOM, 2015). Irrespective of policy-oriented challenges and the lack of economic opportunities, the study result shows that, majority of migrants interviewed choose Sierra Leone for economic reason. In other words, the study result shows that though several reasons motivate people to move in and out of Sierra Leone, economic reasons have been the ultimate motive for moving to and from Sierra Leone.

The above implies that ECOWAS migrants have been acting out of rational economic self-interest and choice as a motivating factor for moving to Sierra Leone. In that regard, majority of migrants interviewed expectantly yield a positive economic outcomes or net return from working or doing business in Sierra Leone especially those in the informal sector. Except for few former Liberian refugees that have now been fully integrated, none of the ECOWAS migrants interviewed were victims of forced migration to Sierra Leone. They rather regard the time and resources spent to travel to Sierra Leone as necessary sacrifice and investment which is paying dividend since arriving in the country as affirmed by Guineans and Nigerian migrants interviewed. In addition, some Guinean migrants affirmed that moving to Sierra Leone is a blessing as they are able to send a portion of their income to family members back home.



Photo 4 - A Nigerian Migrant in the informal sector at the Central Business District in Freetown



Photo 5 - Guinean and Senegalese migrants in the informal sector in Central Business District



Photo 6 - Guinean migrants in the shoe mending business at Sackville Street, in Freetown, one of the highly concentrated migrants' areas.

6.3 CROSS BORDER TRADERS

The study observed consistent trading activities taking place with regular movement of



Photo 7- Cross border traders



Photo 5 - Vehicles ready to cross the Guinea-Sierra Leone border in Gbalamuya, in Kambia District

traders across the borders. In other words, there are uninterrupted movement of traders or businessmen and women who are actively involved in cross border trading between Kambia in Sierra Leone, and nearby border towns such as Falmoreah, Forecariah, Koyah and Conakry in Guinea on a daily basis. An important part of their movement involved taking commodities to big cities and Freetown, in the Western Area (capital city). At a regular interval, some are in constant movement across the borders to engage in weekly or monthly trading activities, also known as “Luma”⁵ that influence the flow of goods and income between the two countries.

6.4 MIGRANT FISHERMEN

A study conducted on the status of migrants’ fishermen in Sierra Leone by the international Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) documented four main migrant fishing nationals in the artisanal fisheries industry in Sierra Leone namely Ghanaians, Guineans, Liberians, and Senegalese (International Union for the Conservation of Nature, 2012). According to this study, these nationals are located at different fishing communities and co-exist peacefully with resident fishing communities in several locations across the country.

They co-exist peacefully with resident communities sharing resources such as land and forests (International Union for the Conservation of Nature, 2012). Some have inter-married with Sierra Leonean nationals, living in the same houses and exchanging cultural values and lifestyle. These migrants, most of who are fully integrated comply with the existing local and Government rules and regulations governing the conduct of fishing and its related activities. So far, none of the migrants’ interviewed in some of these fishing communities including Senegalese, Ghanaians and Liberians complained of discrimination and violence or being harassed by government officials (immigration of officers) or community members for lack of proper legal documents for overstaying.

⁵ Luma is a weekly trading activity in most part of Sierra Leone and Guinea. It takes the form of local trade fare attract traders from local towns and villages across Sierra Leone and Guinea to trade in local agricultural products, and consumer goods.



Photo 9 - Cross section of Senegalese migrant fisher folk at the Tamba Kular Wharf : This photo is an extract from a study published in 2012 on the titled 'Migration of small-scale fishermen in Sierra Leone; current status' by IUCN, CSRP and PRCM



Photo 10 - Cross-section of Ghanaian migrant fishers (Goderich landing site). This photo is an extract from a study published in 2012 on the titled 'Migration of small-scale fishermen in Sierra Leone; status by IUCN, CSRP and PRCM



Photo 11 - Cross-section of Guinean migrant fishers at the Konakrdee Wharf : This photo is an extract from a study published in 2012 on the titled 'Migration of small-scale fishermen in Sierra Leone; current status' by IUCN, CSRP and PRCM.

6.5 MIGRANT WORKERS IN THE MINING SECTOR IN SIERRA LEONE

Though migrants in the mining sector of Sierra Leone have not been fully documented, it is a well-known fact that Sierra Leone has attracted migrant workers from many countries in West Africa throughout pre-and post-independences history of the country. Though there is a very significant lack of information concerning the number and working conditions of migrant workers especially

in the artisanal mining sector of the country, it is self-evident that the artisanal mining in Sierra Leone provides livelihood opportunities for hundreds of other nationals from the West African sub-region, as well as Chinese, Lebanese, and Syrians, who migrated to the country primarily to operate as gold and diamond brokers and dealers.⁶

In essence, mineral rights for artisanal mining operations are exclusively reserved for Sierra Leone citizens. Implicitly, no foreigner is permitted to acquire artisanal mining license.⁷ Despite existing legal and regulatory frameworks, insufficient attention has been given to regulatory oversight of artisanal mining in Sierra Leone.⁸ Instead, mineral sector regulatory oversight has predominantly focused on large-scale mining with little attention to small-scale mining operations, thereby leaving artisanal mining without serious regulatory oversight beyond licensing procedures and processes.⁹ Despite these gaps, it does provide opportunity for foreigners from other West African states to actively involved in artisanal mining without any hindrance by the state monitoring and regulatory officers. It is also a well-documented reality that migrants from the Gambia, Nigeria, Ghanaians, Senegal, Mali and Guinea trade in gold and diamonds informally, and also mine illegally. The citizens of Sierra Leone often create partnership with foreigners to acquire the artisanal mining license, and to the extent mostly prefer to employ workers mainly from their own countries of origin rather than those from the locality in contravention of Artisan Mining regulations. This also means that thousands of foreigners involved in artisanal mining are working illegally.



⁶ Artisanal Mining Policy 2018 of Sierra Leone

⁷ Ibid

⁸ Ibid

⁹ Ibid

It also worth stating that mining sector attracts migrants that are not directly linked with artisanal mining activities. Foreigners migrate to mining environment from all over the sub-region to take advantage of opportunities offered by localization of the mine. In other words, they migrate to mineral resource-rich districts, Chiefdoms, and surrounding villages across the country to embark in petty trading and other economic activities that are not directly link to mining in those localities. It is also a well-known fact that migrants' own restaurants, guest- houses, small appliance dealing, and embark in taxi driving in the mining districts.



Photo 13- The photo was an extract from an article published by the Guardian titled: Sierra Leone tax breaks put foreign investment ahead of poor, say NGOs. Photograph: David Levene for the Guardian

6.6 MIGRANT CATTLE HERDERS

West African livestock industry is a traditional system of production dominated by the nomadic and semi-nomadic pastoralists who crisscross borders in many parts of West Africa. Besides, migration in this part of West Africa is a widespread phenomenon with very serious implications for pressures on land, and the terms and conditions upon which different migrants gain access to resources. Cattle raiding across porous borders into neighbouring countries are a widespread recurring phenomenon in this geographical axis of West Africa. Access to agricultural farmland is dominated by the perception of increasingly scarce natural resources and environmental degradation. As many studies have observed, climate change has altered traditional migration patterns of cattle herders who are in constant search for more cultivable land via different routes across borders. With large tracks of potential grazing land becoming scarce, cattle herders are constantly crisscrossing between Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia with large percentage of cows, donkeys, sheep and goats – in search of open rangelands, crop residues, and browsing to feed their animals.

They move within an expansive geographical latitude, going back and forth between semi-arid north during the rainy season, and the wetter south during the dry season (Shettima, et al. (2008). In other words, they move within and across countries principally in search of pastures and water for their herds, hence in constant friction with resident community farmers in Sierra Leone. This explains the inevitable factors that often lead to violent clashes between migrants' herders and resident farmers.

For instance, the border areas in Falaba District in the northern parts of Sierra Leone attract migrant cattle herders from Faranah prefecture in the upper Guinea region, owing to geographical proximity. Despite the negative frictions, it was noted that migrant herders' communities on each side of the Sierra Leonean and Guinean border often coexist peacefully. Furthermore, migrants' herders often settled in the communities and become fully integrated. It is also self-evident that cattle herders within these locations in most case move with wives who provide support to their husbands in looking after their cattle. These women, cattle herders' wives, are also responsible for milking the cattle and marketing of milk products across the border area in the nearby villages, towns, and Chiefdoms in Sierra Leone.

This has been the historical narrative of many communities in close geographical proximity with communities within and across the borders. This socio-cultural and economic integration often happened naturally without any bureaucratic formalities as the people speak similar dialects and adheres with the same social, cultural, and religious values. The migrant cattle herders often encouraged inter-marriage with resident farmers, they own houses and cultivable farm as well as plot for breeding of cattle.

7 THE MAIN FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

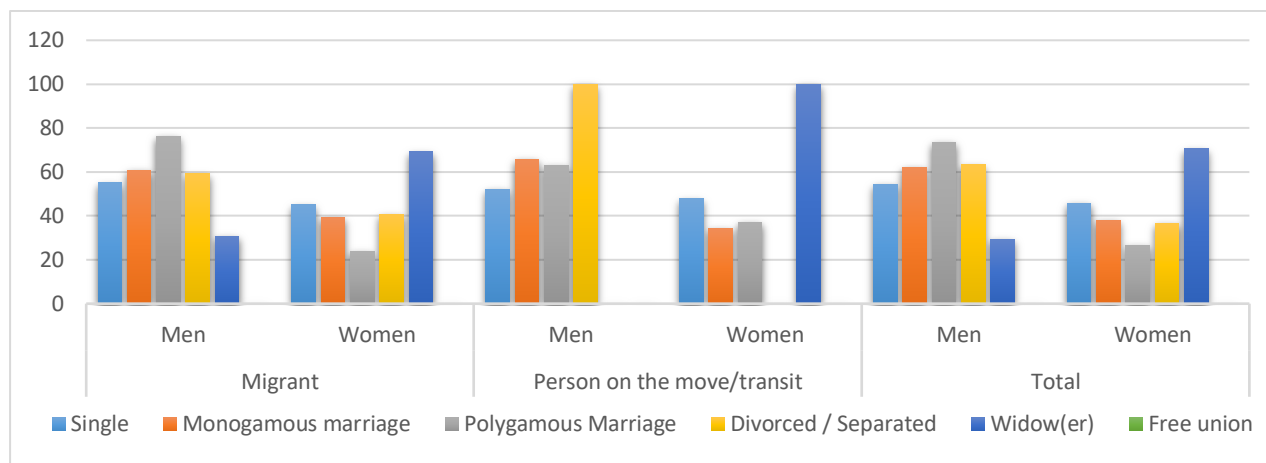
This section presents the main findings of the study which include the demographic characteristic of migrants and people on the move/In transit. The section presents an in-depth analysis of the situation of respondents in terms of rights within the framework of ECOWAS Protocol with consideration to transit and living conditions. It also presents in-depth analysis to deepening understanding of their access to social and economic services and opportunities such as access to housing, health, and education opportunities in Sierra Leone.

7.1 SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF MIGRANTS AND PEOPLE ON THE MOVE/IN TRANSIT

Table 3 below explains the marital status of migrants and person on the move/In transit in Sierra Leone. The result shows that out total of 58,8% of men and 41% of women among population interviewed, 76,2% of men and 23,8% of women are in polygamous marriages, whilst 60,7% of men and 39,3% of women are in monogamous marriages. Furthermore, 55,0% of men and 45,0% of women are single. Likewise, out total of 60,2% of men and 39,8% of person on the move/In transit interviewed, 62,9% of male person on the move/in transit and 37,1% of women on the move/In Transit are in polygamous marriages. Furthermore, 65,7% of male person on the move/In transit are in monogamous marriage, whilst 34,3% of women are in monogamous marriages. The

table also explains the percentage of person on the move/in transit and those separated for one reason or the other. Generally, explains the huge percentage of ECOWAS migrants' separation from relations for mainly economic reasons.

Figure 1: Marital Status of Migrants and People on the Move/In transit according to sex

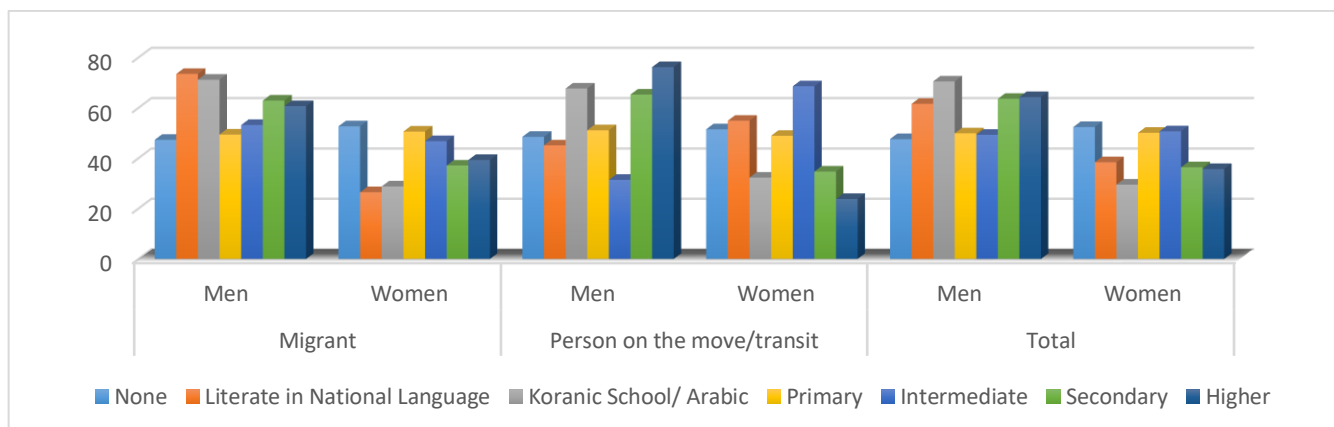


Source: IPAR surveys in Sierra Leone, August 2021

7.2 LEVEL OF EDUCATION OF MIGRANTS AND PERSON ON THE MOVE/IN TRANSIT

Table 5 below shows the level of education of ECOWAS migrants and people on the move/In transit who participated in the study. The result shows that out of total of 58,8% of male migrant interviewed, 73.5% are literate in the national language; 71.2% are literate in Koranic education; 49.4% acquired primary level education; 53.2% acquired intermediate level, 60,7% acquired higher level education, and 47.3% acquired none. Similarly, out of 41,2% of female population interviewed, 52,7% had no form education; 26,5% are literate in national language; 50,6% had primary level education; 46,8% had intermediate level education; 37,1% had secondary level, whilst 39,3% acquired higher level education. On the other hand, out of the total of 60,2% of male person on the move/in transit and 39.8% of female person on the move/in transit interviewed, 76,2% of men and 23,8% of women acquired higher level of education. Whereas 47,6% of men and 52,4% of women had no level of education. This is a cause for concern in terms of understanding the ECOWAS protocol.

Figure 2: Level of Education of Migrants and Person on the Move/In Transit according to the level of education



Source: IPAR surveys in Sierra Leone, August 2021

7.3 LEVEL OF EDUCATION OF MIGRANTS AND PERSON ON THE MOVE/IN TRANSIT ACCORDING TO AGE

Table 6 below explains the level of education of migrants and person on the move/in transit according to their age grouping. The result presented below shows that 62,0% of migrants with no level of education are those between the ages of 35-64, whilst 61,7% of migrants with medium level of education are those between the ages of 25-34. On the other hand, 50,3% of person on the move/in transit with medium level of education are those between the age of 25-34, whilst 46,7% of person on the move/in transit with no level of education are between age of 35-65.

Table 2: Level of Education of Migrants and Person on the Move/In Transit according to Age

		Level of education of migrants							
		None	Literate in National Language	Koranic Education/ Arabic	Primary	Medium	Secondary	Higher	Total
Migrants	15-24 Years	6,9	21,4	3	12,9	12,1	20,3	8,3	10,9
	25-34 years	24,9	32,7	28,4	25,1	61,7	47,3	29,7	35,1
	35- 64 years	62	45,9	62,9	58,6	26,2	31,7	62	51,3
	65 years and more	6,1	0	5,7	3,4	0	0,7	0	2,7
	Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

		Level of education of migrants							
		None	Literate in National Language	Koranic Education/ Arabic	Primary	Medium	Secondary	Higher	Total
Person on the move/in transit	15-24 years	28,5	11,3	10,4	18,7	0	32,9	10,6	21
	25-34 years	17,6	18,3	43,3	26,5	50,3	40	27,9	32
	35- 64 years	46,7	70,4	46,3	48,5	49,7	27,1	61,5	45
	65 years and more	7,3	0	0	6,2	0	0	0	2
	Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Total	15-24 years	12,2	17,2	4,5	14,5	10	24	8,9	13,4
	25-34 years	23,1	26,6	31,4	25,5	59,7	45,1	29,3	34,3
	35- 64 years	58,3	56,2	59,5	55,9	30,4	30,4	61,8	49,7
	65 years and more	6,4	0	4,5	4,1	0	0,5	0	2,5
	Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: IPAR surveys in Sierra Leone, August 2021

7.4 READ AND WRITE IN FRENCH, ENGLISH, ARABIC, AND OTHER LANGUAGES

Table 7 below explains migrants' ability to read, write in English, French and Arabic. Out of the total sample size interviewed, the result shows that about 58,4%, 42,9% and 59,8% of target respondents (migrants) can neither read nor write in French, English or Arabic respectively, this also explains the level of literacy of migrants and degree of vulnerability owing to their inability to understand the ECOWAS Protocol on migration, and other complementary legal instruments gearing towards the protection of migrants.

Table 3: Be able to read and write in French, English and Arabic

		Migrant	Person on the move/in transit	Total
Can you read and/or write in French ?	Can't read or write	58,4	69,7	61,2
	Can read and write	33,1	21,2	30,2
	Can only read	8,5	9,1	8,6
	Total	100	100	100
Can you read and/or write in English ?	Can't read or write	42,9	51,1	44,9
	Can read and write	52,7	43,1	50,3
	Can only read	4,4	5,9	4,8
	Total	100	100	100
Can you read and/or write in Arabic?	Can't read or write	59,8	66,1	61,4
	Can read and write	31,1	21,1	28,6
	Can only read	8,7	12,9	9,7
	Total	100	100	100

Source: IPAR surveys in Sierra Leone, August 2021

7.5 BE ABLE TO READ IN OTHER LANGUAGES

Table 8 below explains the percentage of migrants and person on the move/transit who cannot read or write in other languages. The statistic presented below shows that about 75,5% of migrants can neither read or write in other language, whilst 63,1% can read and write. On the other hand, 83,2% can only read in other language. Similarly, 24,5% of person on the move/transit cannot read or write, whilst 36,9% can only write. Whereas 16,8% of person on the move/transit can only read.

Table 4: Be able to read in other languages

		Did you come to this country as a migrant or a person on mobility (T)		
		Migrant	Person on the move/in transit	Total
		N % line	N % line	N % line
	Cannot read or write	75,5	24,5	100,0
	Can read and write	63,1	36,9	100,0
Can you read and/or write in other languages (please specify) ?	Can only write	0,0	0,0	0,0
	Can only read	83,2	16,8	100,0
	Total	75,1	24,9	100,0

Source: IPAR surveys in Sierra Leone, August 2021

7.6 SOCIAL AND PUBLIC SERVICES

7.6.1 Difficulties in accessing basic social services by status and gender

Table 9 below explains that out of the total migrant population targeted during this study, 70,6% of men, and 61,7% of women have no difficulties accessing land for construction; 83,7% of men, and 80,3% of women have no difficulties to accessing public education; 84,8% of men and 86,6% of women have no difficulties accessing health care; whilst 69,1% of men, and 66,9% of women have no difficulties accessing accommodations.

Table 5: Difficulties in accessing basic social services by status and gender (%)

		Migrants		Person on the move/ in transit		Total	
		Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
accessing housing	Yes	30,9	33,1	11,3	2,8	26,8	27,1
access to health services at the level of	Yes	15,2	13,4	13,1	2,9	14,7	11,1

access to public education?	Yes	16,3	19,7	7,2	0	14,6	17,4
access to land?	Yes	29,4	38,3	48,3	0	31,3	37,2

Source: IPAR surveys in Sierra Leone, August 202

7.6.2 Difficulties in accessing basic social services by status and age

Table 10 shows that out of the below stated statistical presentation, 69,5% of total population between the ages of 15-24 years of age have no difficulties accessing land for construction, 85,9% have no difficulties accessing public education, 88,6% have no difficulties accessing health care service, whilst 74,2% has no difficulties accessing accommodation in Sierra Leone. Furthermore, 69,2% of migrants between the ages of 25 to 34 years of age have difficulties accessing land for construction, 80,5% have no difficulties accessing public education, 88,4% have no difficulties accessing health care, and 68,0% have no difficulties accessing accommodation in Sierra Leone. Similarly, 63,4% of migrants between the ages of 35-64 have no difficulties accessing land for construction, 81,8% have no difficulties accessing public education, 82,5% have no difficulties accessing health care, and 66,0% have no difficulties accessing accommodation in Sierra Leone.

Table 6: Difficulties in accessing basic social services by status and age

			15-24 years	25-34 years	35- 64 years	65 years and above
Migrant	accessing housing?	Yes	25,8	32	34	6,3
	access to health services at the level of	Yes	11,4	11,6	17,5	8,1
	access to public education?	Yes	14,1	19,5	18,2	0
	access to land	Yes	30,5	30,8	36,6	0
Person on the move/in transit	accessing housing	Yes	7,9	9,9	6	25
	access to health services at the level of	Yes	14,4	5,2	8	33,3
	access to public education?	Yes	29,3	0	0	0
	access to land?	Yes	0	100	28,6	100

		15-24 years	25-34 years	35- 64 years	65 years and above
Total	accessing housing? Yes	19,9	28,3	28,3	10
	access to health services at the level of	12,4	10,5	15,5	13
	access to public education? Yes	16,9	17	14,9	0
	access to land? Yes	30,5	31,9	35,8	16,8

Source: IPAR surveys in Sierra Leone, August 2021

7.6.3 Access to Social Services

As a complement to the statistical presentation in table 10 above, the result from qualitative interviews affirmed that migrants easily access social and economic services especially in the main border towns, villages, and communities where there are similar or common ethnic groups that share common family ties and cross border resources. The ethnic groups found in cross-border communities include Fullahs, Kissis, Mandingoes, Susus, and Yalunkas. Similarly, persons on the move/in transit also affirmed that there are numerous guest houses often own by integrated migrants, thereby meeting the housing needs of these migrants. Migrants themselves have confirmed through their Associations of Foreign Nationals in addition to their Embassies that they hardly face any form of discrimination especially in relation to access to social and economic services. For instance, in towns and villages in proximity with the border between Guinea and Sierra Leone, there are children from the Guinean side that attend schools on the Sierra Leonean side and return to Guinea after school or in the evening, thus presenting a picture of integration as espoused by the ECOWAS protocols.

7.6.4 Difficulties in accessing Housing by Gender

Table 11 presented below shows that out of the total target migrant population interviewed that have experienced difficulties in accessing accommodation, 92,1% of male and 94,0% of female respondents affirmed that accommodations are expensive (high rental cost); 73,0% of male and 69,0% of female respondents stated that accommodations are unavailable (Unavailability); 79,4% of male and 80,6% of female respondents stated living in indecent accommodations (Indecent housing (electricity, water, comfort, etc)); 50,7% of male and 65,3% of female experienced some forms of discrimination. Similarly, 80,2% of men and 89,4% of women stated financial constraints as difficulties in accessing accommodation (Lack of Financial means).

Table 7: Types of difficulties in accessing housing by gender (%)

		Migrant		Person on the move/in transit		Total	
		Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
Refusal to rent	Yes	50,6	67,4	0	0	46,2	66
Lack of Financial means	Yes	80,2	89,4	52,1	100	77,7	89,6
Guarantee problems	Yes	52,5	65,3	47,9	0	52,1	63,9
Discrimination	Yes	50,7	65,3	52,1	0	50,8	63,9
Indecent housing	Yes	79,4	80,6	68	100	78,4	81
Unavailability	Yes	73	69,4	47,9	0	70,8	67,9
Restrictive access conditions	Yes	71,4	66,8	37,9	0	68,4	65,5
High rental costs	Yes	92,1	94	78,1	100	90,8	94,1

Source: IPAR surveys in Sierra Leone, August 2021

7.6.5 Access to Housing, Proper Sanitation, and safer Environment

As a compliment to the statistical presentation in table 11 above, recent study conducted by BTI (2020) revealed that only 15% of Sierra Leoneans have access to proper sanitation and 62% to safe drinking water.¹⁰ The result from qualitative interviews conducted during the IPAR survey also shows that most migrants from the neighbouring West African states are accommodated by their relatives until they are properly settled in the country. Besides, housing is usually a major concern for migrants in big cities and other cosmopolitan environment in Sierra Leone. In most cases, Freetown, the capital city of Sierra Leone, and other Administrative Headquarters towns like Bo, Kenema, Port Loko, Kambia, Kono and Kabala for instance are mostly the primarily destinations of migrants. These cities and towns offer different types of employment opportunities in the informal sector, and also owing to proximity to border areas, thereby contribute to an increased competition for housing and other public services depending on affordability.

This study has observed that migrants that are experiencing financial difficulties often seek informal accommodations in congested slums communities, which are mostly affordable, but at the expense of health, environment risk factors, as well as security concern. The increased slum population particularly in the fishing or mining communities have huge impacts on available infrastructure, such as sewage, water and electricity supply, medical services, and sanitation facilities. These services are in short supply to many slum settlements such as Susans Bay, Kroo

¹⁰ Bertelsmann Stiftung, BTI 2020 Country Report — Sierra Leone. Gütersloh: Bertelsmann Stiftung, 2020

Town Bay and many fishing communities across the Freetown Peninsular. This is particularly due to the unplanned and unstructured living situations within informal settlements that do not meet required standards.

For instance, the Central Business District of the Freetown Municipality attract ECOWAS migrants than any part of Freetown. This is a cosmopolitan, as well as business and administrative heartland of Sierra Leone where strategic institutions of government are situated. It is also the home to one of the largest markets know as 'Sani Abacha' where the highest degree of informal trading including foreign exchange are undertaken by mostly Guineans and Nigerians migrants, majority of whom have already integrated in the country, owning retails shops and stalls attracting people from across the country. It is also home to one of the largest slums in Sierra Leone (the Susan Bay), with many hundreds of retails shops opened by Guinean migrants (Fullahs), Lebanese and Syrians.

Despite the huge business opportunities this locality provides to both nationals and migrants, majority of residents of this geographical axis of the Freetown Municipality live in extreme poverty. Clean water is scarce and therefore diseases caused by poor hygiene are prevalent. Members of communities are concerned at the rising level of competition for scarce accommodation by both the nationals and migrants including Senegalese, Gambians, Ghanaians, Liberians and most importantly, huge Guinean population.

It was noted that the poorly managed post-conflict resettlement programme in the immediate aftermath of the conflict between 2002-2010 have contributed to population concentration in this constituency. Likewise, the poor resettlement and reintegration process in the aftermath of the civil war contributed to the concentration of particular the Moto-bike taxing (Okada Riders). It also worth stating that the Motorbikes Taxing business has created employment for both nationals and migrants from neighbouring countries in Sierra Leone.

The Government has relatively done little to curb down on street trading by both nationals and ECOWAS migrants in 'Sani Abacha Street',¹¹ and the surrounding, which has negative impact on the living condition of the area in terms of traffic congestion and poor hygiene. Housing system is extremely poor, with many residents living in one-room houses made of semi-permanent materials such as mud, wooden planks, or metal sheets particularly in Susan's Bay area and its surroundings.

Irrespective of the above descriptive analysis, there is no form of discrimination against ECOWAS nationals in these localities when accessing housing facilities and other services in Sierra Leone. Besides, experience has shown that overwhelming majority of homeowners prefer giving their houses for rent to migrants than to nationals owing to the belief that migrants mostly adhere with payment rules and condition than nationals; and are also law abiding.

¹¹The street name 'Sani Abacha Street' was named after the former Nigerian Military leader, General Sani Abacha who served as the military head of state of Nigeria from 1993 until his death in 1998. Gen. Sani Abacha found it useful to lead the West African Peacekeeping Force known as ECOMOG to reinstate the ousted former President, Alhaji Hammed Tejan Mr. Kabbah to power in 1998. The grateful reinstated President Tejan Kabbah promptly renamed one of Freetown's main arteries, formerly known as 'Kissy Street', to 'Sani Abacha Street', in recognition of his support for peace, stability and most importantly conflict resolution in Sierra Leone.

7.6.6 Access to Proper Health Care Service

It emerged that the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone guarantees health care to all people within Sierra Leone (Ministry of Health and Sanitation (2017)).¹² As such, migrants can access both free and paid health-care services regardless of status, under the same condition as nationals.¹³ The National Health Sector Strategic Plan (2017- 2021) includes as a key objective (Outcomes 1-7 on Prevention; Treatment, Care and Support; and Enabling Environment) increased "access to tailored HIV combination prevention services" for key populations, including migrant workers and traders, by "90% from 2015 to 2020".¹⁴

However, the scope of free health care service remains limited for both nationals and migrants. Implicitly, access to quality health care service in Sierra Leone has been an ongoing challenge for the Government and the people of Sierra Leone including migrants, due to several factors including the years of civil war, poverty, corruption, and poor health sector governance. For instance, according to government figures, the ratio of medical personnel per capita went down from 17.2 per 100,000 to 3.4 per 100,000 during the Ebola outbreak.¹⁵

7.6.7 Difficulties In Terms of Access to Land by Gender

Table 12 below shows that out of the total of migrants who had difficulties in accessing land for construction 87.6% of male and 74.0% of female respondents affirmed that national policy prevents them from accessing land, as against 12.4% of men and 26.0% of women who affirmed that national policy does not prevent them from accessing land for construction. Likewise, 86.0% of men and 100% of women attributed their lack of access to land to the lack of financial resource. Similarly, 82.0% of men and 69.3% of women attributed the difficulties to land saturation, whilst 18.0 % of men and 30.7% of women did not attribute this to documentation. On the other hand, 83.5% of men and 80.4% of women attributed the difficulties to long processes and procedures in accessing land for construction.

12 Ministry of Health and Sanitation (2017) NATIONAL HEALTH SECTOR STRATEGIC PLAN 2017 – 2021; September 2017

13 Ibid

13 Ibid

14 Ibid

15 Ibid

Table 8: Types of difficulties in terms of access to land by gender

		migrants		Person on the move/in transit		Total	
		Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
National policy that prevents foreigners from accessing land	Yes	87,6	74	28,1	0	78,6	74,0
Lack of financial means	Yes	86	100	42,2	0	79,3	100
Land saturation	Yes	82	69,3	29,7	0	74	69,3
Long procedure	Yes	83,5	80,4	85,9	0	83,9	80,4
Non-equivalence/recognition of diplomas	Yes	50,9	30,3	0	0	43,1	30,3

Source: IPAR surveys in Sierra Leone, August 2021

7.6.8 Satisfaction of Migrants and Person on the Move/In Transit according to their Situation

Table 13 below shows that out of the total migrant population targeted, 55.2% are satisfied with their situation, whilst 43.2% are not. In line with this total, 54,0% of men and 56,8% of women are satisfied with their situation, whilst 44,1% of men and 41,9% of women are not satisfied with their situation. On the other hand, 67.9% of people on the move/person in transit are satisfied whilst 26.6% are not. Out of the total result, 66,8% among male person and 69.5% of women on the move or in transit are satisfied with their situation, whilst 26,8% of men and 26,3% of women in transit are not satisfied with their situation.

Table 9: Migrants' satisfaction with their current situation by gender.

		Sex of migrant		
		Man	Woman	Total
Migrant	Yes	54,0	56,8	55,2
	No	44,1	41,9	43,2
	NRP	1,9	1,3	1,7
	Total	100,0	100,0	100,0
Person on the move/In transit	Yes	66,8	69,5	67,9
	No	26,8	26,3	26,6
	NRP	6,4	4,1	5,5
	Total	100,0	100,0	100,0

Total	Yes	57,3	59,9	58,3
	No	39,7	38,1	39,1
	NRP	3,0	2,0	2,6
	Total	100,0	100,0	100,0

7.6.9 Satisfaction of Migrants and Person on the Move/In Transit according to Age

Table 14 below shows that 59.0% of migrant between the age of 15-24 years are satisfied with their situation. Likewise, 56.0% of those between the age of 24-35 are satisfied. On the other hand, 52.7% of those between the age of 35-64 are satisfied 75.0% of those between the age of 65 and above are satisfied, whilst 18.8% are not. Similarly, 75.7% of people on the move/in transit between the age of 15-24 are satisfied. Furthermore, 61.2% of those between the age of 24-35 are satisfied with their situation. Furthermore, 67.5% of those between the age of 35-64 are satisfied.

Table 10: Satisfaction with situation according to age

		15-24 Years	25-34 Years	35-64 Years	65 years and over	Total
Migrant	Yes	59,0	56,0	52,7	75,0	55,2
	No	41,0	42,2	45,6	18,8	43,2
	NRP	0,0	1,7	1,7	6,3	1,7
	Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Person on the move/n transit	Yes	75,7	61,2	67,5	100,0	67,9
	No	17,9	31,5	28,4	0,0	26,6
	NRP	6,3	7,3	4,1	0,0	5,5
	Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Total	Yes	65,5	57,2	56,0	80,0	58,3
	No	32,0	39,7	41,7	15,0	39,1
	NRP	2,5	3,0	2,2	5,0	2,6
	Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

7.7 REASONS FOR SATISFACTION

7.7.1 Reasons for Satisfaction of migrants and people on the move/In transit according to age groups

Table 15 below summarised the findings with respect to reasons for migrant and people on the move/In transits' satisfaction according age groups as follows:

Income: Analysing the reason of their satisfaction, the study result shows that 61.8% of migrants are satisfied with their actual situation owing to revenue. Out of this result, 28.1% of those between the age of 15-24 are satisfied with their situation owing to revenues. Whereas 53.3% of those between the age 25-34 are satisfied because of their revenues. Similarly, 76.7% of those between the age of 35-64 are satisfied owing to their revenues. Likewise, 52.1% of those between the age of 65 and above are satisfied.

Reception Received: The study result shows that 97.1% of migrants are satisfied with the type of reception acquired in Sierra Leone. Out of this total, 100.0% of migrants between the age of 15-24 are satisfied with the type of reception they acquired in Sierra Leone. Likewise, 95.9% of those between 25-34 are satisfied with the type of reception they had 97.1% of those between 35-64 are satisfied. Likewise, 100.0% of those between 65 years and above are satisfied with the type of reception that had acquired in Sierra Leone.

Free movement: Another factor of migrants' satisfaction is free movement. The result shows that 97.5% of migrants explained their satisfaction by the free movement in Sierra Leone, This proportion are 91.5% among migrants between the age of 15-24, 97.8% among those between 25-34 99.4% among those between the age of 35-64; and 87.7% among those between, 65 and above.

Work Condition: Some migrants stated that their satisfaction is related to the work condition (58,5%). this proportion is only 25.2% among migrant between the age of 15-24., 55.5% among those between the age of 25-34 70.7% among those between the age if 35-64 and 30.2% among those between the ages of 65.

Living Condition: It emerged that a total of 92.7% of migrants are satisfied because of their respective living condition. Out of this result, 90.5% of migrants between the age of 15-24 are satisfied by reason of the living condition, these percentage are 92.1% among those between the age of 25-34, 95.7% among those between 35-64 and 95.7% among those between 65 and above.

Table 11: Reasons for Satisfaction according to age groups

			15-24 Years	25-34 Years	35- 64 Years	65 Years and above	Total
Migrant	Your income	Yes	28,1	53,3	76,7	52,1	61,8
	Your working conditions	Yes	25,2	55,5	70,7	30,2	58,5
	Your living conditions	Yes	90,5	92,1	95,7	65,7	92,7
	Home	Yes	100	95,9	97,1	100	97,1

			15-24 Years	25-34 Years	35- 64 Years	65 Years and above	Total
	Freedom of movement	Yes	91,5	97,8	99,4	87,7	97,5
Person on the move/in transit	Your income	Yes	49,4	51,3	51	75	51,4
	Your working conditions	Yes	12,8	27,5	43,5	75	32,6
	Your living conditions	Yes	83,3	74,8	81,1	75	79,6
	Home	Yes	83,3	53,1	47,1	75	58,1
	Freedom of movement	Yes	96,8	100	100	100	99,3
Total	Your income	Yes	37,7	52,8	69,7	57,9	58,8
	Your working conditions	Yes	19,6	48,6	63,3	41,4	51
	Your living conditions	Yes	87,3	87,8	91,7	68	88,9
	Home	Yes	92,5	85,3	83,5	93,7	85,8
	Freedom of movement	Yes	93,9	98,3	99,5	90,8	98

Source: IPAR surveys in Sierra Leone, August 2021

7.7.2 Reason for Traveling of People on the Move/In Transit

The table 16 below explains the distribution of person on the move/In transit and the reasons for the move. In response to the question 'why did you travel?' 74,8% of men and 25,2% of women travel to Sierra Leone for business purpose. Similarly, 66,9% of men moved to benefit from education in Sierra Leone, whilst 33,1% of women travelled to Sierra Leone to benefit from education. Likewise, 72,8% of men and 27,2% women travelled to Sierra Leone to purchase goods. Furthermore, 65,5% of men, and 34.5% of women travelled to Sierra Leone to sale goods. On the other hand, 38,1% of men, and 61,9% of women travel to Sierra Leone to visit relatives and friends.

Table 12: Reason for Traveling of People on the Move/In Transit

		Gender		
		Man	Woman	Total
If mobile, why did you travel?	Visit from relatives/friends	38,1	61,9	100,0
	Medical care	0,0	0,0	0,0
	Tourism	100,0	0,0	100,0
	Purchase of goods	72,8	27,2	100,0
	Sale of goods	65,5	34,5	100,0
	Search for partners	0,0	100,0	100,0
	Other (specify)	0,0	0,0	0,0
	Business/ Work	74,8	25,2	100,0
	Transport	100,0	0,0	100,0
	Education	66,9	33,1	100,0
	Religion	100,0	0,0	100,0
	Total	60,2	39,8	100,0

Source: IPAR surveys in Sierra Leone, August 2021

7.7.3 Reason for Traveling of People on the Move/In Transit according to Age Groups

Table 17 below shows that 44,6% of person on the move/In transit between the ages of 15 – 24 years and 33,5% of those between the ages of 25-34 years travel to Sierra Leone to visit relatives/friends, whereas 46,2% of those between the age of 35-65 years of age travelled to Sierra Leone to sale goods. Similarly, 32,1% of those between the ages of 15 – 24 years, 29,2% of those between the ages of 25-34 years and 25,0 % of those aged 65 years above travelled to Sierra Leone to sale goods. Furthermore, out of a total of 16,0%, of those between the ages of 15-24, and 10,3% of those between the ages of 25-34 years of age visit the country to benefit from education. 50% of those aged 65 years above travelled to Sierra Leone for religion purpose.

Table 13: Reason for Traveling of People on the Move/In Transit according to Age Groups

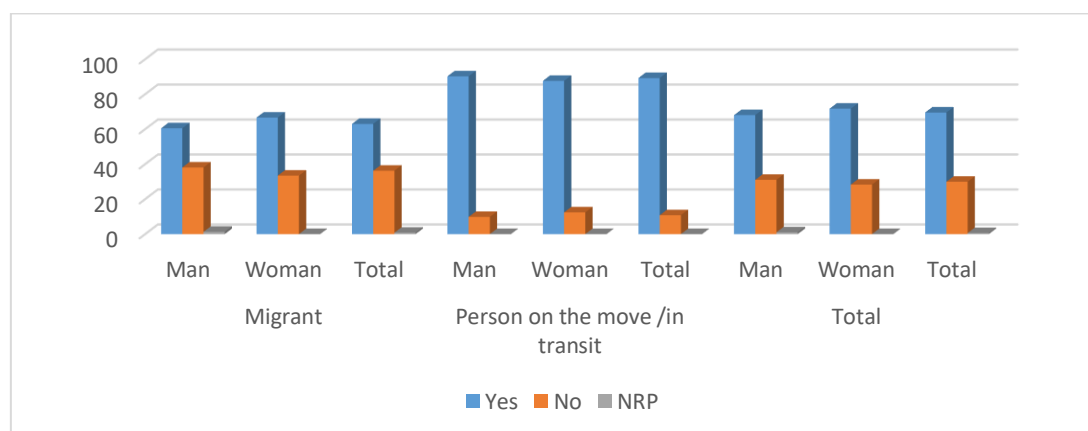
		RECODE of C2 (What is the age of the migrant? (in years))				
		15-24 years	25-34 years	35- 64 years	65 years and more	Total
If mobile, why did you travel?	Visit from relatives/friends	44,6	33,5	18,2	25,0	28,8
	Medical care	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
	Tourism	2,4	1,6	0,0	0,0	1,0
	Purchase of goods	4,8	16,4	17,9	0,0	14,3
	Sale of goods	32,1	29,2	46,2	25,0	37,4
	Search for partners	0,0	0,0	1,8	0,0	,8
	Other (specify)	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
	Business/ Work	0,0	9,0	10,7	0,0	7,7
	Transport	0,0	0,0	3,4	0,0	1,5
	Education	16,0	10,3	1,8	0,0	7,5
	Religion	0,0	0,0	0,0	50,0	1,0
	Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

Source: IPAR surveys in Sierra Leone, August 2021

7.7.4 Wishing to Return to Country of Origin According to Gender

Table 18 below shows that 63.0% of migrant wishes to return to their countries of origin in the medium term, whilst 36.2% do not. Out of these total targeted respondents, 60.5% of men wishes to return to their countries of origin, whilst 38.1% do not. Likewise, 66.6% of women wishes to return to their countries of origin, whilst 33.4% do not. Similarly, 89.2% of person in transit wishes to return to their countries of origin in the medium term, whilst 10.8% do not. Out of this population, 90.2% of men wishes to return, whilst 87.6% of women wishes to return.

Graphic - 1 Desire of migrants to return to their country of origin by gender.



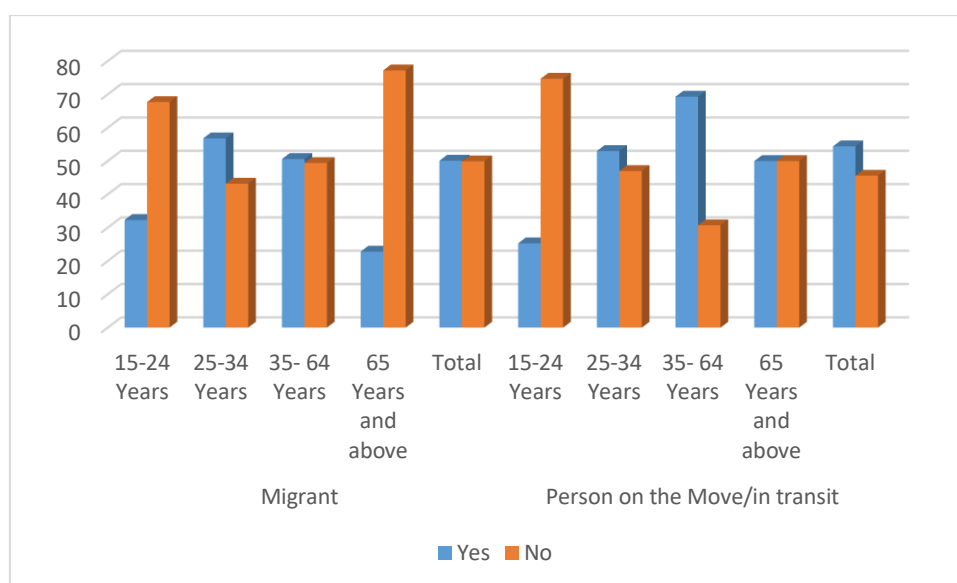
Source: IPAR surveys in Sierra Leone, August 2021

7.8 HAVING HEARD OF ECOWAS ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS

Table 19 below shows that out of total of migrants interviewed, 50.1% have heard of ECOWAS, whilst 49.9% have never heard of ECOWAS. Out of this total statistical result, 32.3% of those between the age of 15-24 have heard of ECOWAS, whilst 67.7% have never heard of ECOWAS. The result also shows that 56.8% of those between the ages of 25-34 have heard of ECOWAS, whilst 43.2% of the same age bracket have not heard of ECOWAS. Similarly, 50.6% of those between the ages of 35-64 have heard of ECOWAS whilst 49.4% have never heard of ECOWAS. The result further shows that 22.8% of migrant between the age of 65 and above have heard of ECOWAS whilst 77.2% have never heard of ECOWAS.

On the other hand, 54.4% of those in transit/people on the move have heard of ECOWAS, whilst 45.6% have not heard of ECOWAS. Out this result, 25.3% of person in transit between the age of 15-24 have heard of ECOWAS, whilst 74.7% have not. The result further shows that 53.0% of person in transit between 25-34 have heard of ECOWAS, whilst 47.0% have not. The result further shows that 69.3% of those between 35-64 of person in transit have heard of ECOWAS, whilst 30.7% have not. Finally, 50.0% of person in transit/mobile person between the age of 65 and above have heard of ECOWAS protocol, whilst 50.0% have not.

Graphic - 2 HAVING HEARD OF ECOWAS ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS



Source: IPAR surveys in Sierra Leone, August 2021

7.9 KNOWLEDGE OF ECOWAS PROTOCOL AND THEIR RESPECTIVE RIGHTS ENshrINED IN THE DOCUMENT

Table 20 below summarized the findings with respect migrants' knowledge of ECOWAS and the rights enshrined in the protocol.

Right of Entry: The result shows that 69.7% of ECOWAS migrants understand their rights to enter other ECOWAS member states, whilst 30.3% does not. Out of this total result, 69.3% of male migrants understand their rights to enter other ECOWAS member states, whilst 30.3%

do not. Similarly, 70.5% of female migrant understand their rights to enter other ECOWAS member states.

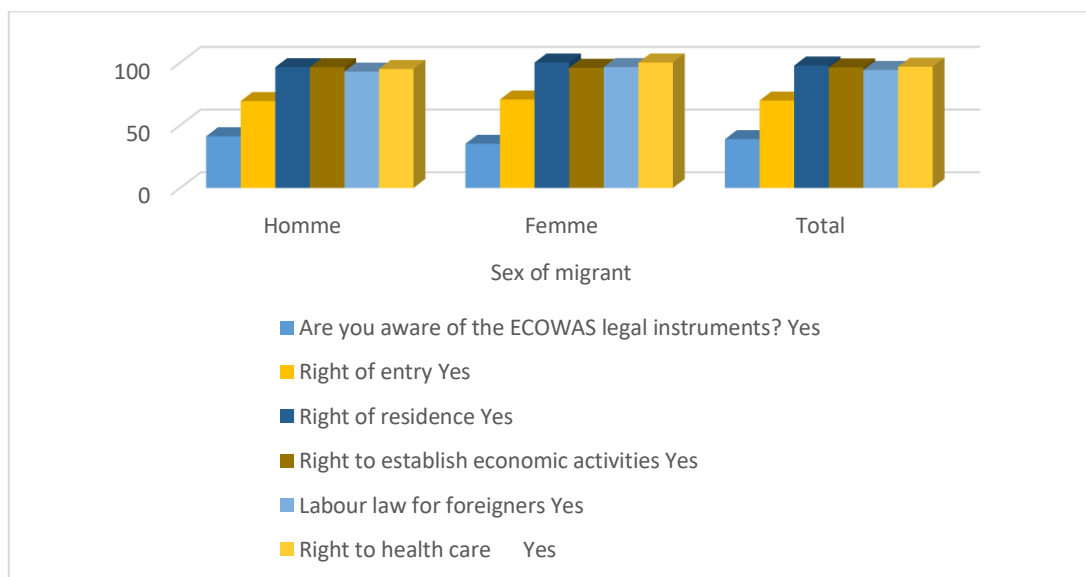
Right of Residence: The result shows that 97.6% of total migrants targeted understand their rights to stay in ECOWAS member states. Out of this result, 96.3% of male migrants understand their rights as against 3.7% that did not understand their rights to stay in another ECOWAS member states. Similarly, 100.0% of female migrants understand their rights to stay in other ECOWAS member states.

Right to Establish/Engage in Economic Activities: It emerged that a total of 96.1% of migrants are conscious of their rights to establish or engage in economic activities, as against 3.7% who did not understand their rights to establish or engage in economic activities. Out of this total, 96.3% of men understand, their rights, whilst only 3.7% does not. Likewise, 95.8% of female migrant understand their rights to establish or engage in economic activities in other ECOWAS member states, whilst 4.2% does not.

Labour law for foreigners: Out of the total representative samples, 94.1% of migrant understand their rights to work for foreigners, whilst 5.9% does not. The result also shows that 92.8% of male migrants understand their rights to work for foreigners, whilst 96.4% of female migrants understand their rights to work for foreigners.

Right to Access Medical Attention: The total result shows that 96.7% of targeted respondents understands their rights to access medical attention, whilst 3.3% does not. Out of this representative result, 94.9% of male understand their rights to medical attention, whilst 100.0% of female migrants understand their rights to access medical attention.

Graphic - 3 knowledge of ECOWAS texts and known texts by gender

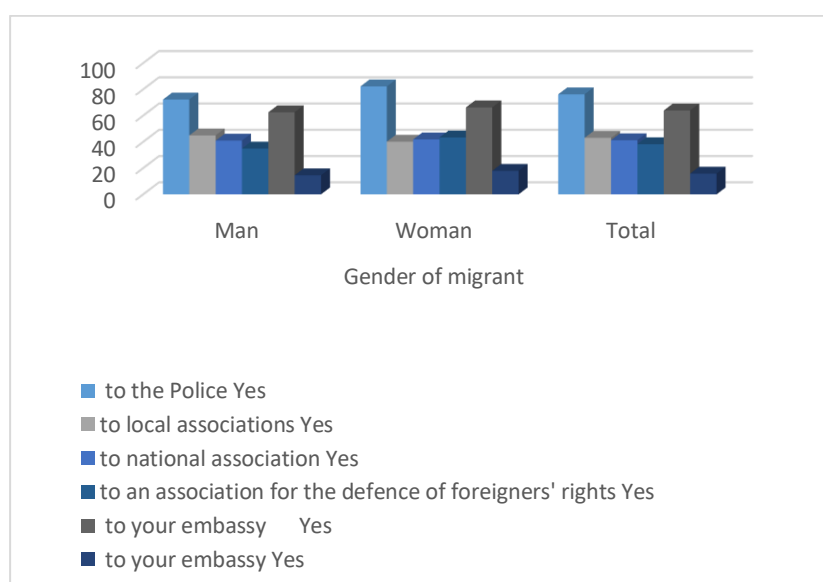


Source: IPAR surveys in Sierra Leone, August 2021

7.10 MEANS TO DEFEND THE RIGHTS OF MIGRANTS

Table 21 below present several options adopted by migrants to defend their rights in the event of difficulties. These include recourse to the police, local associations, association of nationals, associations for the defense of foreigners' rights and the Embassies. The statistical presentation below shows that out of 76.2% of migrants targeted during this research, 72.2% and 82,2% of male and female migrants recourse to the police. Likewise, out of the total of 43.0% of targeted respondents who recourse to local associations to defend their rights, 44.9% are male and 40.1% of female. The result shows that out of 41.2% of those who recourse to migrant associations to defend their rights, 40.9% are male and 42.8% are female. It also emerged that out of 38.2% that recourse to organizations mandated to defend the rights of foreigners, 34.9% are male and 43.3% are female. Most importantly, a large proportion of migrants (63.9%) recourse to their Embassies to defend their rights. Out of this total, 62.5% are male and 66.2% are female migrants.

Graphic - 4 MEANS OF RECOURSE TO DEFEND THEIR RIGHTS IN CASE OF DIFFICULTIES



Source: IPAR surveys in Sierra Leone, August 2021

7.11 VIOLENCE EXPERIENCED BY MIGRANTS DURING JOURNEY

Table 22 below shows that 21.0% of migrants targeted experienced some forms of violence during their journey to Sierra Leone, whilst 77.2% did not experienced violence during their journey to Sierra Leone. The total representative respondents according to gender shows that 17.6% of male migrants experienced some form of violence during journey, whilst 81.3% did not. Likewise, 25.9% of female migrants experienced some form of violence, whilst 71.5% of female migrants did not experience any form of violence during journey. Whereas 9.0% of person in transit or people on the move experienced violence, 85.8% of person in transit did not experienced violence during journey to Sierra Leone. and 10,7% of female Similarly, 7.9% of male person in transit or mobile person experienced some form of violence,

Table 14: Did you experience violence during your journey to this country

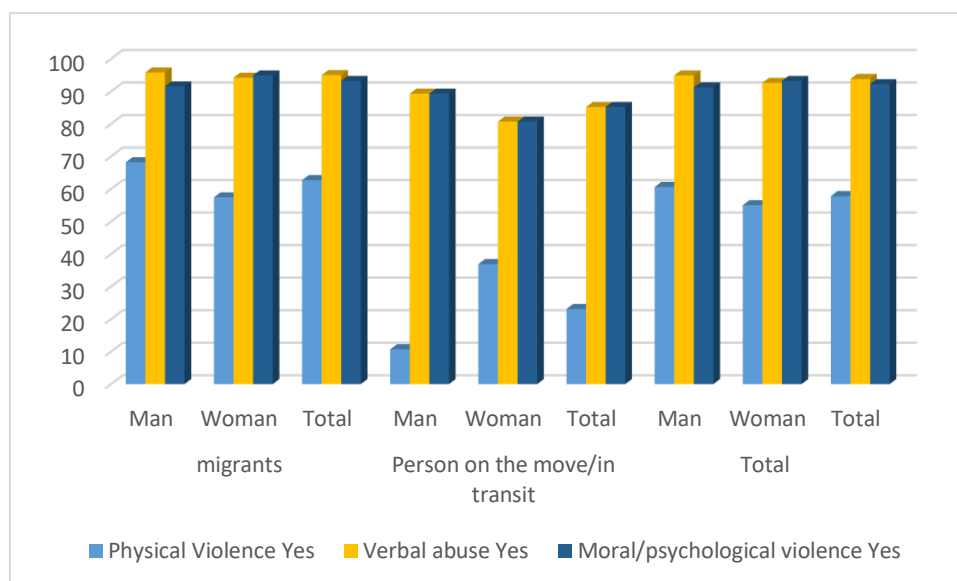
		Gender of migrant		
		Man	Women	Total
Migrant	Yes	17,6	25,9	21,0
	No	81,3	71,5	77,2
	No response	1,1	2,6	1,7
	Total	100,0	100,0	100,0
Person on the move/in transit	Yes	7,9	10,7	9,0
	No	86,2	85,2	85,8
	No response	5,9	4,1	5,2
	Total	100,0	100,0	100,0
Total	Yes	15,1	22,2	18,0
	No	82,5	74,8	79,4
	No response	2,4	3,0	2,6
	Total	100,0	100,0	100,0

Source: IPAR surveys in Sierra Leone, August 2021

7.12 TYPES OF VIOLENCE EXPERIENCED BY MIGRANTS ACCORDING TO GENDER

Table 23 below show that out of the total of 62,7% of migrant that experienced physical violence, 68,2% are men and 57,4% are women. Out of the total of 95.0% of migrant who experience some verbal abuse, 95.8% are male, and 94.2% are female. Similarly, out of the total of 93.2% of migrant who have experienced moral/psychological violence, 91,5% are male, and 94.2% are female. Similarly, the result below also shows that out of the total of 23,1% of person on the move/In Transit who have experienced some forms of physical violence, 10.7% are male, whilst 36,9% are female. Likewise, out of total of 85,2% of person on the move/In Transit who have experienced some of forms of verbal abuse, 89,3% are male, and 80,7% are female. Similarly, out of a total of 85,2% of persons on the move/In Transit who have experienced some forms of moral/psychological violence, 89,3% are male, whilst 80,7% are female respectively.

Graphic - 5 TYPES OF VIOLENCE EXPERIENCED BY GENDER



Source: IPAR surveys in Sierra Leone, August 2021

7.11.1. Types of violence according age groups

Physical Violence: Table 24 below shows that among migrants who experienced some forms of violence during their journey to Sierra Leone, 62.7% have experienced some forms of physical violence, as against 37,3% that did not experience any form of physical violence. Out of this total result, 49.8% are those between the ages of 15-24; 60.1% are those between the age of 25-34; 66.9% are those between the ages of 35-64 respectively. Added to that, 0.0% of those between the age of 65 and above experience any form of physical violence.

Verbal violence/abuse: The table further explains that a total of 95.0% of migrants have experienced some forms of verbal violence/abuse. Out of this result, 100.0% of migrants between the age of 15-24 have experienced some forms of verbal abuse, whilst 87.2% of those between the ages of 25-34 have experienced some forms of verbal abuse. Likewise, 98.6% of those between 35-64 have experienced verbal abuse, whilst 0.0% of those between 65 years of age and above experienced no form of verbal abuse.

Moral/Psychological Violence/abuse: In the same way, table 24 shows that 93.2% of migrants have experience some form of moral/psychological violence, whilst 6.8% did not experience any form of moral/psychological abuse. Out of this total representative samples, 100.0% of those between the age of 15-24 have experienced some forms of moral/psychological violence/abuse, whilst 89.8% of those between the age of 25-34 have experienced some forms of moral/psychological violence/abuse. Similarly, 93.9% of those between 35-64 have experienced some forms of moral/psychological violence/abuse, whilst 65 years above have experienced no forms of moral or psychological violence/abuse.

Table 16: Types of violence by age group

			15-24 Years	25-34 Years	35- 64 Years	65 Years and above	Total
Migrant	Physical Violence	Yes	49,8	60,1	66,9	0	62,7
	Verbal abuse	Yes	100	87,2	98,6	0	95
	Moral/psychological violence	Yes	100	89,8	93,9	0	93,2
Person on the move/in transit	Physical Violence	Yes	0	15,3	30,4	0	23,1
	Verbal abuse	Yes	100	75,2	90,2	0	85,2
	Moral/psychological violence	Yes	100	75,2	90,2	0	85,2
Total	Physical Violence	Yes	46,6	54	62,2	0	57,8
	Verbal abuse	Yes	100	85,6	97,5	0	93,8
	Moral/psychological violence	Yes	100	87,8	93,4	0	92,2

Source: IPAR surveys in Sierra Leone, August 2021

7.13 PLACES WHERE ABUSE TOOK PLACE

Graphic 6 presented below summarized the findings with respect to locations where ECOWAS Migrants and Persons on the Move/In Transit have experienced violence/Abuse

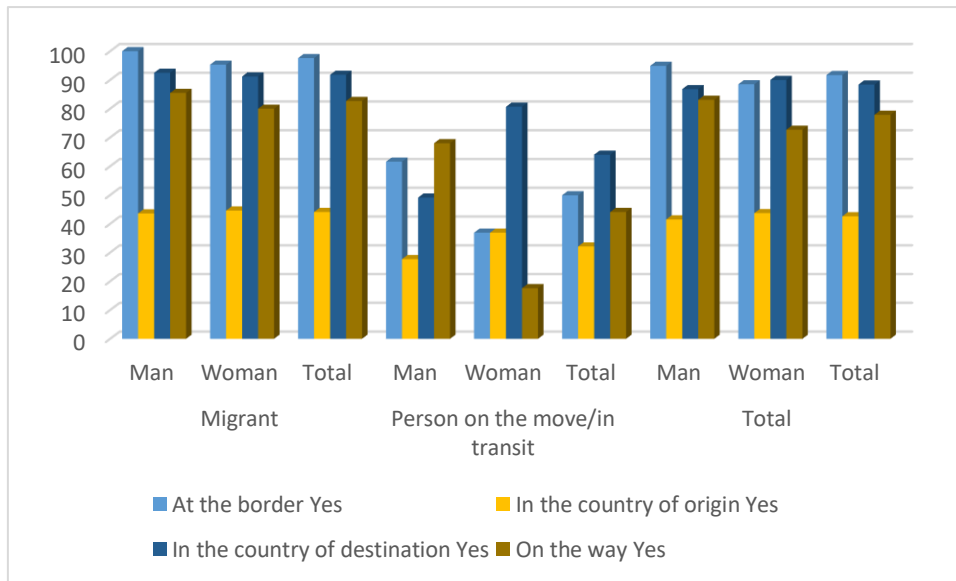
Boarder Area: The result shows that boarder area is the place where abuse/violence more often takes place than other areas, as evident in 97.6% of response acquired so far. Out of this total, 100.0% of male experienced abuse/violence and 95.3% of female migrants experienced violence/abuse in the border areas.

Country of Origin: The result shows that 44.1% of migrants experienced violence/abuse in their respective countries of origin, whilst 55.9% did not experience any forms of violence in their countries of origin. Out of this total, 43.6% of male and 44.6% female experienced violence in the respective countries of origin.

Country of Destination: The result shows that 91.8% of migrants experienced violence/abuse in the country of destination (Sierra Leone). Out of this total, 92.5% of male and 91.2% of female experienced violence in the country of destination.

During their journey: The result shows that 82.7% of migrant experienced violence during their journey, whilst 17.3% did not experienced any form of violence during their journey. Out of this total, 85.5% of male and 80.0% of female experienced violence during their journey

Graphic 6 - PLACES WHERE VIOLENCE WAS EXPERIENCED



Source: IPAR surveys in Sierra Leone, August 2021

8 CHALLENGES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ECOWAS PROTOCOL ON FREE MOVEMENT IN SIERRA LEONE

The finding and qualitative analysis of this section of the report seeks to re-enforce the statistical presentation above and other sections of the report with respect to some of the gaps and challenges in the implementation of ECOWAS Protocol. It also discusses the different forms of violence and moral abuse experience by ECOWAS migrants and persons on the move, particularly during border crossing. The results show that despite the modest progress made with respect to the implementation of phase I and II of the protocol in Sierra Leone, structured and semi-structured interviews as well as literature reviewed have helped to identify several issues affecting the successful implementation of the protocol in Sierra Leone. Some of these are thematically discussed below:

8.1 ACCESS TO PUBLIC SECTOR JOBS

As earlier noted by Teye et al (2015), public sector jobs in Sierra Leone are reserved exclusively for Sierra Leonean nationals and as such work permits cannot be granted to ECOWAS citizens who may wish to access public sector employments, except under special arrangements. This implies that as far as the guiding principles enshrined in ECOWAS Protocol are concern, the government of Sierra Leone is not in compliance with respect to ensuring equal employment opportunities for citizens of ECOWAS member states (Grainger and Konteh, 2007). As Smith, (1985) argued, the ECOWAS Protocol has only become a symbolic document, which can be interpreted as a token gesture, designed to portray the governments as committed to regional integration.

However, the study revealed that the Government of Sierra Leone has recently developed a labour migration policy aimed at mainstreaming Labour Migration into the development agenda of the country by creating an enabling environment into which migrants can be integrated and make a significant contribution to the development of the country. Therefore, the policy goal has been to benefit from migrants towards national development. Some of the political promises are also enshrined in the 2020 migration policy of the Government of Sierra Leone. However, the implementation remains the questionable amidst significant degree of economic challenges and increased competition for the scarce jobs availability within the public sector.

Irrespective of this policy directives, and structural discrimination against some categories of migrants, particularly those that might wish to join the public sector in Sierra Leone, the study result shows that most migrants from ECOWAS members states already possess technical and vocational skills such as mechanics, driving, mason, carpentry, tailoring, Moto bike tax driving, hairdressing, which makes majority less dependent on employment in the public sectors. By and large, migrants already providing such technical vocational services in the informal sector are even more skilled than some of the nationals. There services are solicited for their honesty and commitment to contractual agreement than the nationals. This has made most migrants more economically productive to their families at home, their associations and host communities.

8.2 HARASSMENT AND INTIMIDATION OF MIGRANTS AT OFFICIAL BORDER CROSSING POINTS

Majority of the ECOWAS citizens in this study are those in the informal sector who are more likely to cross borders by road as frequently as possible, than those using flights to Sierra Leone. Cross section of those interviewed have experienced harassment and intimidation at both the Guinean and the Sierra Leonean sides of the borders crossing. Majority of targeted respondents claimed that entering the Guinean side of the border is challenging with the need to pay unspecified amounts of bribe to border management officers despite being in possession in all requisite traveling documents.

Besides Sierra Leoneans and Guineans respondents, there were also Nigerians, Ghanaians, Malians, Senegalese, Guineans, and Liberians living in Sierra Leone who travel to and from Guinea on a regular basis for business purposes made similar compliant. However, majority of those asked to compare the degree of harassment experienced from the Sierra Leonean side to the Guinea side revealed that, they experienced more harassment, financial exploitation, and intimidation from the Guinean side than the Sierra Leonean side.

Many small-scale traders and drivers who frequently uses the road over the past five (5) to ten (10) years or more affirmed that, Sierra Leonean immigration and security officers only started harassing migrants from Guinea few years ago, which according to them is a norm in the Guinean side. As emphasized by one respondent, the Guinean officers have no regards for travel documents. The Sierra Leonean security officers only started soliciting unofficial payment or bribe in retaliation to the degree of harassment and exploitation experience by Sierra Leoneans in the hands of Guinean immigration and security personnel. Other than that, it has never been a sustained practice in Sierra Leone according to targeted respondents among Guineans and Sierra Leonean nationals.

According to one female Guinean, people without genuine travel documents are more likely to be asked to make unofficial payments in the Sierra Leonean side. However, they are often hesitant if one has the necessary travel documents. One respondent stated that if those with all the requisite travel documents are harassed and exploited by the officials, how much more those without travel documents. The respondent affirmed that Sierra Leonean officers often shows some understanding. They are often hesitant that a senior government officers from the country's Anti-Corruption Commission in disguised might have been asked to make an unofficial payment, which is tantamount to serious criminal offence and dismissal. As such, they apply more friendlier or very clever approaches to requesting unofficial payments mostly from Guinean nationals in retaliation, whilst requests are also made from Sierra Leonean nationals without proper documents.

A Guinean driver pointed out that there is now an understanding between the drivers, immigration, and security officers on the road. To prevent undue delays throughout the journeys, they educate passengers on what to expect in terms of the number of checkpoints or informal roadblocks, and the equivalent amount of money to prepare from the beginning of the journey to their destination. According to the respondent, drivers collect travel documents from passengers, and the respective equivalent amount of money needed to be given to the Guinean officers at

every checkpoint or roadblock to speed up the journey. He pointed out that there is no need for assessment or verification of travel documents by these officers in almost all the checkpoints or roadblocks besides the main immigration office at the border. Other than that, all they care about is how many passengers are in vehicles as against the amount of money collected by the drivers.

Furthermore, the border crossing experiences of some other highly skilled Sierra Leonean migrants in Guinea, and those in Sierra Leone equally affirmed their disappointment in the manner in which particularly Guinean immigration and security officers contravene the ECOWAS protocol. There was a story of a Sierra Leonean professional who refused to make an unofficial payment by defining his rights and responsibility as ECOWAS citizen with references to the respective provisions of the ECOWAS Protocol. According to the narrative, he insisted that he can only pay any unspecified amount of money, if only he will be guaranteed an official receipt of payment with stamp and signature as a means of verification that he has indeed paid this amount of money for his journey to Guinea. He was even accused of contravening the Guinean security code of conduct, and for an attempt to fuel tension in the border area. He was refused entry until the plea of other passengers on board the same vehicle.

Besides the official border crossing points at the immigration, there are numerous other roadblocks where unofficial payments are demanded from migrants. A Sierra Leone-Guinea driver called them "*les bénévoles*" in the Guinean side who stop both private and official vehicles and demand payment. These so called *bénévoles* are also dressed in police or custom uniform. They block the road with a rope and sit under trees or bamboo huts with small boys/youth manning the barrier to stop vehicles. This so called *bénévoles* are mostly found few hundred meters to an approaching villages or towns.

Some drivers also pointed out that to prevent delays at the immigration in terms of searching luggage, there are specific amounts they should pay to custom officers. A slight expressed lack of understanding by drivers will result to one's vehicle being thoroughly search with deliberate attempt to delay the process. One driver had an inaugural experience by refusing to show understanding which deliberately took the custom officers on the Guinean side more than three to four hours to thoroughly search the vehicle. In the process, other vehicles whose drivers demonstrated understanding spent between five to ten minutes to get through the process. He was later educated by more senior drivers to behave accordingly if only he wants to continue plying Guinea-Sierra Leone.

Besides, the interviews result also shows that majority of migrants interviewed do not have adequate understanding of the Free Movement Protocol. Besides other factors, the lack of requisite travel documents, in most cases expired documents are some of the main factors responsible for more harassment, intimidation and exploitation in the border crossing points. Though many argue that even those in possession of all sorts of travel documents are equally subjected to financial exploitation, harassment, and intimidation, how much more those without proper travel documents. As a result, as affirmed by one Guinean respondent, people are reluctant to acquire travel documents because it is just does not mean anything to officers on the road. They asserted that border officials are more interested in the money they extort from people than travel

documents. At a particularly point in time, it emerged that some Sierra Leoneans between the ages of 25-35 years who were heading for some European countries through “temple run”¹⁶ were arrested in Guinea and kept in detention without trial on allegations of subversive activities.

8.3 ECOWAS PRESCRIBED TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

The study has particularly sustained the policy claim that Sierra Leone has made significant progress with respect to adoption and harmonization of ECOWAS travel documents. For instance, Sierra Leone has adopted the ECOWAS passport and Emigration Form for ECOWAS migrants. However, several studies including a study conducted by Teye and Asimi (2017) pointed at some residual gaps with respect to the harmonization of procedures of admission and travel documents. The study has helped to affirm earlier claims by other studies that border officials in Sierra Leonean accepts ECOWAS prescribed travel documents as indicated by the respondents who explained that they used simple Identification Card (ID Cards) to come to Sierra Leone by road without any visa. This implies that, the country is in compliance with the 1979 Protocol as far as acceptance of ECOWAS defined travel documents are concern. However, those from other countries such as the Gambia, Ghana, Senegal, and Nigeria who travelled via flights used passports without any visa.

In line with the ECOWAS Protocol, the ECOWAS prescribed travel documents are defined as follow:

[...] a passport or any other valid travel document establishing the identity of the holder with his photograph, issued by or on behalf of the member state of which he is citizen and on which endorsement by immigration and emigration authorities may be made. A valid travel document shall also include a laissez- passer issued by the Community to its officials establishing the identity of the holder (ECOWAS, 1979).¹⁷

Irrespective of the prescribed policy guidelines and principles enshrined in the ECOWAS protocol, significant number of ECOWAS migrant cross borders without travel documents. The study observed that residents of border communities including pupils and students from Guinean who attends schools in Sierra Leone to benefit from English education; the famers whose farmlands are situated between the two countries; the cattle herders who crisscross the rural communities; the sick from rural communities who moved to Sierra Leone to get quality medical attention; hunters who cross the forests in search of animals; the traders in proximity of border areas who crisscross the official and unofficial borders without using any travel documents on a daily basis. The security and immigration officers on both sides recognize them as border residents and allow them to move freely about their day-to-day economic and other social activities mostly without questioning by Sierra Leonean immigration officers.

¹⁶ Temple Run had become code for the perilous journey that young Sierra Leoneans are making to Europe via Libya.

¹⁷ Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). 1979. ECOWAS Free Movement Protocol of 1979. Economic Community of West African States.

8.4 LACK OF KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF ECOWAS PROTOCOL

It emerged that most migrants are ignorant of some of the key provisions of both national and international legal instruments governing the movements of people, goods, and services in the sub-region. A provision as basic as the ninety (90) day stay is usually not enforced by migrants as a basic demand from host countries. Most of the migrants know little or nothing about the required tariffs for goods and services in the context of the free trade zone and premised on the ECOWAS Trade Liberalization Scheme (ETLS).

Respondents among border security and immigration officials pointed at the need for more training to be able to address some of the emerging challenges towards the protection of the rights and welfare of migrants. Though affirmed that significant number of trainings have been given to them over the years, they also call for more training to be able to address some of the new forms of treats to migration that were never evident before outbreak of Ebola, COVID 19, and increasing irregular migration experience today.

Besides, cross section of ECOWAS migrants interviewed affirmed that they have no knowledge of the ECOWAS Protocol. However, some literate few are aware of the protocol but lack in-depth understanding of its contents, principles, and values. Though some respondents blamed the lack of understanding of the protocol as part of the contributing factors to the harassment and abuse of their rights, cross section countered this claim by pointing out that it does not matter whether one has all necessary travel documents, or whether migrants understand the necessary principles an values enshrined in the ECOWAS protocol, Guinean security and immigration Officers will abuse, intimidate, and extort money from migrants. This calls for more rigorous policy mechanism in place to address bribery and corruption issues in the border crossing points. Some respondents even recommended that Guinea, as an ECOWAS member state need thorough institutional and security sector reform to be able to address issues that have to do with ethics and integrity with respect to security sector and migration governance.

Some respondents recommended the need for more public education on free movement and the acquisition of genuine travel documents in both Guinea and Sierra Leone. The study also noted that Sierra Leone has no public education programme on migration. However, few training programmes on ECOWAS were recently organized by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) and the IOM under the Free Movement of Persons and Migration (FMM) programme. The state institutions do not have long-term programmes for educating the public on free movement. This also call for an active role of institutions of Government and CSOs to play more advocacy role with respect to popularisation and sensitisation, as well as protection of particularly migrants in distressed.

8.5 RESOURCE CONSTRAINTS AND BORDER MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES

Security officers in Sierra Leone unanimously affirmed that the country lack sufficient technical and human resources, as well as equipment for the effective management of its porous borders. Consequently, many migrants can enter and leave the country via illegal crossing points. They made references to an established joint-Border Patrol Units within their Immigration Services to

police its borders, this is not effectively done owing to lack of resources and equipment under very difficult terrain.

It was affirmed that policing the Sierra Leone-Guinea borders has proven to be very difficult as there are several hundreds of unapproved border crossing points. For instance, this study has affirmed the findings of an earlier study conducted by the Centre for Economic Research and Capacity Building which observed that 9.6 metric tons or 9600kg of cigarette was smuggled into the country through the informal borders.¹⁸ The study further revealed that on average more women (65%) are engaged in trade through formal borders than men (35%), whilst the reverse was true for informal borders.¹⁹ The main reason for such gender composition in cross border trade is the relatively easier terrain and fewer risks in term of loss of goods at the formal borders when compared to informal borders.



This image is an extract from UNOWAS Quarterly Magazine # 13: Peacebuilding in West Africa and the Sahel put to the test by COVID-19

It was reported that border management is challenging in the absence of resource and equipment such as vehicles, electronic gadgets, and other logistics to surveillance the unapproved borders and to also carry out their daily functions. As a result, the officials are working on risky and stressful condition. This has been a contributing factor for harassment and exploitations of migrants entering and crossing the borders. Some officials also indicated that harassment at the borders may be partly explained by the poor conditions under which border officials do their work.

¹⁸ Centre for Economic Research and Capacity Building (2017) *"The realities of cross-border trade from Sierra Leone to other Mano River countries"* reference number: S-39403-SLE-1; November 2017.

¹⁹ Ibid



This photo was taken by Petek Nicolai, a Swiss Tourist in his narrative of his Journey from Guinea to Sierra Leone

8.6 SECURITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS: IMPLICATION FOR CROSS BORDER MOVEMENT OF ECOWAS MIGRANTS AND PERSON ON THE MOVE/IN TRANSIT.

Experts have maintained that the increasing threats posed by terrorism and other international organized crimes such as drug and human trafficking and smuggling of small arms and light weapons continue to pose challenge to the effective implementation of the ECOWAS Protocol on Free Movement (Teye et al. 2015). It is still fresh in memory of Sierra Leoneans that the eleven-year civil war was aided and abetted by mercenaries from ECOWAS member states including Burkinabes, Ivorians and Liberians to the extent of actively fighting alongside the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebel group. This belief is still very strong in the psyche of border communities, security, and immigration personnel. This observation was also earlier affirmed by Teye et al, (2015).

Though the study also observed that the COVID 19 pandemic may have disrupted the traditional norms of cross border movements of migrants to or from Sierra Leone, this study has noted that the COVID situation between 2019-2020 did not bring migration movement between Guinea and Sierra Leone to a full stop. However, there were official closures of border between Guinea and Sierra Leone during the Third Term election bid by President Alpha Conde in 2021 which was more political. This official closures rather resulted to an increased use of more risky and costly smuggling and traveling routes via some of the most illegal crossing points between Guinea and Sierra Leone. This also resulted to an increased harassments, intimidation, sexual abuse, and

exploitation of women by human traffickers, smugglers and security officials who mostly connived with smugglers and moto bike taxi drivers who facilitates such illegal movements.

The above implies that not only did border closures and other restrictions increased the risks by pushing people into more perilous routes and processes, and unsafe environments, but have also rather negatively impacted social and economic well-being of migrants forcing their way through porous borders. This implies that despite the efforts by government to close borders owing to either political or public health reasons, migrants continued to embark on difficult journeys via routes that are more dangerous to prevent stringent border controls and exploitations by security and immigration officers, in most case by foot and moto bike taxis at the detriment of their safety, well-being and security.

8.7 THE GENDER FACTOR IN MIGRATION

One of the key issues raised during the field exercise was the ECOWAS Trade Liberalization Scheme (ETLS). Predominantly, women are pivotal in the cross-border trade between Guinea and Sierra Leone, and cross section of female respondents noted that the legal instrument is not gender-biased. However, it was not clear whether they were discussing the issues out of proper understanding of the principles enshrined in the ECOWAS Trade Liberalisation Scheme or whether their positions are based on person experience. Irrespective of that a significant number of respondents are equally of the view that women are usually the victims of



Image of Female Migrants in Distress

exploitation and harassment especially when they use irregular crossing points between the two countries. In this regard, some drivers are reported as perpetrators in collaboration with some unions of transporters.

Since most of the trading activities between the two countries is done by women, there is a serious concern about the charges levied on their goods with transporters usually negotiating the tariffs

and resulting in just one receipt from customs for a truck load of goods belonging to different traders. Where the rubber meets the road is when they now go to their different destinations with the actual goods belonging to them without a particular receipt but a photocopy of the bulk receipt. It is reported that the various checkpoints on the routes are exploiting the situation further with the huge potential of paying more money for the goods being transported with far-reaching implications for the final cost on the buyers.

Another serious concern is now added to any recent discussion on migration and regional integration with a focus on the trafficking of women and children, thus fuelling the sex trade in the context of modern-day slavery. It is alleged by some of the respondents that Sierra Leone is used as a route for the sex trade that is anchored on human trafficking. It must also be noted that a phenomenon called “temple run” is on the increase with many young people (male and female) leaving Sierra Leone for other countries with the risk of being exposed to scammers and with some losing their lives in the process.

9 ANALYSIS OF MIGRANTS INTEGRATION AND SETTLEMENT IN SIERRA LEONE

The 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone provides citizenship rights to people living in the country.²⁰ Nonetheless, members of non-African minority groups are denied full citizenship rights by birth, even if their families have lived in the country for generations (like the Lebanese community).²¹ The requirement for full citizenship is that person must be of African descent. However, people of non-African descent can still apply for citizenship by naturalization, which gives them voting rights, but remains ineligible to run for public office.²² The past Governments of Sierra Leone expressed intentions to abolish this racially discriminatory piece of legislation, but no concrete actions have been taken by the Government to address the issue.²³

However, there were many positive stories of smooth integration of migrants from ECOWAS countries resident in rural and urban settings in Sierra Leone, actively involving in skilled, semi-skilled or unskilled labour. Most ECOWAS migrants interviewed during this study, particularly those who have been living in Sierra Leone for ten years or more and are now married to citizens of Sierra Leone have taken Sierra Leonean citizenship by naturalisation by virtue of their qualification under the laws (1973 Act as amended 1976 sections 7, 8, & 9). As such, they are fully integrated. Likewise, there are several laws of Sierra Leone that made ECOWAS citizen from Afro-African descent who have been in Sierra Leone before independence in 1961, and within certain post-independence period are entitled to Sierra Leonean citizenship (A. Hale, and F. M'Cormack-Hale, 2018).

So far, the static presentation below revealed some difficulties and challenges experienced by ECOWAS migrants and person on the move with respect to their settlement and residence in Sierra Leone. The section also discusses and analyse the prospect and challenges with specific focus on trade, economic, and socio-cultural integration of migrants in Sierra Leone.

1.1. Difficulties of Settlement and Residence of Migrants and Person on the Move/In Transit

Table 26 below presents the findings with respect to the difficulties and challenges experienced by ECOWAS migrants to settle in Sierra Leone. In response to the question whether migrants experienced any difficulties in settling/staying in this country, 64,9% affirmed that they have no difficulties settling or staying in Sierra Leone. This percentage are 67,3% for men and 61,6% for women. Whereas 85,5% of men, and 81,4% of women on the move did not experienced difficulties settling/staying in Sierra Leone. Furthermore, this absence of difficulties is related to the knowledge of local language (55,2%); the fact of having a decent/satisfactory job (30,8%); the fact of having parents/foster family in Sierra Leone (48,7%); having a good financial situation (36,2%).

²⁰Chapter III, Subsection (4), 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone; Law of Sierra Leone on the Sierra Leone Web

²¹ Bertelsmann Stiftung, BTI 2020 Country Report — Sierra Leone. Gütersloh: Bertelsmann Stiftung, 2020; <https://www.bti-project.org>

²²Ibid

²³Ibid

Table 17: Difficulties of settlement of migrants and residence for people on the move and reasons for no difficulties during stay

		Migrant			Person on the move/in transit			Total		
		Man	Woman	Total	Man	Woman	Total	Man	Woman	Total
Do you have any difficulties in settling/staying in this country?	Yes	32,7	38,4	35,1	14,5	18,6	16,1	28,1	33,6	30,3
	No	67,3	61,6	64,9	85,5	81,4	83,9	71,9	66,4	69,7
Feel in my country/at home	Yes	89,3	90,4	89,7	79,5	83,4	81	86,3	88,3	87,1
Knowledge of the local language	Yes	63,8	51,9	59,2	44,5	48,3	46	58	50,8	55,2
Having a decent/satisfactory job	Yes	40,5	26	34,9	29,6	8,5	21,4	37,2	20,8	30,8
Having parents/foster family	Yes	48	57,3	51,6	38,2	47,6	41,9	45,1	54,4	48,7
NGO support	Yes	0,9	3,9	2,1	0	0	0	0,7	2,8	1,5
Short stay	Yes	4,6	10,3	6,8	47,9	55,9	50,9	17,6	23,3	19,8
Job offer/many clients	Yes	17,6	6,7	13,3	7,4	2,6	5,5	14,5	5,5	11
Having a good financial situation	Yes	41	28,5	36,1	31,3	45	36,5	38,1	33,2	36,2
As tourist	Yes	0,4	0	0,3	3	2,8	2,9	1,2	0,8	1,1

Source: Our own Source: IPAR surveys in Sierra Leone, August 2021

9.1 TRADE INTEGRATION

The underlying goal of trade integration is to develop the atmosphere for countries to integrate markets as well as improve socio-cultural relationships in line with ECOWAS protocol. In essence, the movement of people to trade across borders has been part of a century old traditional practice of indigenes of this geographical axis of West Africa. Therefore, the integration objective of ECOWAS has only helped to concretize or formalize these age-old traditional practices, which continue to help provide the impetus for migrants to extend their trading activities across borders. This practice continues to create employment opportunity for communities, and as one respondent put it has also helped to improve social cohesion and positive coexistence between migrants and host communities in Sierra Leone.

The result shows that cross-border trade contributes to the Gross Domestic Product of the country, as well as improve the social and cultural relations between the migrants and the hosts, particularly in border communities. The result of this study also shows that cross border trade is more pronounced between Guinea and Sierra Leone from cross border communities with similar ethnic groups from both sides than other communities. This is self-evident by children in the Guinean side of the border commuting to the nearby towns in Sierra Leone daily to benefit from primary, secondary, and even technical education.



Photo of Red Palm Oil loaded at Bamoi Market for Guinea. This photo was an extract from a study titled: "The realities of cross-border trade from Sierra Leone to other Mano River countries" In November 2017 by International Growth Centre (ICG).

Migrants on the move interviewed expressed some degree of dissatisfaction owing to the lack of satisfactory economic returns to their businesses not only in Sierra Leone but across the other ECOWAS countries. They maintained that other countries they visit for business apart from Sierra Leone are Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Senegal, Liberia, and sometimes Ivory coast where they experience similar challenges. On the other hand, those on the move using the Guinea/ Sierra Leone border are also dissatisfied, or more so disgruntled about the way they are treated particularly by immigration and security personals.



Photo of trade volume on a day before the market day observed, only the military presence observed and no customs, thus informal fees received for personnel. This photo was an extract from a study titled: "The realities of cross-border trade from Sierra Leone to other Mano River countries" In November 2017 by International Growth Centre (ICG).

In the Kambia Town, migrants have settled there for various reasons, but with more migrants pointing at cross border trade, which is the commonest one; whilst others stating education, marriage and to stay with relatives and friends. Majority of those interviewed are happy with their condition and are feel welcomed more than their countries of origin; and that they have access to all necessary facilities and service enjoyed by Sierra Leonean including housing, hospital, schools, and other amenities. To an extent, one respondent noted that it is only in Sierra Leone one can walk into a bank and comes out with loads of money without any fear of being attacked by criminals. According to one Malian who has spent over two decades in Sierra Leone expressed a satisfaction that he never feels like returning to his country of origin, and that Sierra Leone has been the most conducive environment for him and his family.

In addition, the study has observed that Kambia district is a very interesting place for migrant simply because of the luxury of border sharing with Guinea. The Gbalamuya/pamalap axis is an interesting location for cross border trade and other economic opportunities. People come from Pamalap to do business in Gbalamuya, Bamoi Luma and return the same day to Conakry. It is very common to see people using different currencies in doing business that is the Guinea franc and the Leones, the Sierra Leonean currency. You see businesspeople buying and selling using these two currencies as they wish.



Bags of Gari ready to export to Guinea. This photo was an extract from a study titled: “The realities of cross-border trade from Sierra Leone to other Mano River countries” In November 2017 by International Growth Centre (ICG).

9.2 SOCIAL AND CULTURAL INTEGRATION

The study result shows that decision to migrate to Sierra Leone presents various opportunities as well as challenges. For instance, voluntary economic migrants that formed majority of the migrant population in Sierra Leone contribute to the cultural diversity of host communities. Such interactions have never resulted to conflict between migrants and host population. The only exception to this observation is the relationship between migrant cattle herders and host community farmers in the northern part of Sierra Leone along Falaba and Faranah border area. This is particularly owing to competition for resource that often resulted in disputes between migrant cattle herders and host community farmers. Furthermore, there are often misunderstanding between particularly migrants' population from the Fullah ethnic groups from Guinea that have been regarded by some prominent respondents during this study as clannish, and refusing inter-ethnic marriage with host population, and especially when they have opposing ideologies and religious differences that are often consistent with lifestyle. In the case where both migrants and hosts are of similar ethnic groups (fullah-to-fullah), there is hardly any form of

resentments or refusal to allow inter-ethnic marriages. However, this has never resulted to any form of tense violence or abuse against migrants in any part of Sierra Leone.

Migrants from neighbouring countries are easily integrate into host communities across the country owing to similar cultures, religious and traditional practices. Likewise, Nigerian, Gambians and Ghanaians are also easily assimilated owing to similar historical relations and lack of official language barriers with Sierra Leone. As result, their contribution to the development of the social, economic, and cultural milieu they found themselves are easily accepted. In most case, they have access to the same resources and service including land for construction of houses and other facilities as the host populations.

However, as majority of the migrant population in Sierra Leone are from Guinea and Liberia with similar ethnic, religious, social, and cultural background, none of the migrants interviewed expressed their experience with respect to encountering cultural shock. The culture of host communities is similar to migrants. As such, they experience no difficulties in adapting to the language, religion, values, and lifestyles of their host communities. However, most migrants often find it difficult to learn the 'creole language'²⁴, which is the lingua franca of the country. Therefore, challenges in assimilation are experienced by both host and migrants. Similarly, the hosts easily comprehend the culture of the migrants. A such, there is no resistance in accommodating migrants, which makes it easy to integrate socially and economically.



This is photo Fullah Tribal Heads In Sierra Leone with His Excellency the Vice President of Sierra Leone, Dr. Mohamed Jdeh Jalloh who is also from Fullah tribe sitting in the middle.

²⁴ Sierra Leonean Creole or Krio is an English-based creole language that is lingua franca and de facto national language spoken throughout Sierra Leone. It is spoken by 87% of Sierra Leone's population and unites the different ethnic groups in the country, especially in their trade and social interaction with each other.

10 CONCLUSION

This study has examined challenges to the implementation trajectory of ECOWAS Protocol on Free Movement of person, good and services within the Sierra Leonean context. The study has made series of observations and conclusions many of which were deduced from literature reviewed, as well as the qualitative and quantitative interviews conducted with quota samples of ECOWAS migrants/people on the move in Sierra Leone, as well as purposive samples of employees of Embassies, government representatives, migrant associations, and drivers' unions. The study was also able to document the profile and trajectory of migrants from ECOWAS member countries, with attention to deepening understanding of their access to social and economic services and opportunistic such as access to housing, health, and education opportunities in Sierra Leone.

The report presents an in-depth analysis of the situation of migrants in terms of their rights within the framework of ECOWAS Protocol with consideration to transit and living conditions. It has provided in in-depth assessment of categories and characteristic of ECOWAS migrants in Sierra Leone, and proffer action-oriented recommendations to engage in a policy-oriented dialogue and propose avenues for critical reflection on the respect of the rights of migrants within the Sierra Leonean context.

The study results have generally revealed that Sierra Leone has made modest progress in the implementation of the ECOWAS Free Movement Protocol, especially in relation to Phase 1 (Right of Entry). This is self-evident in the abolition of visa as an entry requirement for up to 90 days. However, there are still serious challenges to the implementation of the protocol, especially with regards to Phase 2 and Phase 3 components. Despite a few achievements, the study revealed many nagging challenges affecting the effective implementation of the protocol in the country including lack of resources. Some of these challenges include harassment of migrants; migrants' lack of travel documents; low level of knowledge about the ECOWAS protocol; resource constraints; as well as fears of migrants competing with nationals for the same jobs in the formal sector.

11 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is hopeful that the recommendations presented below will serve to underline the importance of devoting much more attention and resources to the issue of policy compliance and effective implementation ECOWAS Protocol on migration in Sierra Leone.

11.1 ALL ACTORS

- **ECOWAS Secretariate and Government of Sierra Leone are Influenced:** Migration with focus on regional Integration in the sub-region requires the attention of all actors. Apart from the International Office on Migration (IOM), Civil Society organizations are hardly found in the field of migration, and as such not much is done in advancing the course of migrants in Sierra Leone. In this regard, the study is recommending that both state and non-state actors embark on advocacy initiative to Influence ECOWAS Secretariate and Government of Sierra Leone towards the effective implementation of ECOWAS Protocol.
- **Increased advocacy effort to influence the review of sub-regional legal and regulatory framework:** There is a need to add voices to existing advocacy effort and campaign towards the review of sub-regional legal and regulatory frameworks relating to migration using gender-lenses, as the study result backed by evidence of other existing studies shows that women are more vulnerable to physical violence, harassment, intimidation, and discrimination than men.
- **Migrant Associations Mapped:** There is a need to map Migrant Associations in Sierra Leone, assess their level of influence among migrant communities and involve them in multi-stakeholders' consultative dialogue on migrants' issues.

11.2 INSTITUTIONS OF MIGRATION GOVERNANCE SECTOR IN SIERRA LEONE

- **Cross border Monitoring system Enhanced:** The responsible institutions of government should collaborate with stakeholders at border communities and local Civil Society Organisations to institute robust monitoring system to minimize the harassment and exploitation of migrants at the official and unofficial border crossing.
- **Multi-stakeholders' Consultative dialogue meetings conducted:** Institutions of Government should continue engaging in multi-stakeholders' consultative dialogue meetings with counterparts in Guinea and Liberia to discuss common challenges as part of joint effort to enhance cooperation towards the protection of migrants. Such multi-stakeholders' dialogue meeting should involve Ministries, Departments and Agencies directly and indirectly mandated to implement the ECOWAS protocol, other national policies and regulations in the respective countries. It is anticipated that this will provide an opportunity to develop joint-operational guidelines which should set out practical steps and modalities for the implementation of the ECOWAS protocol. These consultations will be intended to contribute to improving management and allow for strategic and operational decisions relating to the movement of people, goods, and services. These processes should be also intended to support wide range of initiatives to be implemented by the key security actors and immigration officers

with a view to addressing issues of harassment, intimidation, and financial exploitation of migrants particularly during border crossing.

- **A fully equipped Information/Border Community Resource Established:** Institutions of Government should establish fully equipped Information/Border Community Resource Centers with the requisite communication and internet facilities along the common borders, and enhance the operational functions of the existing ones to aid access to information, referencing and communication. Part of this is to enhance migrants' knowledge and understanding of ECOWAS protocol with respect to their rights and responsibility as citizens of ECOWAS space.
- **Employment, settlement, and integration opportunities Provided:** Institutions of Government should provide employment opportunities to migrants in the formal sector in line with ECOWAS protocol and aid their settlement and integration into their host communities. Institutions should also ensure that ECOWAS migrants have the same access as citizens to health care, psychosocial support, social services, education, basic public services, and housing.
- **Capacities of Border Management System Upgraded:** Institutions of Government should put mechanism in place to upgrade the capacities of border management system. This will include optimizing new border management technologies, including biometrics (improving the security of travel documents, computerization, in conformity with international standard, upgrading inspection, data collection and communication systems); and providing technical training for those involved in border management systems and processes. This should include providing regular refresher training on how to deal with vulnerable groups such as children, the aged, women with children and trafficked persons.
- **Cooperation and Coordination Strengthened:** Institutions of migration governance sector of Sierra Leone should strengthen cooperation and coordination at the national level. This should include active engagement of law enforcement officials, immigration, and customs services to ensure a more efficient and effective approaches are adopted towards managing migration flow across borders.
- **Access to justice and Legal Redress Provided:** Institutions of Government should provide ECOWAS migrants with access to justice and legal redress and identify and assist vulnerable migrants using child-oriented, gender- sensitive and culturally appropriate approaches.
- **Partnership with other Sectors and CSOs Strengthened:** Institutions of Government of Sierra Leone should strengthen partnership with other sectors and CSOs to adopt an effective strategies and plan with active involvement of local authorities, and local district councils; non-governmental actors, such as employers, trade unions, migrant associations, civil society, local community groups, religious organisations, and academia on how to promote and protect the welfare of ECOWAS migrants in Sierra Leone.

11.3 CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS (CSOs)

- **IPAR partnership with Local Civil Society Organisations created and strengthened:** The study is recommending that, IPAR create partnership with Local Civil Society Organisations in Sierra Leone to embark on public sensitization and advocacy to influence effective government policy implementation; and to also educate both migrants and citizens of Sierra Leone on ECOWAS Protocol on migration.
- **IPAR and Local Civil Society Joint-Studies conducted:** IPAR to conduct joint independent study with local CSO in Sierra Leone to deepen understanding of the economic gains of ECOWAS Protocol in the Sierra Leonean context. Part of this effort will include conducting labour market analysis to identify imbalances and opportunities for skills matching and use the findings to influence Government's labour laws and policies in favour of ECOWAS migrants.
- **increased CSOs advocacy effort positively influenced policy directives of institutions of government:** CSOs should engage institutions of government mandated to implement ECOWAS Protocol on migration, and other migration-related policies to influence change. This effort will also include engaging Government of Sierra Leone to examine some of the challenges experience by migrants and put favourable measures in place to address the challenges.

12 BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Adebayo, A. (ed) (1999). *Mastering and Comprehending African Conflicts*. London: Zed Press.
- Adepoju, A. 2005. Patterns of migration in West Africa. In Manuh, T. (Ed). *At home in the world? International migration and development in contemporary Ghana and West Africa*. Accra: Sub-Saharan Publishers.
- Agyei, J. and Clotey, E. 2007. Operationalising ECOWAS Protocol on free movement of people among the member states: Issues of convergence, divergence and prospects for sub-Saharan integration. From <<https://bit.ly/2MKPAEi>> (Retrieved 14 November 2017).
- A. Hale, and F. M'Cormack-Hale, 2018, 'Statelessness, Nationality, and Citizenship in Sierra Leone', *Journal of Global South Studies*, Volume 35, Number 2, Fall 2018, pp. 311-345
- Awumbila, M., Benneh, Y., Teye, J.K. and Atiim, G. 2014. *Across artificial borders: An assessment of labour migration in the ECOWAS region*. Brussels: ACP Observatory on Migration.
- Bertelsmann Stiftung, BTI 2020 Country Report — Sierra Leone. Gütersloh: Bertelsmann Stiftung, 2020; <https://www.bti-project.org>
- Centre for Economic Research and Capacity Building (2017) "*The realities of cross-border trade from Sierra Leone to other Mano River countries*" reference number: S-39403-SLE-1; November 2017.
- Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). 1979. ECOWAS Free Movement Protocol of 1979. Economic Community of West African States.
- Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). 2008. ECOWAS Common Approach on Migration of 2008. Economic Community of West African States.
- European Commission (2007). Sierra Leone- European Community Country Strategy Paper and National Indicative Programme for the period 2008 – 2013. Retrieved August 2017 from https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/country-strategy-paper-and-national-indicative-programme-period-2008-2013-sierra-leone_en
- European Commission (2007). Sierra Leone- European Community Country Strategy Paper and National Indicative Programme for the period 2008 – 2013. Retrieved August 2017 from https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/country-strategy-paper-and-national-indicative-programme-period-2008-2013-sierra-leone_en
- European Commission Knowledge Centre on Migration and Demography (2019) 'Migration profile: Sierra Leone'. End 2017 (https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/bitstream/JRC117946/mp_sierra-leone_2019_online.pdf).
- GoSL (2020) National Review Report of the Implementation of the Global Compact for Migration in Sierra Leone; 3rd December 2020.

GoSL (2020) National Review Report of the Implementation of the Global Compact for Migration in Sierra Leone; 3rd December 2020.

IOM. 2019. 'Race for Life: Healing Trafficking Survivors in Sierra Leone through Awareness Raising'. Available at <https://medium.com/@UNmigration/race-for-life-healing-trafficking-survivors-in-sierra-leone-through-awareness-raising-13a3818338d7>. Accessed 3 May 2020.

International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) & International Organization for Migration (IOM) (2015). A Survey on Migration Policies in West Africa. Retrieved August 2017 from https://www.icmpd.org/fileadmin/ICMPD-Website/ICMPD_General/Publications/2015/A_Survey_on_Migration_Policies_in_West_Africa_EN_SOFT.pdf

International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) and International Organization for Migration (IOM). 2015. *A survey on migration policies in West Africa*. From <<https://bit.ly/2ZBXEeu>> (Retrieved 14 November 2017).

IMF (2019) Sierra Leone's Medium-term National Development Plan 2019–2023: IMF Country Report No. 19/218; International Monetary Funds, Washington DC; Web: <http://www.imf.org>

ICMPD – International Centre for Migration Policy Development (2015) 'A survey on migration policies in West Africa'. Prepared by ICMPD and the International Organization for Migration. Vienna and Dakar (www.icmpd.org/fileadmin/ICMPD-Website/ICMPD-Website_2011/Capacity_building/Migration_and_Development/A_Survey_on_Migration_Policies_in_West_Africa_EN_SOFT_2nd_edition_.pdf)

International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) & International Organization for Migration (IOM) (2015). A Survey on Migration Policies in West Africa. Retrieved August 2017 from https://www.icmpd.org/fileadmin/ICMPD-Website/ICMPD_General/Publications/2015/A_Survey_on_Migration_Policies_in_West_Africa_EN_SOFT.pdf

International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) (2012). Migration of small-scale fishermen in Sierra Leone: current status; ISBN : 978-2-8317-1492-9: www.iucn.org/knowledge/publications_doc/publications/

Maconachie, R., Binns, T., Tengbe, P., & Johnson, R. (2007). Temporary labour migration and sustainable post-conflict return in Sierra Leone. *GeoJournal*, 67(3), 223-240.

Mathias, C. and de Haas, H. 2013. The effectiveness of immigration policies. *Population and Development Review*, 39(3): 487-508.

Ministry of Health and Sanitation (2017) NATIONAL HEALTH SECTOR STRATEGIC PLAN 2017 – 2021; September 2017

Pressman, J.L. and Wildavsky, A. 1984. *Implementation* (3rd ed). Berkeley: University of California Press.

Richards, P. (1995) *Rebellion in Sierra Leone and Liberia; in Conflict in Africa*. Olivier Furley (ed), St. Martin: New York.

Sesay, M. (2016). New labor policy to address illegal migration in Sierra Leone. Politico SL. Retrieved 1 September 2017, from <http://politicosl.com/articles/new-labor-policy-address-illegal-migration-sierra-leone-0>

Sillah, K (2010) *The Socio-Cultural and Security Implications of Instability in Guinea on the Sub-region (Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Sierra Leone, and Senegal)* Goree Institute

Shettima, Abba Gana and Tar, Usman A. (2008) *Farmer-Pastoralist Conflict in West Africa: Exploring the Causes and Consequences; Information, Society and Justice, Volume 1.2, June 2008: pp 163-184 ISSN 1756-1078 (Online); DOI: 10.3734/isj.2008.1205*

Smith, T.B. 1985. Evaluating development policies and programs in the third world. *Public Administration and Development* 5: 129-44.

Statistics Sierra Leone, 2015 Population and Housing Census Summary of Final Results, 2016, https://www.statistics.sl/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/final-results-2015_population_and_housing_census.pdf

Stiftung, BTI 2020 Country Report — Sierra Leone. Gütersloh: Bertelsmann Stiftung, 2020; <https://www.bti-project.org>

Sohn, R., Vogl, M. and Yeboah, D. (Eds). *Migration and civil society as development drivers – A regional perspective*. Bonn: Zei Centre for European Integration Studies.

Teye, J.K. and Asima, P. 2017. Assessment of the potential benefits and challenges of waiving/reducing work permit fees for skilled professionals within the countries participating in the Intra-African talent mobility partnership programme in West Africa. Accra: ACET.

Teye, J.K., Awumbila, M. and Benneh, Y. 2015. Intra-regional migration in the ECOWAS region: Trends and emerging challenges. In Akoutou, A.B., Sohn, R., Vogl, M. and Yeboah, D. (Eds). *Migration and civil society as development drivers – A regional perspective*. Bonn: Zei Centre for European Integration Studies.

Teye, J.K., Awumbila, M. and Benneh, Y. 2015. Intra-regional migration in the ECOWAS region: Trends and emerging challenges. In Akoutou, A.B., Sohn, R., Vogl, M. and Yeboah, D. (Eds). *Migration and civil society as development drivers – A regional perspective*. Bonn: Zei Centre for European Integration Studies.

US Department of State (2017). 2017 Trafficking in Persons Report. Washington, DC: US Department of State. Retrieved June 2017 from <https://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2017/>

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (UN DESA) (2015b). *World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision*. Retrieved June 2017 from <http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Download/Standard/Population/>

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) (2013). *Migration profiles – Sierra Leone*. Retrieved August 2017 from <https://esa.un.org/migmgmprofiles/indicators/files/SierraLeone.pdf>

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (UN DESA) (2015b). World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision. Retrieved June 2017 from <http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Download/Standard/Population/>

13 ANNEX

Table 1. Distribution of respondents by age groups and gender

	Gender of Migrants		
	Men	Women	Total
15-24 years	11,7	15,9	13,4
25-34 years	28,7	42,4	34,3
35- 64 years	56,6	39,7	49,7
65 more than	2,9	2,0	2,5
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0

Source: IPAR surveys in Sierra Leone, August 2021

Table 2: Marital Status of Migrants and People on the Move/In transit according to age

		Singl e	Monogamo us Marriage	polygamo us Marriage	Divorce/ Separate d	Wido w(er)	Free Unio n	Tota l
Migran t	15-24	28,5	1,4	2,4	0	0	0	10,9
	25-34	48,2	33,8	11,4	9,2	33	0	35,1
	35- 64	21,8	63	77,8	81,5	67	0	51,3
	65 years and more	1,5	1,8	8,3	9,3	0	0	2,7
	Total	100	100	100	100	100	0	100
Person on the move/i n transit	15-24	41,3	6,4	18,6	0	0	0	21
	25-34	42,3	28,3	15	0	0	0	32
	35-64	16,4	63,2	55	100	100	0	45
	65year s & more	0	2	11,4	0	0	0	2
	Total	100	100	100	100	100	0	100
Total	15-24	32	2,8	5,7	0	0	0	13,4

		Single	Monogamous Marriage	polygamous Marriage	Divorce/ Separated	Widow(er)	Free Union	Total
	25-34	46,6	32,3	12,2	8,3	31,5	0	34,3
	35-64	20,4	63,1	73,1	83,3	68,5	0	49,7
	65 years & more	1,1	1,9	9	8,4	0	0	2,5
	Total	100	100	100	100	100	0	100

Table 19: Having heard of ECOWAS according to age Groups

	Did you come to this country as a migrant or a person on the move					
	Migrant		Person on the Move/in transit		Total	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	N % line	N % line	N % line	N % line	N % line	N % line
15-24 Years	32,3	67,7	25,3	74,7	29,6	70,4
25-34 Years	56,8	43,2	53,0	47,0	55,9	44,1
35- 64 Years	50,6	49,4	69,3	30,7	54,8	45,2
65 Years and above	22,8	77,2	50,0	50,0	28,2	71,8
Total	50,1	49,9	54,4	45,6	51,2	48,8

14 Locations in Freetown

As mentioned earlier, each investigator was given a precise target and scope in undertaking the survey. I was assigned to Stations/Ports which includes the following areas;

- King Jimmy
- kro Jimmy
- Mabayla

- Potty Wharf
- Sea Coach/Sea Bird

Locations in Kambia District

- Gbalamuya Check point
- Kambia Lorry Park
- Bamoi Lumma
- Kambia Communities