
Enhancing Security and Development in Africa: Practical Lessons from IOM Border and Travel/Identity Document Improvement Initiatives

ID4Africa 3rd Annual Meeting: Windhoek, 26 – 28 April 2017

Pathways to Digital Identity

Day 2: Cross-Border and Regional Identity Management

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Presentation Outline

- **IOM: Who we are, why and how we engage in this sector**
- **IOM Border and Travel/Identity Document Initiatives on the Continent**
- **IOM and Biometrics**
- **Major Achievements**
- **Lessons Learned**
- **Stumbling Blocks/Challenges**
- **Gaps/Opportunities, and Links with SDGs, Major Migration Policy & Technical Initiatives, and key donor priorities**

IOM: Who We Are

- Since 1951, the leading intergovernmental organization in the field of migration
- 166 Member States, approximately 9'000 staff members
- The United Nations' agency for migration
- Budget: approx. 1.6 billion USD (2016), mainly program/project funded
- Promotion of humane, orderly and safe migration, for the benefit of all

IOM: Why We Engage in this Sector

- Assisting in meeting the growing operational challenges of migration management
- Advancing understanding of migration issues
- Encouraging social and economic development through migration
- Upholding the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

Border Management and Identity Management

- The management of borders (air, land, sea), travel facilitation & security are of great importance for all international travelers, among them migrants and refugees. The way States and others conduct border and identity management has a direct impact on migration and refugee movement management. Safe and regular migration depends upon well-managed borders, secure and standard travel and identity documents, and strong intra- and inter-governmental cooperation in this sector.

IOM: How We Engage in this Sector

* IOM-Run and Led Processes

- Registration of internally displaced persons
- Registration for camp coordination and management purposes
- Registration for food/non-food items distribution purposes
- Registration of assisted voluntary return and reintegration beneficiaries
- Registration of vulnerable migrants receiving IOM support (stranded migrants, victims of trafficking, others: Libya, Niger, other locations)

* IOM Operational Support to Government-led Programs

- Registration of applicants regarding immigration health assessments
- Registration of resettlement program beneficiaries
- Registration of applicants for (humanitarian) visa support services

*** *Many of these activities include biometric applications***

IOM: How We Engage in this Sector

Example

Biometric Registration of Internally Displaced Persons

*IOM conducts biometric registration exercises
at UN House, South Sudan, 2016*



IOM: How We Engage in this Sector

* IOM Support to Government-run and Led Initiatives: Border and Travel Document Improvement, and Identity Management

- Capacity building and technical assistance to for border management including border management information systems (BMIS) (IOM's MIDAS)
- Capacity building and technical assistance for Humanitarian Border Management (HBM);
- Capacity building and technical assistance in the field of travel document verification;
- Capacity building and technical assistance as to the design and issuance of passports, identity documents, “border cards”
- Technical assessments of border improvement, travel document, and identity improvement initiatives
 - ex., ECOWAS intra-regional travel document
 - ex., registration of Burundian refugees and issuance of temporary residence permits in Tanzania, during case adjudication and resolution

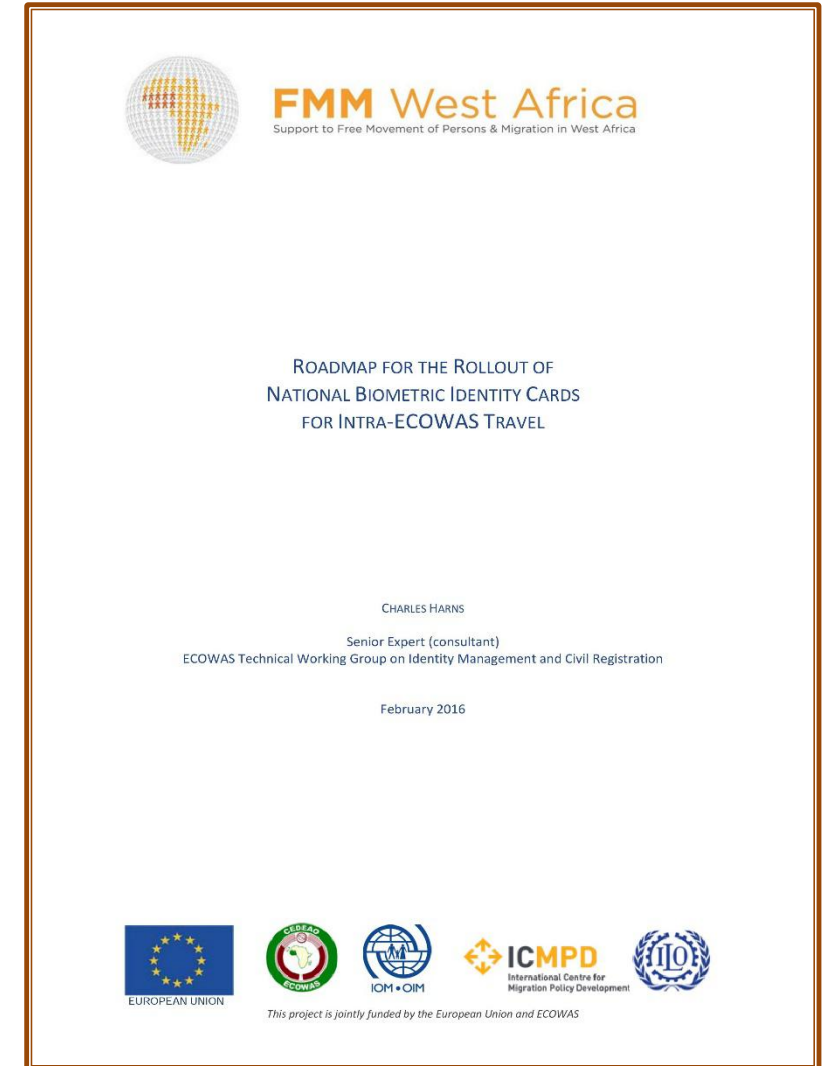
Many of these activities include biometric applications

IOM: How We Engage in this Sector

Example:

IOM Technical Reports on Travel Document Design and Implementation

Roadmap for the Rollout of National Biometric Identity Cards for Intra-ECOWAS Travel



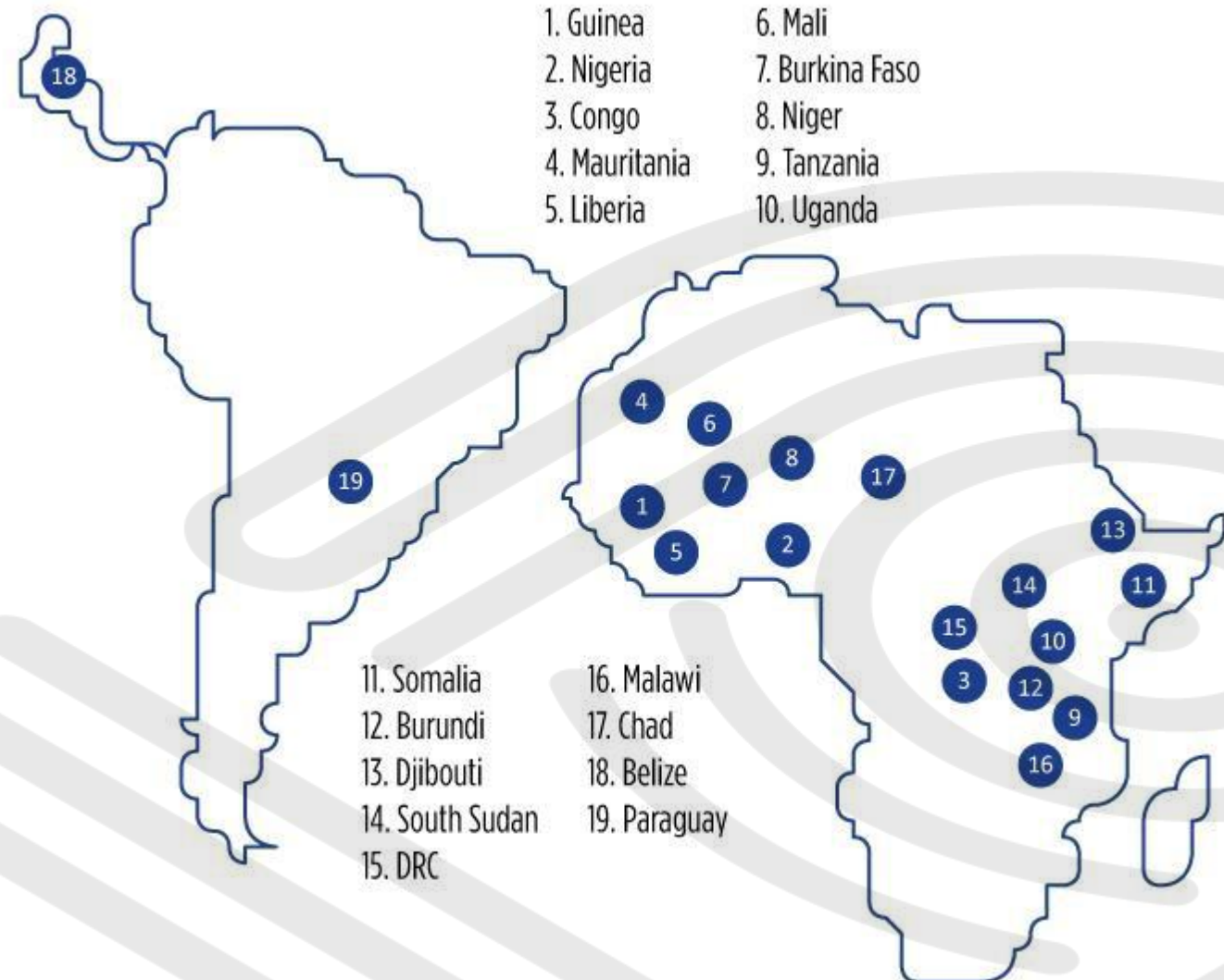
IOM Border, Travel Document and Related Initiatives on the Continent

Deployment of IOM's Border Management Information System: MIDAS Migration Information and Data Analysis System

- Improves border facilitation and control for exit and entry
- Collects, processes and stores traveler information, including biometrics
- Affordable system – no ongoing costs
- Suitable for remote areas
- Customizable
- Governments have full and exclusive ownership of MIDAS' recorded traveler data. No data stored by IOM
- Operational in 19 countries (Africa, South and Central America), 125 border crossing points (land, air or sea)

IOM Border, Travel Document and Related Initiatives on the Continent

Deployment of IOM
MIDAS Border
Information System in
Africa and Latin America



IOM MIDAS Installation Site

Mfum Border Post (Nigeria border with Cameroon)

*At end of one-lane vehicle and pedestrian bridge
over deep river ravine, Cross-Rivers State.*

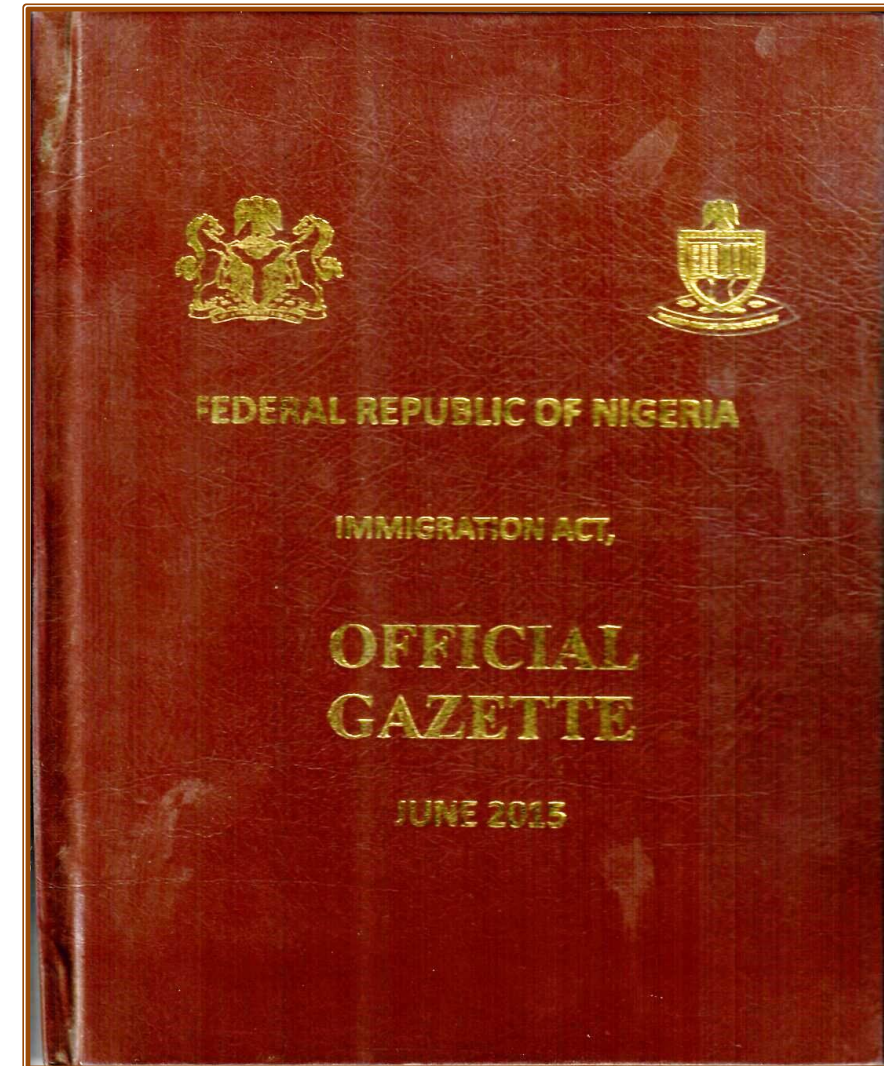
*This site is now equipped with MIDAS system for entry/exit
inspection, local server, low-tech communications (APN),
and a sophisticated solar power system.*

*A fraudulent ePassport was detected within two weeks
of bringing the Mfum system online.*



IOM Border, Travel Document and Related Initiatives on the Continent

- Support to Biometric Data Integration in Migration Sector (planned: Nigeria)
- Support to Biometric Registration of Foreign Nationals (planned: Nigeria)
- Support to Development of Relevant National Laws and Regulations (ongoing)
- Support to the Regional Economic Communities' and African Union Free Movement Protocols (ongoing)



IOM and Biometrics: Overview

- Biometrics are widely used in different registration systems supported by IOM, both internal and external
- Fingerprint serves as the most-used biometric identifier
- In the majority of applications, 10 fingerprints are enrolled
- In 70% of the IOM applications, biometrics is used for identity verification (1:1)
- Data protection & privacy are crucially important aspects of the use of biometrics

IOM and Biometrics: Data Security and Privacy

- Biometrics = sensitive personal data
- Important considerations: Who processes the biometric data?
- For all IOM-run and lead processes, IOM's comprehensive *Data Protection Principals* apply; collection only with the consent of the person (well informed about the purpose of data collection)
- IOM operational support to governmental lead processes: National privacy laws apply, plus “do no harm” and “due diligence”

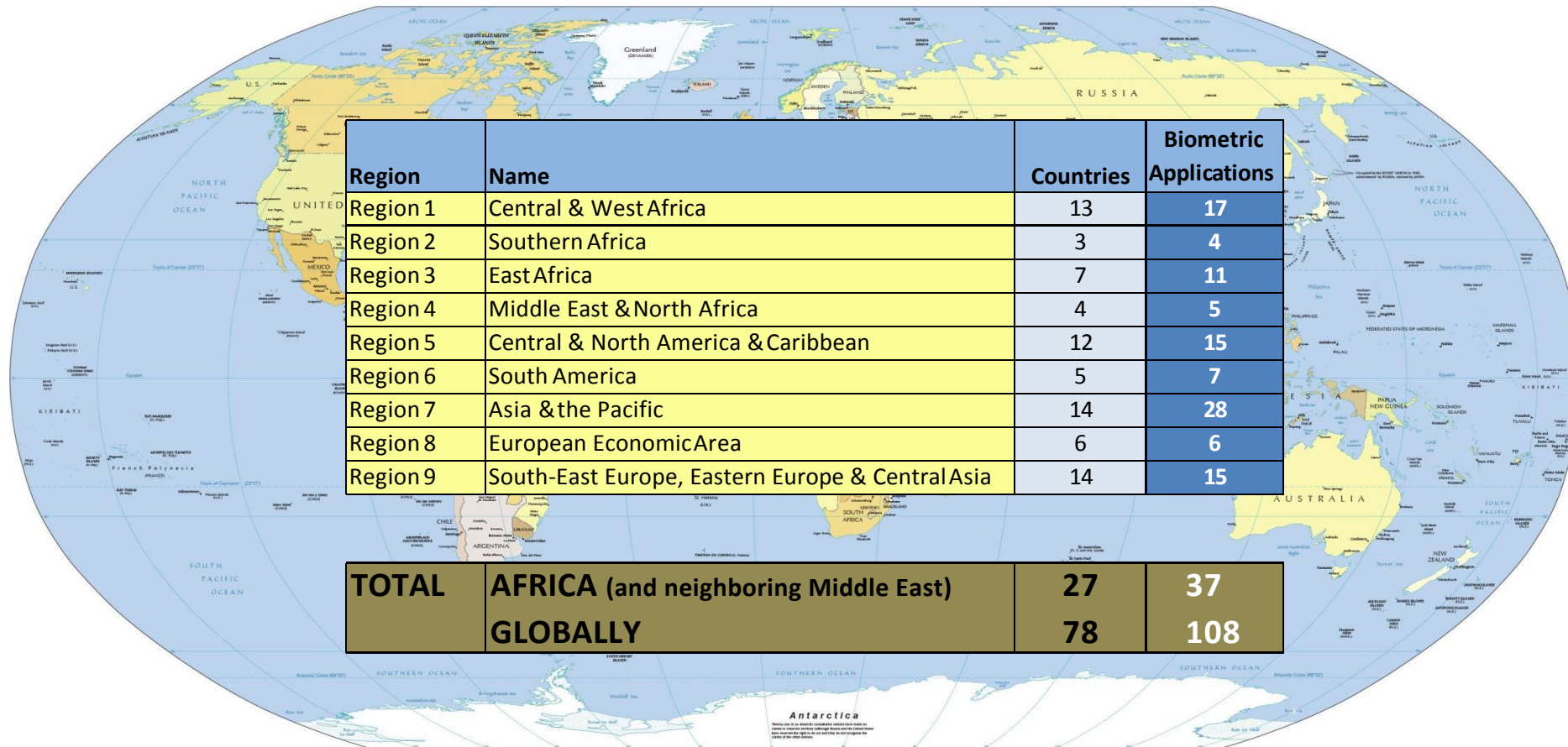
IOM and Biometrics: Areas of Application and Activity

- Systems Development
- Installation Equipment
- Technical Support
- Training IT, Users, Policy Officers and Data Protection Officials
- Enrolment Guidance
- Project implementation
- Capturing of Biometric Features and Facilitation of Data Transfer
- Other

IOM and Biometrics: IOM's Approach and Positioning

- Identity management using biometrics has become essential to organize orderly and safe migration while reducing irregular migration and exploitation
- Systems are required that allow for effective personal data/privacy protection and the protection of migrants' rights
- IOM has become over the last years a global player in the field of identity management & biometrics
- IOM embraces partnerships with governments, UN sister agencies and other IOs, the private sector, civil society
- Biometric applications are not and should not be limited to security sector enforcement applications – though those can be legitimate uses; rather, some applications of biometrics in the migration sector can help ensure the rights of migrants, better protect vulnerable migrants, and empower migrants to better access services and to facilitate their regular international movement

IOM and Biometrics: Activities in Africa and Worldwide



Major Achievements

- Deployment of MIDAS border system in 17 African countries:
“Normalization” of border operations in challenging environments
- Significant strengthening of human resource capabilities in Africa as pertains to migration law, policy and operations
- Detailed technical and policy roadmaps to guide key next steps in key area, including in regional travel document design and rollout
- IDP and other humanitarian registration, inclusive of biometrics in many locations across the Continent
- Development/deployment of new and appropriate technology applications to support this sector, including new registration software systems, solar power systems for distant border posts, and other innovations
- Establishment of IOM as a key agency in the use of biometrics in complex emergencies across the Continent
- Provision by IOM of comprehensive data used for surveys and for aid programming by other major international actors

Major Achievements

Development/deployment of new and appropriate technology applications

Installation of Solar Power System at Nigeria's Jibya border (Nigeria-Niger), providing power for the MIDAS border management information system

Approximately 16,750 electronic (MIDAS) data records created from border passage inspection in first 18 weeks of operation

(Funded by the European Union)



Major Achievements

Development/deployment of new and appropriate technology applications

Installation of Solar Power System at Nigeria's Illela border (Nigeria-Niger), providing power for the MIDAS border management information system

Carbon offset of a single SPS for MIDAS:

- 13 Kgs of CO₂ emissions annually,
- or taking two cars off the road for one year,
- or saving nearly 5700 liters of petrol,
- or adding nearly 600 trees for cleansing of the air.

(Funded by Switzerland and the European Union)



Major Achievements: Donor Participation

IOM's achievements in these sectors are also important achievements for key donors whose vision and commitment supports this area of IOM activity – both within development aid frameworks and within humanitarian and emergency/post-emergency assistance frameworks.

- European Union
 - Development funding
 - ECHO: Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Programme
- Government of Japan
- Government of Sweden: Sweden International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)
- Government of Switzerland
- Government of the United States: US Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA)

Lessons Learned

- Partnership and shared vision/commitment, under national leadership
- Appropriate technical solutions (not necessarily the latest technology)
- Strong investment in training
- Provision of extended technical support
- Policy coordination and complementarity with technical initiatives
- Managed and transparent inclusion of private sector, where needed
- Public awareness and outreach components are essential
- Early use of biometric data to transition between emergency and early recovery activities in humanitarian situations facilitates voluntary returns
- **Keeping the rights and dignity of migrants at the forefront of the vision and planning**

Stumbling Blocks / Obstacles

- Inconsistent stop/go funding, continuity is challenging
- Government recurrent costs (must be minimal)
- User costs for travel documents must be minimal
- Conflicting technical advice from private sector vendors and others
- Misunderstanding of international technical standards and requirements
- Unrealistic timelines, at times tied to political aspirations and not adequately weighing technical and training constraints
- Harmonization of IOM biometric technological compatibility with similar systems in the humanitarian community remains a challenge and one we are working closely to rectify

Gaps / Opportunities and Links with SDGs and Major Migration Policy & Technical Initiatives

Gaps

- Many borders remain unequipped - particularly land and sea border posts
- Regional travel documents yet to be fully deployed by some States
- Significant training gaps remain
- National budgets strain to support high-cost private sector systems and products, and many agreements and initiatives falter as a result

Gaps / Opportunities and Links with SDGs and Major Migration Policy & Technical Initiatives

Opportunities and Links with Major Migration Policy and Technical Initiatives, and donor priorities

Historic Opportunity

- Historically strong intersection of political direction and will to strengthen well managed and orderly migration, provide secure identities, and ensure migrants' rights and protections in the process:
 - Global Compact on Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration
 - Global Compact on Refugees
 - African Union Protocol on Free Movement of Persons in Africa
 - Regional Economic Communities' Protocols on Facilitation of Movement of Persons/Free Movement
 - Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
 - Africa Agenda 2063
 - European Union Emergency Trust Fund ("for stability and addressing the root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa")
 - ICAO TRIP Strategy
 - World Bank ID4D initiative

Gaps / Opportunities and Links with SDGs and Major Migration Policy & Technical Initiatives

Links with the Sustainable Development Goals

SDG 8: *Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all.* Implies, and is supported by, better border management.

SDG 9: *Build resilient infrastructure (including transborder infrastructure), ... with a special focus on African countries, least development countries....*

SDG 16: *Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies* Under-trained, underpaid and unguided staff - an example of insufficient institutional resource at the border - are less motivated to implement border management standards effectively and may be more prone to corruption and bribery. Also relevant for strengthening the identity chain for travel document issuance is SDG 16, Target 16.9: *By 2030, provide legal identity for all.*



INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATION
FOR MIGRATION

MIGRATION FOR
THE BENEFIT
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THANK YOU

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