Situational Analysis of African Migration

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The Global ‘Migration crisis’

- African migration portrayed as an uncontrollable crisis
- Leads to skewed narratives focusing on African’s heading north
- The African migration policy agenda is driven largely by Europeans
- The result is little is attention given to intra-African movements
- The global discourse pathologises and criminalises mobility
The ‘hidden’ story of Africa’s migration

- Majority of Africans move within the continent (79%)
- At least 90% of Africans to OECD countries enter legally
- Africa is also host to migrant populations from Asia (5%), Europe (4%), North America (0.3%), Latin America and the Caribbean

Percentage of Migrants to Africa 2017

- Africa: 78.5%
- Asia: 3.9%
- Europe: 12.1%
- Latin America and Caribbean: 0.1%
- Northern Africa: 0.1%
- Oceania: 5.0%
- Unknown: 0.3%
Mixed migration flows, with 90% being normal migration

Largely young and economically active – ages 20-64 66%, 0-19 29% and 65+ 5%

Slightly more men than women (46% women)

African Migration is not unique, and has a similar character to migrations elsewhere

De Haas, 2017
Africa Visa Openness Index in numbers

75% of countries in the top 20 most visa-open countries are in West Africa or East Africa.*

In the top 20 most visa-open countries, only one is in North Africa and none are in Central Africa.*

- 5% North Africa
  - Mauritania

- 30% West Africa
  - Burkina Faso
  - Cape Verde
  - Gambia
  - Guinea-Bissau
  - Mali
  - Togo

- 20% Southern Africa
  - Madagascar
  - Mauritius
  - Mozambique
  - Zambia

- 45% East Africa
  - Burundi
  - Comoros
  - Djibouti
  - Kenya
  - Rwanda
  - Seychelles
  - Somalia
  - Tanzania
  - Uganda

- 25% Africans can get visas on arrival in 25% of other African countries.

- 55% Africans need visas to travel to 55% of other African countries.

- 60% Over 60% of African countries with low visa openness scores do not offer any visas on arrival.

*Groupings above are by geographical location.
Why should we care?

- The danger of the ‘single’ story
- Current policies are based on a skewed understanding of migration
- Key policy focus is on
  - Containment and border control
  - Deportation
  - Conditional development aid

Concerns that the agenda is driven by external interests in ways that obscure Africa’s own challenges and needs

Source: MIEUX website

Countries where MIEUX works
Reframing the African migration debate

- Migration is a historical fact and has a net benefit for the continent
- Increasing border restrictions only drive migration underground and provide fertile ground for opportunistic smuggler enterprises
- Align migration policies to meet Africa’s development prioritise
- African states need to invest in understanding the dynamics of African migration
Thank You