

NEWS LETTER

SEPTEMBER
2015

**MEET THE
ACTION:
NONI MUNGE**

**THE ACTION IN
SUB-SAHARAN
AFRICA**

**THE ACTION
IN THE
CARIBBEAN**

**THE ACTION
IN THE
PACIFIC**



ACTION ACP-UE
POUR LA MIGRATION

AÇÃO ACP-UE
SOBRE MIGRAÇÃO

ACCIÓN ACP-UE
SOBRE MIGRACIÓN



Mr. Viwanou GNASSOUNOU
ASG ACP Secretariat

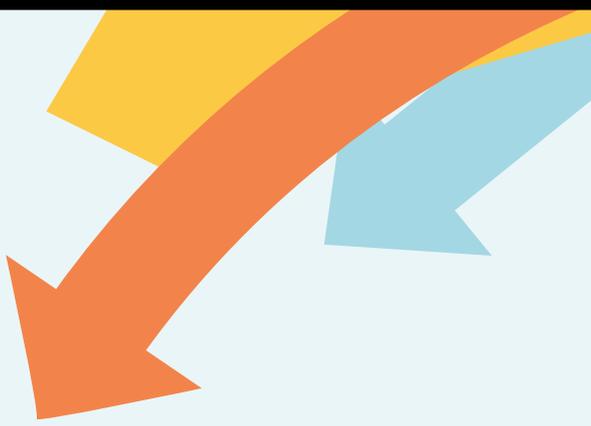
Dear reader,

As the Assistant Secretary-General of the **African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States**, I am pleased to bring you the first newsletter of the **ACP-EU Migration Action**. Funded by the European Union, the Action is currently implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Migration, as you may be aware, has a great relevance to the governments and regional organizations in the countries that constitute the ACP Group.

This is why the ACP and the EU have launched, in 2010, the Dialogue on Migration and Development. The Dialogue has led to the adoption of recommendations, three of them being at the core of the Action as priority areas: **remittances, readmission and visas**. A new area has been recently added, namely **trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants**. Today we are happy to provide, within the frameworks of this project, demand-driven Technical Assistance towards supporting activities that promote these recommendations.

By providing tailored, excellent quality, competent, and relevant demand-driven technical assistance, the ACP-EU Migration Action aims at tackling the aforementioned priority areas through a collaborative framework in which the requesting entities, migration experts and project partners all contribute closely to improve the conditions of migrants, their families, and their origin/host communities.

I hope you will enjoy reading the first issue of this first Newsletter on the outcomes of the Action, which is in its initial phase but has already put in line eleven requests from several ACP Government entities. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact the Action at **ACPEUmigrationaction@iom.int**.



The ACP-EU Migration Action is an initiative by the ACP Secretariat and the EU

Technical Assistance is available to 80 countries and to more than 25 regional organizations

We cover 35% of the world

The Action is currently liaising with 20 State Actors and 6 Regional Organizations

Supported by a € 10 million from the EU for 44 months

14 Technical Assistance requests received so far...

131 experts on migration already in our Rosters of experts

Contact the Action

If you would like to submit a request for Technical Assistance or get more information on the Action, please visit our website **www.acpeumigrationaction.iom.int**, contact the Action at **ACPEUmigrationaction@iom.int** or get in touch with one of our five Regional Coordinators at **RCACPEUAction@iom.int**.



MEET THE ACTION



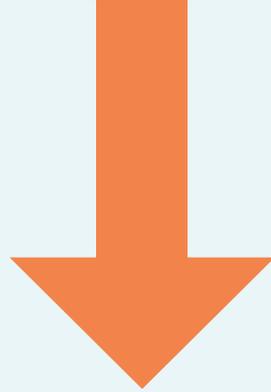
**Regional coordinator for
the East and Horn of Africa**

NONI MUNGE

In every newsletter we will introduce one of the people who help implementing the Action. **Ms. Noni Munge** is the Action's regional coordinator for the East and Horn of Africa, and is based in the IOM Regional Office in Nairobi. Her role is to maintain fluid channels of communication and to raise awareness of the Governments of the ACP countries and their Regional Organizations about the various types of support available through the Action; to support ACP Governments and Regional Organizations in their requests for technical assistance; and to facilitate the Action's non-state actor initiatives in her region. Prior to joining the Action, Noni worked for an international non-governmental organization

where she analysed migration data, trends, and policies in the East and Horn of Africa as well as in Yemen. This has contributed to her rich understanding of the region's migration context.

Noni holds an LL.M degree in International Law (First Class) from the University of Cambridge, where she was a Commonwealth Shared Scholar. She graduated with an LL.B degree from the University of Cape Town and holds a Certificate in International Labour Migration from the University of Oxford's Department of Continuing Education.



**Current support
made available
through the**

demand driven Technical Assistance

The development of the technical assistance process progresses according to the visibility of the Action to different stakeholders (ACP governments and Regional Organisations) in the ACP region and to the interest shown by those stakeholders in receiving support in the priority areas of the Action. The Regional Coordinators are proactive in providing technical support to focal points identified by governments and regional organisations in the crafting of Concept Notes (CN) and Technical Assistance Fiches (TAF) that serve to mature into actual technical assistance interventions.

THE ACTION IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Covering almost the entire African continent, the Action is present in every country of Sub-Saharan Africa. Due to its size and diversity, we have allocated three Regional Coordinators to the Sub-Saharan Africa. The coordinators are based in one of the three African duty stations, which are located in Nairobi, Pretoria and Dakar. Together, these duty stations cover 49 countries, each with its individual needs and realities.

VISAS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA



Visas, and the free movement of people, are longstanding topics of interest for many African countries. The creation of several regional organisations, such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), among others, reflects the will of many States to facilitate the intra-regional movement of goods and people.

Up to the publishing of this newsletter, the Action had already received two requests from the Southern Africa sub region: one from COMESA, received in April, regarding the implementation of an existing Visa Proto-

col among its Member States; and one from the Government of the Republic of Namibia, received in June, requesting support for the harmonization of the Visa Manual and the Namibian Immigration Control Act.

In Namibia, figures from the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs¹ on International Migration estimate 6.3% of the population to be international migrants – amounting to one of the highest percentages in the SADC region. The harmonization of the Visa Manual and the Immigration Control Act aims at decreasing the number of delays related to the issuance of visas, promoting a better migration management system and preventing visa-related fraud.

A MORE EFFECTIVE VISA SYSTEM IN THE REPUBLIC OF SUDAN



A fast and efficient visa system holds many advantages for a country: it facilitates the entry and stay of bona fide travellers such as labour migrants, business investors and students while also identifying problematic entries at the source. It is against this background that, in June 2015, the Republic of Sudan requested technical assistance to enhance and rationalize its visa policy and visa delivery process. The purpose of this assistance is to strengthen the connection between the country's immigration management objectives, its visa policy and its visa delivery process.

INTERVENTIONS IN WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA



The West and Central African sub region has currently the highest number of Technical Assistance requests received so far received. Its first request, from the Republic of Congo, aims at building the capacity of its national authorities to work with remittances. On the same field, the Ministry of Malians Abroad and the Ministry of Economy and Finances of Mali wish to develop their internal mechanisms in order to reduce remittances transfer costs and to absorb informal influxes.

On the field of visas, the Republic of Benin submitted, on the 22nd of June, a request pertaining to the establishment of an E-Visa system. This was

followed by the Liberian Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization (BIN) submission, in July, of a request aiming at revising the country's current Alien and Nationality Act. Adding to the diversity of the Action's presence in the region, the Government of Burkina Faso has submitted the first request in the field of readmission in September. The Burkinabe Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation wishes to receive support in planning readmission agreements with certain countries in benefit of its citizens. With this request, the Action has already tackled, in its first year, the majority of the priority areas of the Dialogue on Migration and Development.

DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT AND REMITTANCES IN ZAMBIA



Another relevant aspect of the sub region of Southern Africa is the mobility of its population, which is often followed by the sending of regular amounts of money back home. This dynamic highlights the issue of remittances sent back by the Diaspora. The Government of the Republic of Zambia, through the Permanent Secretary of the Minister for Foreign Affairs

both expressed interest in receiving Technical Assistance to 'Support the development of a Diaspora Policy' with a specific focus on remittances. Effectively engaging Diasporas could strengthen local economies, especially in the case of Southern Africa.

EASTERN AFRICA: THE ACTION'S FIRST INTERVENTION



Somalia boasts a comparatively developed telecommunication infrastructure where mobile phones are used as popular platforms for the receipt and transmission of remittances. The Central Bank of Somalia (CBS) – convinced of the advantages which can accrue when an appropriate regulatory and licensing framework is adopted – requested technical assistance from the Action in April 2015.

Technical Assistance was requested to support the country's efforts in the regulation of mobile money transfers. The anticipated intervention will provide the CBS with a series of recommendations to fine-tune its draft Mobile Money Services Provider Licensing Regulation. The Action will be commissioning, as from the 11th of July 2015, a migration expert to conduct a Baseline Assessment on the issue as a precursor to the delivery of the technical expertise.

Similarly, the Action's most recent request comes from Kenya and is also on the field of remittances. The Kenyan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade sees great value in empowering remittance senders and recipients as to scale up and broaden their existing propensity to remit money for savings, credit and productive activities. It therefore wishes to develop a digital 'remittance booklet'.

THE ACTION IN THE CARIBBEAN



The Action's Regional Coordinator Jermaine Grant reviews a Technical Assistance Fiche together with Carol Lewis Primo - Head of Immigration and Support Services, Ministry of the Presidency

AN E-VISA SYSTEM AND A STUDY ON REMITTANCES IN GUYANA

In June 2015, the Action received an official request from the Ministry of Citizenship of Guyana for an intervention on the Guyanese visa regime. The Government of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana currently works with a paper-based Visa system. The Government has shown interest in modernising its regime and implementing an e-Visa system in order to facilitate the movement of people. Another aspect the Government of Guyana wishes to improve through this technical intervention is the unification of its work visas and work permits for foreigners in the country. The unification of these documents within an e-Visa system would make the process more efficient, to the ben-

efit of both the Guyanese authorities and foreign citizens.

Moreover, the Action received a second request from the Guyanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the field of remittances. Having recognised the contributions of its diaspora to the economic and social development of the country, the Government wishes to conduct a research study as to propose changes that will lower the costs of sending remittances to Guyana.



REMITTANCES FLOWS AND PATTERN

Studies from the World Bank² show that many countries of the Caribbean region are dependent on the remittances migrants send back home. These funds can represent up to 20%³ of certain countries' GDP. In June 2015, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) officially submitted its Technical Assistance request for policy enhancement on remittances through the formulation of a set of recommendations on how to develop an adequate framework for the management of remittances. Remittances in the Organisation's Member States exceed the value of export in some cases, which makes an intervention in this area highly relevant.

The Government of Guyana is currently also in the process of submitting a request in the priority area of remittances. With US\$ 438 million worth of remittances in 2014 (15,9% of its total GDP), Guyana is only surpassed by Haiti, Honduras and El Salvador in terms of remittances as a percentage of GDP.

² www.worldbank.org/en/country/oecs/overview

³ www.idbdocs.iadb.org/wsdocs/getDocument.aspx?DOCNUM=39619143

THE ACTION IN **THE PACIFIC**



Pacific Immigration
Directors' Conference

OUTREACH IN THE REGION

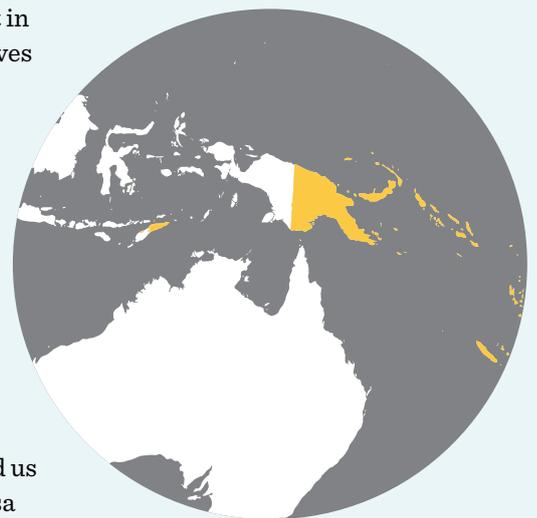
As part of the Action's outreach plan to the governments and regional organizations of the Pacific, we have been officially invited to attend the 2015 Pacific Immigration Directors Conference which took place on 29-30th of July in Samoa.

The Chief of Mission of IOM Australia & Coordinator and Advisor for the Pacific, Joe Appiah, has brought the Action's work to the Secretariat, which has already shown interest in working with us to improve the lives of migrants in the region.

VISA INTERVENTIONS

Covering the islands on the Pacific Ocean, the Action is currently liaising with the governments of Timor-Leste and Vanuatu in order to possibly intervene in visa-related projects in the near future. H.E. Roy Mickey Joy, Ambassador of Vanuatu to the European Union has met with the ACP-EU Migration Action team in Brussels in regards to the integrated planning in the EU/Vanuatu Visa Waiver Agreement.

The Timor-Lestean Ministry of Foreign Affairs has also contacted us for the appraisal of its existing visa regime – including recommendations for its improvement.



THE ACTION: A DECENTRALISED WORK

The ACP-EU Migration Action is highly decentralised, which ensures a highly tailored approach to the specific needs of the ACP Governments and Regional Organizations. The Regional Coordinators' constant engagement with government and regional organisation representatives through their focal points creates a dynamic process which favours the creation of relevant technical assistance requests. The Regional Coordinator tends to each request individually, consulting supporting documentation as necessary and participating in tactful exchanges with focal points to ensure the timely submission of the Requests.

IOM supports the implementation of the action by providing the Action with the support of Regional Thematic Experts (RTS) based in regional and national IOM offices in the different ACP countries. This network works under the coordination of and in cooperation with the Action Team in Brussels to provide technical guidance on the drafting of Concept Notes (CN) and Technical Assistance Fiches (TAF).

As an example, the Regional Coordinator for Western and Central Africa, Mrs. Odette Bolly, attended regional meetings where she has presented the Action to local actors. Throughout these initiatives, she was able to meet with Senegalese authorities and to attend, on the 9th of June 2015, to the launch of the Operational Strategic Plan (OSP) of the Bureau of the Senegalese living abroad. These efforts not only ensure that requests are more detailed, rich and relevant,

but also ensures our close proximity to the requesting entities.

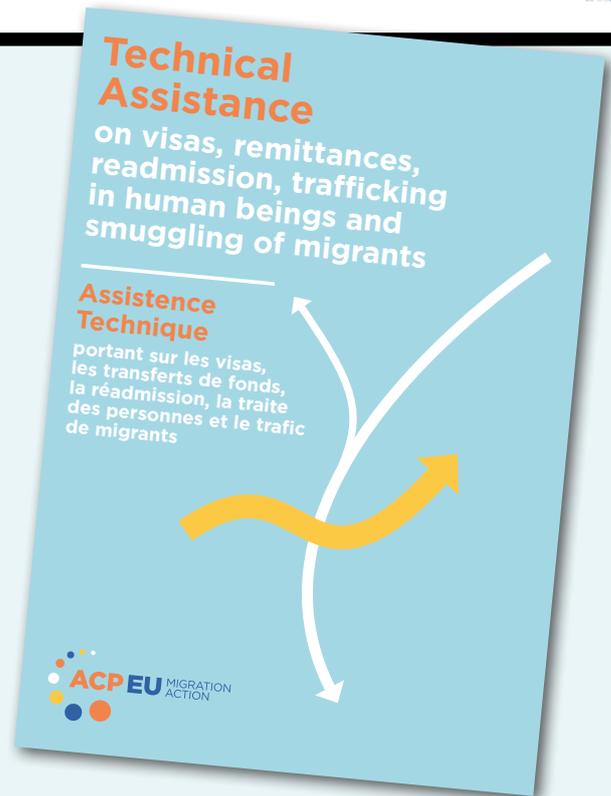
HOW DOES THE ACTION WORK?

The ACP-EU Migration Action is demand-driven, and that is its key feature. Launched in January 2015, the Action is geared towards supporting activities that promote the 2012 recommendations on remittances, readmission, visas and the 2015 recommendations on trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants.

The demand-driven Technical Assistance component of the Action guarantees a procedure that aims at providing quality interventions. Governments of ACP countries, plus the Republic of South Sudan, are encouraged to submit requests to the Action. Working closely with the Regional Coordinators, requesting entities first

submit a Concept Note and a Letter of Interest to the Action's Central Unit based in Brussels.

If approved, the requesting entity is given 15 working days to submit a Technical Assistance Fiche (TAF) containing all relevant information for the intervention. After the approval of this second document, a migration expert is commissioned to conduct a Baseline Assessment of the situation. With the input of the baseline assessment expert and the approval by the ACP secretariat and the EC, the second phase of the process involves the deployment of another migration expert in order to conduct the intervention itself by providing concrete technical assistance. The expert implements the necessary actions and measures, while also collecting relevant data to be stored and disseminated in the future, guaranteeing the sustainability of the process (Component 3).



**WORK
FOR THE
ACTION**

Are you **an expert** on the topics of visas, remittances, readmission, trafficking in human beings or smuggling of migrants?



an opportunity to share your unique expertise!

Visit our website and apply to our Migration Expert Roster.

www.acpeumigrationaction.iom.int

This Action is funded by the European Union



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