



THE 2014 STATE OF AFRICA POPULATION REPORT

***“Addressing Migration and Mobility in Africa: Challenges,
Opportunities and Policy Approaches”.***

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FOREWORD

I am pleased to present to you the 2014 State of Africa Population Report.

Population growth, ageing and decline, migration and urbanization, affect all development objectives on the continent of Africa and beyond. They affect consumption, production, employment, income distribution, poverty and social protection systems, including pensions and could put pressure on our resources and on access to services such as health, education, housing, sanitation, water, food and energy if not properly managed. However, population dynamics also provide vital opportunities for development, for example a fall in fertility levels and slower population growth, could lead to an increased concentration of the population in the working age range, which can enable countries to reap a demographic bonus and jumpstart economic development. Migration can be an important enabler of social and economic development and currently numerous people rely on international and internal migration to escape from poverty and conflict, adapt to environmental and mitigate economic shocks. Further, there is known improvement to income, health, and education of their families resulting from high remittances to developing countries.

Noting this important influence of population on Africa's development, The African Union Commission's Department of Social Affairs have been publishing the biennial reports on the State of the African Population since 2004, in line with Resolution CM/Res.1122 of 46th Session of the Organisation of African Unity Council of Ministers in charge of population.

The African Union has kept keen interest in population issues since the inception of the Organisation of Africa Unity (OAU) in 1963 and up to 1970, the primary objective was to foster labour and family welfare policies in Member States. In the 1980s, the organisation pursued the policy of restoring harmony between population on one hand and natural resources on the other hand, to ensure sustainable development of Africa. In 1994, The OAU encouraged its Member States to participate fully in the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo and in the same year the OAU convened the first meeting of the OAU Population Commission pursuant to their CM/Res.1122 Resolution.

The 2014 State of Africa Population Report has been developed beyond just providing statistics on population but also meant to elaborate the nexus with migration, and meant to be used as policy guiding tool for all stakeholders. I hereby call upon all stakeholders to work with the African Union in utilising our population as a means of development.

H.E. Dr Mustapha Sidiki Kaloko
AU Commissioner for Social Affairs

PREFACE

Population and migration have a strong relationship. The population of any given area could change through three processes: birth, death and migration³⁵. Although the world population grows as a result of births and declines as a result of deaths, over time, migration contributes more than just the initial number of people moving into an area, because the children and grandchildren born to the immigrant population add several times the original number to the population base. Net migration is the difference between the number of people entering a geographic area (immigrants) and those leaving (emigrants)³⁶. Contrary to the past, natural population development will have only limited impact on population change and today, the most important force behind most continents including Africa and European population change is international migration, but the impact of internal migration is also considerable. More than half (54%) of the increase of the United Kingdom population between 1991 and 2012 was due to the direct contribution of net migration and without net immigration Scotland's population would stagnate over the next two decades and decrease in the longer term³⁸. Migration is also changing the male: female ratios in recipient regions such as Gulf States, Europe and North America, especially since the advent of feminized migration in Africa. For instance, approximately 33.7 per cent of physicians currently practicing in the United States are women from Africa South of the Sahara⁴¹. Three quarters of all regions will have a larger population in 2050 if current migration flows continue than if there were no migration. The impact of migration on population is calculated as the difference in population between the *Status Quo* and *No Migration* scenarios in % of the population in the *No Migration* scenario³⁹.

Most people move for economic reasons, but some migrate to escape political or religious persecution or simply to fulfil a personal dream. Some experts divide the many reasons people leave their homes for a new one into push and pull factors. Push factors might be widespread unemployment, inadequate farmland, famine, or war at home. The Great Depression (1929–1939) is a good example of a push factor, as hard times encouraged more residents to leave the United States than move in. In the 1980s and 1990s, hundreds of thousands of Africans were pushed out of their homelands to neighbouring countries because of famine and civil war³⁶. Factors that attract migrants are called pull factors and these include a booming economy, favourable immigration laws, or free agricultural land in the area to which the migrant is moving. .

As most migrants are in the young adult age group, in general their emigration raises the dependency ratios as it reduces the number of the working age population. Emigration will for instance raise the very old-age dependency ratio and this dependency measure is defined as the ratio of the population aged 75 and more to the total economically active population and can be interpreted as the burden of the potential long-term care need on the working population. At the same time, in the regions attracting migrants, newcomers increase the younger and more economically active population, reducing the proportion of the very old³⁹.

In this report, migration has been classified as internal and international. Internal migration refers to movement from one African country to another or within an African country, whilst international migration refers to people moving in and out of the continent of Africa.

International migration is a global phenomenon that is growing in scope, complexity and impact ³⁷. Migration is both a cause and effect of broader development processes and an intrinsic feature of our ever globalizing world. While no substitute for development, migration can be a positive force for development when supported by the right set of policies. The rise in global mobility, the growing complexity of migratory patterns and its impact on countries, migrants, families and communities have all contributed to international migration becoming a priority for the international community. Globally in absolute numbers, international migration is at an all-time high, where about 145 million people lived outside their native countries in the mid-1990s, and that number increased to roughly 175 million in 2005³⁶. Currently, the largest immigration flows are from Latin America and Asia into North America, and from Eastern Europe, the countries of the former Soviet Union, and North Africa into Northern and Western Europe. The Middle East draws migrants from Africa and Asia and hosts millions of refugees from within the region³⁶.

The intra-Africa emigration rate is about 52% which is lower than Europe (59%) and Asia (54.7%) ⁴⁰. Statistics have shown that Africa has one of the lowest rates of emigration in the world and the majority of its migrants move to other African countries signifying the importance of south-south migration⁴⁰ where poorer countries are generally the sending countries and the relatively richer ones are the recipient countries. The pattern of migration by African emigrants suggests that countries from middle income bracket tend disproportionately to migrate to destinations outside of Africa, whereas emigrants originating from poorer African countries generally move to their neighbouring countries. African countries south of the Sahara, represent the largest intra-continental or south-south movement of people in the world⁴⁰. Generally, the intra-African migration is driven by the complexities of the history of state formation where colonial borders overlooked often linguistic and ethnic commonalities, as well as waves of internal and cross-border conflicts and it also reflects migration in search of job opportunities across neighbouring countries. This further reflects the level of regional integration especially in Regional Economic Communities (RECs) such as ECOWAS, SADC and EAC. Differences in living standard explain a significant part of the variation in the rate of intra-African migration. The 2014 State of Africa Population Report, elaborates the current state of migration on the continent, the current state of population on the continent and the relationship between the two.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The population of any given area could change through three processes: birth, death and migration. In Africa, a combination of domestic and international factors has caused migration to increase both in intensity and complexity over the last decades and in 2013, it was estimated that 232 million people lived in countries other than their birth place of which some 31 million were from Africa.

i. *Pull and push factors of migration;*

Over the last several years, poverty, harsh living conditions, deteriorating political and socio-economic conditions, increasing youth and women unemployment and underemployment, armed conflicts, the threats to peace and security, violation of fundamental rights, natural disasters and famine as well as external pull factors have combined to trigger both voluntary and forced population movements from and within Africa. Better economic opportunities, more jobs, and the promise of a better life often pull people towards a new country. However, Africa has the lowest rate of emigration, although several emigrant origin countries have high rates constituting more than 10% of their population. Africa south of the Sahara has a higher intra-regional rate estimated at 65% or more, depending on the region of the continent.

ii. *Mobility within Africa;*

Movement within the continent exists and it has always been an essential element in the historical processes of social, political and economic change. Africa experienced a 13% increase in the number of migrants; between 2000 and 2010 with most of the international migrations being within the continent, mostly to neighbouring countries. The vast majority or 87% moved to pursue jobs, often in urban areas of a neighbouring country. For example 70% of the Ghanaian emigrants live in other African countries, mainly in the Economic Commission of West African States (ECOWAS). The great majority of the emigrants to South Africa are from neighbouring countries (Lesotho, Swaziland, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia).

iii. *The Pros and Cons of Migration;*

When managed well, migration can have benefits for both the exporting and recipient countries and therefore the need to encourage more cooperation and dialogue in order to maximize the benefits of migration to those concerned and ensure mutual benefits. Sending countries may experience both gains and losses in the short term but may stand to gain over the longer term. For receiving countries temporary worker programs help to address skills shortages but may decrease domestic wages and add to public welfare burden. It is estimated that Africa loses in excess of 70,000 skilled professionals annually to emigration, resulting in a huge human capacity deficit in the continent. As a consequence of this brain drain, about US\$4 billion is spent annually, representing 35% of official development assistance to Africa, to employ about 100,000 expatriates. On the other hand, the continent has also gained a lot from migration where remittances totaled \$551 billion worldwide in 2013, with \$401 billion of that money flowing into developing nations. These figures account for only officially recorded remittances and do not include data from about a quarter of the continent's countries that do not report remittance data regularly and it is

estimated that remittances sent through informal channels could add at least 50% to the globally recorded flows.

iv. *The State of Population in Africa;*

Regular enumeration of the total number of persons inhabiting a location is an important exercise in the process of development planning and service provision, with migration and mobility having a huge influence. The documented numbers of people can be matched with social and economic resources and enables discovery of the causes and consequences of population changes. It is projected that population growth will be concentrated in the world's less-developed countries, especially in Africa and that Africa will account for 80% of the projected world population increase by 2100. In 2013, Africa was found to be the second most populous continent with a mid-year population of 1.033 billion people, accounting for about 15% of the world's human population. It was found that the population growth rate is declining and is relatively low in most areas of Africa but is increasing in a few countries although the mode growth rate for the continent was in excess of 2% every year. The average population density of Africa was estimated at 34 persons per square kilometre in 2014, which is a considerable increase than 50 years ago where it was recorded as 10.1 in 1963. The increase in population has not been matched by the supply of services such as decent accommodation, leading to Africa south of the Sahara having 199.5 million of its population living in slums whilst North Africa has 11.8 million.

v. *Africa's Population and the Agenda 2063;*

Projections have shown that Africa's population growth shall lead to a bulge in the proportion of the youth and that this would be one of the most dramatic demographic shifts in the continent's history and its population will more than double to 2.4 billion by 2050, with the area south of the Sahara swelling to 2.2 billion. This is attributed to Africa's total fertility rate that currently stands at 4.7. Mobility in form of urbanisation is increasing where the proportion of urban dwellers in Africa South of the Sahara was found to be 37% in 2014, which was lower than that of the world (53%) but slightly higher than the average for least developed countries which stood at 31%. Africa's population is expected to more than double, rising from 1.1 billion today to at least 2.4 billion by 2050 and almost all this growth will be in the 51 countries south of the Sahara and this will make the continent the world's region with highest population growth and all this will be characterised by a bulge in the population of the youth. Currently in Africa, about 40 per cent of the population is under 15, and nearly 70 per cent is under 30 and in a decade, Africa's share of the population between 15 and 29 years of age may reach 28 per cent of its population. Africa should therefore prepare for the general increase in population and youth bulge in its Agenda 2063, a 50 year strategy that is aimed at optimising the continent's resources for the benefit of all Africans.

vi. *What Africa has done to manage migration and mobility;*

In an effort to address the challenges of migration and harness its development benefits, several continental policy frameworks and initiatives have been developed such as; the *AU Plan of Action on Employment Promotion and Poverty Alleviation of 2004*, the *2006 AU Migration Policy Framework (MPFA)*, the *AU Social Policy Framework (SPF)* of 2008, the 'AU Commission Initiative against Trafficking (AU.COMMIT) Campaign' of 2009 and the Ouagadougou Action Plan to Combat Trafficking In Human Beings, Especially Women and Children of 2006. There is also the Assembly Declaration Assembly/AU/Decl.6 (XXIII) on Employment, Poverty Eradication, Inclusive Development in Africa which included the adoption of the Labour Migration Governance for Development and Integration. Regarded as key stakeholders and building blocks of the African Union, the African Union Commission (AUC) Commission remains in constant engagement with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) for mutual implementation of commitments, programmes, policies and strategies relating to migration and this is done taking into account that the RECs, in various ways, make regional initiatives concerning movement of people. Africa has also engaged other continents on mobility and migration through cooperation initiatives such as the AU-EU Partnership on Migration and Mobility and the Africa-Arab Partnership Strategy.

CHAPTER ONE: Migration

1.1. Background and Context

The combination of domestic and international factors has caused migration to increase both in intensity and complexity over the last decades, shifting attention from the traditional focus on the concerns of destination countries in terms of economic and social problems created by migrants. In 2013, it was estimated that 232 million people lived in countries other than their birth place of which some 31 million were from Africa. While emigration from Africa increased substantially in the last decades in absolute terms, the incidence is currently one of the lowest in the world albeit with marked variations across countries. According to estimates⁴², a substantial part of African international migration occurs within Africa. Globalization has also accelerated structural causes that prompt cross-border migration flows, due to labour market imbalances, technological changes, economic restructuring, demographic factors as well as huge differences related to working conditions and wage gaps. Taking these trends into consideration, the Constitutive Act of the African Union (AU) confer upon the AU not only the duty and legitimacy to achieve greater unity and solidarity between African countries and peoples and the fostering of political and socio-economic integration, stability, democracy, peace and security, sustainable development, and protection of human rights but to also address the varying challenges that are present within Africa – challenges that include the better management of migration for the benefit of the continent. Moreover, the AU Migration Policy Framework acknowledges that migration will be a major topic in the 21st Century and will therefore pose certain social, economic and political challenges for policy makers in the future management of migration for the betterment of African societies.

Irregular migration refers to circumstances where movement takes place outside the regulatory norms of the sending, transit and receiving countries¹. From the perspective of destination countries it is illegal entry, stay or work in a country, meaning that the migrant does not have the necessary authorization or documents required under immigration regulations to enter, reside or work in a given country. From the perspective of the sending country, the irregularity is for example seen in cases in which a person crosses an international boundary without a valid passport or travel document or does not fulfill the administrative requirements for leaving the country. Irregular migration from Africa south of the Sahara and the Maghreb to Europe has been featured by international media and some policymakers as a global threat underlying international crime, human trafficking and smuggling, terrorism, while the root causes are escaping from poverty and difficult living conditions and other socio-economic risks and hardships⁴³.

However, the patterns of African international migration are complex. While migration from Africa to Europe attracts mostly the international spotlight, it is worth mentioning the prominence of African intra-regional migration and mobility and the existence of

other destination of African migrant flows outside Europe, i.e. the Gulf countries and North America.⁴⁴ In addition, contrary to the conventional wisdoms that depict the African international migration as only driven by poverty and despair and fundamentally characterized by irregular migrant flows, most African migrants are regular migrants and emigrate for work, family and study reasons, similar to the patterns of international migration in different regions of the globe. This is not underestimating the significance of poverty and other unfavorable social, economic and political circumstances as well as the importance of irregular migration. However, overgeneralization and oversimplification obstruct a greater understanding of the complexity of African international migration.⁴⁵

Over the last several years, poverty, harsh living conditions, deteriorating political and socio-economic conditions, increasing youth and women unemployment and underemployment, armed conflicts, the threats to peace and security, violation of fundamental rights, natural disasters and famine as well as external factors have combined to trigger both voluntary and forced population movements from and within Africa. This mix of factors coupled with the increased barriers to regular migration and demographic pressures (ageing and increasing deficits in their labour forces) in a growing number of developed and developing countries have generated a new phenomenon of mixed migration in which a mixed group of people such as economic migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers are on the move for a combination of reasons. Some of the people on the move, be they economic migrants, refugees or asylum-seekers, are increasingly found to be also victims of human trafficking and smuggling, thereby giving rise to the huge number of migrants in irregular situation. In addition, most African migrants move through legal chains for work, family and study reasons.

1.2. Statistics and Trends of Migration.

Lack of accurate, reliable and disaggregate statistical data and lack of regular and update census and survey data often hampers a precise estimation of the extent and magnitude of African international migration. Furthermore, conceptual and methodological problems and the non-counting of irregular migrant flows lead to underestimating or overestimating the migration trends and patterns.

The trend in net migration overtime reflects the tumultuous history of Africa, particularly south of the Sahara where migration rates have fluctuated over the last decade. Understandably, countries that experienced large scale conflict and war contributed to the periodic instability in the net movement of people from and within Africa. Thus, several trends of particular relevance are identified in African migration.

Africa has the lowest rate of emigration, although several emigrant origin countries have high rates constituting more than 10% of their population, namely Cape Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Lesotho, Mali, Sao Tome and Principe, and Seychelles. The intra-regional emigration rate for Africa overall is estimated at 52.6%, comparable to 59% in Europe and 54.7% in Asia. However, Africa south of the Sahara has a higher

intra-regional rate estimated at 65%, which represents largest intra-continental or south-south movement of people in the world , while ECOWAS has the highest intra-regional migration with about 90 per cent of its citizens migrating within the region. Although the vast majority of African migrants remain in Africa, about 7.3 million are in OECD countries, of which six million are in Europe and North America.

African countries are also major sources and hosts of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees, as well as destination countries for asylum seekers in the region. In relation to the worldwide IDP and refugee population, some 12.5 million IDPs and 26% of refugees live in Africa⁵⁵. Thirteen African countries – i.e. Burundi, CAR, Chad, Cote D'Ivoire, DRC, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda- host and produce more than 45% of the total IDPs, refugees and asylum seekers⁵⁵. Major conflicts and human rights violations in these countries produced more than 2 million refugees. These numbers do not include IDPs whose flight is normally marked by development induced displacement, and those triggered by drought, tropical cyclone, flood, cholera and other epidemics. When these causes of displacement are taken into account, the total number of IDPs in Africa exceeds 20 million.

According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), an estimated 105 million persons are economically active (employed, self-employed or otherwise engaged in remunerative activity) out of the 232 million people living outside their country of birth or citizenship.² In Africa, the number of migrant workers in the continent stands at 8.4 million, out of a total of 21 million migrants. These figures do not register the many more people migrating in temporary, short term, seasonal or commercial patterns who are not established as residents in a destination country.

The ILO also estimates that there are some 21 million³ victims of trafficking in the world today³; making human trafficking a tragic feature of both regular and irregular migratory flows. Identified as the second largest criminal enterprise in the world after illicit drugs smuggling, human trafficking and smuggling generated close to US\$ 150 billion in illegal profits in 2013. In Africa, with 3.7 million victims of trafficking living in bondage (18% of the global total), it is acknowledged that the scale of human trafficking and smuggling from and within the continent is growing substantially as are reports of atrocities and mental and physical abuses committed on victims.

1.3. The Migration dynamics

There are many economic, social and physical reasons why people emigrate, and they can usually be classified into push and pull factors. Push factors are those associated with the area of origin, while pull factors are those that are associated with the area of destination.

1.3.1. Push Factors

Push factors responsible for the increase in both regular and irregular migration from and within Africa include absence or unavailability of decent work for many people, especially youth, warfare, widespread human rights violations, environmental degradation, and personal or idiosyncratic factors. Consequences of global warming may also oblige increasing numbers of people to abandon homes and homelands made uninhabitable by rising sea levels, increasingly destructive storms and accelerated desertification.

1.3.2. Pull Factors

Better economic opportunities, more jobs, and the promise of a better life often pull people towards a new country. Sometimes there are social pull factors in migration, for example efforts to reunite families by circumventing legal obstacles. There is also the argument that asylum policies in some destination countries have been a pull factor. In essence, pull factors of migration are centered around: Reuniting families; safety and security; better work and educational opportunities; freedom from persecution, of speech, of religion, etc.; and improved quality of life.

As an alternative to the push and pull factor models, an approach of in depth understanding that gives meanings, patterns and evolving trends where it is concluded that development leads to increasing rather than decreasing “level of migration”⁴⁶. It is argued that the extent and magnitude of migration is expected to be higher in the context of “demographic and economic transition and development” rather than downsizing, thus challenging the mechanic and linear vision of the relationship between development and migration and that development often underlines growing migratory and non-migratory flows and fuels increasing “aspirations and capabilities to migrate”.

1.4. International Migration and Development⁴

When managed well, migration can have benefits for origin and destination as well as the migrants themselves and therefore the need to encourage more cooperation and dialogue in order to maximize its benefits and minimize its negatives.

Africa experienced a 13% increase in the number of migrants; between 2000 and 2010 were most of the international migrations were within the continent, mostly to neighbouring countries. The vast majority or 87% moved to pursue jobs, often in urban areas of a neighbouring country. For example 70% of the Ghanaian emigrants live in other African countries, mainly in the Economic Commission of West African States (ECOWAS). The great majority of the emigrants to South Africa are from neighbouring countries (Lesotho, Swaziland, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia). A recent phenomena is the increasing share of female international migrants – more women migrate, accompanying their husbands or move on their own. Family reunification, reduced employment opportunities for men, improving the social and economic conditions of the families, escaping from domestic violence, bad marriages, quest for human security, desire for better social and economic prospects are some reasons cited for increasing female migration⁴⁷.

With a view to maximizing the benefits of migration and at the same time minimizing its adverse impacts, many African countries have taken measures and are implementing appropriate policies. For example in Kenya, the Government has signed the East African Community (EAC) Protocol which provides free permits allowing free movement of citizens within EAC; it has indicated its intention to facilitate the flow and use of remittances to support development in the Draft Diaspora Policy of Kenya.

In Malawi the Government has taken a number of measures aimed at improving the working conditions in the country so that they are competitive and attractive. In the health sector for example, the government in collaboration with DFID has introduced incentives such as salary tops to encourage health workers to remain in the country. To ensure that Malawians eventually take over from expatriates in strategic positions, the Government has enacted the “Localization Policy” which guides and regulates employment of foreigner professionals in the country. According to the policy, when a position is of strategic importance to an organization or it requires skills not locally available a foreign professional is engaged with the expectation that he or she will have a Malawian counterpart understudy with a view to eventually taking over.

Considering that the main reason for Africans to leave their countries is to avoid unemployment and poverty, it is incumbent to African governments to commit themselves to creating jobs at home to stem the outflow of their citizens. This is the more urgent that the current youth bulge will keep growing during the next few decades. More concerted effort should be made to harness the potential benefits of migration through:

- i. Promoting and protecting the human rights and fundamental rights of migrants and their families;
- ii. Introducing measures and innovative products that target issues of remittance costs, technological advances, protecting the human and labour rights of migrants and to mitigate the negative effects such as brain drain and brain waste, human trafficking and smuggling and other associated criminal activities;
- iii. Facilitating the flow and use of diaspora remittances by sound economic policies and adequate banking facilities to support development. Sector specific retention strategies and mechanisms to use the skills of the diasporas should be developed;
- iv. Enhancing capacity of the various agencies working in the area of migration and development to facilitate the movement of people across borders, prevents irregular and undocumented migration, defend and protect national security;
- v. Addressing the factors that contribute to irregular migration and forced displacement; adopting measures to regularize migration, and
- vi. Adopting, strengthening and implementing coherent and effective migration policies and migration management whilst addressing the development

challenges and the human costs underlying international migration⁴ and effectively mainstreaming migration into the MDGs and the 2015 post-development agenda,

- vii. Establishing protocols and mechanism for periodic and systematic data collection on international migration and development.

1.5. Migration and Mobility within Africa

Africa is currently in an era of high mobility, spurred on by steady economic growth in many parts of Africa facilitated by global revolutions in transport and communication. As a result, migrants of African origin have increasingly spread across both the continent of Africa and the world at large. While emigration to countries in Europe and North America has attracted the most attention among both policy makers and researchers, these movements have been outpaced by sustained increases in shorter and circular patterns of intra-continental mobility. Migrants in Africa have been moving between rural and urban areas and across borders in substantial numbers, contributing to the rapid growth of sprawling cities and fostering new patterns of urban settlement⁵⁰.

Africa is a continent where a considerable part of the population leads a mobile way of life. Mobility and migration in Africa is a significant part of livelihoods, where not only working professionals but also nomadic pastoralists, hunters, gatherers, healers, religious persons, traders, artists are known to be mobile and ubiquitous on the continent. Evidence shows that large numbers of people have been uprooted from their place of origin and have become part of a peripatetic category of wandering persons and these people are difficult to classify because they do not fit into perceived notions of what is deemed 'normal' in the administrative and legal logic of the sedentary world⁵⁰. Movement is also motivated by African cities being viewed as places of attraction for international migrants and also used as zones of departure for long-distance migration. The African cities are also viewed as attractive spaces for migrants and mobile traders for creativity, connections and exchange⁵².

Migration in Africa south of the Sahara, as in the rest of the world, has always been an essential element in the historical processes of social, political and economic change. Development and migration have always been intertwined in a set of complex, heterogeneous, and changing relationships in which causality is never one way⁴⁹. The experience of colonialism left an indelible mark on the political economy of Africa, shaping both the patterns of migration and their impact across the continent where the European powers created the boundaries of nearly all the modern States in Africa south of the Sahara, and these borders have had a profound effect on mobility. Moreover, in their attempts to marshal the labour of Africans to serve the colonial enterprises in the profit centres of plantations and mines while maintaining traditional ways of life in the rural areas, the colonialists established

migration systems that remain important to this day; examples include the labour migrations to the coast of West Africa and the mines of Southern Africa. They also established an ideology of state control of mobility that continued after independence. Across Africa, migration has always played an important role in sustaining and expanding people's livelihoods in many different ways. These include expansion into new areas to gain access to natural resources, such as land, minerals, water, game, and fish; the conquest of neighbouring groups to capture both their goods and their labour, either directly through slavery or indirectly through the payment of tribute; and the expansion of networks to gain access to new markets for both goods and labour. Migration has also historically been driven by conflicts at different levels, ranging from family disputes to wars. Nineteenth-century travel literature abounds with examples of people moving around, miners in Southern Africa moved from country to country in search of jobs, poor people moved from city to city in search for charity in the West-African savannah states and pilgrims on their way from West Africa to Mecca⁵⁰.

Mobility and migration in the continent seem to be increasing and it is difficult to understand fully the processes underlying the phenomenon, partly due to problems with definitions and concepts and partly to a lack of reliable data⁵⁰.

Defining mobility (or migration) is not easy because of the many different types⁵⁰. The simple definition of migration is 'a change of residence, although this definition poses two problems: First, 'residence' implies a certain minimum length of stay. How long does a person have to stay in a certain place to be classified as a migrant, a sojourner or a non-migrant? Second, people who move regularly between two or more places may not even have a clearly identifiable 'place of residence'. This refers particularly to those for whom mobility can be considered as a way of life. Usually, 'migration' is also defined in terms of crossing a political or administrative boundary but questions arise about the nature and history of such boundaries. The word 'migration' covers a wide range of different types of mobility that could be broadly classified as follows: (1) Based on a *géo-administrative level*, the usual distinction is between international (or inter-state) and intra-national migration, (2) The rural-urban dichotomy, results in four types of migration: rural-rural, rural-urban, urban-rural and urban-urban, (3) As with the previous criterion, a classification based on *duration* of migration can be put into a simple dichotomy: permanent versus temporary, (4) The criterion of *choice* denotes whether migration is forced or voluntary, (5) Based on the criterion of *legality*, it could be 'legal migration' and 'clandestine migration', and (6) the final classification criterion concerns the *migrant's characteristics* in relation to motivation: the reasons for migration differ as people differ, in particular in terms of gender, age and education.

Prevention of mobility is common in Africa and its focus is on the control of "unwanted foreigners" at international borders. It can take formal means where countries have many different interests in facilitating, frustrating, or (re) directing human mobility. These include stringent immigration policies, high expenditures on border controls, documentation systems, workplace inspections, and detention and deportation measures. While in

most cases countries in Africa adhere to the international rights of citizens to leave their country of origin, many have also developed a range of policy mechanisms to prevent certain categories of nationals from leaving their countries, whether this is in the interest of preventing capital flight or of limiting “brain drain.” There are also informal means of preventing mobility, such as the rise of populist xenophobia and right-wing anti-immigration groups. However these interests are not always realized in practice, since mobile populations invariably have interests of their own, and are therefore determined not to be stopped. One of the main problems of such measures is that they tend to reduce human mobility to the status of a problem, threat, or risk to be managed or mitigated, thereby marginalizing the various opportunities and benefits that mobile populations routinely generate.

Like prevention, promotion of mobility and migration routinely take a variety of forms⁵¹ and these forms can be usefully located on a continuum that ranges from legal structural reforms to direct acts of capture and coercive transportation. At one end of the spectrum, we have indirect and long-term measures to facilitate and/or regulate otherwise largely independent movements. At the other end of the spectrum, we have brutal measures defined by sustained levels of violent coercion, where states (and other actors) force people into motion for example to pave way for developmental projects. When states take steps to promote, and thereby profit from, mobility, they do not necessarily ask those involved whether they want to move or whether movement is in their best interests. Consequently, promotion has been regularly defined by violence and abuse and should, therefore, not necessarily be regarded as being more favourable than prevention. Promoting mobility should in no way be confused with “free” movement, since promotion tends to be a highly selective exercise.

Promotion of mobility and migration is can be fostered in a non-coercive and mutually beneficial manner. This would help realise the benefits of mobility and migration in Africa and also help to illegal movements. Such actions have been taken at regional and inter-regional levels and they include:

- Establishment of an African Institute for Remittances (AIR) to provide for cheaper, more effective and safer remittances transfer systems;
- Implementation of the Human Trafficking Initiatives to strengthen protection, prevention and prosecution of trafficking in human beings;
- Creation of a network of researchers and research centres at the Observatory on Migration to gather reliable, harmonised data on migration;
- Launch of the Decent Work Initiative extending social protection coverage in particular in the informal economy;
- Launch of a labour market governance and capacity building initiative, for strengthening capacity of labour market institutions in Africa, and organisation of regional and sub-regional fora on employment, labour, social protection and labour migration;

- Implementation of the Nyerere Programme providing scholarships to African students, scholars and academic staff;
- Launch of the Pan-African University, a network of African higher education institutions;
- Review of progress on mutual recognition of qualifications in Africa through African Higher Education Harmonisation and Tuning.

Mobility and population migration should be promoted in Africa as they are important human processes affecting a broad range of social outcomes and previous World Development Reports, for instance, explored the positive development impact of population mobility resulting from both remittance flows and the concentration of skills in geographical areas with the greatest economic potential⁵⁴. Promotion should also focus on mitigating the perils of mobility/migration for example in case studies South African miners and East African truck drivers, where evidence shows links between HIV and mobility.

1.6. Impact of Migration on Africa;

The economic effects of migration vary widely. Sending countries may experience both gains and losses in the short term but may stand to gain over the longer term. For receiving countries temporary worker programs help to address skills shortages but may decrease domestic wages and add to public welfare burden. The economic effects of migration for both sending and receiving countries may also vary depending on who is moving, specifically with respect to migrant workers' skill levels. For sending countries, the short-term economic benefit of emigration is usually found in remittances, the funds that emigrants earn abroad and send back to their home countries, mainly in order to support families left behind. It is clear that immigration can be beneficial for migrants, and can be economically beneficial for both countries of origin and host countries.

Migration can lead to positive as well as negative social and cultural transformation, as well as be a catalyst or a hindering factor for peace, stability, democratization and good governance. It can lead also to strengthening the capabilities and skills of African migrants, be they students, semi, skilled or highly skilled. In addition to "brain drain", there are possibilities for "brain gain", "brain exchange"⁴⁸. To ensure that they do not in the process of migration, African countries have participated in initiatives aimed at profiting from the skills of migrants, for example through the TOKTEN (Transfer of Knowledge Through Expatriate Nationals) Programme. The TOKTEN Programme counters the effects of "brain drain" in developing countries by temporarily bringing back talented expatriate nationals to their home countries based on the spirit of volunteerism.

Migration does have a downside. Migration can bring social and cultural pressures on recipient countries and also has the potential for bringing peoples together culturally but friction occurs if efforts are not made to dispel the myths held by local people. International transfer of human capital to the developed countries undermines the human capital development efforts of less developed countries when

the highly skilled migrants move. The pull factors for these highly skilled emigrants are better employment opportunities and security. Furthermore, in some cases, migrants could be vulnerable to exploitation, and even human trafficking. When migrants cannot find jobs in their new home, they add to the extraordinary levels of urban unemployment in major African cities.

1.1.1. Africa's losses

It is estimated that Africa loses in excess of 70,000 skilled professionals annually to emigration, resulting in a huge human capacity deficit in the continent. As a consequence of this brain drain, about US\$4 billion is spent annually, representing 35% of official development assistance to Africa, to employ about 100,000 expatriates. The 2013 ICPD⁴ review process found that in South Africa, and echoed in many other country reports, the international transfer of human capital to the developed countries has undermined the human capital development efforts in the country as these emigrants include doctors, nurses, teachers, engineers, scientists and technologists.

1.1.2. Africa's gain

One of the major gains from migration of Africans is the remittance flow to the continent.

According to the World Bank, remittances totalled \$551 billion worldwide in 2013, with \$401 billion of that money flowing into developing nations. These figures account for only officially recorded remittances and do not include data from about quarter of the continent's countries that do not report remittance data regularly. The World Bank notes that remittances sent through informal channels could add at least 50% to the globally recorded flows⁵.

Migrant remittances are an important and growing source of finance for Africa. Remittances sent by over 30 million African migrants reached an officially reported more than US\$62 billion in 2013⁶, accounting for approximately 2.5% of Africa's GDP, supporting at least 120 million⁷ family members living at home. When the unrecorded flows to Africa through informal channels are further added, the true size of the remittances will be substantially higher. For many African households, remittances constitute a significant share of their income. These remittances represent a source of opportunity and, for many, a financial lifeline during periods of hardship.

In addition, remittance inflows have been more stable than other financial inflows and more countercyclical, thus, contributing to sustaining Africa's economies during recessions. Despite a modest decline during the global financial crisis, the remittances remained more resilient compared with foreign direct investment and other forms of cash inflow, to the point where they are being recognized as Africa's significant source of investment⁸. Yet, Africa is still expected to realize the full potential of remittances.

In a number of African countries, efforts are underway to mobilize Diaspora and migrants' resources for development purposes through remittances, various diaspora bonds and related financial products. Migrants hold savings in billions of US dollars, estimated as equal to the annual remittances amount and several countries in Africa are organizing diaspora bonds and related financial products to tap into this large pool of funds.

Significant investments from remittances were noted at country level. For example in Kenya, diaspora remittances were estimated at 1.0 billion US dollars in 2005 and at 1.9 billion in 2010 or 4.6% and 5.4% of GDP respectively. In Ghana, it was noted that remittances have assumed an important centre stage as a major source of funding particularly at the household level, where the report stated that there has been increased engagement of the Ghanaian diaspora in national development discourse with the aim of tapping into their skills and accumulated resources for Ghana's socio-economic development. Senegal recognized international migration as an important source of remittances but lamented its adverse impact on the availability of labour force that should constitute the foundation for an endogenous development⁴.

Regional Economic Communities have made deliberate efforts to harness the benefits of migration by promoting integration where the Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Eastern Africa Community (EAC) have developed protocols to encourage free movement of goods and people between⁴.

In an effort to identify ways to maximize the developmental effects of remittances, and improve remittance transfer mechanisms, the African Union Commission, has set up the African Institute for Remittances (AIR).

The establishment of an AIR was conceived within the framework of Africa-EU Migration, Mobility and Employment Partnership. The Joint Africa-EU Declaration on Migration and Development adopted in Tripoli in 2006 (Tripoli Declaration) recognized the benefit of migration to both AU-EU and emphasized the need to initiate programs to facilitate the transfer of remittances and to reduce the costs of transfers in order to leverage remittances for development.

AIR's mission is "to work exclusively in the areas of remittances, enhancing market competition to make remittance transfers to and within Africa cheaper, safer, faster and easier so as to maximize their impact on the economic and social development of African Countries" with its short and long term objectives of i) improving the statistical measurement of remittance flows in Africa; ii) to lower the transaction cost of remittances; and iii) to leverage the potential impact of remittances on economic and social development. The AIR was launched in Nairobi, Kenya and will be fully operational soon.

Apart from financial remittances, evidences suggest that highly skilled migrants can contribute to the homeland development through the transfer of knowledge and technology, thereby, contributing to the strengthening of scientific, health, technological and educational institutions. Other positive impacts of migration are the easing of youth unemployment in the sending communities, the acquisition by migrants of knowledge and new skills as well as the adoption of technology that benefit their home communities if they return.

1.7. Interventions of the African Union Commission and Partners.

There is clear demonstration of political will at the level of the African Union for the free movement of people to be achieved as a component of the African Common Market. This expression finds legal basis in Article 6 of the treaty establishing the African Economic Community.

Building on solid normative standards and worldwide experience, the AUC is engaged in reviewing of established principles, policy frameworks, institutional setups and practical measures to reconsider their relevance to migration management in Member States. The AUC is also focused on regulation and governance of population (labour and skills) mobility in multi-State economic integration, common market and "free movement" areas.

As a result, addressing the challenges of migration and promoting its development benefits have increasingly been evoked over the last decade in African regional policy frameworks and in recommendations to national governments.

- i. In 2004, the *AU Plan of Action on Employment Promotion and Poverty Alleviation* pressed for a greater equity in the current globalization process and international governance system, as it relates to trade, investment, debt and international migration. As a means of facilitating labour migration on the continent, it recommends harmonizing labour codes, business laws, fiscal and monetary policies as well as employment policies. The review of this Plan led to the necessity to optimize the outcomes of labour migration as a cornerstone of regional economic integration, recognizing the nexus between employment, poverty alleviation and inclusive development. This is embedded in the 2015 Declaration and Plan of Action on Employment, Poverty Eradication and Inclusive Development. Labour Migration Governance, Development and Regional Integration is one of the six Key Priority Areas (KPA) of these two recently adopted policy instruments. In addition, as a way to ensure the implementation of this KPA, the AUC, International Labour organisation (ILO), International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) are engaged in a Joint Programme on Labour Migration
- ii. The *2006 AU Migration Policy Framework (MPFA)* provides a well-informed policy guideline on nine (9) key thematic¹ migration issues to assist member states and the RECs in formulating migration policies. In other words, the

MPFA is a negotiated articulation of the aspirations of Africans for the program they seek. Further to the MPFA, the Commission works with other migration instruments, namely: the African Common Position on Migration and Development; Joint Africa-EU Declaration on Migration and Development; the AU Framework on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons; the Joint Africa-EU Ouagadougou Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings especially Women and Children.

- iii. In 2008, the *AU Social Policy Framework* (SPF) was adopted. The SPF aims to provide an overarching policy structure to assist African Union Member States to strengthen and give increasing priority to their national social policies and hence promote human empowerment and development. The SPF compliments on-going national and regional programme and policy initiatives such as the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRSP) and to close the gap where it was deemed that these did not adequately address social issues. The Commission is in the process of assessing with RECS which of the SPF thematic areas are attended to by them in terms of protocols, strategic plans and by dedicated structures such as regular sectorial Ministerial Conferences. This would mean that Partner or Member States of the RECs are also attending to these areas in their laws, policies and national structures. So far, it was determined that two thirds of the SPF areas are attended to and they are: Reproductive Health and Rights, Health delivery systems and Communicable Diseases, Employment and Labour, Social Security/Protection, Migration, Education (harmonised training curricula for teachers in regions, mathematics, science and engineering training), agriculture (mainly livestock and fisheries sectors) and food security (early warning systems) youth and gender. Regional programmes on culture and sport exist in most regions. There are protocols regarding good governance, anti-corruption and rule of law in most RECs, however, most don't have dedicated programmes to implement the provisions of the protocols. The SPF areas that are not covered or greatly neglected by RECs, not necessarily by most member states, are: Disability inclusive development, The African Family, the Aged, environmental sustainability and urban development. The areas of children and capacity building in drug control are mostly conducted by partners.

The African Union has been collaborating with other regional organisations in order to manage and harness the benefits of migration and mobility and these initiatives include the following:

- i. The complexity of migratory movements within and beyond Africa underscores the need to enhance partnerships and cooperation on migration. The EU-Africa political dialogue on migration has been set up in a context of renewed interest on migration in the international agenda. The significant number of the African migrants in Europe, the global concerns underlying the highly publicized tragic events in Lampedusa and the increasing awareness of the opportunities and risks resulting from migration for both sending and

receiving countries has led to considering migration as one of the hottest topics of the EU-Africa political agenda.

ii. Under the Africa-Arab Partnership, the AU Commission and League of Arab States (LAS) have established a Technical and Coordination Committee on Migration (TCCM). The main objective of the TCCM is to help the AU and LAS in the better management of migration, and the promotion and protection of migrants' rights especially in the provision of sound advice to Member States in both regions. More specifically, the TCCM supports the effective implementation of the migration policy instruments at continental, regional and national levels as they pertain to Africa and Arab States.

Regarded as key stakeholders and building blocks of the African Union, the Commission remains in constant engagement with the RECs to understand their programmes, policies and strategies relating to migration. Consultative meetings between the RECs and AUC and partners on how the MPFA could be harnessed in moulding the respective regional migration policies form the backbone of AUC's engagement.

- a) The EAC has gone farthest in Regional Economic Integration having put in place regional instruments for an East African Common Market aimed at political federation. In this regard, series of measures have been undertaken including a Customs Union Protocol in 2005, Common Market Protocol in 2010 and Monetary Union Protocol in 2013. It has completed the development of a regional strategy on human trafficking which domesticates the Ouagadougou Action Plan to Combat Trafficking.
- b) ECOWAS has also made comparative progress in the implementation of the ECOWAS Protocols on Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Establishment, which are implemented in three phases as follows: Right of Entry (A/P 1/5/79); Right of Residence (A/SP.1/7/86); and Right of Establishment (A/SP2/5/90). Other supportive actions in this regard included adoption of Borderless ECOWAS (2000) and ECOWAS Common Approach on Migration (2008).
- c) IGAD has formulated a Regional Migration policy Framework (IGAD-RMPF), which aims to strengthen national migration policies, and achieve better coordination at national and regional levels. The Framework provides strategic recommendations on various aspects that affect movement of people, which if implemented would facilitate mobility in the sub region. Negotiations on Protocol on Free Movement are ongoing aimed at regional integration and a Free Trade Area in conformity with the Abuja Treaty and IGAD's Minimum Integration Plan adopted by the Heads of State and Government in 2013.

- d) COMESA and SADC have produced regional instruments which are currently not being implemented due to non-ratification by their member states. However, SADC has a protocol in force which addresses the relaxation of visa requirements for citizens of its Member States. Similarly, COMESA has developed two protocols on free movement of persons. The Protocol on Gradual Relaxation and Eventual Elimination of Visa Requirements adopted under PTA in 1984 is still in force but it is not fully implemented by all Member States though the level of implementation has reached 80% for some Member States. On the other hand, Protocol on Free Movement of Persons, Labour, Services, Right of Establishment and Right of Residence, which was adopted in 2001 under COMESA, has not yet come into force due to lack of necessary ratifications. In 2006 COMESA adopted a Model Law on Immigration for harmonization and standardization of national laws in Member States in order to facilitate the implementation of the Protocols.
 - e) In ECCAS, progress has been slow in the implementation of long-standing Commitments to achieve free movement of people; while in CENSAD and UMA the processes are currently in abeyance and there are no substantive programmes taking place on free movement of people.
- iv. AUC in partnership with the UN/AU Social and Human Development Cluster launched the 'AU Commission Initiative against Trafficking (AU.COMMIT) Campaign' in 2009. With the Ouagadougou Action Plan at the centre of its objective the campaign reaches out to Member States, the RECs and Civil Society Organizations in taking serious measures against combating trafficking in human beings. It also aims at consolidating the achievement of the AU Commission, the RECs, Member States and partner organizations while encouraging all actors to utilize the Ouagadougou Action Plan as a reference to develop and reform their policies, laws and interventions on trafficking in human beings, especially women and children. The AU.COMMIT has been launched in all the RECs.
- v. In view of the huge number of irregular migrants from the Horn of Africa, the AUC with the support of IOM and UNHCR convened a meeting in Khartoum, Sudan from 21 to 22 May 2014 to discuss the issue of human trafficking and smuggling in the Horn of Africa. Senior state officials from Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Sudan had deep and frank discussions on the root causes of human trafficking, smuggling of migrants and circular and irregular migration, as well as, refugees and asylum seekers within the Horn of Africa and outside of the region. There was a general understanding and realization that the problems of human trafficking and irregular migration cannot be solved by one country alone. It should be addressed from a regional and global perspective and must be situated in the context of poverty eradication and sustainable development. Thus, recognizing the value of adopting a comprehensive regional approach, it was agreed that a regional conference should be convened to discuss the issue further.

1.8. Conclusions and policy recommendations

The AU regards itself as the principal organization to provide guidance and policy directives that will aid AU Member States in the achievement of its objectives of promoting regionally-shared values, good governance, human rights, sustainable development, etc. It encourages Member States to undertake the twin approach of capacity-building and effective policy implementation. Therefore, the AU strives to catalyze inclusive growth and sustainable development of African countries. Given the global challenges of international migration, there is a need for global responses. The important role of migration should be taken into consideration in the efforts of African countries toward inclusive growth and sustainable development.

However, as the AU Member States move towards the achievement of the objectives on the free movement, the challenges require attention. There are still very serious obstacles to for Africans to move on the continent, and these require measures to be put in place to reduce the daily inconveniences in the context of free movement. These challenges relate to:

- Poor access to consular services due to the fact that the majority of the AU Member States have very limited diplomatic presence in the AU. Only a few countries such as Egypt, South Africa and Nigeria have a near universal diplomatic presence on the continent. However, this does not also make these countries easy to access for the mere purposes of movement as other considerations create obstacles to the mere fact of the physical presence of consular services. To this end, citizens from most OECD countries have more freedom to travel within Africa than Africans themselves.
- The greater majority of AU Member States have not managed to utilize information technology to make it easier for potential travelers to acquire critical information on visa requirements. It is generally not possible for a potential traveler to acquire information on visa requirements or to complete an online transaction for visa purposes from an AU Member State into another AU Member State. Some 62 percent of AU Member States have an inadequate online presence, while over 30 percent have no online presence for the purposes of giving potential travelers to their jurisdiction clear information as to the entry requirements. Only 5 percent of Member States have online information that this deemed adequate, and less than 2 percent is deemed to have an efficient information system online.
- A survey⁴ among 35 countries showed that 27 (77%) of them had national policies/programmes and/or strategy to address international migration and development and it was further noted that 32 (91.4%) of them had established institutional entities to address issues regarding international migration and development. Despite having all these policies and institutions in place in so many of its countries, Africa still appears to be grappling with the problem of international migration, and , therefore these policies need to be evaluated in order to decide whether to scale them up or redesign them completely.

- The lack of mutual recognition of credentials and qualifications, constraints in harmonizing policies related to social security coverage and portability, in setting up common labour codes and enhancing data collection and statistics on labour migration, and the challenges in responding to skills shortage and weak internal and inter-institutional coordination mechanisms hamper an effective governance of labour migration in Africa.

Enhancing cooperation on migration management should be one of the priority focus of African countries and RECs in close conjunction with AU and international partners given the complex trends of migration, its ensuing challenges and opportunities and the regional, sub-regional, continental and international implications. The upholding of human rights of migrants, mainstreaming of migration policies into poverty reduction, employment and development policies and in the achievement of the MDGs, strengthening of the prevention and fight against irregular migration and human trafficking and smuggling and knowledge sharing on best practices on migration management should deserve more consideration. Integrating migration into the post-2015 development agenda can constitute a vital engine in the efforts of African countries vis-à-vis poverty reduction, inclusive growth and sustainable development.

The Experiences of EAC and ECOWAS on the deeper forms of the free movement of people can be useful lessons for the rest of the continent. First, both RECs have put in place implementation measures and they have been mobilizing financial and technical resources to this end.

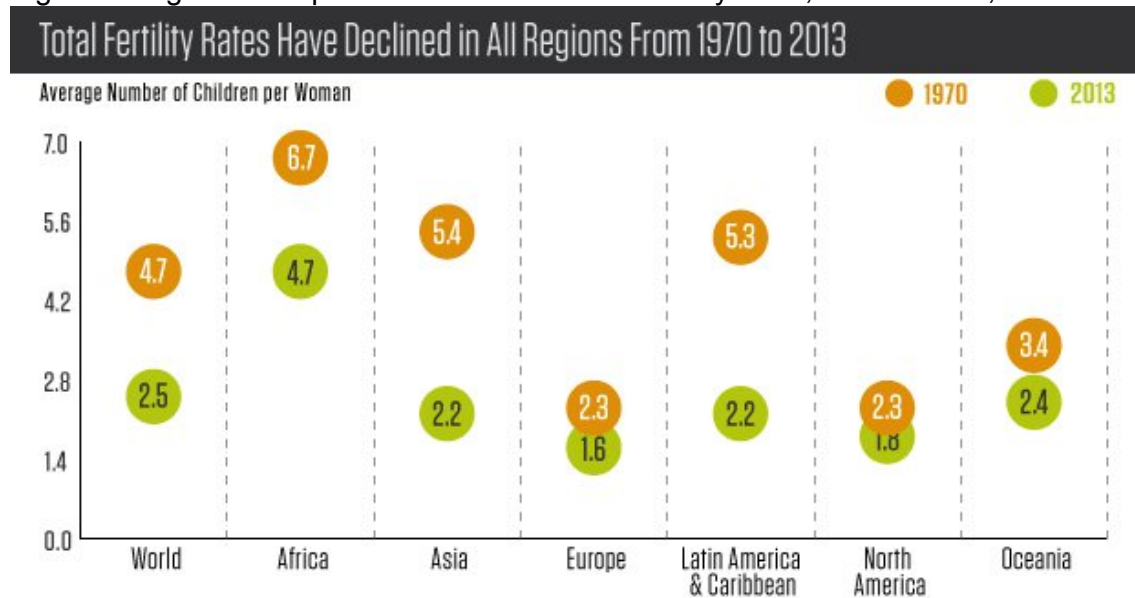
CHAPTER TWO: Statistics on Africa's Population

Regular enumeration of the total number of persons inhabiting a location is an important exercise in the process of development planning and service provision. The documented numbers of people can be matched with social and economic resources and enables discovery of the causes and consequences of population changes. The changes in population take place primarily due to changes in variables such as births, deaths and migration

The world population has experienced continuous growth since the end of the Great Famine and the Black Death in 1350, when it was about 370 million. The total annual births were highest in the late 1980s at about 138 million. The world's population is currently being estimated at around 7.2 billion and expected to rise to 8.1 billion people by 2025 and 9.6 billion by 2050⁹.

It is projected that this population growth will be concentrated in the world's less-developed countries, especially in Africa. Today, as a result of lower fertility rates and longer life expectancy, the share of global population under age 20 has dropped to about 35%, the population between ages 20 and 64 represent 58%, and ages 65 and older represent 7%. Asia, Latin America, and Oceania all have population age structures similar to the global averages. In 1970, Europe and North America were similar to the world average today, and their slower growth has resulted in a current population much older than the global average. Africa's population is at the other end of the age spectrum—Africa's current youthful age structure is much like the global average in 1970. This could be an opportunity for Africa to develop as it was demonstrated in other developing countries that such a demographic change has contributed to economic growth and reduction in poverty¹⁰.

Figure 1: A global comparison of trends of total fertility rates, 1970-2013¹¹;



SOURCE: Carl Haub and Toshiko Kaneda, 2014 World Population Data Sheet (Washington, DC: Population Reference Bureau, 2014).
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Africa will account for 80% of the projected world population increase by 2100. The accompanying increase in its working age population shall create a window of opportunity, which if properly harnessed, can translate into higher growth and yield a demographic dividend. This dividend will vary across countries and it is critical to ensure that the right supportive policies, including those fostering human capital accumulation and job creation, are in place to translate this opportunity into concrete economic growth¹¹.

Migration has an effect on fertility. It was found that labour migration profoundly affects households throughout rural Africa and influences marital fertility. An analysis of women's lifetime fertility showed that it decreases as the time spent in migration by their husbands accrues and this was attributed to disrupting effects of labour migration on families and households in contemporary developing settings²⁹. Therefore, as migration patterns continue changing in Africa, the continent's population shall also be affected.

2.1. Total Mid-Year Population in Africa.

Africa is the second largest continent and with a size of about 30.2 million km² including adjacent islands, it covers six per cent of the Earth's total surface area and 20.4% of the total land area. In 2013, Africa was found to be the second most populous continent with a mid-year population of 1.033 billion people, accounting for about 15% of the world's human population¹².

The current population of Africa reflects a huge change from the past taking into account that the continent only accounted for only 9% of the world's population in 1950. Most countries are expected to at least triple in population as the region has very high fertility rates and very little family planning in most regions. As much of Africa is still developing, and it contains some of the poorest countries on earth, it is still not clear how it will sustain such massive population growth as much of the population boom is occurring in the poorest and most fragile countries.

2.2. Population Growth Rate in Africa.

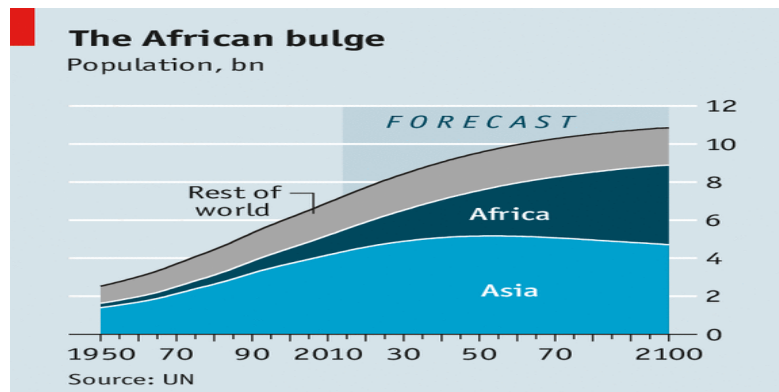
The Population Growth Rate can be defined as the average annual rate of change of population size during a specified period, usually expressed as a percentage and its purpose is to measure how fast the size of population is changing¹³.

It was found that the population growth rate is declining and is relatively low in most areas of Africa but in some countries such as Nigeria and Uganda, it is increasing at an advanced rate. After considering all the countries, the mode or most common population growth was in excess of 2% every year¹⁴. Although Africa's growth rates are declining, there are declining much lower as compared to other parts of the world.

Projections have shown that Africa's population growth shall lead to a bulge in the proportion of the youth. This would be one of the most dramatic demographic shifts in the continent's history and its population would more than double to 2.4 billion by 2050, with the area south of the Sahara swelling to 2.2 billion. This is because

Africa's total fertility rate (the number is children a woman can expect to have in her lifetime) is currently 4.7¹⁵. Even though global fertility rates are falling, Africa's is doing so at a slower rate.

Figure 2: Africa's Youth population forecasted, compared to Asia & rest of the world¹⁵.



Moving towards the year 2100, the population of the all parts of the world except Asia, is expected to increase but Africa's is projected to increase much higher than other parts of the world. Although Asia was the most populous continent in 2014, it is the only part of the world that has a projected decline towards 2100.

Rapid population growth can place strain on a country's capacity for handling a wide range of issues of economic, social and environmental significance, particularly when rapid population growth occurs in conjunction with poverty and lack of access to resources, or with unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, or in ecologically vulnerable zones¹⁶.

With more efforts, Africa can cope with the growing population as records show steady economic growth on the continent. There however should be more effort to ensure that the economic growth matches the growth in population. South of the Sahara, economic growth remains strong and was estimated 4.9% in 2013, where almost a third of countries in the region grew at 6% and more. The GDP growth in 2014 was estimated at 5.3% and with rising private investment in the region and high that support household incomes, GDP growth in Africa is expected to continue to rise and pick up to 5.5% in 2015²⁸.

A study on 30 African countries showed that education levels are positively associated with demand for and use of contraception and negatively associated with fertility and desired family size. As education rises, fertility is lower at a given level of contraceptive use, contraceptive use is higher at a given level of demand, and demand is higher at a given level of desired family size³⁰. The increasing migration in Africa is leading to an increase in remittances and ³¹remittances have been associated with increased household investments in education, health and entrepreneurship. It is therefore logical to conclude that migration in Africa is

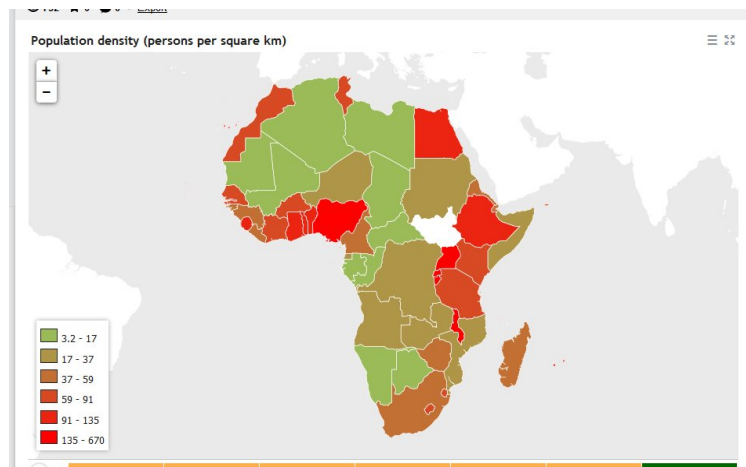
therefore, contributing to the factors that are increasing population growth rate on the continent

2.3. Population Density in Africa.

Population Density refers to the total population size of a specified area divided by its surface area and is usually expressed as population per square kilometre. This indicator that measures the concentration of the human population in reference to space enables determine human requirements and activities in that area.

As shown in figure 3 below¹⁷ the population density varies widely across Africa. The average population density of Africa was estimated at 34 persons per square kilometre in 2014, which is a considerable increase than 50years ago where it was recorded as 10.1 in 1963¹⁸. Assuming zero migration, it is expected to rise to 97.7 in 50 years' time (2063) and with instant replacement it is projected to be 54 in 2063.

Figure 3: Population density across Africa¹⁷.



Source: open data¹⁷

Migration, especially to urban areas renders population density a positive factor (human capital) of development if the average educational attainment is high (above junior high school), while it is negative otherwise. However this migration can increase demand for social services beyond the ability of the service providers. Taking into account that Africa has the largest intra-continental movement of people in the world⁴⁰, this ever increasing internal migration is increasing the strain on social services of urban areas and therefore services providers need to incorporate projections of migration in their planning.

2.4. Population and Housing in Africa.

The ever-increasing population of Africa increases the call for decent accommodation. The increase in population has not been matched by the supply of decent accommodation, leading to Africa south of the Sahara having 199.5 million of its population living in slums whilst North Africa has 11.8 million.

A slum is defined as an area that has one or more of the following five characteristics: poor structural quality of housing, overcrowding, inadequate access to safe water, inadequate access to sanitation and other infrastructure and/or insecure residential status¹⁹.

In comparison to the rest of the world, up to 80% of the population lives in slums, with fifty-five million new slum dwellers being added to the global population since 2000. South Asia has 190.7 million of the population living in slums, East Asia 189.6 million, Latin America and the Caribbean 110.7 million, Southeast Asia 88.9 million and West Asia 35 million. Estimates concerning total housing needs in Africa have been set at around 4 million units per year with over 60 per cent of the demand required to accommodate urban residents¹⁹.

Slums have been associated with poor planning and malfunctioning housing sectors in urban areas. Urban populations continue to grow, especially in developing countries and it has been projected that within the next eight years, the urban population in Africa will exceed that in Europe or Latin America. This places the emphasis on Africa strengthening its housing sector²⁰.

Africa thus faces enormous development challenges in urban areas where unplanned housing proliferates, access to essential services is poor, and insecurity and poverty are growing, all attributed to migration into urban areas. Despite these challenges, cities have played a pivotal role in sustaining economic growth in recent years, generating about 55 per cent of the continent's total GDP and if managed properly, African towns and cities can contribute as much to boosting economic output as they have elsewhere in the world (about 90% of the GDP in the developed countries)³³. Since migration to urban areas has a potentially positive effect, it should be embraced as part of development and there have to be deliberate efforts to provide services such as housing to the migrants.

2.5. Population in Urban and Rural Areas of Africa.

Urban areas tend to attract migrants from less developed areas. For the service providers, it is easier to provide water and sanitation to people living closer together, while access to health, education, and other social and cultural services is also much more readily available and that is usually the situation in urban areas as opposed to rural areas where people live far apart. However, as cities grow, the cost of meeting basic needs increases, as does the strain on the environment and natural resources.

Population in urban areas of Africa has continued to increase mainly due to rural-urban migration. The proportion of urban dwellers in Africa South of the Sahara was found to be 37% in 2014, which was lower than that of the world (53%) but slightly higher than the average for least developed countries which stood at 31%²¹.

The world's urban population is expected to surpass six billion by 2045 and much of the expected urban growth is likely to take place in countries of the developing regions, particularly Africa. As a result, these countries will face numerous challenges in meeting the needs of their growing urban populations, including for

housing, infrastructure, transportation, energy and employment, as well as for basic services such as education and health care¹⁸.

Whilst the urban areas are providing the pull factors for migrants from rural areas, they are being put under tremendous pressure to provide social services by the push factors in the rural areas that are leading to a unidirectional flow of migration. Poverty in Africa is predominantly rural and more than 70% of the continent's poor people live in rural areas and depend on agriculture for food and livelihood, yet development assistance to agriculture is decreasing. In Africa south of the Sahara, more than 218 million people live in extreme poverty and among them are rural poor people in Eastern and Southern Africa, an area that has one of the world's highest concentrations of poor people²².

Some views are that rural poverty in many areas of Africa has its roots in the colonial system and the policy and institutional restraints that it imposed on poor people. In recent decades, economic policies and institutional structures have been modified to close the income gap, but structural adjustments have been reported to have dismantled existing rural systems, without always built new ones. In many transitional economies, the rural situation is marked by continuing stagnation, poor production, low incomes and the rising vulnerability of poor people. Lack of access to markets is a problem for many small-scale enterprises in Africa. The rural population is poorly organized and often isolated, beyond the reach of social safety nets and poverty programmes. Increasingly, government policies and investments in poverty reduction tend to favour urban over rural areas. HIV/AIDS is changing the profile of rural poverty in Africa. It puts an unbearable strain on poor rural households, where labour is the primary income-earning asset. About two thirds of the 34 million people in the world with HIV/AIDS live on the African continent²².

Africa, and especially south of the Sahara, has experienced an unprecedented rate of urban growth, outpacing other regions with the migration flows from rural areas presenting daunting challenges for development, in terms of land access, and in infrastructure and basic service needs³³. Return migration is impossible and urban poverty is now a permanent feature of most economies. Despite these challenges, cities have played a pivotal role in sustaining economic growth in recent years, generating about 55 per cent of the continent's total GDP and if managed properly, African towns and cities can contribute as much to boosting economic output as they have elsewhere in the world (about 90% of the GDP in the developed countries)³³. The populations in urban areas of Africa currently stand at about 40% of total and will increase further. Central Africa is projected to remain the least urbanized region and North Africa the most urbanized.

2.6. Africa's Population and the African Union's Agenda 2063; Population projections and implications for the next 50 years.

After commemoration of the golden jubilee of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the African Union (AU), the African Union Member States set themselves an ambitious goal of fostering development in Africa in the next 50 years under what

is termed the Agenda 2063. The Agenda 2063 is a call for action and a strategic framework and roadmap to achieve continental development goals and it represents a collective effort and an opportunity for Africa to regain its power to determine its own destiny, and is underpinned by the AU Vision to build “an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, an Africa driven and managed by its own citizen and representing a dynamic force in the international arena”. In their 50th Anniversary Solemn Declaration, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU), while acknowledging past successes and challenges, rededicated themselves to the continent’s accelerated development and technological progress. They laid down vision and eight ideals to serve as pillars for the continent in the foreseeable future, which Agenda 2063 is expected to translate into concrete objectives, milestones, goals, targets and actions/measures. The Agenda 2063 is also envisioned to enable Africa remain focused and committed to the ideals envisaged in the context of a rapidly changing world.

Taking into account the role population plays in development, the changing population dynamics of Africa will certainly have a pivotal role to play in the attainment of aspirations of the Agenda 2063.

At operational level, the Agenda 2063 explores threats and opportunities to Africa’s development. It is critical that population is explored; when utilised well the increase in population, especially the youth bulge, could serve as an opportunity but when not harnessed it could turn out to be a risk and crisis for the continent. Further, lessons need to be learned from the other regions of the world where population, especially the youth bulge, has been fully exploited as a resource. Africa needs to convert its growing population into valuable human capital.

Human capital endowment refers to the skills and capacities that reside in people and that are put to productive use, and this can be an important determinant of long term economic success than virtually any other resource. This resource must be invested in and leveraged efficiently in order for it to generate returns, for the individuals involved as well as an economy as a whole. Additionally, despite high unemployment in many countries, the global economy is entering an era of talent scarcity that, if left unaddressed, will hinder economic growth on the continent. Understanding and addressing challenges related to human capital is thus fundamental to short term stability as well as the long term growth, prosperity and competitiveness of Africa. A fundamental determinant of human capital is the survival of its population and in the crudest terms, longer lives equal more productive years per capita, but are also a strong indicator of the overall health and living conditions of a population.

The concept of human capital recognizes that not all labour is equal and that the quality of employees can be improved by investing in them. The education, experience and abilities of an employee have an economic value for employers and for the economy as a whole and this means that Africa needs to invest in its population in order to reap the maximum benefits.

Africa, one of the less rich regions of the world, will record the largest amount of population growth of any world region between now and 2050. Africa's population is expected to more than double, rising from 1.1 billion today to at least 2.4 billion by 2050 and almost all this growth will be in the 51 countries south of the Sahara and this will make the continent the world's region with highest population growth. Experts have however warned that these projections should be treated very cautiously, because it assumes that birth rates will decline smoothly in all African countries in much the same way as birth rates declined in other regions and that assumption, in turn, assumes that the effective use of family planning will spread in Africa. In most countries, declines in birth rates have been very slow or even non-existent but despite declining birth rates, Africa south of the Sahara is expected to continue to growing at a fairly rapid pace after 2050 with a population that is expected to be youthful²³.

If the assumptions hold true, then in 50 years' time, the population of Africa is expected to appear as displayed in the case scenarios in figure below:

Figures 4: Total Population of Africa by region and case scenario (billion)²⁴							
Region	2000	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
High-Case Scenario							
Africa	0.82	1.03	1.30	1.55	1.80	2.04	2.75
Central Africa	0.08	0.11	0.14	0.17	0.21	0.24	0.33
East Africa	0.22	0.28	0.37	0.46	0.54	0.62	0.89
North Africa	0.15	0.17	0.20	0.22	0.24	0.26	0.29
Southern Africa	0.14	0.16	0.20	0.23	0.26	0.29	0.36
West Africa	0.23	0.30	0.39	0.47	0.55	0.63	0.87
Low Case scenario							
Africa	0.82	1.03	1.15	1.37	1.59	1.80	2.42
Central Africa	0.06	0.11	0.13	0.15	0.18	0.21	0.29
East Africa	0.22	0.28	0.33	0.40	0.48	0.55	0.78
North Africa	0.15	0.17	0.18	0.20	0.21	0.23	0.26
Southern Africa	0.14	0.16	0.17	0.20	0.23	0.26	0.32
West Africa	0.23	0.30	0.34	0.41	0.49	0.56	0.77

Source: African Development Bank database and AfDB staff estimates

In general, Africa's population is expected to increase in the next 50 years and beyond with each of its five regions (Central, East, North, South and West) all showing progressive increase. In both case scenarios, it is projected that West Africa will have the largest proportion of population on the continent followed by East Africa, whilst Central Africa is expected to have the least.

2.6.1. Implications of the current population dynamics on Africa in 50 years

The population increase that is likely to occur in Africa in the next 50 years could present Africa with a number of implications. This is because population issues are related to so many other topics, such as demography, economics, urbanization, gender, religion, politics, food and nutrition, health and human rights which are all inter-related. This makes it imperative for Africa to not only forecast the population but identify the implications then take remedial and pre-emptive measures. Considering the current projections of Africa's population for the next 50 years, the following implications are expected to emerge:

i. The Youth Bulge

It has been shown that Africa's population growth shall lead to a bulge in the proportion of the youth, all projections based on Africa's current total fertility rate (the number of children a woman can expect to have in her lifetime) that currently stands at 4.7²⁵.

The youth bulge is a common phenomenon in many developing countries, and in particular, in the least developed countries and is often due to a stage of development where a country achieves success in reducing infant mortality but mothers still have a high fertility rates. This results in a large share of the population being comprised of children and young adults, and today's children are tomorrow's young adults.

Currently in Africa, about 40 per cent of the population is under 15, and nearly 70 per cent is under 30 and in a decade, Africa's share of the population between 15 and 29 years of age may reach 28 per cent of its population²⁶.

With a youth bulge, the young adults enter the working age, and the country's dependency ratio (the ratio of the non-working age population to the working age population) declines. Provided that the number of working age individuals are fully employed in productive activities, other things being equal, the level of average income per capita should increase as a result and the youth bulge then becomes a demographic dividend. On the other hand, if a large proportion of young people cannot find employment and earn satisfactory income, the youth bulge could become detrimental because a large mass of frustrated youth is likely to become a potential source of social and political instability.

Current statistics in Africa show high levels of youth unemployment that are certainly insufficient to handle the projected youth bulge²⁷.

Africa therefore needs to invest more in employment creation in the next 50 years and this should be an important pillar of the Agenda 2063. Considering that one in every 4 workers is projected to be an African by the year 2050, Africa needs to create a corresponding number of jobs in order to render these youths productive and convert their population bulge into a demographic dividend.

ii. Infrastructure²⁴

The projected general increase in population in Africa does not seem to be matched by an equal increase in infrastructure. Africa's infrastructure networks increasingly lag behind those of other developing countries and are characterized by missing regional links and stagnant household access. Africa's difficult economic geography presents particular challenges for infrastructure development and the continent's infrastructure services are twice as expensive as elsewhere, reflecting both diseconomies of scale in production and high profit margins caused by lack of competition.

Power is by far Africa's largest infrastructure challenge, with 30 countries facing regular power shortages and many paying high premiums for emergency power. Further, Africa has many ports but few are capable of handling modern, large-scale vessels and many of these ports suffer from congestion with average dwell time in Africa twice as high as in Europe. Mobile penetration in Africa has been on the rise with an estimated penetration rate of 37% in 2010, rising to 56% by 2014, whilst mobile subscription is projected to rise nearly threefold from 480 per 1,000 inhabitants in 2010 to 1,405 in the next 50 years.

ICT broadband coverage has increased in the last five years, from 0.1% of the population in 2005 to 7% in 2010 and projected to rise to 99% of the population in 2060. A known constraint to the scaling up of ICT is low electrification whose rate in Africa stood at 42% in 2009 although projected to rise to 51% in 2030.

The cost of addressing Africa's infrastructure needs is around \$93 billion a year, about a third of which is for maintenance, although this challenge varies greatly by country type, where fragile states face an impossible burden and resource-rich countries lag despite their wealth. A large share of Africa's infrastructure is domestically financed, with the central government budget being the main driver of infrastructure investment. It is projected that even with efficiency gains, the continent would still face an infrastructural funding gap of \$31 billion a year, particularly in power.

iii. Changing Disease patterns²⁴

Human behaviour plays an important role in determining risk and pattern of disease. The increase in population and demographic changes shall therefore, influence disease patterns in Africa. The HIV/AIDS pandemic, Ebola outbreaks, Malaria, Tuberculosis and diarrhoeal diseases are some communicable diseases that have negatively affected Africa from the health, social and economic perspectives. The groups most affected by diseases such as AIDS were infants and those in the working age group with mortality rates soaring in the last 30 years.

The change in demographics with subsequent change in disease patterns has the potential to change the course of Africa's development in the long-term through its impact on parameters such as the labour force and expenditure on health.

Responding to the projected impact of population on health in the next 50 years shall require interventions outside the traditional domain of public health. This shall enable Africa embrace interventions that address the consequences on health, the economy, culture and other related threats to human security.

iv. Urbanisation²⁴

The continent's urban dwellers in 2010 made up nearly 40% of the total, which is expected to rise to 50% by 2030 and 65% by 2060. It is therefore projected that by 2060, Africa's population will have radically shifted from rural to urban areas.

Without deliberate efforts being put in place for the next 50 years, Africa will face several challenges in its urban areas that could include insufficient electricity and water, along with poor sanitation, drainage and waste management. There is also likely to be a proliferation of slums, inadequate school and health facilities and other community concerns such as security. Increase in population could also lead to increase pollution, altered land use could result in insufficient open spaces, public parks and playgrounds.

v. International migration

Population mobility has been a permanent feature of African history, and is likely to increase in the next 50 years. Demographic pressure, persistent income differentials, spreading networks of migrants, increasingly intense communication and increased ability to afford the cost of migration are all likely to contribute to substantially greater mobility of workers. In addition, the effects of climate change may increase the need to emigrate from the worst affected regions, either to cities within the continent or outside Africa, combined with growing demographic imbalances between Africa, Europe and North America, combined with large income gaps, could all lead to strong migration pressures towards industrialised countries³⁴. In developed countries, 20% of the current population is aged 60 or more and this proportion will increase to 32% in 2060, with two elderly persons for each child aged 0 to 14 years³⁴. In the absence of an increase in fertility, immigration will be necessary to maintain an acceptable labour force/pensioner ratio and this will act as a "pull factor" for African migrants.

In order to turn the youth bulge into a demographic dividend in the next 50 years, Africa needs to retain its best labour force by addressing these possible causes of migration. Results from a survey⁴ on youths and adolescents in Africa showed all the 36 countries under study indicated that they have national policies/ strategies to address the plight of youths with established institutional entities to implement. The 36 countries further stated that they have policies for creating employment opportunities and they are currently being addressed in existing programmes and budgets have been allocated for that purpose. About 87% of the countries confirmed

having policies and programmes that address the adverse effects of poverty on adolescents and youth, with the majority of them stating that they also have budgets and implementation measures in place.

The results show that most Africa countries are alert to their challenges of their young population and are doing something to address these issues. It should however be noted that having policies and budgets in place could not necessarily translate into positive results, unless this efforts are substantially large enough to address the challenges. Further, the policies and resources that are currently available could be sufficient to address the current challenges but insufficient to address to address the demographic changes that are likely to occur in the next 50 years.

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