



PROMOTING INTRA-REGIONAL LABOUR MIGRATION FOR LOCAL DEVELOPMENT IN WEST AFRICAN COUNTRIES

THIS THREE-YEAR PROJECT AIMS TO STRENGTHEN THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND MOBILITY OF YOUTH IN RURAL AND BORDER REGIONS OF THE GAMBIA, SENEGAL, GUINEA-BISSAU, AND GUINEA. IT BUILDS ON TWO PREVIOUS INITIATIVES: “BRINGING TOGETHER YOUTH, THE DIASPORA AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES FOR AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO PROMOTING EMPLOYMENT AND COMBATING IRREGULAR MIGRATION IN THE GAMBIA, GUINEA AND GUINEA-BISSAU” (YDLA), AND “SUPPORTING LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE GAMBIA, GUINEA AND GUINEA-BISSAU” (SLED). THESE PROJECTS WERE IMPLEMENTED BY IOM BETWEEN 2018 AND 2021 WITH FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE ITALIAN AGENCY FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION (AICS).

The current project aims not only to consolidate gains from these previous interventions, but also consider the recommendations made following the SLED project final evaluation.

In a bid to address the challenges relating to youth unemployment and irregular migration, IOM plans to **strengthen socio-economic development** and intra-regional mobility in the rural areas of these four countries, based on **youth-focused programmes**.

The aim is to **promote safe, orderly and regular mobility**, both within and across borders, while ensuring a balance between labour supply and labour demand to support youth employment and income generation. This requires the **adoption of evidence-based policies and strategies** on migration governance, as well as the **creation of employment opportunities** for youth in **strategic economic sectors**.

PROJECT TYPE: ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY-BASED DEVELOPMENT

PROJECT SUBTYPE: LABOUR MIGRATION

COVERAGE AREAS: THE GAMBIA, GUINEA, GUINEA-BISSAU, AND SENEGAL

IMPLEMENTING AGENCY: INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)

BENEFICIARIES: YOUTH, DIASPORA, LOCAL COMMUNITIES, AND TARGET COUNTRIES

PARTNERS: MINISTRIES, UNIVERSITIES, YOUTH ASSOCIATIONS, MIGRANT ASSOCIATIONS, RETURNEES, AND NGOs

DURATION: 36 MONTHS





BUDGET: EUR 4,000,000

FUNDING: ITALIAN AGENCY FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION (AICS)





PROJECT WORKSTREAMS

LABOUR MIGRATION POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

MAINSTREAMING LABOUR MIGRATION IN DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

-  **Labour force survey** and labour migration assessment.
-  **Labour market assessments.**
-  **National youth employment strategy** + Integrated Labour Market Information System.
-  Strengthening **inter-ministerial coordination** on migration.

SHARING EXPERIENCES ON MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN NATIONS


-  Training on mainstreaming **migration** in **local development plans.**
-  Consultations on national and regional **coordination mechanisms for migration.**
-  Setting up an **observatory for youth labour mobility.**
-  **Study on skilled diaspora** and remittances.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH

TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO IMPROVE EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME GENERATION

-  **Creation of 40 businesses** and training in sustainable entrepreneurship for **100 young people.**
-  **Support for 20 new businesses,** micro-credits, and technical training for 100 young people.
-  Income-generating activities for 150 young people and **financial support for 150 entrepreneurs.**
-  **Entrepreneurship training for 100 beneficiaries** and financial support for 100 entrepreneurs.

THE PRIVATE SECTOR, DIASPORA, AND INSTITUTIONS SUPPORT YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

-  **Diaspora mentoring** for 5 government institutions and creation of a regional employment centre.
-  **Conducting a job fair** with the participation of the diaspora.
-  **Rehabilitation of the border market** in Koundara.
-  Strengthening of value chain networks, **creation of 20 micro-enterprises for 100 young people** in border communities.