

**ADDRESSING TRANS-SAHARAN IRREGULAR  
MIGRATION TO EUROPE: THE ROLE OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR  
MIGRATION (IOM) IN GHANA.**

**BY**

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**THIS DISSERTATION IS SUBMITTED TO THE AALBORG  
UNIVERSITY, IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF  
THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF  
THE MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE IN  
CULTURE, COMMUNICATION AND GLOBALIZATION**

**DENMARK  
STUDENT NUMBER: 20161579**

**MAY, 2019**

## **DECLARATION**

I, BENJAMIN BOTCHWAY, do hereby declare that this dissertation is the end product of my own research under the supervision of Dr. Osman Farah of the Department of Culture and Global Studies, University of Aalborg towards the award of a Master of Arts (MA) in Culture, Communication and Globalization and that, to the best of my knowledge, it neither contains materials previously published by another person nor materials which have been accepted for the award of any other degree by this or any other university except where due acknowledgement has been made in the text.

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## **DEDICATION**

*I dedicate this work to the Almighty God and my family for their immense contribution, sacrifice and prayers in seeing to it that, this work becomes a reality and a success.*

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

My greatest and profound gratitude goes to the Almighty God for granting me the enablement, grace and favour to carry out this study successfully and in a grand style, may His name be praised.

I cannot allude to the success of this study without acknowledging and appreciating the services and efforts of my supervisor; Dr. Osman Farah who contributed greatly towards the success of the study.

My appreciation will never be complete without acknowledging these wonderful personalities who contributed in diverse ways to the success of this work. My profound gratitude goes to my family and colleagues for their inspirations and support throughout my educational endeavors with particular reference to this study.

To all my colleagues and friends of the Department of Culture and Global Studies 2018/2019, I am very happy to have been part of this great family, God's favour, blessings and grace to you all.

## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AHTU	- Anti-Human Trafficking Unit
AIDS	- Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
CRC	- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
CSOs	- Civil society organizations
ECOWAS	- Economic Community of West African States
EDF	- European Development Fund
EU	- European Union
GIS	- Ghana Immigration Service
GoG	- Government of Ghana
GPS	- Ghana Police Service
IOM	- International Organization for Migration
MoGCSP	- Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection
NGOs	- Non-governmental organizations
NS	- National Security
TIP	- Trafficking in Persons
UN	- United Nations
UN.GIFT	-United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking
UNICEF	- United Nations Children’s Fund
UNODC	- United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime
US	- United States

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## **ABSTRACT**

This study focuses essentially in analyzing the interventions by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in preventing irregular migration, particularly by the youth from Ghana to Europe. The study is purely qualitative and relies primarily on literature review and interviews for data collection and analyses. Major findings from the study reveals that the intervention strategies adopted by the IOM to prevent the increasing phenomenon of irregular migration by the youth from Ghana to Europe include awareness creation about the dangers involved in such phenomenon, lobbying for effective legislation against irregular migration, promotion of economic development, assisting in capacity building and development of the effective strategic plan for addressing irregular migration from Ghana to Europe. The intervention by the IOM in preventing irregular migration from Ghana to Europe has yielded some successes including sensitization and advocacy through education, formulation of legislative laws to criminalize irregular migration, sanctioning of culprits who induce the youth into forced irregular migration, establishment of The Anti-Trafficking and Irregular Migration Units of both the Ghana Police and the Ghana Immigration Service to identify irregular migration cases to Europe and to also sanction culprits, rescue of irregular migrant victims to reintegrate them back into society, capacity building training, workshops and seminars and also promotion of economic development through education, as well as technical and vocational trainings to make empower people economically. These achievements have played significant role in the prevention of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe. However, IOM has encountered a number of challenges in its quest to prevent irregular migration from Ghana to Europe. These challenges include poverty and economic hardships, lack of political will on the part of the government, poor cooperation. The study therefore concludes that The IOM has played a significant role in the prevention of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe, but there still remains more to completely eradicate the phenomenon in the country. Towards this end, the study recommends that the IOM should continue to collaborate effectively with the Government of Ghana and other international agencies such as the UNICEF, UNODC among others, to be able to effectively tackle the menace of the increasing phenomenon of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe.

# **CHAPTER ONE**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background to Study**

Some social scientists have traditionally defined migration as more or less the permanent movement of people across a particular space (Maxwell, 2014). Migration may also be defined as a temporary or permanent change in the usual place of residence across space in a given time period (Yendaw, 2013). Irregular migration has been described as illegal, undocumented or clandestine movement of people from one country or region to another (Yendaw, 2013). It's a cliché principally rejected by scholars due to the criminal connotation attached (Tanle, 2012). Irregular migration connotes a type of migration that occurs outside of the rules and procedures guiding the orderly international movement of people. However, for the purpose of this study, irregular migration has been defined simply as the process of crossing borders without the request travelling documents or violation of the conditions for entering another country (Tanle, 2012).

In Europe, irregular migration has been a subject of increasing and ongoing public debates, with daily reports of unauthorized migrants reaching Mediterranean shores and others tragically losing their lives in the process (Morehouse & Blomfield, 2011). Irregular migration happens to be the fastest growing form of migration globally, and for many destination countries, irregular presents a serious challenge (Castle et al, 2013). In view of that, most of the destination countries have significantly invested huge sums of money to develop structures and instruments to effectively control the growing menace of irregular migration. Thus far, however, these efforts have been unsuccessful to produce the desired outcome.

Statistics have shown an exponential increase of migrants from Sub-Saharan Africa to Europe from 58, 000,000 in 2010 to 168, 000, 000, with majority of these migrants being from Ghana and Nigeria, some of whom are irregular migrants (Pew Research Center, 2010). It is however difficult to enumerate or obtain exact figures of irregular migrants from Sub-Saharan African, particularly, Ghana to Europe

since such irregular migrants mostly resort to clandestine or fraudulent means to get to Europe which sometimes are not noticeable or traced.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) was established in 1951 following the upheaval and displacement of citizens of Western Europe after World War II (IOM, 2017). Currently, the IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. In September 2016, IOM became a related organization of the United Nations (Bradley, 2017). The IOM also promotes international cooperation and assists the search for pragmatic solutions to migration challenges through working closely with governments, inter-governmental and civil society organizations (IOM, 2017). As of December 2016, IOM had a membership of 166 countries (IOM, 2017). The IOM in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century has also extended its scope to addressing irregular migration particularly from Sub-Saharan Africa to Europe. It is in this vein that this particular study examines IOM's approaches in collaboration or cooperation with the Government of Ghana towards addressing irregular trans-Saharan migration from Ghana to Europe.

## **1.2 Problem Statement**

Aspiring migrants who cannot fulfil the requirements to migrate through legal channels often resort to irregular ones (Carretero, 2008). Over the years, many young, talented and energetic youths risk their lives through irregular migration to Europe in search of greener pastures. Ignorance, peer pressure, family influence and frustration are among the varying contributing factors to this practice as they are deceived by friends and family members who were lucky enough to have reached Europe through a regular or genuine means and return home to live frivolous lifestyles which normally entice others.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM), in 2015, recorded over one million sea arrivals of irregular migrants to Europe and Ghanaians were among the major nationalities that arrived in Italy by the sea in 2015 with 4,431 individuals (3,995 men, 155 women, 41 accompanied minors and 240 unaccompanied minors), (Carretero, 2008). These migrants themselves are commonly depicted as victims recruited by merciless and unscrupulous traffickers and smugglers (Carretero, 2008). Notwithstanding the numerous negative media reports on the plight of irregular migrants, some young Ghanaians continue to seek greener pastures in European countries such as Italy, the Netherlands, Germany and Spain with Libya as a main transit country.

Europe as one of the most preferred destination for migrants from the Sub-Saharan Africa, particularly Ghanaians, suffer from migrants using unapproved routes. Consequently, the situation of illegal migration of Ghanaians to Europe creates several challenges which includes but not limited to the spread of diseases, terrorism, joblessness, deportations if found alive, sometimes loss of lives along irregular routes and other security risks (Koser, 2010).

In relation to the above, the Government of Ghana (GoG) in collaboration with other international institutions have developed some strategies aimed at reducing irregular migration. For instance, GoG in collaboration with the International Organisation for Migration in 2007 established a migration unit in the Ministry of Interior to effectively manage irregular migration. Further, IOM in collaboration with the Ghana Immigration Service and the Brong Ahafo Regional Coordinating Council have launched a European Union-Funded Migration Information Center (MIC) in Sunyani in the Brong Ahafo region of Ghana as part of an effort to promote safe and legal migration as well as to facilitate and empower migrants to travel in a legal, voluntary and safe way. Yet, while Ghana has indicated irregular migration as a challenge and has developed the above-mentioned policies and more to help reduce the challenge, it seems Ghanaians continue to take such risks and as the data indicates the numbers have increased. This means, more need to be done in order to reduce the increasing phenomenon of irregular migrants from Ghana to Europe.

While political narratives and media coverages on irregular migration tend to focus on its negative impacts, little scholarly exploration exist on the analysis of the interventions by international civil society in addressing irregular migration from Ghana to Europe. The negative human security implications of irregular migration to Europe by Ghanaians have gained much national and international concerns and as such have attracted numerous interventions by various civil society organizations to curb the menace. However, there is limited literature as well as dearth of theoretical explorations with regards to the analysis of the topic in contemporary times, from the perspective of the IOM's intervention in the prevention of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe. This necessitated the examination of this study to analyse IOM's interventions towards the prevention of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe.

### **1.3 Objectives of Study**

The general objective of the study will be to examine IOM's role or interventions against irregular migration from Ghana to Europe.

*Whereas the specific objectives of the study will be as follows: to examine,*

- a. the extent and nature of irregular migration in Ghana;
- b. the major causes and effects of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe;
- c. the interventions by the IOM in collaboration with the Government of Ghana and other relevant stakeholders in addressing irregular migration from Ghana to Europe.
- d. the challenges and successes of the IOM's interventions in preventing or reducing irregular migration from Ghana to Europe.

### **1.4 Research Questions**

It is against this backdrop of the objectives of this study that the dissertation seeks to answer the following research questions. The main research question of this study is how successful has the IOM's interventions help to prevent irregular migration from Ghana to Europe?

*Whereas the sub-research questions of the study will be as follows:*

- a. What is the nature and extent of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe?
- b. What are the major causes and effects of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe?
- c. What are the interventions put in place by the IOM in addressing irregular migration from Ghana to Europe?
- d. What are the challenges and successes of IOM's interventions in preventing irregular migration from Ghana to Europe?

### **1.5 Significance of Study**

Irregular migration affects the entire international community. While the issue has received considerable attention from major global governing institutions like the UN, EU, and ILO, this study limited itself to the IOM and the role it has played in preventing irregular migration from Ghana to

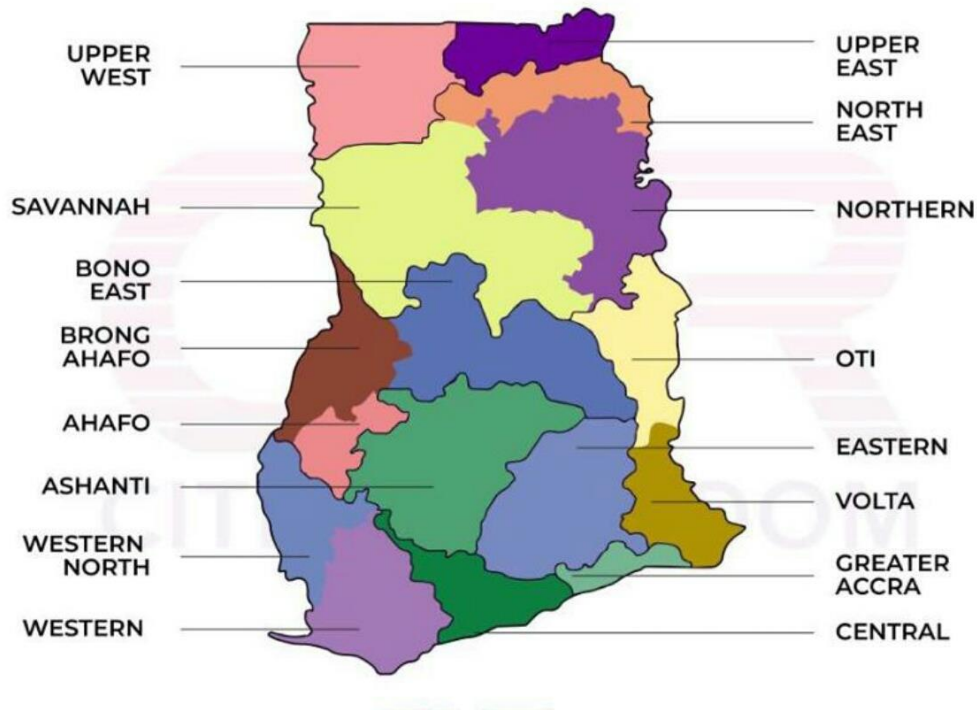
Europe. Prioritizing prevention efforts, one of the IOM's main areas of focus, would help government to respond effectively to the increasing phenomenon of irregular migrants from Ghana to Europe.

The benefit of this study is also to contribute to knowledge in the fields of International Relation and Migration Studies on the viable and proactive interventions to addressing irregular migration from Ghana to Europe, from the perspective of a civil society organization, which is the IOM. In this vein, the study seeks to make recommendations which policy makers, students, states, integration blocs and international organizations could rely on for future researches on the topic to make interventions in case of future challenges of irregular migration by Ghanaians to other parts of the world.

## **1.6 Scope of Study**

Owing to the high youthful unemployment and the lack of job opportunities for especially graduates, most of the youths in the have resorted to irregular migration by plying all forms of illegal routes to get to Europe through Brong Ahafo. This has contributed significantly to the migration crises experienced in Europe and therefore necessitate the urgent need for measures to be taken in addressing the increasing phenomenon of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe. Towards this end, this study specifically limits itself to the analysis of the role of IOM in addressing migration crises from Ghana to Europe. The study covered predominantly the interventions put in place by the IOM including advocacy, promoting economic development, among others to help prevent irregular migration from Ghana to Europe. In this vein, the study will also capture the extent to which the IOM has succeeded in prevent irregular migration of Ghanaians to Europe. Also, IOM Annual reports, government reports on irregular migration and human trafficking in Ghana, other relevant materials and interviews from IOM's officials, were analysed to ascertain the successes, challenges of the IOM's interventions aimed at curbing irregular migration from Ghana to Europe.

# NEW MAP OF GHANA



Source: Ministry of Information, 2019

## 1.7 Limitation

Accessing secondary data on the IOM's interventions in curbing irregular migration from Ghana to Europe was a very daunting task as the researcher had to predominantly rely on officials of the IOM in Ghana to obtain such details through unstructured interviews. However, gaining access to some of the respondents was also very challenging due to their high positions and busy schedules coupled with limited resources in the form of transportation to also gain access to key informants. Another issue the researcher faced was the inaccessibility of top classified information on the subject, due to the sensitivity of the topic. In order to overcome the above limitation, the researcher tried to find appointments with the most available officials of IOM office in Ghana.

## **1.8 Organization of Chapters**

Chapter One entailed the introduction which will compose of the background of the study, followed by the problem statement, and the objectives, both general and specific, then the research questions, and the significance of the study.

Chapter Two presented the literature review, to reveal the significance of existing literature to this particular study and indicating gaps which this study seeks to fill.

Chapter Three presented on the research methods, which involve the research design and the procedures adopted in undertaking the study.

Chapter Four, covered the presentation, discussion and analysis of the research findings. Chapter Five; the concluding chapter, contained the summary of research findings, conclusion and recommendations.



## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

#### **2.1 Introduction**

Various authors have written extensively on the causes and measures adopted in addressing irregular migration. It is in this vein that some of these works are reviewed in this section to show how they contribute significantly to this particular study and also identify their major gap(s) which necessitates for this study. For the purpose of clarity, the review is divided into four main sections. These include Human Security and Cooperation as theoretical frameworks, nature and scope of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe, factors influencing irregular migration from Ghana to Europe, general trends of interventions against irregular migration by civil society organizations and general purposes and functions of the IOM in addressing irregular migration across the globe.

#### **2.2 Theoretical Frameworks**

##### **2.2.1 The theory of Human Security in explaining civil society organizations' interventions in irregular migration**

This study utilizes the theory of Human Security in its analysis. Taylor (2004) defines Human security as the “protection people from critical or pervasive threats, situations that threaten fundamental freedoms and rights.” However, Mahbub Ul Haq is usually ascribed as the major proponent of this theory. The Human Development Report which was crafted in 1994 by Mahbub Ul Haq gave prominence to the concept which concentrated essentially on the detailed and systematic approach to human security, by outlining the dimensions of the new security conceptualization (Mahbub, 1994). The idea about human security came about under the Human Development Report of 1994, where two main issues were considered, i.e. freedom of fear which addresses protection from sudden and hurtful disruptions in the patterns of daily life whether in homes, in jobs or in communities, and freedom from wants which centralized on safety from such chronic threats as hunger, disease and repression (Mahbub, 1994). These issues aimed at addressing human hazards, torture and pain. It is in this vein

that the 1994 Human Development Report defines human society as people “safety from chronic threats and protection from sudden hurtful disruptions in the pattern of daily life” (Mahbub, 1994).

Traditional conceptualization of security focused predominantly on state security, with the realist notion. The state is considered the dominant actor in the international system which has the sole prerogative of protecting its territorial boundaries to ensure the safety of its citizens. This means that, traditional conceptualization of security sought to perceive that, the individuals or citizens of a state are safe in their territorial boundaries and are protected from external attacks of other states. However, Human Security is a paradigm shift which focuses essentially on individuals within a state and not protection of state boundaries or territories.

Theorists of human security expound that, it is not really the case that, individuals within a particular state are free if their territorial boundaries are protected from external attacks. They posit that, there are other threats that may bedevil individuals in state although its territorial boundaries may be well protected and secured. These threats include poverty, hunger, torture and restrictions of basic rights from undemocratic leaderships, chronic diseases, among others. According to the Human Security Report 2005, human security is a new security concept which now widely accepted and used to describe the complex of international threats associated with genocides, poverty, hunger, refugee crisis and civil wars (Human Security Centre, 2005).

The basic components of human security from the 1994 Human Development Report include the following:

- Economic security – emphasizes an appreciable basic income that could be obtain from productive work or public financial systems for individuals to be able to provide their basic needs.
- Food security – connotes having the physical and economic capabilities to obtain basic foods in their appreciable qualities and quantities.
- Health security - suggests minimum security from diseases and avoidance of lifestyles that are detrimental to the health of people.
- Environmental security – stipulates avoiding practices which lead to the deterioration of the natural environment and its associated consequences.

- Political security – stresses on the extent to which individuals within a state are allowed to exercise their political liberties, such as the freedom to vote for any political party of one's choice without coercion or restrictions.
- Personal security – focuses on the extent to which individuals within a state could be protected from physical violence or harm.
- Community security – expounds the efforts taken by government in protecting and enhancing the traditional relations and values which bonds together and promotes harmony among individuals in a state.

The main argument of human security is that, conceptualization of security issues should be broadened so as to cover ensuring the protection and safety of individuals within a state, rather than focusing only on the protection of territorial boundaries, which has been the traditional notion of security. Thus, theorists of human security believe that the traditional notion of security has been over – simplified and it was about time a broader consideration to security issues which will also give attention to individuals within a state, rather than focusing entirely on the protection of territorial boundaries.

The concept of Human Security has been criticized or challenged on several grounds. Most critics of human security assert that, the concept is vague and does not qualify to be accepted as an effective theoretical framework for analysis in International Relations. For instance, Chandler in his work, *Human Security: The Dog that Didn't Bark*, suggests that human security has been reinforced but have had little impact on policies formulation (Chandler, 2008). He added that, human security is normative rather than being descriptive, i.e. human security suggests 'what should be' rather than 'what is actual happening' (Chandler, 2008). In addition, Chandler establishes that, the concept of human security has been an exaggeration and location to human security threats are usually identified to be centralized in developing countries, particularly those in Africa (Chandler, 2008). He also points out that, human security theorists look at short-term knowledge rather than long-term strategic solutions to so called 'human security threats' (Chandler, 2008).

Owen in his work, *Human Security: Conflict, Critique and Consensus* also criticize the concept of human security on some grounds. He identifies that, there is no threshold definition of the concept, and

also points out that, concentrating on individuals only proliferates the concept without adding any analytic value (Owen, 2004).

In response to the above criticisms, Paris explains that Human Security is not totally useless, but has rather led to some beneficial achievements to human survival. These include changing the nature of war-fares where non-combatants are supposed to be protected during wars and combatants who are also captured by victor states are not supposed to be killed instantly or treated inhumanely as done in the past (Paris, 2001). He also reveals that, the call for human security has led to the formation of ICC to ensure that governments do not subject their own citizens to torture, pain and hunger (Paris, 2001). In addition, he identifies that, concerns for human security has led to Land mines treaties which bans the use, production, stockpiling and transfer of antipersonnel mines and places (Paris, 2001).

Notwithstanding the above criticism leveled against the concept of Human Security by the above scholars, I still consider the concept as an ideal framework for the study. This is because, it fits perfectly into the topic by helping to better appreciate and understand the negative impacts and human security threats of irregular migrations from Ghana to Europe, with much emphasis on economic security, food security, health security, environmental security, political security, personal security and community security of irregular migrants and the reason why civil society organization such as the IOM has put in interventions to help salvage the situation. This will help present a detailed analysis of the state of IOM's interventions against irregular migration from Ghana to Europe, and informed recommendations based on finding that will be derived from the study.

### **2.2.2 The theory of Cooperation in explaining how IOM practically intervene in Ghanaian Youth migration**

The theory of cooperation will guide this study. The term “cooperation” first appeared in the fourteenth century. “Cooperation”, derived from the Christian Latin *cooperatio* in the fifteenth century, means a collective endeavour. It is composed of *co* from *cum* and *operare*, meaning “with” or “together,” and “to act” respectively (Salvato et al, 2017). To cooperate is to act together, the joining of individual efforts for a common end. Draperi perceives cooperation as the coordinated activity of agents pursuing different objectives and seeking to establish common rules (Draperi, 2012). The IOM is an intergovernmental organisation charged with managing migration issues that may lead to irregular migration; and in doing so, its counter-irregular migration units collaborate with state and non-state

agencies to primarily establish the IOM's respect for human rights (IOM, 2017). Importantly, Governments must set the lead on national issues of concern (e.g. irregular migration), to help organisations associated with such issues provide support and guidance to establish a common rule that benefits parties involved.

The essence of cooperation theories is the extent to which the incentives for, or benefits from cooperation can be seen to outweigh the incentives of acting unilaterally (Dougherty & Pfaltzgraff, 1996). Robert Keohane in his work, *After Hegemon*, argues that cooperation can develop based on past corresponding interests among states. Keohane adds that intergovernmental cooperation takes place when the policies actually followed by one government are regarded by its partners as facilitating realization of their own objectives, as the result of a process of policy coordination (Keohane, 2005).

Helen Milner perceives cooperation as occurring, when actors adjust their behaviour to the actual or anticipated preference of others, through a process of policy coordination (Milner, 1992). Policy coordination, in her view, implies that the policies of each partners have been adjusted to reduce the negative consequence for the other stakeholders (Milner, 1992). According to her, the concept of cooperation must have two essential elements. Firstly, is the assumption that every actor's behaviour is focused towards some goal. The goal may not be the same for all actors, but it is an assumed rational behaviour on the part of all.

Secondly, cooperation rewards actors with gains. The kind or magnitude of the gains, she says, may not be the same for each actor but must be mutual. Actors, in helping each other to realise their goal, by adjusting their policies in cooperation with other stakeholders, serve their own interests.

In international relations, there are two main thoughts on cooperation: The Realist and the Idealist views. The Realists argue that given the anarchic nature of the international system driven by national interests of actors, cooperation is only possible to the extent that stakeholders allow it, and that gains that accrue from cooperation are relative. The Idealists on the other hand, believe that besides national interests, there are real and functional reasons for which cooperation is inevitable. For these reasons, gains accruing from cooperation are absolute (Keohane & Martin, 1995).

This study accepts the assumptions of the Idealists on cooperation. In confronting irregular migration in Ghana, the framework of cooperation is appropriate for the reason that IOM cannot achieve meaningful

success in its interventions against irregular migration from Ghana to Europe, without cooperating and coordinating with relevant stakeholders in Ghana. Therefore, the IOM must cooperate with the government, intergovernmental organisations, non-governmental organisations, businesses, academia, civil society to create effective interventions in fighting irregular migration from Ghana to Europe.

Despite the strength of the theory of cooperation in explaining the essence of stakeholders working together to prevent irregular migration, there are critiques of the theory. They can be grouped into the Liberalists, Idealists and Realists. According to the liberalists, the main obstacle to cooperation is the lack of enough institutions' perspectives. Also, the idealists hold the view that cooperation would be much easier to achieve through the formation of international organizations (Keohane & Martin, 1995). According to the realists, stakeholders or actors will accept institutions only when it is in their national interest to do so. These criticisms imply that organisations are not as powerful as the actors or stakeholders which establish them; hence such organisations cannot promote cooperation if stakeholders or partners decline to cooperate. This proves that organisations cannot promote cooperation if stakeholders decide not to cooperate (Weber, 2013).

Regardless of the limitations, the theory of cooperation will be suitable for this study. This is because irregular migration is a global phenomenon which affects all countries whether they are source, transit or destination countries. IOM as an inter-governmental organisation, in its interventions to help prevent irregular migration from Ghana to Europe, collaborates with state agencies, international organisations, NGOs and other stakeholders in Ghana. Though the IOM works collectively with its country offices to tackle migration issues including irregular migration globally, it also cooperates with individual countries, organisations and persons to the menace. Countries reserve the right to collaborate and cooperate with the IOM. However, with the growth in normative issues such as poverty, porous borders, among others, it is important that countries cooperate to help prevent irregular migration in persons locally in their own interest, and to a large extent, the interest of the global community. This therefore makes the theory of cooperation most suitable for this particular study.

### **2.3 The nature and scope of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe**

Liska Wittenberg argues that the surge in the increasing number of migrants and refugees fleeing persecution, violence, poverty or war to cross the Mediterranean Sea to Malta and Italy have been

defined by images of children, women and men being pulled out (Wittenberg, 2017). In recent years, she posits, increase in mixed migration is having a wide-ranging impact on countries of origin, transit, and destination. Transit countries are not only overwhelmed by the fast-growing number of people crossing their borders but also, like destination countries, are grappling with the short and long-term challenges of managing and accommodating an increasingly large number of refugees and migrants (Wittenberg, 2017).

Koser proceeds on the stance that irregular migration is a great challenge for states and expose migrants to insecurity in addition to vulnerability. To him, most states have nevertheless failed to manage or control irregular migration effectively or efficiently. It is therefore required of states to generate new, more effective and coherent approaches to address the issue of irregular migration, which will recognize both concerns of states in this respect and the need to protect the rights of irregular migration (Koser, 2005). To him stopping irregular migration is fundamental to reasserting full sovereignty and in more extreme cases, irregular migration has also been perceived as a threat to state security (Koser, 2005).

Angenendt argues that in combating irregular migration from Ghana to Europe, government face three main difficulties: First, this form of immigration, more than others, demands that the state should be capable of taking effective action (Angenendt, 2010). This is a test of its authority and legitimacy, and it also raises questions of the relationship between state, society and human security. Second, irregular migration is confronted with competing interests in the receiving countries (Angenendt, 2010). Third, the scope of political options available to governments for dealing with irregular migration is constrained by a multitude of legal and situational factors (Angenendt, 2010). As a result, the efforts of many governments around this issue threaten to founder on the wide gap between their will to action and the actual options.

Hein de Haas in his work, *Irregular Migration from West Africa to the Maghreb and the European Union: Overview of recent Trends*, asserted that irregular migration from Ghana to Europe is not recent phenomenon as purported in most literature (Haas, 2008). To him, irregular migration by Ghana to Europe began in 1990s when North Africans begun to use the crossing of the Mediterranean Sea as an irregular route of getting into Europe, following the introduction of visa requirements by some European countries, particularly, Spain and Italy before entering such states (Haas, 2008). This illegal

migration route of entering Europe later caught the attention of other Africans including migrants from Ghana who also try navigating the Mediterranean Sea or using Libya as an irregular route of getting into Europe. This is because illegal migrants are sometimes confronted with dire human security consequences and vulnerabilities including deaths and human right abuses mostly by smugglers and traffickers (Haas, 2008). Towards this end, he recommended that there should proper and effective cooperation between civil society organizations such as the IOM and the Ghanaian Government with respect to effective interventions towards curbing the increasing phenomenon of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe and the dire humanitarian consequences which characterizes the phenomenon (Haas, 2008).

In their studies, *Migrant smuggling: Irregular migration from Asia and Africa to Europe*, Triandafyllidou, Anna, and Thanos Maroukis identify that there has been increasing phenomenon of irregular migration in recent times from Africa, especially Ghana to Europe (Triandafyllidou & Maroukis, 2012). They attribute the phenomenon of increasing irregular migration from Ghana to Europe to migrant smuggling due to the social relational among smugglers, migrant smuggled and international organization of the smuggling networks both in Ghana and Europe. They identify that the major of routes of irregular migration of smuggled Ghanaian migrants is often through Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya to Spain, Italy and Malta (Triandafyllidou & Maroukis, 2012). Towards this end, they recommend that addressing migrant smuggling is the first to addressing irregular migration from Ghana to Europe (Triandafyllidou & Maroukis, 2012).

Alice Bloch & Milena Chimienti in their study, *Irregular migration in a globalizing world*, shows the continuous and changing patterns of irregular migration over time and space. They identify that irregular migration since the 1970s has been from the global South such as Ghana to Europe is mainly due to economic crises and increasing repressive political policies that featured predominantly in the global South (Bloch & Chimienti, 2013). They posit that the negative human security threats which characterizes irregular migration necessitated the need for intensified Human Rights Activism as interventions for irregular migrants to treated fairly in recipient states (Bloch & Chimienti, 2013). However, what pertains in reality is that interventions by civil society against irregular migration with specific reference to the Dublin Regulations which was aimed at addressing global migrant crises have



rather limited the human rights of irregular migrants and have contributed significantly to the dire humanitarian and security threats which bedevils irregular or illegal migrants.

## **2.4 Factors influencing irregular migration from Ghana to Europe**

Kuschminder & Siegel (2015) explains that motivations for migrating are the same for regular and irregular migrants, however, it can be stated that broadly, irregular migration is due to limited options for regular migration. Generally, migrants, both regular and irregular, move across borders and barriers for diverse reasons. Most at times, factors influencing migration are grouped into two, thus Pull or push factors. The focus of this section identifies scholarly discussions in available literature on the various factors influencing irregular migration:

### **2.4.1 Socio-Political Factors**

Piesse (2018) asserts that social-political factors which favour irregular migration from Ghana to Europe usually include ethnic, racial, religious and the threat of conflict and extreme destabilizing conflicts. On the other hand, while Ghana is free of violent conflict, it may suffer from worst human rights abuse in some areas leading many of its citizens to migrate outside of its borders (Piesse, 2018). Moreover, outbreaks of violence and eminent conflicts are primary drivers of irregular migration. Consequently, the people affected willingly risk their lives and use irregular routes to escape the threatening conditions in their home countries.

Socially, families contribute significantly to irregular migration from Ghana to Europe (Baizán & González-Ferrer, 2016). This is because in many sub-Saharan African countries, state power and state institutions are weak. This creates significant dependence on community and kinship values and bonds resulting to strong ties of reciprocity and patronage link agents of the state with local businesses and religious or communal organization (Baizán & González-Ferrer, 2016).

Migration by family members allows the household to diversify its income sources. A ‘migration contract’ regulates the reciprocal obligations of different family members sending a family member to Europe may provide the means to afford consumer goods and invest in a business or more often, a dwelling place, thus enhancing the whole family’s social status and well-being (Baizán & González-Ferrer, 2016). The gap in the above literature is the lack of scholarly exploration on the socio-political interventions put in place by civil society organizations such as the IOM in preventing irregular

migration from Ghana to Europe. This gap is what this study seeks to fill by analyzing IOM's socio-political interventions in the prevention of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe.

#### **2.4.2 Economic Factors**

Generally, the most eminent motivation for irregular migration from Ghana to Europe is by far economic reasons. In other words, irregular migration from Ghana to Europe is primarily a response to increased economic insecurity in Ghana. Irregular migrants are predominantly in search of better employment opportunities and living conditions which will make their lives easier and better especially in Europe. The issue of economic factors is much broader than the escape of living in poverty, but also includes a lack of low-skilled job opportunities, economic inequality and low wages in home countries. Other economic factors accounting for irregular migrants from Ghana to Europe include non-availability of alternative sources of income in rural areas, high rate unemployment and underdevelopment, poor economic conditions, lack of opportunities for personal advancement low agricultural income, little or no attractive amenities, higher wages and better working conditions.

Browne (2015) posits that even though the literature is consistent in noting that the poorest of the poor are much less likely to migrate due to the high cost, migrants are likely to be moderately educated and with some resources to spend on the costs of migration (Browne (2015). Economic factors influencing irregular migrants' choice of where and how to migrate from Ghana include the cost of travelling to a certain destination, the economy of the destination country, and the perception of mix of economic factors such as employment, wages, and benefits in the destination country (Park, 2015). Migrants with less money might choose closer or more accessible locations, or more dangerous routes meaning that socio-economic status plays a role in destination choice. The gap in the above literature is the dearth of existing literature on the economic interventions put in place by civil society organizations such as the IOM in preventing irregular migration from Ghana to Europe. This gap is what this study seeks to fill by analyzing IOM's economic interventions in the prevention of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe.

#### **2.4.3 Ecological Factors**

Changes in environmental patterns in agrarian communities resulting to drought and drought increase food insecurity resulting to irregular migration by the people affected, especially from Ghana to Europe. Climate change resulting in extreme weather conditions make peasant farmers in particularly,

vulnerable and displaced. In Ghana, where more than 50% of people rely on agriculture for their survival, climate is not an external concern, but an integral pillar of existence (Gill, 2010). In fact, when climate impacts are combined with ethnic or other social grievances, they can contribute to increasing internal instability or intra-state insurgencies, often over greater competition for natural resources and agricultural produce as witnessed in northern Ghana (Brown & McLeman, 2007). These developments may subsequently foster food shortages and exacerbate conflicts leading to the emergence of irregular migration.

Also, natural disasters are another significant demographic factor contributing to irregular migration from Ghana to Europe. In that with the rising sea levels, extreme weather events and desertification, natural disasters defy meteorological predictions and in some instances occur unexpectedly. This allows for inadequate preparations by most people such as witnessed in Keta in the Volta Region of Ghana leaving affected people to migrate unplanned and irregularly. Notwithstanding these revelations, there is a gap in the above literature as there exist a dearth of scholarships on the ecological interventions put in place by civil society organizations such as the IOM in preventing irregular migration from Ghana to Europe. This gap is what this study seeks to fill by analyzing IOM's ecological interventions in the prevention of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe.

#### **2.4.4 Demographical Factors**

In terms of demographic factors, migration is influenced by population, age and gender. Usually, with age, the youth are more likely to migrate as they are more active economically and easily adapt to new environment. The youth in Ghana move from their home countries as they search for new and better opportunities in Europe. The older age groups are less likely to migrate due to the fact that most of them have retired from their various vocations be it in public or private service are relatively less concerned. Winkler (2018) asserts that the older generations in Ghana are not keenly interested in migrating as a result of their fragile state of health. Also, they may either have saved enough money towards their retirement, rely on their pension systems which is a source of income or on financial support given to them by loved ones or relatives (Winkler, 2018).

Further, children migrants from Ghana are exposed to risks which include violence in transit and reception centres, sexual abuse trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation physical abuse and separation from their families. In Europe, most child migrants from Ghana arrive with obvious signs of

injury, trauma from psychological, sexual or physical abuse incurred on their journey to and in Europe (Adanu & Johnson, 2009).

Children are diversely affected by migration. In some cases, migrants either migrate with their children, or they are left behind. However, some migrate alone. According to a research conducted by UNICEF on child migrants from Ghana, 10% of children move with their parents, 7% move because they have lost a parent, 37% are forced by their parents to move to other households, and 46% migrate on their own (UNICEF, 2018). With parents migrating with their children from Ghana, in as much as the danger of travelling, discrimination, language barriers and possible statelessness, they are influenced by factors such as better life for their children, migration as a survival strategy, family unity and better opportunities in education and health (UNICEF, 2018). It must be noted that children from Ghana also migrate on their own as a result of insecurity and violence. Nonetheless, International Data Corporation (IDC) Report in 2012 indicates that some children feel they have the responsibility to support their families (IDC, 2012). In some instances, aside travelling to reunite with their families, some believe they have no stable future in their home countries and therefore migrate for better opportunities (IDC, 2012).

In relation to gender, men from Ghana generally are more likely to migrate to Europe in families with restricted resources (Birchall, 2016). In this instance, migration is seen as a rite of passage for men and is therefore prioritized by their families for migration (Birchall, 2016). Men also migrate because as breadwinners of the home they are expected to support the family economically and therefore migrate to earn money. However, men in Ghana who do not have the means to migrate through the legal means still try to resort illegal means or routes of getting to Europe through the Mediterranean Sea or use Libya. Notwithstanding these revelations, there is a gap in the above literature as there exist a dearth of scholarships on the demographic interventions put in place by civil society organizations such as the IOM in preventing irregular migration from Ghana to Europe. This gap is what this study seeks to fill by analyzing IOM's demographic interventions in the prevention of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe.

## **2.5 Civil Society Organizations' Interventions to Irregular Migration from African countries such as Ghana to Europe**

Perceptions of governments and civil society organizations about irregular migration usually vary from country to country. As a result, civil society organizations in particular usually adopt a wide range of interventions to curbing the problem. More often than not, the interventions depend on the size of the country, its population and even its definition of irregular migration. Brennan (2016) suggest that civil society organizations in both developed and developing countries have generally been more tolerated of the presence of small number of visa abusers, of migrants who possess needed skills, or who settle in sparsely populated areas that has manpower shortages than of a large scale influx of undocumented workers who duplicate the skills of local population or who settle in a densely populated area where they are perhaps perceived to engage in criminal activities or to foment unrest. These interventions by civil society organizations against irregular migration also depend on the form of government, as well as the prevailing political, social and economic situation at the time (Brennan, 2016). In some instances, interventions on irregular migration by civil society organizations to irregular migration could be a response to increased agitations by either governments or citizens or even over the fear of compromising national security. With respect to enforcement of intervention measures, aside from a number of countries assigning responsibility to labor authorities to ensure that no migrant workers are employed illegally, periodic inspections of establishment known to employ irregular migrants are carried out (Brennan, 2016). In Africa countries like Ghana, most governments have collaborated with civil society organization to strengthened border and documentary controls and made some efforts to regulate migration through the labor market. However, many governments have maintained laissez-faire interventions when it comes to addressing the increasing phenomenon of irregular migration (Skeldon, 2014). This has caused most civil society organizations such as the IOM to the fore runners for interventions towards irregular migration from countries in sub-Saharan Africa like Ghana to Europe.

## **2.6 General Purposes and Functions of the IOM in Addressing Irregular Migration across the globe**

### **2.6.1 Protection**

The ultimate goal for the establishment of the IOM was to ensure the protection and relocation of displaced persons following the end of the Second World War and to also assist in migrant crises anytime the need arises across the globe. Towards this end, the IOM makes arrangements for the organized transfer of migrants, for whom existing facilities are inadequate or who would not otherwise be able to move without special assistance, to countries offering opportunities for orderly migration (Koch, 2014). In this regard, the IOM ensures the transfer of displaced persons, particularly refugees to states willing to receive them. They do not only transport such displaced persons to safer territories but also ensure that their welfare and social conditions are catered for to an appreciable level. In more recent times, this function and purpose of the IOM is extended to victims of irregular migration. Such victims are provided shelter due to the collaborative efforts between the IOM and governments of states in which such victims are found (Koch, 2014). In addition, some of them especially the children are granted education opportunities whilst the older victims are provided with some technical and vocational training to reintegrate them into the new society.

### **2.6.2 Prosecution**

The IOM liaises with governments and regional bodies across the globe to legislate laws and action plans which make irregular migration a crime, hence punishable by law. In terms of prosecution, the IOM only plays an advisory role to see to it that governments and regional bodies criminalize the act of irregular migration and punishing culprits who engage in the act (Gallagher, 2010). Therefore, the IOM encourages governments and regional bodies through advisory services to undertake serious legal and judicial reform, law enforcement training, and victim restitution. Typical among these laws and Conventions include *The International Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Women of Full Age*, *the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children* and *the United Nations Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air*. These have gone a long way to ensure that culprits of irregular migration across the globe are held accountable and punished to serve as deterrent to others.

### **2.6.3 Prevention**

In terms of prevention of irregular migration from occurring, the IOM, in cooperation with stakeholders of a state or region where the phenomenon is pronounced, engages in awareness creation and public education to conscientize people about the national security as well as human security threats posed by the alarming occurrences of irregular migration and the need to curtail such a global security threat (Geiger & Pécout, 2010). In achieving their aim to help prevent irregular migration, the IOM uses the media for sensitization and to enhance quick dissemination of information on the negative consequences of irregular migration. To accomplish this, IOM then works with local media, like the community drama, artworks and social communicative methods, to provide information on measures that will help to address the factors that encourage irregular migration in particular areas (Geiger & Pécout, 2010). This has engendered global media coverages, public debates and scholarly publications and presentations on the subject of global irregular migration as a threat to international peace and security and has therefore global campaign, actions, frameworks and Conventions in addressing the global menace (Geiger & Pécout, 2010). As a result, the IOM through its advisory role help governments and regional bodies review the policies, programmes and activities geared towards addressing global migration challenges with special attention to the global irregular migration phenomenon.

### **2.6.4 Partnership**

Since IOM is the UN's migration agency, its activities cannot thrive without proper international cooperation with all stakeholders including states, regional organizations, media, scholars, policy makers, think-tanks, civil society organizations, local Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), as well as citizens. Consequently, the IOM provides fora for States, as well as international agencies and other organizations for the exchange of views and experiences, and the promotion of cooperation and coordination of efforts on international migration issues, including studies on such issues in order to develop practical solutions (Pécout, 2010). The IOM is currently committed to international cooperation with states and other stakeholders aimed at addressing global human trafficking issues.

The above scholarly works contribute significantly to the topic under study by revealing some irregular migration routes, the nature and extent of irregular migration, particularly from Ghana to Europe. They also reveal the dynamics or changing patterns of irregular migration by Ghanaians to Europe, as well as

some major favourable factors which instigate irregular migration particularly from the Ghana to Europe. The reviews also indicated some interventions adopted by civil society organizations in the attempt to curb irregular migration and also interventions adopted by the IOM in addressing irregular migration across the globe. However little evidence exists with regards to the specific interventions adopted by the IOM in curbing irregular migration from Ghana to Europe. This gap in literature is what this thesis hopes to find, with reference to the role of the IOM in curbing irregular migration from Ghana to Europe.

## **2.7 Research Problem Definition and Identification of the Knowledge Gap**

The negative human security implications of irregular migration to Europe by Ghanaians have gained much national and international concerns and as such have attracted numerous interventions by various civil society organizations to curb the menace. However, there is limited literature as well as dearth of theoretical explorations with regards to the analysis of the topic in contemporary times, from the perspective of the IOM's interventions in the prevention of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe. This research seeks to fill this Lacuna in literature.



## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODS**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

This chapter specified the research methodology which was used to collect the applicable data for analysis on the topic. This chapter consists of research data collection methods, sampling design, research instrument, research design, data processing and data analysis.

#### **3.2 Data Collection Methods**

Methodology refers to how the researcher goes about practically finding out whatever is believed can be known. Selection of a study methodology is not dependent on the type of paradigm adopted but rather on the objectives set to be achieved by the researcher (Noor, 2008). Data collection is one of the most important aspects of any research studies. Ritchie et al (2013) explain that research can be conducted with different methods, but every research is based on the data which is analysed and further clarify to get information. There are two main methods of data collection. These are primary data and secondary data.

##### **3.2.1 Primary Data**

Data are information gathered and collected based on the research purpose. Primary data is conducted from the first-hand sources which have not been published yet and the data is more reliable, accurate and objective (Pienta et al., 2010). In this study, primary data was obtained through unstructured expert interviews with officials and personnel of the IOM office in Ghana.

##### **3.2.2 Secondary Data**

The secondary data refers to the existing data that has been obtained from other researchers and has been published previously (Silverman, 2016). This study will utilize secondary sources including the United Nations as well as IOM official documents. In addition, journal articles, books, news reports, newspaper articles, theses, video documentaries and commentaries will be considered. All these will be in addition to the general literature on irregular migration from Africa to Europe, with specific focus on Ghana. The UN official website, as well as the IOM website where relevant data pertinent to the topic

could be obtained will also be sought. The soft copy of relevant books and articles will be downloaded whilst the hard copy materials will be obtained through libraries of various educational institutions such as the University of Ghana (UG), Ghana Armed Forces Command and Staff College (GAFSCS), Legon Center for International Affairs and Diplomacy (LECIAD) and KAIPTC – Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre, whilst others would be purchased. The document content analysis approach was the basis for drawing conclusions from secondary data in this study. This involved making inference from secondary data in relation to primary data gathered from interviews to draw a logical conclusion for the study.

### **3.3 Sampling Design**

Sampling is a process that uses samples selected for a certain population in a research project (Neuman & Robson, 2014). It is important to use the sampling rather than the whole population elements in order to get an effective and efficient result for the research project. According to Sekaran & Bougie (2010), the use of sampling may help to reduce the risks of error and other factors such as limited time, insufficient budget, and human resource factors. Therefore, the sampling design process included the confirmation of target population, sampling technique, and sampling size. This process gave a clear direction for this research survey by giving guidance to the research on the specific purposive respondents to interview in order to obtain relevant primary data, essential to the analysis of the study.

#### **3.3.1 Target Population**

Bhattacharjee (2012) defines the target population as the whole set of elements that are selected by the researcher for the investigate purpose. Target population as the whole set of elements that are selected by the researcher for the investigation purposes (Draugalis & Plaza, 2009). The target population will have the specific and key characteristics that are required for the study. Since this study focuses only on the role of IOM in preventing or addressing irregular migration in Ghana, the population will include all officials of IOM, government institutions and other stakeholder organization in Ghana which work towards addressing irregular migration and all irregular migrants from Ghana to Europe. However, expert views from some security experts were also considered.

### **3.3.2 Sampling Technique**

There are two main types of sampling techniques for determining the sample size for carrying out a research work (Noor, 2008). These are probability and non-probability sampling techniques. Probability sampling is where elements of the population are known, which means that the researchers have the list of the population and all sampling elements have a chance to be selected. With non-probability sampling, the elements in a population are unknown. Thus, the probability of selection for each element is unknown. This study made use of non-probability technique since the researcher could not have collected the full list of the target population elements in the community.

This study utilized the convenience, purposive and snowball non-probability sampling methods. In Convenience sampling is a non-probability sampling technique where participants or subjects included in a particular study are selected due to their convenience or proximity to the researcher (Cohen & Arieli, 2011). This method was chosen for the study because subjects/participants to be interviewed were selected whilst on duty or at work. This was due to the busy schedules of the jobs of some of the respondents, as well as the difficulty to get them provide responses that was relevant for the data analysis. A purposive sampling according to Cohen & Arieli (2011) involves intentionally selecting units of the sample population for a particular research based on the purpose of the study. This is because the selected sample population share the same characteristics. This method was chosen to focus on obtaining predominant part of primary data from officials of IOM-Ghana. Snowball sampling is where the researchers may choose to select the sampling elements through the recommendation from the initial respondents and the initial respondents are selected by using the probability method (Noy, 2008). Based on the interviews with officials from IOM-Ghana, they also recommended to the researcher some of their stakeholders or partners who aid in their function of preventing irregular migration from Ghana to Europe. Paramount among them include UNICEF and the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection to obtain some additional primary data on the study.

### **3.3.3 Sampling Size**

Sampling size for a research project is important because it may affect the result of a study. A proper sampling design should follow an effective samples size in order to get an accurate result from the research project. According to Sekaran and Bougie (2010), the too large number of sampling size or too

small number of sampling size is not suitable to generate a good result. However, the purposive sample size for this study will be 10 respondents including security experts, officials of the IOM.

### **3.5 Research Design**

The study will rely purely on qualitative research method for data collection and analysis. Qualitative research involves the adoption of research methods for collection and analysis of non-numeric data contrary to what pertains to quantitative research methods. According to Myers (2013) qualitative research involves designed sets of techniques to enable researchers obtain understanding of the immediate social-cultural surroundings within which people live. The goal of qualitative research is to attain an insider's view of the group under study. Qualitative research produces general understandings of rich, contextual, and generally unstructured, non-numeric data through conversations with research participants in a natural setting (Rovai et al, 2013). This particular research employed the Interpretivists, exploratory and descriptive qualitative research designs. Ponelis (2015) point out that qualitative approach preferably gives valued results required for Interpretivists to fully comprehend contexts. In a similar context, Zaniel (2007) also asserts that qualitative methods are reinforced by Interpretivists, because the paradigm portrays a world in which reality is socially constructed. The Interpretivists approach was used to explain the peculiar nature of irregular migration to Europe, as it relates to Ghana.

Exploratory design most often relies on secondary research such as reviewing available literature or data and also conducting in-depth interviews, case studies and pilot studies (Dellinger and Leech, 2007). This study also employed the exploratory qualitative research design to clarify ambiguous variables (i.e. interventions and irregular migration) of the objectives of the study. The exploratory and descriptive designs helped in providing extra information where limited information exists and also helped to show gaps in existing literature.

Exploratory design was employed due to the flexibility or non-rigid nature of qualitative research method. The method involved exploring other avenues of obtaining data without any strict restrictions and applications as in the case of quantitative research method. This design helped in formulating a more precise problem statement (Shields and Rangarjan, 2013). The exploratory design also helped in investigating a social phenomenon without explicit expectations (Shields and Rangarjan, 2013). This is

because the design helped in making holistic investigation and analysis about data obtained from sources indicated earlier without any prejudices or personal sentimentality. The descriptive design was used to establish facts and relationships; by describing into details the intervention role of the IOM in preventing irregular migration from Ghana to Europe. In this regard, the study described the key approaches and strategies employed by the IOM to curb the increasing phenomenon of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe.

### **3.6 Data Analysis**

Data collected from interviews was analysed thematically. This was done in accordance to the research objectives. Unlike quantitative data such as questionnaires and surveys in which codes are usually numbers, the qualitative data for this study will use labels to assign codes to data which could be remembered easily before grouping them into the various thematic areas.

Content analysis and interpretivist approaches was used for analysing the secondary data and used as the basis for drawing conclusions in this qualitative exploratory case study. Content analysis is a research technique used to make replicable and valid inferences by interpreting and coding textual material (Merriam, 2009). This allowed for reviewing several existing literatures on the topic which aided in making objective holistic analysis of the topic rather than relying on personal judgements. The data analysis was aided by the utilization of the theory of cooperation and human security to enhance the analysis.

In summary, Chapter Three specifies the research methodology which was used to collect the applicable data for analysis. This chapter consisted of research design, data collection method, sampling design and data analysis. In summary, data analysis for the study utilized the two-fold approach involving (i) content analysis of secondary data on the intervention role of the IOM in preventing irregular migration from Ghana to Europe, (ii) thematic analysis of primary data collected through unstructured interviews from personnel of IOM, government stakeholders and institutions in addressing irregular migration from Ghana to Europe to know their perceptions, views and understanding of the intervention role of the IOM in cooperation with other stakeholders in preventing irregular migration from Ghana to Europe

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **ANALYSIS OF EMPIRICAL DATA OF THE INTERVENTION ROLE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM) IN PREVENTING IRREGULAR MIGRATION FROM GHANA TO EUROPE**

#### **4.1 Introduction**

Irregular migration has grave repercussions not only on the national security of a country where the phenomenon is illegal migrations originate, but more especially, also the human security of these migrants. Consequently, some civil society organizations such the IOM have made significant interventions to prevent the phenomenon of irregular migration from occurring and subsequently escalating to become a threat international peace and security. Towards this end, the chapter presents the empirical analysis of the role of the IOM in preventing irregular migration from Ghana to Europe, taking into considerations, the background of the IOM, some interventions by the IOM tailored towards preventing irregular migration from Ghana to Europe, some governmental agencies IOM partners with in carrying out its interventions against irregular migration from Ghana to Europe, as well as challenges and successes of the IOM in the realization of its objective of preventing irregular migration from Ghana to Europe. This is done based on thematic and Grounded theory analysis. The various strategies adopted by the IOM in the prevention of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe are analyzed in different thematic areas to give a more succinct and well defined direction of the analysis. The theories of human security and cooperation are messed with both field data (primary data) and literature review (secondary data) to support the thematic analysis, used for the basis of drawing conclusions from the study, as well as making recommendations.

#### **4.2 Background of the IOM**

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) was established in 1951 following the upheaval and displacement of citizens of Western Europe after World War II (IOM, 2017). As a result, the original name for the IOM was the Provisional Intergovernmental Committee for the Movement of Migrants from Europe (PICMME) and was mandated to assist governments of European countries in the resettlement of displaced citizens by the War. Subsequently, the name of the organization was

changed in 1952 to the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM), to the Intergovernmental Committee for Migration (ICM) in 1980 and finally to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in 1989 (IOM, 2017). The reason for the change of name of the organization was as a result of its transition from an European logistics agency (i.e. provision of transport to displaced Europeans after the Second World War to the UN's migration agency (i.e. addresses challenges of international migration, particularly in Europe).

IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. In September 2016, IOM became a related organization of the United Nations (Bradley, 2017). Currently, the IOM promotes international cooperation and assists the search for pragmatic solutions to migration challenges through working closely with governments, inter-governmental and civil society organizations (Bradley, 2017). The constitution of IOM establishes the link between migration and economic, social and cultural development as well as the right of freedom of movement of people (IOM, 2017). As of December 2016, IOM had a membership of 166 countries (IOM, 2017).

The activities of IOM are elaborate, all geared towards the attainment of humane and orderly movement of people. These include awareness creation, partnership building, direct assistance and protection to mobile population in different conditions, research, data collection and analysis, capacity development and training, advice and support on migration policies and international migration law, and creating environments for fora so as to promote dialogue, good practices and cooperation (Omelaniuk, 2013). IOM collaborates with its partners in the international community on four broad areas aimed at migration management: migration and development, facilitating migration, regulating migration and forced migration. The IOM in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century has also extended its scope to addressing global irregular migration phenomenon (Omelaniuk, 2013). This is because irregular migration is closely related to migration and smuggling as it involves the movement of people from one area to another.

In 2007, the IOM joined with the Global Initiative on Fighting Human Trafficking to become part of the management team of the UN.GIFT (Irham, 2009). IOM's international framework in fighting irregular migration follows the three Ps (Prevention, Protection, and Prosecution) with partnership recently added. The presence of IOM on the African continent entails numerous projects dedicated mainly on raising awareness of the public on irregular migration, on providing technical support to

national government and NGO partners to address irregular migration, and on providing assistance to returnee irregular migrants, law enforcement, target victims, and service providers who work at protecting victims of irregular migration (Irham, 2009).

#### **4.3 General Strategic Interventions by IOM against Irregular Migration from Ghana to Europe**

Irregular migration which is a major concern for the IOM with its stated background above intervenes the situation in Ghana using the 4Ps strategies. These include Prevention, Prosecution, Protection and Partnership. In order to contribute to the Government of Ghana's efforts in preventing irregular migration in Ghana, IOM-Ghana has cooperated effectively in preventing the increasing phenomenon of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe. With regards to Prevention, the IOM has collaborated with the Government to develop a strategic plan towards addressing preventing irregular migration in the country (IOM, 2011). This plan provided strategic interventions which aimed at preventing irregular migration in and out of Ghana. The plan focused on migration and development, facilitating migration, regulating migration and forced migration. Each focus area was marked by key strategic objectives designed to benefit IOM's target groups. The essence of formulating a strategic plan in Ghana was of crucial significance to the IOM, as it enabled the organization to know which action plans to prioritize in line with government policies and priorities and to be able to improve the service delivery in the country. In addition, the strategic plan for IOM helped the organization to carry out its activities in line with the mission statement and vision of the organization. More so, the plan helped in the monitoring and evaluation of the performance of the IOM in the country against the strategic objectives of the plan.

In terms of Prosecution, the IOM has cooperated with the government to strengthen the capacity of law enforcement, judicial authorities to combat human trafficking in Ghana (IOM, 2011). The IOM on April, 2018, launched a Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to combat irregular migration in Ghana, with special attention on Child Trafficking (Yeboah, 2018). The Strategy included identification of cases and bringing to the Government's notice the prevalent areas of the threat (including the Volta Region Western Region and Cape Coast) for culprits to be tracked and sanctioned (Yeboah, 2018). In this regard, the IOM enhanced the government's capacity to fight against irregular migration particularly on trafficking in persons and smuggling in and out Ghana. This is because the SOP



facilitated the operations of the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) in the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of the Ghana Police Service (GPS) and the Immigration Service respectively to identify and punish culprits who engaged in trafficking of persons within the country and across borders.

In relation to Protection, the IOM has cooperated with the Government of Ghana and other relevant stakeholders including the Ghana Police Service, the Ghana Armed Forces, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection and other international organizations such as UNICEF to provide assistance to victims of irregular migrants, especially women and children trafficked for labour and commercial sexual exploitation who have been identified and rescued (IOM, 2011). The IOM cooperates with the Department of Social Welfare (DSW) in providing comprehensive direct assistance to such victims.

Also, regarding Partnership, the IOM in Ghana has cooperated with the Government, UNICEF and other local NGOs in drafting plans, strategies, policies and legal frameworks toward preventing human trafficking in the country. Success in this regard has been evident in the drafting of the 2015 Strategic Plan for addressing irregular migration, with central focus on tackling Human Trafficking in Ghana, as well the 2018 Standard Operating Procedures to Combat Irregular Migration of Ghanaian youth from the country to Europe (Yeboah, 2018). These plans and strategies have contributed in ensuring some level of monitoring and evaluation of irregular migration cases which garnered efforts toward addressing such phenomena in the country.

#### **4.4 Specific Interventions by the IOM in the Prevention of Irregular Migration from Ghana to Europe**

No individual country can effectively tackle or address the phenomenon of irregular migration by relying on its available resources including personnel and security intelligence. This is due to the nature of irregular migration, which makes it difficult to identify cases and also sanction culprits. This therefore justifies and calls for effective cooperation between civil society organizations such as the IOM and governments of states to effectively address the menace, especially in Ghana.

Due to the diverse situations and conditions of irregular migrations, there are certain specific strategies adopted by IOM to prevent the phenomenon of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe. These strategies are geared towards improving the human security of Ghanaians in order to deter or prevent them from engaging in irregular migration from Ghana to Europe. This because it is identified by scholars such as Haas (2008), Africans including migrants from Ghana who also try navigate the Mediterranean Sea or use Libya as an irregular route of getting into Europe are sometimes confronted with dire human security consequences and vulnerabilities including deaths and human right abuses mostly by smugglers and traffickers.

Therefore, the specific strategies adopted by IOM in preventing irregular migration from Ghana to Europe should focus predominantly on improving the human security of Ghanaians to deter them from engaging in such phenomenon characterized with high human security threats. Paramount among the specific interventions by the IOM to prevent the phenomenon of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe awareness creation, lobbying for effective legislation against irregular migration, assisting in promoting economic development, capacity building and development of a tool kit.

#### **4.4.1 Awareness Creation through Education, Sensitization and Advocacy**

The phenomenon of irregular youth migration from Ghana to Europe cannot be effectively prevented if the citizens are ignorant of the negative National Security and Human security implications of the phenomenon for the country and citizens. As a result, one of the main ways by which the IOM has made efforts towards preventing irregular migration from Ghana to Europe is by collaborating with the government and other relevant stakeholders including state institutions, NGOS, Civil society and other international organizations to engage the citizens on the subject matter so as to conscientize them through public education, open fora and campaigns to refrain from such illicit act.

As explained in a personal interview with an official at IOM-GHANA,

*The IOM cannot effectively create awareness of the drastic situation of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe and the need to urgently tackle it if the organization lacks credible or vital information about the reality of the phenomenon as it relates to Ghana. Towards this end, the IOM cooperates with the Government of Ghana and other state institutions, as well as NGOs and international organizations to conduct field data researches on the changing patterns and dynamics, as well as the National security and Human security implications of irregular migration of Ghanaian youths into Europe. Findings from such research are then published on the*

*organization's website or codified into small pamphlets and then disseminated to the general public. In other instances, the IOM also engages in public campaigns, open fora and radio and television discussion to make know the severity of the threats posed by the phenomenon of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe and the need to take urgent measures in preventing or eliminating it.*

(Interview, official at IOM-GHANA, 2019).

Findings from these researches helped the organization to obtain data or statistics, as well the negative impact of irregular migration to know how best to sensitize the citizens to refrain from the act. This supports assertion by Geiger & Pécoud (2010) that one of the critical intervention roles played by the IOM in the prevention of irregular migration across the globe, with specific reference to Ghana is create awareness through sensitization and advocacy about the negative or dire human security consequences of irregular migration. This awareness creation to a very large extent informs the general Ghanaian citizenry and the government about the urgent need to address the situation.

An official of IOM-Ghana also revealed in an interview that:

*IOM-GHANA has a physical library of publications on irregular migration dimensions at the global, sub-regional and national levels to inform the citizens of Ghana about the dire National and Human security threats posed by the phenomenon across the globe and the measures taken to address it. However, only about one percent of Ghana's population, particularly students, lecturers and researchers are aware of the existence of the library and make use of it. This is mostly because most people do not know where the IOM office in Accra is, to utilize the facilities. Others who know the place either do not visit there frequently or are not aware about the existing of such facility at the office.*

(Interview, official at IOM-GHANA, 2019).

The above situation has left some section of the population still ignorant about the works and efforts of IOM toward the prevention of irregular migration of Ghanaian youth from Ghana to Europe and thereby continue to engage in the act or not willing to report culprits to garner an effective preventive response mechanism by the collaborative or cooperative effort among the IOM, the government and other state institutions and stakeholders in the country.

#### **4.4.2 Lobbying for Effective Legislation against irregular migration in Ghana**

As revealed in a personal interview, an official of IOM-Ghana asserted that:

*IOM pursued a political agenda through engagements with the Government and some caucus of the Ghanaian Parliament to enact and legislate laws which will criminalize irregular migration in Ghana, particularly trafficking of persons in and out of the country. The IOM achieved this objective by convincing representatives in the Ghanaian Parliament to support bills geared toward addressing irregular migration, particularly, human trafficking from Ghana to Europe. The IOM does this through visitations, emails, letters and even telephone calls to some close or influential representatives of the Ghanaian Parliament it had contact with.*

(Interview, official at IOM-GHANA, 2019).

The above effort by IOM in Ghana subsequently led to the support and passing of Human Trafficking Bill in 2005. This made irregular migration from Ghana to Europe, particularly trafficking in persons illegal and therefore punishable by law, hence serve as a way of preventing irregular migration, particularly, human trafficking from festering to and outside the country to Europe. This corroborates views by Gallagher (2010) that one of the critical intervention roles played by the IOM in the prevention of irregular migration across the globe, with specific reference to Ghana is to encourage the government through advisory services to undertaken serious legal, judicial reform and law enforcement to make irregular migration a crime, hence punishable by law. The lobbying by the IOM through its cooperation with the Government and some representatives of the Ghanaian Parliament had impact on policy direction as it influenced their debates and votes on issues pertaining to preventing irregular migration of Ghanaian youths from Ghana to Europe. This was evident in the support and passing of the Human Trafficking Bill in 2005. Ghana's Human Trafficking Act was passed on December 5, 2005 (Atuguba, 2005). The main objective of the Bill was to address irregular migration in and out of the country, particularly, human trafficking activities. The Act's composition was mainly guided by the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children (Palermo Protocol), which is the primary international legal framework to combat trafficking. The Act comprises three necessary components including (1) prevention of irregular migration, with focus on human trafficking; (2) protection of irregular migrant victims including trafficked persons; and (3) prosecution of traffickers or irregular migrant (Atuguba, 2005). Typical scenarios of punishment as measures to

curtail irregular migration in Ghana as a result of the interventions by the IOM-Ghana in Ghana include;

*The conviction of three Chinese nationals of trafficking eight Chinese women to Ghana in June, 2009 for exploitation in prostitution. The Accra Circuit Court sentenced the primary trafficking offender to 17 years' imprisonment, including 10 years for human trafficking and two years for conspiracy. His brother received a 12-year sentence – 10 years for abetment and two years for conspiracy. In a second case, an offender received a jail sentence of eight years' imprisonment for trafficking three Ghanaian children to Côte d'Ivoire. These sentences were well above the mandatory five-year minimum. In January 2010, the Agona Swedru Circuit Court convicted a Ghanaian woman for enslaving two boys, ages; six and eight, from the Central Region to fish on the Lake Volta. The woman was sentenced to nine years' imprisonment – the first ever prosecution of a domestic trafficking offender in Ghana. The government joined with neighboring countries, as well as international organizations and foreign embassies, to prosecute transnational cases, most recently in a successful bid to break up a trafficking and prostitution ring that sent at least 50 Ghanaian women to Russia for the sex trade (IOM, 2011).*

Without such Act, many people would have engaged in irregular migration especially to Europe with impunity, and the National and Human security consequences of such phenomenon would have been worse than what is evident in the country today.

#### **4.4.3 Assisting in Economic Development in Ghana**

As already identified in previous Chapters of this study, economic reason, specifically poverty is a predominant cause for irregular migration of Ghanaian youths from Ghana to Europe. Consequently, the IOM partnered with international organizations and the Government of Ghana to encourage social and economic developments through migration. Therefore, the IOM had been committed to poverty alleviation and empowerment of citizens (particularly, the rural and coastal dwellers in Ghana), so as to prevent the youth in the country from perceiving irregular migration to Europe as a better livelihood strategy for survival.

In a personal interview with an official at IOM-Ghana, she explained that:

*The IOM had cooperated with the Government and other relevant stakeholder institutions in Ghana in the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the objectives of the Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda (GSGDA) (Ghana's current medium-term development framework). Currently, the IOM continues to support the Government of Ghana to effectively manage migration as a tool for the sustainable development of Ghana.*

(Interview, official at IOM-GHANA, 2019).

The above assertion supports claims by Pécoud (2010) that the IOM sometimes engages in partnership with Governments to initiate or accelerate development towards discouraging the youth, with specific reference to Ghana from engaging in irregular migration to Europe. The lack of infrastructural development and economic prospects in some parts including the Central, Volta, Northern, Upper East and Upper West Regions has been one of the factors for the increasing phenomenon of irregular migration of youths in the region to particular Europe. There exist limited policies on agriculture and other economic activities by the Ghanaian government to support the North of the country where agricultural activities are profound. These situations have led to marked deprivation and poverty in the northern sections of Ghana. This has also made the youth very susceptible to rural-urban migration. There is the need to speed up deliberate government interventions such as Savannah Accelerated Development Agency (SADA) to bridge the development gap between the North and the South. This has necessitated the cooperation between IOM-Ghana and the Government in promoting development in the country. However, since the IOM is the UN agency for migration whose funding is dependent on donor support from states, it is also mostly faced with the challenge of financial constraints and thereby become crippled in providing regular and constant financial base support to the Government of Ghana to adopt effective economic interventions towards helping to curb the incidence of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe.

#### **4.4.4 Assisting in Capacity Building towards preventing irregular migration from Ghana to Europe**

The IOM was also involved creating the necessary national and local institutions in collaboration with the Government of Ghana; and training and creating capacity for civil society organizations and security agencies involved in the fight against irregular migration from Ghana to Europe.

An official of IOM-Ghana revealed in a personal interview that:

*The IOM organized special seminars, conferences and training workshops for volunteers who are committed to championing the agenda of preventing irregular migration of Ghanaian youths from Ghana to Europe. These training and workshops were mostly concentrated, particularly in the coastal areas of Volta, Western, Northern and Central Regions of Ghana where the IOM considers the phenomenon of irregular migration to be prevalent. From 2008 to mid-2010, about 10 series of training of trainers' workshops were organized by IOM. The purpose of the above training and workshops was to equip 50 volunteers with knowledge and skills to be able and capable of articulating and presenting in the local languages or dialects which were widely spoken and understood by the people, to be able to effectively communicate the mission and vision of the IOM in its attempts to prevent the phenomenon of irregular migration of Ghanaian youths from Ghana to Europe*

(Interview, official at IOM-GHANA, 2019).

This intervention by the IOM goes a long way to promote the awareness creation role of the IOM as a way of preventing irregular migration of Ghanaian youths from Ghana to Europe. In addition, it helped build the capacity of law enforcement agencies, prosecutors and the judiciary to combat irregular migration from Ghana to Europe. This is because they became aware of most hotspots where the phenomenon of irregular migration from the country to Europe is prevalent in the country to devise strategies of subjecting culprits to the laws of the country.

In addition to the above, an official of IOM-Ghana revealed through a personal interview that:

*The IOM, as a way of building capacity in Ghana towards the prevention of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe, cooperated with the civil society, think tanks (such as Imani-Ghana) and other international organizations (including World Vision and UNICEF), the media and educational institutions. This cooperation involves sharing of expertise ideas, teaming up together to organize campaigns, workshop and educational seminars on the topic of human trafficking in Ghana to create awareness to the general public about the menace and the need to take urgent measures toward addressing it now.*

(Interview, official at IOM-GHANA, 2019).

The impact of the above engagements and cooperation between the IOM and relevant stakeholders was to continue to put pressure on the Government, Representatives of the Legislature, the State Security Apparatuses and policy makers to make them more committed towards the cause of preventing the increasing phenomenon of irregular migration of Ghanaian youths from Ghana to Europe. This is because the task of preventing human trafficking in Ghana is a very big one and cannot be single-handedly done by the activities or efforts of the IOM. Networking, collaboration and coordination between the IOM and the major stakeholders have led to effective public confrontations and debates with officials of the various Arms of Government towards taking and adopting effective measures to prevent the increasing irregular migration cases of Ghanaian youths from Ghana to Europe. The cooperation between the IOM and the major stakeholders identified above provided strong support base for mobilization and advocacy on the issue, which reflected in the initiation and support for legislations of irregular migration priorities.

#### **4.4.5 The Development of an Effective Strategic Plan for Addressing irregular migration from Ghana to Europe**

One of the main ways which the IOM has helped to prevent irregular migration of Ghanaian youths from Ghana to Europe was through the cooperation between the IOM and the Government to develop a strategic plan in 2011 which aimed at addressing the challenges of irregular migration, particularly, human trafficking from Ghana to Europe (Yeboah, 2018). This plan provided strategic economic and social development interventions which aimed at promoting economic development in the country towards preventing the increasing phenomenon of irregular migrants from Ghana to Europe. This included provision of education, as well as technical and vocational training to citizens, particularly in the coastal areas of Volta and Central Regions of Ghana where the IOM considers the trafficking in persons, especially children to be prevalent. This was done to enable children and adults in those regions to acquire knowledge and skills. These skills and knowledge were geared toward enabling them become employable or empowered economically through a vocation or occupation to discourage most unemployed youths from perceiving irregular migration as a better livelihood strategy.



#### **4.5 Challenges of IOM in Helping Prevent Irregular Migration from Ghana to Europe**

Just as addressing any human security threat, the efforts of the IOM in preventing the phenomenon of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe has not been without challenges. In a quest to help prevent irregular migration from Ghana to Europe, IOM has encountered a number of challenges highlighted below.

##### **4.5.1 Poverty and Economic Hardship**

Ghana has a significantly young population. Unfortunately, most of these youths are either unemployed or under-employed. The unemployment situation coupled with high poverty levels in some regions including Northern, Upper East and Upper West, Central, Western and Volta Regions make most of the youth in these regions susceptible to the lures of regulation migration to Europe as an escape route to go and find greener pastures elsewhere. Unfortunately, some of these young people who are trafficked rather become victims of sexual exploitation or forced labour.

Therefore, notwithstanding the preventive role played by the IOM in cooperation with the Government and other relevant stakeholders including state institutions, Think Tanks, NGOs, and other international organizations, to completely and effectively prevent or eradicate the phenomenon of regulation migration from Ghana to Europe, severe poverty and economic hardship continues to be a developmental challenge which bedevil such efforts. This is because though irregular migration from Ghana to Europe seems dangerous, most people are still willing to take the risk to relieve themselves from the harsh economic conditions they find themselves in Ghana. This jeopardized the efforts of the IOM in achieving total success in the eradication of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe.

##### **4.5.2 Porous nature of Borders and Harbours in Ghana**

One of the major factors encouraging irregular migration from Ghana to Europe is the porous nature of our borders and harbours. Ghana has greater challenges in terms of border and harbour controls and these this makes it easier for people to engage in irregular migration to and fro the country. The porous nature of our borders and harbours in the country allow irregular migration of Ghanaian youths across the borders to Europe, with impunity. This is because, there is lack of equipment to ensure effective surveillance and checks at such harbours and borders, coupled with high rate of corruption, which

incite irregular migrants to use such avenues for their activities. This made it very difficult and almost impossible for the IOM to be successful in its preventive role of the phenomenon of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe.

#### **4.5.3 Corruption**

In relation to the above, the very moral fibre of the Ghanaian society, with particular reference to the government institutions, is collapsing. This is because, personnel working for government institutions and state apparatuses such as the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) of the Ghana Police Service and the Ghana Immigration Service which should cooperate effectively with the IOM in preventing irregular migration, do not receive adequate salaries and benefits. Therefore, they become easily susceptible to bribe and corrupt acts to bend the rules in favour of people who engage in irregular migration outside the country to Europe. This is because, such irregular or illicit migrants have the capacity in terms of connections and wealth to buy off officials of such government institutions enjoined to rather prevent the phenomenon of irregular migration in the country. This made it difficult to obtain positive results though the IOM cooperates with government and some other agencies to fight irregular migration in the country.

#### **4.5.4 Lack of Will Power by Governments to tackle the menace of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe**

Though the IOM cooperates with government and some other agencies to address and prevent the increasing phenomenon of irregular migration of Ghanaian youths from Ghana to Europe, there exist lapses in the internal mechanisms and measures put in place by the government to effectively tackle the phenomenon. For instance, previous governments of Ghana have shown lackadaisical attitude in the fight against the irregular migration from Ghana to Europe. This is evident in the extent to which officials or personnel of institutions responsible for tackling the canker are motivated and empowered and also, the extent to which government does not interfere with judicial processes when top politicians or their relations are found guilty of illicit trafficking of persons in the country.

#### **4.5.5 Socio-cultural Practices in some Ghanaian communities**

Furthermore, some social and cultural practices such as restriction of foreigners in interfering with the culture and practices of people in some communities served as a challenge in IOM's activities to help

prevent human trafficking in Ghana. Interview a personal interview with an official of the IOM-GHANA), he revealed that:

*Sometimes, emergencies like funerals, outdooring and other social engagements are primary to some societies than information shared on irregular migration from Ghana to Europe, because such emergencies form the core value of their life or culture. Some community leaders were quite tough to the IOM; to them there was no way any NGO especially UN subsidiary would come and work with them for free. Thus, instead of supporting physically and psychologically, they were rather sabotaging.*

This attitude by some societies and communities in Ghana militated against the effectiveness of the advocacy and awareness creation role of the IOM to prevent the phenomenon of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe, despite its cooperative efforts with the government and other relevant stakeholders.

#### **4.5.6 Difficulty in Identifying Trafficking Cases**

More so, the shrewd nature of victims of irregular population are considered “hidden populations” which makes it problematic to survey and draw samples from. Membership in hidden populations often involves stigmatized or illegal behavior, leading individuals to refuse to cooperate, or give unreliable answers to protect their privacy. The denials by families that irregular migration existed has also been a major challenge to preventing the canker in Ghana. In most cases, “the victims sometimes had false perception that the abuse they faced is because of their “bad luck” or because of their personal failure to protect themselves. A study conducted by UNICEF indicated that it remained difficult to acquire reliable data from origin countries on the destinations of irregular migrants. Majority of the victims who escaped are hesitant to return home and are concerned about the stigmatization within their and societies and families. This also militated against efforts of the IOM in preventing the phenomenon of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe amidst its cooperation with the government and other state agencies.

#### **4.5.7 Poor Cooperation between the IOM and other relevant stakeholder institutions in Ghana**

Furthermore, the transnational nature of irregular migration requires the collective efforts of all stakeholders. However, the level of cooperation has remained questionable. This is because there are

times personnel of government institutions and other stakeholder agencies which are supposed to cooperate with the IOM towards addressing irregular migration in Ghana showed negative attitudes, especially towards capacity building sessions organized by the IOM. An official of the IOM-GHANA pointed out:

*How the IOM, at a point in time, struggled to secure sponsorship and put together a workshop for members of the Gender Ministry and Representatives of Parliament only for the resource persons to meet an empty IOM conference auditorium because the people who were invited did not show up.*

(Interview, official at IOM-GHANA, 2019).

Excuses were later provided that the nature of the work of the members of the Gender Ministry and Representatives of Parliament sometimes attracts impromptu schedules against their planned schedules which they cannot forfeit especially when it is a call or demand from the Presidency. Such situations also made it very difficult for the IOM to gain strides in its efforts towards the prevention of irregular migration to Europe.

#### **4.5.8 Financial Constraints**

The IOM and the Government of Ghana were sometimes not able to meet their objectives of preventing irregular migration of Ghanaian youths due to financial constraints. An official at the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection) stated that:

*The prevention of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe is a very expensive business or agenda. This is because it requires much funds for stakeholder consultations, round table conferences, as well as providing training, conferences and sometimes seminars. Without international donor support, initiatives by the IOM towards prevention of global irregular migration phenomenon including Ghana may be hampered. In addition, conducting field researches which the IOM thrives on for effective monitoring and evaluation for its preventive measures or initiatives is also very costly. This has crippled the capacity and capability of the IOM in effectively preventing the phenomenon of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe amidst cooperation with the government and other agencies.*

(Interview, an official at the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, 2019)

Consequent to the above, adequate funding therefore becomes the basis for which all activities and vision of the IOM could materialize. However, with lack of adequate funding, the activities, visions and mission of the IOM to prevent irregular migration of Ghanaian youths from Ghana to Europe could be jeopardized.

#### **4.6 Conclusion**

Generally, the implications of irregular migration in Ghana affect both the Human and National Security of the country. Consequently, the initiatives by the IOM in cooperation with the government and other relevant agencies garnered towards the prevention of irregular migration in Ghana include awareness creation, lobbying for effective legislation against irregular migration, promotion of economic development, assisting in capacity building and the development of an effective strategic plan for addressing irregular migration from Ghana to Europe. To achieve the objectives of these activities towards prevention of irregular migration, the IOM cooperates with other relevant stakeholders in the country aside the Government. These include the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, the UNICEF-Ghana and The Anti-Trafficking Units of both the Ghana Police Service and the Ghana Immigration Service. This cooperation has led to some achievements in the IOM's role to prevent irregular migration from Ghana to Europe.

Some of the achievements of IOM's intervention in irregular migration from Ghana to Europe include sensitization and advocacy through education, formulation of legislative laws to criminalize irregular migration, as well as sanction culprits, establishment of The Anti-Trafficking Units of both the Ghana Police Service and the Ghana Immigration Service to identify irregular migration cases within and across borders and to also sanction culprits, rescue of irregular migrant victims to reintegrate them into society, capacity building training, workshops and seminars and also promotion of economic development through education, as well as technical and vocational training to empower people economically. Some of these achievements of the efforts by the IOM serve as deterrent to prevent people from practicing or engaging in similar acts.

Notwithstanding some successes achieved, the IOM has encountered a number of challenges in its quest to prevent irregular migration from Ghana to Europe. These challenges include poverty and

economic hardships, lack of political will on the part of the government, poor cooperation, among others. The next Chapter therefore provides some plausible postulations to surmount the challenges and be effective in the prevention of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION**

#### **5.1 Introduction**

The study was carried out within the Theoretical frameworks of Human Security and Cooperation with the major argument that the IOM has played a significant role in cooperation with other stakeholders in the prevention of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe. The theory of Cooperation was selected amidst other theories and concepts because it is particularly strong in explaining the role the IOM plays in cooperation with Government and other relevant stakeholder agencies in preventing the phenomenon of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe.

Despite the fact that irregular migration is a global human security threat, this study was primarily concerned with analyzing the interventions by the IOM in the prevention of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe. The IOM's focuses on the four broad areas (i.e. the 4Ps; Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Partnership) in tackling global irregular migration crises. However, this study was primarily concerned with analyzing only the Preventive role of the IOM in the prevention of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe. In this regard, the objectives of the study included to analyze the extent and nature of irregular migration in Ghana; the major causes and effects of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe; the interventions by the IOM in collaboration with the Government of Ghana and other relevant stakeholders in addressing irregular migration from Ghana to Europe and the challenges and successes of the IOM's interventions in preventing or reducing irregular migration from Ghana to Europe.

This particular study was structured under five main chapters. Chapter One entailed the introduction which will compose of the background of the study, followed by the problem statement, and the objectives, both general and specific, then the research questions, and the significance of the study. Chapter Two presented the literature review, to reveal the significance of existing literature to this particular study and indicating gaps which this study seeks to fill. Chapter Three presented on the research methodology, which involve the research design and the procedures adopted in undertaking the study. Chapters Four, covered the presentation, discussion and analysis of the research findings. Chapter Five, contained the summary of research findings, conclusion and recommendations

## 5.2 Summary of Major Research Findings

In summarizing the major findings, there is the need to look again at the main questions that guided the study:

The main research question of this study is how successful has the IOM's interventions help to prevent irregular migration from Ghana to Europe?

*Whereas the sub-research questions of the study will be as follows:*

- e. What is the nature and extent of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe?
- f. What are the major causes and effects of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe?
- g. What are the interventions put in place by the IOM in addressing irregular migration from Ghana to Europe?
- h. What are the challenges and successes of IOM's interventions in preventing irregular migration from Ghana to Europe?

In order to answer these questions effectively and also achieve the objectives of the study, the exploratory and descriptive qualitative research approaches were used. This was to enable the researcher have a deeper understanding of the phenomenon of irregular migration to Europe as it pertains to Ghana, in order to present the analysis in a cogent and coherent manner void of prejudices and personal idiosyncrasies. In all, a total of ten (10) respondents from the IOM-Ghana were interviewed to provide relevant primary data on the topic under study. These respondents were all selected purposively. Primary data was synchronized with secondary data to provide a holistic analysis on the topic. This means data used are from both primary and secondary so as to increase the reliability of the findings. The following are summaries of the major findings based on the research questions asked.

- The study identified that irregular migration is the illegal movement of people from one country to another through unauthorized routes. The phenomenon is a global menace which poses human security threats to its victims, as well as national security threats to states in which it is most prevalent. However, from the Ghanaian perspective, most youths resort to irregular routes particular through Libya and the Mediterranean Sea to get to Europe, despite the dire humanitarian and human security consequences which characterizes such phenomenon such as death, famine, arrest among others. This addresses the first major research question of the study



concerning the nature and extent of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe. In it is this vein that the theory of human security was utilized in this study to know how the various specific strategies adopted by IOM improves the human security of Ghanaian youths in order to aid in the prevention of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe.

- To effectively tackle the global phenomenon of irregular migration, the study revealed that it will require the collaborative efforts of states and civil society organizations like the IOM since no country can single-handily rely on its resources and personnel to address the global canker. In Ghana, the study revealed that IOM sometimes collaborative certain stakeholders or partners such as UNICEF-Ghana, the Police and the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection to achieve significance gains in the efforts towards preventing irregular migration from the country to Europe.

The theory of cooperation stipulates that to cooperate is to act together, the joining of individual efforts for a common end. Therefore, the theory asserts that Actors, in helping each other to realise their goal, by adjusting their policies in partnership with other stakeholders, serve their own interests. The theory of Cooperation is therefore appropriate for this study by helping to better appreciate and understand that the IOM charged with managing migration issues that may lead to irregular migration; and in doing so, its counter-irregular migration units collaborate with state and non-state agencies to primarily eliminate or minimize the human security threats which characterizes irregular migration. In this regard, the theory of cooperation helps to espouse that irregular migration as global phenomenon which affects the human security of irregular migrants of all countries whether they are source, transit or destination and requires cooperation between states and civil society organizations like the IOM to tackling the global human security threat.

- The study however unearthed that there is difficult in obtaining or enumerating irregular migrant victims, making difficult to effectively tackle the situation. The study also revealed that the causes of irregular migration could be grouped into gender and ethnic discrimination, instability in the political, economic and social conditions in a country, conflict, hopelessness, poverty among other. However, it is identified in the study that poverty is the leading cause of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe is poverty.

Utilizing the theory of human security, this study explains that poverty which threatens particularly, the economic, health, food and personal security of Ghanaian youths instigate most of these youths into venturing into irregular migration as a livelihood or survival strategies to Europe, although it may be associated with high human security ramifications such as deaths, illness, human right abuses among others. This addresses the second major research question of the study with regards to what are the major causes and effects of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe?

- The study also unearthed that most of the interventions by the IOM garnered towards the prevention of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe are concentrated in these regions (i.e. Volta, Western, Northern and Central Regions). This means that these regions are bedeviled with high poverty levels with associated human security threats and such, most youths in such regions are induced or lured into using irregular routes to get to Europe as an escape to their woes in Ghana.
- The study also revealed that specific intervention strategies adopted by the IOM in prevention of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe include awareness creation, lobbying for effective legislation against irregular migration, promotion of economic development, assisting in capacity building and development of effective strategic plan towards addressing irregular migration from Ghana to Europe. These specific strategies adopted by IOM in preventing irregular migration from Ghana to Europe focus predominantly on improving the human security of Ghanaians, so as to deter most Ghanaian youths from engaging in irregular migration with its associated high human security threats. This answers or addresses the third major research question with reference to what interventions are put in place by the IOM in addressing irregular migration from Ghana to Europe?
- In terms of achievements, the study revealed that IOM's interventions geared towards preventing irregular migration in Ghana has led to sensitization and advocacy through education, formulation of legislative laws to criminalize irregular migration, as well as sanction culprits, establishment of The Anti-Trafficking Units of both the Ghana Police Service and the Ghana Immigration Service to identify irregular migration or trafficking in persons cases within and across borders and to also sanction culprits, rescue of irregular migrant victims to reintegrate them back into society, capacity building training, workshops and seminars and also

promotion of economic development through education, as well as technical and vocational trainings to make empower people economically. Some of these achievements serve as deterrent to prevent people practicing irregular migration from Ghana to Europe. However, the IOM is confronted with certain challenges to completely curtail or prevent the increasing phenomenon of Ghanaian youths from the country to Europe.

- Notwithstanding some success achieved, the study showed that IOM has encountered a number of challenges in its quest to prevent irregular migration from Ghana to Europe. These challenges include poverty and economic hardships, lack of political will on the part of the government, poor cooperation, among others. the interventions put in place by the IOM in addressing irregular migration from Ghana to Europe. This address or answers the last research question of the challenges which confronts the IOM in the prevention of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe. These challenges indicate that more still needs to be done by the IOM in its efforts in the prevention of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe. This necessitates the recommendations in this study.

### **5.3 Contribution of the Study to Theory/Academia, Policy Making and Practice**

#### **5.3.1 Contribution to Theory/Academia**

- This study contributes to theory by revealing how the theory of Cooperation and Human Security could be utilized in explaining the response to the threats of irregular migration from a civil society organization's (i.e. IOM) perspective or approach. Similar studies have been conducted by scholars such as (Angenendt, 2010) with regards to the intervention of irregular migration from Sub-Saharan Africa to Europe, but this particular study brings a new dimension to complement already existing studies. This is because the study is one of the numerous researches on the topic to have utilize the theories of Cooperation and Human Security to show the relational order that could be maintained by international civil society organizations such as IOM and the government to ensure effective synergy in addressing the human security threats associated with irregular migration, especially from Ghana to Europe. The theoretical application to this study is very essential because it helps in understanding the threats, efforts and challenges by the IOM in addressing irregular migration from Ghana to Europe. It also helps in explaining how the socio-political environment in a developing

country such as Ghana could shape the extent of tackling or addressing the irregular migration from the country to Europe.

### **5.3.2 Implications for Research, Practice and Policy**

- Most studies on the response to irregular migration in Ghana and to a larger extent developing countries, have focused predominantly on the challenges faced by the government in addressing the menace. Little exist in relation to the topic from the perspective of an international civil society organization such as the IOM. By dealing extensively with the topic from an international civil society organization's perspective, this study calls for several scholarships to broaden the scope of study on the topic to look into the partnerships, negotiations, awareness and campaigns as well as budgetary allocations for implementation and management of addressing irregular migration from sub-Saharan Africa to Europe, with particular reference to Ghana.
- This study also offers a number of practical solutions for institutions in charge of addressing irregular migration in Ghana. Countries which wish to implement policies toward addressing the menace could rely on strategies employed by IOM in Ghana to deal with the security threat in its initial stages before escalating to become a national security threat which the resources and security personnel in the country would not be able to address.
- In terms of policy implications, the study calls for the need for governments in developing countries, particularly states in West Africa to promote clearly defined regulatory frameworks conducive to addressing the phenomenon of irregular migration in their countries to Europe.

### **5.4 Conclusions**

Following the findings obtained from the study, the researcher reached the following conclusions;

- It is concluded from the study that the implications of irregular migration in Ghana are wide and broad and affect both the Human Security of the youths who engage in the phenomenon since they are usually bedeviled with famine, deaths, infectious diseases, improper shelter among others. Based on the analysis of the study, it is concluded that the future of the youth and the economy is at great risk if conscious efforts are not taken by the government and all

stakeholders to address or tackle the prevalence and menace of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe now.

- The study also concludes that the phenomenon of irregular migration of Ghanaian youths in Ghana undermines state institutions and personnel and makes most of them corrupt. This could tarnish the global reputation or image of the country in terms of efforts at promoting good governance and development for the citizens of the state. Irregular migration is not just youth seeking better lives through irregular mechanisms, it is also a process that exposes the challenges confronting international organizations dealing with such migration such as the IOM, as well as incapable and probably incompetent African governments.
- The study again concludes that, though the international community's response to irregular migration in West Africa and Ghana in particular may have been tardy and inadequate, the situation in Ghana would have been worse off but for the interventions of some civil society organizations such as the IOM. This proves the point that, though such international agencies and states are confronted with some challenges, they are still relevant in contemporary international system. This is because they help in addressing or tackling transnational threats (such as irregular migration); which are sometimes beyond the capabilities of a single state to tackle.
- It is also concluded from the findings of the study that, there is still hope for resolving the prevalence and menace of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe, if conscious efforts would be taken by the governments and all stakeholders to resolve or address the challenges identified in this study. In this regard, collective stakeholder efforts including the Government of Ghana, civil society organizations, NGOs, think tanks, educational institutions, among other can help to effectively prevent the increasing phenomenon of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe.
- Based on the above findings of the study, it is concluded that The IOM plays a significant role in cooperation with other stakeholders in prevention of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe. This is because there are evidences shown in this study to prove that some initiatives and interventions by the IOM in and in cooperation with other stakeholders in the prevention of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe had yielded positive results.

## **5.5 Recommendations**

Based on the findings from the study and suggestions made by respondents during interviews, the following recommendations are made;

### **5.5.1 Recommendations to the Government of Ghana**

- There should be a legal framework that really speaks to the issue in order to also curb money laundering which is also associated irregular migration from Ghana to Europe.
- In addition to the above, there should be an increase in the sensitization of the general public on the menace or dangers of irregular migration to both Human and National Security of the country.
- Also, the government should take a bold step in the fight against corruption in the country, so as to discourage some government institutions and personnel from facilitating the activities of human traffickers in the country.
- The government should also take bold towards providing job opportunities for the youth and promoting economic development especially in the Volta, Western, Northern and Central Regions identified in this study as the most prevalent areas of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe This to discourage most youths in these regions from falling into the tempting dictates of irregular migration to Europe.
- The Judicial system in the country should also be revamp to carry out their mandates without partiality and considerations especially in terms of prosecuting offenders of irregular migration with respect to the laws of the country. This will serve as deterrent to others from risking to venture into of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe.
- The government should increase the number of personnel as well as the financial base and logistics of the Anti-Trafficking Units of both the Criminal Investigation Department of the Ghana Police Service and the Ghana Immigration Service to be able to carry their mandates effectively to help in the identification and sanction of irregular migration cases to prevent others from also venturing in the illicit act in the country.
- The government should also take a firm stance in legislations against the phenomenon of prevention of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe. This is due to the Human and National Implications such a move will have on the country, as elaborated in this study.

- The government should also continue to collaborate effectively with other international agencies such as the IOM, among others, to be able to effectively tackle the menace of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe. This is because irregular migration has become a transnational threat and as such will be difficult for the government to only rely on its capabilities and resource in the fight against the menace.

### **5.5.2 Recommendations to IOM**

- The IOM in cooperation with the government and other relevant organizations and agencies should engage in regular periodic researches on the phenomenon of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe. This is because the IOM and its stakeholders need to understand the dynamics and complexity of the phenomenon of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe to be able to effectively tackle it.
- There is a need for vibrant coordination and cooperation among IOM, the government and other relevant agencies in Ghana including UNICEF, Anti-Trafficking Units of both the Criminal Investigative Department of the Ghana Police Service and the Ghana Immigration Service and the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection. Without such coordination and cooperation, the IOM will be unable to make any meaningful strides, especially in the prevention of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe. This is because such cooperation calls for the sharing and acquisition of new ideas towards effectively tackling the menace of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe.
- The IOM should be more robust in its operations if it hopes to making significant strides in the prevention of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe
- The IOM should be consistent with International Laws and the Laws of Ghana on irregular migration to be able to effectively counter the menace of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe.

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Interview with an official of IOM-Ghana. (Respondent 4)

Interview with an official of IOM-Ghana. (Respondent 5)

Interview with an official of IOM-Ghana. (Respondent 6)

Interview with an official of the IOM-GHANA. (Respondent 7)

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## **APPENDIX**

### **INTERVIEW GUIDE**

#### **TOPIC: ADDRESSING TRANS-SAHARAN IRREGULAR MIGRATION TO EUROPE: THE ROLE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM) IN GHANA.**

**NB: THE PURPOSE OF THIS INTERVIEW IS SOLEY FOR AN ACADEMIC PURPOSE AND NOTHING ELSE.**

1. What is your perception about the current status quo of the increasing phenomenon of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe?
2. What conditions or factors are responsible for irregular migration particularly by the youth from Ghana to Europe?
3. What are the main routes of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe?
4. What are the effects of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe?
5. What are the measures, especially preventive measures, put in place by the IOM to help stem the increasing phenomenon of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe?
6. To what extent has IOM acted or collaborated effectively with the Government of Ghana and other relevant state institutions in Ghana in preventing irregular migration from Ghana to Europe?
7. What role have the Government of Ghana and other relevant state institutions in Ghana also played in preventing irregular migration from Ghana to Europe?
8. What are the challenges and successes of IOM's endeavours in preventing irregular migration from Ghana to Europe?
9. How bleak or bright is the future of IOM in responding to the increasing phenomenon of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe?
10. What do recommend as the way forwarded for addressing the increasing phenomenon of irregular migration from Ghana to Europe?