



GHANA IMMIGRATION SERVICE

GOV2GOV APPROACH UNDER THE RETURN AND REINTEGRATION FACILITY (RRF)
:THE MIGRATION CENTRE FOR RETURNED MIGRANT IN GHANA

AT

THE RABAT PROCESS THEMATIC MEETING ON VOLUNTARY RETURN AND
REINTEGRATION ON

25TH APRIL 2023

BY

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PRESENTATION OUTLINE

MIGRATION INFORMATION CENTRE FOR RETURNEES, KOTOKA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT- GHANA

- Background
- Operations
- Statistics (January 2020 to December 2022) and trend
- Achievements
- Challenges
- Recommendation

ACRONYMN

MICR- Migration Information Centre for Returnees

GIS- Ghana Immigration Service

KIA- Kotoka International Airport

MMB- Migration Management Bureau

ERRIN- European Return and Reintegration Network

ICMPD- International Centre Migration Policy Development

BAMF- German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees

IOM- International Organization for Migration

GIZ- German Agency for International Cooperation

NADMO- National Disaster Management Organization

SOP- Standard Operating Procedure

AMIF- Asylum, Migration Integration Fund

T2/3- Terminal 2 or 3 of the Kotoka International Airport

Terminal 3- International passenger terminal

Terminal 2- Local passenger terminal

BACKGROUND

- The Migration Information Centre for Returnees (MICR) was established at the Kotoka International Airport (KIA) in December 2019 as a unit under the Ghana Immigration Service
- It was established as part of the ERRIN Government-to-Government project in Ghana, which was implemented by International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) in collaboration with the Ghana Immigration Service (GIS), the Land of North Rhine-Westphalia, and the German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF).
- The MICR was created in response to the growing number of Ghanaian returnees, both voluntary and involuntary, and for the objective of developing an efficient returnee and reintegration management system in Ghana.
- Prior to the creation of the MICR unit, the Document Fraud office of GIS at KIA was in charge of processing returnees.

BACKGROUND CONT.

- The Migration Information Centre for Returnees is mandated to serve as :
 - ✓ a focal point for returnees
 - ✓ provide assistance to individual migrants or group of migrants (mass return) returning to Ghana
 - ✓ provide referral assistance to returning migrants
 - ✓ provide advice to returnees on further step towards reintegration
 - ✓ provide basic counselling and education on regular migration
 - ✓ coordinating return operations with other relevant stakeholders

BACKGROUND CONT.

- Since the inception of MICR, the Unit has seen expansion and adoption of a new name from Readmission and Reintegration Unit to Migration Information Centre for Returnees (MICR). As part of phase I of the initiative, the MICR secured an office and furnished it with contemporary equipment at KIA, and it is constantly improving the ability of officers in basic counselling and basic IT training.
- The Return and Reintegration Facility (RRF) funded by the European Union through the Asylum, Migration Integration Fund (AMIF) replaced ERRIN in June 2022
- Phase II of the project seeks to the strengthening of communication guideline within and among relevant stakeholders for effective and efficient operations at KIA
- To enable the MICR function effectively, Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs) detailing the mandate, scope, roles and responsibilities of the MICR staff was drafted by a team of GIS officers drawn from different Departments, Sections and Units.

BACKGROUND CONT.

The Return and Reintegration Facility (RRF) also organised a one week ICT training from October ending to November, 2022 to further build the capacity of MICR staff .

THE STATE AGENCIES INVOLVED IN THE RETURN OPERATIONS INCLUDE:

- Ghana Immigration Service
- Ghana Police Service
- National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO)
- Ghana Health Service (Port Health)
- NIB- National Investigations Bureau
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration
- Ghana ambulance service
- AVSEC - Aviation Security

BACKGROUND CONT.

INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES/STAKEHOLDERS

- ❖ **IOM** - International Organization for Migration
- ❖ **GIZ** - German Development cooperation (Germany flights)
- ❖ British liaison Officers comes when there are coming from the UK

OPERATIONS/PROCEDURES-GIS

- Pre- Arrival
- Arrival
- Post Arrival

PRE- ARRIVAL

a. Notification of Return Operations;

- Information of return operation is always received **from the** Embassies and High Commissions in the form of note verbale through the Regional Commander, KIA or Head MMB, GIS Headquarters.

- Notification contains the following information

- i. Total number of Returnees
- ii. Flight details and time of arrival
- iii. Biographical information (eg. age, gender, name etc.)
- iv. Departing country
- v. Health Status

b. Risk assessment (identification of returnees individual vulnerability/needs and making the necessary preparation towards them)

ARRIVAL PROCEDURES

a. First contact (on-board the flight)

- Meet escort leader
- Receive travel documents and flight manifest
- Acknowledge receipt, inspection and headcount

b. Escort of Returnees to Designated Terminals

- Mass return/ deportation at T2
- Individual return/ deportation at T3
- Mass deportation both T2 and T3 due to Covid-19 testing

c. Arrival formalities

- Control and direct returnees to arrival hall
- Returnees go through Port Health Covid-19 screening
- Returnees are taken through Immigration formalities
- Interview to get some useful information by Intel Unit
- Offer basic counselling to returnees by IOM and immigration Officers
- Complete necessary disembarkation forms and key into our data capturing systems.

POST ARRIVAL

a. Counseling for returnees

- The Unit liaise with psychologists/counselors attached to GIS/port health and any other relevant organization for counseling service.

b. Referral/Handing over of Returnees.

- Returnees are referred to relevant agencies such as the Ghana Police Service and National Investigation Bureau (NIB) for further processing.
- Returnees are referred to appropriate organization for reintegration processes to begin such as German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO), International Organization for Migration (IOM).
- Returnees with special needs are also referred for assistance.

- Psychological support by the Clinical Psychologists using Focus Group counselling or Individual counselling
- Refer clients for continued care
- Reviews/follow ups/ contact tracing of clients with psychological/medical issues

POST ACTIVITIES

STATISTICS

The table below shows statistics of mass returnees from January - December, 2020

Country	Male	Female	Total
Germany	63	8	71
USA	44	4	48
UK	5	3	8
Algeria	10	2	12
Libya	262	18	280
Saudi Arabia	38	120	158
Grand Total	422	155	577

STATISTICS CONT..

The table below shows statistics of mass returnees from January - December 2021

Country	Male	Female	Total
Germany	216	55	271
Malta	27	-	27
Libya	732	64	796
Sweden	2	1	3
Australia	2	-	2
Saudi Arabia	295	846	1,141
Grand Total	1,274	966	2,240

STATISTICS CONT..

The table below shows statistics of mass returnees from January - December 2022

Country	Male	Female	Total
Germany	91	24	115
UK	7	1	8
Libya	829	38	867
USA	9	-	9
Kuwait	11	23	34
Saudi Arabia	268	521	789
Grand Total	1,215	607	1,822

STATISTICS CONT..

Apart from the mass returns, the Unit also receives individual returnees from various countries on board commercial flights with or without escorts.

The table below shows Individual returns for January, 2020 to December, 2022.

Year	Male	Female	Total
2020	236	330	566
2021	283	358	641
2022	598	608	1,206
Grand Total	1,117	1,296	2,413

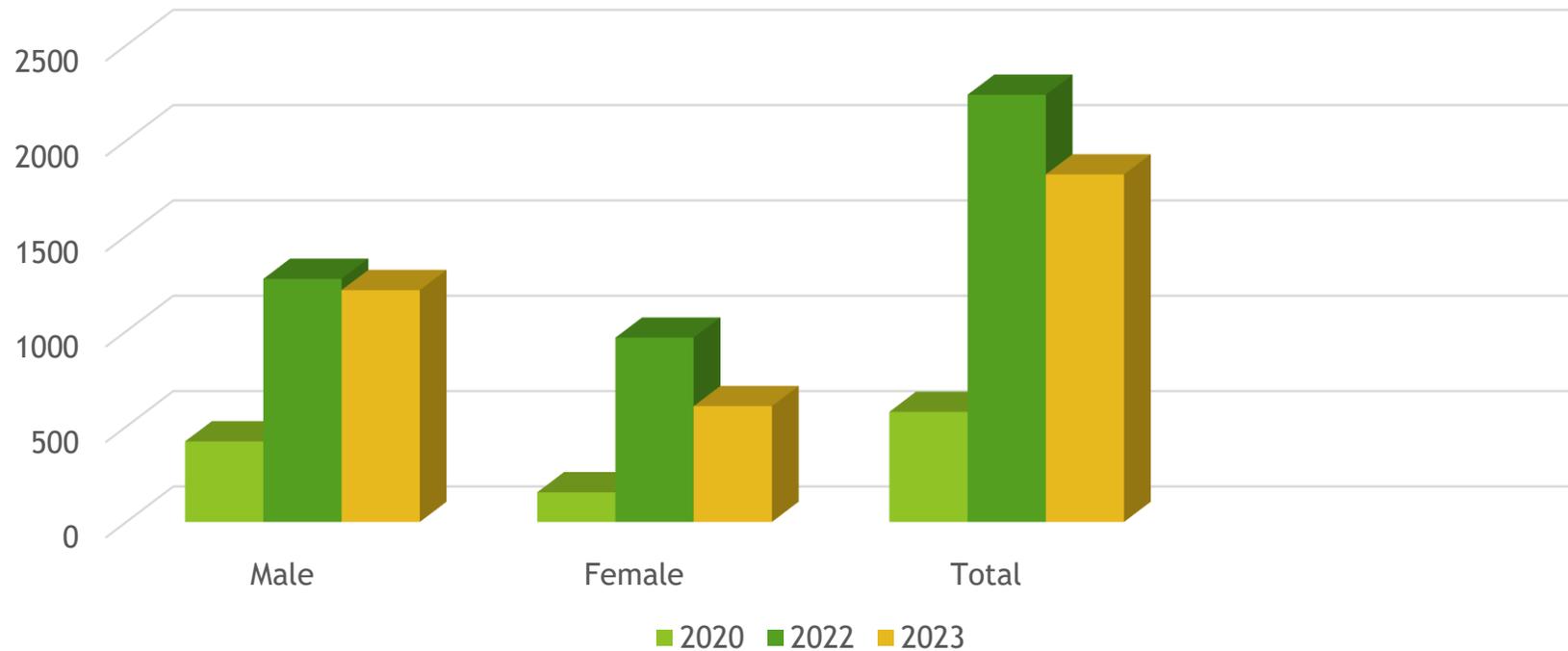
STATISTICS CONT....

The table below shows the gender trends for mass returnees from January, 2020 to November, 2022

Gender	2020	2021	2022
Male	422	1,274	1,215
Female	155	966	607
Total	577	2,240	1822

STATISTICS CONT.

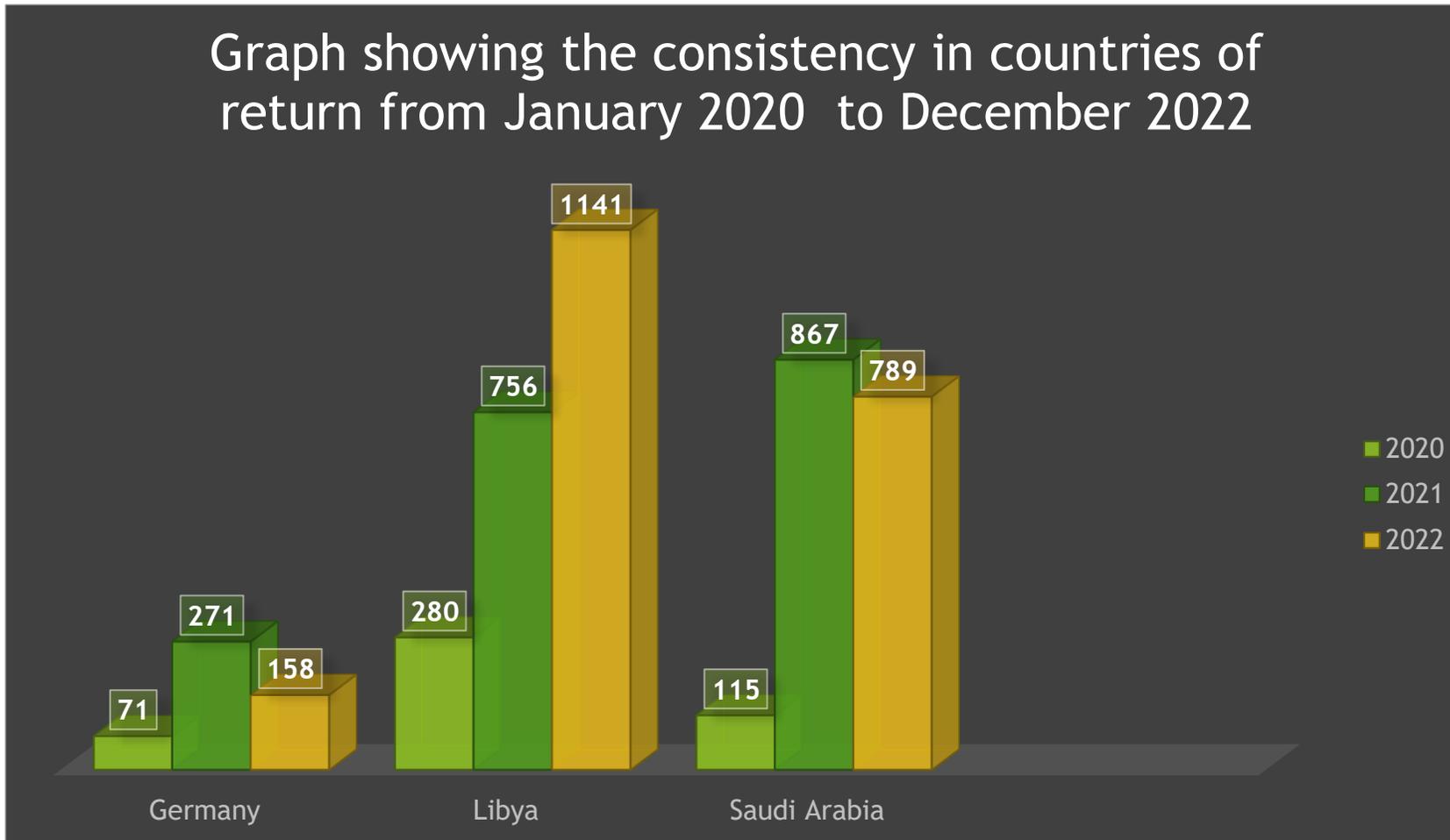
Graph showing gender trends from January, 2020 to December 2022



Graph 1

STATISTICS CONT.

Graph showing the consistency in countries of return from January 2020 to December 2022



Graph 2

Trend Analysis

- The highest number of returnees were received from Saudi Arabia than any other country for the three years whilst Sweden and Australia recorded the least numbers for the three years.
- There were more male returnees than female deportees for the three years with the highest number of males returning from Libya and the highest females from Saudi Arabia

Trend Analysis Cont.

- There were more individual returnees in 2022 than 2020 and 2021.
- We received more returnees from Saudi Arabia than any other Asian country with the highest in 2021 probably because of the Government of Ghana assisted evacuation from that country.
- In 2023, we believe Qatar may join the likes of Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirate in Asia following the world cup activities.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- a. The MICR has successfully received and processed returnees from all over the world. The Unit has expanded its mandate to process and involve the returnees from other parts of the world to the Reintegration process.
- b. Other partners have imposed confidence in the Unit and have expressed interest in supporting the return operations. Example, IOM and the UK
- c. Agencies and Academic institutions call on the MICR Unit for information and Returnees Statistics for research and policy.

CHALLENGES

a. Complaints from Returnees:

- ✓ Missing personal effects/money/misinformation at some departing countries resulting in misunderstanding and unwillingness to go through arrival process.
- b. No Holding centers for returnees prior to counselling and referrals as well as for convicts before integration.
- c. Limited monitoring of the Returnees' reintegration due to logistics.
- d. Inadequate communication prior to arrival of returnees.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. Further capacity building for officers of the Unit on special need returnees, conflict management, asylum procedures in the EU.
- b. Host/ Deporting countries should provide detailed information of returnees (luggage, document, etc).

QUESTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

THANK YOU