



PROJECT

MAKING MIGRATION SAFE FOR WOMEN



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Background

Women account for approximately 50 percent of the world’s migrants and are responsible for sending half of the estimated USD 601 billion in remittances. Migration has the potential to stimulate equitable, inclusive and sustainable development for countries of origin, transit and destination.

However, because **migration governance continues to be largely gender-blind** – overlooking the specific needs, challenges, and situations of vulnerability of migrant women and girls – an urgent need exists to address the gender dimensions of migration. With increasing numbers of women migrating autonomously for many complex and interdependent reasons, it is necessary to address the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination they may face.

It is critical that national migration policies, laws and measures recognize and address the specific needs, challenges and situations of vulnerability of all women and men, girls and boys in migration – thus contributing to the **achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 5, 8, 10 and 17)**.

The implementation of gender-responsive migration policies is particularly relevant in East Africa, the Horn of Africa and the Sahel. With limited economic opportunities for women in these regions, there are growing numbers of women migrating intra-regionally as well as internationally, including those migrating to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) States as domestic workers, where they face a high rate of labour exploitation and abuse.

While several legal and policy instruments exist at the regional level to address the exploitation of migrant women in the labour market – both within Africa and internationally – overarching governance and enforcement mechanisms are lacking to address the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination migrant women in the region face.





Proposed Project

The overarching goal of the project is to ensure that migration is safe for women migrating from, into and through Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali and Niger and international norms and standards for protecting and promoting migrant women's rights are strengthened. The programme aims to improve the use and collection of sex-disaggregated data and provide robust evidence and research on migrant women to inform national policy making. It also seeks to enable migrant women and their organizations to advocate for the protection of their rights and strengthen the alliance building of migrant women's organizations. In particular, the project aims to contribute to the following three outcomes:

1. National governments develop/strengthen migration policies, laws and services that are gender-responsive;
2. Migrant women and their organizations advocate for the promotion and protection of migrant women's rights
3. Governments and relevant international human rights bodies ensure the promotion and protection of migrant women's rights through strengthened global norms and standards.

Geographical focus. A global programme with an initial regional focus on East Africa, the Horn of Africa and the Sahel with a specific focus on the following four pilot countries: **Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali and Niger**. These countries can be characterized as countries of origin, transit, destination and return.

Implementing agencies. UN Women (in partnership with ILO, IOM, OHCHR (to be confirmed))

Budget and project duration. The budget for the global programme is USD 9,278,531 for a four-year implementation period (including six-month inception phase). In 2019, UN Women mobilised **2.2 million euro from the Government of Germany** to support the Making Migration Safe for Women implementation in Niger.



Programme at a glance:

- ❖ **Implementing agencies:** UN Women (in partnership with ILO, IOM, OHCHR (tbc))
- ❖ **Geographical coverage:** Global and national (Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali and Niger) with expectation to expand to other countries
- ❖ **Budget:** USD 9,278,531
- ❖ **Implementation period:** 4 years

Outcomes:

- ❖ National governments develop/strengthen migration policies, laws and services that are gender-responsive;
- ❖ Migrant women and their organizations advocate for the promotion and protection of migrant women's rights;
- ❖ Governments and relevant international human rights bodies ensure the promotion and protection of migrant women's rights through strengthened global norms and standards.

