

# **“Leveraging Diaspora Resources for Climate Resilience and Sustainable Land Use”**

**By**

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# **Presentation Outline**

- ❑ Nexus Between Climate Change And Migration In Ghana And Sahel Region**
- ❑ Relevance of Ghanaian Diaspora in Investing Towards Rural Development And Climate Adaptation in Ghana**
- ❑ Government Policies that Have Effectively Promoted Remittances and Diaspora Investments for Rural Development, Food Security and Climate Adaptation In Ghana**
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- ❑ Efforts to Address the Challenges**

# Nexus Between Climate Change And Migration In Ghana and Sahel Region

- ❑ In Ghana and the Sahel region, the nexus between climate change and migration is primarily driven by the impacts of **drought, erratic rainfall patterns, and desertification**, which significantly **disrupt agricultural livelihoods, forcing people to migrate internally or to neighboring** countries in search of **more stable sources of income and sustenance**;
- ❑ This phenomenon is particularly pronounced in the Sahel region where climate change is exacerbating existing vulnerabilities, leading to increased migration as a **coping mechanism**.

## ❑ Key Points About the Nexus:

- **Climate change impacts:**
  - **Drought:** Reduced rainfall leads to crop failures, impacting farmers' livelihoods and pushing them to migrate to areas with better rainfall conditions.
  - **Desertification:** Expanding desert areas in the Sahel reduce available land for grazing and farming, forcing pastoralists and farmers to move.
  - **Extreme weather events:** Flooding and intense heatwaves can also disrupt livelihoods and trigger migration.

# Nexus Between Climate Change And Migration in Ghana and Sahel Region

## ☐ Migration patterns

- ✓ **Internal migration:** People often move to areas with more water and fertile land within their own country.
- ✓ **Rural to urban migration:** Migration to cities is common as people seek alternative livelihoods due to agricultural decline.
- ✓ **Cross-border migration:** Migration to other countries occur when local coping mechanisms are exhausted.

## ☐ Vulnerable groups:

- ✓ **Smallholder farmers:** Highly dependent on rainfall and susceptible to crop losses due to drought.
- ✓ **Pastoralists:** Affected by changing grazing patterns and resource scarcity.
- ✓ **Women and children:** Often disproportionately impacted by climate-related migration due to limited access to resources and decision-making power.

# Nexus Between Climate Change and Migration In Ghana and Sahel Region

## ❑ Conflict potential:

- **Resource scarcity:** Competition over limited water and grazing land can lead to tensions between communities, fueling conflict.
- **Displacement and insecurity:** Large-scale migration can exacerbate existing social tensions and contribute to instability.

## ❑ Specific examples in Ghana and the Sahel:

- **Northern Ghana:**
  - ✓ Farmers in northern Ghana often migrate south to areas with more rainfall during dry seasons.
- **Sahel Region:**
  - ✓ Pastoralists in countries like Niger and Mali may move across borders to find grazing land due to drought.

# Nexus Between Climate Change And Migration In Ghana And Sahel Region

## □ Addressing the Nexus:

- **Climate change mitigation:**

- ✓ Reducing greenhouse gas emissions to lessen the severity of climate change impacts.

- **Adaptation strategies:**

- ✓ Supporting communities with drought-resistant crops, water conservation techniques, sustainable land management and livestock management practices.

- **Migration management:**

- ✓ Policies to facilitate safe and orderly migration, including access to essential services for climate migrants.

# Relevance of Ghanaian Diaspora in Investing Towards Rural Development And Climate Adaptation in Ghana

- Diaspora groups are powerhouses of innovation in their countries of residence and origin. Their contribution, for example through **remittances, direct investment, philanthropy and skills transfer** are crucial to accelerate climate action in their countries of origins and on a larger scale.
- Ghana is the second largest remittance recipient in sub-Saharan Africa after Nigeria, where remittances are estimated to account for **6%** of the country's GDP, summing to **US\$4.34 billion** in 2023 (Bank of Ghana). Some of these remittances go into agriculture-related investments.
- The International Organisation for Migration (IOM), United Kingdom launched the **Diaspora for Climate Action (D4C) project funded by IOM Development Fund**.
- The project will enable diaspora members to build connections with key stakeholders in **Bangladesh, Ghana, Jamaica and Moldova** that can help them achieve more effective and coordinated climate action, and greater and longer-lasting impacts on climate-vulnerable populations.

# Government Policies that Have Effectively Promoted Remittances and Diaspora Investments for Rural Development, Food Security and Climate Adaptation In Ghana

## ❑ The National Migration Policy

- Launched in April 2016, with the aim to promote the benefits and minimise the costs of migration towards the national development of Ghana.
- The policy addresses national concerns relating to migration, and it gives specific attention to certain cross-cutting themes and issues.

## ❑ Goals Within The National Migration Policy

1. Ensuring effective coordination of existing migration-related policy and legislation
2. Developing programmes, strategies and interventions that will enhance the potential of migration for socio-economic development
3. Promoting and protecting the interests, rights, security and welfare of citizens and migrants within and outside Ghana
4. Setting up the appropriate legislative and institutional frameworks for a comprehensive approach to migration management.
5. Facilitating the production and dissemination of accurate, relevant and timely data on migration within, into, and from Ghana
6. Promoting a comprehensive and sustainable approach to migration management
7. Providing an enabling platform for national, regional, and global migration dialogue
8. Countering xenophobia, racism, discrimination, ethnocentrism, vulnerability, and gender inequality within and outside Ghana.



# Government Policies that Have Effectively Promoted Remittances and Diaspora Investments for Rural Development, Food Security and Climate Adaptation In Ghana

## ❑ The National Labour Migration Policy

➤ The goal of the National Labour Migration Policy is **“an improved labour migration governance that harnesses the benefits of labour migration for socioeconomic development in Ghana”**.

### • Strategic Policy Objectives

1. To promote good governance of labour migration.
2. To strengthen systems for the protection and empowerment of migrant workers and their families.
3. To enhance mechanisms for maximising the developmental impacts of labour migration.
4. To improve labour market and migration information systems

## ❑ Policies And Programmes

The existing national policies underpinning the National Labour Migration Policy are:

- ✓ Coordinated Programmes for Economic and Social Development Policies (2017-2024)
- ✓ Ghana National Climate Change Policy, 2013
- ✓ Ghana National Social Protection Policy, 2015
- ✓ National Employment policy (2012-2016)
- ✓ National Health Policy, 2020
- ✓ National Population Policy (revised), 1994
- ✓ National Trade Policy,
- ✓ National Youth Policy (2022- 2032)

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## □ The Diaspora Engagement Policy

- The Diaspora Engagement Policy (DEP) aims at promoting a constructive engagement between Ghana and its diaspora for the purpose of achieving sustainable development.
- The Diaspora Engagement Policy in Ghana has opened new avenues for investment, particularly in sectors like **agriculture, tourism, manufacturing, and most notably, real estate**. This policy has initiated a wave of opportunities for diaspora-led investments, reshaping the economic landscape of Ghana.

## □ Effective Practices

- The government has embarked upon deliberate and proactive policy initiatives as a means of engendering a sense of belonging with the broader Ghanaian diaspora.
  - ✓ Ghana Diaspora Homecoming Summit in 2017.
  - ✓ Ghana Diaspora Celebration & Homecoming Summit, and the Year of Return in 2019 – major events aimed at recognising and celebrating the immense contributions to nation building by the Ghanaian Diaspora.
  - ✓ A follow-up event to these is the 2020-2030 campaign, themed “**Beyond the Return**”.
  - ✓ Ghana Investment Promotion Centre (GIPC) to encourage inbound investment through investment promotion policies and plans, while collecting and disseminating data on investment opportunities. The GIPC has run investment roadshows around the world and linked diaspora investment to national initiatives.

# **Government Policies that Have Effectively Promoted Remittances and Diaspora Investments for Rural Development, Food Security and Climate Adaptation In Ghana**

- Flagship policies such as **One District One Factory (1D1F)** are designed to encourage partnerships and investments by both local and foreign investors. The diaspora is a key target group for this policy.
- Similarly, **the Planting for Food and Jobs policy** targets multiple stakeholders throughout the value chain in the agriculture sector, including the Ghanaian diaspora.

# Challenges for Diaspora Remittances & Investors

□ Despite the favourable investment climate, diaspora investors face certain challenges including:

✓ Limited access to information

✓ Cultural differences

✓ The cost to send money to Ghana remains high. The current average cost of sending US\$200 to Ghana is **7.1%** of the amount sent which is less than the **African average of 7.9%** (RemitSCOPE Q3 2023) but it is still far above the **3% SDG 10.c target** and a driver of the use of **informal remittance services** that can impede investment efforts. Several factors contribute to this situation, including:

- the low degree of competition in these corridors,
- the lack of information on the different cost service options,
- the instability of the exchange rate in the recipient country,
- the low level of financial development and the utilization of high-cost transfer instruments such as cash and bank transfers.

# Efforts to Address the Challenges

- The Bank of Ghana remain dedicated to listening and responding to the needs of the industry and continue to strengthen the enabling environment for remittances in 2024 with activities undertaken:
  - ✓ Recently granted the first licence for outbound remittances to Ghanaian Fintech Zeepay through the regulatory sandbox, launched in 2022 to enable the innovation and testing of financial products, services and business models.
  - ✓ Continue to work with IFAD to improve remittance data collection and reporting standards.

# Conclusion

- Diaspora remittances will continue to be a crucial source of poverty alleviation for rural communities, disaster response and acceleration of climate action in their countries of origins and on a larger scale.
- Continued stakeholder collaboration is required in effectively leveraging diaspora resources for climate resilience and sustainable land use.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION !!**