

FACTS ABOUT MIGRATION CONTEXT IN OREDO AND IKPOBA OKA, EDO STATE, NIGERIA

REGIONAL MIGRATION

- 1 An estimated 7.5 million migrants move around West Africa.¹ This is the largest number of migrants in Africa, and they move internally (within a country), intra-regionally (within the region), continentally (in Africa) and internationally (outside of Africa).
- 2 The high number of West Africans on the move is linked to several factors, including visa-free movement among the 15² Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) members.³
- 3 An estimated 84 per cent of migration within West Africa are towards another country in the region, which is seven times greater than migration flows from West Africa to other parts of the world.⁴

MIGRATION TRENDS IN NIGERIA

- 4 The total number of Nigerians living abroad is estimated to be between 6 and 20 million.⁵
- 5 The majority of Nigerians moving out of the country are economic migrants looking for better work opportunities.⁶
- 6 Irregular migration from Nigeria is mainly directed towards Europe through North Africa, with Nigerians almost exclusively using the Central Mediterranean route.⁷ Violence, exploitation and other abuses are faced by irregular migrants along the Central Mediterranean route.
- 7 In 2015, it was reported that, except for internal trafficking within the EU, Nigerian nationals are the most common victims of human trafficking in the EU.⁸
- 8 Edo state alone accounts for 42 per cent of the 18,079 stranded migrants received by IOM and the Federal Government of Nigeria from April 2017 to October 2019 in Nigeria.⁹
- 9 A recent survey¹⁰ of 419 respondents in Oredo and Ikpoba Okha in Edo State showed that more than 80 per cent aspire to migrate to another state in Nigeria or to another country in the future.
- 10 More than 58 per cent of survey¹¹ respondents in Oredo and Ikpoba Okha said that they get their migration information primarily through friends and family.

LOCAL CONTEXT

- 11 In West Africa, some families rely heavily on remittances sent from children and spouses, and therefore the pressure to migrate on behalf of the entire family can be significant.¹² According to an IOM Nigeria report, the majority of these remittances come from friends or family living within Nigeria, either in the same community or another state.¹³
- 12 According to a recent survey conducted with residents of Oredo and Ikpoba Okha, respondents said that the top three opportunities to make money in these communities are farming, self-employment and manual labour (including construction, mechanics, etc.).¹⁴

To access accurate information about safe migration and local opportunities in Oredo and Ikpoba Okha, visit:

[WAKAwell.info/nigeria](https://www.wakawell.info/nigeria)



¹ IOM, Migration Flows in West and Central Africa 2017-2018. Available from: <https://migration.iom.int/sites/all/themes/fmp/pages/data-story/index.html>

² The 15 members of ECOWAS are Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo.

³ Flahaux, M., De Haas, H. African migration: trends, patterns, drivers. CMS 4, 1 (2016) doi:10.1186/s40878-015-0015-6.

⁴ IOM GMDAC, guidelines for the harmonization of migration data management in the ECOWAS region. (2018), pp. 1.

⁵ IOM & ICMPD, A Survey on Migration Policies in West Africa. (2015), pp 260.

⁶ IOM Nigeria, Irregular migration between West Africa, North Africa and the Mediterranean. (2015), pp. 27

⁷ Ibid

⁸ 2018 Trafficking in Persons Report - Nigeria. Available from <https://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/countries/2018/282664.htm>

⁹ IOM Nigeria's Voluntary Humanitarian Returns database (2019) (unpublished)

¹⁰ IOM X West Africa, Baseline Study: IOM X Nigeria (October 2019 – Forthcoming)

¹¹ IOM X West Africa, Baseline Study: IOM X Nigeria (October 2019 – Forthcoming)

¹² Flahaux, M., De Haas, H. African migration: trends, patterns, drivers. CMS 4, 1 (2016) doi:10.1186/s40878-015-0015-6.

¹³ IOM Nigeria, Irregular migration between West Africa, North Africa and the Mediterranean. (2015), pp. 27

¹⁴ IOM X West Africa, Baseline Study: IOM X Nigeria (October 2019 – Forthcoming)