



European  
University  
Institute

ROBERT  
SCHUMAN  
CENTRE FOR  
ADVANCED  
STUDIES



# **INTERACT – RESEARCHING THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS’ INTEGRATION AS A THREE-WAY PROCESS - IMMIGRANTS, COUNTRIES OF EMIGRATION AND COUNTRIES OF IMMIGRATION AS ACTORS OF INTEGRATION**

Co-financed by the European Union

## ***Diaspora and Migration Policy and Institutional Frameworks Ghana Country Report***

**Mariama Awumbila**

**Joseph Kofi Teye**

INTERACT Research Report 2014/31



CEDEM

© 2014. All rights reserved.  
No part of this paper may be distributed, quoted  
or reproduced in any form without permission from  
the INTERACT Project.





**INTERACT**  
**Researching Third Country Nationals' Integration as a Three-way Process -**  
**Immigrants, Countries of Emigration and Countries of Immigration as Actors of**  
**Integration**

**Research Report**  
**Country Report**  
**INTERACT RR2014/31**

**Diaspora and Migration Policy and Institutional Frameworks**  
**Ghana Country Report**

**Mariama Awumbila \***  
**Joseph Kofi Teye \***

\* Centre for Migration Studies, University of Ghana

© 2014, European University Institute  
Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies

This text may be downloaded only for personal research purposes. Any additional reproduction for other purposes, whether in hard copies or electronically, requires the consent of the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies.

Requests should be addressed to [mpc@eui.eu](mailto:mpc@eui.eu)

If cited or quoted, reference should be made as follows:

Mariama Awumbila, Joseph Kofi Teye, Ghana Country Report, INTERACT RR 2014/31, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, San Domenico di Fiesole (FI): European University Institute, 2014.

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THIS PUBLICATION CANNOT IN ANY CIRCUMSTANCES BE REGARDED AS THE OFFICIAL POSITION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

European University Institute  
Badia Fiesolana  
I – 50014 San Domenico di Fiesole (FI)  
Italy

<http://www.eui.eu/RSCAS/Publications/>  
<http://interact-project.eu/publications/>  
<http://cadmus.eui.eu>

## **INTERACT - Researching Third Country Nationals' Integration as a Three-way Process - Immigrants, Countries of Emigration and Countries of Immigration as Actors of Integration**

Around 25 million persons born in a third country (TCNs) are currently living in the European Union (EU), representing 5% of its total population. Integrating immigrants, i.e. allowing them to participate in the host society at the same level as natives, is an active, not a passive, process that involves two parties, the host society and the immigrants, working together to build a cohesive society.

Policy-making on integration is commonly regarded as primarily a matter of concern for the receiving state, with general disregard for the role of the sending state. However, migrants belong to two places: first, where they come and second, where they now live. While integration takes place in the latter, migrants maintain a variety of links with the former. New means of communication facilitating contact between migrants and their homes, globalisation bringing greater cultural diversity to host countries, and nation-building in source countries seeing expatriate nationals as a strategic resource have all transformed the way migrants interact with their home country.

INTERACT project looks at the ways governments and non-governmental institutions in origin countries, including the media, make transnational bonds a reality, and have developed tools that operate economically (to boost financial transfers and investments); culturally (to maintain or revive cultural heritage); politically (to expand the constituency); legally (to support their rights).

INTERACT project explores several important questions: To what extent do policies pursued by EU member states to integrate immigrants, and policies pursued by governments and non-state actors in origin countries regarding expatriates, complement or contradict each other? What effective contribution do they make to the successful integration of migrants and what obstacles do they put in their way?

A considerable amount of high-quality research on the integration of migrants has been produced in the EU. Building on existing research to investigate the impact of origin countries on the integration of migrants in the host country remains to be done.

INTERACT is co-financed by the European Union and is implemented by a consortium built by CEDEM, UPF and MPI Europe.

*For more information:*

INTERACT

Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies (EUI)

Villa Malafasca

Via Boccaccio 151

50133 Florence

Italy

Tel: +39 055 46 85 817/892

Fax: + 39 055 46 85 755

Email: [mpc@eui.eu](mailto:mpc@eui.eu)

**Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies**

<http://www.eui.eu/RSCAS/>

## **Abstract**

International migration, especially to European destinations, is an age old phenomenon for many Ghanaians. While at their various destinations, the Ghanaian Diaspora continues to foster close ties with the country and leverage on opportunities that policies and programmes present to them. There is no known recognised migration governance framework in the country, although a draft migration policy is currently under review. Despite these shortfalls, the Ghanaian state recognises its diaspora as agents for co-development. Non-state actors have equally engaged in activities which are anchored on facilitating dialogue between the diaspora and Ghana. This paper reviews the various state and non-state level policies and programmes which facilitate the participation of the Ghanaian Diaspora in development activities. The paper concludes that while Ghana has very robust laws, which seek to facilitate the participation of the diaspora in development, many of the laws also limit their full involvement in some aspects of socio-economic development of the country. It is recommended that the State hastens the process for the passage of the national migration policy, which will comprehensively deal with migration in its entirety.

**Key words:** Ghana, Migration, Diaspora, European Destinations, Development

**Table of contents**

- 1. Introduction ..... 7
- 2. Description of national level emigration or diaspora policies/programmes ..... 7
- 3. Relevant policies on the local/or regional level ..... 10
- 4. Engagement of non-state actors ..... 10
- 5. List of stakeholders and actors ..... 13
- 6. List of relevant agreements ..... 14
- 7. Conclusion/assessment ..... 15
- References ..... 15
- Websites ..... 15





## **1. Introduction**

Ghana has no comprehensive migration policy, although migration features in various national economic and social policies, laws and regulations. Given its importance in the broader national development agenda, the government of Ghana is in the process of drafting a National Migration Policy, a draft of which has been submitted to the Ministry of the Interior, to go through the various approval processes. The draft policy is all-encompassing with sections that speak to the issues on Ghana's diaspora. Again, in order to harness the expertise of its diaspora, the government has created the Diaspora Affairs Bureau at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Despite the absence of a comprehensive and holistic policy on migration, emigration and immigration have featured highly in current public discourses on Ghana's development. These discourses have shifted from an earlier negative view of emigration to the current position in which migration is increasingly being seen as having significant potential for Ghana's development.

This paper seeks to outline and discuss a) the emigration and diaspora policies of the different levels of government in Ghana; and b) the diaspora-focused activities of non-governmental bodies. In order to achieve these objectives, the paper is sub-divided into six sections. These are: a description of national level emigration and diaspora policies; relevant policies at the local and/or regional level; engagement of non-state actors; a short list of relevant agreements and a conclusion which assesses policy frameworks.

## **2. Description of national level emigration or diaspora policies/programmes**

As stated in the introduction, Ghana has no comprehensive state-led emigration or diaspora policy. However, emigration and diaspora issues have been addressed independently by various government and development agencies. This section discusses national level emigration and diaspora policies/programmes for Ghana. Issues discussed include: bilateral agreements to send workers abroad, the national diaspora policy, readmission and institutions that are responsible for implementing these policies and programmes.

### **A. Bilateral agreements to send workers abroad**

There are few state-led bilateral agreements on labour migration. The Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations, plays a role in migration-related issues due to its core mandate of encouraging and promoting the creation of productive employment in all sectors of the economy in order to reduce unemployment and poverty. Some Ghanaian youth who either return to Ghana voluntarily or are deported from other countries are reintegrated through jobs and training programmes. The Ministry takes on such migrants upon their return to Ghana and works to reintegrate them into the Ghanaian society. For instance, in 2006 the governments of Ghana and Italy entered into an agreement which serves as a foundation for the establishment of job-matching in both countries as well as for circular migration schemes. This resulted in the establishment of a Labour Migration Unit to facilitate the selection of qualified Ghanaian workers to match job opportunities in Ghana and Italy and the allocation of annual entry quotas for Ghanaian workers. To the beneficiaries, it provides a "hassle free" process towards migration as their conditions of service at the destination and their travelling documents have all been arranged and procured by International Organization for Migration (IOM) officials in collaboration with the Labour Migration Unit. The first batch of migrants under this agreement moved to Italy to collect grapes and returned after the harvesting season (a total duration of three months).

### **B. Institutions responsible for State-emigration policies and programmes**

The institution responsible for the Ghana-Italy Labour migration policy and programme is the Labour Department of the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations.

### **C. State diaspora policy**

As stated in the previous section, Ghana has no diaspora policy although certain national laws, programmes and projects are geared towards the engagement of diaspora engagement in national affairs. This section is discussed under two sub-headings, namely, Diaspora political engagement and diaspora economic engagement.

The first section discusses diaspora political engagement, which entails government initiatives under the Dual Citizenship Regulation Act, the Representation of People Amendment Act (ROPAA) and the Ghana Constitutional Review Commission.

In order to strengthen Ghana's relationship with its diaspora, the government of Ghana passed the Dual Citizenship Regulation Act (DCA, Act 591) in 2002. The Law allows Ghanaians abroad to keep the citizenship of their host country and that of Ghana at the same time. The caveat to the dual citizenship act is that while it entitles one to everything, one must denounce foreign citizenship in order to stand for a political position in the country. According to Quartey (2009), a total of 5,903 expatriates have made use of DCA within seven years of its passage in order to combine Ghanaian and foreign citizenship.

Also, although the constitution of Ghana does not exclude its diaspora from voting, distance and logistical arrangements remained a constraint for Ghanaians living abroad. The passing of the Representation of the People Amendment Act (ROPAA) in 2006 aims at facilitating diaspora participation in the electoral process.

Furthermore, as part of the government's initiative to amend parts of the 1992 constitution, a Constitutional Review Commission (CRC) was instituted in 2010 to take into account views from Ghanaians for the amendment of parts of the constitution. As part of its mandate, the CRC reached out to the Ghanaian Diaspora for its input for the review of the Constitution.

Flowing from the above engagements, it could also be said that the growth of democratic governance in Ghana has contributed to transnational political party activism in national politics. All major political parties in Ghana have transnational branches in major destination areas of Ghanaian migrants. The two major political parties, the National Democratic Congress (NDC) and the New Patriotic Party (NPP) for instance, formally recognize branches in Nigeria, Botswana, the Netherlands, Norway, Germany, Italy, Australia, the UK, the US, and Canada among others. The party diaspora-engagement presents Ghanaians abroad with the opportunity to influence political decisions during general elections, but also through many party decisions, such as the nomination of the flag bearer, members of Parliament, and other policies. In addition, party members abroad are "free to also contest for positions. The active contribution of the diaspora in Ghanaian politics led to the passage of the ROPAA and the Dual Citizenship Regulation Act. However, these two laws have their own implementation challenges.

This second section details diaspora engagement in the area of economic and socio-cultural development. These state-level activities are implemented under the auspices of the following government ministries and agencies: the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Health. These policies and programmes are discussed below.

As a core of its policy function, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs protects the interests of Ghanaians abroad and explores ways of translating gains in the quality of life of the diaspora to the welfare of Ghanaians in the homeland. Besides its core policy, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the IOM have instituted the 'Linking the Ghanaian Diaspora to the Development of Ghana Project' to strengthen the engagement and relationship of the State with its citizens and persons of Ghanaian heritage abroad. It is a year-long project instituted in 2012, which seeks to stimulate long-term, enhanced relations between the Government and the Ghanaian diaspora. It is designed to contribute to the efforts of the Government of Ghana to mobilise the country's diaspora towards socio-economic development through strengthened dialogue and engagement. It targets Ghanaian diaspora associations in the five

countries (the US, Italy, the UK, Germany, and the Netherlands) with the highest concentrations of Ghanaian emigrants outside West Africa. Specific interventions undertaken by the Diaspora Engagement Project include:

1. Profiling Ghanaian diaspora groups in the five target countries;
2. Holding dialogue fora between the Government of Ghana and the diaspora;
3. The establishment of a national Diaspora Support Unit; and
4. The creation of a diaspora database and diaspora website to serve as a platform for facilitating the engagement of the country's emigrants in sustainable development by the Government of Ghana (see <http://www.ghanaiandiaspora.com/> [Accessed 29 August 2013]).

Such facilitation is expected to result in an increase of investment of resources (know-how, financial resources, skills) of the Ghanaian diaspora in social and economic initiatives in Ghana.

Building on the success of the national diaspora engagement project and the Diaspora Support Unit (DSU), established in 2012, a Diaspora Affairs Bureau was launched in May 2014, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration to provide a sustainable link between the Ghanaian diaspora and various government agencies to achieve development and investment goals.

The Ministry of Finance has dealings with migration through the Bank of Ghana. The Bank of Ghana oversees remittances as an integral component of price stabilisation, collects financial data from other banks on total remittances, and monitors, analyses and makes data available on cash remittances from Ghanaian migrants abroad. The Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning launched the Golden Jubilee bond in 2007, in commemoration of Ghana's 50 year anniversary. Ghanaians in the diaspora were particularly targeted to invest in the country through bond purchases. The Ghana Investment Promotion Centre (GIPC) established the Non-Resident Ghanaian Secretariat to attract and facilitate investments of Ghanaians living abroad. However, that unit has ceased to exist.

The Ministry of Tourism's (previously termed Ministry of Tourism and Diaspora Relations) core policy function includes developing tourism infrastructure and human resources, marketing Ghana as a preferred tourism destination, using tourism as a tool for creating wealth to help reduce poverty, and making policies and programmes that acknowledge and address the essential role played by the Ghanaian diaspora in Ghana's development. In line with the policy to vigorously pursue the involvement of the Ghanaian diaspora in the economic and socio-cultural life in Ghana, a number of programmes have been organised since 2001. These include the Homecoming Summit in July 2001, in which some 1,600 participants including 500 diaspora members participated. The summit was under the theme "Harnessing the Global Ghanaian Resource Potential for Accelerated National Development". Other programmes have included the 'Joseph Project' in 2005 and the annual celebration of the Pan-African Festival (PANAFEST)/Emancipation Day to attract the Ghanaian Diaspora to the country.

The IOM and the Ministry of Health (MOH) collaborated to invite health professionals in the diaspora back home to work on a temporary basis. The program, known as the Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA) Ghana Health Project, facilitated the return of over 150 health professionals to work temporarily in Ghana.

The Ghana Statistical Service (GSS), an autonomous public service body, which reports directly to the Office of the President, has the core mandate for the collection and analysis and production of official statistical data for Ghana. Data collected includes migration data with the goal of establishing linkages with overall development.

#### **D. Institutions responsible for diaspora policies and programmes**

As discussed in the previous sections, various government and development agencies and partners have instituted diaspora engagement policies and programmes. These include: the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, Finance, Health, Tourism and Employment and Labour Relations. Ghana's Legislative and Executive Arms of government have respectively passed and signed laws which legitimise Ghanaians who are in the diaspora to participate in various aspects of national life.

#### **E. Readmission of forced return emigrants**

For now there is no known bilateral readmission agreement for forced-return emigrants on national, regional or local levels in Ghana. However, certain programmes instituted by development agencies such as the IOM and host country governments such as the UK have helped in the transfer and reintegration of irregular emigrants. Below are details of such programmes:

The IOM readmission programme started in 2002 provides reception and reintegration assistance to returnees in Ghana. IOM Ghana continues to provide reintegration assistance in order to minimize the effects of the socio-economic challenges faced by returnees – including vulnerable ones upon their return – and to ensure that returnees have the best possible chances for successful reintegration. Over the past two decades, IOM Ghana has coordinated and assisted the voluntary return and reintegration of Ghanaian migrants from Morocco, Malta, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the United Kingdom, Belgium, Switzerland, Germany, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, and Latvia, among other countries. Many of the returnees were irregular migrants for whom assisted voluntary return presented a viable alternative to deportation. The gender composition of Ghanaian returnees under the AVRR programme between 2007 and 2009, was 75% male and 25% female.

The Charter Flights that run from UK to Ghana are a second programme. These are deportation “Charter” flights hired by UK immigration authorities to transport illegal Ghanaian migrants back to Ghana from the UK (Charter 2012).

#### **F. Institutions responsible for bilateral/multilateral readmission agreements**

Ghana has no known bilateral/multilateral agreement on readmission so far. However, the IOM and UK government have initiatives on the deportation and reintegration of irregular emigrants. The Ministry of the Interior through its specialised agencies, namely, the Ghana Immigration Service and the Ghana Refugees Board, is responsible for issues of both forced and voluntary return, readmission and integration. In cases of forced return, such as the return of almost 20,000 Ghanaians from Libya in 2011, the National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO) co-ordinated logistics for forced-return Ghanaian migrants under emergency situations. The Attorney General's Department and Parliament both play significant roles in any bilateral/multilateral agreements.

### **3. Relevant policies on the local/or regional level**

With regard to local and regional level policies focusing on emigrants, there appear to be no such policies. However, many decentralised agencies such as the Metropolitan and District Assemblies have policies on encouraging return migration to the various regions and communities.

### **4. Engagement of non-state actors**

Apart from government agencies instituting programmes to engage the diaspora in all facets of national life, non-state actors have also followed on a similar tangent. These non-state actor activities therefore often complement the state-level policies and programmes enumerated above. Discussed in this section are the activities of non-state actors such as the Ghana Opportunity Network, the

Transnational Synergy Cooperation for Development (TRANSCODE), Traditional Authorities and Ghanaian Diaspora Associations.

**Ghana Opportunity Network.** In 2007, the Ghana Opportunity Network was set up with the objective of providing ‘easy access to credible information’ to the Non-Resident Ghanaian Secretariat and other potential investors. Its website provides access to information on investment opportunities, incentives, money transfer companies and diaspora-specific financial products. It also provides advisory services to potential investors (see <http://www.ghanaopportunity.com/> [Accessed 29 August 2013]).

**Transnational Synergy and Cooperation for Development (TRANSCODE).** The Transnational Synergy and Cooperation for Development (TRANSCODE) aims to promote cooperation between migrant organisations and development-oriented organisations in the Netherlands, Italy, the Philippines and Ghana, from a multi-stakeholder approach, in order to identify best practices for development initiatives. Its activities focus on facilitating the exchange of experiences from different stakeholders and the provision of a platform for debate on concepts for transnational approaches to development. See [www.transcodeprogramme.org](http://www.transcodeprogramme.org) [Accessed 29 August 2013].

**Traditional Authorities.** Traditional authorities also play a role in forging closer ties between the country and its diaspora. This has especially been felt on the economic front where some traditional rulers in Ghana have, over the past decade, visited their diaspora in a bid to promote their return and participation in the development of their communities in Ghana (Alhassan 2010). For example, the Asantehene, Dormaahene and Okyehene have made several visits to their diaspora hometown associations with the aim of discussing their participation in development programmes back home in Ghana and adequate ways of strengthening the economic and cultural relations existing between the host nations and Ghana. They also make passionate but strong appeals for Ghanaian migrants to return home and to be important stakeholders in the development effort of the country. Through such visits, the health and educational sectors in Ghana have received various support from Ghanaian communities in Europe, the US, the Netherlands, Germany and Canada, among others. Queen mothers, many of whom live in the diaspora, have also been instrumental in the development of their communities in Ghana.

**Ghanaian Diaspora Associations.** Ghanaians living abroad have formed several groups and associations such as professional, former-school, ethnic and hometown-based associations. These associations represent important links between the diaspora and their homeland. They also serve as vehicles for social-service provision in the places from which these associations originate. In addition, they give the Ghanaian Diaspora access to information they would otherwise not be privy to, and allow them to form opinions, priorities and goals for their own individual and collective development activities. Examples of such associations include the Awudome Anyiriwa hometown association in Ghana, the Asanteman Association of the United States and the Akyem Abuakwa Susubiribi Association in London. Below are some detailed activities of some associations which are in line with government initiatives on promoting diaspora engagement.

*1) Volta Development Association in Italy (VODA), Brescia.* VODA started in 2006 helping women and children in Ghana, and Ghanaian migrants’ children living in Italy. As an incentive for the second generation in Italy to attain higher education, the organization has promised to give financial assistance to those who qualify to enter the University. They also teach the second-generation about Ghanaian culture and language through their cultural and drumming programmes in order to ensure that they do not lose touch with their Ghanaian culture. With regard to their activities in Ghana, they have helped five school children pay their school fees. Additionally, they have given financial assistance to pregnant women in rural areas to cover their hospital bills. At present, the organization is trying to build a kindergarten in an area near Denu in the Volta region. The association also encourages its members to participate in educational courses offered by the Italian local

administrations. In all there are 35 members who make financial contributions towards the association's activities.

2) *Council of Ghana Nationals Associations in Italy (COGNAI)*. COGNAI is made up of different associations such as ethnic/town groups, religious groups and provincial associations. Among its objectives are: i) to unite and govern all Ghanaian associations in Italy ii) to promote solidarity and charity amongst Ghanaians/Unions iii) to promote socio-cultural activities iv) to act as a reference or contact centre for the Ghanaian community in Italy v) to promote co-development projects. The goals of the association include: a) to enhance the human potential of Ghanaians in Italy for effective integration/ intercultural representation and b) to serve as a platform for international dialogue, with particular attention to Ghana. COGNAI has additionally embarked on a number of projects such as the Ghana Day held in 2006, the Torino Business Convention and contributions to fight malaria in Ghana.

3) *The Ghanaian Community in the United Kingdom (UK)*. "Ghana Expo 2003" was organised by the Ghanaian community in the UK. The programme took place in London to facilitate links between Ghanaians in the UK and businesses in Ghana (Van Hear *et al.* 2004). This four-day event was lauded for promoting partnerships in trade and investment, but no evaluation on long-term impacts is available. Further similar events have been held in the US as well.

The Ghana High Commission UK, in partnership with broadly selected Ghanaian Professionals Associations and groups in the UK, officially launched the Ghanaian Professional Skills Database on 17 February 2012 at the High Commission, Belgrave Square, London. It has been charged with creating a database of the large number of Ghanaian professionals residing in the UK. The database aims at offering secured access to employers and recruiters from both government and private agencies to short-list prospective registered candidates for employment and projects in Ghana.

4) *Representative of the Council of Ghanaian Organisations in the Netherlands (RECOGIN)*. REGOGNIN is an initiative of the Netherlands Embassy in Ghana and the Ghana Embassy in the Netherlands. RECOGIN is an umbrella organization embracing about 36 Ghanaian Organizations, hometown and ethnic associations and churches. RECOGIN was registered with the Amsterdam Chamber of Commerce and inaugurated in 1993. RECOGIN owns the Ghanaian Community Foundation Netherlands (SGGN), which is the administrative arm of the RECOGIN Council. Its activities include mobilization, empowerment, capacity building and information sharing. RECOGIN also helps school dropouts and the vulnerable; holds job fairs; and promotes the role of the diaspora in the development of Ghana. In recent years it has embarked on several initiatives on migration and development policies affecting Ghanaians and Ghana. Some specific projects undertaken include the following:

1. Promoting investment and business development for Ghanaians and their Dutch counterparts;
2. Supporting sustainable return to Ghana for those who wish to do so, through the Netherlands Migration Institute (NMI) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM); and
3. Setting up the Ghanaian Diaspora Solidarity Fund for Development through the mechanism of remittances.

5) *The Asanteman Association of the United States*. The Asanteman Association of the United States, particularly the New York branch, is one of the oldest of all the Ghanaian-immigrant ethnic associations in the United States. It was founded in 1982. The association aims to portray the rich cultural heritage of the Asante ethnic group, constantly reminding the Asante diaspora of their roots, supporting and promoting the interests of Asante in the United States and fostering friendship and understanding among Asante and others. The original constitution did not explicitly link this association with development activities in the home state, but later additions and amendments stress this vital connection. This association has been embarking on development projects, especially in

Kumasi, and some of the Asante chiefs have been invited from home (at the association's expense) for discussions on matters of common Asante interest.

## 5. List of stakeholders and actors

A summary of stakeholders and actors such as government ministries and agencies, Ghanaian diaspora associations and NGOs, among others that are active in emigration and diaspora policy is provided in table 1 below.

**Table 1. List of Stakeholders and Actors Active in Emigration and Diaspora Policy**

<b>Stakeholder /Actor</b>	<b>Specific Agency</b>	<b>Description of Role in terms of Diaspora/emigration</b>
<b>GOVERNMENT LEVEL</b>		
Ministry of the Interior	National Migration Unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently coordinating the development of national migration policy which includes a diaspora section.</li> </ul>
	Ghana Immigration Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implements laws, policies and regulations on migration to and from Ghana.</li> <li>• Processes applications made by Ghanaians who either want renunciation of their Ghanaian citizenship or dual citizenship.</li> </ul>
	Ghana Refugee Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responsible for processing asylum applications and granting asylum in Ghana.</li> <li>• Works closely with UNHCR in addressing the needs of asylum seekers and refugees in Ghana.</li> </ul>
	National Disaster Management Organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinates logistics for forced-return Ghanaian migrants under emergency situations.</li> </ul>
Ghana Investment Promotion Centre		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitates and promotes investment among the diaspora.</li> </ul>
Parliament		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enacts laws regarding emigration, immigration, citizenship and the diaspora.</li> </ul>
Judicial Service		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responsible for determining whether an immigrant should be expelled from Ghana or not.</li> </ul>
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration	Diaspora Affairs Bureau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mobilises Ghana's diaspora towards socio-economic through dialogue.</li> </ul>

**Table 1: List of Stakeholders and Actors Active in Emigration and Diaspora Policy (cont.)**

Stakeholder /Actor	Specific Agency	Description of Role in terms of Diaspora/emigration
<b>GOVERNMENT LEVEL</b>		
Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitors and evaluates effects of migration activities on the welfare of women and children.</li> </ul>
Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Creative Arts		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organises Emancipation Day celebration.</li> <li>• Encourages the return of Ghanaian diaspora.</li> </ul>
Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations	Labour Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinates productive employment for emigrants.</li> </ul>
National Population Council		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responsible for Population management under Act 485.</li> <li>• Interprets and reviews population policy. Integrates population policy into the development process.</li> </ul>
National Development Planning Commission		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-ordinates Ghana's poverty-reduction strategy. Current strategy incorporates a diaspora dimension.</li> </ul>
<b>NON-STATE ACTORS</b>		
Diaspora Associations	Home Town Association Ethnic Associations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Serve as vehicles for social service provision in the host and home countries.</li> </ul>
Political Parties		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mobilise Ghanaians abroad to influence political decisions.</li> </ul>
Religious Bodies	Church leaders, Islamic leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Serve as vehicles for social service provision in the host countries and Ghana.</li> </ul>
Traditional Authorities	Chiefs, Queen mothers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen the economic and cultural relations between the host countries and Ghana.</li> </ul>
<b>ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH INSTITUTES</b>		
University of Ghana	Centre for Migration Studies, Regional Institute for population Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Researches dynamics and complexities of both internal and international migration.</li> </ul>

Source: Authors' compilation

## 6. List of relevant agreements

In terms of relevant agreements, Ghana has a bilateral labour migration agreement with Italy (Refer to discussion in section 2). The agreement is only in hard copy and therefore cannot be accessed online.



## 7. Conclusion/assessment

As mentioned earlier, Ghana is in the process of developing a comprehensive National Migration Policy. However, migration features in various economic and social policies, laws and regulations which are assessed below.

- The Ghana-Italy Labour bilateral agreement is a good initiative; however, the quota given is too insignificant to prevent irregular migration. Again, the policy agreement as well as other state-level policies does not include post-return programmes for emigrants. It is recommended that these state-level policies attracting emigrants and diaspora participation establish a reintegration programme to ensure adequate participation of migrants in socio-economic development upon their return.
- Both the Dual Citizenship Act (DCA) and the ROPAA have come in handy. However, while the DCA excludes many Ghanaian emigrants who want to participate fully in the political agenda of the country, ROPAA is yet to be implemented due to lack of funds.
- Although some efforts are being made to address the needs of the diaspora and emigrants, most of these initiatives by state and non-state actors are geared towards home-country development. Therefore, it is recommended that such policies and programmes also pay attention to the needs of emigrants in their host countries.

## References

- Alhassan, O. 2010. The case of Ghana. In: Mohamoud Awil (ed.), *Building Institutional Cooperation between the Diaspora and Homeland Governments in Africa: The cases of Ghana, Nigeria, Germany, the US, and the UK*. The Hague: African Diaspora Policy Centre.
- Charter 2012. Charter flights and mass expulsions [online], *Stop deportations. A blog about Britain's immigration policy*, available on: <http://stopdeportations.wordpress.com/about-charter-flights/>
- Quartey, P. 2009. *International Migration in Ghana: National Profile for Strategic Policy Development*. Geneva: International Organization for Migration (IOM).
- Van Hear, N., F. Pieke, and S. Vertovec 2004. *The Contribution of UK-Based Diasporas to Development and Poverty Reduction*. Oxford: Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS), University of Oxford.

## Websites

- TRANSCODE: [www.transcodeprogramme.org](http://www.transcodeprogramme.org) [Accessed 29 August 2013].
- Ghana Opportunity Network: <http://www.ghanaopportunity.com/> [Accessed 29 August 2013].
- Ghana Diaspora: <http://ghanaiandiaspora.com/> [Accessed 28 August 2013].
- Centre for Migration Studies, University of Ghana: <http://cms.ug.edu.gh/> [Accessed 29 August 2013].