

**MIGRATION AND HUMAN SECURITY: THE CASE OF WEST
AFRICAN MIGRANTS IN MOROCCO**

2010-2020

BY

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**THIS DISSERTATION IS SUBMITTED TO THE UNIVERSITY OF
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DECLARATION

I attest that the work I have provided for this dissertation's evaluation is entirely original to me and has not previously been submitted for recognition towards the award of a different degree from another institution.

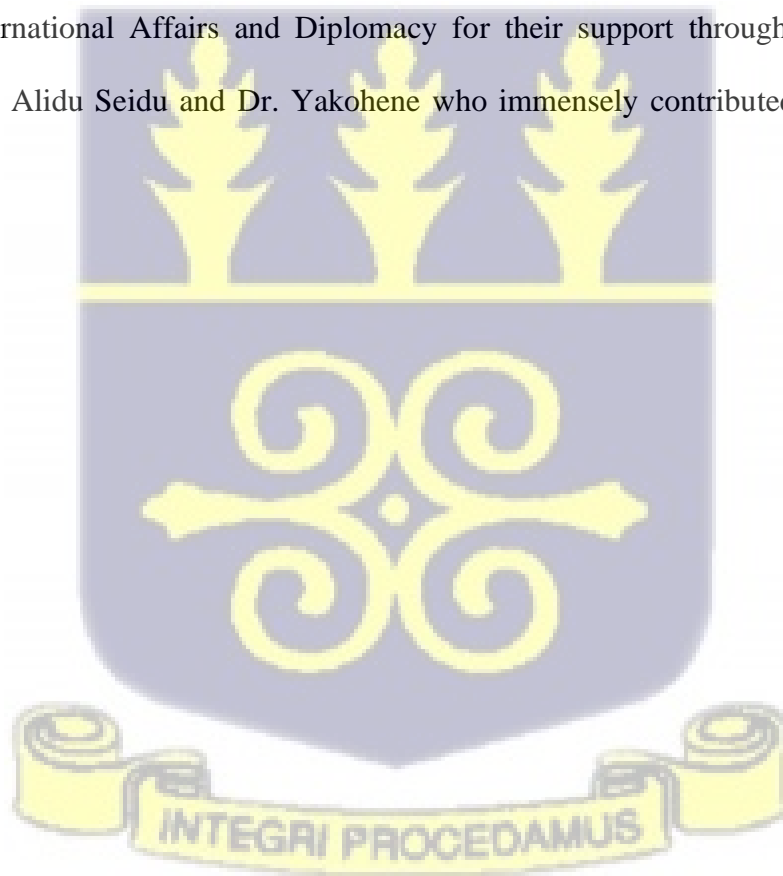


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DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to my family and all loved ones



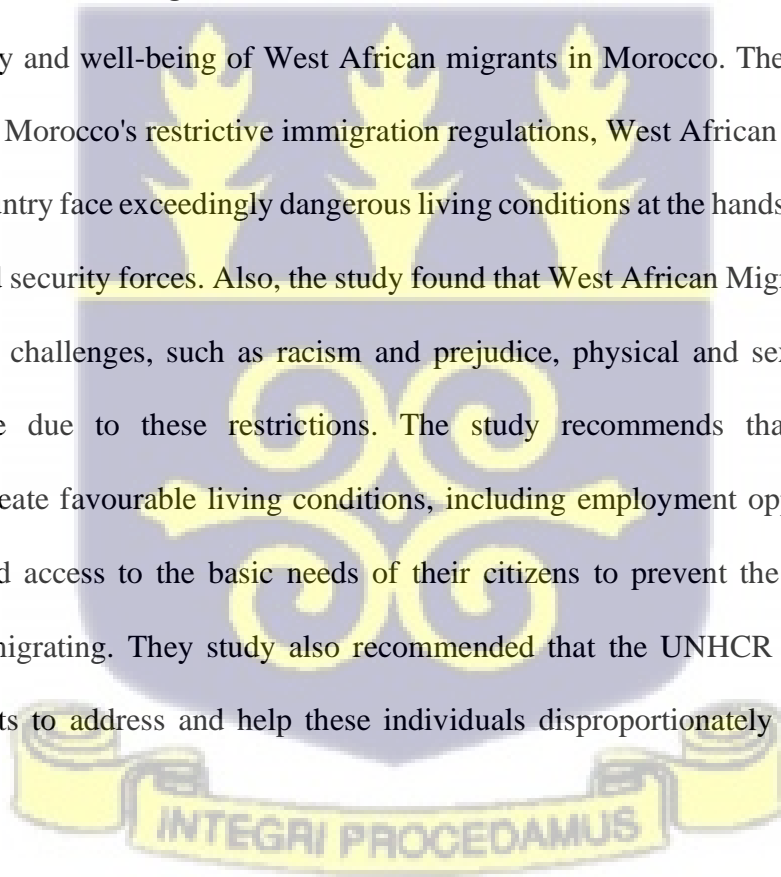
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ABSTRACT

This study focuses on the experiences of West African migrants in Morocco, highlighting how the activities of the Moroccan government affects the human security of migrants travelling to Europe through Morocco. Using secondary sources of data and based on the concept of Human Security, this study sought to examine the human security challenges encountered by West African Migrants in Morocco in their quest to reach Europe. The study focused on assessing the migrant situation in Morocco; examining how the lack of legal status affects the ability of West African migrants to access basic rights and services in Morocco; the effects of migration policies on West African migrants in Morocco; and how law enforcers' violence affects the sense of security and well-being of West African migrants in Morocco. The study found out that, because of Morocco's restrictive immigration regulations, West African migrants who go through that country face exceedingly dangerous living conditions at the hands of the Moroccan government and security forces. Also, the study found that West African Migrants face several human security challenges, such as racism and prejudice, physical and sexual assault, and domestic abuse due to these restrictions. The study recommends that West African governments create favourable living conditions, including employment opportunities, good governance, and access to the basic needs of their citizens to prevent the mass exodus of citizens from migrating. They study also recommended that the UNHCR continue to take conscious efforts to address and help these individuals disproportionately impacted by the crisis.



CHAPTER ONE

Introduction

1.0. Background of Study

Migration is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon, often used as a means for humans to adapt to various challenges and seek out new opportunities. In the case of Morocco, the country has increasingly become a transit hub for migrants seeking entry into Europe since the mid-1990s. These migrants, who come from various backgrounds including asylum seekers and labour migrants, frequently traverse the Sahara by land from Algeria and enter Morocco near the eastern border of Oujda (Haas, 2005). While the right to free movement can offer significant opportunities for migrants, it can also pose significant challenges for the countries that receive them. For example, the migration crisis in 2015 resulted in a significant increase in border checks and limited access to regular channels of migration to Europe, leading to specific areas in Morocco becoming transit zones for unauthorized migrants. These transit zones served as a bottleneck where migrants were stuck until they could reach their desired country of destination, often facing significant challenges and risks along the way (Guide et al 2015). Policymakers need to consider the implications of migration policies and work towards ensuring that all individuals can move safely and freely across borders while also balancing the challenges posed by migration with the benefits it can offer.

Illegal sea crossings of the Mediterranean, a phenomenon that commenced with North Africans, has now seen many sub-Saharan Africans transiting through these countries to Europe. Algeria, Morocco, Egypt, Lybia, Tunisia, and Sudan are six North African nations that have traditionally been important migrant origin, transit, and destination countries. This

confirms the Migration Data Portal's estimate that the sub-region was home to over 3.2 million international migrants, of which close to 61% were from that sub-region or other sub-regions of Africa (UN DESA 2020).

It is difficult to document irregular migrant stock because of the clandestine nature of irregular migration and the likelihood that migrants' legal status may change frequently. Although there is a sizable migration flow from West Africa to North America, there is a dearth of information specific to Africa. Cross-country comparisons will also be deceptive because various nations utilize different data collection procedures and might have varied definitions of what constitutes an irregular migrant (IOM 2020).

Migration has become a common practice among individuals seeking better economic opportunities, education, and refuge. Among West Africans, the number of migrants has increased significantly, and many of them have moved to North Africa, particularly to Morocco. However, many West African migrants face significant challenges related to human security while in Morocco. These challenges, including economic insecurity, social exclusion, discrimination, and the threat of violence, undermine the well-being of migrants and limit their ability to thrive in society. Despite previous studies on the challenges faced by migrants, few have specifically focused on human security, which is a significant concern for many West African migrants in Morocco. Therefore, this study aims to analyze the human security issues experienced by West African migrants considered illegal and undocumented in Morocco between 2010 and 2020. By understanding these challenges, policymakers and other stakeholders can develop effective strategies to ensure the safety and well-being of all migrants, regardless of their legal status.

Though Moroccans themselves have migrated in large numbers during this time period, with an estimate of 3.5 million Moroccans living abroad by 2019 (UNDESA, 2019), Morocco has experienced a significant amount of immigration. It remains a transit/destination country for

migrants from Sub-Saharan Africa and countries like Yemen and Syria. Again, in this period, the European Union has been working with Morocco to manage the flow of migration particularly through the Morocco- EU Mobility Partnership which was finalized in 2013. This partnership involves cooperation on border management, visa facilitation and other migratory issues. (European Commission 2019)

Numerous human security issues confront West African immigrants in Morocco, according to studies. Lack of legal status, which makes it difficult for them to receive essential services like healthcare and education, is one of the main obstacles (Guedda & Idmhand, 2019). Due to their lack of legal status, migrants are also more susceptible to being taken advantage of by both businesses and law enforcement (Lopez Sala & Alarcón, 2017). Some other significant issues that West African migrants in Morocco encounter are racism and discrimination. Migrants frequently experience prejudice and unfavourable stereotypes, resulting in social marginalization and restricted access to resources (Kouniali, 2019). Also, there are several reports of physical mistreatment and arbitrary imprisonment by police against migrants (Boubekeur & Forster, 2019).

Additionally, difficult for many West African migrants in Morocco is finding suitable accommodation. Migrants frequently reside in filthy, overcrowded circumstances that might cause health issues (Kouniali, 2019). Numerous migrants often struggle to pay their rent, which might result in homelessness (Lopez Sala & Alarcón, 2017). The relevance of these difficulties, which impact the human security of West African migrants in Morocco, has been highlighted by prior studies. However, a more thorough examination of the human security issues that West African migrants in Morocco experienced between 2010 and 2020 is required. The research conducted a thematic analysis of the literature and documentary sources to determine the major themes that emerge from the current material. The research aims to contribute to a better

understanding of the challenges faced by West African migrants in Morocco and to identify potential solutions to improve their human security situation.

1.2. Statement of Research Problem

Although irregular migration occurring on a daily basis, the Moroccan government created a policy towards irregular migration at the beginning of the twenty-first century, it was until 2006 that the Moroccan government created a specific agency to deal with irregular migration. This agency, the National Office for the Fight against Irregular Migration (ONARI), was tasked with preventing irregular migration, protecting the rights of migrants, and promoting cooperation with other countries on migration issues. An estimated 10,000–15,000 sub-Saharan migrants enter Morocco each year, while 15,000–20,000 individuals, including Moroccans and foreigners, leave illegally to Europe (Stevens & Vollebergh, 2008). The Moroccan government, which had long hidden the situation, drastically shifted its stance in 2003 when it passed "Law n°02-03 relating to the admission and residence of foreigners in Morocco and to irregular emigration and immigration" (BO 5162, 2003). According to Stevens and Vollebergh (2008), the measure introduced by the Moroccan government on February 5, 2003, was passed by the parliament with 60 votes in favor and 2 votes against on June 5, and officially became a law on November 11. West African migrants are among those who have immigrated in great numbers to North Africa, especially to Morocco, as part of the global phenomenon of individuals moving across borders in quest of better economic prospects, education, or sanctuary. However, the severe human security issues that West African migrants in Morocco encounter limit their chances to prosper and contribute positively to society. They have faced severe humanitarian issues due to the very stringent changes that were implemented by the statute. Stevens & Vollebergh (2008) argues that this fully broke with the prior, rather permissive attitude by criminalising illegal immigration and emigration as well as its support

and increased the number of permanent border guards to 8,000. The law also triggered the development of a "National Strategy on Combating Illegal Migration" and established the Directorate of Migrations and Borders Surveillance (DMBS) inside the Ministry of Interior (MoI). The main issues that West African migrants in Morocco experience include a lack of legal status, racism and discrimination, brutality by the law enforcement agencies, and inadequate accommodation (Sow et al., 2016).

There are fundamental issues that necessitate attention, given the diverse and numerous perspectives surrounding Morocco's shift from a transit country to a forced destination for migrants, resulting in heightened vulnerability due to stricter border restrictions. Insufficient progress has been made in academic research to thoroughly analyse the factors influencing how transit states manage irregular migration and address the human security concerns encountered by West African migrants in Morocco during the period from 2010 to 2020. Consequently, this current research endeavours to fill this gap in knowledge by examining the aforementioned policy change and delving into the reasons and mechanisms through which Morocco swiftly brought irregular migration to the forefront of public discourse. Moreover, the study aims to conduct a thematic analysis of the existing body of literature, identifying the primary human security issues confronted by West African migrants in Morocco between 2010 and 2020, while also proposing alternative solutions to assist them.

1.3. Research Questions

- i. What is the migrant situation in Morocco from 2010- 2020?
- ii. What are the effects of Morocco's migration policies on West African migrants in Morocco?
- iii. How does law enforcers' violence affect the sense of security and well-being of West African migrants in Morocco?

1.4. Objectives

- i) To describe the migrant situation in Morocco from 2010-2020 based on available data and reports.
- ii) To analyze the effects of Morocco's migration policies on West African migrants in Morocco by examining data, conducting interviews, and surveys.
- iii) To evaluate how law enforcers' violence impacts the sense of security and well-being of West African migrants in Morocco through observations, surveys, and analysis of personal accounts.

1.5. Scope of Study

The study investigates the relationship between migration and human security, focusing on the case of West African migrants in Morocco. The study adopted the time frame from 2010 to 2020 to facilitate a comprehensive analysis of the migration dynamics and human security issues faced by West African migrants in Morocco. This period allows for the examination of key events, policy changes, and socio-economic factors that have shaped migration patterns and impacted human security in the region. Additionally, because of its prominent significance as a transit and destination country for migrants, particularly those coming from West Africa, Morocco was chosen as the study's focal country. The country's geographical location makes it a strategic entry point for migrants seeking to reach Europe. West African migrants were selected as the target population for the study due to their notable migration flows towards Morocco and their unique experiences along the migration journey. West Africa has witnessed substantial outmigration, driven by factors such as political instability, economic hardships, and demographic pressures. Understanding the experiences of West African migrants in Morocco contributes to a broader understanding of migration dynamics and human security concerns in the region.

1.6. Study Rationale

A study on the issues with human security that migrants from West Africa experience in Morocco is crucial for several reasons. First, it adds to the body of information that already exists on the subject. Despite the rising number of West African migrants in Morocco, little research has been done to fully analyse the difficulties they encounter.

The study is important because it clarifies the topic of human security, a crucial component of human rights, which makes it important in second place. Human security is directly impacted by the difficulties that West African migrants in Morocco confront, including discrimination, law enforcers' violence, lack of legal status, and access to essential services. The study will advance knowledge of human security and its significance in defending individual rights and well-being by identifying and analysing these obstacles.

Thirdly, the study is pertinent considering international mobility and the difficulties that migrants encounter. Although West African migrants in Morocco make up a very tiny portion of the global migrant population, the difficulties they encounter are shared by other migrant groups around the world. The study can provide light on more general problems affecting migrant communities around the world by concentrating on West African migrants in Morocco. The study makes an important contribution to the awareness of the problems with human security that West African migrants in Morocco encounter, and consequently to our understanding of the more general problems with human security and migration around the world.

This study examines the complex relationship between migration and human security by focusing on West African migrants in Morocco. Through an analysis of migration patterns, socio-economic factors, and human security challenges, the research aims to deepen our understanding of the experiences of West African migrants in Morocco and provide insights for policy development and interventions to enhance their human security and well-being.

1.7. Conceptual Framework

The Human Security framework will be employed as it offers a comprehensive and holistic approach to understanding and addressing the security and wellbeing challenges that individuals and communities face.

Many academics and organisations now endorse the idea of human security. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) first included it in their Human Development Report from 1994. Scholars such as Nussbaum (2003), Sen (1999), and Haq (1995) have further developed and expanded upon the concept, emphasizing the significance of human development, capabilities, and freedoms in ensuring human security. In response to the evolving nature of security threats following the end of the Cold War, the notion of human security evolved (Bajpai, 2002). Instead of emphasizing the security of people and communities, the conventional idea of security was primarily concerned with protecting the state and its institutions. Nevertheless, the post-Cold War era saw the growth of non-traditional security threats like poverty, environmental degradation, contagious diseases, and terrorism that could not be dealt with only by military means (Alkire, 2003).

The human security theory challenges the conventional state-centric view of security. It asserts that individuals and communities should be the primary referents for security, encompassing protection from external threats as well as harm to individuals. The theory recognizes the multifaceted and interconnected nature of security risks, necessitating a comprehensive approach that addresses economic, social, and environmental issues. It also emphasizes the agency of individuals and communities in enhancing their own security and calls for a shift towards a people-centered understanding of security. Human security is defined as "the safety against chronic dangers such as starvation, disease, and repression, as well as from unexpected and detrimental disturbances in patterns of everyday life" in the Human Development Report of the United Nations Development Programme from 1994. (UNDP, 1994, p. 22). The study emphasized the need for a new definition of security that would prioritize community and

individual interests while covering a wider variety of risks. It is imperative to protect everyone's safety and wellbeing, with a focus on defending basic human rights and addressing the causes of insecurity, according to this theory. The Human Security concept is applied to this study's environment to comprehend the difficulties West African migrants in Morocco confront and to come up with solutions that put the security and welfare of migrants first.

The interdisciplinary approach known as "Human Security" is rooted in fields such as International Relations, Sociology, and Development Studies. It highlights the need to prioritize the human component of security and address a broader range of risks faced by individuals and communities. The UNDP's Human Development Report played a significant role in introducing the concept and promoting its application in various contexts.

In the study, the idea of human security was established, and it was highlighted how crucial it is to safeguard people against numerous risks to their well-being. Scholars who have emphasized the significance of human development, capabilities, and freedoms in ensuring human security have further refined and enlarged upon the concept of human security (Nussbaum, 2003; Sen, 1999; Haq, 1995).

The human security theory provides a holistic framework to address complex and interconnected security challenges. It emphasizes the protection of individuals and communities, focuses on human rights, and tackles the underlying sources of insecurity. By broadening the scope of security beyond military threats, the theory addresses non-traditional security issues like poverty, environmental degradation, and contagious diseases. The Human Security concept makes several important assumptions regarding security threats and the most effective way to handle them. The theory's fundamental premise is that people and communities serve as the main references for security. This demonstrates that maintaining security involves defending against attacks from the outside as well as defending against harm to individuals (Buzan, 2010). The idea also presupposes that security risks are intricately interwoven and

multifaceted, necessitating a comprehensive strategy to handle them. To increase overall security, the human security theory highlights the significance of resolving economic, social, and environmental issues. For instance, environmental degradation can worsen the consequences of climate change, causing displacement and other security challenges, while poverty and inequality can foster conditions that foster insecurity (Olsen & Vakulchuk, 2021). The idea that people have agency and may take action to increase their own security is another fundamental tenet of the human security theory. The theory places a strong emphasis on the significance of enabling people and groups to take part in decisions that influence their well-being and to actively work to increase their own security (Cudworth & Hobden, 2011). A move from a state-centric to a people-centred understanding of security is reflected overall in the assumptions of the Human Security Theory. The theory aims to address the complex and interwoven nature of security concerns and encourage a more holistic approach to security by concentrating on protecting individuals and communities from multiple threats.

There has been some reasonable criticism of the Human Security concept from experts in the field. The hypothesis has been criticized for being overly vague and without a precise definition, making it challenging to implement. For instance, Buzan and Hansen (2009) contend that the definition of "human security" is excessively ambiguous, making it challenging to distinguish between what constitutes a human security issue and what does not. Another criticism of the human security theory is that it overemphasizes the viewpoints and experiences of those living in the global North while undervaluing those in the global South. For instance, Chandra and Acuto (2019) contend that the theory's relevance and applicability in the global South have been constrained by the manner it has been produced and used, which reflects the goals and priorities of the global North.

The idea has also come under fire from some academics for ignoring the significance of the state as a security provider and placing too much focus on security at the individual and

communal levels. For instance, Krause (2014) argues that it is incorrect to emphasize human security as a substitute for state security and that states are crucial to ensuring the security of their inhabitants. Additionally, some detractors have said that the theory fails to address the underlying reasons for vulnerability and is excessively reactive in its response to security concerns. Nincic and Rusinova (2017) share this opinion and contend that focusing too much on current and obvious security risks may divert attention and resources away from tackling the root causes of insecurity.

Finally, some critics have asserted that the emphasis on human security could divert attention and resources from other crucial security issues, like state security and military threats. Campbell (2005), for instance, makes the case that the focus on human security has resulted in ignoring other crucial security issues, such as terrorism and interstate warfare. These objections show the limitations of the Human Security concept and the difficulties it encounters in realizing its goals. However, the theory's protagonists insist that it provides an important framework for addressing the intricate and intertwined security issues that people and communities are currently confronting. It is imperative to protect everyone's safety and wellbeing, with a focus on defending basic liberties and addressing the causes of insecurity, according to this theory. The human security concept has faced criticism for its perceived vagueness, its overemphasis on the global North, and its potential to divert attention from other security concerns. Proponents of the theory argue that it offers a valuable framework despite these critiques. Efforts have been made to refine the concept and provide clearer definitions. Furthermore, the theory's focus on addressing vulnerabilities and root causes aligns with the objective of understanding and addressing the human security concerns faced by West African migrants in Morocco. Despite the critiques, the human security concept remains relevant for this study on West African migrants in Morocco. The theory's emphasis on safeguarding the safety, well-being, and fundamental rights of individuals and communities aligns with the goal

of understanding and addressing the human security challenges faced by migrants. By adopting a human security perspective, the researcher can provide insights into the vulnerabilities and risks experienced by West African migrants, and propose alternative solutions that prioritize their security and welfare.

1.8. Literature Review

People now relocate across borders in the quest for improved employment prospects, educational possibilities, or asylum. West African migrants have travelled in huge numbers, with many making the voyage to North Africa, and particularly to Morocco. However, a lot of West African migrants struggle with serious issues related to human security in Morocco. These difficulties harm their well-being and reduce their chances of thriving and making a positive contribution to society. They include legal status, discrimination and racism, law enforcers' violence and housing .

1.8.1. Legal Status

For West African migrants in Morocco, the absence of legal status poses a significant problem because it limits their access to essential services like healthcare and education and leaves them open to abuse by employers and law enforcement. Many West African migrants in Morocco lack legal status, which prevents them from using basic services, according to Guedda and Idmhand (2019). As a result, they are unable to access basic services. For immigrants who need to receive medical care or enrol their children in school, this lack of legal status poses additional difficulties. For instance, migrants may be reluctant to seek medical attention out of concern for being reported to the authorities or facing exorbitant medical costs.

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For West African migrants in Morocco, the issue of legal status is a serious problem because it affects their capacity to get fundamental rights and services. Additionally difficult conditions for West African immigrants in Morocco are racism and discrimination, which can result in prejudice and isolation from society and restricted access to services (Kouniali, 2019). Additionally, there are several reports of physical mistreatment and arbitrary imprisonment by police against migrants (Boubekeur and Forster, 2019).

1.8.2. Discrimination and Racism

Racism and discrimination are significant obstacles for migrants from West Africa in Morocco. The research emphasizes that immigrants are frequently the targets of discrimination and unfavourable preconceptions, which can result in social isolation and restricted access to resources (Kouniali, 2019). The fact that many West African immigrants to Morocco are black and experience discrimination due to their skin colour exacerbates this form of prejudice. Boubekeur and Forster (2019) claim that West African migrants encounter prejudice and discrimination frequently in Morocco, with many Moroccan citizens perceiving the migrants as "unwanted" and "undesirable." This form of prejudice and discrimination can cause social isolation and have a detrimental effect on immigrants' mental and emotional health.

The problem of prejudice extends beyond the general populace because employers and government officials also treat migrants unfairly. Kouniali (2019) claims that Moroccan employers frequently discriminate against West African migrants seeking employment, giving

preference to Moroccan citizens. Government authorities who may not offer migrants the same amount of assistance and protection as Moroccan nationals might also engage in discrimination by treating them differently. Because of unfair regulations and practices, migrants may occasionally be denied access to necessities like housing, healthcare, and education (Boubekeur and Forster, 2019).

Previous studies have shown that prejudice is a big concern for West African migrants in Morocco (Boubekeur and Forster, 2019; Kouniali, 2019; Firdaus, 2017). Improving the human security of West African migrants in Morocco and fostering their well-being and integration into society requires addressing discrimination and unfavourable stereotypes.

1.8.3. Law Enforcers' Violence

The security and well-being of West African migrants in Morocco are seriously threatened by police aggression, which is another risk to their safety. The numerous ways in which Moroccan police abuse and utilize violence against migrants are highlighted in a report by Boubekeur and Forster (2019). The authors contend that this violence, which can include beatings, detentions, and property confiscations, is frequently arbitrary and excessive. The fact that migrants frequently hesitate to report violent crimes out of concern for reprisals or deportation only serves to exacerbate this abuse. Therefore, the rule of law and the defence of human rights in Morocco are threatened because of the frequent impunity of those who commit these violations. This problem is not brand-new; it has been well-documented in the literature for a while. For instance, a Bellal (2016) investigation discovered that police abuse of migrants in Morocco is widespread and frequently goes unpunished. Like this, a 2014 investigation by Human Rights Watch revealed instances of police abuse and brutality of migrants, including sexual assault and extortion. The report also emphasizes the difficulties that immigrants experience in getting access to justice and pursuing compensation for these wrongs.

The impact of police violence on the security and well-being of West African migrants cannot be overstated. This violence not only violates their human rights but also undermines their sense of security and belonging in Moroccan society. It also contributes to a culture of fear and mistrust between migrants and the police, which further exacerbates the challenges faced by migrants in accessing basic services and protection. As such, addressing police violence against West African migrants is a critical step towards improving their human security in Morocco.

1.8.4. Housing

One of the main issues facing West African migrants in Morocco is finding suitable accommodation. Due to a variety of factors, including limited financial means and an absence of legal status, many migrants struggle to locate inexpensive and acceptable housing (Lopez Sala & Alarcón, 2017). Migrants frequently live in overcrowded, unclean conditions due to a shortage of affordable and suitable housing, which poses major health hazards (Kouniali, 2019). According to a UNHCR assessment, many migrants in Morocco are compelled to live in subpar settings, such as abandoned buildings or improvised camps, without necessities like water and sanitation (UNHCR, 2020).

Since it affects migrants' physical health and well-being, the issue of insufficient housing is important. Numerous health difficulties, including respiratory infections, skin ailments, and mental health problems, can result from residing in unhygienic and overcrowded settings (Benoist, 2017). Additionally, a lack of access to fundamental services like water and sanitation can aggravate health issues and make it challenging for migrants to practice proper hygiene (Kouniali, 2019).

Homelessness among West African migrants in Morocco is a problem that is exacerbated by the absence of cheap accommodation. Numerous migrants are forced to be homeless or in temporary camps because they cannot afford the high rent costs in urban areas (Lopez Sala and Alarcón, 2017). Migrants who are homeless often struggle with issues like discrimination,

violence, and social exclusion daily, which can have a substantial adverse influence on their mental and emotional health (Kouniali, 2019). Finding suitable accommodation is one of the most difficult challenges for West African migrants in Morocco. It affects migrants' physical health and well-being and adds to the problem of homelessness. To address this problem and offer migrants in Morocco cheap, suitable accommodation, regulations and programs are required.

The importance of these issues, which have an impact on the human security of West African migrants in Morocco, has generally been recognized by prior studies. However, a more thorough examination of the human security issues that West African migrants in Morocco would experience between 2010 and 2020 is required. To determine the major themes that emerge from the current material, the research will conduct a thematic analysis of the literature. The goal of the study is to advance knowledge of the difficulties encountered by West African migrants in Morocco and to pinpoint appropriate remedies to enhance their human security status.

1.8.5. The Effects of Discrimination and Racism on Migrants

Discrimination and racism have far-reaching effects on migrants. Molsa et al. (2017) set out to investigate how prejudice affects asylum seekers and other migrant and refugee populations. Researchers in this study used regression models to assess responses from people aged 50 to 80. The study's findings indicated that discriminated-against refugees and migrants often struggled with depression and other mental health issues. Likewise, Schunck et al. (2015) sought to investigate the connection between perceived discrimination and health among immigrants in Germany by acknowledging discrimination as a crucial determinant of mental health and its intersectionality with health inequalities between immigrants and non-immigrants. Immigrant data was gathered from the German Socio-Economic Panel database for the years 2002-2010, and then analysed utilising regression models. The study's findings

showed that prejudice against immigrants has devastating impacts on the emotional and physical well-being of immigrants. The study also found that discrimination's impact on immigrants' mental health moderated its influence on their physical health.

Scholars attempted to untangle the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the mental health of refugees and migrants around the world in a more recent article titled "Mental Health of Refugees and Migrants during the Covid-19 Pandemic: The role of Experienced Discrimination and Daily Stressors" by Spiritus-Beerden et al. (2021). Twenty-thousand-seven hundred forty-two (20,742) answers were evaluated using structural equation modelling and descriptive analysis. The study found that during the Covid-19 epidemic, the mental health of refugees and migrants who experienced or suffered from heightened levels of prejudice worsened significantly.

1.8.6. Access to Basic Rights and Healthcare Services by Undocumented Migrants

Winters et al. (2018) aimed to comprehensively examine the scholarly literature on the use of healthcare services by undocumented migrants in Europe, and this review is their attempt at doing so. Researchers aimed to accomplish this by methodically identifying qualitative, mixed methods, and quantitative research published between 2007 and 2017 by searching many databases, including Global Health, Embase, Medline, and Cinahl Plus. According to the study's examination of quantitative data, it was evinced that unauthorized immigrants underuse a range of healthcare services. This information was gathered from a total of 29 papers. However, qualitative research has shown that even when undocumented migrants use healthcare services, those services are frequently insufficient or inadequate. Many undocumented migrants lack knowledge about their entitlements, which often exacerbates the challenges and barriers they face in accessing healthcare services.

Another research with the same goal was undertaken by Moyce and Schenker (2018), who intended to summarise the existing evidence on the topic of immigrant employees' occupational

health and safety. The researchers also hoped to explain why some immigrant employees had worse health than their native-born counterparts. Scholars have shown that migrant workers are more likely to be subjected to harmful occupational exposures and circumstances, such as low wages, long hours, abuse, and violence.

Using a quantitative method, Cuadra (2012) characterised the policies in the 27 EU member states on the rights of access to health care for undocumented migrants and identified the extent to which these entitlements are coherent with human rights norms. The research, which included a questionnaire given to experts, authorities in the member states, and non-governmental groups between April and December 2009, revealed that international duties expressed in human rights standards had not been completely implemented in most member nations. The study concludes that there are three groups of EU member states based on how they treat the rights of access to health care for undocumented migrants. The results indicated that in 5 of the member states, unauthorised migrants had the right to obtain care beyond that of an emergency. Results showed that in 12 nations, undocumented migrants could only receive emergency treatment, and in 10 countries, they had no access to any form of medical care at all. It was found that the primary sorts of undocumented migrants, the methods of control regarding migration, and the fundamental principles of the welfare state all intersected to produce these differences, rather than the funding system or the total number of undocumented migrants in a member state.

1.9. Methodology

1.9.1. Research Design

Research designs are the master blueprints for the research and its procedures (Zikmund & Babin, 2007). Research designs are tailored to fit the philosophies of the researchers, the

research questions, objectives, issue description, and general justification of the study, according to Creswell (2013).

The main issue this study set out to analyse was the human security issues that West African migrants in Morocco would experience between 2010 and 2020 and a case study was the best type of research design to use. A case study is a unique and in-depth analysis of one particular group, incident, or place (Harrison & Callen, 2013). The case study approach aligns well with the research objectives and the available secondary data.

1.10. Sources of Data

This study relied on data from secondary sources to meet its aims and objectives. This study used a secondary research method, also known as a desk research strategy, to complete the goals and objectives. Desk research comprises sifting through and making sense of existing information to improve a study's quality and scope (Bhat, 2020). In secondary research, the researcher makes use of already-existing resources, such as reports and databases maintained by universities, libraries, government agencies, and NGOs. Because of its ability to give information that directly answers the study's research objectives and because it offers a foundational understanding of what relevant material has previously been obtained by prior researchers in the past, the desk research method was employed for this investigation (McCrocklin, 2021).

As secondary data already exists, is easily accessible, and has the added benefits of being inexpensive and time efficient, and it was used in the study.

Most of the data for this study came from previously published articles, books, and book chapters that were subjected to rigorous peer review. The open and simple nature of this data collection approach was an advantage. Existing data sources, readily available were accessed giving a broader perspective to uncover patterns. A drawback is that new information can't be easily updated. Updates to these databases may take up to a year to appear. Nevertheless, the

researcher fortified this deficiency by citing additional sources - journal papers, policy briefs, and conference presentations, international migration databases, surveys, to ensure that the report was as up to date as feasible.

1.11 Data Collection Techniques.

Only secondary data used in this investigation. The primary data in secondary sources, such as books, journal articles, book chapters, online sources, and reports, is known as secondary data. Original works created by other individuals that are finished or full exist as secondary data. Instead of travelling to the field to conduct interviews, surveys, and focus group discussions, this procedure involved a desk review. A desk study of secondary data sources is used to gather secondary data.

The chosen secondary data were generally up to date. Except for a few classic works that were chosen due to their significance, most of the data gathered were less than ten years old. The data was carefully examined to find information matching the study's overarching problem statement and research objectives. This method helped the researcher filter through the various perspectives that might have come out of the review.

1.12. Data Analysis

According to Frankel and Wallen (2003), data analysis systematically integrates the material the researcher obtains through data collection, drawing parallels and logical conclusions concerning the study questions and objectives. These recommendations are supported by Creswell (2013), who contends that sound data analysis makes sense of the gathered data.

Thematic analysis was used as the analytical method in this investigation. "An interpretive process where data is methodically searched to uncover patterns within the data to produce an enlightening explanation of the phenomena" is what thematic analysis is (Firth 2011, pg.3).

Thus, to find similar patterns, codes, and themes in the data sources that were reviewed, this

work uses the thematic analysis technique. Human security, migration, and migration policies of Morocco were some of the subjects thematically tracked in this study. These themes supplied the framework for interpretation and analysis.

1.12. Validity and Reliability

According to Creswell (2013), data validity, dependability, and precision must all be consistent. This explains why data and findings must be consistent, dependable, and legitimate to portray the studied phenomenon's relationships accurately. Observing the data for an extended period is one of the measures suggested by Creswell (2013). The researcher researched the literature on the topic in detail, picking out passages that had a clear connection to the phenomenon being studied. It allowed the researcher to understand the information gathered on the subject and the present gaps. Additionally, the researcher used the checking method recommended by (Lincoln & Gubar 1985), which was cited by Creswell (2013).

The checking approach ensures that the study and the data are consistent, and that the researcher has accurately recorded any reviews that have come up in the data sources.

Regarding reliability, the study took steps to make notes and record significant difficulties that were crucial for the study. This supports Creswell's (2013) hypothesis that when a researcher tries to take detailed field notes, research dependability in qualitative studies can be reached.

1.13. Study Limitations

During the process of obtaining data and information, the research ran across a few obstacles. The researcher had to heavily depend on secondary sources in order to get official data, information, and replies to the concerns addressed in the study. The time allotted to perform the investigation presented another difficulty. Notwithstanding these drawbacks, the study made an effort to respond to all issues brought up by the research in order to fulfil the stated goals.

1.14. Arrangement of Chapters

Chapter One – constitutes the introduction, which provides a detailed background to the study, statement of the problem, research objective, research questions, scope of the study, literature review and among others.

Chapter Two – focused on reviewing the literature on the Overview/Patterns of Migration in Africa broken down and analysed in detail.

Chapter Three – Human Security Challenges faced by West African Migrants in Morocco were discussed.

Chapter Four – The findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the study was highlighted in this session.



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CHAPTER TWO

PATTERNS OF MIGRATION IN AFRICA

2.0 Overview of Migration

Migration is an ancient phenomenon dating back to the earliest times in human history. Migration has always been a worldwide concern, as emigration and immigration provide people, societies, and nations with numerous options. The probabilities migration brings to nations are focused on development via remittance flow, as the global flow of remittance from wealthy countries to low- and middle-income countries were almost \$429 billion, which is triple the global official development assistance (UN, 2019). Migration has arisen as a significant policy dilemma regarding integration, displacement, safe movement, and border control (International Organization for Migration, 2019). Recent statistics on worldwide migration in 2015 suggest that there were over 244 million international migrants, up from an estimated 155 in 2000. On the other side, an estimated 740 million individuals have migrated within their own nations of origin. Even though the continual growth in migration levels appears to be harmful, some governments attempt to raise immigration levels in their country, while others lack established policies that seek to affect migration levels. According to global statistics on immigration policy, 32% of European and 10% of Asian nations desire to increase immigration levels, while 23% and 13% of other Asian and African nations seek to decrease immigration levels (UN, 2017).

2.1. Trends of Migration in Africa

Many have erroneously believed that African migration arises from poverty and war, and even more so, from violent conflicts (Flaxhaux & De Haas, 2016). However, these judgments are founded on preconceived notions of Africa as a continent plagued by poverty and war. Moreover, these beliefs lead to the assumption that African migration is directed solely

northward, a phenomenon more often known as south-north migration. De Haas (2007) reaffirms that South-North migration is likely to endure and spiral out of control and that as a result, African development must be bolstered through aid, remittances, and commerce to prevent it. The perceptions established regarding African migration are not founded on empirical evidence, but rather on assumptions, selected observations, and media impressions. Several studies have given light on the diversity of African migration since the year 2000 (Bakewell & Jonsson, 2011; Berriane & De Haas, 2012). According to studies, the majority of African movements target not only the North but also other African nations (Schoumaker et al., 2015; Sander & Maimbo, 2005). According to Flahaux and De Haas (2016), the majority of African migrants reside in African nations. Post-independence migration has been fueled by rising urbanization and the ongoing flow of population from the interior, marginal rural areas to agricultural areas with high land fertility and coastal towns and cities (Naab, et al., 2013). According to AU (2018), deteriorating political, socioeconomic, and environmental conditions, as well as armed conflict, insecurity, environmental degradation, and poverty have been significant root causes of mass migration and forced displacement in Africa, and these are the primary driving forces behind African migration.

53% of international migrants from Africa reside on the African continent, according to UNCTAD (2018). The survey identifies South Africa, Ivory Coast, and Kenya as the most popular destinations for African migrants, with Johannesburg, Abidjan, and Nairobi serving as the most important migratory centres. Additionally, four out of five international migrants' dwell in Eastern, Western, or Central Africa. Given the many international African migrants in Africa, it is necessary to investigate intra-African migration to distinguish it from the concept of global migration. Since the 1960s, intra-migration in Africa has risen, as indicated by a 20-year trend analysis of African migratory patterns. In 1960, 1980, and 2000, there were 6,2 million, 8 million, and 10,5 million intracontinental migrants, respectively (Flahaux and De

Haas, 2016). The average annual growth rate of African international migration between 2000 and 2017 was 2.8%. (UNCTAD, 2018). Migration has declined as a proportion of the population since 1990, indicating that population growth has outpaced migration growth. African migration can be disaggregated into intra-regional migration and inter-regional migration. According to the 2016 report by the African Union, intra-regional migration primarily occurs in the West, East, and Southern African regions, whereas inter-regional migration primarily occurs from West Africa to Southern Africa, East/Horn of Africa to Southern Africa, and Central Africa to Southern Africa and West Africa. The bulk of international African migrants in African countries are males (51%), but many women have travelled inside the region (49%) (Flahaux & De Haas, 2016). According to the authors, most of the African migration occurs within Africa and mostly between neighbouring nations.

Migration between neighbouring nations facilitates integration since the socio-political environments of neighbouring nations are more likely to be comparable. An increase in irregular migration has been a particularly evident trend in African migration over the past decade (AU, 2018). Migrants utilize increasingly perilous routes, making them susceptible to exploitation by smugglers and traffickers. Women and girls are especially susceptible to human trafficking, sexual and gender-based abuse, as well as other dangers. In addition, nations frequently view irregular migration from the perspective of national security, which may lead to the generalization that all refugees and migrants pose a potential threat to national security. This image of migrants as a potential threat to national security has resulted in the securitization of migration, including the strengthening of border control without due regard for migrants' human rights. In addition, corruption and harassment at African borders continue to be a problem that undermines the human rights of migrants, even in regions where the protocol on the free movement of persons has been implemented. Therefore, it is essential that migration management policies safeguard the human rights of all migrants. Populations displaced by,

among other things, war, terrorism, and climate change are an additional significant problem in Africa.

Africa hosts the vast majority of the world's refugees. 21% of the world's refugees reside in African countries (Democratic Republic of the Congo, Chad, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda), which rank among the top ten (10) countries hosting displaced populations. Approximately 18.5 million Africans are displaced, with over 27% being refugees and 67% being IDPs (Internally Displaced Persons) (IDPs). To manage, provide for, and integrate these displaced populations into host communities, large resources are necessary. Situations of protracted displacement have emerged, in which refugees or IDPs are displaced for an extended length of time without imminent possibilities for sustainable solutions that would allow them to return home, completely integrate with host communities, or relocate elsewhere. In recent years, there have been more calls for establishing long-term solutions for displaced communities in Africa. Numerous factors influence migrant integration in Africa, including duration (how long a migrant has resided in a destination country), socio-political environment, and the culture of the destination country's population (Westmore, 2015).

Integration can be difficult due to cultural disparities between host communities and migrants, such as differences in language, religion, beliefs, and lifestyle preferences. Over the years, African nations have witnessed a large influx of migrants who have encountered resistance from the receiving society due to their inability to appreciate certain features of the migrants, such as their culture (Whitaker, 2015). Forced migrants like refugees are not exempt from these difficulties. In their attempt to flee dangerous conditions, they are unable to choose their destination countries; hence, they have no expectations or preparations prior to crossing international borders (Kisoon, 2015). Even though the length of residence in host nations can be a factor in integration, this is not always true. In some cases, people are compelled to leave their nations when they are still scarred from violent battles. This trauma drives individuals to

isolate themselves; hence, their successful integration into the host community cannot be guaranteed, regardless of how long they remain there. According to Derluyn et al. (2013), most host nations do not have regulations for rehabilitation services for war victims that can help these victims socialize and integrate, thereby drastically lowering the effects of wars on these migrants.

Regarding the gendered integration of forced migrants, Derluyn et al. (2013) claim that male Sierra Leonean refugees who were once militants and were compelled to murder close relatives seek sanctuary in neighbouring countries. When they did, they were denied access to rehabilitation or demobilization and disarmament centres. Due to this, their integration was founded on a flawed mentality, rendering them unable of adjusting to their new environment.

As is the case with the Niger Delta militants in Nigeria, according to Adeyemi-Suenu (2014), these ex-militants either form or join existing rebel groups to contribute their combat abilities and expertise to rising hostilities. Kholi et al. (2014) present a worse instance regarding the assimilation of female forced migrants. These authors believe that, relative to male forced migrants, certain female forced migrants to experience more severe psychological trauma upon resettling in host nations as a result of mental and physical traumas acquired during violent conflicts and torture. Tankink (2013) presents an illustration of South Sudanese female migrants. The majority of these forced refugees are raped as a result of the lengthy violent conflict's pervasive brutality. Most of these rape victims reside in Akoka, Bailet, Fashoda, Longochuk, Maban, Maiwut, Malakal, Manyo, Melut, Luakpiny / Nasser, Panyikang, Renk, and Ulang, all of which are in the Upper Nile State of South Sudan (Tankink, 2013). As a result of rape-related injuries, such as uterine injury, these violations of human rights harm the productive ability of refugee women living in host communities (Benshoof, 2014).

These experiences with rape inhibit their successful integration into the host cultures, particularly the institution of marriage. Opportunities in the labour markets of host towns

appear to be a significant element in African migration (AU, 2018). Prior to migration, all migrants intend to enter the labour markets without assessing the existence of barriers that could limit their access to the labour market in destination countries (Creighton, 2013), and access to the labour market is an indicator of migrants' successful integration in their destination countries (Huddleston et al., 2013). However, this integration process can be at odds with the expectations of migrants due to work limits for migrants in some countries, such as oversaturated labour markets, a large youth population, restricted job openings, and government regulations. In addition, as mentioned by Menjivar and Lakhani (2016), certain nations prohibit immigrants from working on a visitor's visa. This lack of permission typically forces migrants to labour in the informal sectors of the host country, and in extreme cases, some migrants engage in illegal acts to provide for their families.

2.2 The Migrant Situation in Morocco

According to the New Humanitarian (2022), Morocco is the only nation in Africa to share a land border with the EU at Melilla and Ceuta, another Spanish exclave in North Africa. Morocco and Spain are separated by the Strait of Gibraltar at their closest point by only 13 nautical miles. Due to its close proximity, Morocco has over the years served as both a place of origin and a transit for migrants and asylum seekers seeking to enter the EU, with the numbers fluctuating (The New Humanitarian, 2022). After the 2015 migrant crisis, arrivals from Morocco to Spain along what is known as the Western Mediterranean route increased as a result of the EU taking action to restrict migration from Turkey and Libya, the two primary departure nations at the time, towards Europe (The New Humanitarian, 2022).

Adding to the above in a country policy document, The Integral Human Development (2021), posits that Morocco is a destination and a transit country for international migrants due to its geographic position. People migrate to Morocco from Sub-Saharan Africa, France, and Algeria because of the country's higher wages, proximity to Europe, and improved work prospects.

95,800 migrants lived in the country as of the end of 2017, the majority of them were from France (36,129), Algeria (13,711), Spain (4,200), Tunisia (2,643), and Syria (2,098). They argue that many unauthorised migrants make the journey to Morocco from Sub-Saharan Africa in the hopes of entering Europe. Yet, because of constraints placed by Europe and the migrants' inability to pay for their continued travel, many migrants who arrive in Morocco choose to stay. UNHCR recorded 2,505 asylum applicants and 6,489 refugees as of May 2019, a 64.18% increase from the start of 2016. More over half of those refugees (55%) are from Syria, and 34% of them are children under the age of 18. Seventy-five percent of the refugees are Arabic-speaking. Most migrants leave their home country because of poverty, a lack of steady job that leaves them with few alternatives and few educational opportunities (The Integral Human Development, 2022).

Morocco, as Keygnaert, et al. (2014) argues, estimated that over 60,000 foreigners were habitually staying on its territory in 2008, similar to the estimate from 2005. These foreigners were primarily of European (47%) and Algerian (19%) descent. Moreover, with a population of almost 32 million people, official estimates of sub-Saharan irregular migration in Morocco ranged from 10,000 in 2005 to 15,000 in 2007 to 4,500 in 2010. Almost 40 different sub-Saharan nations contributed migrants to Morocco in 2008, with the majority coming from Nigeria (15.7%), Mali (13.1%), Senegal (12.9%), and the Congo (10.4%). They further add that these people were mostly male (79.7%), young (95.4% were under 36), worked in their home countries (76%) and more than half (56%) had finished their secondary or higher education. Around 3000 sub-Saharan migrants were estimated to live in Rabat, 2000 in Casablanca, 600 in Oujda and Laayoune, and 300 in Tangiers according to estimates of their dispersion in Morocco in 2008 (Keygnaert, et al., 2014). According to Freedman (2012), Sub-Saharan African immigrants and refugees have dramatically expanded in number in Morocco since the mid-1990s, partly as a result of upheaval in the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

the Republic of the Congo, and the Great Lakes area. Additional flows have come from Cote d'Ivoire, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone. According to a survey, Nigeria, Mali, Senegal, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, and Cameroon are the primary Sub-Saharan African migration origin nations in Morocco today (AMERM and CISP 2007). The Moroccan General Directorate of National Security reported there were 62,348 foreigners living on Moroccan soil legally in 2005 (Mghari 2007), although this number excludes unregistered migrants who are by definition hard to correctly measure in any statistics. The Moroccan Directorate of Migration and Border Control, on the other hand, calculated in 2006 that there were 10,000 Sub-Saharan Africans living in Morocco (Freedman, 2012).

It has become into a choke point in the flow across the Mediterranean for the thousands of sub-Saharan Africans who arrive there each year, pinched by the Moroccan and Spanish governments working together to block crossings onto Europe. The Moroccan passage is now the one that is least used of the major routes from Africa to Europe. In 2014, 4,043 "irregular migrants" entered Spain via Morocco, according to Spanish officials, as opposed to 170,664 who travelled across the central Mediterranean to Italy and Malta (International Organisation For Migration, 2015).

According to the International Organisation For Migration, there are 12 makeshift camps of sub-Saharan migrants dotted across the dry, limestone hills of Mount Selouane. The ascent of the hills is an archaeology of migration, filled with old tents, shoes, garment remnants, a child's water gun, and a dumbbell made of plastic bottles. Each camp on the rocky terrain consists of a number of bivouacs positioned amid the trees and covered in plastic sheeting and blankets. Some migrants choose to cluster together in their shelters, while others want to be alone. The camps are broadly separated into parts for francophones and anglophones, countries, and then again by ethnicity. However, there is some overlap since friendships are the only thing that brings people together. Francophone Cameroonians were present among an ethnic Igbo group

from south-eastern Nigeria, for instance (IRN, 2015). While Moroccan society views the camps as being anarchic, each has its own set of regulations. The Nigerian Igbo group, united under the traditional self-help village or district-based "unions," is one of the better organised. These unions are reproduced overseas wherever Igbo people move.

In addition to producing 3.4 million migrants on its own, Morocco has served as a nation of passage for migrants (Aljezeera, 2022). Yet, it has turned into a bottleneck in the movement across the Mediterranean for thousands of Sub-Saharan Africans who arrive each year. With what appears to be an attempt by Moroccan authorities to strengthen border procedures, they use force and other restrictive measures to prevent migrants from crossing into Europe (The New Humanitarian, 2022). These migrants fought with police as they attempt to break into Ceuta, a Spanish enclave on the coast of Morocco that have served as transit points for migrants in their attempt to get to Europe. In retaliation, the Moroccan security officers often use batons and tear gas. According to government reports a number of migrants and asylum seekers die and some of them get injured in the process.

The immigration policy of Morocco altered how migrants were treated by the police. Morocco prioritises border security while adopting a laissez-faire policy elsewhere. So, migrants live in an enclave society where their security, freedom of movement, and even existence depend on the will of the state. To communicate with government agencies and obtain essential services like housing, education, and health care, migrants rely on social media, non-governmental organisations, churches, and their local communities. In cities, particularly Rabat, migrants have better access to organisations that may assist them in bridging social divides and assimilating into society. Yet, certain people—mostly those who reside in camps—remain marginalised and have little to no interaction with the general public or other groups; as a result, they are the most at risk (Bendra, 2017).

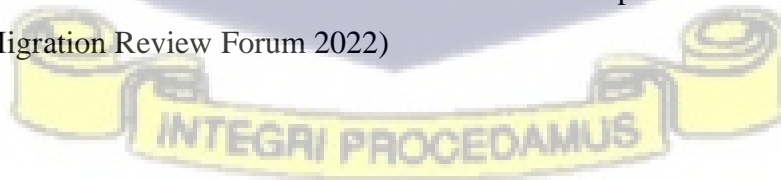
Another point worthy of discussion is the Global Compact on Migration. The UN General Assembly approved a collaborative framework in 2018 called the Global Compact for Safe,

Orderly, and Regular Migration. It is a non-binding agreement with the purpose of addressing the opportunities and difficulties associated with global migration. The agreement offers a thorough set of 23 goals and guidelines to help nations manage migration in a secure, regular, and orderly way. In order to solve difficulties associated with migration, the Global Compact for Migration emphasizes the significance of international cooperation and coordination (United Nations General Assembly, 2018). Morocco has played a significant role in the development and adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration. In addition to hosting the Intergovernmental Conference when the compact was formally adopted, the nation actively took part in the negotiation process (United Nations General Assembly, 2018).

In light of its geographical location as a transit and destination country, Morocco's participation in the Global Compact for Migration is a sign of its commitment to resolving migration-related issues and advancing global collaboration. The nation has demonstrated willingness to put the compact's goals and tenets into practice within the boundaries of its own territory.

The 23 goals of the Global Compact ensure that migrants are treated with respect and are integrated. It acknowledges that immigrants have a crucial role in driving innovation, prosperity, and progress.

Morocco has made significant strides in achieving the 23 objectives by improving access to employment services- regularised migrants have access to the job search service of the National Agency for the Promotion of Employment and Skills. The judicial system has also been enhanced- In all of the kingdoms' courts of appeal, a network of judges from the public prosecutor's office was established in 2019. Moroccan visa processes have been streamlined- an establishment of a documented system for visiting Morocco where several types of visas have been initiated and exempting certain nationals from entry visas. Lastly with the collaboration of their respective consulate offices, Morocco is facilitating the voluntary return of migrants to their home countries under conditions that respect their dignity and rights. (International Migration Review Forum 2022)



2.3. Irregular Migration

Regular migration and irregular migration are the two main forms of migration, with irregularity and regularity typically determined by the presence or lack of proper travel documents. Cross-border movement of people who enter a country illegally is frequently referred to as irregular migration (Vollmer, 2011). Migration can become irregular in a number of ways, according to Uehling (2004). This frequently happens when their unauthorized entry is made by a covert entry or the use of counterfeit documents (Uehling, 2004). De Haas (2008) asserts that immigration status is not constant. De Haas (2008) asserts that it is possible for migrants to become irregular if they overstay their visa; yet, an irregular immigrant who arrived in a destination country without the necessary authorization and/or documentation can later become regular by successfully completing the regularization process. Although clandestine migration through unfamiliar routes, like crossing the Mediterranean or the desert, can be traced back several decades, the phenomenon has grown significantly in recent years, becoming a major humanitarian concern due to the atrocities irregular migrants face and the number of lives lost as a result of irregular migration (Lutterbeck, 2006).

2.4. Motivating Factors for the Rise in Irregular/Undocumented Migration

While there is a great deal of research and interest in the causes of migration in general, there are few studies on the variables that promote or accelerate irregular migration. Nevertheless, a number of studies have demonstrated that migration decisions for both regular or documented migrants and irregular or undocumented migrants are often influenced by political, economic, and social factors (Awumbila, 2017; McAuliffe, 2013).

The absence of economic possibilities in most migrants' home countries and the migrants' desire to improve their standard of living are among the most influential factors driving irregular or undocumented migration to the West. The investigations undertaken by Browne (2015) and El Mahdi (2013) that utilized Egypt as a case study provide evidence for this claim. El Mahdi (2013) asserts that Egyptian youth perceive both regular/documented migration and

irregular/undocumented migration as an escape route from their country's deteriorating living conditions, high unemployment rates, and poor earnings and incomes. Similarly, the findings of El Mahdi's (2013) study demonstrated that migration, whether regular or irregular, served as a method of escaping poverty and obtaining a higher level of living.

In recent years, it has been evident that the tightening of border controls in the Global North is a significant factor in the acceleration of irregular migration from the Global South (Koser & McAuliffe, 2013). In order to enter European or Western lands, the lack of legal migration alternatives encourages migrants to utilize illegal routes or channels with the assistance of smugglers. Suso (2019) used a qualitative approach to interview ninety-three participants about the drivers of irregular migration from the Gambia. The study's findings indicated that the high costs and overly bureaucratic processes of obtaining legal travel documents, such as the acquisition of a visa, were strongly correlated with the significant increase in irregular or undocumented migration from the Gambia. According to the researcher, a vast majority of respondents agreed that their desire or intent to move lawfully was thwarted by the numerous hindrances and barriers encountered in pursuing the customary ways of acquiring legal paperwork.

The findings of this researcher's study were found to be consistent with those of Mbaye (2014), who contended that tighter border controls do not necessarily result in a decrease in irregular or undocumented migration but rather promote the discovery of new, illegal routes to countries of destination. Herbert (2016) reaffirms that as a result of increased detentions of migrants and increased surveillance at the Spanish-Moroccan border, additional migrants who were traveling to Europe via the eastern Mediterranean route switched to the central Mediterranean corridor. Similar to this, increased border controls between Italy and Libya in 2009 mostly directed unlawful migrant flows through Turkey to Greece (Cummings et al., 2015).

According to the research, another factor influencing the irregular migration is the ongoing conflict and political instability in many of the governments that send migrants abroad, including Libya and numerous North African nations. Cummings et al. (2015) claim that a lot of Libyans and other people from the region have been driven to enter Europe illegally due to the growing economic and political issues in Libya as a result of the overthrow of former leader Muammar al-Gaddafi. Although it is possible to argue that Libya has served as a transit country for many years, Attir (2018) contends that the country's economic stability and the availability of jobs in the area have reduced the frequency of irregular migration.

Massive human rights abuses and violent conflict have taken over the formerly prosperous nation since 2012, and as a result, migrants are not only looking for asylum abroad but also moving up the social ladder illegally because of the country's limited economic freedom and the Arab Spring-related upsurge in smuggling and trafficking activities (Attir, 2018).

2.5. Challenges, Risk and Avenues of Resilience of Irregular Migration

Migration via irregular or unauthorized routes, such as the Mediterranean or the desert, or other new roads, is not only difficult but often life-threatening. Despite the perilous situations, irregular migrants exhibit unshakable perseverance, willpower, persistence, and resiliency, which enables them to persevere towards their goal of reaching their destination despite the risks. According to research conducted by Press (2017) on the perilous migratory voyage over the Sahara Desert to Europe, it was discovered that a successful journey across the route needed substantial amounts of perseverance, faith, and personal fortitude. Sixty participants were recruited from three migrant-receiving sites in Italy and France for the qualitative study. According to the report, irregular migrants traversing the Sahara Desert are subjected to sexual assault, robbery, and physical torture. In the middle of these hardships, there is no access to water and food (Press, 2017).

In other research examining how irregular migrants traverse the Sonoran Desert in the southwestern region of the United States, De La Rosa (2018) asserts that irregular migrants are survivors who employ a variety of methods to escape highly severe situations on their route. According to the study, which relied on the stories of sixteen respondents, the U.S. government's stringent policies and efforts to prevent illegal or clandestine entry into the nation have rather led migrants to take very perilous means to acquire access. Similar to the results of Press (2017), food and water are few in the Sonoran Desert, resulting in the deaths of several migrants from dehydration, desert heat, and starvation. In addition, migrants are typically captured by drug lords who compel them to transport large quantities of narcotics for the duration of their voyage. Respondents exhibited a high level of resiliency and relied on previously learnt methods in temporary migrant shelters, such as setting a tree on fire for emergency assistance (Press, 2017).

Lemus-Way and Johansson (2019) studied the cause of the resilience of certain irregular female migrants transiting from Mexico to the United States, drawing on experiences from Central America. According to the authors, despite the United States' strict immigration control efforts against immigration from its southern neighbors, the issue remains owing to increased unemployment, violent attacks, and threats in impacted nations. Ten participants from Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador were interviewed about how they overcame the obstacles encountered. This investigation revealed that these migrants have both internal and external strengths. Specifically, participants recognized perseverance, courage, goal-setting, and reliance on metaphysical beliefs such as prayer and meditation as internal attributes that provided the foundation for their resilience throughout their trip. For example, despite their difficulties, they firmly depended on the protection and guidance of a supernatural deity in which they had confidence. Regarding external strengths, mention was made of family and institutional assistance in the form of migrant shelters, as well as the kindness of a few strangers

encountered along the road. The author finds that the effective movement of participants was possible by a combination of these strengths.

Lusk et al. (2019) explored the source of resilience among Central American migrants undertaking perilous voyages to the United States. According to the report, the growth rate and detrimental impacts of gang violence, corruption, and femicide are sufficient motives for migrants to move north (Lusk et al., 2019). To reach the U.S.-Mexico border, migrants drew on deep reserves of religion, family, and personal courage, according to the research. Less religious individuals admitted to engaging in a variety of religious activities in times of difficulty. It was also shown that the prospect of a rich and violence-free existence for migrants' dependents contributed to their resilience in the face of adversity (Lusk et al., 2019).

Khawaja, White, Schweitzer, and Greenslade (2008) investigated the pre-migration, transit, and post-migration challenges and strengths of 23 Sudanese refugees residing in Australia using a qualitative study approach. The study indicated that during the three stages of migration, individuals were able to overcome obstacles by relying heavily on spiritual beliefs (prayers), social networks, and the expectation of future good fortune. In addition to getting inspiration and strength from religious activities (an internal source of resilience), religion had a significant social and material influence on the participants during the transition period (external source of resilience). Despite the fact that participants were subjected to significant violence and abuse in transit camps, a number of them received various forms of help from religious organizations, which contributed to their resilience (Khawaja et al., 2008). According to research by Ginesini (2008), spirituality has a dual function in the lives of refugees, as it is of both community and societal significance and is the source of personal strength and resilience.

2.6. Challenges of Irregular/Undocumented Migrants in Host Countries

Attempting to survive and prosper under trying and adverse conditions, the life of an illegal migrant is rife with a number of challenges and unknowns. Many irregular migrants encounter several socio-cultural and legal hurdles in their destination countries, including those related to health, employment, and housing, as well as a breach of immigration restrictions governing entrance (Welch & Schuster, 2005; Prestileo et al., 2015). Due to the difficulties, they face as a result of their undocumented status, irregular migrants are sometimes forced to settle in less safe areas outside of their host countries (Cavazos-Rehg et al., 2007). Few investigations on these challenges have been out, despite the wide range of degrees of difficulty they present. It may be difficult for international organizations, parliamentarians, and various countries to provide the appropriate help irregular migrants may need if they are not privy to the full details of these issues. Migrants who make adequate plans and use proper channels to make the journey typically fare better. This is because, everything else being equal, they enjoy a number of privileges and protections. But does the same hold true for illegal immigrants? Unauthorized immigrants are denied the basic human right to get employment and to labour in safe and fair circumstances.

Waite (2017) conducted in-depth interviews with 30 rejected asylum seekers in the United Kingdom and found that, in contrast to other migrants, those with an asylum application denied faced unfair discrimination in the job market. The poll found that they were among the most exploited, underpaid, and exposed to terrible working conditions, such as excessive hours with little compensation. By hiring them, companies can sidestep their obligations under the law governing the workplace (Bloch, 2010). This is due to the fact that, as Waite underlined, asylum seekers who are turned down and refuse to leave often fall into irregularity, losing their legal status and therefore their capacity to work and finding themselves in a nation with a weak social safety net (Waite, 2017). For example, not only do security officials often harass irregular migrants, but if they submit official complaints to authorities they risk being detained and

deported since their ongoing presence infringes immigration restrictions (Bloch, 2010; Tanle, 2012a; Tanle, 2012b). The high sociolegal vulnerability of rejected asylum seekers or undocumented migrants provides a fertile ground for abuse. Findings from the poll also highlighted the role that the fear of poverty and the prospect of homelessness had in keeping respondents in exploitative roles.

An ethnographic study conducted by Lind (2020) on the housing options available to undocumented migrants in the United Kingdom and Sweden revealed that, as a result of national laws and practices, undocumented migrants in these countries have highly limited access to housing services. Since landlords in the UK are prohibited from renting to illegal immigrants, this drastically limits their housing options (Lind, 2020). The effect of this negative legislation is the prevalence of diseases like pneumonia and respiratory infections because of the poor living conditions in overcrowded, dilapidated housing (Lind, 2020; Molnarova et al., 2015). Tanle's (2012a) qualitative research on the experiences of irregular Ghanaian migrants in Libya found that, due to their irregular status, migrants faced not only frequent harassment and exploitation, as well as difficulties in accessing healthcare, but were also exposed to harsh weather conditions in the country as occupants of substandard housing. Many irregular migrants not only face a deterioration in their health and living conditions because of the aforementioned usually insecure work, housing, and legal barriers, but also have limited access to public healthcare.

Poduval et al. (2015) found that despite being eligible for free primary healthcare, asylum seekers and irregular migrants were unable to access it because they lacked the necessary identity to obtain it. For this reason, some respondents suggested delaying care until they were really sick, when they would be certain to receive treatment under the emergency medical services system (Poduval et al., 2015). A sizable minority of respondents, however, preferred to visit private or non-profit clinics for their healthcare needs because they found them to be

more accessible and helpful. One of this review's drawbacks is its location. The experiences of illegal migrants living in areas outside of London were not captured since the respondents were only sought out in the Greater London area. Nevertheless, this research is significant because it sheds light on the challenges that both male and female irregular migrants have when trying to receive healthcare in their host countries.

Schoevers et al. (2010) conducted similar study and found that about one hundred female illegal immigrants in the Netherlands faced significant obstacles while seeking medical care. The study used a combination of qualitative and quantitative techniques to determine that irregular migrant faced two main types of obstacles on the path to receiving medical care: self-imposed and societal. Poduval et al. (2015) found that many respondents were denied treatment and eventually released because they lacked proper documentation on the hospital's capacity restrictions. The study reaffirmed previous findings that language barriers and cost were major hurdles to accessing healthcare for undocumented and irregular migrants. Many respondents did not even consider getting medical treatment because they could not afford it, while others had just a vague idea of what their primary healthcare benefit was (Schoevers et al., 2010).

2.7. Adaptation Strategies of Irregular or Undocumented Migrants in Destination Nations

Uncertainties of being an irregular migrant, such as detention and deportation, made many respondents economically vulnerable, exploited, and isolated, according to Olukotun et al. (2019) qualitative study on the lived experiences and coping strategies of undocumented African women in the United States. Health problems, such as depression and a constant state of fear, were brought on by these traumatic events and had a major impact on the victims' day-to-day lives (Olukotun et al., 2019). Many respondents stated they were able to lean on a small group of close friends and family members for support when times were tough, and that sharing their struggles with these people helped. This research lends credence to the idea that social

network groups are vital to the well-being of irregular migrants, who are less likely to be apprehended if they rely on friends and family members (Cvajner & Sciortino, 2010). Respondents also found that religion was an important coping technique, as it gave them the strength and hope they needed to carry on in the face of misfortune and uncertainty. However, this research did highlight a limitation: the majority of the women surveyed lived in the Midwest. It's possible that the study's authors failed to account for the myriad of factors at play in the lives of African women who are living in the shadows throughout the rest of the country. The research also failed to account for the viewpoints of men, whose participation may have added depth to the analysis. Lavie-Ajayi and Slonim-Nevo (2017) employed a qualitative study to analyse the sources of strengths, resilience, and coping methods of eight Sudanese guys who were asylum seekers in Israel. The results showed that the individual's cognitive and behavioural coping methods, as well as the support of family and friends, contributed to their resilience and long-term survival. According to numerous participants, despite issues in their destination nations such as unemployment and healthcare inaccessibility, they were committed to taking action regardless of how many times they failed. When they arrived in Israel, they were able to persevere because of the many challenges they had already overcome (Lavie-Ajayi & Slonim-Nevo, 2017). This study's limitations stem from the fact that all respondents were men, despite the fact that they were able to show that asylum seekers utilize a variety of coping strategies. This is because the engagement of females may bring with it gender-specific difficulties and coping mechanisms that men may not share.

However, contrary to earlier studies (Khawaja et al., 2008; Olukotun et al., 2019), this one did not find that religion helped asylum seekers or refugees cope with their circumstances. Using qualitative research methodologies, Kam et al. (2018) examine the coping strategies used by undocumented Mexican children in the United States, both on an individual and family level. The family environment, according to the authors, is a significant institution that aids in the

coping and resilience of young children of irregular status. A total of 30 Mexican high school students in the US were interviewed. Results from this study corroborated those by Olukotun et al. (2019), who found that participants' worries of being detained or deported characterized some of the challenges they encountered. Others lamented the limited opportunities available to them in comparison to others who possessed legal documentation. Distraction, the practice of diverting one's attention and focus from one's problems and onto something else, was one way that people overcame these challenges. In addition, participants' families gave emotional and informational support, which assisted in overcoming the problems of being undocumented. The fact that the challenges experienced by undocumented teens may vary from those faced by adults was a limitation of this study.

To learn more about irregular migrants' coping strategies and migratory patterns in Nigeria, Eboraka and Oyefara (2016) conduct a qualitative study. The research was based on in-depth interviews with 38 participants. The study found that some individuals relied on personal networks for housing and job leads; these leads tended to be for low-paying service jobs in unsafe environments. Others made allusions to illegal activities, such as providing false information on official documents (such as one's identity or nationality) in order to avoid discovery by immigration authorities.

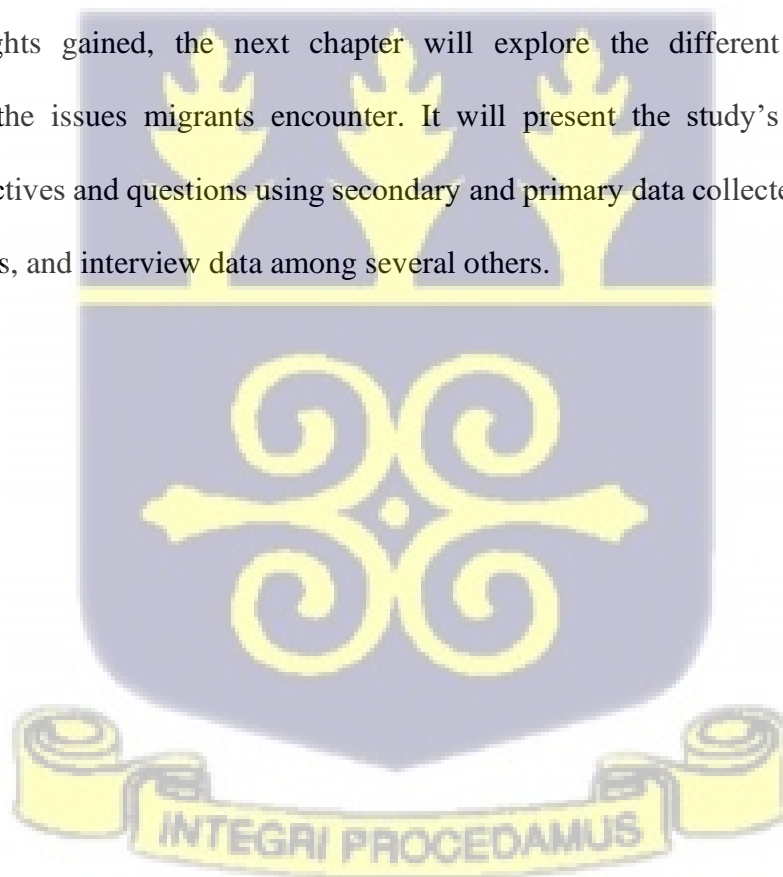
Chapter Summary

This chapter provided scholarly literature on themes concerning the trends of migration and integration in Africa, the general concept of irregular migration, the motivating factors influencing the rise of irregular or undocumented migration, the challenges, risks and avenues of the resilience of irregular migration and finally the adaptation strategies of illegal or undocumented migrants in destination nations. The motivating factors behind irregular or undocumented migration are diverse and complex. They include political instability, armed conflict, economic hardships, poverty and social inequalities. Irregular migration poses various

challenges and risks for migrants. Due to the tightening of borders, migrants use perilous routes where they may face dangerous journeys, often relying on human smugglers, crossing borders illegally or undertaking hazardous routes across land and sea. Migrants may encounter violence, exploitation and human rights abuses as well as legal challenges which include the risk of detention, lack of access to basic services. However, migrants demonstrate resilience by developing survival strategies, creating support networks and adapting to their new environment.

Undocumented migrants in destination nations often face significant challenges due to their legal status. To navigate these challenges, they may employ various adaptation strategies. These can include forming informal support networks within their migrant communities.

With the insights gained, the next chapter will explore the different perspectives in understanding the issues migrants encounter. It will present the study's findings on the research's objectives and questions using secondary and primary data collected from scholarly articles, journals, and interview data among several others.



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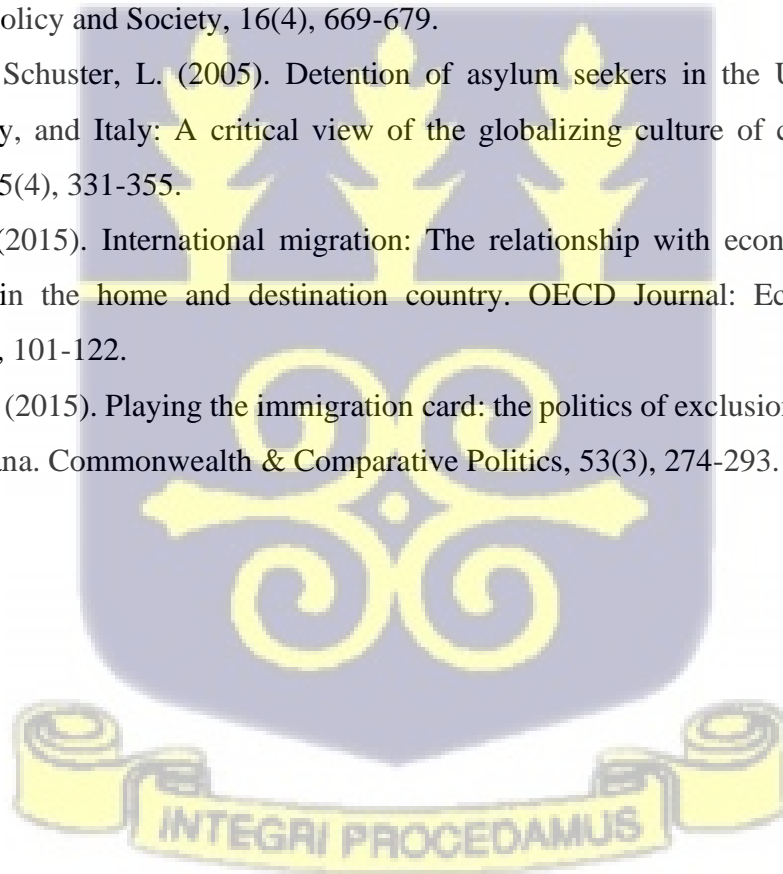
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CHAPTER THREE

ANALYSIS OF HUMAN SECURITY CHALLENGES OF WEST AFRICAN MIGRANTS IN MOROCCO

3.0 Introduction

This chapter explores the impact Morocco's migration policy had on West African migrants' human security from 2010 to 2020. The migrant issue in Morocco is highlighted in the chapter. The next section of the chapter covers how the lack of legal status affects the ability of West African migrants to access basic rights and services in Morocco. The chapter also addressed the human security challenges faced by West African Migrants due to migration policies of Morocco. The chapter further highlighted how law enforcers' violence affect the sense of security and well-being of migrants in Europe.

3.1 The Lack of Legal Status and its Effects on Migrants in Accessing Basic Rights and Services in Morocco

Problems pertaining to the enjoyment of economic, social, and cultural rights are especially important for many migrants, according to the UNHCR (2021). They encounter significant prejudice frequently in their housing, education, health, employment, or social security (UNHCR, 2021). The lack of access to basic services for migrants and their families—or the availability of such services at levels that fall short of international human rights standards—is frequently caused by laws that discriminate against non-nationals as well as by programmes and policies that ignore their unique needs and vulnerabilities. According to the UNHCR, migrants with irregular immigration status are excessively marginalized, exploited, and prejudiced against; they typically live and work in secret, lack the courage to voice their grievances, and suffer from no access to fundamental freedoms and human rights.

According to Jackson et al. (2019), political, fiscal, and social variables interact with the nonexistence of a legal residency license to create multifaceted insecurity among undocumented migrants. In the context of restricted immigration rules and a lack of labour protection, they confront severe postmigration challenges in the majority of European nations. They note that many of them work in risky, filthy, and demeaning low-skill occupations where they are subjected to abuse, exploitation, and occupational risks. Obtaining extra essentials like housing, food, training and education, as well as legal representation in the case of harm or abuse, is sometimes difficult and dangerous (Jackson et al. 2019). Undocumented immigrants, often known as those without legal status, frequently live in insecure situations and are exposed to a number of harmful health factors, they further posit (Jackson et al. 2019).

From the middle of the 1990s, as have been outlined in this study, migrants have made Morocco their final destination. Nonetheless, due to their lack of legal status, migrants in Morocco have several difficulties in gaining access to fundamental rights and services. This includes having access to jobs, chances for education, and healthcare. By putting regulations into place that are designed to provide migrants legal status, the Moroccan government has made some attempts to solve this problem. Yet, these measures have come under fire for being inadequate and failing to adequately safeguard immigrants. Since the COVID-19 epidemic broke out, migrant workers and asylum seekers in Morocco have had to deal with a variety of growing difficulties, including losing access to employment during lockdowns. Many immigrants, especially those without documentation, are also without any kind of support or help in the nation. The potential for integration or exclusion of migrants depends on their status (legality/illegality) and the socio-political environment of the host nation.

According to the Integral Human Development (2020) “The legal framework for migration in Morocco includes: the 2011 Moroccan Constitution, the 2004 Judgment of the Court of First Instance of Tetouan on the crime of illegal immigration and emigration and the encouraging

illegal immigration, the 2003 Law n°02-03 on the entry and stay of foreign nationals into Morocco, emigration and irregular immigration, the 2003 Law n°65-69 on the Labour Code, and the 1958 Code of Moroccan nationality modified in 2007 (Integral Human Development, 2020).” The International Organization for Migration (IOM), UNHCR, Arab League, and other governmental entities, among others, execute these regulations. Group for the Defence and Accompaniment of Foreigners and Immigrants and Moroccan Association for Human Rights are two examples of civil society organisations that have been at the forefront of protecting refugees and migrants as well as offering consulting services for the implementation and legislation of new immigration policies.

3.2.1 Healthcare

One of the effects of the illegal status on West African migrants is the lack of access to basic healthcare. Among the biggest issues with migration in a study conducted according to the UN, is the disregard for immigrant human rights. Access to healthcare is one of these fundamental rights that is important (UN, 2021). Accessing healthcare services might be complicated for migrants due to their illegal status, institutional and budgetary constraints. Excluding migrants from the formal medical system can increase their risk of disease and damage as well as keep them out of the system altogether. Due to their marginal status, migrants frequently find themselves in a scenario where they are both more likely than non-migrants to require health care and less able to receive them (UN, 2021). For West African migrants in Morocco, the lack of legal status put them at great risk of danger in terms of their healthcare since the denial of rights and lack of access to health care refers to temporary international labour migrants, whose irregular status in the destination society can both expose them to a higher risk of sickness than natives and prevent them access to the health services to cope with them.

There are little health services available to migrants. The Assurance Medical Obligatoire (AMO), sometimes known as health insurance, is only available to those with regular, official

occupations in Morocco. The state-funded Regime d'Assistance Medicale (RAMED) is only available to the most vulnerable (Mathiau, 2016), and despite pledges, there is no comparable system in place for migrants. Public hospitals have helped undocumented migrants since 2003 since they were more susceptible to sickness because of their poor living conditions, particularly in the camps. Women who are pregnant migrants are an especially vulnerable group of people. Research by Medecins Sans Frontières (MSF, 2010), Kastner (2010), Stock (2011), and others have found that migrant women regularly fall pregnant while travelling to or living in Morocco. In the four non-camp situations when I saw pregnant migrants, both legal and illegal, they could travel to a hospital for a main check-up, obtained free ultrasounds, and delivered delivery. Women at the Nador camp waited until they actually needed to give birth before going to the hospital out of fear of being detained (Brenda, 2017).

Hospital beds nearby are scarce. Because there are few resources available, migrants frequently disregard other illnesses and only visit public hospitals in cases of crises. Migrants in Oujda frequently referred to Medecins du Monde (MDM) as the source of care for minor wounds or diseases (such as colds or headaches). Since the majority of Anglophone refugees do not speak Arabic or French, access to public hospitals is occasionally obtained through NGOs.

The illegal status of West African migrants in Morocco significantly hinders their access to essential healthcare services. Migration studies conducted by the United Nations (UN) identify the disregard for immigrant human rights as a major issue, including access to healthcare. Migrants often face barriers in accessing healthcare due to their illegal status, institutional constraints, and limited budgets. Exclusion from the formal medical system not only increases their risk of disease and injury but also prevents them from receiving necessary healthcare altogether.

This is particularly concerning considering that migrants are more likely than non-migrants to require healthcare but face challenges in receiving it. Temporary international labour migrants

with irregular status face a higher risk of illness compared to natives and encounter barriers in accessing healthcare services to address their health needs. Denial of rights and limited access to healthcare contribute to the precarious situation of West African migrants, putting their health and well-being at great risk.

3.2.2 Forced Labour

Female illegal migrants are pushed into prostitution and forced labour in Morocco (2020). The women are frequently kept by the traffickers in groups and in remote, inaccessible locales. The ladies are forced to do prostitution in return for their "safety." Women frequently lose the protection of their "protector" over time, which forces them to take to the streets of Rabat, Tangiers, Fez, Marrakech, and Casablanca where they must beg while carrying their infants. Oujda and the northern seaside town of Nador, where female migrants are compelled to engage in prostitution and beg, serve as the centre for these criminal networks. By passing through Oujda, female migrants from Nigeria are particularly vulnerable and sometimes pushed into prostitution after they get in Europe (IHD, 2020). Also, extremely vulnerable to sex trafficking are women and children from Cote d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Cameroon, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Male migrants are also susceptible to exploitation and forced labour in Morocco. They may be coerced into engaging in activities such as street begging, informal labour, or involvement in criminal networks (Mohamed, 2020). Studies highlight the exploitation of male migrants in sectors like construction, agriculture, and domestic work, where they are often subjected to harsh working conditions, long hours, low wages, and exploitation by employers (Belalia, 2018). The use of men in forced labour situations, including agricultural work and sweatshops, has been reported in various research studies (Bénard, 2019). Children, both boys and girls, are particularly vulnerable to exploitation and trafficking. They may be forced into begging, street vending, or engaged in various forms of child labour (International Organization for Migration [IOM], 2016). Research highlights the involvement of children in

domestic work, agriculture, and the informal sector, where they face exploitation, physical abuse, and violations of their rights (Cherti and De Boeck, 2017).

Female migrants in Morocco, particularly those in an illegal status, are frequently subjected to forced prostitution and labour. They are coerced and exploited by traffickers, often kept in secluded locations and forced into prostitution for survival. When their protection from traffickers diminishes, they are compelled to beg on the streets while caring for their infants. Male migrants in Morocco are also prone to exploitation and forced labour. They may be coerced into activities like street begging, informal labour, or involvement in criminal networks. Sectors such as construction, agriculture, and domestic work often exploit male migrants, subjecting them to harsh working conditions, long hours, low wages, and exploitation by employers. Children, both boys and girls, are particularly susceptible to exploitation and trafficking in Morocco. They are forced into begging, street vending, and various forms of child labour. Research highlights their involvement in domestic work, agriculture, and the informal sector, where they face exploitation, physical abuse, and violations of their rights.

3.2.3 Employment

Brenda (2017) asserts that both newly documented and undocumented migrants have difficulty accessing formal employment. Due to the lack of employment opportunities and the high unemployment rate (22.3%) among Moroccan university graduates, employers frequently refuse to accept freshly documented Sub-Saharan migrants (Haut commissaire au plan, 2016). Additionally, the employment market does not accept the credentials of immigrants, particularly those from anglophone nations. The locals' resistance to hiring foreign nationals might also be attributed to racism. Sub-Saharan migrants were stigmatised for years as being uneducated and underprivileged because they were equated with foreigners in transit. Lastly, due to a sense of cultural belonging, many firms favour hiring people from the area or even those from neighbouring countries (like Syrians) (interview with ABCDs president in Oujda)

Bryant (2017). According to Euromedright (2015), laborious administrative processes that restrict access to the labour market include acquiring a work visa or a one-year work authorization. State-run businesses are founded on the national preference concept, according to which hiring managers must show that no Moroccans are qualified to perform the task. The Article 9 of the Labour Code, which forbids all forms of discrimination, states that the national preference concept is in conflict with this. Nonetheless, this paradox is still there despite calls from certain organisations to relax the requirements for national preference (Euromedright, 2015: 3; Lemaizi, 2014).

Newly documented and undocumented migrants face challenges in accessing formal employment in Morocco. Despite obtaining legal status, these migrants encounter barriers in finding job opportunities. Employers show reluctance in hiring them, which can be attributed to factors such as prejudice or concerns over their immigration status. Immigrants, especially those from anglophone nations, struggle with having their credentials recognized in the Moroccan employment market. This lack of acceptance hampers their ability to secure formal employment and further contributes to their exclusion from the labour market. Racism and stigmatization against Sub-Saharan migrants persist, leading to negative stereotypes and prejudices that associate them with being uneducated and underprivileged. These biases contribute to the difficulties faced by migrants in accessing employment opportunities. Firms in Morocco often prefer hiring individuals from the local area or neighbouring countries like Syria. This preference for local or nearby candidates limits the employment prospects for migrants, particularly Sub-Saharan migrants. Labour market restrictions and administrative processes pose additional barriers for migrants. Acquiring work visas or authorizations can be laborious, and state-run businesses operate based on the concept of national preference, which requires demonstrating the unavailability of qualified Moroccan candidates. This paradox contradicts the principle of non-discrimination outlined in Article 9 of the Labour Code.

Some documented Sub-Saharan migrants have established themselves as street vendors outside the confines of the medina (traditional market), selling their wares in non-permanent establishments. Some have moved to permanent stores in a traditional commercial center in the city center in recent years. They sell ethnic merchandise, traditional clothing, jewelry, and electronic devices (like as phones and tablets) in Rabat. In Oujda, they rent modest locations in the medina next to Moroccan street vendors for up to 50 dirhams per day, which is comparable to what a self-employed migrant may expect to make on a daily basis. In other circumstances, Moroccan shopkeepers will let frequent street vendors and individuals who have developed solid ties with the local populace stand in front of their stores.

Transnational business has prospered as a result of great political and economic linkages, as well as cultural considerations. (2016, Centre d'Etudes Internationales). Senegalese migrants, for example, working temporarily in trade in Casablanca to amass enough financial resources to continue their voyages to Europe (Pian, 2005). In recent years, migrants have relocated to other Moroccan cities, relying on "suitcase commerce" to transport the goods they sell. Migrants communicate in a semi-invisible way within the circulatory territory between their home countries and Morocco. They contribute to the establishment of a differentiated and subtle globalisation from below (Schmoll and Semi, 2013). They function as dealers and mediators, following specific routes and flows.

Making and maintaining these circuits, like other economic operations that rely heavily on ethnic networks, is a continual process of interactions, tensions, and trust that is constantly negotiated (Schmoll and Semi, 2013). Migrants who were unable to find work in the informal economy or develop their own enterprises were forced to beg on the streets. Begging is shadow work in this context, defined as "illegitimate or quasi-legitimate subsistence activities engaged in by street people such as beggars and the homeless" (Wardhaugh and Jones, 1999, p.102).

Those who could not find work begged at stop signals and traffic lights on a daily basis. Assalamo Alaikom ("peace be upon you"; a traditional Muslim greeting) got the name of the activity, alluding to the first sentence the beggars say when a car stops. They are present around supermarkets in the city center and frequently talk with car drivers who are stopped at traffic lights for a few seconds. Some acquire permanent residences, while others relocate between places in order to maximize their chances of receiving charitable assistance. Whether begging alone or in groups, migrants experience a sense of mutual belonging to the same predicament, even if competition and conflict may occur among migrants from various ethnic groups. The majority of those interviewed highlighted that begging is not a life choice and is frequently a last alternative for migrants owing to a lack of other employment options. Begging begins early and might last anywhere from a few hours to an entire day, depending on the return. Due to the high temperatures in the summer, undocumented migrants must postpone their activities until the afternoon or evening. Others, mostly in Rabat, emphasized that they only seek for charity on religious festivals or on Fridays during prayer time, and that they work in other occupations the rest of the week. Begging varies seasonally as well (Wardhaugh and Jones, 1999, p.110). During Ramadan, many Syrians and Moroccans join Sub-Saharan migrants in begging. In Morocco, the holy month is accompanied by an increase in charity to those in need and a willingness to aid the destitute through giving (alms), as a manner of clearing the conscience and obeying one of Islam's precepts (Kochuyt, 2009, p.3). Migrants frequently create a fake or true Muslim religious identity to be recognized as belonging to shared ideals in order to boost their chances of getting charity. Thus, migrants employ religious expressions, Arabic words learned from other established migrants, to demonstrate a visual link to the local population's religious identity and beliefs.

3.2.4 Housing and Accommodation

Finding housing is one of the biggest issues for undocumented migrants, who are denied access to legitimate renting opportunities owing to their status as illegal immigrants and the restricted resources at their disposal, according to Brenda (2017). She noted that the majority of the individuals she spoke with had looked for a place to reside for a considerable length of time. This frequently forced them to accept more expensive, short-term rentals that were subject to renegotiation at the landlord's discretion. The dynamics of migrant housing were altered when the camps were destroyed in Oujda and other places with the implementation of the new migration policy. Migrants became less noticeable, and the bulk settled into apartments in underprivileged areas. Throughout the interviews, migrants emphasised the lack of options and the unstable living situations, where 15 people share a 20 m² room with intermittent and infrequent access to power and water. The local population's views on immigrants fluctuate between acceptance and outright rejection. Racism in the host society is frequently at the basis of refusals to supply rental housing (Brenda, 2017).

Undocumented migrants encounter significant difficulties in finding housing due to their illegal immigrant status. Brenda (2017) highlights that these migrants are denied access to legitimate renting opportunities, leaving them with limited options. The restricted resources available to them further compound the challenges in securing housing. The scarcity of suitable options forces them to spend a considerable amount of time looking for a place to reside. This search process is complicated by their legal status, which restricts their access to formal housing arrangements. Migrants often depend on their ethnic communities to find housing, and these networks contribute to keeping rents relatively lower. However, the newcomers without access to such networks may face exploitation. This exploitation and marginalization extend not only from the local population but also from other migrant communities, resulting in a complex web of oppression, based on nationality, citizenship and legal status. (Khosravi, 2010) Migrants

need to be cautious about potential police investigation, leaving them vulnerable to landlord restrictions and higher rent possibilities. Apartments are only available to documented and undocumented migrants who have national identity papers. However, many migrants lose their documents during their journey to Morocco or fear providing them to landlords due to the risk of police arrest.

Due to limited housing options, undocumented migrants are frequently compelled to accept more expensive and short-term rentals. These arrangements often lack stability and are subject to renegotiation at the landlord's discretion. The insecurity of these living situations further exacerbates the challenges faced by migrants.

3.2.5 Education

Migrants can only access education through services provided by local and international organisations. While immigrants from Francophone countries may connect with the locals in French, those from English nations must rely on an organisation or their own network to acquire basic services. The majority of the informants had never taken any language classes to help them integrate into society. The few people who can speak in Arabic either picked up the language on the street to survive or picked up some fundamental information in their own nation (for example, Senegal's Islamic education system). After their essential necessities are met, many people would regard investing in language study as a luxury. Some migrants can take dialectal language training from organisations like Asticude and ACM. Yet both sides' officials pointed out that because of the migrants' appalling living conditions, they choose humanitarian relief over language instruction.

Moroccan law does not forbid foreigners from attending school. It allows the children of migrants to attend schools, but the administrative processes deter many of them, particularly the nonregularized, from enrolling in public schools. All children of Sub-Saharan migrants were allowed to attend public schools starting on November 9th, 2013, according to the

Moroccan Ministry of Education, yet, as migrants often do not intend to remain in Morocco, it might be challenging to present documentation such as prior school transcripts and father or guardian identity cards (Barre et al., 2014: 9).

The isolation of the camps and the insufficiency of the system prevent migrant children from studying. Most migrants in camps in Morocco are dissuaded from enrolling their kids in formal or informal schools because of the unpredictability surrounding refugees there. Some immigrants are put off from enrolling their children in school since Arabic and Islamic culture are taught there. Some choose to wait to relocate to Europe for their children's education since they follow a different faith and culture, or they rely on informal foreign curricula provided by churches. (Barre et al., 2014: 28). Nonetheless, despite its drawbacks, some migrants opt to enrol in education. The majority of migrants with children who were born in Morocco have this mindset.

Lynch & Patrick (2013) assert that for a variety of reasons, citizenship and legalization both raise immigrant earnings and improve economic outcomes. By providing them with a road to citizenship, illegal immigrants get legal protections that boost their income. It also promotes investing in immigrants' education and training, which over time leads to higher wages and output; it gives immigrants access to a wider range of better-paying jobs; it promotes labor mobility, which boosts the efficiency of the labor market and increases the returns on the labor skills of immigrants by better matching their skill sets to the jobs they perform; and it facilitates immigrants' ability to launch their own businesses. This provides a more detailed analysis of each of these factors (Lynch & Patrick, 2013).

Migrants face challenges in accessing education due to language barriers. While immigrants from Francophone countries can communicate with locals in French, those from English-speaking nations often rely on organizations or their own networks to access basic services. Many migrants have not taken any language classes to help them integrate into society, and the

limited resources available to them often prioritize meeting their basic needs over language instruction. Migrant children in camps often face barriers to education. The isolation of the camps and the insufficiency of the system discourage migrants from enrolling their children in formal or informal schools. Factors such as the unpredictability surrounding refugees, the teaching of Arabic and Islamic culture, and differences in faith and culture contribute to this reluctance. Some migrants prefer to wait until they relocate to Europe for their children's education or rely on informal foreign curricula provided by churches. Despite the challenges, some migrants choose to enroll their children in education. Migrants who have children born in Morocco are more inclined to pursue education opportunities for their children, highlighting the importance they place on education.

3.3 Effects of Migration Policies on the Human Security of West African Migrants in Morocco

Human security, as already discussed acknowledges the need of creating circumstances where individuals may live happy, successful lives and realise their dreams in their own nations. In order to develop proactive measures to reduce the negative drivers and structural elements that force people to migrate, it focuses emphasis on present, emerging, and future risks at the local and national level, whether they be economic, political, social, environmental, or conflict-related (UN, 2022). According to the UN, the approach encourages the development of early warning systems and proactive resilience building strategies that reduce the likelihood of crises, ensuring migration remains a choice rather than an imperative. While not all challenges can be avoided, they be mitigated to some extent by being forward-looking and risk-informed (UN, 2022). can Law 02-03, Morocco's first law on irregular migration, was passed in 2003 and criminalised movement without authorization, levied severe penalties for those who supported and organised it, improved border security, and began routine raids on migrant camps (Kostas, 2017). The Moroccan government was alerted to concerns by the U.N. Special Rapporteur on

the human rights of migrants the following year about the circumstance and living circumstances of illegal immigrants, particularly those coming from Sub-Saharan Africa. Yet, the plight of irregular migrants in Morocco, as Kostas (2017) again posits, persisted despite these protests and the efforts of Moroccan activists and international human rights Groups that succeeded in bringing to light the maltreatment of migrants in this category.

Many of the undocumented immigrants that enter Morocco never make it all the way to Europe. Instead, because of the stricter securitization measures taken by the Moroccan and Spanish border police, many people are forced to abandon or at least postpone their effort to enter Europe. 60,996 people were arrested as a result of large-scale operations carried out by Moroccan authorities in 2002 alone to stop illegal migration (Kostas, 2017). A little more than 10 years later, Morocco signed the first Mobility Partnership with the EU in the Mediterranean region. This agreement was created to encourage a "global approach to migration and mobility" (basically, to "manage" irregular migration). According to Kostas (2017), Morocco hasn't been eager to round up and send away unlawful immigrants, though. While efforts were successful in reducing the number of unauthorised immigrants entering Europe, many unauthorised immigrants were left trapped in Morocco. Morocco has so become a popular travel destination. These migrants have faced all sort of human security issues at the hands of authorities and security personnel of Morocco's police, bodyguards and army.

One of the major human security issues facing this migrants is the constant arrest, harassment and detainment of these migrants by Moroccan security agencies. According to Kostas (2017), because of their fear of being arrested, which is quite likely to happen either in Morocco or Spain and might result in their deportation to their place of origin, irregular immigrants' decision to stay in Morocco looks to be one that was imposed upon them. Furthermore, it frequently happens that illegal immigrants are unable to satisfy the financial demands of the human traffickers who arrange their travel to Europe. In actuality, those who are the poorest

are the most exposed. Many believe that staying in Morocco is better than going back to their home countries, despite the challenges they may encounter (Kostas, 2017).

The IHD (2020) reports that migrants who enter Morocco on their way to Europe frequently become stranded there because of the limitations in Europe. Media reports on the migrants' poor living conditions in Morocco, which include improvised camps on a football pitch close to a bus stop in Casablanca, where there is little to no sanitation, no heat, and a high prevalence of respiratory diseases in addition to being exposed to traffickers, highlight the numerous human security issues that these migrants face. In addition to these deplorable living circumstances, encounters with Moroccan authorities are frequently confrontational, and many migrants complain of being treated inhumanely, alleging beatings and the use of excessive force (IHD, 2020).

Human rights violations throughout the migration route (in the country of origin, the host country, and the country of transit), as well as possible abuse vulnerabilities, pose serious threats to the security and access to services of migrants in times of emergency. As Heandow (2018) argues, these difficulties are evident in the poor or discriminatory treatment that migrants in Morocco have been reported to have received prior to the crisis, including detention, a lack of labour protections, a restriction on their freedom of movement or a complete lack of it, the denial of their right to organise, and hostility or abuse from employers, Moroccan citizens, or authorities such as the police. In severe cases, such biased treatment has gotten worse during a crisis (Heandow, 2018).

The prejudice and hostility of Moroccan locals is one of the difficulties faced by West African migrants. According to Bendra (2017), in a study conducted, the migrants who participated in the study's interviews regarded their interactions with Moroccans as variable and ambivalent. For instance, whereas inhabitants in Oujda, Meknes, and Rabat tolerate immigrants, there is severe hostility against them in the North (Nador and Tangier). Because Rabat, Meknes, and

Oujda are more cosmopolitan than the North, Nador, and Rif areas, where autochthony is more widespread, may be one reason for this discrepancy (Bendra, 2017). For many years, foreigners, mostly Westerners who are viewed as more attractive, have called Tangiers their home. Sub-Saharan migrant populations are seen as intrusive and unpleasant due to the visibility of migrants at the border and the unfavourable media coverage (De Haas, 2015). While interacting with the public sphere, such as using the transportation system, migrants experience prejudice. According to Bendra (2017), the absence of help from the police and other institutions makes the daily racism and prejudice worse.

In a research by Keygnaert et al. (2014), 154 sub-Saharan migrants (60 F-94 M) were questioned, and 90% of them experienced several victimisations, 45% of which were sexual, primarily gang rape. 79 respondents reported having experienced personal victimisation, 41 had to watch the victimisation of family members or fellow migrants, and 18 had knowledge of peer victimisation. Because sub-Saharan victims are denied access to the formal healthcare system, severe long-term health effects have been observed. The majority of the perpetrators, Keygnaert et al notes, were Moroccan or Algerian authorities and sub-Saharan gang bosses who work at migration "hubs" as unofficial but serious migration professionals. They appear to be acting unchecked. Respondents link risk factors primarily to their undocumented and unprotected status and recommend that immigrant communities launch awareness-raising campaigns on risks while political pressure is applied for legislative and policy changes that uphold human rights, provide legal protection for immigrants, and treat them humanely (Keygnaert et al, 2014). The Moroccan police, who they said handled them harshly, were feared by the women interviewed for this study. Several female victims of sexual harassment by military or police personnel have come forward. An Ivorian lady who was questioned in the Oujda region explained how Tantan in the country's south had been the destination of her deportation. Despite the fact that she had given birth to her child just one month earlier, was

still physically frail after a difficult delivery, and was caring for a very small child, she said that the officers who deported her had been quite harsh (Keygnaert, 2014).

Amnesty International reported that migrants who were hurt by security personnel were denied medical care, and many of them were forcibly transported on buses to other locations in Morocco. According to the article, local prosecutors made an announcement that they had launched an inquiry but took no action to contact potential witnesses, including hurt migrants. Instead, the government charged 79 or more migrants (Amnesty International, 2022).

In Morocco, the migration crisis has long been a significant problem. Migrants from West Africa are among those who have been impacted by this situation.

3.4 How Law Enforcers' Violence Affect the Sense of Security and Wellbeing of West African Migrants in Morocco

Basic Principles of the United Nations on the Use of Force and Weapons by Law Enforcement Law enforcement agents, including border guards, are required to employ peaceful methods before using force, to only use force in proportion to how serious the violation is, and to use fatal force only when it is absolutely necessary to defend life. Governments must make sure that any arbitrary or abusive use of force or guns by law enforcement personnel is sanctioned by their legal system as a criminal act, according to the principles (HRW, 2022). In a number of border control cases, the European Court of Human Rights made it clear that while states can use force if necessary to prevent unauthorised entry into their territory, doing so cannot be justified on the grounds of border control. This includes using force in a way that violates the right to life and the prohibition against cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment, among other human rights (HRW, 2022).

Despite this Law and Provisions, according to Anderson (2014) and MSF (2013), Law 02-03 enacted by the Moroccans have caused regular abuse and injuries, the destruction of migrants' belongings, and the police's expulsion of migrants to the borders of Algeria and Mauritania.

With its new immigration policy, Morocco has taken a confusing dual stance that seeks to win over both of its allies: providing residency cards to nationals of West African nations while winning over Europe by maintaining its security-first stance on immigration. Police abuse illegal immigrants, despite the intensity of these interactions varies depending on the city and how near they are to the border. Crackdowns are frequent in Nador because of its closeness to the Spanish enclave of Melilla (Human Right Watch, 2014: 18-24). In actuality, they began again immediately after the regularisation effort was over (Tyszler, Migreurop, and GADEM, 2015).

Adding to the above Freedman (2012), argues that this legislation controls immigration into Morocco and imposes fines on anybody who aids in the undocumented admission or leave of Moroccans or foreigners, as well as any organisations established for this purpose. The extent to which the criminality of emigration has been institutionalised may be seen in the fact that not only illegal arrival but also irregular exit are therefore punished by the law. She again opines that the criminalization of "irregular" migration to and through Morocco has prompted the Moroccan police and armed forces to use more restrictive tactics against migrants. As a result, migrants are frequently rounded up in Moroccan cities and either detained or sent to the country's borders with Algeria. As a result, the State and its agents are increasingly acting as sources of fear for migrants (Freedman, 2012). Once more, these state-sponsored forms of insecurity have a gendered component since women migrants may receive different treatment than their male counterparts. Furthermore, by failing to acknowledge the gendered violence inherent in the migratory systems that exist inside their jurisdiction, official activities can be perceived as exacerbating gendered forms of inequality and instability (Freedman, 2012).

Amnesty International (2022) reports that in June 2022, some 2,000 people—mostly Sudanese—attempted to cross the border between the Moroccan city of Nador and the Spanish outpost of Melilla. The inappropriate use of force by security personnel on both sides resulted

in the deaths of 37 sub-Saharan Africans and the disappearance of 77 more. 140 members of the Moroccan security forces were among the 217 injured, according to the National Human Rights Council of Morocco. They were attacked by the security officers, who assaulted them and shot tear gas into confined areas. Medical attention was withheld from migrants hurt by security personnel, and several of them were forcibly transported on buses to various locations around Morocco. Despite having initiated an inquiry, the local prosecutors made no attempt to speak with potential witnesses, including the injured migrants. Instead, at least 79 refugees were charged with unauthorised entrance by the police. Law 02-03, which sought to regulate irregular migration developed a security strategy that criminalised migration and imposed harsh fines and prison terms on those who entered or left Morocco unlawfully while excluding them from any protection or help (Elmadmad, 2004, p. 6; Natter, 2013, p. 16). The law contained an ambiguous clause referring to a "threat to public security and order" and thus, justifying the mistreatment of immigrants and foreigners. For instance, even though they are constitutionally excluded from repatriation, pregnant women and minors may nonetheless be expelled (Belguendouz, 2005, p. 16; Elmadmad, 2004, p. 6). The enacted of Law 02-03 has resulted in regular mistreatment and injuries, the damage of migrants' property, and the expulsion of migrants to the borders of Algeria and Mauritania by the police (Anderson, 2014; MSF, 2013). Morocco's stance was supported internally by the official narrative, which was disseminated through the media, by portraying the country as a victim of its geographical location. The perception of migrants as an internal security threat led to an increase in social discrimination (Natter, 2013, p. 24). Local and international NGOs provided assistance to migrants who were the targets of crackdowns and expulsions between 2003 and 2013. They put significant pressure on the government despite working in an environment of illegality and semi-illegality, particularly when the police crackdowns and deportations were harsh. A new immigration policy was introduced by King Mohammed VI on September 10, 2013. The goal was to switch

from the previous security approach to one that was more humanitarian and focused on human rights. With its new immigration policy, Morocco has taken a confusing dual stance that seeks to win over both of its allies: providing residency cards to nationals of Sub-Saharan African nations while winning over Europe by maintaining its security-first stance on immigration. Morocco's new migration policy hides continuous abuses despite these measures. Reports of regular violence against migrants, notably sub-Saharan Africans seeking to reach Cuta and Melilla, the two Spanish outposts dotting Northern Morocco's Mediterranean coast, continue to surface. The charges of systemic violence made by migrants are in line with the conclusions of a Human Rights Watch report published on February 10, 2014. The concerted efforts of Morocco and Spain, according to Amnesty International, have occasionally led to the expulsion of Spanish enclave residents and violence against migrants.

Police abuse illegal immigrants, despite the intensity of these interactions varies depending on the city and how near they are to the border. Crackdowns are frequent in Nador because of its closeness to the Spanish enclave of Melilla (Human Right Watch, 2014: 18-24). In actuality, they began again immediately after the regularisation effort was over (Tyszler, Migreurop, and GADEM, 2015).

The Moroccan security and police forces were responsible for 39.8% of the violent events against migrants that were reported, according to MSF's 2008 study on violence against migrants in Morocco. The study notes that several pregnant women and children were among those detained in October 2007 when the Moroccan police detained a sizable group of migrants in Rabat in order to deport them to the border region at Oujda. The same levels of abuse and brutal treatment were meted out to pregnant women as to other migrants, and no special measures were taken to assure their security. Similarly, a study on the susceptibility of migrants to HIV infection that was created with UNAIDS' assistance claims that during the forcible

expulsion of migrants from Morocco in December 2006, one pregnant lady lost her baby as a result of the abusive treatment she received from security personnel (Lahlou et al, 2007).

Human Rights Watch became concerned about the deaths of at least 23 African males at the Moroccan-Melilla border on June 24, 2022, and they demanded an unbiased, independent inquiry to find out what happened and who is to blame. The fatalities happened as up to 2,000 individuals tried to get into Spain by scaling the high chain-link walls around Melilla, one of two Spanish outposts in North Africa. To provide responsibility and justice for the relatives of the victims, an independent, impartial inquiry should determine the causes of death and if security personnel were accountable for the fatalities (HRW, 2022). According to Judith Sunderland, acting deputy director of Human Rights Watch for Europe and Central Asia, "video and photographs show bodies strewn on the ground in pools of blood, Moroccan security forces kicking and beating people, and Spanish Guardia Civil launching teargas at men clinging to fences" (HRW, 2022)

The treatment of migrants by Moroccan authorities is one of the main issues in any attempts to address the insecurity of migrants travelling through Morocco. As was previously observed, the "securitization" and politicisation of the Moroccan migration debate has made it more challenging for Sub-Saharan migrants to pass Morocco on their way to Europe. While Morocco has the right to guard its borders and implement a legitimate system for processing migrants, it is not justified to treat migrants cruelly, inhumanely, or degradingly by beating them, stripping them of their belongings, or demolishing their makeshift homes.

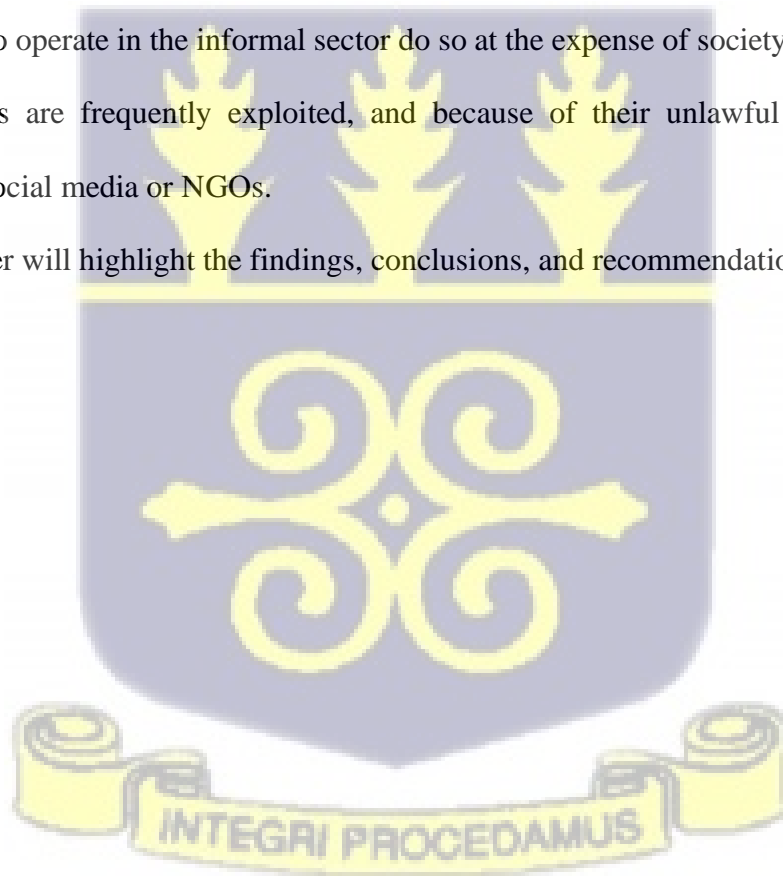
3.5 Conclusion

This chapter outlined the migrant issues in Morocco, the justifications for the country's new immigration laws (Law No. 02-03), and the implications of those laws on the lives of migrants. Similar to undocumented migrants' experiences in other nations like Europe, Moroccan migrants also interact with the public realm in similar ways. Due to their unlawful status and

concern over deportation, undocumented migrants in Europe have restricted access to the labour market, healthcare, housing, and educational opportunities. Instead, individuals must rely on their already-existing social networks, such as ethnic communities and nongovernmental organisations (NGOs). (Khosravi 2010; Willen 2007; Bloch, Sigona, & Zetter, 2014). Nonetheless, even those with documentation experience incomplete integration in Morocco, where they are openly allowed to stay but are essentially denied access to basic rights.

The growing ethnoscape of the nation is not taken into consideration by current Moroccan legislation. There is no assurance that immigrants, whether they have documentation or not, will have access to the job market or to services like health or education. Undocumented immigrants who operate in the informal sector do so at the expense of society's rights. Instead, such employees are frequently exploited, and because of their unlawful status, they are dependent on social media or NGOs.

The next chapter will highlight the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of this study.



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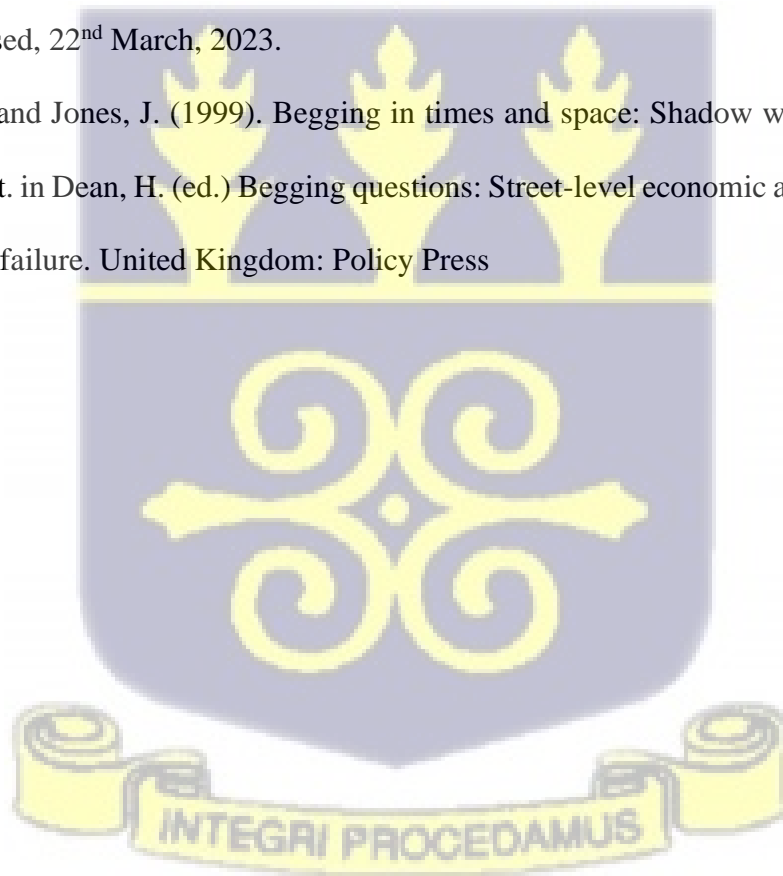
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CHAPTER FOUR

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.0 Introduction

This chapter emphasises the research's results, recommendations, and a summary of its findings. The summary of findings includes recommendations for stakeholders, regional and global organisations, and governmental bodies based on the research objectives.

4.1 Findings

The main focus of the study was to analyse the human security challenges of West African Migrants in Morocco. From 2010-2020, the study specifically aimed at achieving four main objectives which included: To examine how the lack of legal status affects the ability of West African migrants to access basic rights and services in Morocco. To investigate the effects of migrant policies on West African migrants in Morocco. To assess how law enforcers' violence affects the sense of security and well-being of West African migrants in Morocco.

1. Considering the first objective, which was stated to assess the migrant situation in Morocco, the research found out that, the only country in Africa to share a land border with the EU is Morocco, which is situated at the Spanish exclaves of Ceuta and Melilla in North Africa. Morocco has historically functioned as both a site of origin and a transit for migrants and asylum seekers trying to join the EU due to its closeness, with the numbers changing. As a result of the EU taking action to limit migration from Turkey and Libya, the two main departure countries at the time, towards Europe, after the 2015 migrant crisis, arrivals from Morocco to Spain through what is known as the Western Mediterranean route rose. The study also found out that, in an effort to access Europe, many unlawful migrants travel from Sub-Saharan Africa to Morocco. Yet many migrants who arrive in Morocco opt to stay due

to restrictions imposed by Europe and their inability to pay for their onward voyage. As of May 2019, the UNHCR reported 2,505 asylum seekers and 6,489 refugees, a 64.18% increase from the beginning of 2016. From 10,000 in 2005 to 15,000 in 2007 to 4,500 in 2010, Moroccan government estimates of sub-Saharan irregular migration fluctuated from 10,000 to 4,500. In 2008, migrants came to Morocco from about 40 different sub-Saharan countries, with the bulk coming from Nigeria (15.7%), Mali (13.1%), Senegal (12.9%), and the Congo (10.4%). The majority of these people, the study found out, were male (79.7%), young (95.4% were under 36), employed in their native countries (76%) and had completed their secondary or higher education (56%). According to estimates of the distribution of sub-Saharan migrants in Morocco in 2008, over 3000 of them lived in Rabat, 2000 in Casablanca, 600 in Oujda and Laayoune, and 300 in Tangier. The study found that there have been significantly more Sub-Saharan African immigrants and refugees in Morocco, in part due to unrest in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of the Congo, and the Great Lakes region. Sierra Leone, Nigeria, and Cote d'Ivoire have all contributed additional flows. According to a poll, the main Sub-Saharan African migrant origin countries in Morocco today are Nigeria, Mali, Senegal, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, and Cameroon, all of which are in West Africa with the exception of the D.R.C.

2. Also, with respect to the second objective outlined which was to examine how the lack of legal status affects the ability of West African migrants to access basic rights and services in Morocco, the research established that the lack of legal status of West African migrants in Morocco has affected the ability of the migrants to have access to basic rights and services in many ways which include having access to jobs, chances for education, and healthcare.

It was established by the research that, the lack of legal status for West African migrants in Morocco puts them at serious risk for harm to their healthcare, as the denial of rights and lack of access to healthcare apply to temporary international workers, whose irregular status in the society of their destination can both expose them to a higher risk of illness than natives and deny them access to the health services to deal with them.

The study again established that few services are offered to migrants. The Assurance Medical Obligatoire (AMO), sometimes known as health insurance, is only accessible to Moroccan citizens who hold regular, government-sanctioned jobs. There is no similar system in place for migrants, despite promises, and the state-funded Regime d'Assistance Medicale (RAMED) is only available to the most vulnerable. Since 2003, public hospitals have provided assistance to illegal migrants as they were more prone to illness due to their subpar living conditions, notably in the camps. A particularly vulnerable category of people are pregnant migrants. With respect to forced labour, the study found out that In Morocco, prostitution and forced labour are forced upon female illegal immigrants. The traffickers usually keep the women in large groupings in difficult-to-reach places. The women are made to do prostitution in exchange for their "safety." Women frequently lose the security of their "protector" over time, which compels them to scavenge for money on the streets of Rabat, Tangier, Fez, Marrakech, and Casablanca while toting their newborns. The hub of these criminal networks is located in the northern seaside towns of Nador and Oujda, where female migrants are forced to prostitute themselves and beg.

According to the study's findings about employment, both newly documented immigrants and undocumented immigrants struggle to find formal employment. Employers frequently decline to accept newly documented Sub-Saharan migrants due to the lack of employment possibilities and the high unemployment rate (22.3%) among Moroccan university graduates. Furthermore, the job market does not recognise the qualifications of

immigrants, especially those from anglophone countries. Racism may also be a blame for the locals' opposition to hiring foreigners. Due to the misconception that they were the same as foreigners in transit, Sub-Saharan migrants endured years of stigmatisation as being illiterate and underprivileged.

On housing, the study found out that For undocumented immigrants, finding home is one of the largest challenges because they are unable to access genuine rental alternatives due to their immigration status and the limited resources at their disposal. The general public's attitudes towards immigrants vary between acceptance and outright rejection. Many times, refusals to provide rental homes are motivated by racism in the host society.

The study also with regard to this objective and education also found out that, only through the assistance of local and international agencies can migrants gain access to education. Children who live in migrant camps are unable to attend school because of their seclusion and the inadequate system. The unpredictability of refugee life in Moroccan camps discourages the majority of migrants from enrolling their children in formal or informal schools. Because Arabic and Islamic culture are taught in schools, some immigrants choose not to enrol their kids there. Some people decide to put off moving to Europe for their kids' education because they practise a different faith and culture, or they rely on unofficial foreign curriculum offered by churches.

3. With reference to the third objective which was to investigate the effects of Morocco's migration policies on West African migrants in Morocco, the study found out that migrant policies have made migrants to face severe human security challenges which are highlighted by the unfavourable living conditions they endure in Morocco, which include improvised camps with little to no sanitation, no heat, a high prevalence of respiratory ailments, and exposure to traffickers. Along with these appalling living conditions,

migrants regularly have hostile interactions with Moroccan officials and complain of being handled inhumanely, citing beatings and the use of excessive force.

4. Lastly, the fourth objective which was to assess how law enforcers' violence affects the sense of security and well-being of West African migrants in Morocco. The study found out that, Moroccans have regularly injured and abused migrants, destroyed their possessions, and forced them to cross into Algeria and Mauritania by force. This according to the study, has caused frequent abuse and harm, destruction of migrants' belongings, and police expulsion of migrants to the borders of Algeria and Mauritania. There have been abuse and brutal treatment which were meted out to pregnant women, children as well as to other migrants, and no special measures were taken to assure their security. In some cases, these have led to the death of individuals with no accountability from the Moroccan authorities.

Conclusion

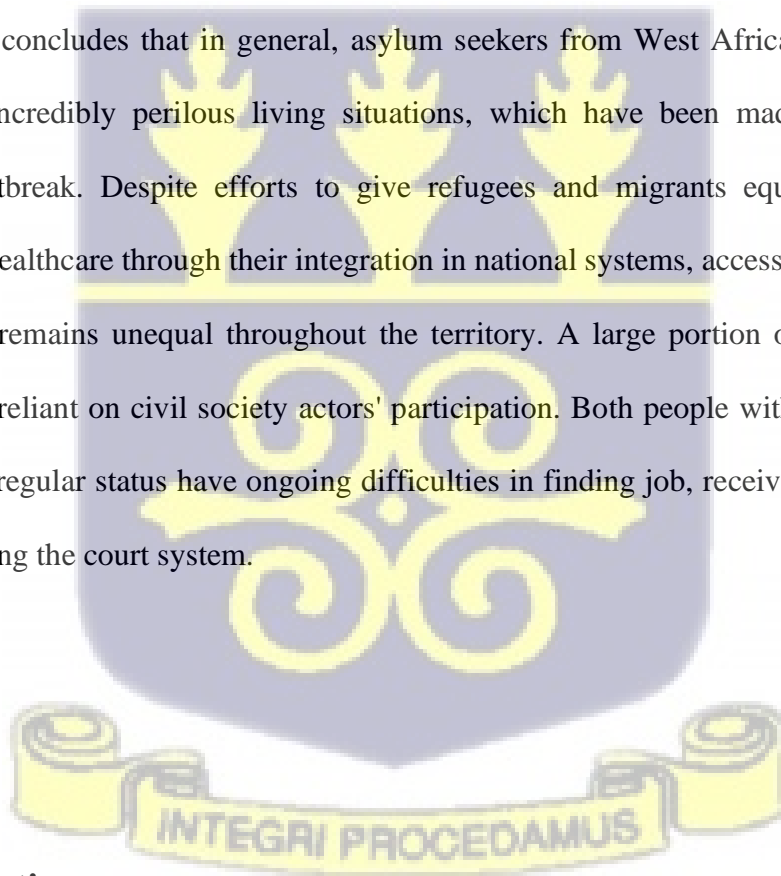
The study's goal was to analyse the human security challenges faced by West African migrants in Morocco between 2010 and 2020 as a result of the migration policies that the Moroccan government had put in place to try and regulate both the inflows and exits of unauthorised migrants. By examining Morocco's migrant policy, the study reveals that the establishment of Morocco's first National Strategy for Immigration and Asylum (SNIA) in 2014, along with the unprecedented regularisations completed in 2014 and 2016, represented a positive change in migration policy towards safeguarding those who are in motion within the nation. However, the lack of expected legal reforms—such as those to the laws governing asylum and the entry and stay of foreigners—also makes it unclear what the SNIA's potential next steps might be and raises questions about whether this novel strategy is still being implemented.

The majority of migrant and refugee flows within the nation travel north as they approach the border and attempt to enter Europe. However, migration to the south and middle of the nation,

as well as to Western Sahara, is encouraged by security force displacements and improved employment possibilities. The Mediterranean Route is the route used for the majority of Moroccan departures. However, restrictions on travel within the nation were imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, notwithstanding an increase in southerly travel and departures via the Atlantic Route.

The study then concludes that those travelling to and through Morocco face significant dangers to their personal safety, especially those who have an irregular immigration status. The route travelled, a person's gender, and their age are a few variables that influence how serious these dangers are. Protection concerns such as racism and prejudice, physical and sexual assault, and domestic abuse are frequently found.

The study also concludes that in general, asylum seekers from West Africa who are on the move endure incredibly perilous living situations, which have been made worse by the coronavirus outbreak. Despite efforts to give refugees and migrants equitable access to education and healthcare through their integration in national systems, access to basic services and protection remains unequal throughout the territory. A large portion of these services' accessibility is reliant on civil society actors' participation. Both people with irregular status and those with regular status have ongoing difficulties in finding job, receiving humanitarian aid, and accessing the court system.



Recommendations

The following are the study's recommendations:

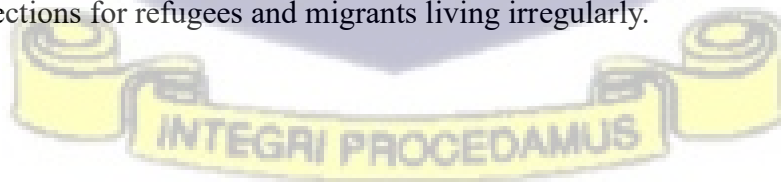
- To prevent more West Africans from considering illegal migration to Europe via Morocco, the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Moroccan Ministry of Interior,

West African governments' embassies in Morocco, Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working on migration issues should work hand-in-hand to increase advocacy, education, and sensitization about Moroccan immigration policy towards West Africans and those living there.

- The ECOWAS Commission, ECOWAS member state governments, Non-profit organizations working on migration in the ECOWAS sub-region must maintain ongoing programs for raising public awareness because interruptions to these initiatives, which are the main tool for reducing illegal migration from West African nations, cause the knowledge and education provided to those who continue to believe in irregular travel and undervalue the tragedies and challenges it brings to become less relevant.
- There should also be effective coordination and strategic bargaining between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of West African countries, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Morocco, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Spain, International Organization for Migration (IOM) to ensure that those who are deported and treated unfairly are dealt with.
- The majority of young people who travel abroad illegally to find work in West Africa come from countries with severe unemployment issues. For this reason, to address the problem, the sub-regional leadership must offer citizens and young people work options to discourage them from taking such journeys. Furthermore, the regional governments must establish factories, which can aid in lowering irregular migration because it is linked to jobs. This should also be directed at places where young people lack employment because these programs can encourage them to stay in their home countries.
- The ECOWAS sub-region must enter into bilateral and multilateral agreements for the use of unskilled labor. The European Union hasn't provided official recruitment chances

for unskilled migrants, and unfortunately, these are the groups of people that travel irregularly over the Mediterranean Sea and Sahara Desert. They are primarily West Africans. Therefore, the ECOWAS union may enter into bilateral and multilateral labor mobility accords that would permit those without skills or who do have some kind of craft experience to migrate as well.

- To meet the growing demands of refugees and asylum seekers for specific protection and support, the study recommends that the UNHCR should modify its operating approach. The UNHCR must address and help these individuals who are disproportionately impacted by the crisis, have little to no sources of income, have pre-existing vulnerabilities that have been exacerbated, and have an increased need for humanitarian assistance to meet their basic requirements. To guarantee that refugees and asylum seekers have constant access to services, both physically and virtually, UNHCR and its partners should work actively. A crucial point of contact for refugees and asylum seekers, protection hotlines are still operational.
- The study also recommend that Moroccan authorities should
 1. Ensure adherence to national laws and international migration treaties and improve the rule of law to ensure accountability.
 2. Create and implement the SNIA's second phase to ensure the sustainability of goals achieved and to address issues, including making sure that the SNIA include protections for refugees and migrants living irregularly.



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