AHDIS UNITED STATE OFFICE

PROGRAM
LEGAL MONITORING AND SUPPORT FOR ILLEGAL MIGRATION IN THE SAHEL
AND IN HOST COUNTRIES IN AMERICA AND EUROPE

April 2024.

Program title:

Monitoring illegal migration and legal support in host countries in America and Europe.

Background and rationale

In recent years, the economic and social context in Sahelian countries has been characterized by growing poverty among the working masses, particularly among the most vulnerable groups, i.e., young people and women.

The distribution of public wealth is extremely uneven, leading to a system of social class polarization in a hostile political environment that fosters impunity, a weakened judicial system and incomplete, non-inclusive social protection policies.

This is not conducive to job creation, in addition to the volume of investment in labor-intensive sectors that are little or inconsistent in the face of endemic unemployment among young people and adults.

Cultural constraints have long made young people the main agents of "income generation" within households, especially in rural and peri-urban areas. Only certain segments of the bureaucratic bourgeoisie generate most of their household income from the head of the household.

The incipient sociological mutations brought about by these cultural considerations are bringing shocks to family relationships marked by "economic and financial power". The son of the co-wife with a substantial income, assumes that the son of the other co-wife or neighbor without means must go and get the money for his well-being in an environment unfavorable to job generation. The last resort is to take the unadvised route of migrating to other, economically more affluent countries.

The essential cause of emigration is the lack of sources of income to ensure the survival of one's family and oneself, in a context where there is no incentive to create jobs or generate income.

Emigration to satisfy cultural and tourist needs is rarely illegal and does not give rise to conflicts with border and/or consular authorities.

The complexity of "illegal migration" lies in the emigration process in both transit and host countries. This is what illustrates the difficulties encountered by emigrants in the Canary Islands, Nicaragua, Mexico, the Saharan countries, and so on.

The increasing loss of would-be emigrants year after year in the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea is indicative of the unsafe nature of the means of transport used and the routes taken. Hundreds of thousands of young people, children and women perish in the waters and deserts along the routes of illegal migration. Others are

experiencing criminal acts unprecedented in the history of the mobility of the continent's African peoples. An economy of migration is taking shape, with operating methods that run counter to humanitarian principles of treatment for the world's citizens.

The management of migrants in host countries differs from one country to another. The common features common to all these countries are the parking of migrants in obsolete sites with unbearable temporary shelters; the organization of their repatriation to their countries of origin, and sometimes at random, to any country willing to take them in; the total destitution of the migrants in the dedicated sites.

AHDIS will be working in the Sahelian zone in the USA and Europe, in conjunction with various project teams on migration issues.

In the Sahelian zone, we'll be promoting information, communication and awareness raising initiatives for young people and their parents, based on information, education and communication (IEC) initiatives involving live and recorded radio broadcasts, online (Internet and YOUTUBE), thematic group information sessions, using teaching aids on the realities of illegal emigration to Europe and the Americas.

At the same time, an exhaustive assessment of the income conditions of potential candidates in young people's environments will be carried out to determine future areas of collaboration with a view to a growing reduction in illegal departures. Setting up and managing an income-generating activities support fund (FAGR) for identified young people and parents, based on the recommendations of the income assessment.

Detection, identification and surveillance of potential "smugglers" will be carried out in close collaboration with the Defense and Security Forces (FDS).

AHDIS-USA works with legal immigrants to the USA from the African continent to provide access to legal aid; English language and citizenship orientations; support for immigrant workers; authorization to work in the USA; job preparation and placement; access to employment opportunities and assistance for day laborers.

Speaking of illegal immigrants, despite their commendable resilience and spirit, their current situation in the United States is riddled with challenges. Many currently face dire circumstances, lacking basic necessities such as sustenance, shelter and adequate clothing. As intemperate weather and seasons approach, their vulnerabilities intensify even further, heightening the urgency of getting help. AHDIS promotes humanitarian assistance for these people and liaises with the US municipal and federal authorities in the areas concerned.

In New York City, U.S. authorities, particularly the Mayor's office, are actively working to meet the urgent increase in needs. A significant number of West Africans have embarked on an arduous journey from Dakar, Africa's westernmost region, to Nicaragua, with the ultimate goal of reaching the United States in search of better opportunities and a brighter future. This journey, fraught with uncertainty, led to the

arrival of over 100 individuals in New York and around 50 in the DMV area (D.C., Maryland, Virginia).

It is against this backdrop that AHDIS will be working with its partners to help manage this new-fangled scourge in Africa.

The main risks associated with the implementation of this project have been identified, and their management will vary according to their impact on project execution. This management includes escalation, delegation and anticipation.

The project will ensure that benefits are sustained by building on other immigration stakeholders, including the International Organization for Migration, government policies and merger efforts with civil society organizations fighting irregular immigration.

Program duration:

The program lasts three (03) years.

Program goal:

Participate closely in the implementation of reliable migration policies in both sending and receiving countries.

Main program objective:

The main objective of the program is to develop an outreach and research approach to reduce the number of clandestine departures of emigrants to developed countries.

Specific program objectives:

The program has the following specific objectives:

Specific objective N°1:

Contribute strongly to a change of mentality regarding unreal knowledge of illegal migration through Information, Education and Communication (with the introduction of appropriate media).

Specific objective N°2:

Increase the annual retention rate of potential emigration candidates in their home countries through a rigorous targeting approach and appropriate economic, financial and technical support.

Specific objective N°3:

Achieve a sharp drop in "departures" by encouraging the fight against clandestine emigration in collaboration with the Defense and Security Forces (FDS); through support for the detection, identification and surveillance of "smugglers" and other criminals.

Specific objective N°4:

Promote constant, local support for legally settled immigrants and humanitarian assistance for the proper treatment of "illegal immigrants" not admitted to the United States.

Specific objective N°5:

Ensure good Coordination, regular Monitoring and rigorous Program Evaluation to make a quality contribution to policy implementation.