



CHILDREN AND YOUTHS ON MIGRATION ROUTES IN NORTH AND WEST AFRICA

THE CHALLENGE

In West and North-West Africa, out of an estimated 40-45 million international migrants, more than 5 million are estimated to be children and youth aged 0-24. To date, there is no accurate data on children and young people in mobility, and it is difficult to obtain data disaggregated by sex. However, a feminisation of mobility has been observed for several years on the African continent. Children and young people make up a large part of the population movements and the reasons for this mobility are very diverse: extreme poverty, the desire to access quality education, the search for opportunities, family or social traditions of migration, escape from violence, political instability or instability linked to conflicts and environmental problems, or simply the search for a better life. Girls have these same motivations, to which are often added the gender inequality and discrimination caused by the socio-cultural constraints of their communities of origin, and which very frequently continue on the migration routes.

THE PROJECT IN BRIEF

Objective: Countries in West and North Africa have and implement a national and transnational normative framework and organisational capacity to ensure that Children and Youth on the Move (EJM) protection, access to education and inclusion in order to improve their chances and opportunities for a dignified life

Donor: Swiss Government

Targets: Children and young people (0-24 years) in mobility

Sectors: Protection, Education, Socio-economic integration

Phase 0 (2021): Preparation (Studies, pilot activities...)

Phase 1 (2022-2024) : Guinea, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Tunisia

Next phase (by 2032) all countries in North Africa and the ECOWAS

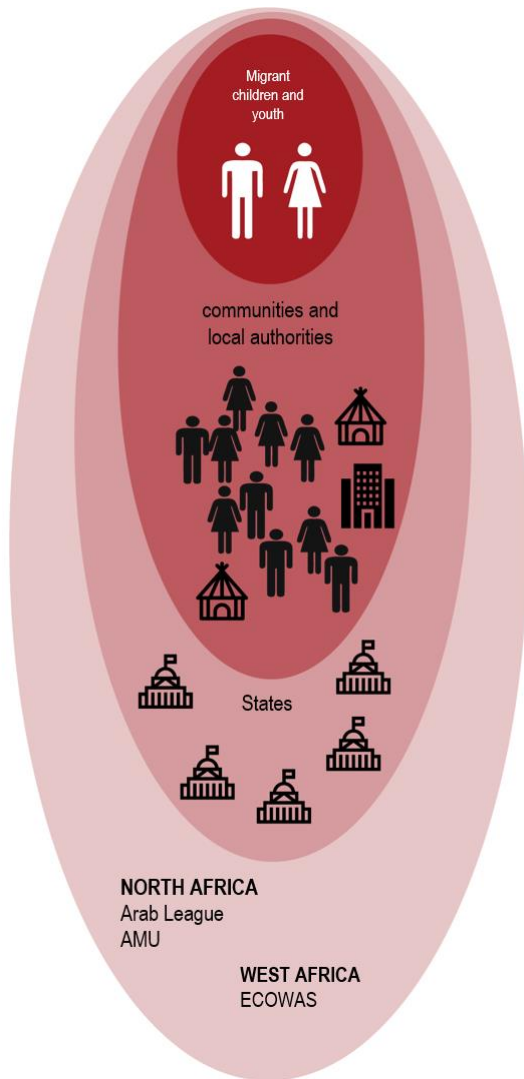
It is estimated that out of **40-45 million** international migrants transiting West and North Africa, **5 million** are children

West Africa's population is expected to reach 517 million in 2030 (+25%)

Sources: DDC, Mixed migration Centre (MMC)

OUR APPROACH

The project aims to empower Children and Youth on the Move (CYM) through the strengthening of national, transnational and regional systems of protection, education and socio-economic inclusion. It encourages actors to identify the problems and constraints that prevent the provision of appropriate services to WCYs and accompanies them in determining inclusive and sustainable solutions.



Children and Young People on Mobility

The WCYs in the target countries and in particular those on the migration routes have access to quality care adapted to their needs. They benefit from development opportunities along the routes. This contributes to their full empowerment through better and more sustainable integration in line with their individual life plans and active participation in decision-making on their future.

Communities and local authorities

Local and host communities and local authorities are involved through a community-based and inclusive approach through capacity building. They provide multiple support to the WCYs. Awareness-raising helps to promote living together and understanding of each other's issues and challenges.

States

Dialogue is ensured with ministries, national actors and local authorities to strengthen their capacity to deliver services to WCYs, to develop and implement appropriate legislative frameworks and to adapt them to new technologies relevant to WCY participation and empowerment.

Regional organisations

Regional bodies (ECOWAS, Arab League, etc.) play their role in coordination and harmonisation. National and transnational cooperation and cooperation with the private sector is strengthened. Switzerland positions itself in terms of protection of children and young people in mobility in line with its International Cooperation Strategy 2021 - 2024

KEY THEMES

PROTECTION

The project aims to strengthen and create protective accompaniment mechanisms for WCYs in the spaces and along the routes of their mobility. Through risk prevention, community protection and formalized care, including gender-based violence, human trafficking and cross-border case management including reintegration, these mechanisms allow WCYs to fit into existing systems to meet the challenges of mobility.

EDUCATION

The project aims to promote the inclusion of EYMs in the existing education systems and to accompany them in acquiring life skills and in learning about the professions. Educational programs are developed to meet different learner profiles and aspirations based on various educational responses (bilingual, accelerated, second chance etc.). The use of digital tools and online education are valued.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

The entire intervention focuses on the aspirations and needs of young people in mobility who are supported in achieving their objectives through the acquisition of skills and competencies adapted to economic realities. The aim is to enable them to better integrate into their communities of origin and destination and to undertake a sustainable integration process.

Implementing partners:

