

# Mapping Migrant Associations in Ghana and Burkina Faso: Exploring Organizational Strategies, Solidarity Networks, and Collaborative Alliances

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Report 01. 2025

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Background and Context

Migration is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon that has profound implications for individuals, communities, and nations. In the West African context, Ghana and Burkina Faso stand out as countries experiencing significant migration patterns. The movement of people across borders is not only influenced by economic factors but is also deeply embedded in sociocultural dynamics, historical ties, and regional interactions. Understanding the role of migrant associations in these contexts becomes crucial for grasping the broader implications of migration on both the sending and receiving communities.

This research project focuses on mapping migrant associations in Ghana and Burkina Faso, shedding light on the organizational strategies, solidarity networks, and collaborative alliances that shape the experiences of migrants in these regions. By delving into the intricate web of relationships formed by these associations, the research aims at contributing to a nuanced understanding of migration dynamics and the ways in which migrant communities organize themselves to navigate the challenges they face.

## 1.2. Rationale of the Study

As the number of migrants continues to grow, the need to comprehend the organizational structures that support and represent their interests becomes imperative. Migrant associations serve as vital entities that bridge the gap between the migrants and their host and home communities. By mapping these associations, this research seeks to provide insights into the diverse ways in which migrants navigate their socio-economic environments, build support systems, and engage with local and transnational networks.

Sha (2021)<sup>1</sup> has identified three main levels at which migrants mobilize to respond to their circumstances or conditions. The micro-level focuses on individual migration decisions, whilst the macro-level looks at aggregate migration trends and explains these trends with macro-level explanations. The meso-level is in between the micro and macro level, e.g. at the household or community level, and can explain both causes and perpetuation of migration (Hagen-Zander, 2008).<sup>2</sup> At the micro-level, while migrants organize largely around individual working conditions and terms of employment, the set of issues that migrants organize around takes a more structural approach at

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<sup>1</sup> Sha, Heila. "Migrant Networks as Social Capital: The Social Infrastructure of Migration." MIDEQ Working Paper, November 2021, p. 3.

<sup>2</sup> Hagen-Zander, Jessica. "Why do People Migrate? A Review of the Theoretical Literature." MPRA Paper No. 28197, January 2008, p. 5.

the macro-level where the focus is often on shifting society-wide structures of oppression and discrimination. Meso-level organizing and the solidarity networks formed may provide migrants with the space to build solidarity in their own ways and to fight exploitation and oppression. How migrants do these depends on the context in which they find themselves, and the set of issues they deal with, the forms of alliances they build, and the impediments they confront. Notwithstanding, the study is motivated by the scarcity of comprehensive research that delves into the specifics of migrant associations in the West African context. By focusing on Ghana and Burkina Faso, this research aims to contribute nuanced insights into the organizational dynamics of migrant communities within these countries and the broader West African region.

### **1.3. Objectives of the Study**

The main objective of the study is to conduct a comprehensive mapping and analysis of migrant associations in Ghana and Burkina Faso, with the view of understanding their organizational structures, networking dynamics, and contextual influences.

The specific objectives of the study, however, include the following:

1. to identify, locate, and catalogue migrant associations, delineating their geographic spread, size, membership, and primary functions for an in-depth understanding;
2. to analyse the organizational structures, operational hierarchies, and strategies of migrant associations at micro, meso, and macro levels regarding migrant-related concerns;
3. to investigate the mechanisms employed by migrant groups to build solidarity within their associations and establish alliances with local communities to address exploitation and discrimination;
4. to explore broader contextual factors, including socio-political, economic, and cultural influences that shape the strategies, alliances, and challenges faced by migrant associations;
5. to document the specific activities, initiatives, or campaigns undertaken by these associations, outlining their objectives, methodologies, and outcomes in addressing migrant-related issues; and,
6. to analyse the interconnectedness, collaboration, and networks between various migrant associations and their relationships with local stakeholders, government bodies, NGOs, or international agencies.

### **1.4. Significance of the Study**

The study is intended to offer a comprehensive understanding of migrant associations, their internal workings, external relationships, challenges faced, strategies employed, and the broader context influencing their activities. This holistic view could potentially inform policies, interventions, and further

research to support and empower migrant communities and address migrant-related issues effectively.

## **1.5. Scope and Limitations**

This research focuses specifically on migrant associations in Ghana and Burkina Faso, limiting its geographical scope to these two countries. The study acknowledges the diversity of migrant experiences and associations within West Africa but concentrates on these two nations for a more in-depth analysis. While the research strives for a comprehensive understanding, certain limitations exist, such as potential language barriers and the reliance on available data. Additionally, the dynamic nature of migration and association activities may pose challenges in capturing a static snapshot of their organizational landscapes.

## **1.6. Research Questions**

To achieve the outlined objectives, this research addresses the following key questions:

[R1]: What methods and strategies are employed by migrant associations to identify and recruit members, and how do these associations maintain and grow their membership base over time?

[R2]: How do the organizational structures of migrant associations vary at the micro, meso, and macro levels, and how does this hierarchy impact decision-making processes, resource allocation, and overall effectiveness in addressing migrant-related concerns?

[R3]: What specific mechanisms and strategies do migrant groups utilize to foster solidarity within their associations, and how do these internal dynamics contribute to the overall resilience and support networks for members facing exploitation and discrimination?

[R4]: How do socio-political factors, such as immigration policies and political climates, influence the strategies adopted by migrant associations in addressing the needs and concerns of their communities, and what challenges do these factors present?

[R5]: What specific activities, initiatives, or campaigns have migrant associations undertaken to address migrant-related issues, and how are these activities structured in terms of objectives, methodologies, and intended

outcomes?

[R6]: How do migrant associations establish and maintain interconnectedness and collaboration among themselves, and what factors contribute to the formation of networks that enhance their collective capacity to address migrant-related issues?

## 1.7. Conceptual Frameworks

This research is guided by a conceptual framework that integrates theories of migration, social capital, and organizational behavior. The framework serves as a lens through which to analyze organizational strategies, solidarity networks, and collaborative alliances of migrant associations in Ghana and Burkina Faso.

## 1.8. Definition of Key Terms

To ensure clarity, key terms such as “migrant associations,” “solidarity networks,” and “collaborative alliances” are operationally defined within the context of this study.

Migrant Associations: For the purpose of this study, migrant associations refer to organized groups formed by individuals who have migrated from their home countries to Ghana or Burkina Faso. These associations serve as social, cultural, and often economic support networks for migrants, providing a platform for collective activities, information exchange, and mutual assistance. Migrant associations may include formal organizations, informal networks, or community-based groups with a shared migrant background.

Solidarity Networks: Solidarity networks, within the context of this research, encompass the social connections and mutual support systems established among migrants in Ghana and Burkina Faso. These networks go beyond individual associations and involve a broader web of relationships characterized by trust, shared experiences, and reciprocal assistance. Solidarity networks play a crucial role in addressing the challenges faced by migrants and fostering a sense of community and belonging.

Collaborative Alliances: Collaborative alliances refer to the partnerships and cooperative endeavors formed by migrant associations with other entities, such as governmental bodies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), or other migrant groups. These alliances are characterized by shared goals, joint initiatives, and coordinated efforts aimed at addressing common challenges, advocating for migrant rights, and contributing to the overall well-being of the migrant community in Ghana and Burkina Faso.

## **1.9. Organization of the Research**

The research is organized into five sections. This introductory section has provided a brief background and overview of the subject matter under study. The second chapter – literature review – explores relevant theories and concepts relating to migration, social capital and social infrastructure of migrant networks. The third chapter – methodology – offers a description of the research method and approach employed by the study in collecting and analyzing data. The fourth chapter – analysis and discussion – explains the findings of the study in light of the given research questions. The fifth chapter – conclusion – summarizes the main findings of the study, and explains their implications for policy action.

## 2. Migration and Migrant Networks in Africa

### 2.1. Introduction

Migrant associations, also referred to as diaspora or community organizations, are essential components of the migration landscape. Levitt and Jaworsky (2007)<sup>3</sup> assert that these associations play a crucial role in fostering the integration and support of migrants in their host countries. Conceptually, these associations align with the transnationalism framework, emphasizing the interconnectedness between the migrants' origin and destination countries (Glick Schiller et al., 1992).<sup>4</sup> Typically, the West African region has been a focal point for the study of dynamic migration patterns influenced by a myriad of economic, political, and social factors (Adepoju, 2008).<sup>5</sup>

The strategies employed by migrant associations are diverse and multifaceted, reflecting the complex needs of migrant communities. Délano (2015)<sup>6</sup> emphasizes the varied nature of these strategies, which encompass advocacy, service provision, and community development initiatives. Advocacy efforts often target policy change and address the rights and welfare of migrants within host societies (Collyer, 2010).<sup>7</sup> Service provision involves offering practical assistance, such as legal aid, healthcare, and educational support (Itzigsohn, 2000).<sup>8</sup> Additionally, community development initiatives may encompass projects aimed at enhancing the socio-economic conditions of both the migrant community and their places of origin (Gamlen, 2014).<sup>9</sup>

### 2.2. Solidarity Networks and Collaborative Alliances

#### 2.2.1. Solidarity Networks

Solidarity networks play a crucial role in the lives of migrants within Ghana and Burkina Faso, serving as vital support systems that bolster their resilience and overall well-being amidst the challenges of integration into host communities. These networks, as described by Glick Schiller et al. (1992), encompass both social and economic dimensions, providing avenues for mutual assistance and cultural exchange. In essence, they serve as

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3 Levitt, P., & Jaworsky, B. N. (2007). "Transnational Migration Studies: Past Developments and Future Trends." *Annual Review of Sociology*, 33, 129-156.

4 Glick Schiller, N., Basch, L., & Blanc-Szanton, C. (1992). "Transnationalism: A New Analytic Framework for Understanding Migration." *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*, 645(1), 1-24.

5 Adepoju, A. (2008). "Migration in West Africa: Patterns, Issues, and Challenges." In *International Organization for Migration (IOM), Migration and Development in West Africa* (pp. 1-24).

6 Délano, A. (2015). *Performing the State: The Bracero Program and Migrant Civil Rights from the 1940s to the Present*. Cambridge University Press.

7 Collyer, M. (2010). "Stranded in Cyprus: Post-Enlargement Mobility and the Challenges of Differentiated Integration." *International Migration*, 48(4), 1-30.

8 Itzigsohn, J. (2000). "Immigration and the Boundaries of Citizenship: The Institutions of Immigrants' Political Transnationalism." *International Migration Review*, 34(4), 1126-1154.

9 Gamlen, A. (2014). "Diaspora Institutions and Diaspora Governance." *International Migration Review*, 48, S180-S217.



lifelines for migrants, offering not only practical support but also emotional sustenance in unfamiliar environments. Bilecen and Gamlen (2017)<sup>10</sup> further emphasize the significance of informal social networks, economic assistance mechanisms, and the reinforcement of cultural and religious ties in shaping the adaptive strategies of migrants. These networks often form organically within migrant communities, offering a sense of belonging and solidarity that transcends geographical boundaries. Through the examination of these networks, researchers gain valuable insights into the intricate social dynamics that underpin migrant communities and contribute to their cohesion and resilience.

In Ghana and Burkina Faso, solidarity networks manifest in diverse forms, each contributing to the cohesion and resilience of migrant communities:

Intra-association networks: Within individual migrant associations, members provide each other with practical assistance, emotional support, and a sense of belonging. These networks foster a strong sense of community and collective identity, serving as the foundation of solidarity within the association.

Inter-association networks: Extending solidarity beyond individual associations, migrant groups collaborate within localities or regions to organize events, share resources, and address common issues. These networks promote unity and cooperation, amplifying the collective voice of migrants and enhancing their capacity for advocacy and action.

Transnational networks: Crossing national borders, these networks connect migrant associations in Ghana, Burkina Faso, and beyond. They facilitate the exchange of information, resources, and support across borders, contributing to the socio-economic development of both sending and receiving countries.

Religious and cultural networks: Shared religious beliefs, cultural practices, and ethnic identities serve as bonds that strengthen social ties within migrant communities. Religious institutions, cultural centers, and community organizations provide support and promote integration, nurturing cultural heritage and fostering a sense of belonging.

Informal support structures: Complementing formal associations, informal networks of friends, family, and fellow migrants offer additional sources of assistance and solidarity. These adaptive networks contribute to the resilience of migrant communities, providing support throughout their migration journey.

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<sup>10</sup> Bilecen, B., & Gamlen, A. (2017). "The Outsized Ethical Footprint of the Global Migration ..." op. cit.

## **2.2.2. Collaborative Alliances**

Collaborative alliances represent a strategic extension of solidarity networks, whereby migrant associations come together to amplify their collective impact and address common challenges. Levitt and Lamba-Nieves (2011)<sup>11</sup> underscore the importance of such alliances, which may take the form of partnerships with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), engagement with governmental bodies, and collaboration with other migrant associations at local and transnational levels.

These alliances serve multiple purposes. Firstly, they enhance the visibility and influence of migrant communities, allowing them to articulate their concerns and advocate for their rights more effectively. Secondly, they facilitate the pooling of resources and expertise, enabling associations to undertake larger-scale projects and initiatives for the benefit of their members. Thirdly, they foster solidarity and mutual support among different migrant groups, transcending individual interests to pursue common goals.

Understanding the formation and functioning of these collaborative alliances and solidarity networks is essential for the present mapping exercise. By documenting the networks of cooperation and solidarity that exist within and across these countries, the research can provide policymakers, practitioners, and the wider public with valuable insights into the collective agency and resilience of migrant communities in West Africa. Moreover, such insights can inform the development of more inclusive and effective policies and programs that recognize and build upon the strengths of migrants and their associations.

## **2.3. Theoretical Framework**

Migration, as a complex social phenomenon, necessitates a robust theoretical foundation to comprehend the intricate dynamics of migrant associations. This section delineates the theoretical frameworks that underpin the analysis of organizational strategies, solidarity networks, and collaborative alliances within the context of Ghana and Burkina Faso.

### **2.3.1. Social Capital Theory**

Social Capital Theory, rooted in the works of Bourdieu (1986)<sup>12</sup> and further developed by Putnam (1993),<sup>13</sup> offers a nuanced understanding of the social relationships that migrants cultivate within their associations. Social capital encompasses the resources embedded in social networks, emphasizing the

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<sup>11</sup> Levitt, P., & Lamba-Nieves, D. (2011). "Social Remittances Revisited..." op. cit.

<sup>12</sup> Bourdieu, P. 1985. "The Forms of Capital." In: Richardson, J. (ed.) Handbook of Theory and Research for the Sociology of Education. New York: Greenwood.

<sup>13</sup> Putnam, R. D. 1993. "The Prosperous Community: Social Capital and Public Life." American Prospect 13, 35-42.

value of trust, reciprocity, and shared norms.

In the realm of migrant associations, social capital theory will be instrumental in deciphering the intricate web of interpersonal connections that contribute to the formation of solidarity networks. By exploring how migrants leverage social ties to navigate challenges and access resources, this theoretical framework provides insights into the socio-relational aspects of migrant association dynamics.

Furthermore, the examination of social capital within migrant associations extends beyond interpersonal relationships to encompass the broader social fabric within which these organizations operate. Members of particular communities are enmeshed in complex webs of “complementary social roles” and reciprocal obligations that are maintained by an “informal set of mutual expectations and prescribed behaviors” (Massey et al., 1987:139).<sup>14</sup> These pre-existing ties can bind migrants and non-migrants together enabling the creation of migrant networks, which facilitate the mobility of migrants. Such networks expand with the entry of each new migrant, which results in an increase in information and resources, and a decrease in the economic, social and psychological costs of migration, which encourages further migration and ultimately leads to the emergence of international migration on a large scale (Massey et al., 1987:4-5).<sup>15</sup> Migration therefore has been conceptualized as a diffusion process: once the network connections in the sending society reach a critical level, migration becomes self-perpetuating because migration itself creates the social structure to sustain the flow of migrants.<sup>16</sup> The study of social networks amongst migrant associations in Ghana and Burkina Faso would thus allow for an exploration of the collective assets, shared values, and communal bonds that underpin their resilience and efficacy.

### 2.3.2. Transnationalism

Transnationalism, a central concept in migration studies, provides a holistic framework for understanding the interconnectedness between migrants’ home and host countries (Glick Schiller et al., 1992).<sup>17</sup> This theoretical lens recognizes that migrants often maintain multifaceted engagements with both their origin and destination societies. In the context of migrant associations, transnationalism elucidates the ways in which these organizations transcend national borders, actively participating in and contributing to the development of both the home and host communities. Through networks of interpersonal relationships, “people, goods, and information circulate to create a social continuum” between two sides (Massey et al., 1987:148).<sup>18</sup>

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14 Massey, D. S., Alarcón, R., Durand, J. and González, H. 1987. *Return to Aztlan: The Social Process of International Migration from Western Mexico*. University of California Press.

15 Massey, D. S., Alarcón, R., Durand, J. and González, H. 1987. *Return to Aztlan...* op. cit.

16 Massey, D. S. 1990. “Social Structure, Household Strategies, and the Cumulative Causation of Migration.” *Population Index*, 56(1), 3-26.

17 Glick Schiller, N., Basch, L., & Blanc-Szanton, C. (1992). “Transnationalism: A New Analytic...”, op. cit.

18 Massey, D. S., Alarcón, R., Durand, J. and González, H. 1987. *Return to Aztlan...* op. cit.

In return, this mobility of people and resources strengthens migrant networks. That is, the ongoing process of return migration, whether by short-term migrants regularly returning home or by settled migrants visiting their community of origin for certain periods each year, play a key role in sustaining migrant networks (Muanamoha et al., 2010).<sup>19</sup> Moreover, the informal fund transfer system or underground banking system established by migrant communities enables illegal immigrants to overcome their particular problems in settlement, whilst also helping to sustain transnational networks.<sup>20</sup> Maintaining transnational ties through migrant networks between the countries of origin and destination is also considered to be a risk-reducing strategy, by making it possible for a migrant to return to their home country at any life stage (Somerville, 2015).<sup>21</sup>

Transnationalism therefore guides the exploration of how migrant associations serve as conduits for the flow of ideas, resources, and identities between the diaspora and their places of origin. It facilitates an analysis of the organizational strategies that bridge the geographic and cultural distances, allowing for a nuanced understanding of how these associations navigate the transnational space. By embracing transnationalism, this research aims to capture the complexity of migrant associations as dynamic entities that straddle multiple socio-cultural and geopolitical spheres.

### 2.3.3. Network Theory

Migrant network theory, drawing on social network analysis (Wasserman & Faust, 1994),<sup>22</sup> provides a systematic framework for examining the structural and relational dimensions of migrant associations. This theoretical perspective allows for an in-depth analysis of the patterns of relationships, information flow, and collaboration within and between these organizations (Tilly, 1978).<sup>23</sup> Network theory is instrumental in uncovering the social dynamics that underpin the organizational strategies, solidarity networks, and collaborative alliances explored in this research (Massey & España, 1987).<sup>24</sup>

Within the context of migrant associations, network theory facilitates the identification of key actors, the analysis of information diffusion, and the assessment of the strength and centrality of relationships. Once migrants begin to find paths to new homes, a social infrastructure develops that enables further migration flows (Massey et al., 1987:4-5).<sup>25</sup>

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19 Muanamoha, R. C., Maharaj, B. and Preston-Whyte, E. 2010. "Social Networks and Undocumented Mozambican Migration to South Africa." *Geoforum*, 41(2010), 885–896.

20 Zhao, L. S. 2013. "Ethnic Networks and Illegal Immigration." *Sociological Focus*, 46 (3), 178-192.

21 Somerville, K. 2015. "Strategic Migrant Network Building and Information Sharing: Understanding 'Migrant Pioneers' in Canada." *International Migration* 53(4), 135-154.

22 Wasserman, S., & Faust, K. (1994). *Social Network Analysis: Methods and Applications*. Cambridge University Press.

23 Tilly, C. 1978. "Migration in Modern European History." In: McNeil, W. H. and Adams, R. S. (eds.) *Human Migration*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

24 Massey, D. S. and España, F. G. 1987. "The Social Process of International Migration." *Science* 237 (4816), 733-738.

25 Massey, D. S., Alarcón, R., Durand, J. and González, H. 1987. *Return to Aztlan...* op. cit.

As ties between sending and receiving societies grow, social networks come into being, and these play important roles in lowering the costs and risks of movement, increasing the attraction of migration for those still in the home country (Massey et al., 1993).<sup>26</sup> By adopting a network perspective, this research seeks to unravel the social architecture that shapes the functioning and impact of migrant associations. This is expected to enable a granular examination of how inter-organizational and interpersonal ties contribute to the adaptive strategies and resilience of migrant communities in Ghana and Burkina Faso.

#### 2.3.4. Gendered Aspects of Migration

Migrant networks influence men and women differently in terms of decision-making and probability of migration (Hagen, 1998).<sup>27</sup> In a society in which women are expected to engage in domestic work and men are expected to be breadwinners, women may face opposition to their migration while men are encouraged to migrate (Boyd, 1998).<sup>28</sup> Moreover, in patriarchal societies where women are subordinate to men, family networks and resources may be made available for men's, but not women's, migration (Toma & Vause, 2014).<sup>29</sup> Additionally, women tend to face greater risks than men do during the migration process (Curran & Rivero-Fuentes, 2003).<sup>30</sup> Trustworthy networks such as close family ties are particularly important for young women when considering migration. Women also benefit more than men from being accompanied during the journey or from information about safe routes (Curran et al., 2005).<sup>31</sup>

Furthermore, men and women may rely on different networks and sources of support to migrate. In part, men and women may have different networks because their friendship and social circles are differentiated by gender, which influences the information and help available to them (Curran & Rivero-Fuentes, 2003).<sup>32</sup> Because men have often been encouraged to migrate abroad, while women have been preferred to stay at home or only engage in internal migration, these historically established norms can shape the resources available by gender (Toma & Vause, 2014).<sup>33</sup> Men tend to rely on broader ties for migration, while women focus on ties with family and close

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26 Massey, D. S., Arango, J., Hugo, G., Kouaouci, A., Pellegrino, A. and Taylor, J. E. 1993. "Theories of International Migration: A Review and Appraisal." *Population and Development Review*, 19(3), 431-466.

27 Hagan, J. M. 1998. "Social Networks, Gender, and Immigrant Incorporation: Resources and Constraints." *American Sociological Review* 63(1), 55-67.

28 Boyd, M. 1989. "Family and Personal Networks in International Migration: Recent Developments and New Agendas." *The International Migration Review* 23(3), 638-670.

29 Toma, S. and Vause, S. 2014. "Gender Differences in the Role of Migrant Networks: Comparing Congolese and Senegalese Migration Flows." *International Migration Review*, 48(4), 972-997.

30 Curran, S. R. and Rivero-Fuentes, E. 2003. "Engendering Migrant Networks: The Case of Mexican Migration." *Demography* 40, 289-307.

31 Curran, S. R., Garip, F., Chung, C. Y. and Tangchonlatip, K. 2005. "Gendered Migrant Social Capital: Evidence from Thailand." *Social Forces* 84(1), 225-255.

32 Curran, S. R. and Rivero-Fuentes, E. 2003. "Engendering Migrant Networks..." op. cit.

33 Toma, S. and Vause, S. 2014. "Gender Differences in the Role of Migrant Networks..." op. cit.

friends, particularly their relationships with other women (Côté et al., 2015).<sup>34</sup> For instance, domestic work is largely assigned to female migrants; hence women are more likely to possess information about such work (Menjivar, 2000).<sup>35</sup> And even where there is little gender segregation in the destination labor market for migrants, there may be distinctly “gender-segregated social spheres” among migrants, leading men and women to rely on different resources to help them overcome both social and economic barriers to migration (Curran & Rivero-Fuentes, 2003).<sup>36</sup>

## **2.4. Contextualizing Migration in Ghana and Burkina Faso**

### **2.4.1. Historical Perspectives**

The historical narrative of migration in Ghana and Burkina Faso provides essential context for comprehending the contemporary landscape of migrant associations (Adepoju, 2008).<sup>37</sup> Internal migrations within regions and ethnic groups, coupled with international migrations driven by economic, political, and social factors, have contributed to the formation and evolution of diverse migrant communities. The historical context not only shapes migration patterns but also influences the challenges faced by migrants and the adaptive strategies employed by associations to address them.

In relation to Ghana, historical migration patterns have included rural-urban migration fueled by industrialization and economic opportunities in urban centers. Internationally, Ghanaians have migrated to various destinations, with distinct waves corresponding to historical events such as independence in 1957 and subsequent economic fluctuations (Teye, 2005).<sup>38</sup> Burkina Faso, characterized by a predominantly agrarian society, has witnessed internal migration linked to land-use changes and external migration influenced by economic disparities and political instability (Bakewell, 2007).<sup>39</sup>

### **2.4.2. Economic Factors**

Economic considerations play a pivotal role in shaping migration dynamics within both Ghana and Burkina Faso. Economic disparities between rural and urban areas, coupled with variations in income levels, often propel individuals to seek better economic prospects in different regions or countries.

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34 Côté, R. R., Jensen, J. E., Roth, L. M. and Way, S. M. 2015. “The Effects of Gendered Social Capital on U.S. Migration: A Comparison of Four Latin American Countries.” *Demography* 52(3), 989-1015.

35 Menjivar, C. 2000. *Fragmented Ties: Salvadoran Immigrant Networks in America*. Berkeley and Los Angeles, Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press.

36 Curran, S. R. and Rivero-Fuentes, E. 2003. “Engendering Migrant Networks...” *op. cit.*

37 Adepoju, A. (2008). “Migration in West Africa: Patterns, Issues, and Challenges...” *op. cit.*

38 Teye, J. K. 2005. “Migration and Development in Ghana: A Historical Perspective.” In M. M. K. Agyemang & B. Ofori-Kusi (Eds.), *Migration and Development in Africa: An Overview* (pp. 29-50). Sub-Saharan Publishers.

39 Bakewell, O. 2007. “Rural-Urban Migration and Agricultural Transformation in West Africa: A Case Study of Burkina Faso.” In J. Oucho & J. Crush (Eds.), *Migration in a Globalized World: New Research Issues and Prospects* (pp. 209-228). Ashgate Publishing.

In Ghana, economic opportunities in the capital, Accra, have been a significant driver of internal migration, while Burkina Faso has experienced migration spurred by challenges in the agricultural sector (Mawutorgo, 2018).<sup>40</sup>

Globalization and economic interconnectedness have further contributed to the transnational dimensions of migration, with remittances serving as a crucial economic lifeline. The economic strategies and development initiatives undertaken by migrant associations are significantly influenced by the remittance flows from their diasporic communities (De Haas, 2007).<sup>41</sup>

### **2.4.3. Sociocultural Influences**

Sociocultural factors play a crucial role in shaping migration patterns, integration processes, and the functioning of migrant associations. The diversity of ethnic groups, languages, and cultural practices in both Ghana and Burkina Faso contributes to the formation of distinct migrant communities. Preservation of cultural identity, language, and traditions becomes central to the mission of many migrant associations, influencing their organizational strategies and collaborative engagements (Mawutorgo, 2018).<sup>42</sup>

Religion also plays a significant role, serving as a key component of solidarity networks within migrant communities. Religious networks provide social support and community ties for migrants, contributing to the cohesion of migrant associations (Vertovec, 2001).<sup>43</sup> The interplay between cultural and religious factors contributes to the unique organizational landscape of migrant associations in these West African nations.

### **2.4.4. Political Dynamics**

Political factors, both within the countries of origin and in host countries, significantly influence migration patterns and the organizational strategies of migrant associations. Political instability, conflicts, and changes in government policies can impact the decision to migrate or the conditions

faced by migrants. Additionally, the political climate in host countries, including immigration policies and public perceptions of migrants, shape the social context within which migrant associations operate (Castles, 2010).<sup>44</sup>

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40 Mawutorgo, K. A. 2018. "Rural-Urban Migration in Ghana: Motivations, Consequences, and Challenges." In M. J. Bylund & E. B. Wam (Eds.), *African Mobilities: Historical Perspectives and Contemporary Dynamics* (pp. 97-111). Routledge.

41 De Haas, H. 2007. "Remittances, Migration and Social Development: A Conceptual Review of the Literature. Social Policy and Development Programme." Paper No. 34, United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD).

42 Mawutorgo, K. A. 2018. "Rural-Urban Migration in Ghana..." op. cit."

43 Vertovec, S. 2001. "Transnationalism and Identity." *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 27(4), 573-582.

44 Castles, S. 2010. "Understanding Global Migration: A Social Transformation Perspective." *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 36(10), 1565-1586.

In both Ghana and Burkina Faso, political stability and regional geopolitical dynamics play roles in shaping migration patterns. The political context also influences the advocacy efforts of migrant associations, as they engage with governments and international organizations to address policy concerns and protect the rights of migrants (Bakewell, 2007).<sup>45</sup>

## **2.5. Organizational Strategies of Migrant Associations**

Migration associations in Ghana and Burkina Faso demonstrate a multifaceted approach to addressing the diverse needs of their communities. This section explores the various organizational strategies employed by these associations, drawing on both scholarly literature and empirical observations.

### **2.5.1. Advocacy and Policy Engagement**

Migrant associations actively engage in advocacy initiatives to address the rights and welfare of their communities. These efforts involve influencing policy changes at local, national, and international levels (Adepoju, 2008).<sup>46</sup> Collaboration with governmental bodies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and international agencies are common to shape migration-related policies, legislation, and programs (Gamlen, 2014).<sup>47</sup> Advocacy activities include improving access to social services, challenging discriminatory practices, and combating xenophobia within host societies (Collyer, 2010).<sup>48</sup> By strategically advocating for the rights of migrants, these associations contribute to creating an enabling environment for their communities.

### **2.5.2. Service Provision and Support**

Migrant associations play a crucial role in providing essential services and network support mechanisms for their members. Services often encompass legal aid, healthcare assistance, language training, and educational support (Itzigsohn, 2000).<sup>49</sup> These initiatives aim to address the immediate needs of migrants and contribute to their successful integration into host societies. Resource centers are established to provide information on legal rights, employment opportunities, and community services (Levitt and Jaworsky, 2007).<sup>50</sup> Collaboration with local and international partners facilitate projects that enhance the socio-economic well-being of migrants and their families (Levitt and Lamba-Nieves, 2011).<sup>51</sup> By offering practical assistance, migrant associations serve as vital support networks, fostering a sense of belonging and security among their members.

<sup>45</sup> Bakewell, O. 2007. "Rural-Urban Migration and Agricultural Transformation in West Africa..." op. cit.

<sup>46</sup> Adepoju, A. 2008. "Migration in West Africa: Patterns, Issues, and Challenges..." op. cit.

<sup>47</sup> Gamlen, A. 2014. "Diaspora Institutions and Diaspora Governance..." op. cit.

<sup>48</sup> Collyer, M. 2010. "Stranded in Cyprus: Post-Enlargement Mobility..." op. cit.

<sup>49</sup> Itzigsohn, J. 2000. "Immigration and the Boundaries of Citizenship..." op. cit.

<sup>50</sup> Levitt, P., and Jaworsky, B. N. 2007. "Transnational Migration Studies..." op. cit.

<sup>51</sup> Levitt, P., and Lamba-Nieves, D. 2011. "Social Remittances Revisited..." op. cit.



### 2.5.3. Cultural Preservation and Community Development

Cultural preservation is a central focus for many migrant associations, serving as a means to maintain a sense of identity and connection to the homeland (Glick Schiller et al., 1992).<sup>52</sup> Associations organize cultural events, language classes, and heritage preservation initiatives to ensure the transmission of cultural values and traditions to younger generations (Levitt and Jaworsky, 2007).<sup>53</sup> In addition to cultural preservation, some associations undertake community development projects in both the origin and destination countries (Bilecen and Gamlen, 2017).<sup>54</sup> These projects may include infrastructure development, educational programs, and healthcare initiatives aimed at benefiting both the migrant community and the community of origin. Such endeavors showcase the multifaceted roles that migrant associations play in contributing to the development of both societies.

### 2.5.4. Economic Empowerment Initiatives

Acknowledging the economic challenges faced by migrants, some associations implement economic empowerment initiatives (Délano, 2015).<sup>55</sup> These initiatives may include vocational training programs, entrepreneurship support, and microfinance projects. By equipping migrants with skills and resources, associations empower individuals to create sustainable livelihoods, reducing their vulnerability and enhancing their economic independence (Levitt and Lamba-Nieves, 2011).<sup>56</sup> Networking opportunities are facilitated, linking migrant entrepreneurs with business mentors, investors, and markets. These economic empowerment initiatives contribute not only to the well-being of individual migrants but also to the broader economic development of the communities they engage with.

### 2.5.5. Network Building and Collaboration

Solidarity networks are integral to the functioning of migrant associations, and deliberate efforts are made to build and strengthen these networks (Glick Schiller et al., 1992).<sup>57</sup> Associations foster collaboration not only within their own communities but also with other diaspora groups, local organizations, and international partners (Gamlen, 2014).<sup>58</sup> Collaborative alliances extend to partnerships with NGOs, governmental agencies, and academic institutions (Levitt and Lamba-Nieves, 2011).<sup>59</sup> Such alliances amplify the impact of

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52 Glick Schiller, N., Basch, L., and Blanc-Szanton, C. 1992. "Transnationalism: A New Analytic...", op. cit.

53 Levitt, P., and Jaworsky, B. N. 2007. "Transnational Migration Studies..." op. cit.

54 Bilecen, B., and Gamlen, A. 2017. "The Outsized Ethical Footprint of the Global Migration Regime..." op. cit.

55 Délano, A. 2015. *Performing the State: The Bracero Program and Migrant Civil Rights...*, op. cit.

56 Levitt, P., and Lamba-Nieves, D. 2011. "Social Remittances Revisited..." op. cit.

57 Glick Schiller, N., Basch, L., and Blanc-Szanton, C. 1992. "Transnationalism: A New Analytic...", op. cit.

58 Gamlen, A. 2014. "Diaspora Institutions and Diaspora Governance." *International Migration Review*, 48, S180-S217.

59 Levitt, P., and Lamba-Nieves, D. 2011. "Social Remittances Revisited..." op. cit.

advocacy initiatives, enhance service provision, and facilitate knowledge exchange. Through strategic collaboration, migrant associations position themselves as key stakeholders in the broader discourse on migration and contribute to shaping policies and practices that affect their communities.

## **2.6. Challenges and Constraints**

Migrant associations confront a myriad of challenges and constraints that demand strategic adaptations for sustained effectiveness in their support for members. These are noted as follows:

### **2.6.1. Limited Financial Resources**

Limited financial resources significantly constrain the ability of migrant associations to effectively address the diverse needs of their members. Operating with minimal budgets, these organizations often find it challenging to implement essential projects and services, particularly in economically disadvantaged communities where resources are already scarce. For instance, a study by Levitt and Lamba-Nieves (2011)<sup>60</sup> highlighted those financial constraints hindered the provision of comprehensive support services such as legal aid, language classes, and cultural integration programs for migrant populations. This limitation not only impacts the overall well-being of migrants but also restricts the associations' capacity to advocate for systemic changes that could benefit their communities.

### **2.6.2. Legal and Bureaucratic Challenges**

Navigating the legal landscape presents intricate challenges for migrant associations, often requiring them to expend significant time and resources on compliance and administrative tasks. Obtaining official recognition and securing necessary permits can be arduous processes, diverting attention and resources away from core activities aimed at serving their constituents. Collyer (2010)<sup>61</sup> emphasized that legal constraints may also impede the associations' ability to effectively advocate for migrant rights, as they must navigate complex regulations that may not align with the interests of their communities. This underscores the need for strategic partnerships and legal expertise to navigate these challenges effectively.

### **2.6.3. Evolving Migration Patterns and Social Dynamics**

The dynamic nature of migration patterns and evolving social contexts continuously pose challenges for migrant associations, necessitating constant adaptation to meet emerging needs within their communities. Economic,

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<sup>60</sup> Ibid.

<sup>61</sup> Collyer, M. 2010. "Stranded migrants and the fragmentation of sovereignty: A decade of change in Ecuadorian migration policies." *Population, Space and Place*, 16(3), 203-217.

political, or cultural changes can significantly impact the types of support services required by migrant populations, requiring associations to be flexible and responsive in their approach. Levitt and Jaworsky (2007)<sup>62</sup> noted that rapid shifts in migration patterns may strain the adaptive capacity of associations, particularly in terms of resource allocation and service provision. This highlights the importance of ongoing research and collaboration with stakeholders to anticipate and address emerging challenges effectively.

#### **2.6.4. Technological Barriers and Opportunities**

Access to and utilization of technology present both barriers and opportunities for migrant associations in their efforts to support their communities. While digital tools offer potential for communication, advocacy, and service delivery, associations in remote or underprivileged areas may face challenges related to limited infrastructure and digital literacy among their members. Délano (2015)<sup>63</sup> emphasized that overcoming these technological barriers requires investments in training and infrastructure, which may be difficult to prioritize amidst competing demands for limited resources. This underscores the importance of targeted interventions and partnerships with technology providers to bridge the digital divide and maximize the potential of digital solutions for community empowerment.

#### **2.6.5. Social Stigmatization and Xenophobia**

Migrants often encounter social stigmatization and xenophobia in host communities, which create additional barriers to integration and well-being. Negative stereotypes and discriminatory practices not only affect the mental health and social cohesion of migrants but also pose challenges for migrant associations in fostering inclusive environments. Collyer (2010)<sup>64</sup> highlighted the need for concerted efforts from both associations and broader society to address social stigmatization and promote empathy, understanding, and respect for diverse communities. This underscores the importance of advocacy, education, and community-building initiatives aimed at challenging discriminatory attitudes and promoting social inclusion.

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62 Levitt, P., and Jaworsky, N. 2007. "Transnational migration studies...", op. cit.

63 Délano, A. 2015. "Beyond nonprofit: Re-conceptualizing Mexican migrant hometown associations in the United States." *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 38(4), 573-589.

64 Collyer, M. 2010. "Stranded migrants and the fragmentation of sovereignty..." op. cit.

## **3. Methodological Design**

### **3.1. Research Design**

The research design employed in this study is crucial for ensuring the robustness and reliability of the findings. A mixed-methods approach was implemented, combining qualitative and quantitative research methods. This approach allowed for a comprehensive exploration of the organizational strategies, solidarity networks, and collaborative alliances within migrant associations in Ghana and Burkina Faso.

Qualitative methods, such as in-depth interviews and document analysis, provided for a rich understanding of the experiences, perceptions, and strategies of migrant associations. Semi-structured interviews with key informants within these associations were conducted to capture nuanced insights into their organizational structures, challenges faced, and successes achieved. Additionally, document analysis of organizational records, reports, and publications offered a historical perspective and further illuminated the evolving nature of these associations. Quantitative methods, including surveys and statistical analyses, complemented the qualitative data by providing a broader overview of demographic trends, organizational sizes, and collaboration patterns. Surveys were distributed to a representative sample of migrant associations in both countries, allowing for the quantification of certain variables and the identification of statistical patterns. This mixed-method approach ensured a holistic understanding of the research questions, leveraging the strengths of both qualitative and quantitative methodologies.

### **3.2. Study Area and Population**

The study focused on selected regions in Ghana and Burkina Faso, chosen based on their significant migrant populations. In Ghana, emphasis was placed on urban areas such as Accra and Kumasi, while in Burkina Faso, Bobo-Dioulasso and Ouagadougou were targeted. The study population comprised members of migrant associations, key stakeholders, and relevant community members involved in migration-related activities.

### **3.3. Sampling Technique**

The sampling strategy was designed to capture the diversity of migrant associations in Ghana and Burkina Faso. A purposive sampling technique was employed to select associations representing different regions, sizes, and focus areas. The goal was to ensure a well-rounded representation of the organizational landscape, considering variations in urban and rural contexts, types of migration (internal and international), and thematic priorities.

## **3.4. Data Collection Methods**

As afore noted, the research employed a combination of qualitative and quantitative data collection methods: These included:

### **3.4.1. Phone Interviews**

Semi-structured phone interviews were conducted with key informants, including leaders of migrant associations, government officials, and representatives from non-governmental organizations (NGOs). These interviews explored organizational strategies, the nature of solidarity networks, and the dynamics of collaborative alliances.

### **3.4.2. Online Questionnaires**

Structured online questionnaires administered through KoboCollect were employed to collect data, aiming to corroborate the findings obtained from phone interviews. These questionnaires sought to ascertain the same information sought through the phone interviews, ensuring consistency and reliability in data collection. The questionnaire design was meticulously crafted to maintain reliability and validity, with thorough pre-testing and piloting procedures. Additionally, for participants who were unable to schedule a phone interview, the KoboCollect questionnaire provided a convenient alternative, allowing for their participation in the study.

### **3.4.3. Document Analysis**

Relevant documents, such as association constitutions, reports, and meeting minutes, were analyzed to complement interview and survey data. This document analysis provided insights into the formal structures, goals, and activities of migrant associations.

## **3.5. Procedure for Mapping Field Data**

The mapping of field data encompassed several key steps, which are here outlined as follows:

### **3.5.1. Definition of Parameters and Scope**

The parameters for mapping migrant associations were defined, which included the following:

#### **3.5.1.1. Duration of Existence**

Associations were classified based on their duration of existence, which included:

1. Emerging associations: Newly formed organizations that are in the process of establishing themselves and building their networks and activities.
2. Existent associations: Organizations that have been in existence for some time, indicating a degree of stability and continuity in their operations and activities. These associations have already passed the initial phase of establishment and are likely to have developed structures, networks, and a track record of involvement within migrant communities.
3. Long-standing associations: Organizations that have been established for many years and have a history of active engagement within migrant communities.

### **3.5.1.2. Legal Status**

Associations may be identified by their legal status, such as:

1. Registered associations: Organizations that have formal legal registration with government authorities, providing them with official recognition and certain privileges and responsibilities.
2. Unregistered associations: Groups operating informally without formal legal recognition, often due to administrative barriers or resource constraints.

### **3.5.1.3. Size of Membership**

Associations may vary in their size of membership, including:

1. Small associations: Groups with a relatively small membership base, typically focused on serving a specific community or addressing niche interests.
2. Medium-sized associations: Organizations with a moderate number of members, reflecting a sizeable but not extensive membership base.
3. Large associations: Organizations with a substantial number of members, often spanning multiple regions or countries.

### **3.5.1.4. Funding Sources**

Associations may rely on various sources of funding, such as:

Self-funded associations: Organizations that primarily rely on membership fees, donations, or fundraising activities to finance their operations.

1. Grant-funded associations: Groups that receive funding from government grants, international donors, or philanthropic organizations to support specific projects or initiatives.
2. Mixed-funding associations: Associations that collaborate with government agencies, private sector entities, or academic institutions to secure funding and resources for joint initiatives or projects.

### **3.5.1.5. Political Affiliation**

Associations may have varying degrees of political affiliation or engagement, including:

1. Politically-affiliated associations: Organizations with formal or informal ties to political parties or movements, advocating for specific political agendas or causes.
2. Non-politically-affiliated associations: Groups that maintain neutrality in political matters and focus solely on addressing the needs and interests of their members.

### **3.5.1.6. Geographic Focus**

Associations can be categorized based on their geographical focus, such as:

1. Community-based associations: Those serving specific communities or regions within a country.
2. National associations: Those operating at the national level within a specific country.
3. Transnational associations: Those operating across borders and connecting migrants from multiple countries.

### **3.5.1.7. Sectoral Focus**

Associations may have a specific purpose or sectoral focus, such as:

1. Local-development: Organizations formed by migrants from the same hometown or region to support development projects in their place of origin.
2. Occupational: Groups organized around a specific profession or trade, providing support and networking opportunities for migrants in that sector.
3. Cultural/Religious: Organizations focused on preserving and promoting the cultural or religious heritage of migrant communities.
4. Advocacy/Migrant Rights: Groups working to advocate for the rights and welfare of migrants, including addressing issues such as immigration policies, discrimination, and social justice.
5. Environmental: Associations addressing issues of environmental sustainability, climate change adaptation, and disaster risk reduction within migrant communities.
6. Gender/Youth-based: Associations addressing gender-based disparities, discrimination, and youth empowerment within migrant populations.
7. Social Services: Organizations dedicated to providing various forms of assistance and support to migrant communities, including but not limited to healthcare, education, housing, employment, legal aid, and social integration services.

### **3.5.1.8. Degree of Formalization**

Associations may vary in their degree of formalization, including:

- 1) Highly-formalized associations: Organizations with clearly defined structures, policies, and procedures, adhering to formal governance and accountability standards.
- 2) Semi-formal associations: Organizations with some level of formalization,

such as elected leadership, written bylaws, or regular meetings, but less rigid structures compared to highly formalized associations.

3) Informal associations: Groups or networks that operate with minimal formal structure or organization, relying on informal mechanisms such as personal relationships, trust, and mutual assistance.

### **3.5.1.9. Migration Trajectories**

Associations may be classified based on the migration trajectories of their members, including:

1. Labor migration: Organizations formed by migrant workers, often focused on issues related to employment rights, remittances, and labor mobility.
2. Refugee or asylum seeker: Groups representing individuals fleeing persecution, conflict, or violence, advocating for refugee rights, resettlement, and integration.
3. Family reunification: Organizations supporting migrants reuniting with family members, providing assistance with immigration processes, social integration, and family support services.
4. Study/Skilled migration: Organizations dedicated to supporting migrants pursuing educational opportunities or seeking employment based on their skills and qualifications in the destination country. These associations may provide guidance on education and training opportunities, professional development, visa procedures, and integration into the workforce or academic community.

### **3.5.1.10. Integration Approach**

Associations can be categorized based on their approach to migrant integration, including:

1. Assimilationist associations: Organizations promoting assimilation into the dominant culture and society, emphasizing the adoption of mainstream norms, values, and behaviors.
2. Pluralist associations: Groups advocating for multiculturalism and diversity, celebrating and preserving migrants' cultural identities while promoting social cohesion and mutual respect.
3. Integration-focused associations: Organizations dedicated to facilitating the integration of migrants into the host society, providing support services, language training, and cultural orientation programs.

### **3.5.1.11. Cross-Sectional Collaboration**

Associations may vary in their collaboration with other sectors, including:

1. Civil Society Partnerships: Associations collaborating with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations (CBOs), and advocacy groups to address common issues and amplify their impact.
2. (Non) Government/Diplomatic Partnerships: Organizations partnering with government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and diplomatic agencies and authorities to influence policy, access resources, and



- implement joint initiatives for migrant welfare and integration.
3. Private-Sector Engagements: Associations collaborating with businesses, corporations, and employers to promote migrant-friendly workplaces, economic opportunities, and corporate social responsibility initiatives.

#### **3.5.1.12. Cultural Affinity**

Associations can be classified based on cultural affinity, indicating:

1. Homogeneous associations: Organizations consisting of members sharing a common cultural, linguistic, or ethnic background, fostering a sense of solidarity and shared identity.
2. Heterogeneous associations: Organizations with diverse membership comprising individuals from different cultural, linguistic, or ethnic backgrounds, promoting inclusivity and diversity within the association.

#### **3.5.1.13. Gender Composition**

Associations can be classified based on the gender composition of their membership and leadership structures, including:

1. Gender-balanced or hybrid associations: Organizations with a relatively equal representation of men and women among their members and leadership positions, fostering gender equality and inclusivity.
2. Male-dominated associations: Organizations where men constitute the majority of members and hold the majority of leadership roles, potentially reflecting gender disparities in participation and decision-making.
3. Female-dominated associations: Organizations where women form the majority of members and occupy the majority of leadership positions, highlighting efforts to promote women's empowerment and leadership within the association.

### **3.5.2. Data Organisation and Analysis**

The collected data were meticulously organized and categorized using MS Excel to classify associations based on the parameters identified above. A quantitative analysis, using STATA, was then performed to generate descriptive information of said migrant associations, including frequency distributions, percentages, averages, and correlations that summarize their salient characteristics and distribution patterns. In addition, qualitative data from interviews, focus groups, and field observations were subjected to thematic coding and analysis, using MaxQDA, to identify recurring themes and insights related to the organizational strategies, solidarity networks, and collaborative alliances of migrant associations.

### **3.5.3. Validation and Reporting**

To ensure the accuracy and reliability of the mapped data, a validation process was undertaken involving peer review, stakeholder consultations, and feedback sessions with experts in migration studies and community

development. These engagements played a crucial role in validating the research findings and identifying any gaps or discrepancies that may exist in the mapped information. The feedback received from the validation process was incorporated in the mapping report to enhance its relevance and usefulness.

The findings of the mapping exercise, and the accompanying visual guide, were documented in a comprehensive report, detailing the methodology, data sources, analysis process, key findings, and recommendations derived from the study. The same was widely disseminated to relevant stakeholders to inform policy efforts related to migrant associations and diaspora engagement.

### **3.6. Ethical Considerations**

Ethical considerations are paramount in conducting research involving human subjects, particularly in the sensitive context of migration and diaspora studies. This study therefore adhered to established ethical guidelines, ensuring informed consent, confidentiality, and voluntary participation of all participants. All literary sources were properly cited, and the research assignment was conducted within the framework of the ToR set forth by ITUC-Africa.

### **3.7. Limitations and Delimitations**

While the selected methodology is designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of migrant associations in Ghana and Burkina Faso, it is essential to acknowledge and delineate the inherent limitations and delimitations that may impact the study's scope and generalizability.

#### **3.7.1. Limitations**

Language Barriers: The study may encounter language barriers, particularly when engaging with diverse migrant communities. Some nuances may be lost in translation, and the availability of translation services may impact the depth of understanding during interviews and document analysis.

Sampling Bias: Despite efforts to employ diverse sampling techniques, there may be inherent biases in the selection process. Associations that are more visible or have established connections may be overrepresented, while smaller or more isolated associations could be underrepresented.

Reliance on Self-Report: The study heavily relies on self-reported data through interviews and surveys. Respondents may provide information based on their perceptions, which could be subjective or influenced by social desirability bias. Cross-verification of data through multiple sources will be employed to mitigate this limitation.

Temporal Constraints: The dynamic nature of migrant associations means

that the study captures a snapshot of their activities at a particular point in time. Longitudinal analysis may provide more insights into changes over time, but such an approach is beyond the scope of this study.

Generalizability: Findings from this research may not be entirely generalizable to all migrant associations in Ghana and Burkina Faso, let alone the broader West African context. The heterogeneity of migrant experiences and associations may limit the extent to which the findings can be applied universally.

### **3.7.2. Delimitations**

Geographic Focus: The study is delimited to migrant associations in Ghana and Burkina Faso, and findings may not be extrapolated to other West African countries. The decision to focus on these specific nations is driven by practical constraints and the need for in-depth exploration within a manageable scope.

Migration Types: While the study acknowledges various forms of migrants, the study may focus primarily on undocumented migrants and their network associations in the two host countries. Delimiting the study this way allows for a more targeted analysis but may however not capture the entire spectrum of migrant experiences.

Organizational Size: The study does not aim to provide an exhaustive analysis of all migrant associations. Instead, it focuses on associations of varying sizes to explore potential differences in organizational strategies, networks, and alliances. However, this approach may not capture the nuances specific to very small or very large associations.

Cultural and Contextual Specificities: The study recognizes the cultural and contextual specificities of Ghana and Burkina Faso but may not delve into the complexities of every cultural group within these countries. The findings will be interpreted within the broader national and regional contexts.

## 4. Analysis and Findings

### 4.1. Overview of Sample Population

This section presents an overview of the sample population analyzed in the study, comprising migrant associations in both Ghana and Burkina Faso. A total of 27 associations were documented in Ghana, while Burkina Faso had 16 associations identified.<sup>65</sup> These associations represent the diverse and dynamic nature of migrant communities within the two countries. They are categorized into three main groups, as follows:

1. Student Migrant Associations: These associations primarily consist of students who have migrated from various countries to pursue higher education in Ghana and Burkina Faso. They serve as crucial support networks for students navigating the challenges of studying abroad, offering assistance with academic, social, and cultural integration.
2. Migrant Community Associations: These associations represent communities of migrants who have settled in Ghana and Burkina Faso for various reasons, including employment opportunities, family reunification, or seeking refuge. They play a vital role in preserving cultural heritage, fostering social cohesion, and advocating for the rights and interests of their members within the host society.
3. Host Organizations Working with Migrant Associations: This category involves organizations collaborating with migrant associations to provide them with resources, support, and advocacy services. They typically are host organizations working alongside migrant associations to address specific issues the latter may face, such as access to healthcare, legal assistance, education, or employment opportunities.

In both countries, these associations and host organizations form an integral part of the migrant community, facilitating social integration, providing essential services, and advocating for the rights and welfare of migrants. Table 1 provides an overview of these categorizations.

**Table 1: Overview of Migrant Organizations Sampled for the Study**

Ghana	Burkina Faso
Student Migrant Associations	
African Foreign Students and Trainee Association in Ghana	Amicale des Etudiants Beninois en Science de la Santé au Burkina Faso

<sup>65</sup> It must be noted that the associations were purposively sampled for the study, and the variations in numbers in the two countries may be owed solely to the availability of said associations to be interviewed, as also the reach and scope of the same. For instance, student migrant associations tend to be more organized in Ghana than in Burkina Faso, hence the higher number sampled for the study therein than in the other.

Ivorian Students and Trainees Association of Ghana	Association des Etudiants Ivoiriens au Burkina Faso
Association des Etudiants et Stagiaires Beninois vivant au Ghana (AESBEG)	
Burkina Faso Students and Trainees Association of Ghana	
Association des Étudiants et Stagiaires Nigériens au Ghana	
All-Africa Students Union (AASU)	
Congolese Students Association in Ghana	
Central African Republic Students and Trainees Association in Ghana	
Togolese Students and Trainees Association in Ghana	
National Association of Nigerian Students, Ghana	
Association des Etudiants et Stagiaires Tchadiens au Ghana	
Guinean Students Association in Ghana	
<b>Total: 12</b>	<b>Total: 2</b>
<b>Migrant Community Associations</b>	
Association of Liberian Communities in Ghana	Association des Sénégalais du Burkina (ASB)
Association of Zabalma Chiefs	Mouvement de Solidarité pour le bien être des sénégalais du Burkina (MSBES)
Malian Students and Trainees Association in Ghana	Association des Ressortissant Togolais au Burkina Faso Mokpokpo
All Nigerian Community (ANC) Ghana	Association des Maliens au Burkina Faso
Association of Nigerian Women in Ghana	Association des Nigériens au Burkina Faso
Sierra Leonian Community in Central Region, Ghana	Association de la Communauté Yoruba au Burkina
Nigerian Doctors Working in Ghana	La Communauté des Camerounais vivants au Burkina (COCAB)
High Council of Malians in Ghana	
Senegalese Community in Ghana	
<b>Total: 9</b>	<b>Total: 7</b>
<b>Host Organizations Working with Migrant Associations</b>	
Migrant Labour Général Workers Union International	Organisation Internationale de la francophonie (RJS Ouagadougou)
Anti-Human Trafficking Unit of the Ghana Police Service	Réseau Syndical sur la Migration au Burkina Faso
SIT Hustlers	Réseau des journalistes sur la migration de main d'oeuvre au Burkina Faso

Migrants Alert Network	Alerte Migration Burkina
Migration Advocacy Center	Association „ la voix des Migrants
	Association de recherche de solutions et d'informations pour les migrations dans le monde (ARSIM World)-Burkina
	Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches sur les Migrations Internationales et le Développement (CERMID)
<b>Total: 5</b>	<b>Total: 7</b>
<b>Total Sampled: 26</b>	<b>Total Sampled: 16</b>

Source: Authors' Compilation

The study thus sampled 12 'student migrant associations' from Ghana and two from Burkina Faso, nine 'migrant community associations' from Ghana and seven from Burkina Faso, and five 'host migrant associations' from Ghana and seven from Burkina Faso. In total, 62% of the sampled associations were from Ghana, while 38% were from Burkina Faso.

Figure 1: Sample Population by Category, per Country

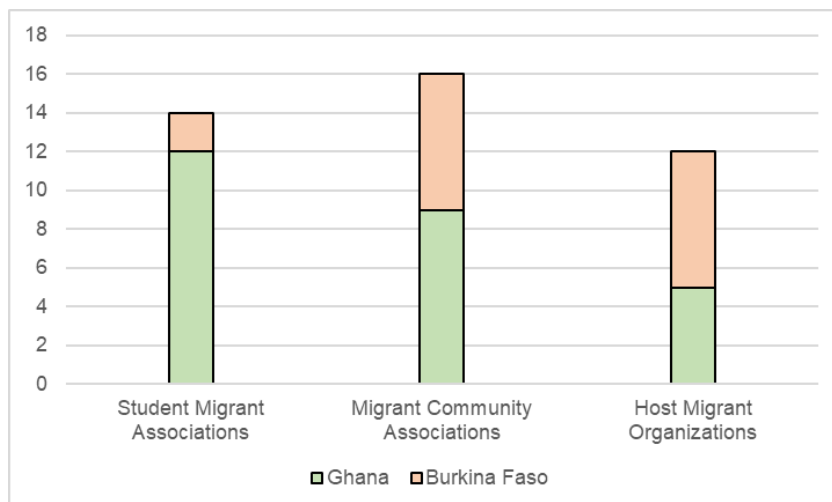
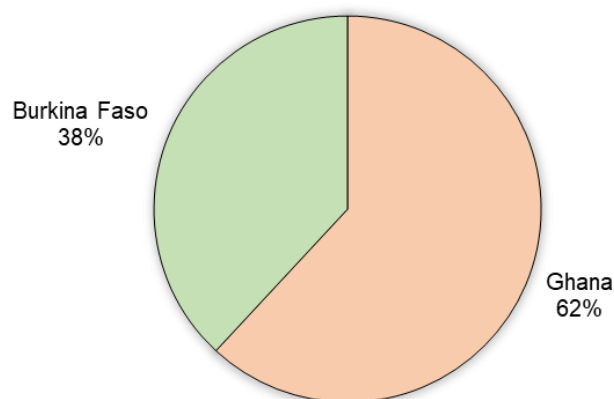


Figure 2: Total Sample Population by Country (in %)



## 4.2. Analysis of Migrant Associations and Networks

The ensuing section discusses the sampled migrant associations and networks based on the descriptive parameters set forth by the study.

### 4.2.1. Duration of Existence

This parameter categorized migrant associations based on their duration of existence in the host nation, thus offering insights into the maturity and stability of said organizations. The classifications included:

1. Emerging Associations: These are newly formed organizations in the process of establishing themselves and building their networks and activities.
2. Existent Associations: Organizations that have been in existence for some time, indicating a degree of stability and continuity in their operations. These associations have already passed the initial phase of establishment and are likely to have developed structures, networks, and a track record of involvement within migrant communities.
3. Long-standing Associations: Organizations that have been established for many years and have a history of active engagement within migrant communities.

The distribution of associations across these categories is summarized in Table 2 below:

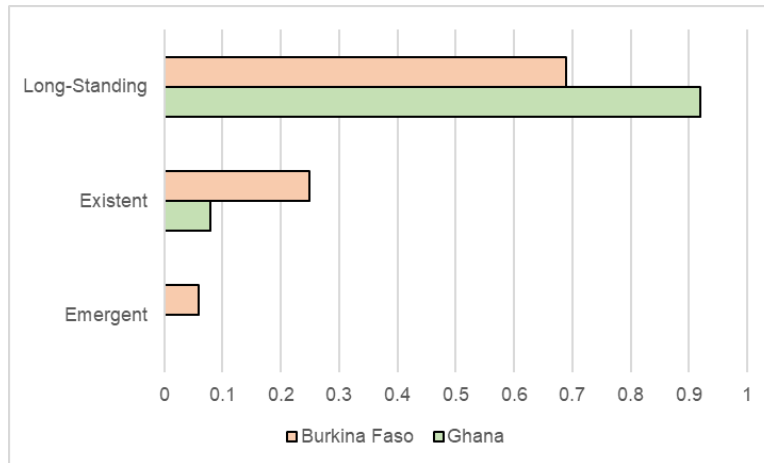
Table 2: Duration of Existence of Migrant Associations per Country Area

Country Area	Emergent	Existent	Long-Standing
Ghana	0.00	0.08	0.92
Burkina Faso	0.06	0.25	0.69

In Burkina Faso, the sole emergent organization identified was the «*Réseau des journalistes sur la migration de main d'oeuvre au Burkina Faso.*» Among the existent organizations in Ghana were the «Migrants Alert Network» and «Nigerian Doctors Working in Ghana,» while in Burkina Faso, they comprised the «*Organisation Internationale de la francophonie (RJS Ouagadougou),*» «*Réseau Syndical sur la Migration au Burkina Faso,*» «*Association la voix des Migrants,*» and «*Alerte Migration Burkina.*»

Notably, the vast majority of associations in both countries were classified as long-standing organizations, indicating a sustained presence and engagement within migrant communities over an extended period. Interestingly, it was observed that all student migrant associations and the majority of migrant community associations in both countries fell under the long-standing category, suggesting a pattern of enduring commitment and involvement within these segments of the migrant population. Figure 3 provides an illustrative summary of the same.

Figure 3: Duration of Existence of Migrant Associations per Country Area



Several factors were found to contribute to the longevity of student migrant- and migrant community- associations observed in the study. Firstly, student migrant associations often benefit from a stable and continuous influx of new members as students enroll in educational institutions, providing a steady base of support and engagement. Additionally, these associations are often affiliated with educational institutions, which may provide institutional support and resources, contributing to their sustainability over time. Moreover, student migrant associations tend to have well-established networks within educational institutions and the broader migrant community, facilitating their long-term engagement and impact.

Similarly, migrant community associations, being rooted in the social fabric of migrant communities, tend to have strong social ties and networks that foster resilience and continuity. These associations may also serve as crucial support systems for migrants, providing essential services and advocacy, which further solidify their presence and relevance over time.

Overall, the findings shed light on the diversity within the landscape of migrant associations in Ghana and Burkina Faso, reflecting the varying degrees of their organizational maturity and engagement within the two host nations.

#### 4.2.2. Legal Status

Migrant associations were distinguished by their legal status, which reflects their formal recognition by government authorities. The classifications included:

1. Registered Associations: These organizations have undergone formal legal registration with government authorities, granting them official recognition and certain privileges and responsibilities.
2. Unregistered Associations: These groups operate informally without formal legal recognition, often encountering administrative barriers or resource constraints.



The distribution of associations across these categories is presented in Table 3:

Table 3: Legal Status of Migrant Associations by Country Area

Country Area	Registered	Unregistered
Ghana	0.81	0.19
Burkina Faso	0.81	0.19

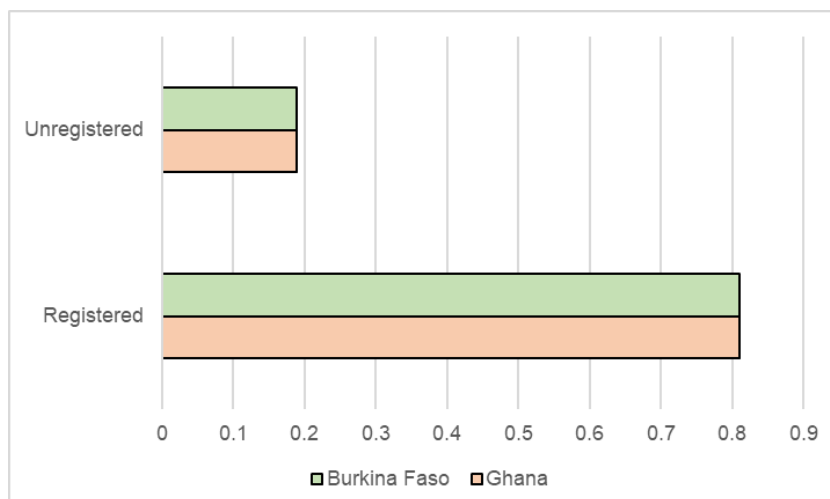
It is interesting to observe that the majority of associations in Ghana and Burkina Faso are registered, with 81% of associations in both countries falling into this category.

Some of the unregistered associations in Ghana included the “Sierra Leonian Community in the Central Region, Ghana,” “Association of Liberian Communities in Ghana,” and the “Migrants Alert Network.” Similarly, in Burkina Faso, they included the “*Réseau des journalistes sur la migration de main d’oeuvre au Burkina Faso*” and the “*Association de la Communauté Yoruba au Burkina*,” amid others.

Interestingly, all student migrant associations in both countries were registered, suggesting a correlation between higher educational levels and compliance with legal requirements.

During the field interviews, some of the unregistered associations and organizations cited several ‘justifiable’ reasons for their present status. These included bureaucratic complexities and high costs associated with the registration process, limited access to legal expertise and support, and concerns about government oversight and regulation. Additionally, some associations expressed a preference for informality to maintain flexibility in their activities and to avoid potential conflicts with government authorities. These findings underscore the multifaceted challenges faced by migrant associations in navigating legal frameworks and highlight the need for tailored support mechanisms to facilitate formal registration and compliance.

A pictorial depiction of the finding is provided in Figure 4 below:



### 4.2.3. Size of Membership

Associations vary in their size of membership, reflecting the scale and reach of their organizational activities. The classifications included:

Small Associations: Groups with a relatively small membership base, typically focused on serving a specific community or addressing niche interests.

Medium-Sized Associations: Organizations with a moderate number of members, reflecting a sizeable but not extensive membership base.

Large Associations: Organizations with a substantial number of members, often spanning multiple regions or countries.

The distribution of associations across these categories is presented in Table 4 below:

Table 4: Membership Size of Migrant Associations by Country Area

Country	Small	Medium-Sized	Large
Ghana	0.04	0.19	0.77
Burkina Faso	0.25	0.31	0.44

Examples of small, medium-sized, and large associations in Ghana include: the “Nigerian Doctors Working in Ghana,” the “Migrant Labour Général Workers Union International,” and the “Guinea Students Association in Ghana,” respectively. In Burkina Faso, they include: the “*Association des Ressortissant Togolais au Burkina Faso Mokpokpo*,” the “*La Communauté des Camerounais vivants au Burkina (COBAB)*,” and the “*Association des Etudiants Ivoiriens au Burkina Faso*,” respectively.

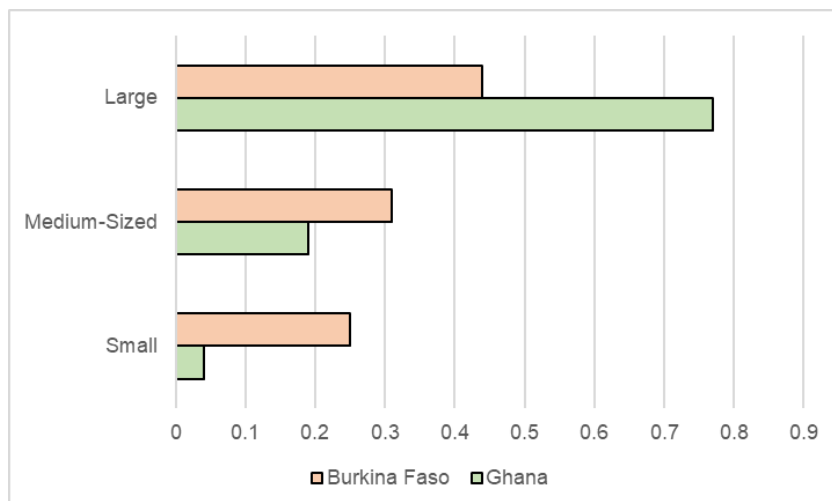
As anticipated, many large and medium-sized associations are typically those that have been in existence for a relatively long period of time. In both Ghana and Burkina Faso, these associations primarily comprise student migrant associations and a significant number of migrant community associations. Notably, the “Nigerian Doctors Working in Ghana” stands amongst the sample as the sole small-sized association in Ghana, a phenomenon likely attributed to the specialized and high-skilled nature of their work. Conversely, in Burkina Faso, small-sized associations consist of several host organizations collaborating with migrant associations in the country. Many of these associations have emerged within the past two years, reflecting the dynamic nature of their formation. However, associations like the “*Association des Ressortissant Togolais au Burkina Faso Mokpokpo*,” although having a long-standing status, have consistently maintained small numbers due to the sporadic nature of Togolese migrants to the country.

Numerous factors have influenced the size of association memberships over time. These factors encompass various aspects, starting with the inherent characteristics of the migrant population, where specific professions or communities naturally draw either smaller or larger numbers. Additionally, the accessibility of resources and support, coupled with the level of community

engagement and networking, significantly influence membership size. Moreover, historical factors, such as the period when the association was established and its effectiveness in attracting and retaining members, wield a substantial impact on membership dynamics. Furthermore, religious and cultural connections between migrant communities and the host nation play a pivotal role in shaping membership patterns, thereby affecting the evolution and composition of associations over time. A comparative analysis of the two countries also reveals a higher number of large associations in Ghana than in Burkina Faso. This discrepancy can be attributed to various factors, including the economic and political landscapes of both countries. Ghana’s relatively stable political environment and better economic prospects may foster the establishment and growth of larger migrant associations, attracting more members and enhancing organizational capacity and outreach. In contrast, Burkina Faso’s political and economic challenges, including instability and limited economic opportunities, have likely influenced migration patterns. Poor political governance, coupled with economic constraints, may compel individuals to seek opportunities elsewhere, resulting in smaller migrant populations and a correspondingly lower prevalence of large associations. This observation underscores the significant influence of political and economic dynamics on the flow and volume of migrants, subsequently shaping the landscape of migrant associations within each country.

An illustrative overview of the afore data is depicted in Figure 5 below:

Figure 5: Membership Size of Migrant Associations by Country Area



#### 4.2.4. Funding Sources

Migrant associations rely on various sources of funding to sustain their operations and activities, categorized as follows:

**Self-funded associations:** These organizations primarily finance their operations through membership fees, donations, or fundraising activities.

**Grant-funded associations:** Groups receive financial support from government grants, international donors, or philanthropic organizations to facilitate specific projects or initiatives.

Mixed-funding associations: These associations collaborate with government agencies, private sector entities, or academic institutions to secure funding and resources for joint initiatives or projects.

The distribution of funding sources across associations in Ghana and Burkina Faso is shown in Table 5 below:

Table 5: Funding Sources of Migrant Associations by Country Area

Country	Self Funding	Grant Funding	Private-Public Funding
Ghana	0.77	0.12	0.12
Burkina Faso	0.69	0.31	0.00

It is observed from the data that almost all student migrant associations and a majority of migrant community associations relied on internal funding sources, such as membership dues, fundraising campaigns, and other internally generated funds. This pattern may be attributed to the grassroots nature of these associations, which often operate with limited resources and prioritize community-driven support. Additionally, the reliance on internal funding mechanisms may stem from a lack of technical expertise in grant or proposal writing, limiting their ability to access external funding opportunities.

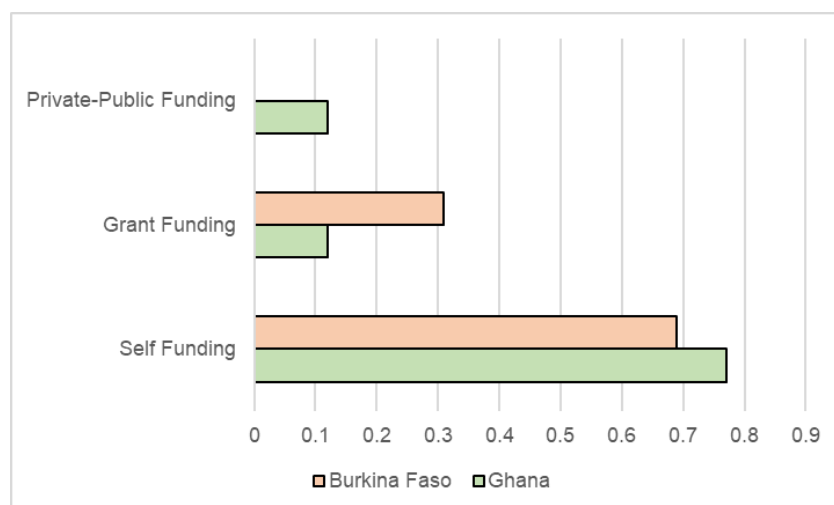
In contrast, host migrant associations in both countries tended to have greater access to grant funding or secure public-private funding. This discrepancy may be due to the nature of their activities, which may align more closely with government or private sector interests, facilitating access to external funding sources for specific projects or initiatives. Exceptions in the Ghanaian case include associations like the “*Association des Étudiants et Stagiaires Nigériens au Ghana*” and the “Malian Students and Training Association in Ghana,” which rely primarily on grant funding and public-private funding, respectively. These associations may have developed strategic partnerships or demonstrated the capacity to undertake initiatives that attract external funding.

In Burkina Faso, none of the sampled associations declared public-private funding as a primary funding source. This may be indicative of limited opportunities for such partnerships within the local context, where government and private sector engagement with migrant associations may be less prevalent compared to other regions.

Furthermore, our analysis found no significant relationship between an organization’s duration of existence or membership size and its primary funding source. This suggests that funding sources are not necessarily influenced by factors such as organizational longevity or size, highlighting the diverse funding strategies adopted by migrant associations across different contexts.

Figure 6 provides an illustrative summary of the afore discussion:

Figure 6: Funding Sources of Migrant Associations by Country



#### 4.2.5. Political Affiliation

Migrant associations may exhibit varying degrees of political affiliation or engagement, categorized as follows:

1. Politically-affiliated associations: These organizations have formal or informal ties to political parties or movements and may advocate for specific political agendas or causes.
2. Non-politically-affiliated associations: Groups that maintain neutrality in political matters and focus solely on addressing the needs and interests of their members.

The distribution of political affiliation among migrant associations in Ghana and Burkina Faso is shown in Table 6 below:

Table 6: Political Affiliation of Migrant Associations by Country Area

Country	Politically Affiliated	Non-Politically Affiliated
Ghana	0.00	1.00
Burkina Faso	0.00	1.00

It is notable that all migrant associations and organizations sampled in both countries declared that they were not politically affiliated with any political party, ideology, or philosophy, neither in their home nor host country.

This observation can be attributed to several factors. Firstly, migrant associations often prioritize addressing the immediate needs and concerns of their members, which are typically related to issues such as social integration, access to services, and cultural preservation. As such, they may choose to remain neutral in political matters to avoid potential conflicts and maintain focus on their core objectives. Additionally, many migrant associations operate within diverse communities with members holding varying political views and affiliations. Maintaining neutrality allows these associations to

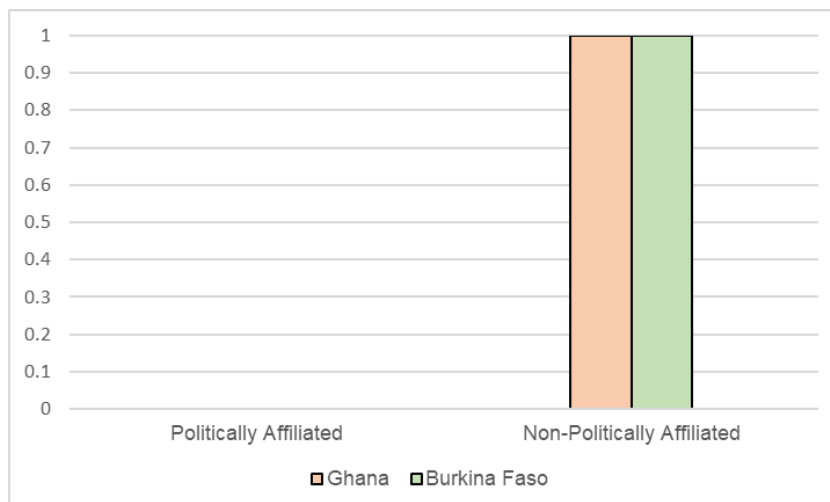
effectively represent the interests of all their members without alienating any particular group based on political beliefs.

Furthermore, in some cases, overt political affiliation may hinder the ability of migrant associations to access funding or resources from government or non-governmental sources, as funding bodies may perceive them as politically biased or divisive. Therefore, remaining non-politically-affiliated may be a strategic choice to ensure continued support and sustainability.

Overall, the absence of political affiliation among migrant associations underscores their commitment to inclusivity, community service, and advocacy for the collective well-being of their members, irrespective of political differences.

The afore data is illustrated in Figure 7 below:

Figure 7: Political Affiliation of Migrant Associations by Country Area



#### 4.2.6. Geographic Focus

Migrant associations vary in their geographical focus, categorized as follows:

1. Community-based associations: Serve specific communities or regions within a country.
2. National associations: Operate at the national level within a specific country.
3. Transnational associations: Operate across borders, connecting migrants from multiple countries.

The distribution of associations based on their geographic focus in Ghana and Burkina Faso is shown in the Table 7 below:

Table 7: Geographic Focus of Migrant Associations by Country Area

Country	Community-Based	National	Transnational
Ghana	0.69	0.23	0.08
Burkina Faso	0.13	0.63	0.25

In both countries, all student migrant associations were community-based. This can be attributed to the nature of student communities, which often form tight-knit groups focused on supporting one another within their immediate surroundings, such as university campuses or residential areas.

In Ghana, a higher proportion of migrant communities were operational only in specific communities, whereas in Burkina Faso, migrant associations had bases in several regions throughout the nation. This disparity may be influenced by several factors, including social dynamics and cultural norms unique to each country. In Ghana, migrants tend to encounter greater social and cultural barriers, such as language differences, discrimination, and limited access to resources, which confine them to specific geographic areas. Additionally, Ghana's unique currency and other idiosyncrasies contribute to the establishment of distinct migrant communities.

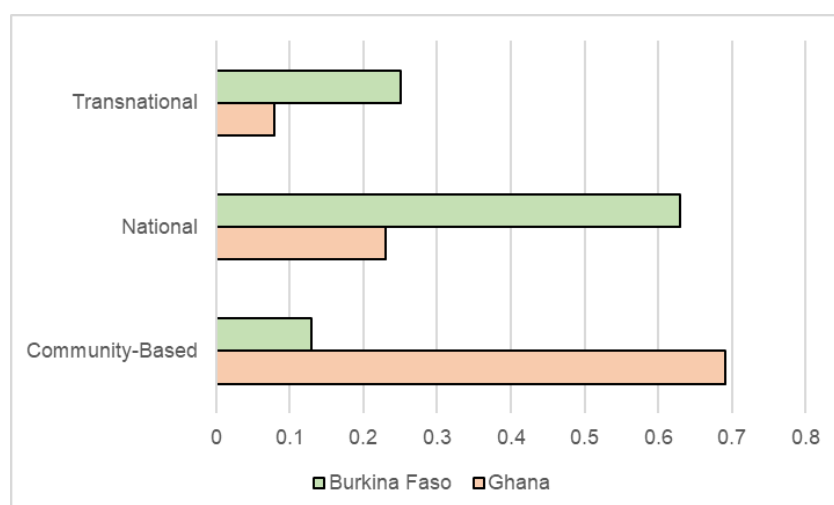
On the other hand, in Burkina Faso, migrants tend to feel a stronger affinity towards the host nation's culture and values, such as communal solidarity, respect for diversity, and acceptance of newcomers. This sense of identification is further reinforced by religious affinity (in particular, Islam), the shared use of the CFA Franc currency, and the French language, which is spoken as it is in many neighboring countries. These factors collectively provide migrant communities in Burkina Faso with greater flexibility to establish themselves and operate in various parts of the country.

Furthermore, associations with a transnational focus in both countries typically had affiliates in several countries. In Ghana, examples include the "All-Africa Students Union (AASU)" and the "All-Nigerian Community (ANC) Ghana," while in Burkina Faso, organizations such as "*Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches sur les Migrations Internationales et le Développement (CERMID)*" and the "*Association de recherche de solutions et d'informations pour les migrations dans le monde (ARSIM World)- Burkina,*" demonstrated transnational connections.

As anticipated, associations with national and transnational geographic bases in both countries typically exhibited long-standing status within the host nation. This implies a relationship between the geographic scope of an association and its longevity, suggesting that organizations with broader geographic reach tend to demonstrate greater stability over time within the host nation. This observation highlights how continuity and long-standing presence in the host nation enable associations to adapt to the local culture and values. This adaptation equips them with the means and resources to expand their scope of operation beyond their initial community or region, contributing to their sustainability and broader impact within the host

country. Figure 8 provides an illustrative summary of the afore discussion:

Figure 8: Geographic Focus of Migrant Associations by Country Area



#### 4.2.7. Sectoral Focus

Migrant associations often have a specific purpose or sectoral focus, including:

1. Local Development: Supporting development projects in migrants' places of origin or within the host country.
2. Occupational: Providing support and networking opportunities for migrants in specific professions or trades.
3. Cultural and Religious: Preserving and promoting cultural or religious heritage.
4. Advocacy and Migrant Rights: Advocating for migrants' rights and welfare.
5. Environmental: Addressing environmental sustainability and climate change within migrant communities.
6. Gender and Youth-Based: Addressing gender-based disparities and empowering youth.
7. Social Services: Providing various forms of assistance to migrant communities, including healthcare, education, and legal aid.

The distribution of associations based on their sectoral focus in Ghana and Burkina Faso is shown in the table below:

Table 8: Sectoral Focus of Migrant Associations by Country Area

Country	Local Development	Occupational	Cultural and Religious	Advocacy and Migrant Rights	Environmental	Gender and Youth-Based	Social Services
Ghana	0.08	0.65	0.62	0.81	0.04	0.15	0.77
Burkina Faso	0.13	0.13	0.38	0.69	0.00	0.06	0.75

In both Ghana and Burkina Faso, migrant associations prioritize certain areas



of focus over others. While advocacy and migrant rights, cultural and religious activities, occupational support, and social services receive significant emphasis, environmental issues, gender and youth-based concerns, and local development are relatively less prominent priorities.

Several factors contribute to this trend. Firstly, migrant associations often address immediate and pressing needs faced by their members, such as legal assistance, social integration, and access to essential services. Issues like environmental sustainability, gender equality, and local development may be perceived as secondary concerns compared to the more urgent challenges migrants encounter.

Additionally, the scope and capacity of migrant associations may influence their focus areas. Many associations operate with limited resources, volunteer support, and organizational capacity, making it challenging to engage comprehensively with a wide range of issues. As a result, they may prioritize activities and initiatives that align closely with their core mission and capabilities.

Furthermore, the socio-political context of the host countries also plays a role. Environmental issues, gender, and youth-based concerns, and local development often require extensive collaboration with government agencies, civil society organizations, and local communities. Migrant associations may face barriers to effectively engage in these areas due to limited networks, institutional barriers, and competing priorities.

In many cases, student migrant associations prioritize social services and occupational support due to the immediate needs of their members. As students, migrants may require assistance with educational resources, accommodation, and employment opportunities. Thus, these associations often focus on providing services that directly benefit their members' academic and professional pursuits.

On the other hand, community migrant associations, composed of individuals who have settled in the host country, often place greater emphasis on cultural and religious activities. These associations serve as cultural hubs where members can preserve and celebrate their heritage, traditions, and faith. Cultural and religious events provide opportunities for community members to come together, strengthen their bonds, and maintain a sense of identity and belonging in their new environment.

The collaboration between student migrant associations and parallel migrant community associations in cultural and religious events enhances intergroup cooperation and community cohesion. For instance, if there is a Senegalese Students Association and a Senegalese Migrant Community, they may collaborate to organize cultural festivals, religious ceremonies, or other such events as Independence Day celebrations. This collaboration fosters solidarity among different segments of the migrant population, promotes

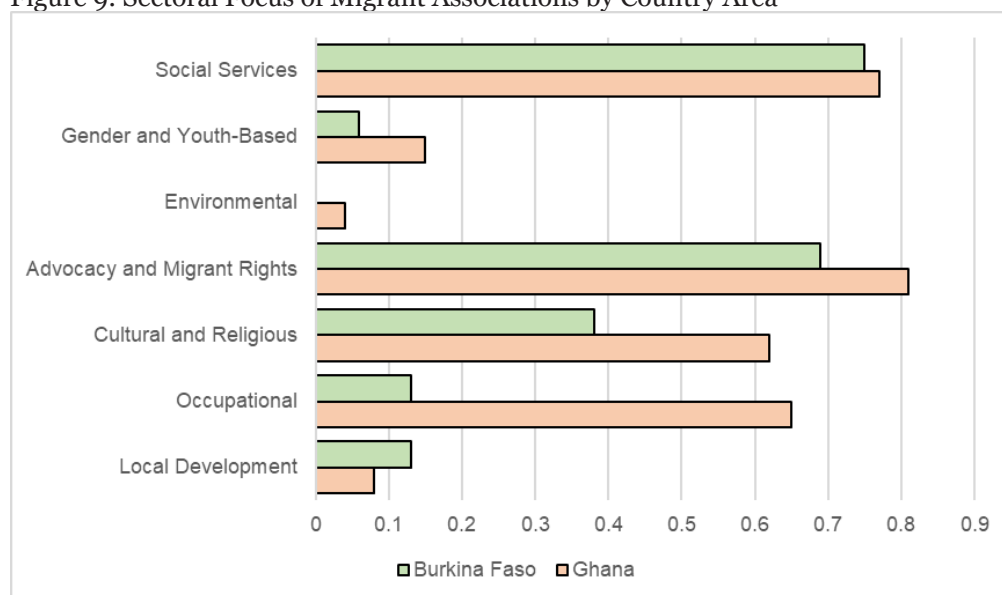
cultural exchange, and strengthens community ties. It also enables the sharing of resources, expertise, and networks, enriching the experiences of both student and community members alike.

In addition to focusing on social services and occupational support, student migrant associations often play a crucial role in providing language classes for new members who may not be conversant with the local language. For example, in Ghana, where English is the primary language, student migrant associations may offer English language classes to help newcomers integrate into academic and social environments more effectively. Similarly, in Burkina Faso, where French is widely spoken, student migrant associations may provide French language classes to facilitate communication and integration for migrants from non-Francophone countries. These language classes serve as vital resources for migrants adjusting to life in a new country. They not only help individuals navigate daily interactions and academic requirements but also promote cultural exchange and mutual understanding among diverse migrant communities.

Host migrant associations tended to focus particularly on supporting migrant associations with social services and advocacy and migrant rights. This emphasis may stem from the recognition of the critical role these services play in supporting migrant integration, empowerment, and overall well-being within the host country. Additionally, advocacy and migrant rights initiatives align with the mission of host migrant associations to protect and promote the rights of all migrants within the community.

Figure 9 provides an illustrative summary of the afore discussion:

Figure 9: Sectoral Focus of Migrant Associations by Country Area



#### 4.2.8. Degree of Formalization

Migrant associations exhibit varying degrees of formalization, categorized as follows:

1. Highly formal associations: Organizations with clearly defined structures, policies, and procedures, adhering to formal governance and accountability standards.
2. Semi-formal associations: Organizations with some level of formalization, such as elected leadership, written bylaws, or regular meetings, but less rigid structures compared to highly formalized associations.
3. Informal associations: Groups or networks that operate with minimal formal structure or organization, relying on informal mechanisms such as personal relationships, trust, and mutual assistance.

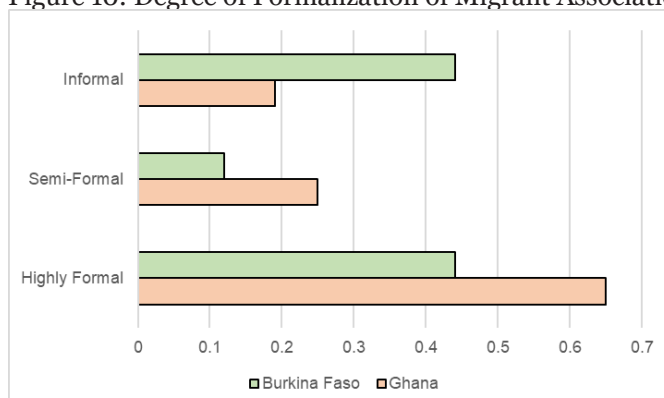
The distribution of migrant associations based on their degree of formalization in the two focus countries is shown in Table 9 below:

Table 9: Degree of Formalization of Migrant Associations by Country Area

Country	Highly Formal	Semi-Formal	Informal
Ghana	0.65	0.25	0.19
Burkina Faso	0.44	0.12	0.44

In both countries, the majority of highly formal and semi-formal associations, as anticipated, were also those that were registered and maintained existent or long-standing status in the host country. Conversely, informal associations tended to be unregistered and maintained emergent status in the host country. Several factors inhibit associations from formalizing. For instance, bureaucratic hurdles, resource constraints, and limited technical capacity may impede the formalization process for migrant associations. Additionally, factors such as the complexity of legal procedures, lack of access to legal expertise, and difficulties in navigating regulatory frameworks can contribute to associations remaining informal. Furthermore, some migrant associations may choose to maintain informality to preserve flexibility, autonomy, and agility in their operations. This inclination is particularly evident in rapidly changing environments or contexts where formal structures may be seen as restrictive. Figure 10 provides an illustrative summary of the afore discussion:

Figure 10: Degree of Formalization of Migrant Associations by Country Area



#### 4.2.9. Migration Trajectories

Associations were classified based on the migration trajectories of their members, including:

1. Labor Migration: Organizations formed by migrant workers, often focused on issues related to employment rights, remittances, and labor mobility.
2. Refugee or Asylum Seeker: Groups representing individuals fleeing persecution, conflict, or violence, advocating for refugee rights, resettlement, and integration.
3. Family Reunification: Organizations supporting migrants reuniting with family members, providing assistance with immigration processes, social integration, and family support services.
4. Study/Skilled Migration: Organizations dedicated to supporting migrants pursuing educational opportunities or seeking employment based on their skills and qualifications in the destination country. These associations may provide guidance on education and training opportunities, professional development, visa procedures, and integration into the workforce or academic community.

The results are displayed in Table 10 below:

Table 10: Trajectory of Migrant Associations by Country Area

Country	Labor Migration	Refugee / Asylum Seeker	Family Reunification	Study / Skilled Migration
Ghana	0.88	0.15	0.08	0.65
Burkina Faso	0.81	0.38	0.44	0.63

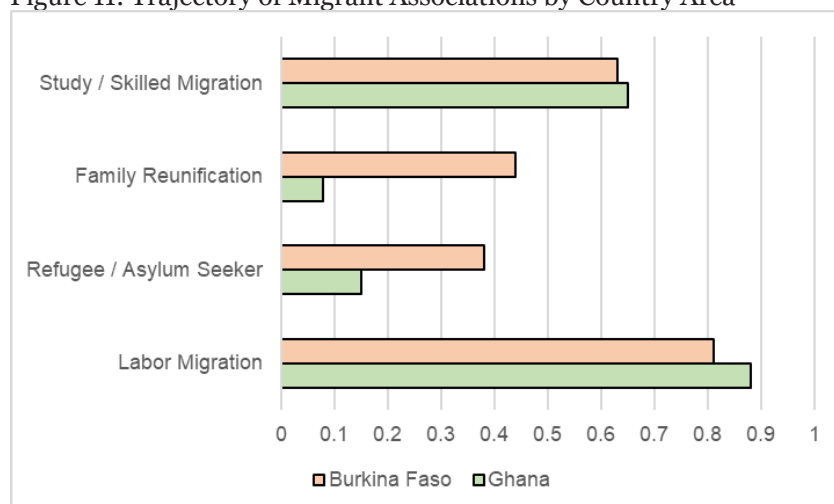
It is noteworthy that a significant proportion of migrant association members in both Ghana and Burkina Faso migrated to these nations for either work or study purposes. For instance, members of student migrant associations often arrived in Ghana to learn English, while their counterparts in Burkina Faso came to acquire proficiency in French. Subsequently, many of these individuals pursued full-time degree programs in their respective host nations, opting to remain thereafter to explore employment opportunities. Additionally, among the membership base of both student and community migrant associations are artisans who completed apprenticeships in their home countries and journeyed to Ghana and Burkina Faso primarily to enhance their language skills and secure employment.

Regarding migrant communities, a substantial number have established roots in the host countries, with some acquiring permits and means to facilitate the reunification of their families from their home nations. Although this demographic represents a relatively small portion of migrants, their presence underscores the significance of family ties and support networks in the migration experience. Similarly, refugees and asylum seekers, while awaiting the processing of their applications, often integrate into migrant communities within the host nations, seeking assistance and guidance

during their transitional periods. In essence, labor migration stands out as the primary reason why the majority of members belonging to migrant associations choose to immigrate to Ghana and Burkina Faso.

Figure 11 provides an illustrative summary of the afore discussion:

Figure 11: Trajectory of Migrant Associations by Country Area



#### 4.2.10. Integration Approach

The integration approach of migrant associations were categorized into three main headings, as follows:

1. **Assimilationist:** These organizations advocate for the assimilation of migrants into the dominant culture and society, promoting the adoption of mainstream norms, values, and behaviors.
2. **Pluralist:** Groups with a pluralist approach celebrate and preserve migrants' cultural identities while promoting multiculturalism and diversity. They emphasize social cohesion and mutual respect among diverse communities.
3. **Integrationist:** Organizations following an integrationist approach are dedicated to facilitating the integration of migrants into the host society. They provide support services, language training, and cultural orientation programs to help migrants adapt and thrive in their new environment.

The distribution of integration approaches among migrant associations in Ghana and Burkina Faso is shown in the table below:

Table 11: Integration Approach of Migrant Associations by Country Area

Country	Assimilationist	Pluralist	Integrationist
Ghana	0.00	0.65	0.35
Burkina Faso	0.00	0.06	0.94

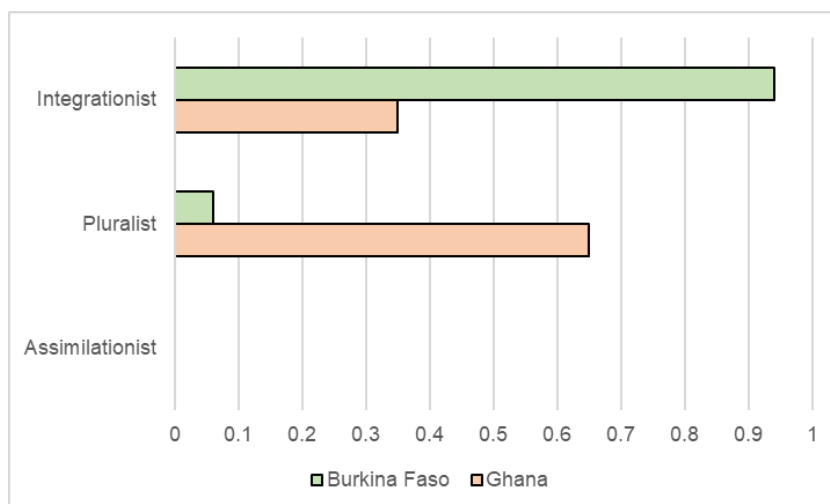
It is worthy to note that migrant associations in both countries do not espouse assimilationist views, indicating a desire to engage and interact with members

of the host community. However, there is a notable difference between Ghana and Burkina Faso regarding pluralist and integrationist views. The majority of migrant associations in Burkina Faso adopt an integrationist stance, reflecting a strong desire to fully integrate into the host community. In contrast, a significant number of associations in Ghana adhere to pluralist views, which emphasize cultural preservation alongside interaction with the host community.

This disparity aligns with earlier findings on the geographic focus of migrant associations. In Burkina Faso, where associations operate across multiple regions, the fluid identification with the host culture fosters a greater inclination towards integration. Conversely, in Ghana, where associations are more regionally confined, maintaining cultural norms and values becomes a priority, leading to a preference for pluralist approaches, especially in situations of cultural conflict.

The study however did not find any significant correlations between specific association types and integration approaches. For instance, neither student migrant associations nor community migrant associations in both countries evinced a propensity for a particular kind of integration approach. Figure 12 provides an illustrative summary of the afore discussion:

Figure 12: Integration Approach of Migrant Associations by Country Area



#### 4.2.11. Cross-Sectional Collaboration

Associations engage in various forms of collaboration with different sectors, including:

Civil Society Partnerships: Collaborations with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations (CBOs), and advocacy groups to address common issues and amplify impact.

1. (Non)Governmental/Diplomatic Partnerships: Partnerships with government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and diplomatic entities

to influence policy, access resources, and implement joint initiatives for migrant welfare and integration.

2. Private-Sector Engagements: Collaborations with businesses, corporations, and employers to promote migrant-friendly workplaces, economic opportunities, and corporate social responsibility initiatives.

The distribution of cross-sectional collaboration amongst migrant associations in Ghana and Burkina Faso is shown in the table below:

Table 12: Cross-Sectional Collaborations of Migrant Associations by Country Area

Country	Civil Society	(Non) Governmental / Diplomatic	Private Sector
Ghana	0.88	0.73	0.19
Burkina Faso	0.88	0.88	0

Based on the data presented in the table, it is evident that a substantial number of migrant associations in both Ghana and Burkina Faso engage in collaboration with civil society organizations, including other migrant associations, as well as governmental, non-governmental, and diplomatic agencies.

The high percentage of collaboration with CSOs, including NGOs, CBOs, and advocacy groups, as indicated in the table, suggests that associations in both Ghana and Burkina Faso prioritize partnerships with these entities to collectively address migrant-related issues and maximize impact. This collaboration often involves joint projects, campaigns, and advocacy efforts aimed at improving the welfare and rights of migrants. For example, migrant associations in both countries may partner with local NGOs to provide legal aid clinics for migrants, organize community events to raise awareness about migrant rights, or collaborate with advocacy groups to lobby for policy changes that benefit migrant communities.

In some cases, said collaboration is between different migrant associations in the host country. In Ghana, for instance, the “All-Africa Students Union (AASU)” collaborates with other student migrant associations from various African countries to execute joint projects and programs. Similarly, the “Association of Nigerian Women in Ghana” and the “National Association of Nigerian Students, Ghana” are both part of the “All-Nigerian Community (ANC) Ghana,” thereby fostering collaboration among Nigerian migrant associations in the country. Similarly in Burkina Faso, associations like the “Mouvement de Solidarité pour le bien être des sénégalais du Burkina (MSBES)” collaborate with larger networks such as the “Association des Sénégalais du Burkina (ASB)” to organize events and initiatives for migrant communities. This collaboration leverages shared national, linguistic, religious, or ethnic characteristics to enhance effectiveness and impact.

Furthermore, the significant level of collaboration with governmental and diplomatic entities, as evidenced in the table, highlights the importance

of engaging with these entities to influence policies, access resources, and implement initiatives for migrant welfare. This collaboration takes various forms, including participation in government-led task forces or committees on migrant integration, collaboration with international organizations to access funding for migrant programs, or engagement with diplomatic missions to address issues affecting migrant communities. For instance, associations in both Ghana and Burkina Faso work with government agencies in their home country to develop policies that support migrant entrepreneurship, or in some instances partner with international organizations to access funding for education and training programs for migrants. Additionally, associations often collaborate with their local embassies to secure funding for various projects, such as Independence Day celebrations, or organize cultural programs that promote shared national identity among migrant communities.

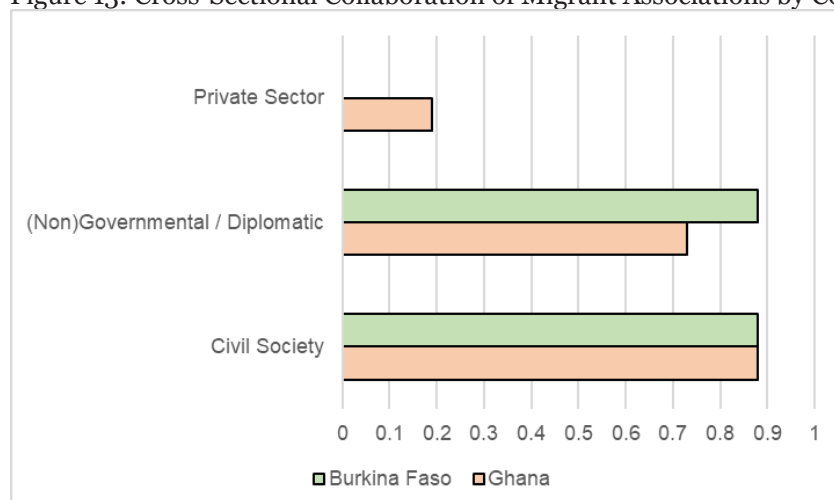
The findings moreover indicate that cross-sectional collaboration with private entities among migrant associations in both Ghana and Burkina Faso is notably low. Several factors contribute to this trend. Firstly, there appears to be a lack of awareness among migrant associations regarding the potential benefits of collaborating with private sector organizations and how to initiate such collaboration effectively. Secondly, limited resources and capacity within migrant associations may hinder their ability to engage with private sector entities, particularly if they prioritize addressing immediate needs or advocacy efforts. Additionally, mismatches in priorities between migrant associations and private sector entities may pose challenges to collaboration, as the interests and focus areas of these organizations may not align. Cultural differences and trust issues could further impede collaboration efforts, as divergent organizational cultures and concerns about exploitation or conflicting interests may deter migrant associations from engaging with private entities. Moreover, regulatory constraints may present barriers to formal collaboration arrangements between migrant associations and private sector organizations.

These findings suggest that collaboration with civil society organizations and governmental or diplomatic entities is essential for migrant associations in both Ghana and Burkina Faso to address the diverse needs of their members and advocate for their rights and interests effectively. At the same time, there is the need for strategies to overcome barriers to more effective collaboration between migrant associations and private entities to better address the needs and interests of migrant communities in both countries.

Figure 13 provides an illustrative summary of the afore discussion:



Figure 13: Cross-Sectional Collaboration of Migrant Associations by Country Area



#### 4.2.12. Cultural Affinity

Associations were classified based on their cultural affinity, as follows:

1. Homogeneous associations: Organizations consisting of members sharing a common cultural, linguistic, or ethnic background, fostering a sense of solidarity and shared identity.
2. Heterogeneous associations: Organizations with diverse membership comprising individuals from different cultural, linguistic, or ethnic backgrounds, promoting inclusivity and diversity within the association.

The results are displayed in the table below:

Table 13: Cultural Affinity of Migrant Associations by Country Area

Country	Homogeneous	Heterogeneous
Ghana	0.04	0.96
Burkina Faso	0.06	0.94

An overwhelming majority of migrant associations in both countries are heterogeneous in cultural, linguistic, and ethnic orientations. This suggests that these associations value inclusivity and diversity, fostering environments where individuals from various backgrounds can come together, share experiences, and collaborate effectively.

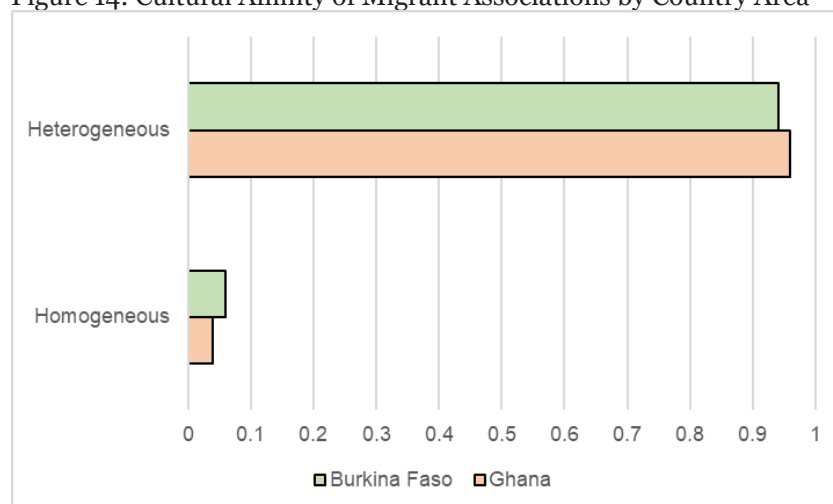
However, there are exceptions to this trend. For example, in Burkina Faso, the “*Association de la Communauté Yoruba au Burkina*”, being predominantly composed of people of Yoruba heritage, tended to exhibit homogeneity in their orientations due to their shared cultural background. Similarly, the “Migrant Labour Général Workers Union International” in Ghana, being a host migrant association, predominantly consisted of individuals with similar linguistic, ethnic, and cultural orientations, thus contributing to its homogeneity amidst the broader heterogeneous landscape of migrant associations in the country. There are several reasons why migrant associations tend to be heterogeneous. Firstly, migrants often bring

diverse backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives with them, contributing to the natural heterogeneity of these associations. Additionally, promoting inclusivity and diversity may be a strategic choice for associations to enhance their reach, influence, and relevance within migrant communities and the broader society. By embracing diversity, associations can better address the multifaceted needs and interests of their members, fostering a sense of belonging and representation for all individuals within the community.

Moreover, the heterogeneity of associations may appeal to donors and financiers, as well as governments for political reasons. Donors and financiers of migrant organizations may see heterogeneous associations as representing a broad array of interests and constituencies, making them more likely to support their initiatives. Similarly, governments may view heterogeneous associations as more inclusive and representative of diverse migrant communities, potentially enhancing their legitimacy and influence in policymaking processes.

Figure 14 provides an illustrative summary of the afore discussion:

Figure 14: Cultural Affinity of Migrant Associations by Country Area



#### 4.2.13. Gender Composition

Associations were classified based on the gender composition of their membership and leadership structures, as follows:

**Gender-Balanced:** Organizations with a relatively equal representation of men and women among their members and leadership positions, fostering gender equality and inclusivity.

**Male-Dominated:** Organizations where men constitute the majority of members and hold the majority of leadership roles, potentially reflecting gender disparities in participation and decision-making.

**Female-Dominated:** Organizations where women form the majority of members and occupy the majority of leadership positions, highlighting efforts to promote women’s empowerment and leadership within the association.

The results are displayed in the table below:

Table 14: Gender Composition of Migrant Organizations by Country Area

Country	Gender-Balanced	Male-Dominated	Female-Dominated
Ghana	0.31	0.63	0.22
Burkina Faso	0.25	0.81	0.03

The results show that a majority of migrant organizations in both countries are male-dominated. However, in Ghana, a considerable number of organizations are also female-dominated or gender-balanced. In Burkina Faso, while some migrant organizations have gender-balanced leadership and membership, a significantly low number are female-dominated.

The predominance of male-dominated associations in both countries can be attributed to various socio-cultural factors. In many societies, including those of Ghana and Burkina Faso, traditional gender roles often dictate that men hold positions of leadership and decision-making, while women are expected to occupy more subordinate roles. Additionally, the political and economic systems in these countries may also favor men in terms of access to resources, education, and opportunities for leadership positions.

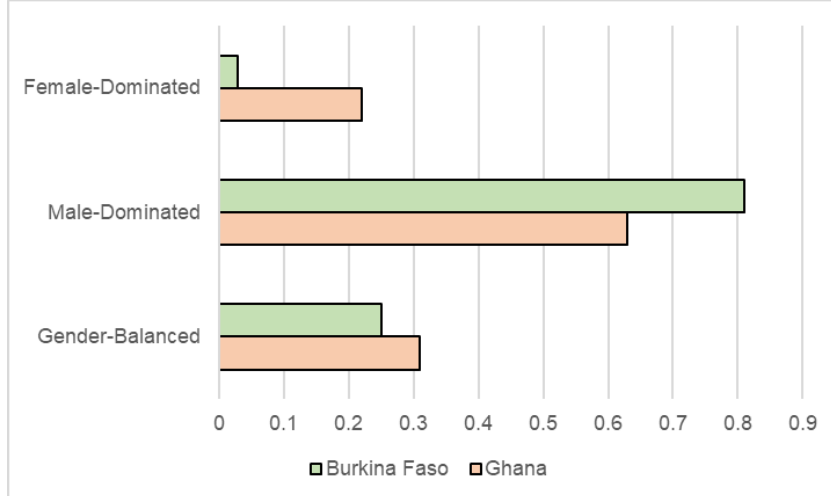
Moreover, the gender composition of associations can be influenced by the proportion of female migrants within the organization. When there are fewer female migrants involved, it is likely that there will be a limited presence of women in leadership positions, resulting in a male-dominated structure. This dynamic was notably observed in the “*Association des Étudiants et Stagiaires Nigériens au Ghana*,” where the low number of Nigerien migrants in the country led to their limited involvement in leadership roles within the organization. Conversely, in cases where an association is composed solely of women, such as the “*Association of Nigerian Women in Ghana*,” it naturally becomes female-dominated due to the absence of men in the membership pool.

In Burkina Faso, the relatively low number of female-dominated associations may reflect cultural and religious norms that traditionally assign leadership roles to men. While Islam, as a significant religious influence in Burkina Faso, may contribute to these norms, it is essential to consider the broader socio-cultural context and historical factors shaping gender dynamics within migrant associations.

However, the presence of gender-balanced and female-dominated associations, particularly in Ghana, suggests ongoing efforts to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment within migrant communities. This may be influenced by factors such as educational level, with more educated women seeking leadership roles, as well as cultural shifts towards greater gender inclusivity.

Figure 15 provides an illustrative summary of the afore discussion:

Figure 15: Gender Composition of Migrant Organizations by Country Area



### 4.3. Analysis by Research Questions

Based on the afore findings, the study would now attempt to answer its research questions posed at the beginning of the inquiry.

#### 4.3.1. Research Question 1 [R1]

The first research question was framed as follows:

[R1]: What methods and strategies are employed by migrant associations to identify and recruit members, and how do these associations maintain and grow their membership base over time?

The following findings were derived in relation to the question:

Migrant associations employ various methods for member identification and recruitment, including community outreach events, social media platforms, word-of-mouth referrals, and collaboration with educational institutions. Associations maintain and grow their membership base through targeted engagement strategies, such as organizing cultural and social events, providing relevant services and support, and fostering a sense of belonging and community among members.

Long-standing associations leverage their established networks and reputation within migrant communities to attract and retain members, while emerging associations focus on building visibility, credibility, and trust through active participation in community activities and addressing pressing needs and concerns. Factors influencing membership retention and growth include the perceived relevance and effectiveness of association activities, the quality of interpersonal relationships and social bonds within the association, and the alignment of association goals and objectives with the aspirations and interests of potential members.

### **4.3.2. Research Question 2 [R2]**

The second research question was framed as follows:

[R2]: How do the organizational structures of migrant associations vary at the micro, meso, and macro levels, and how does this hierarchy impact decision-making processes, resource allocation, and overall effectiveness in addressing migrant-related concerns?

The following findings were derived in relation to the question:

1. Migrant associations exhibit diverse organizational structures at the micro, meso, and macro levels, influenced by factors such as association size, duration of existence, sectoral focus, and geographic scope.
2. At the micro level, associations may adopt hierarchical, decentralized, or participatory structures, with variations in leadership roles, decision-making processes, and membership engagement mechanisms.
3. Meso-level structures involve coordination among local chapters or branches, regional federations, and national or transnational umbrella organizations, facilitating information sharing, resource pooling, and collective action on common issues.
4. Macro-level structures encompass engagement with governmental agencies, intergovernmental organizations, and civil society networks, shaping advocacy strategies, policy dialogues, and resource mobilization efforts at the national, regional, and international levels.
5. The hierarchy of organizational structures impacts decision-making processes by influencing the distribution of power and authority, the inclusivity of decision-making bodies, and the responsiveness of associations to member needs and external pressures.
6. Resource allocation within migrant associations is influenced by organizational priorities, funding sources, and governance mechanisms, with implications for programmatic focus, service delivery, and financial sustainability.
7. Overall effectiveness in addressing migrant-related concerns depends on the alignment of organizational structures with association goals, the coherence of decision-making processes across different levels, and the adaptability of structures to changing contexts and challenges within migrant communities.

### **4.3.3. Research Question 3 [R3]**

The third research question was framed as follows:

[R3]: What specific mechanisms and strategies do migrant groups utilize to foster solidarity within their associations, and how do these internal dynamics contribute to the overall resilience and support networks for members facing exploitation and discrimination?

The following findings were derived in relation to the question:

1. Migrant groups utilize various mechanisms and strategies to foster solidarity within their associations, including:
  - Cultural and religious activities that celebrate shared identities and traditions.
  - Mutual aid and support networks that provide assistance with practical needs, emotional support, and social integration.
  - Advocacy and collective action campaigns aimed at addressing common challenges, advocating for migrant rights, and challenging discriminatory practices.
  - Educational and skill-building initiatives that empower members and promote social cohesion.
  - Social gatherings, events, and recreational activities that promote camaraderie and community bonding.
  
2. These internal dynamics contribute to the overall resilience and support networks for members facing exploitation and discrimination by:
  - Building a sense of belonging and community among members, which fosters mutual trust, cooperation, and reciprocity.
  - Providing a platform for members to share experiences, exchange information, and access resources to navigate challenges and overcome barriers.
  - Strengthening advocacy efforts and collective bargaining power to challenge systemic injustices, promote social inclusion, and protect the rights and dignity of migrants.
  - Offering emotional and psychological support to individuals facing discrimination or exploitation, reducing isolation and fostering resilience.
  - Facilitating access to legal assistance, social services, and other forms of practical support to address immediate needs and promote long-term empowerment.
  
3. The solidarity fostered within migrant associations serves as a source of resilience and empowerment for members, enabling them to navigate complex migration journeys, withstand adversity, and build inclusive communities that promote dignity, equality, and justice for all migrants.

#### **4.3.4. Research Question 4 [R4]**

The fourth research question was framed as follows:

[R4]: How do socio-political factors, such as immigration policies and political climates, influence the strategies adopted by migrant associations in addressing the needs and concerns of their communities, and what challenges do these factors present?

The following findings were derived in relation to the question:

1. Socio-political factors, including immigration policies and political climates, significantly influence the strategies adopted by migrant associations in addressing the needs and concerns of their communities by:
  - Shaping the focus and priorities of migrant associations based on the prevailing legal and policy frameworks, such as advocating for changes in immigration laws, fighting against discrimination, and promoting social inclusion.
  - Influencing the level of political engagement and advocacy activities undertaken by migrant associations, depending on the extent of political freedoms and civil liberties afforded to migrants within the host country.
  - Impacting the availability of resources and funding opportunities for migrant associations, as changes in government policies or economic conditions may affect the allocation of financial support or access to grant funding.
  - Creating challenges related to legal restrictions, bureaucratic hurdles, and regulatory barriers that migrant associations may face in their efforts to provide services, advocate for rights, and mobilize collective action.
2. These factors present challenges for migrant associations, including:
  - Navigating restrictive immigration policies and legal frameworks that may hinder migrants' access to essential services, employment opportunities, and social benefits.
  - Confronting xenophobia, discrimination, and anti-immigrant sentiments perpetuated by political rhetoric or public discourse that undermine efforts to promote social cohesion and inclusion.
  - Balancing the need to engage in advocacy and activism with the risk of backlash or reprisals from authorities or anti-migrant groups, particularly in contexts where dissent is suppressed or political dissenters are persecuted.
  - Mobilizing resources and support from government agencies, policymakers, and other stakeholders amidst competing priorities, budget constraints, and political dynamics that may prioritize native-born citizens over migrants.
3. Despite these challenges, migrant associations demonstrate resilience and adaptability by:
  - Forming strategic alliances and coalitions with civil society organizations, human rights groups, and advocacy networks to amplify their voices, leverage resources, and mobilize collective action on behalf of migrant communities.
  - Employing creative advocacy tactics, such as public awareness campaigns, grassroots organizing, and community mobilization efforts, to raise awareness about migrant issues, challenge stereotypes, and build public support for policy change.
  - Engaging in legal advocacy and litigation strategies to challenge discriminatory practices, defend migrants' rights, and hold governments and institutions accountable for their actions.

- Empowering migrant communities through education, training, and leadership development initiatives that equip individuals with the knowledge, skills, and resources to advocate for themselves and others, fostering a culture of resilience, solidarity, and social justice.

#### **4.3.5. Research Question 5 [R5]**

The fifth research question was framed as follows:

[R5]: What specific activities, initiatives, or campaigns have migrant associations undertaken to address migrant-related issues, and how are these activities structured in terms of objectives, methodologies, and intended outcomes?

The following findings were derived in relation to the question:

1. Migrant associations undertake various activities, initiatives, and campaigns to address migrant-related issues, including:
  - Advocacy and lobbying efforts to influence policy change, challenge discriminatory practices, and promote the rights and welfare of migrants within the host country.
  - Provision of social services, including legal assistance, language classes, healthcare referrals, and psychosocial support, to meet the immediate needs of migrants and their families.
  - Community organizing and mobilization activities to build solidarity, foster mutual support networks, and empower migrant communities to advocate for their rights and interests.
  - Educational programs and awareness campaigns to raise public awareness about migrant issues, combat stereotypes, and promote intercultural understanding and appreciation.
  - Economic empowerment initiatives, such as skills training, entrepreneurship development, and access to microfinance, to enhance the socio-economic integration and self-reliance of migrants.
  - Cultural and recreational activities, including festivals, cultural exchanges, and sports events, to celebrate diversity, promote social cohesion, and strengthen community bonds among migrants and host populations.
2. These activities are structured in terms of objectives, methodologies, and intended outcomes by:
  - Clearly defining the goals and objectives of each activity or initiative, such as advocating for policy reform, providing direct assistance to migrants in need, or promoting cultural exchange and integration.
  - Adopting a participatory approach that involves members and stakeholders in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of activities, ensuring relevance, ownership, and accountability.
  - Utilizing a variety of strategies and approaches, including grassroots organizing, strategic communications, capacity-building workshops, and advocacy campaigns, to reach diverse audiences and achieve desired



outcomes.

- Collaborating with other organizations, networks, and stakeholders to leverage resources, share expertise, and amplify collective impact, maximizing the reach and influence of migrant association initiatives.
- Adapting strategies and tactics based on changing contexts, emerging needs, and feedback from stakeholders, thereby demonstrating flexibility, responsiveness, and innovation in addressing and overcoming challenges.

#### **4.3.6. Research Question 6 [R6]**

The sixth research question was framed as follows:

[R6]: How do migrant associations establish and maintain interconnectedness and collaboration among themselves, and what factors contribute to the formation of networks that enhance their collective capacity to address migrant-related issues?

The following findings were derived in relation to the question:

Migrant associations establish and maintain interconnectedness and collaboration among themselves through various mechanisms and factors:

1. **Networking Events and Platforms:**
  - Participating in networking events, conferences, and workshops organized by regional or international migrant networks, civil society organizations, and government agencies.
  - Engaging in online platforms, forums, and social media groups dedicated to migrant issues, facilitating communication, information-sharing, and collaboration among associations.
2. **Formal and Informal Alliances:**
  - Forming formal alliances or coalitions with other migrant associations, civil society organizations, and advocacy groups to collectively address common issues, advocate for policy change, and leverage resources and expertise.
  - Building informal networks and partnerships based on shared interests, experiences, or geographic proximity, fostering mutual support, solidarity, and collaboration among associations.
3. **Resource Sharing and Capacity Building:**
  - Sharing resources, best practices, and lessons learned among associations, including funding opportunities, advocacy strategies, program models, and organizational development tools.
  - Providing capacity-building support, training, and technical assistance to strengthen the institutional capacity, leadership skills, and advocacy capabilities of member associations, enhancing their collective effectiveness and impact.

4. Joint Advocacy and Campaigns:
  - Collaborating on joint advocacy campaigns, public awareness initiatives, and policy advocacy efforts to amplify their voices, raise visibility, and mobilize support for migrant rights and welfare.
  - Engaging in collective action, including rallies, protests, and lobbying activities, to pressure governments, institutions, and stakeholders to address systemic issues and uphold the rights and dignity of migrants.
  
5. Cross-Sectoral Partnerships:
  - Partnering with governmental agencies, local authorities, private sector entities, academic institutions, and international organizations to address multi-dimensional challenges facing migrants, including access to services, employment opportunities, legal protection, and social integration.
  - Engaging in dialogue and collaboration with diverse stakeholders to identify shared objectives, leverage complementary strengths, and co-create sustainable solutions that benefit migrant communities and host societies alike.

## 5. Conclusions and Recommendations

This section offers a synthesis of the key findings from the analysis of migrant associations in Ghana and Burkina Faso, along with corresponding recommendations for enhancing their effectiveness and sustainability.

### 5.1. Recommendations on Research Findings

#### 5.1.1. Duration of Existence

In the examination of duration of existence, the research shed light on the maturity and stability of migrant associations in Ghana and Burkina Faso. The following were the findings and recommendations derived from this analysis:

**Finding 1:** The majority of associations in both countries are classified as long-standing organizations, indicating a sustained presence and engagement within migrant communities over an extended period.

**Recommendation:** Recognize the contributions of long-standing associations and facilitate knowledge-sharing events to promote best practices among emerging and existent organizations.

**Finding 2:** Emerging associations, particularly in Burkina Faso, represent a small portion of the total, indicating a need for support and capacity-building initiatives to help these organizations establish themselves effectively.

**Recommendation:** Provide mentorship programs and resources to assist emerging associations in developing their structures, networks, and activities, fostering their growth and sustainability.

**Finding 3:** Existent organizations contribute to the diversity of migrant associations, highlighting the presence of established entities addressing various migrant-related issues.

**Recommendation:** Encourage collaboration and partnerships between long-standing associations and emerging or existent organizations to leverage expertise, resources, and networks for collective impact within migrant communities.

#### 5.1.2. Legal Status

Under the examination of legal status, the research delved into the formal recognition of migrant associations by government authorities in Ghana and Burkina Faso. Here are the findings and corresponding recommendations derived from this analysis:

**Finding 4:** The majority of associations in both countries are registered, with 81% of associations falling into this category.

Recommendation: Acknowledge the importance of formal registration and promote awareness campaigns to encourage unregistered associations to undergo the registration process, emphasizing the benefits of official recognition.

**Finding 5**: All student migrant associations in both countries were registered, indicating a correlation between higher educational levels and compliance with legal requirements.

Recommendation: Provide legal assistance and resources tailored to the specific needs of student migrant associations to facilitate their registration process and ensure compliance with legal frameworks.

**Finding 6**: Some unregistered associations cited bureaucratic complexities, high costs, limited access to legal expertise, and concerns about government oversight as reasons for their status.

Recommendation: Establish support programs offering legal guidance, assistance with paperwork, and financial subsidies to alleviate the barriers to registration faced by unregistered associations.

**Finding 7**: Some associations expressed a preference for informality to maintain flexibility in their activities and avoid potential conflicts with government authorities.

Recommendation: Develop strategies to address the concerns of associations regarding formalization, emphasizing the benefits of legal recognition while preserving autonomy and flexibility in their operations.

### 5.1.3. Membership Size

Under the examination of the size of membership, the research explored the varying scales and membership numbers of migrant associations in Ghana and Burkina Faso. Here are the findings and recommendations derived from this analysis:

**Finding 8**: Associations in both countries exhibit diverse sizes of membership, with the majority falling into the large category.

Recommendation: Acknowledge the importance of large associations in facilitating extensive outreach and engagement within migrant communities, and provide support to sustain and enhance their organizational capacity and impact.

**Finding 9**: Small-sized associations represent a minority in both countries, often comprising specialized or niche groups.

Recommendation: Recognize the unique contributions of small associations in addressing specific community needs and consider tailored support mechanisms to strengthen their capacity and sustainability.

**Finding 10**: Medium-sized associations occupy a middle ground between

small and large associations, reflecting a moderate membership base and organizational capacity.

Recommendation: Foster collaboration and knowledge-sharing opportunities between medium-sized associations and both small and large associations to promote collective learning and maximize impact.

**Finding 11**: Various factors influence the size of association memberships, including the nature of the migrant population, accessibility of resources, historical factors, and socio-political dynamics.

Recommendation: Develop targeted interventions and capacity-building initiatives that address the specific needs and challenges faced by associations of different sizes, considering the unique contexts and dynamics within each country.

**Finding 12**: Ghana exhibits a higher prevalence of large associations compared to Burkina Faso, which is influenced by economic and political landscapes.

Recommendation: Develop targeted capacity-building initiatives and support programs tailored to the specific needs of migrant associations in Burkina Faso to enhance their organizational capacity and outreach, thereby fostering the growth of medium and large-sized associations and promoting inclusivity within the sector.

#### 5.1.4. Funding Sources

Under the examination of funding sources, the research explored how migrant associations in Ghana and Burkina Faso sustained their activities. The following are the findings and recommendations derived from this analysis:

**Finding 13**: Most student migrant associations and a majority of migrant community associations rely on self-funding, utilizing internal resources such as membership fees and fundraising activities.

Recommendation: Provide capacity-building workshops and training sessions to enhance the grant-writing and proposal development skills of migrant associations, enabling them to access external funding opportunities more effectively.

**Finding 14**: Host migrant associations, particularly in Ghana, demonstrate greater access to grant funding or secure public-private funding for specific projects or initiatives.

Recommendation: Foster partnerships between host migrant associations and governmental or private sector entities to leverage resources and expertise for joint initiatives, enhancing the sustainability and impact of migrant association activities.

**Finding 15:** Burkina Faso shows limited opportunities for public-private funding partnerships within the local context.

**Recommendation:** Advocate for policies and initiatives that promote collaboration between migrant associations and government or private sector stakeholders, creating opportunities for sustainable funding partnerships and resource mobilization.

**Finding 16:** There is no significant relationship between an organization's duration of existence or membership size and its primary funding source.

**Recommendation:** Encourage migrant associations to diversify their funding sources and explore innovative financing mechanisms to ensure financial sustainability and resilience in the face of changing circumstances.

### 5.1.5. Political Affiliation

Under the examination of political affiliation, the research delved into the engagement or identification of migrant associations with specific political parties or ideologies in Ghana and Burkina Faso. The following are the findings and recommendations derived from this analysis:

**Finding 17:** All migrant associations sampled in both countries declared themselves as non-politically affiliated, demonstrating a commitment to neutrality in political matters.

**Recommendation:** Encourage migrant associations to maintain their non-politically-affiliated status to uphold inclusivity and avoid potential conflicts within diverse migrant communities.

**Finding 18:** Migrant associations prioritize addressing the immediate needs and concerns of their members, such as social integration and access to services, over political agendas.

**Recommendation:** Support migrant associations in developing and implementing programs and initiatives that directly address the pressing needs of their members, enhancing their relevance and impact within migrant communities.

**Finding 19:** Overt political affiliation may hinder the ability of migrant associations to access funding or resources from government or non-governmental sources.

**Recommendation:** Advocate for policies and initiatives that promote the autonomy and independence of migrant associations from political influence, ensuring their continued access to essential resources and support for community-driven initiatives.

**Finding 20:** The absence of political affiliation among migrant associations underscores their commitment to inclusivity and community service.

**Recommendation:** Promote dialogue and collaboration among migrant associations to share best practices and strategies for maintaining neutrality

in political matters while effectively advocating for the rights and interests of their members.

### 5.1.6. Geographic Focus

Under the examination of geographic focus, the research explored the varying geographical scopes of migrant associations in Ghana and Burkina Faso. The following are the findings and implications derived from this analysis:

**Finding 21:** Migrant associations exhibit diverse geographic focuses, including community-based, national, and transnational orientations.

**Recommendation:** Foster collaboration and networking opportunities among migrant associations with similar geographic focuses to share resources, best practices, and collective advocacy efforts.

**Finding 22:** Student migrant associations predominantly operate at the community level, reflecting their close-knit nature and focus on supporting members within specific university campuses or residential areas.

**Recommendation:** Provide targeted support and resources to student migrant associations to enhance their capacity for community engagement and service provision within their immediate surroundings.

**Finding 23:** Associations in Burkina Faso demonstrate a more widespread geographic presence compared to those in Ghana, reflecting differences in social dynamics, cultural norms, and migrant experiences between the two countries.

**Recommendation:** In Ghana, focus on enhancing capacity-building initiatives, providing resources, and fostering inter-association collaboration and networking to support associations in expanding their geographic reach within the country. In Burkina Faso, capitalize on the existing widespread geographic presence by amplifying collective impact and addressing migrant-related challenges across different regions through targeted support and coordination efforts among associations.

**Finding 24:** Associations with a transnational focus typically have affiliates in multiple countries, indicating strong cross-border connections and networks.

**Recommendation:** Facilitate platforms for dialogue and collaboration among transnational associations to leverage their collective expertise, resources, and networks for addressing common challenges and advocating for the rights of migrants across borders.

### 5.1.7. Sectoral Focus

Under the examination of sectoral focus, the research explored the diverse priorities and activities undertaken by migrant associations in Ghana and Burkina Faso. The following are the findings and implications derived from this analysis:

**Finding 25:** Migrant associations prioritize certain areas of focus, including advocacy and migrant rights, cultural and religious activities, occupational support, and social services, while environmental issues, gender and youth-based concerns, and local development receive relatively less emphasis.

**Recommendation:** Encourage migrant associations to adopt a holistic approach to addressing migrant needs, considering a broader range of issues beyond immediate challenges to foster comprehensive support and advocacy for migrant communities.

**Finding 26:** The prioritization of focus areas is influenced by factors such as the immediate needs of members, organizational capacity, and socio-political context.

**Recommendation:** Provide capacity-building support and resources to migrant associations to enhance their ability to engage with a wider range of issues and initiatives, promoting greater effectiveness and impact within migrant communities.

**Finding 27:** Student migrant associations primarily focus on social services and occupational support, while community migrant associations place greater emphasis on cultural and religious activities.

**Recommendation:** Foster collaboration and partnerships between student and community migrant associations to leverage their respective strengths and resources, promoting intergroup cooperation, cultural exchange, and community cohesion.

**Finding 28:** Language classes provided by student migrant associations play a crucial role in facilitating integration and communication for newcomers.

**Recommendation:** Support language education initiatives led by migrant associations to enhance language skills among migrants, promoting social inclusion, cultural exchange, and effective integration into host communities.

**Finding 29:** Host migrant associations prioritize social services and advocacy for migrant rights, recognizing the importance of these services in supporting migrant integration and empowerment.

**Recommendation:** Advocate for policies and initiatives that promote the recognition and support of host migrant associations in their efforts to provide essential services and advocate for the rights of all migrants within the community.

### **5.1.8. Degree of Formalization**

Under the investigation of the degree of formalization, the research explored the structural characteristics and governance standards adopted by migrant associations in Ghana and Burkina Faso. The following are the findings and recommendations derived from this analysis:



**Finding 30:** Migrant associations exhibit varying degrees of formalization, with the majority falling into the highly formal and semi-formal categories, while a significant portion remains informal.

**Recommendation:** Provide capacity-building support and technical assistance to informal associations to facilitate their transition towards greater formalization, ensuring adherence to governance standards and enhancing organizational effectiveness and sustainability.

**Finding 31:** Highly formal and semi-formal associations are typically registered and maintain existent or long-standing status in the host country, while informal associations tend to be unregistered and emergent.

**Recommendation:** Advocate for streamlined registration processes and provide resources to assist associations in navigating legal procedures, reducing bureaucratic barriers, and promoting compliance with regulatory requirements.

**Finding 32:** Factors such as bureaucratic hurdles, resource constraints, and limited technical capacity inhibit associations from formalizing.

**Recommendation:** Establish support mechanisms, including mentorship programs and training workshops, to address the specific challenges faced by associations in formalizing their structures and operations, fostering a conducive environment for organizational development and growth.

**Finding 33:** Some associations may choose to maintain informality to preserve flexibility, autonomy, and agility in their operations.

**Recommendation:** Recognize the value of informal networks and mechanisms within migrant communities while encouraging associations to strike a balance between flexibility and formalization to enhance accountability, transparency, and sustainability in their activities.

### 5.1.9. Migration Trajectories

Under the examination of migration trajectories, the research delved into the diverse migration experiences shaping the composition and objectives of migrant associations in Ghana and Burkina Faso. The following are the findings and recommendations derived therefrom:

**Finding 34:** A significant proportion of migrant association members in both countries migrated for work or study purposes, emphasizing labor migration as the predominant trajectory.

**Recommendation:** Develop tailored programs and services to address the specific needs and challenges faced by labor migrants, including issues related to employment rights, remittances, and social integration, thereby enhancing the effectiveness and relevance of migrant associations in supporting this demographic.

**Finding 35:** Among migrant communities, a notable number have established roots in the host countries, facilitating family reunification processes and underscoring the importance of family ties and support networks.

**Recommendation:** Strengthen initiatives to support family reunification efforts, providing assistance with immigration procedures, social integration, and access to family support services, thereby fostering cohesion and resilience within migrant communities.

**Finding 36:** Refugees and asylum seekers, while awaiting the processing of their applications, often integrate into migrant communities within the host nations, seeking assistance and guidance during their transitional periods.

**Recommendation:** Enhance collaboration between migrant associations, government agencies, and humanitarian organizations to provide comprehensive support and protection for refugees and asylum seekers, ensuring their rights and dignity are upheld throughout their displacement and resettlement journeys.

**Finding 37:** Labor migration emerges as the primary driver behind the migration trajectories of most migrant association members in Ghana and Burkina Faso.

**Recommendation:** Advocate for policies and programs that safeguard the rights and well-being of labor migrants, promote ethical recruitment practices, and facilitate their meaningful integration into host societies, fostering inclusive and sustainable migration governance frameworks.

### **5.1.10. Integration Approach**

Under the investigation of integration approaches, the research explored the strategies employed by migrant associations in Ghana and Burkina Faso to foster cohesion and interaction within the host communities. The following are the findings and recommendations derived from this analysis:

**Finding 38:** Migrant associations in both countries predominantly embrace pluralist and integrationist approaches, with no espousal of assimilationist views, indicating a commitment to cultural preservation and engagement with the host community.

**Recommendation:** Strengthen initiatives that promote multiculturalism, mutual respect, and social cohesion within migrant communities and between migrants and host populations, fostering an inclusive and harmonious sociocultural environment.

**Finding 39:** There is a notable difference between Ghana and Burkina Faso regarding the prevalence of pluralist and integrationist views, with Burkina Faso exhibiting a stronger inclination towards integrationist approaches, while Ghana shows a preference for pluralist views.

**Recommendation:** Facilitate cross-country exchanges and dialogue among migrant associations to share best practices and experiences in promoting

integration and cultural diversity, fostering mutual learning and collaboration to address common challenges and aspirations.

**Finding 40:** No significant correlations were observed between specific association types and integration approaches, suggesting that integration strategies are influenced by contextual factors rather than organizational characteristics.

**Recommendation:** Conduct further research to explore the contextual factors shaping integration approaches within migrant communities, identifying barriers and opportunities for effective integration and devising tailored interventions to address the diverse needs and preferences of migrants across different settings.

### 5.1.11. Cross-Sectional Collaboration

Under the exploration of cross-sectional collaboration, the research illuminates the partnerships forged by migrant associations in Ghana and Burkina Faso across various sectors to advance migrant welfare and integration. Here are the findings and recommendations drawn from this analysis:

**Finding 41:** Migrant associations in both countries exhibit a significant level of collaboration with civil society organizations, including NGOs, CBOs, and advocacy groups, reflecting a shared commitment to addressing migrant-related issues collectively and maximizing impact.

**Recommendation:** Strengthen and expand collaboration with civil society organizations to leverage diverse expertise, resources, and networks in advocating for migrant rights, delivering essential services, and promoting social inclusion within host communities.

**Finding 42:** Collaboration with governmental and diplomatic entities are also prevalent among migrant associations in Ghana and Burkina Faso, underscoring the importance of engaging with these stakeholders to influence policies, access resources, and implement initiatives for migrant welfare.

**Recommendation:** Deepen engagement with governmental and diplomatic entities to advocate for migrant-friendly policies, secure funding for migrant programs, and participate in decision-making processes that affect migrant communities, fostering meaningful partnerships to advance shared objectives.

**Finding 43:** Cross-sectional collaboration with private sector entities among migrant associations in both countries is notably low, potentially due to factors such as limited awareness, resources, capacity, and mismatches in priorities.

**Recommendation:** Develop strategies to enhance collaboration with private sector organizations, including raising awareness about mutual benefits, building trust through transparent communication and engagement, and identifying areas of shared interest and alignment, fostering mutually beneficial partnerships to address the diverse needs of migrant communities

effectively.

**Finding 44:** Collaboration among different migrant associations within the host countries are prevalent, leveraging shared national, linguistic, religious, or ethnic characteristics to enhance effectiveness and impact.

**Recommendation:** Foster inter-association collaboration through shared initiatives, resource-sharing, and knowledge exchange, promoting solidarity, collective action, and community empowerment within migrant communities.

**Finding 45:** Cultural differences, trust issues, and regulatory constraints present barriers to collaboration with private sector entities, highlighting the need for strategies to overcome these challenges.

**Recommendation:** Implement capacity-building programs, facilitate dialogue platforms, and establish clear guidelines and frameworks for collaboration with private sector organizations, addressing cultural sensitivities, building trust, and ensuring equitable and mutually beneficial partnerships.

### 5.1.12. Cultural Affinity

Under the exploration of cultural affinity within migrant associations, the research delineated the composition of these organizations in Ghana and Burkina Faso, shedding light on their orientations towards cultural, linguistic, and ethnic diversity. Here are the findings and recommendations derived from this analysis:

**Finding 46:** An overwhelming majority of migrant associations in both countries are heterogeneous, reflecting a commitment to inclusivity and diversity within their membership.

**Recommendation:** Continue fostering environments that embrace diversity and promote inclusivity within migrant associations, recognizing the richness and strength that diverse perspectives and experiences bring to the community.

**Finding 47:** Despite the predominance of heterogeneous associations, there are exceptions where certain associations exhibit homogeneity in cultural, linguistic, or ethnic orientations.

**Recommendation:** Encourage dialogue and collaboration among homogeneous associations to promote greater interaction, understanding, and cooperation across diverse cultural backgrounds, enriching the collective experience and impact of migrant communities.

**Finding 48:** The heterogeneity of associations may appeal to donors, financiers, and governments, as it represents a broad array of interests and constituencies, potentially enhancing support and legitimacy.

**Recommendation:** Leverage the diverse composition of associations to attract funding, resources, and political support, emphasizing the inclusive and representative nature of migrant communities and their contributions

to society.

**Finding 49:** Promoting inclusivity and diversity within associations is not only a strategic choice but also a reflection of the natural diversity of migrant communities and the broader society.

**Recommendation:** Emphasize the importance of inclusivity and diversity as core values within migrant associations, fostering environments where individuals from different backgrounds feel welcome, respected, and represented.

### 5.1.13. Gender Composition

In exploring the gender composition of migrant associations in Ghana and Burkina Faso, the research revealed insights into the representation of men and women within their membership and leadership structures. The findings and recommendations obtained therefrom are as follows:

**Finding 50:** A majority of migrant organizations in both countries are male-dominated, reflecting socio-cultural norms and gender disparities in leadership roles and decision-making.

**Recommendation:** Implement strategies to promote gender diversity and inclusivity within migrant associations, including targeted recruitment efforts, leadership training programs for women, and initiatives to challenge traditional gender norms and biases.

**Finding 51:** Despite the predominance of male-dominated associations, there are instances of gender-balanced and female-dominated organizations, particularly in Ghana, indicating efforts to promote women's empowerment and leadership.

**Recommendation:** Recognize and support the initiatives of gender-balanced and female-dominated associations, highlighting their role in promoting gender equality and women's leadership within migrant communities and advocating for their inclusion in broader discussions and decision-making processes.

**Finding 52:** The gender composition of associations is influenced by various factors, including socio-cultural norms, the proportion of female migrants within the organization, and educational levels.

**Recommendation:** Conduct further research to explore the underlying factors contributing to gender disparities within migrant associations, develop targeted interventions to address barriers to women's participation and leadership, and create supportive environments that empower women to take on leadership roles.

**Finding 53:** In Burkina Faso, the presence of relatively fewer female-dominated associations may reflect cultural and religious norms that traditionally assign leadership roles to men.

**Recommendation:** Engage with religious and community leaders to promote gender equality and challenge traditional gender norms, facilitate dialogue and awareness campaigns on gender issues within migrant communities, and advocate for policies and programs that support women's empowerment and leadership development.

**Finding 54:** The prevalence of gender-balanced and female-dominated associations, particularly in Ghana, mirrors the ongoing promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment within the country. Consequently, this societal shift influences migrant associations to similarly embrace and uphold these principles.

**Recommendation:** To further support and strengthen these positive developments, it is recommended to implement targeted initiatives aimed at enhancing leadership opportunities for women within migrant associations. This may include providing training programs, mentorship opportunities, and capacity-building workshops specifically tailored to women members. Additionally, fostering a culture of inclusivity and gender sensitivity within associations through awareness campaigns and policy frameworks can help create an environment conducive to women's active participation and leadership.

## 5.2. Recommendations for ITUC-Africa and Project Partners

Based on the comprehensive findings and recommendations from the study, strategic policy guidelines have been formulated to guide ITUC-Africa and project partners going forward. These guidelines aim to leverage the insights gained from the research to enhance support for migrant associations and advance migrant welfare, integration, and empowerment in both countries:

1. Recognition and Knowledge-Sharing Events [cf: Findings 1, 2 & 3]:
  - Recognize the valuable contributions of long-standing migrant associations and facilitate knowledge-sharing events to promote best practices among both emerging and existent organizations.
  - Provide mentorship programs and resources to assist emerging associations in establishing themselves effectively, fostering their growth and sustainability.
2. Promotion of Formal Registration [cf: Findings 4, 5 & 7]:
  - Acknowledge the importance of formal registration for migrant associations and promote awareness campaigns to encourage unregistered associations to undergo the registration process, emphasizing the benefits of official recognition.
  - Provide legal assistance and resources tailored to the specific needs of student migrant associations to facilitate their registration process and ensure compliance with legal frameworks.

3. Capacity-Building and Resource Mobilization [cf: Findings 13, 14 & 16]:
  - Offer capacity-building workshops and training sessions to enhance the grant-writing and proposal development skills of migrant associations, enabling them to access external funding opportunities more effectively.
  - Foster partnerships between host migrant associations and governmental or private sector entities to leverage resources and expertise for joint initiatives, enhancing the sustainability and impact of migrant association activities.
  - Provide funding support for migrant associations to enable them to address the needs of migrants, including access to social services, advocacy against discrimination, and support for integration initiatives.
  
4. Advocacy for Neutrality, Inclusivity, and Anti-Discrimination [cf: Findings 17, 18, 19 & 20]:
  - Encourage migrant associations to maintain their non-politically-affiliated status to uphold inclusivity and avoid potential conflicts within diverse migrant communities.
  - Promote dialogue and collaboration among migrant associations to share best practices and strategies for maintaining neutrality in political matters while effectively advocating for the rights and interests of their members.
  - Advocate against discrimination, unfair treatment, and marginalization of migrants by collaborating with host organizations working with migrants to beef up their advocacy support for migrants.
  
5. Support for Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment [cf: Findings 50, 51, 52 & 53]:
  - Implement targeted initiatives aimed at enhancing leadership opportunities for women within migrant associations, including training programs, mentorship opportunities, and capacity-building workshops specifically tailored to women members.
  - Foster a culture of inclusivity and gender sensitivity within associations through awareness campaigns and policy frameworks, creating an environment conducive to women’s active participation and leadership.

### **5.3. Country-Specific Strategy Directions**

Recognizing the nuanced realities of migrant associations in Ghana and Burkina Faso, this section delineates tailored strategies to address the unique challenges and opportunities present in each context.

#### **Ghana**

1. Strengthen collaboration with local government authorities and municipal bodies to integrate migrant associations into local development planning processes, leveraging their expertise and community networks to address migrant-related issues at the grassroots level [cf: Findings 4, 5, 6 & 7].

2. Explore innovative approaches to harness remittances as a tool for community development and economic empowerment, working closely with financial institutions and development agencies to facilitate access to financial services and investment opportunities for migrants and their families [[cf: Findings 13, 14, 15 & 16](#)].
3. Promote intercultural dialogue and social cohesion initiatives that celebrate Ghana's cultural diversity and heritage, fostering mutual understanding and appreciation among migrant and host communities while combating xenophobia and discrimination [[cf: Findings 21, 22, 23 & 27](#)].
4. Support the establishment of community-based support centers or resource hubs in key migrant-populated areas, offering a range of services such as legal assistance, language classes, and psychosocial support to address the specific needs of migrants and their families [[cf: Findings 28, 29, 35 & 36](#)].
5. Enhance collaboration with local businesses and employers to promote inclusive hiring practices and create job opportunities for migrants, particularly in sectors where they possess relevant skills and expertise [[cf: Findings 13, 14, 15 & 16](#)].

## **Burkina Faso**

1. Strengthen partnerships with regional and international organizations to address the root causes of migration, including poverty, conflict, and environmental degradation, through targeted development interventions and peacebuilding efforts in migrant-sending regions [[cf: Findings 34, 35, 36 & 37](#)].
2. Advocate for the recognition of migrant associations as key stakeholders in national and regional policymaking processes, ensuring their voices are heard and their perspectives integrated into migration governance frameworks and development agendas [[cf: Findings 41, 42, 43 & 44](#)].
3. Facilitate cross-border cooperation and information sharing among migrant associations in the West African sub-region, promoting solidarity and collective action to address common challenges such as human trafficking, irregular migration, and labor exploitation [[cf: Findings 24 & 44](#)].
4. Promote the role of women and youth in migrant associations through targeted capacity-building initiatives and leadership development programs, recognizing their potential as agents of change and innovation within their communities [[cf: Findings 51, 52 & 54](#)].



5. Invest in infrastructure and social services in areas with high migrant populations, including access to healthcare, education, and sanitation facilities, to improve living conditions and enhance the resilience of migrant communities to external shocks and crises [[cf: Findings 37, 38 & 43](#)].

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