

The Lived Realities of Migration Partnerships on the Ground: Lessons from Nigeria's Case |

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As migration from Africa continues to increase, it is crucial to understand the specific country realities, such as that of Nigeria, to establish sustainable migration management and partnerships. For partnerships to be effective and sustainable, they must be mutually beneficial and symmetrical among partnering countries and regions. This paper examines the implications of how migration partnerships places countries like Nigeria in very unequal relationships and looks at the lived realities and challenges of young Nigerians who wish to emigrate and the broader concerns of the country, dealing with: (1) returned (expelled) young male migrants, who are removed from their regions/villages and return quite desperate and indebted, (2) young unemployed people who seek a better future and cannot wait for legal channels, (3) intra-regional migration from and to other west African countries, and (4) wider considerations of trade and economic growth. This paper concludes that migration partnerships and particularly 'partnership' between the EU and specific African countries like Nigeria should take into account the realities of the sending countries, rather than just the receiving country.