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**The 2014 State of Africa Population Report**

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THE 2014 STATE OF AFRICA POPULATION REPORT

“Addressing Population, Migration and Mobility in Africa: Challenges, Opportunities and Policy Approaches”.

In Africa, a combination of domestic and international factors has caused migration to increase both in intensity and complexity over the last decades and in 2013, it was estimated that 232 million people lived in countries other than their birth place of which some 31 million were from Africa.

i. Pull and push factors of migration;

Over the last several years, extreme poverty, harsh living conditions, deteriorating political and socio-economic conditions, increasing youth and women unemployment and underemployment, armed conflicts, the threats to peace and security, violation of fundamental rights, natural disasters and famine as well as external factors have combined to trigger both voluntary and forced population movements from and within Africa. Better economic opportunities, more jobs, and the promise of a better life often pull people towards a new country. However, Africa has the lowest rate of emigration, although several emigrant origin countries have high rates constituting more than 10% of their population with Africa south of the Sahara having a higher intra-regional rate estimated at 65%.

ii. Mobility within Africa;

Movement within the continent is quite high and it has always been an essential element in the historical processes of social, political and economic change. Africa experienced a 13% increase in the number of migrants; between 2000 and 2010 were most of the international migrations were within the continent, mostly to neighbouring countries. The vast majority or 87% moved to pursue jobs, often in urban areas of a neighbouring country. For example 70% of the Ghanaian emigrants live in other African countries, mainly in the Economic Commission of West African States (ECOWAS).

iii. The State of Population in Africa;

It is projected that this population growth will be concentrated in the world’s less-developed countries, especially in Africa that Africa will account for 80% of the projected world population increase by 2100. In 2013, Africa was found to be the most populous continent with a mid-year population of 1.033 billion people, accounting for about 15% of the world’s human population. The average population density of Africa was estimated at 34 persons per square kilometer in 2014, which is a considerable increase than 50years ago where it was recorded as 10.1 in 1963.

iv. What is the effect of all this on health and other socio-developmental sectors in Africa