

# Immigration into Ghana Since 1990

Prof. J. K. Anarfi

Regional Institute for Population  
Studies (RIPS),

University of Ghana, Legon

# Structure of Presentation

- Introduction
- Immigration Trends
- Types of Immigrants
  - Refugees
  - Labour migrants
  - Commercial migrants
  - Students
- Drivers of Immigration
- Migration Governance
- Challenges
- Way Forward

# Ghana



# Ghana - Profile

<b>Selected Indicator</b>	<b>Figure</b>
Population (2010)	23, 458, 811 (GSS, 2005)
Total Area	238,537 km <sup>2</sup>
GDP per Capita (2005)	US\$ 2,601.00 (UNDP, 2009)
Human Development Index Ranking (2009)	0.467 (130 out of 169 countries) UNDP 2010
Net Migration Rate	1 person per 10,000 of the population

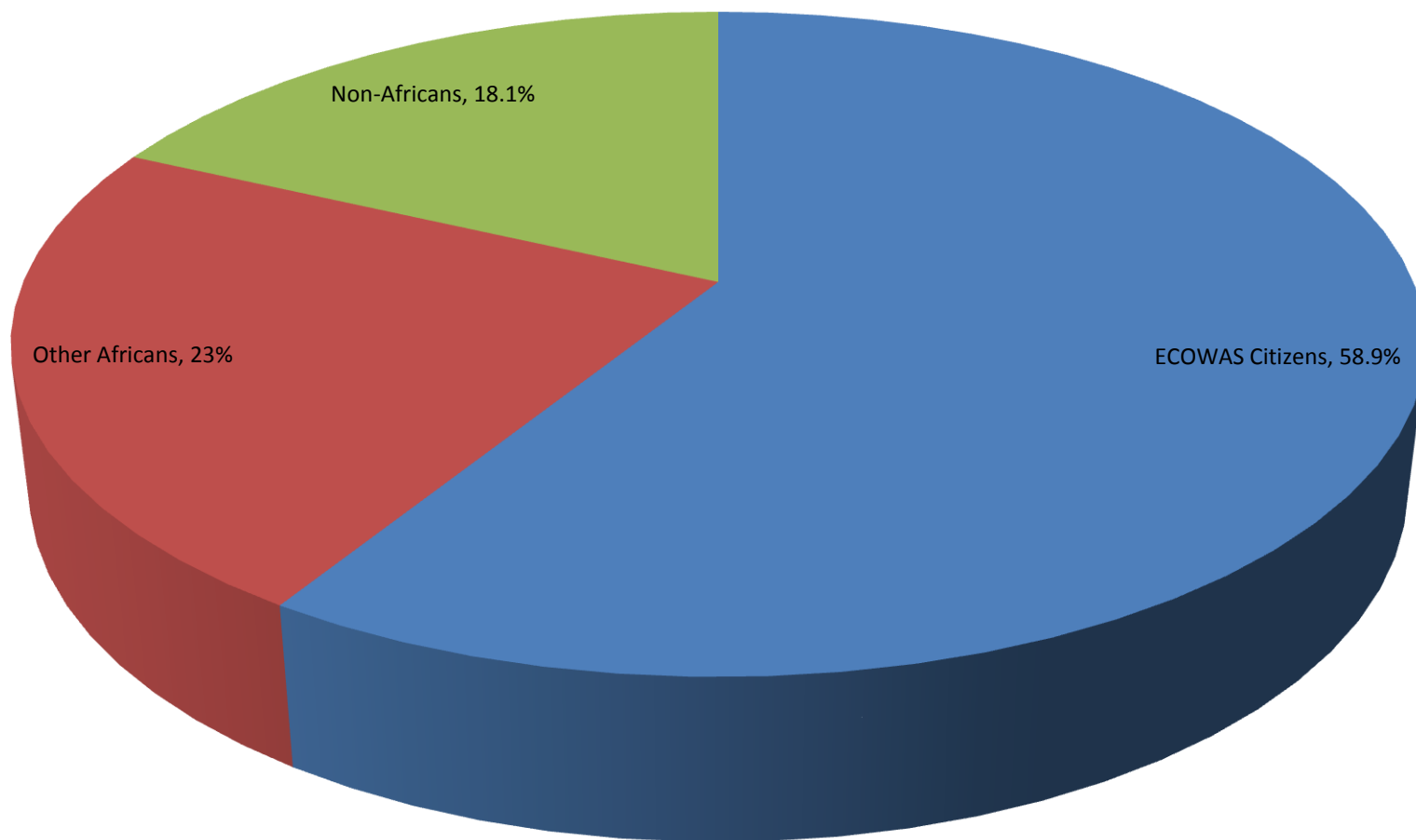
# Immigration Trends

- Size of immigrant population has been declining.
- It declined from 12.3% in 1960 to 7% in 1970.
  - decline is due to enactment of Aliens Compliance Order in 1969.
  - it is estimated that between 155,000 and 213,000 aliens were expelled.
- It further declined to 3.6% in 1984 due to deterioration in the economy in the late 1970s and early 1980s.
- However, it increased marginally to 3.9% in 2000.

# Immigrants in Ghana

- Total immigrants in Ghana in 2006 was 614,000, (2.78% of the total population (GIS, 2006).
- Sex composition:
  - Males (50.8%) and females (49.2%).
  - Minors (under 18 years) formed 42% (GIS, 2006)
- Immigrants are from all continents with Africans dominating.
- Major countries of origin - Nigeria, Niger, Mali and Burkina-Faso; then Togo and expectantly La Cote d'Ivoire.

# Immigrants in Ghana by Region in 2000 (GSS, 2002)



# Refugees/Assylum Seekers

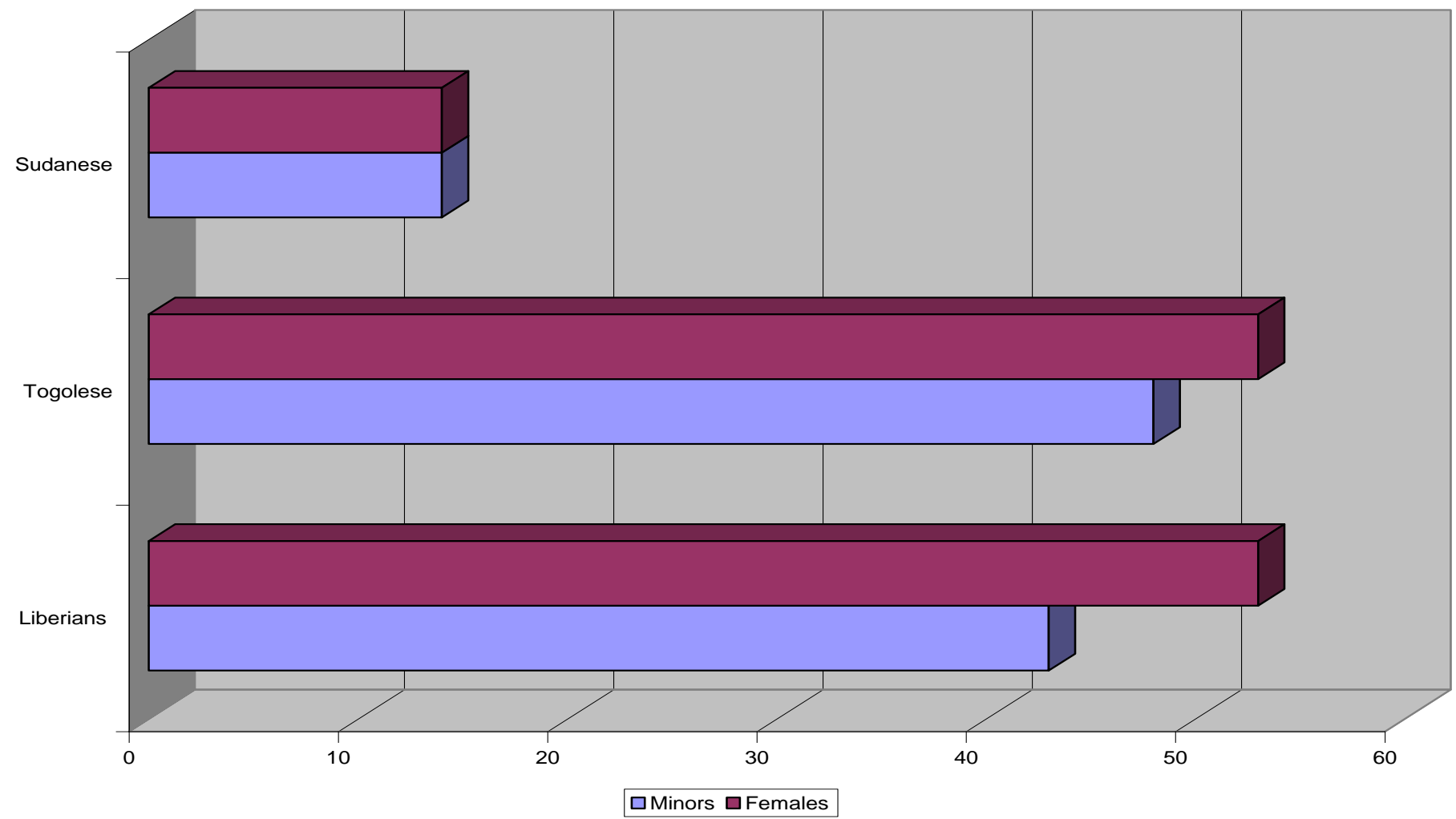
- Ghana is host of refugees and asylum seekers
- They fled civil wars in Liberia and Sierra Leone; and political crisis in Togo and La Côte d'Ivoire.
- At its peak, the country provided refuge to over 150,000 persons in 1993 (Anarfi et al, 2003; Bump, 2006).
- Number of persons of concern to UNHCR in 2005 totaled 58,700 (UNHCR, 2005).



# Refugees/Assylum Seekers (cont')

- Liberians accounted for 77% of refugees in Ghana in 2007 (IOM, 2009).
- Minors ( under 18 years) formed 40% of the refugees from Liberia and Togo (UNHCR, 2008).
- Until 2008, Ghana remained host to the fourth-largest population of asylum seekers and refugees in the region (IOM, 2009).
- Steep increase in the number of asylum seekers from 497 in 2004 to 14,016 in 2005.

# Comparison of Females and Minors among Refugees by Nationality (2007)



# Labour Migrants

- Historically, labour migrants have always been in the majority.
- Evidence of permanent labour immigrants in Ghana – Mines .
- Temporary/Seasonal labour migrants include Fulani cattle herdsman, as well as seasonal workers from Burkina Faso, Niger and Mali.
- No national statistics EXISTS on labour immigrants.
- Immigrants work in mining, industry, services and agricultural sectors.
- Commencement of oil drilling is attracting immigrants e.g. Nigerians to Ghana; also from outside Africa.

# Labour Migrants (cont' )

- Temporary-Seasonal labour migrants take advantage of the rainy season to farm in their countries of origin and come to Ghana to work when the rains cease there.
- Immigrants from Canada, US, the United Kingdom and other European countries (Netherlands and Germany).
- According to the GSS, Indians and Lebanese nationals formed the highest proportion of Asians who arrived in Ghana between 1999 and 2002.

# Commercial Migrants

- Historically, also significant
  - The trans-Saharan trade route was about commerce.
  - A 1960 study in Accra – 60% of traders were Nigerians.
- Lebanese and Indians have also played a major role.
- Legacy of commercial migration.
  - Hausas in Ghana.
  - Remnants of Yoruba
  - Lebanese descendants.

# Students

- Student immigration is rising in Ghana particularly those from ECOWAS Member States.
- In 2007, 2,992 foreign students were granted resident permit (25% from ECOWAS Member States (GIS, 2008, IOM, 2009).
- Foreign students in University of Ghana rose from 1.5% (2001/2) to 3.8% (2006/7)- UG Public Affairs, 2008).
- In 2007/8 academic year, UG admitted 1,142 non-nationals from 42 countries .
- Nigerians and Americans (US) accounted for 46% and 31% respectively in 2007/8 academic year.
- There are 55,000 Nigerians in tertiary institutions in Ghana - Nigerian High Commissioner.

# Drivers of Immigration to Ghana

- Economy (exploitation of natural resources timber, minerals) and cultivation of cocoa.
- Conducive agro-ecological conditions.
- Liberal economic environment.
- Relative peace and political stability (oasis of peace in the sub-region).
- Proverbial Ghanaian hospitality.
- Relatively higher standard of education (tertiary level).

# Immigration Governance

- Absence of migration policy but legislations (Constitution, Immigration and Citizenship Laws).
- ECOWAS protocol on free movement, AU and NEPAD migration framework,
- Institutions (Ministries of Interior, Foreign Affairs and Labour, GIS, Ghana Refugee Board, National Migration Bureau, police and judiciary)
- Collaborating agencies: UNFPA, UNDP, UNHCR, IOM, EU, embassies, etc



# Immigration Governance

- Universities (RIPS, CMS, ISSER) and Population Council (research, dissemination, capacity building, etc.
- Civil society groups:
  - African American Association of Ghana,
  - Liberian Refugee Welfare Council,
  - Association of Nigerian Residents in Ghana.

# Challenges

- Policy deficit (ad-hoc nature of decisions)
- Limited coordination among MDAs dealing with immigration issues
- Absence of reliable data to guide policy formulation for effective management
- Weak implementation of ECOWAS protocols
- Inadequate institutional capacity for effective management of immigration

# Way Forward

- Improvement in Migration governance in terms of policy formulation and better coordination.
- Capacity building of MDAs working on migration related issues.
- Collection, processing and storage of reliable immigration data – Need for collaborative effort.
- Accelerate economic growth to regulate labour immigration.

**THANK YOU!!!**