

Arab Maghreb Union (AMU)



Labor Migration Statistics Report in Africa *Second edition: Regional Migration Profile*

SECOND EDITION OF THE AFRICA LABOR MIGRATION STATISTICS REPORT |

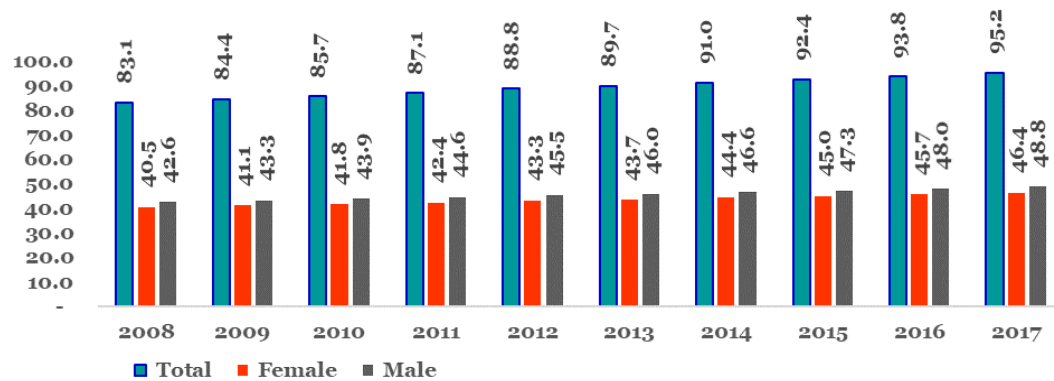
Introduction

The Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) is a trade agreement aiming for economic and future political unity among Arab countries of the Maghreb in North Africa. Its members are the nations of Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, and Tunisia. The region's aim is to guarantee cooperation with similar regional institutions to take part in the enrichment of the international dialogue, reinforce the independence of the member states and safeguard their assets for economic prosperity.

POPULATION

In 2017, the total population of the region was 95.2 million people with 46.4 million women and 48.8 million men (figure 1), which translates to 14.6 percent increase in the population of the region in 2017 as compare to the population in the region in 2008 of 83.1 million people. This indicates that the region has an annual growth rate of 1.52 percent for the population over the decade.

Figure 1. Population of AMU Region by sex, 2017 (millions)



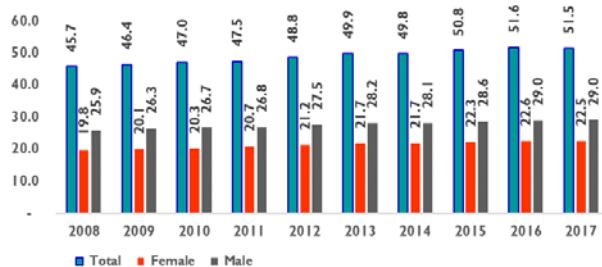
Source: JLMF Database, 2018

WORKING AGE POPULATION

In 2008 the working age population of the region was 45.7 million while in 2017 there were 51.3 million people, which represents an increase of 12.5 percent (Figure 2). The population of males in the working-age population of the region increased from 25.9

million in 2008 to 29.0 million in 2017 (an increase of 11.7 per cent), while that of females in working-age population in the region increased from 19.8 million to 22.5 million over the same period (an increase of 13.5 per cent).

Figure 2. Working-age population in AMU region, by sex(millions)

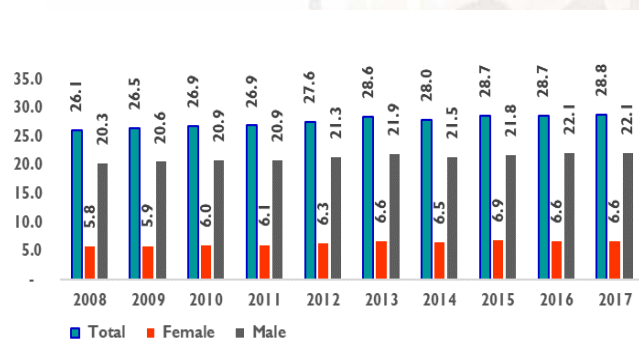


Source: JLMP Database, 2018

LABOUR FORCE AND LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE

The labour force in the AMU region in 2008 was reported to be 26.1 million people while in 2017 the region recorded 28.8 million people, which translates to a 10.3 percent increase of the labour force in the region.

Figure 3. Labour force in AMU region, by sex (millions)



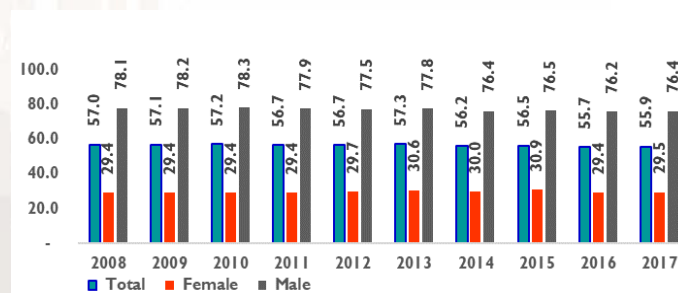
Source: JLMP Database, 2018

The population of females in the labour force in 2008 was 5.8 million while that of 2017 was 6.6 million, thus representing a 14.0 percent increase. On the other hand, the population of males in the labour force increased from 20.3 million to 22.1 million, which represents 9.2 percent increase. It is evident that the region has more males than females in the labour force. In 2017, the male population

accounted for 76.9 percent of the labour force while the females accounted for 23.1 percent, which indicates that there was a 53.9 percent difference in the representation of males and females in the labour force. Therefore, there is ardent need to create policies to foster gender equity and equality at member states in the regional.

The labour force participation rate for the region for the year 2017 was 55.9 percent with males having a higher proportion of 76.4 percent while the females recorded a significantly lower proportion of 29.5 percent. This trend is consistent over the years evaluated in this report with 2017 recording a 46.8 percent difference between males and females.

Figure 4. Labour force participation rate in AMU region by sex, 2017 (%)



Source: JLMP Database, 2018

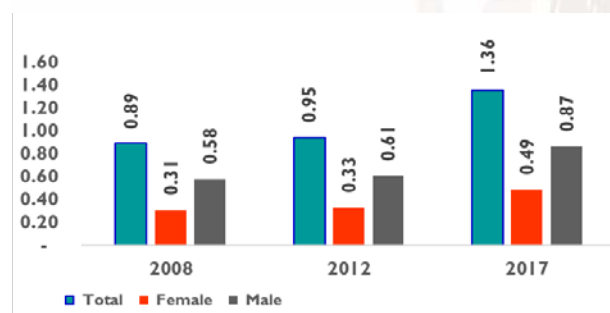
This clearly indicates that the issues of gender parity or equity need to be looked more into with a greater understanding of issues leading to this significant difference and develop more advanced and elaborate policies to advocate for more inclusion and participation of females in the labour force of the region.

Stock of international Migrants

TRENDS IN THE SIZE OF THE INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT POPULATION

The trend of migrant workers in the AMU region has increased over the decade. In 2008 there were 0.89 million migrants in the region, this has increased steadily over the years with 2017 recording 1.36 million migrants, which represents a 52.1 percent.

Figure 5. International migrant population in AMU region by sex (millions)



Source: JLMP Database, 2018

In 2008 there were 0.58 million male migrants while in 2017 there were 0.87 million, an increase of 49.4 percent while the number of female migrants in 2008 was 0.31 million and in 2017 there were 0.49 million female migrants, which represents an increase of 57.2 percent. The dominance of male migrants over their female counterparts in the region is evident over the years with 2017 recording 27.9 percent difference between males and females despite the increasing number of female migrant workers.

WORKING-AGE INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS

In 2008 the AMU region reported 0.72 million working age migrants while in 2017, the region recorded 1.09 million migrants, translating to 49.9 percent increase on the working age migrant population in the region.

Figure 6. Working-age international migrants in AMU region by sex (millions)



Source: JLMP Database, 2018

The disaggregation by sex also showed that in 2008 the number of working age migrant women in the region was 0.24 million which has increased gradually over the years with 2017 recording 0.37 million working age population of female migrants.

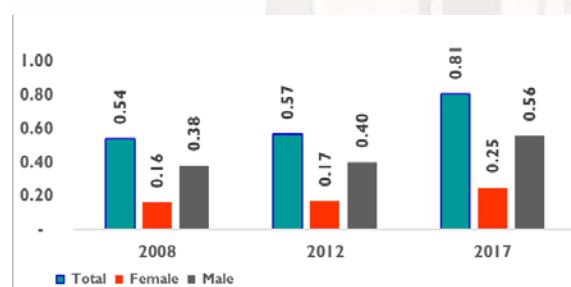
On the other hand, the male population of working age migrants has also shown a similar trend over the decade with 2008 recording a total of 0.49 million while 2017 recorded a total of 0.72 million working age population of male migrants in the region, thus representing a 47.3 percent increase. The predominance of males over females in the working age migrant population continue to depict a continuous

trend over the years with 2017 alone reporting a 32.1 percent difference between male and female migrants in the region. This means that more needs to be done by policy makers in the region to put in place measures and policies that address issues of gender parity for equitable distribution of resources and opportunities to bridge the existing gap.

INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT WORKERS

The number of international migrant workers in the AMU region in 2008 was 0.54 million while that of 2017 was 0.81 million, which shows an increase of 49.7 percent.

Figure 7. International migrant workers in AMU by sex (millions)



Source: JLMP Database, 2018

A similar trend is shown when disaggregating the number of international migrant workers by sex. In 2008 there were 0.16 million female international migrant workers while in 2017 there were 0.25 million female international migrant workers. On the other hand, the male migrant workers also depicted a similar trend with 2008 recording 0.38 million male migrant workers while in 2017 there were 0.56 million male international migrant workers.

Even though the number of female migrant workers in 2008 was low, this has continued to increase significantly over the years at an annual rate of 5.8 percent. However, this increment is subject to a number of factors.

The male migrant workers tend to have a larger proportion of the migrant workers compared to females including occupying more roles in the working migrant workers population with a significant difference of 38.7 percent between males and females in the year 2017. Therefore, more effort is required in terms of developing and implementing policies to bridge the gender gap in the work force for the international migrant workers in the region.

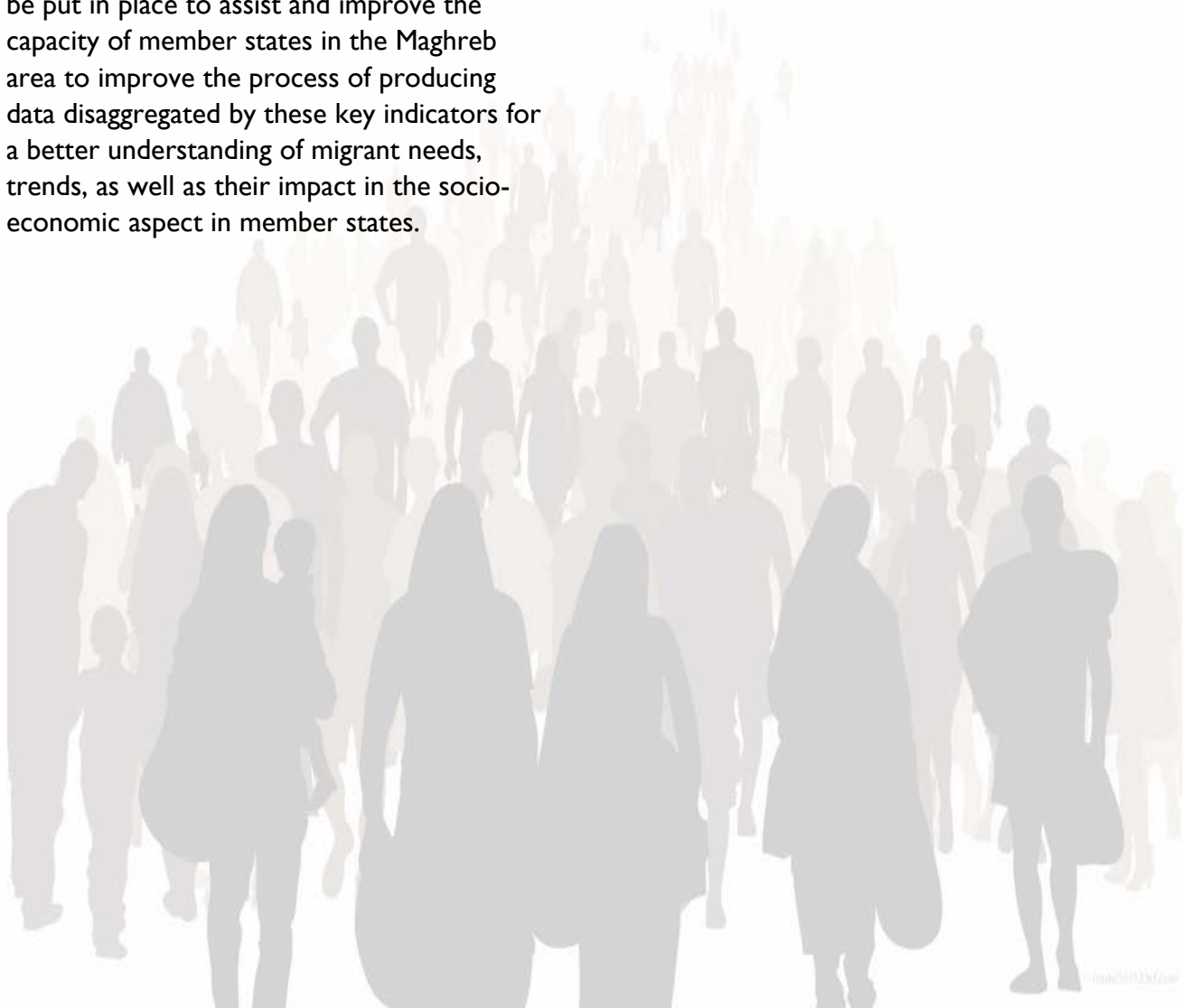
YOUNG INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT WORKERS

Generally, the region comprises of a youth population (15-35 years) spread across various member states. However, when assessing the number of youth migrant workers (15-35), many of the countries were not able to provide this information. For instance, in 2016, only Algeria was able to provide the number of youth migrant workers. This poses a challenge in terms of understanding and assessing this indicator in the region and at national level.

Additional characteristics of International Migrant Workers

Additional migrant profiles were also assessed during the period 2008 to 2017. These include employment status, economic activity, occupation, and level of education. However, in the AMU region, only Algeria was able to provide the information for the year 2016 and some of the years in this report. Also, when assessing these additional indicators for the year 2016, only Algeria provided data for these indicators.

The need for these indicators is key to understanding migrant trends in the region. Therefore, more efforts and measures should be put in place to assist and improve the capacity of member states in the Maghreb area to improve the process of producing data disaggregated by these key indicators for a better understanding of migrant needs, trends, as well as their impact in the socio-economic aspect in member states.



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United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa



RECOMMENDATIONS

Bearing in mind the findings from this second edition of labour migration statistics report in Africa, but also the various constraints on the data analysis, the following recommendations were drawn up:

- Continue to strengthen the capacity of Member States to provide thorough and informative responses to the International Labour Migration Questionnaire.
- Monitor and coordinate the collection of data on labour migration within their blocs.
- Promote the use of administrative sources of labour migration data.
- Take part in a harmonized survey on labour migration at the REC level.



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