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*THE MIGRATORY JOURNEY FROM WEST AFRICA TO EUROPE, SPAIN AS THE  
MAIN ENTRANCE*

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*“It is a contradiction to support an increased foreign aid development and ignore the actions of multinational corporations or other agents that undermine the tax revenue in developing countries”*

*Trevor Manuel, Ministry of Economy of South Africa*

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## **Abstract**

The poor distribution of wealth along with the inefficient government aid in Africa, has led the population for intuitive means of survival, even to the extent of risking their lives in a difficult and enigmatic journey of migration to Europe to reach a prosperous economic level for their relatives. The so called, Cayucos Crisis in 2006, was the starting point of one of the main events of a massive irregular immigration to Europe, which had astonished the media that observed thousands of West African immigrants arriving in the Canary Islands, focusing the Spanish government to arrest and repatriate these immigrants and prevent more deaths at sea. Those who managed to immigrate to Europe, suffer the unknown to adapt to their new home hoping to find the coveted "European dream".



## **Resumen**

La mala distribución de riqueza, junto con la ineficaz gestión gubernamental en los países de África Occidental, han servido para que intuitivamente la población busque medios de supervivencia; llegando al extremo de arriesgar sus vidas en una ardua y enigmática travesía migratoria hacia Europa. Esto, para alcanzar un nivel económico estable para su persona y sus allegados. La llamada Crisis de los Cayucos en 2006, fue el punto de partida de uno de los principales acontecimientos de inmigración clandestina masiva hacia Europa, en el cual los inmigrantes que llegaron a las Islas Canarias sorprendió a los medios de comunicación de la Unión Europea, para ello el gobierno español buscó detener y repatriar a los inmigrantes recién llegados y prevenir más muertes en alta mar. Finalmente, aquellos que lograron emigrar a Europa, sufren la incógnita de adaptarse en su nuevo hogar y esperar encontrar el ansiado “sueño europeo”.

## INTRODUCTION

Migration has been considered one of the most significant phenomena of human history still present in its evolution around the globe. However, it is worth mentioning that today, the media and transportation have contributed to the internationalization of population movements in various directions; nevertheless in this study I plan to analyze the journey from developing regions towards developed areas, specifically the case of West African migration to Europe, with a special emphasis on Spain as a gateway to the continent. Precisely in this area of the world, migration has become one of the government's priorities in this century.

It is said that the origins of humanity began in Africa and ended in Europe, populating the earth ever since. It is ironic to mention that in the XXI century, these events are still mobilizing in the same places in the pursuit of survival. Migration fluxes from West Africa to Spain still occur daily. There are hundreds of lives involved in clandestine and dangerous journey, due to economic prosperity, personal independence in Europe, or for reasons of shelter or to escape from social violence in their countries of origin.

As to the Millennium Development Goals, United Nations and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, as well as the European Union have developed various policies to support southern countries for their economic, political and environmental prosperity among other areas. The area of immigration policy is relevant to this study, where it is emphasized that migration is a positive factor for development. In 1985 the migration management of a state affected the whole territory of the European Union, this is why the Schengen Agreement fostered the cooperation among European states to control their borders. In 1999 the Treaty of Amsterdam stated certain basis for a common European policy on immigration and asylum.

However, in the last decade, the influx of immigration by West Africans has created great consternation in the Spanish State, as in the Punta de Oliveros, south of Spain, is where the income is irregular and immigrants arrive by dinghies (canoes). Spain has deployed a development cooperation policy toward these African countries to fight poverty, but people flows are increasing. Although several changes have gradually

emerged regarding immigration policies by the European Union, migration control has not been observed as successful yet.

Many African countries rely on Mauritania and Morocco as transit points to migrate to Europe, firstly by reaching Spain and later spreading to countries such as France, Holland, Germany and Italy mainly. The Canary Islands, Spanish territory, is seen as an opportunity for Africans that travel from Mauritania to disembark and settle temporarily on the island so later they can go to Europe, as long as Spanish coastguards do not capture and deport them to their countries of origin. Moreover, Morocco located 14 kilometers from Spain across the Strait of Gibraltar, is also considered a key point of departure to go to Spain, not to mention the city of Ceuta (Spain), located east of Morocco, which is also an entry for migrants to sneak in to Europe or stay in Spain.

According to interviews conducted by Aljazeera TV, Africans living in several European countries have shown their frustration since they are not satisfied in their new environment, whether for political, legal, cultural, economic, social reasons, among others. Unemployment, lack of education, culture, racism, etc. are factors that have influenced the integration and adaptability of many Africans who have been unsuccessful in Europe and it has become very difficult to support their families in their home countries, through remittances.

That is why I will focus on the journey undertaken by African migrants to Europe, where Spain is seen as the main entrance to the continent and the starting point of travel to other European countries. The level of integration of migrants in European cultures as well as the alternatives that are provided by both Spain and the European Union are not enough against an unstoppable migration where African lives are lost each year.

For a better understanding, a study of the economic, political and social situation were investigated in countries like Mali, Mauritania, Senegal and Nigeria, where most irregular immigration to Europe originates, in order to determine the key factors prior to the migration decision. It is important for this analysis, to examine the paths taken by migrants during the journey to their destination, the risks, the feasibility of the risky journey, etc. Finally, it is necessary to study the living conditions, economic, political and social situation of these Africans in Europe, their degree of integration into the host

society and thus the alternatives that provide both Spain and the European Union regarding this issue.

## CHAPTER 1: SENEGAL, MAURITANIA, MALI AND NIGERIA

Economic, political and social conditions

### 1.1 Country Profiles

#### 1.1.1 Senegal

Known officially as the Republic of Senegal, and located in West Africa, Senegal is surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean to the west, Mauritania to the north, Mali to the east and Guinea-Bissau to the south. Its population is 12,969,606 inhabitants in 2011 and its official language is French. The capital is Dakar.

Graph N°. 1 Senegal



**Source:** The World Fact Book [Acceded on: November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012] Available on: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/sg.html>

### Politics

The Republic of Senegal gained its independence from France in 1960. This regime didn't undergo a coup d'état but rather an alternate government that has peacefully been in control of the country. It is positioned as the most politically stable country in West

Africa. Its republic is presidential, and the Constitution establishes a mandate for five years. Its current president is Macky Sall, elected in March 2012(Freedom House, 2012).

On the other hand, according to the Spanish ministry of economy and competitiveness, its legislative power is shared between the government and the parliament. The bicameral system consists of a National Assembly composed of 150 members and a Senate composed of 100 members. 65 members are appointed by the President and 35 elected by direct suffrage.

Senegal has more than 60 political parties. Within this scope, the Senegalese political system is one of the most stable compared to other countries that will be analyzed (Mauritania, Mali and Nigeria), according to reports by the Economic and Trade Office of Spain in Dakar. This country has not experienced high levels of violence on any of their government's alternation periods, nor extremist violence nor religious-political issues.

Additionally, according to the Corruption Perception Index from Transparency International 2012(Transparency International, 2012), Senegal is ranked 94 out of 176 countries, which is one of the less controversial positions over other countries that will be studied. On the same matter, the corruption scores in the public sector given by its index were analyzed accordingly – 0 means a country's perception is highly corrupt and 100 represents a country with no corruption. These scores are analyzed in the following table:

**Table N°. 1 Corruption Perception Index**

Country	CPI	Score
Senegal	94	36
Mali	105	34
Nigeria	113	33
Mauritania	123	31
Ecuador	118	32

**Elaborated by:** Xavier Sánchez

**Source:** Transparency International [Acceded on: November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012] Available on: [http://www.transparencia.org.es/IPC%C2%B4s/IPC\\_2012/Tabla\\_sint%C3%A9tica\\_resultados\\_IPC\\_2012.pdf](http://www.transparencia.org.es/IPC%C2%B4s/IPC_2012/Tabla_sint%C3%A9tica_resultados_IPC_2012.pdf)

Finally, it is interesting to make a comparison among indexes. Corruption in Ecuador is ranked 118th out of 176 countries surveyed by Transparency International. The results show that Ecuador has a high rate of corruption perception similar to the countries studied, even higher than most of them.

## **Economy**

Senegal's economy is based mainly on fish, chemicals, cotton and fabric exports. Its main economic sectors are: food processing, mining, cement, refining imported petroleum products and tourism. On the other hand, due to its favorable geographical location, Senegal was considered one of the most developed countries of West Africa after its independence from France in the early 60's (Iberglobal, 2012). However, in the decades of state interventionism and autarchy, Senegal's economy was positioned in a situation of debt and low growth; thus it experienced a structural shift in its reforms initiated in the 80's (Ibid.).

Furthermore, the Republic of Senegal is still within the Least Developed Countries list compiled by the United Nations in 2013 – which means that it has not been handling its wealth correctly – not even the distribution of resources in an equitable manner. This provoked migrants to flee the country in search of new opportunities and improve their lifestyle.

Its economy is poorly diversified, and although the primary sector represents less than 20% of its GDP, it is part of their livelihood on which around 70% of the population depends.

The peanut growth represents their main crop without neglecting the fishing activity, which is part of an important source of foreign exchange. Within this context, this issue leads to saturate the agricultural employment in the country – although there are a number of professional individuals in other areas. Nevertheless, these careers fall within the underemployment category. Therefore, the rest of the Senegalese population has no choice but to migrate to the north, in other words towards Europe. As for the industrial sector, it composes an essential growth of GDP, in which the extraction and processing of phosphate represents the main industry sector and the second largest source of foreign exchange. (Ibid.).

Nowadays, Senegal is in a process of modernization in the agricultural sector, as well as

developing new monetary reforms to help the country's economy. On the other hand, it is worth pointing out that the country remains in a primary sector economy in which the processing and transformation of resources are mostly handled by multinational corporations. Even though they represent a high percentage of the GDP, it does not however reflect an index of full employment in this sector for the Senegalese, because agriculture has always been one of the main sources of employment. (Iberglobal, 2012).

**Table N°. 2 Senegal's Gross Domestic Product Profile.**

<b>GDP</b>	14.29 billion (2011)
<b>GDP per capita</b>	\$1070 (2011)
<b>GDP as per sector</b>	Agriculture: 15.9% Industry: 21.8% Services: 62.3%

**Elaborated by:** Xavier Sánchez

**Source:** World Bank & Iberglobal [Acceded on: November 16<sup>th</sup> 2012] Available on:

[http://www.indexmundi.com/es/senegal/economia\\_perfil.html](http://www.indexmundi.com/es/senegal/economia_perfil.html)

<http://data.worldbank.org/country/senegal>

As shown in the table above, Senegal's GDP corresponds to 14.29 billion, which is percentage-wise divided by agriculture 15.9%, industry 21.8% and services 62.3%. It clearly shows that its economy relies mostly on services, which are composed by tourism, telecommunications, transportation and financial services respectively – which means there is a specialized industry in the production of goods or raw material and thus mostly depending on imports and processing.

Underemployment is also considered a negative weight aspect, affecting around 75% of the population. The informal private sector is critical to family sustenance, pretty much being a common feature of Senegal.

Senegal is located at number 155 out of 187 countries (Table N °. 3), according to the Human Development Index organized by United Nations Development Programme 2011. Senegal is within the least developed countries group as well as the other countries studied in this analysis. These situations lead people to feel forced to migrate.



**Table N°. 3 Human Development Index**

Country	HDI	Rankings
Mali	0.35	175
Mauritania	0.45	159
Nigeria	0.45	156
<b>Senegal</b>	<b>0.45</b>	<b>155</b>
Ecuador	0.72	83

**Elaborated by:** Xavier Sánchez

**Source:** United Nations Development Programme [Acceded on: November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012] Available on: <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/corporate/HDR/2013GlobalHDR/Spanish/HDR2013%20Report%20Spanish.pdf>

Additionally, in 2009, Senegal experienced a poor growth in its economy as a result of the international crisis, whose greatest impact had to do with reduction of Senegalese migrant's remittances, which constitute 5% of the GDP, as well as in the volume of exports.

Nevertheless, in 2011, a growth around 4.4% of GDP was registered after a partial recovery as well as the economic upturn of the main developed economies. This means that Senegal's dependence from foreign economies is essential to their development, although migration continues to increase throughout the country.

As for the foreign debt, in 2000 Senegal became eligible to receive international support. Furthermore, as discussed in the previous paragraph, remittances remain as an economic contribution to the country as opposed to investments. It is worth emphasizing that the money generated from foreign investment has not attributed a greater change in the HDI or very little.

Among its main economic policy objectives, major financial institutions in Senegal and the World Bank agreed upon a document that is in line with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); these were evaluated in 2010, where it showed a level of compliance with an average of 3% in the period 2006-2009. Although it complied, it remained little and insufficient to counteract poverty; despite its achievement on certain objectives to strengthen the State's revenues and a public expenditure control. This is an

international concern since Senegal did not submit a proper report regarding the money's whereabouts destined to the social sector. This determines there is a relatively high level of corruption within Senegal's banks and a poorly developed control by the government as such (Ibid.).

Senegal's current resilient dynamism is found within the sector of information technology and agriculture, where the latter has been boosted with projects like the REVA Plan (Plan de Retour vers l'Agriculture ) and GOANA (Grande Offensive Agricole pour la Nourriture et l'Abondance), to enhance agricultural production and reduce dependence on imports of these products. Senegal also chose to implement bilateral relations with Spain called "Africa Plan 2009-2012" which was destined to financing energy infrastructure, transportation and environmental projects into 12 sub-Saharan countries. (Iberglobal, 2012).

## **Social**

In terms of social status, most African countries suffer extreme poverty due to the poor redistribution of wealth and inefficient government practices that have permeated the history of the continent. Despite receiving foreign aid, as in food, health, infrastructure, the resource's situation such as water is rough and it toughened the survival of many. In Senegal, 36% of its population is in a state of poverty, rural areas being the most affected. This alarming situation has an impact over the country causing clandestine migration and the rapid departure of many Senegalese without preventing the consequences. (Pobreza mundial, 2012).

Regarding internal conflicts in Senegal, the Casamance region, located south of the country, has historically been an area of great conflict since the Movement of Democratic Forces of Casamance (MFDC) still claims independence of the region for about thirty years and is considered one of Africa's longest conflicts. This movement continues to attack civilians as though laying mines in different areas, assault, kidnapping of soldiers, murder, among others.

Although having made several peace negotiations with Senegal governments; they have not agreed to terms. Former President Abdoulaye Wade attempted to fix this problem, however in his twelve years at the helm, it did not get any positive response. This conflict has apparently been handled by the current President Macky Sall, who

presented it as priority to solve this social dilemma in which he announced, "he would be willing to dialogue with this group, but Senegal's partition would not be negotiable". It was a rigid point to call for a round of negotiations. (Toranzo, 2012).

Its social situation is a great concern since 1 out of 5 people suffers from some form of undernourishment. Additionally, it is known that human trafficking exists in the country, where people are destined to other countries to forced labor. Life expectancy is 59 years (Banco Mundial, 2011), positioning below the world average.

It is in this country where the phrase "rich country filled with poverty" is applicable; which shows that a country is not measured by the amount of wealth, but what in reality they have done with it and how it is distributed. This reality leads to a certain increase of desperation in migrants where they do not hope for a better lifestyle but for its own survival and their relatives.

The main destinations of many people are European countries. By preference they are as follows: Spain, Italy and France. Most of these migrants are young people among 15-34 years old (UNDP, 2012). According to the "2009 Human Development Index Report" it also includes Germany as a destination for hundreds of migrants who choose to live in the country and give a try to their European dream.

There are educational, food and infrastructure projects promoted by NGOs, foreign governments and other international institutions such as UNICEF, World Bank, among others. However, these projects do not reflect any improvement in performance of the country, as it presents the UN indicators referred throughout this chapter. (Migrations Between Africa and Europe, 2011).

### **1.1.2 Mauritania**

Officially known as the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, located in the northwest of Africa, bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to the west, by Senegal on the southwest, Mali to the east and southeast, Algeria to the northwest and Western Sahara to the north. Its population is 3,359,185 people in 2011, its official language is Arabic and French and its capital is Nouakchott.

## Graph N°. 2 Mauritania



**Source:** The World Fact Book [Acceded on: November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012] Available on: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/mr.html>

### Politics

Similar to Senegal, Mauritania's Islamic Republic gained independence in 1963 from France. As a whole, the political life of this country has been known for having a strong military presence ever since.

Changes of government in the country have been a succession of military regimes until 2007, when Mauritania held its first democratic presidential elections. Its republic is semi presidential approved in 1991, which is shared with the Prime Minister for a five-year period. The Mauritanian Islamist Republic has about 59 political parties and as the Republic of Senegal, is comprised of a bicameral system, where the National Assembly consists of 95 deputies and 56 members of the Senate.

On the other hand, there were several coups since 2005, when several militant groups opposed to the new mandate at that time, when certain pressure by extremist groups to release members linked to Al Qaeda existed. The European Union and the United States condemned the Coup d'état and demanded constitutional stability. In 2006, another referendum was held, reforming the new constitution and limiting the powers of

government. However, Mauritania is ranked at No. 123 (Transparency International, 2012), according to 2012 Corruption Perceptions Index from Transparency International, which means that there is still a high abuse incidence of the government's power, despite the new reform implemented to counterattack the problem.

Within the democratic process in 2007, slavery was abolished and criminalized, although in 1980 Mauritania was named as the last country to abolish slavery. In 2008, there was another coup by the military against the new president where it formed a state council and appointed as President Mohamed Ould Abdelaziz. The international community condemned this, which was drastic to the country. The United Nations, the European Union and several countries including France, Spain, and Algeria have condemned it. The United States and France also suspended humanitarian aid. Also, the African Union suspended their obligations towards Mauritania.

In 2009, an agreement was signed among the main political parties of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to request democratic elections in the country, being the president of Senegal as the mediator of this act. As of 2012, there have been several murder attempts on the Mauritanian president, but the idea of a coup attempt was refuted (CNN México, 2012). These facts of instability and corruption in Mauritania have caused people to feel threatened in inhabiting the region, so they choose to risk their lives on a migratory journey to flee these political issues as well as economic and social problems that have a great weight on their decisions.

## **Economy**

Mauritania's economy depends mainly on agriculture, which is the growth of crops such as rice, potatoes, vegetables and livestock sector of sheep, goats and cattle. It is known that from 1970-1980, there were times of drought when the population was forced to migrate for sustenance; also, according to the 2008 World Food Programme from United Nations, the country had the need to import about 70% of worldwide food. Despite the unfavorable conditions that plague the region, Mauritania has one of the richest fishery resources in the world. The Islamic Republic of Mauritania has been historically supported by the IMF, where data from the early 1990s, confirmed the country was granted aid from Poverty Reduction Growth Facilities in order to improve macroeconomic stability and promote transparency in its government to commit

exclusively to public funds. In 2000, Mauritania was one of the first countries to start the project of reducing poverty, this new strategy is part of one of the Millennium Development Goals to achieve by the end of 2015, which aims to reduce poverty from its 47% to 35% within three years (Mekay, 2001). Mauritania's economy is very small along with its market diversification. Nevertheless, the activities that reinforce the economic framework of Mauritania are fishing, the extraction of iron and oil.

**Table N°. 4 Mauritania's Gross Domestic Product Profile**

<b>GDP</b>	4.076 billion (2011)
<b>GDP per capita</b>	\$1000 (2011):
<b>GDP as per sector</b>	Agriculture: cattle and fishery: 13,3% Oil Extraction: 46,7% Services: 40%

**Elaborated by:** Xavier Sánchez

**Source:** Spanish Institute for Foreign Trade [Acceded on: October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012] Available on: <http://www.icex.es/icex/cma/contentTypes/common/records/mostrarDocumento/?doc=4428926>

The primary sector consists of agriculture, livestock and fisheries, which contribute about 13.3% of GDP. Agricultural activity is limited since 3% of the country's land is arable and 1% covers a drizzle climate ideal for farming. It is worth emphasizing that 90% of the country is desert (África Informarket.org, 2012).

As for fishing, it is one of the most important activities for foreign income, where more than 20,000 people depend upon and contribute to 6% of the GDP. Today it is expected to improve fisheries infrastructure to modernize its processes since old boats are totally obsolete. It is estimated that by the end of 2012 Mauritania would have completed these changes. Additionally, Spain requested a project to implement Spanish industries in the region called "Fish for everybody" to create jobs by 2013. (Chabi, 2013).

The secondary sector corresponds to mining, which has been very successful in recent years due to the arrival of Chinese multinationals to exploit the iron, copper and mainly gold. Oil extraction in recent years also lies in this sector since it contributes 46.7% of GDP, so this production is estimated to grow over a long term. As the tertiary sector,

which represents 40% of GDP, it belongs to the civil service, tourism and air transport investments and mobile telecommunications.

However, civil attacks registered in 2008 against French tourists and the cancellation of the Paris-Dakar Rally has slowed the rate of tourism in the country. Despite several humanitarian programs to improve the conditions of the country, it is estimated that the government has not provided substantial assistance to the well being of the population, so that the migration of people still persists.

Underemployment affects much of the population, since 80% of the population resides within this group. Unemployment affects young people under 25 years, where 80% of them claim their first job. Unemployed people are mostly illiterate and without professional experience, where it appears that the economy's ability to generate employment is inefficient since estimates mention that around 30,000 jobs per year are needed. It is known that the unemployment rate in the country is around 32.5% (Oficina Económica y Comercial de España en Dakar, 2011). Therefore it is considered that part of the population within this grouping, migrate to maintain a stable economic situation (Ibid.).

In 2008, the international crisis had a strong impact on the country since fuel prices and cereals have soared, hampering access to these goods to the majority of the population, where according to 2007, 46, 7% of the population were below the poverty line. As in the case of the rest of the countries studied, high rates of poverty is a reality in most African countries so it is not surprising that irregular migration prevails in Africa.

On the other hand, it is important to analyze the ease of investment and business in Mauritania, which must have a favorable regulatory environment for business performance, considering that Mauritania is within the low-income countries. The table below will analyze the studied countries with variables such as the ease of doing business and the protection of investors – 1 to 185 of global economies, from best to worst is used.

**Table N°. 5 Comparisons of the Countries' Economies**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Facility to make Business</b>	<b>Investor Protection</b>
Nigeria	131	170
Mali	151	150
Senegal	166	169
<b>Mauritania</b>	167	150
Ecuador	139	139

**Elaborated by:** Xavier Sánchez

**Source:** Doing Business [Acceded on: October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012] Available on:  
<http://espanol.doingbusiness.org/data/exploreeconomies/mauritania>

As shown in the table, the countries studied are in the worst economic environment for business and investment and protection as such, so it is important to note the position which Ecuador is in this analysis as it is ranked 139 within the ease of doing business variable, which means it is not in a favorable position.

As defined above, the poor economic and political conditions are linked so that people doubt their faith in survival in the region which leads to travel to other countries, especially to Europe.

There was a high rate of corruption in the country for failing to implement programs recommended by the IMF and the World Bank. However, when these entities were invited to the region to review the data, tensions were immediately overcome by 2006. Among the highlights, Mauritania and Spain signed two programs for debt relief in 2008. Within this bilateral framework, several cooperation agreements were also signed on the Cooperation and Reciprocal Protection of Investments among others.

Poverty in the region explains why Mauritanian citizens embark on a risky clandestine migration through coasts or deserts (Doing Business, 2012).

As previously mentioned, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania maintains relations with international financial institutions to fight poverty and improve the living conditions of its inhabitants, where each organization gives a certain amount of money to support



developing programs; among the 2012 projects are regional integration, road construction, water usage policies, poverty reduction, and electrical energy programs (Iberglobal, 2012).

## **Social**

As for the social situation, 21.2% of the population of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania live below the poverty line and are still regarded as a nomadic population. Due to the drought affecting the country they migrate to cities (Canarias7.es, 2011). Amnesty International has framed serious violations that Mauritanian authorities have committed against civil liberties. The average life expectancy is 59 years of age, the same as the Republic of Senegal (World Bank, 2012).

Youth unemployment is around 35%-40%. The country has chosen to establish alternatives to this problem, since this situation is one of the reasons why clandestine immigration originates, but the violence of political parties, the violation of human rights, as the economic situation has not shown any positive change in the country (International Trade Union Corporation, 2011). The food crisis affecting Sahel each year is depressing due to droughts, poor harvests and high prices in the markets forcing the inhabitants to migrate to other lands, including the choice to migrate to Europe without measuring the consequences of a risky journey (Oxfam International, 2012).

Although slavery was abolished in 2007 and penalized with 10 years in prison, there are still cases that persist in the country; such as marriages between minors and adults regarded as paying off family debts (Lanaveva, 2011). Women and children are still exploited and used as means of payment between families and tribes. Reports indicate that it is also considered as a source and a transit point for human trafficking to perform forced labor.

Education is free up to university; however it is worth considering that resources are scarce, even more in rural areas of the country. Hunger and violence by groups close to al Qaeda threaten the internal development of the country where the situation becomes arduous and interminable (Calatayud, 2012). These unfavorable situations for the welfare of the individual, also lead to fleeing the territory as a last resort from social conflicts in the country. As for human rights, Amnesty International reported that

freedom of expression does not exist in Mauritania and the government controls the majority of information.

Today, there is still repression, torture, killings, arrests and other abuses that are not condemned by the Mauritanian justice and under President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz. These reasons among others have generated the Arab revolts in 2011, where protests have multiplied against the regime (Middle East Online, 2012). Despite the chaotic situation that Mauritania has experienced, it has historically depended on foreign help to counteract social violence and restore food security. The United Nations Organization for Food and Agriculture has participated in 2013, to extend its financial support to the government and fight against poverty and drought affecting the region. Similarly, NGOs have contributed to the development of the country.

### 1.1.3 Mali

Known officially as the Republic of Mali, located in West Africa, with borders with Algeria to the north, Niger to the east, Mauritania and Senegal to the west and Ivory Coast, Guinea and Burkina Faso to the south. Its population was 14,533,511 inhabitants in 2011, its official language is French and its capital is Bamako.

#### Graph N°. 3 Mali



**Source:** The World Fact Book [Acceded on: October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012] Available on:  
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ml.html>

## **Politics**

In 1960, Mali gained independence from France similar to the countries mentioned in this chapter. Like many African countries, after its independence they were in a situation of instability and political overthrow of military dictatorship.

Mali's constitution ensures multi-party democracy and political stability from 1992 after having elected a president through its first democratic presidential elections in the country. Historically, Mali has seen internal conflicts with rebellions in the north such as Tuareg where in the 1960s and 1990s demanded greater autonomy. Usually these conflicts were generated as a consequence of poverty and Islamic fundamentalist groups. Nowadays armed conflict persists in the Nidal region, located north of the country, where it is known as the most troubled area of the region. Its current president is Dioncounda Traoré who apart from being head of state, also serves as commander of the armed forces and has an influence on the judiciary branch to reform laws as well as to appoint judges. Its mandate is for five years and the National Assembly as the only legislative body composed of 147 deputies (Mali Embassy, 2013).

In recent events, in early 2012, Malian soldiers, staged a coup in response to passive reaction by the government to groups from the Tuareg rebellion located to the north. Taking advantage of the situation, Tuareg groups linked to Al Qaeda took over the north of the region. After the government's weakening, it unleashed massive attacks on the fundamentalist group, taking over the region (AWID, 2012). These violent events in Mali besides poverty plaguing the region, are causes for people to migrate to neighboring countries and even developed countries to seek social and healthy welfare for their family. Such is the case of the migration of more than 30,000 people from Mali to Algeria because of internal violence (Periodismo Digital, 2012).

The current president has launched a fight against Tuareg rebels and Islamic fundamentalist groups that have participated in a series of robberies and rapes in the north despite having been attacked by protesters in Mali. The country is in a constitutional, political and territorial crisis, where president Traoré has felt unable to release the north from these groups. It is estimated that around 200,000 people have fled their homes since the Tuareg have taken over in January 2012 (El País, 2012).

On the other hand, it is important to point out that Mali is ranked at 105 in the Corruption Perceptions Index from Transparency International 2012, which means that

this country is one of the countries with a significant corruption impact within its administration that generates distrust of its population like Senegal.

### **Economy**

Mali was named as one of the least developed countries in the region, ranked among the 10 poorest countries in the world. Likewise, the Human Development Index is 0.359 and its position compared to other countries is ranked 175 (United Nations Development Programme, 2011), which is less developed compared to the countries being analyzed. Similar to the countries mentioned above, its economy depends merely on agriculture, where its productivity is subject to irrigation or flooding of the Niger River. The cultivation of agricultural and fishing products is the work of 80% of the active population. Mali, a landlocked state, has not had a sustainable development like the countries located along the coast. Only 4% of the land is suitable for cultivation because most of the country is desert, where the Niger River is the most important source for the country in terms of fishing.

**Table N°. 6 Mali's Gross Domestic Product Profile**

<b>GDP</b>	10.59 billion (2011)
<b>GDP per capita</b>	\$610 (2011):
<b>GDP as per sector</b>	Agriculture: 38,9% Mining: 21.5% Services: 39,6%

**Elaborated by:** The World Fact Book

**Source:** Africainfomarket. [Acceded on: October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012]Available on:  
<http://www.africainfomarket.org/paises/mali/143>

Within the primary sector, which represents 38,9% of the GDP, the cotton production employs more than 4 million active people along with rice, which is the main agricultural activity in Mali. Like any country dependent on nature, Mali is not exempt from pests, droughts and floods that for a few months a year it let unproductive. As for the secondary sector it represents 21.3% of the GDP, which belongs to mining that covers gemstones, gold, marble, textile and food industry, which are the activities with the greatest potential in the region, being the major source of foreign exchange earnings to the country.

It was expected that by the end of 2012 uranium will be extracted and in 2013 bauxite. In the tertiary sector, services are poorly developed; however transportation and telecommunications have positively influenced the region representing 39,6% of the GDP. Regarding tourism, Mali has been vulnerable to insecurity that rebel groups have taken over in the north. Mali is not the exception to receive foreign aid from agencies such as the IMF, the Peace Corps, the European Union, along with the help of countries like the United States, Russia, Germany, among others, have provided economic and military aid to combat internal conflicts that the country has suffered (Iberglobal, 2012).

However, despite the assistance provided by these agencies to the African country, there is still a high rate of violence and poverty in the region so residents are forced to leave their home country. Construction and modernization projects, along with education and health, have also been part of foreign aid but it is considered that it will take a couple of years for these to adapt to the environment coupled with stability. Meanwhile, migration will prevail as an alternative to improve the lives of thousands of Africans.

The unemployment rate is estimated at 30% in the region. Corruption is also a constant struggle in West Africa, because like Mauritania, in 2010 international financial assistance by the World Bank in Mali was suspended because of the terrible unjustified expenses and redistribution. This creates a high level of public mistrust towards institutions.

Amongst the structural reforms in the country, the government encourages foreign investment in commerce and privatization fields. Currently, the government has privatized a number of companies such as cotton producers, telecommunications, among others.

## **Social**

Regarding the social situation of the Republic of Mali, the poverty rate in the region is about 51.4% (BBC Mundo, 2010). Therefore, the majority of the population lives under unsanitary conditions and with less probabilities of education in schools throughout the country due to the aforementioned similar problems of Mali.

It also has one of the highest infant mortality rates in the world with 109 deaths per 1000 births. And the average life expectancy for the population is 51 years, according to 2011 data.

The violence that the country has experienced in recent years, especially in the northern regions by rebel groups, has caused hundreds of deaths, exploitation and instability; where the population is forced to migrate.

Currently, Mali has been involved in a conflict to deter by armed groups known as the National Liberation Movement of Azawad (MNLA) and Tuareg rebels against the government of Mali – a conflict that for years has failed.

As for the armed conflict in Senegal, these Islamic fundamentalist groups took the north in order to become independent. Currently, with the failure of the Malian army, France has also been involved in this conflict to prevent these groups from continuing to expand in the region.

As yet, this intervention has cost the European nation over 70 million euros as well as the displacement of over 60,000 people into Mali's interior and 38,000 to countries like Niger and Mauritania (BBC, 2013).

Furthermore, HIV / AIDS have caused regrettable population losses, where the most affected are children under 15 years. Reports indicate that nearly 70% of infected people are from sub-Saharan Africa.

Education is free, however the lack of resources for school and extra expenses, hinder parents to keep their children enrolled in school. In one of the 2015 horizon development objectives, the focus is given "Education for All by 2015" where they have a role to increase women's and men's assistance. Due to socio-cultural reasons, there are differences in gender roles. According to data from 2011, the illiteracy rate in Mali is about 75% (AIPC Pandora, 2011).

The weather in the region is vulnerable to droughts, floods, pests, etc., which it prevents the growth and production of food needed for the survival of the population, thus generating a constant food crisis. Figures indicate that at least 3.5 million Malians are victims of food shortages and about 21% of the population suffers from severe malnutrition (ACNUR, 2012).

Meanwhile, rebel groups have chosen to apply the Sharia as a means of regulation in the country, so the population is mostly affected by extremist Islamic laws, violating

countless human rights especially in the north of Mali, such as Christian killings, amputations, among others cases (Religión Digital, 2012).

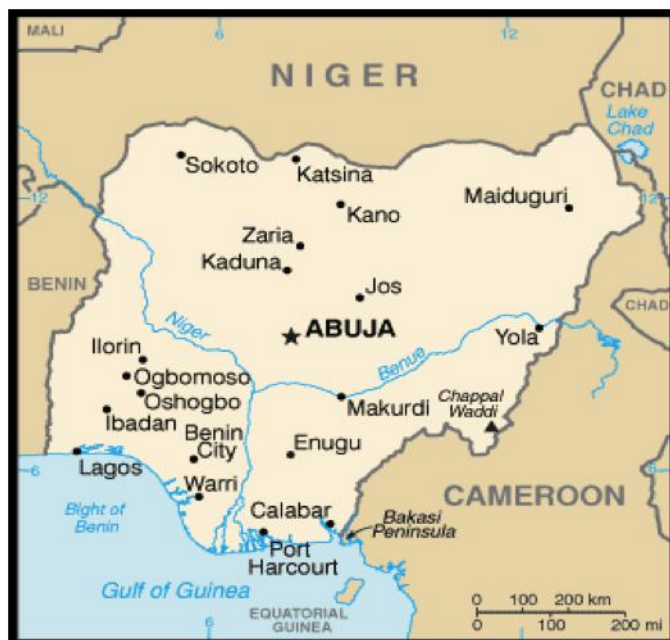
Such unleashed acts in the country, have been a consequence for people to migrate not only to improve their living conditions but also for their own survival and their relatives as well.

Most of the aid received comes from abroad to improve the deterioration that the Republic of Mali goes through. In October 2012, the United Nations sent the undersecretary for human rights, Ivan Simonovic to mediate this situation and to guarantee that fundamental rights are ensured for the people (Centro de Noticias ONU, 2012).

#### 1.1.4 Nigeria

Officially known as the Federal Republic of Nigeria, it is located on west of Africa, bordered by Niger to the north, Gulf of Guinea to the south, by Chad and Cameroon to the east and Benin to the west. Its population is the largest in Africa with 162.470.737 inhabitants by 2011. Its official language is English and its capital is Abuja.

**Graph N°. 4 Nigeria**



**Source:** The World Fact Book [Acceded on: November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012] Available on: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ni.html>

## **Politics**

With its independence from the United Kingdom in 1960, the Federal Republic of Nigeria has suffered several military-political changes since its origins as a republic. Several coups and assassinations occurred due to the military government in the 1960s and 1970s, leading to political instability and civil wars in different regions of the country. The political system is presidential and is a Federal State. The Head of State has a period of 4 years and the legislative power rely in the National Assembly. Historically, Nigeria and other African countries, have suffered severe political changes, which in 1988 the President of that time committed himself to carry out the first elections, which was officially fulfilled in 1993 (Millard, Falola, Hamilton y J.F, 2012).

However, countless attacks and terror rulings continued until 1999, with a democratically elected President Olusegun Obasanjo, who was reelected again in 2003 in order to reform the economy and putting an end to corruption.

Today, the current president Goodluck Jonathan, is also committed to fight these difficulties that the region still faces despite what several critics refer to as an unreachable democratic dream for Nigeria. However, the situation worsened when in 2007, the European parliament saw Nigeria's elections as hardly credible and unfair since it failed to meet international and regional standards. (European Parliament, 2012).

The current president chose to stop internal religious conflicts between Muslims and Christians that have caused dozens of deaths, and he considers that groups, mostly Muslims, seek to impose the Sharia on the educational, social and religious life of the country. Moreover, despite massive protests over the rise in gas prices, the government said it would eliminate the subsidy to oil companies but not to programs that help fight poverty. Despite this resolution, the population felt that there still existed numerous corruption practices by the government with the private sector. Within this context, Nigeria is ranked 139 in the Corruption Perceptions Index from Transparency International 2012 (Transparency International, 2012), which confirms that this is a country with a high rate of corruption.



## Economy

Since oil discoveries in the Federal Republic of Nigeria in the 60s, the country has depended on it until the present. On the other hand, the 2011 Human Development Index ranks Nigeria among the countries with low human development, with a value of 0.459 that it is ranked at 156 out of 187 countries (United Nations Development Programme, 2011).

**Table N°. 7 Nigeria's Gross Domestic Product Profile**

<b>GDP</b>	235,9 billion (2011)
<b>GDP per capita</b>	\$1200 (2011)
<b>GDP per sectors</b>	Agriculture: 33% Oil Extraction: 35% Services: 33%

**Elaborated by:** Xavier Sánchez

**Source:** África Infomarket [Acceded on: October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012] Available on:  
<http://www.africainfomarket.org/paises/principales-sectores/nigeria/145>

Within the primary sector, agriculture represents nearly 33% of the GDP and employs 60% of the population. It covers palm oil, cocoa, peanuts and only 50% of cultivated fertile land. Its climate varies from desert to tropical, in other words, from north to south. Additionally, the lack of infrastructure and knowledge in farming due to oil dependency has caused the abandonment of government aid to this sector. Small producers solve about 90% of agricultural production. Fisheries are very representative just like agriculture, livestock in the country's GDP, but have not increased their process efficiency. The secondary sector is composed of the oil industry that represents 35% of Nigeria's GDP. It has the fifth largest natural gas reserve in the world and in recent years, due to large foreign investments and improvements, has become an opportunity for the country to diversify its economy. The tertiary sector represents 33% of the GDP in the region. In this sector, the service areas such as telecommunications, construction and tourism are mostly emphasized (África Infomarket, 2012).

It is expected that by 2020, tourism will represent 24% of GDP of the country due to several programs that Nigeria has developed, for instance, new tourism products, theme parks, joint ventures industry, among others, are forecasted by the Federal Ministry for National Planning to position them among the world's most developed economies (Grupo del Banco Mundial, 2012).

Public demand is focused on the energy sector, which is mainly focused on the electricity sector. Its relations with neighboring countries are very few so it usually maintains relations with European countries and the United States. Despite internal conflicts and lack of faith in the Nigerian government, it is estimated that foreign investment is about 70% of total investments in the country, with mostly American and British companies in Nigeria (África Infomarket, 2012). The unemployment rate in the region is 21%. In 2009, The United Nations Office for Projects and Services (UNOPS) generated employment projects for young people, which were promoted to educational reintegration systems, as well as conflict prevention. These programs were created to improve the country's image, so that governments have projected a definite improvement similar to the ones mentioned throughout the countries in this chapter.

Unfortunately Nigeria cannot rely on these programs by the lack of commitment from its leaders that in many cases have gone to several reforms, but there has been no noticeable improvement for the country.

Corruption is a constant for many countries, which hampers their development, despite this, Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan, is winning the fight against corruption for a thriving development of the country (Radio y Televisión Española RTVE, 2011).

### **Social**

The situation in Nigeria has been long and socially fraught. The widespread of corruption is one of the aggravating circumstances and the lack of primary services such as electricity, education and health or are in a deplorable condition throughout the country (Chukwum, Ogunniran y Onyegu, 2009).

Although Nigeria is one of the most developed countries in the region, but around 60% of its population suffer poverty, barely covering their needs, the northwest and northeast of the country being mostly affected. In the following table, poverty situation that Nigeria goes through is illustrated; making a comparison with other countries that have

been studied. The values of these percentages represent the population living below the international poverty line of U.S. \$ 1.25 a day (in terms of purchasing power parity).

**Table N°. 8 Population living below poverty line**

Country	Percentage
Nigeria	64.4 %
Mali	51.4%
Senegal	33.5%
Mauritania	21.2%
Ecuador	5.1%

**Elaborated by:** Xavier Sánchez

**Source:** United Nations Development Programme [Acceded on: October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012] Available on: <http://hdr.undp.org/es/datos/construya/>

The country has abundant natural resources such as bauxite, gold, tin, coal, forests and oil. However, the latter is poorly developed and has created a series of armed conflicts deployed in areas where oil resources are abundant as in the case of the Niger Delta.

The armed conflict in Nigeria took place in 1967 in the Niger Delta against Shell Company. It has been considered as a long lasting struggle that still indicate a smaller scale conflict among the countries in this chapter. The reason was in order to retrieve the loss of rights and land by various ethnic groups in the country from multinational oil companies that have established in the region.

In 2006, the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta was born and chose to deter pollution, deaths and unsanitary conditions of the population through violence against the police and the army, in order to deter these oil companies; this movement became a serious threat to these industry and the government, hampering the negotiations to restore order in the country (El mundo.es, 2009).

In 2009, it was anticipated that these acts of violence by these groups, decreased a high percentage of oil extraction, so many transnational corporations avoided negotiating with Nigeria while the nation remains unstable.

Likewise, the lack of education is one of the most worrisome aspects and at the same time relevant to this study. The average life expectancy in the country is 52 years. In Nigeria there are several uprisings and protests about the deplorable and inadequate educational infrastructure. One of the causes is the lack of electricity in educational facilities and is ignored by the government even when it is requested by the population. Therefore the poor priority given to the educational sector causes its inhabitants feel the need to leave their home and seek better alternatives of life, and one of them is migrating to other countries – where opportunities are displayed as promising. Within this context there is a wide gap in social classes in Nigeria, as an example is the number of opportunities that politician's children have, since most of them are sent to schools and universities abroad and when they finish their education many of them refuse to return to their country.

Finally, armed conflicts have had a major burden on the Nigerian society; these have occurred due to oil, the same that generates 95% of the wealth. Conflicts usually happen between government forces and separatist militants in the Niger Delta region that have become a real challenge. What members of these groups do is to create chaos and disorder. By kidnapping workers, blowing up pipelines and other facilities belonging to oil companies such as BP and Shell, which are closing their operations in the region, they harm foreign companies working in the area. Not to mention the environmental damage caused by such companies.

In addition to the indiscriminately tree felling and destruction of ecosystems in different parts of the country, generating more government spending and debt increase, slowing social and economic development of Nigeria.

## CHAPTER 2: The Migratory Journey

**Graph N° 5 Fishing canoe with 120 lives aboard**



**Source:** El mundo imágenes [Acceded on: 5 February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013] Available on:  
[http://estaticos02.cache.el-mundo.net/elmundo/imagenes/2007/08/20/1187623287\\_0.jpg](http://estaticos02.cache.el-mundo.net/elmundo/imagenes/2007/08/20/1187623287_0.jpg)

### 2.1 Migratory Journey

"Migration is the movement of people from their habitual place of residence to another, to remain there more or less time, with the intention to satisfy some need or achieve a certain improvement." (Gimenes, 2003, 20). With this brief definition, it can be understandable that migration is associated with the intent to leave the place of origin, have experiences during the trip, settle into a new environment and improve the welfare of the individual and the family. Migration is not only a fact, but also a right to do so, thus this humanist concept leads us to a new notion to help us to cope with a much

wider vision to understand the hidden realities of what migration clearly has to offer to the world.

Now, the definition of the term irregular migration is determined; it is termed as: "The displacement or international residency in conflict with migration laws" where it is translated to crossing borders without authorization, in violation of the conditions of entry into another country. (Jordan and Duvell, 2002,15)

There is a distinction between:

- The irregular entry and
- The irregular stay

The first focuses on the smuggling of migrants coming to its destination irregularly, but can get their legitimate residence with certain procedures, on the other hand, the irregular stay is what most migrants do by entering the country regularly exceeding dwell time of their visas or working period, becoming into a irregular status.

In the case of West African migrants, they pass through different legal situations and some others not, depending on its journey as well as its stay at the place of destination; focusing throughout this analysis on all the situations that immigrants come across in order to get and stay in Europe.

The migrant population is very vulnerable even before the start of its migration path, as each individual has different connotations in this analysis, making it difficult to establish a unique migrant's profile or a common migration project.

Thus, it has taken into account the situation of each country by means of analysis in order to understand the conditions that regions come across and the bond they with the migration to Europe.

It is noteworthy that migration has been forced and poorly planned, as in the previous chapter could denote that the main common factor for leaving a country was the economic aspect; either by lack of employment and education, as well as the social situation which countries like Mali daily faces; where domestic violence and lack of freedom have distorted their development.

Usually, these journeys lead to uncertain situations for the migrant to the host country, where is commonly reflected as a social problem and a negative immigration issue.

Therefore, throughout this study a particular perception of the opportunities that migrants provide to the host economy and their contribution towards cultural and social development are noted.

### **2.1.1 Migrant's Profile**

There are several types of African migrants in regard to international migration. The mostly known worker profile – economic reasons – refugees and social reasons (Desplazamientos migratorios, 2008).

To establish a single migrant's profile closer to reality, interviews conducted during 2006 to 2008 in Nouadibou, Mauritania, by a technical team of the Spanish Red Cross along with the Mauritanian Red Crescent, of around 5,191 African migrants while they were intercepted in Mauritania while attempting to travel to Spain aboard dinghies (small fishing canoes). With these surveys it was possible to draw a common profile of the migrants, as well as the increased number of detainees due to migration that was drawn in 2006 since Mauritania is known as a transit point for thousands of migrants from West Africa. Likewise migration control has intensified, so its shores are strategic points where the majority of migration is carried out by fishing boats (A bit bigger than dinghies) (Cruz roja Española, 2008).

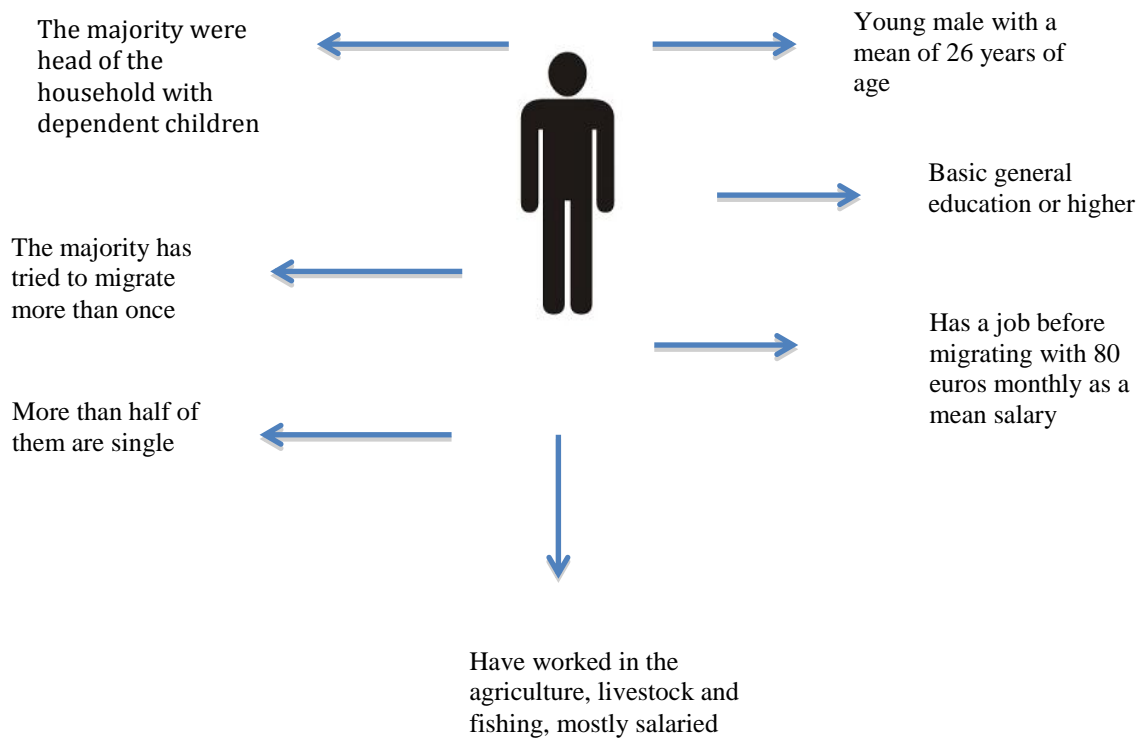
Therefore it was concluded that the profile of the migrant corresponds to a young man, with an average age of 26 years of age (58%) single. 74.3% of immigrants have a basic general education or higher, with a 74.14% of them having people under their care.

Additionally, 86% of respondents had work before emigrating with an average wage of 80 euros per month and 98% said they would be expelled for the first time during the trip to Europe, while the remaining said that they had been expelled more than once and that this trip would be their new attempt (Ibid.).

Additionally, the majority was employed in agriculture; livestock, fisheries, trade and even some had college degrees. It is worth mentioning that 44.09% of those who have had work before migrating have been wage earners. In other words, the percentage of those who performs informal activities such as merchant and farmer is high and the wages are similar to those with professions (Ibid.).

Therefore, the profile analyzed for these three years ended it up being the following:

### Picture N° 1 Migrant's Profile



**Elaborated by:** Xavier Sánchez

**Source:** Cruz Roja Española [Acceded on: February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013] Available on: [http://www.cruzroja.es/pls/portal30/docs/PAGE/CANCRE/COPY\\_OF\\_ACCIONINTERNACION/DOCUMENTACION/TERNAC/INFODOCUS/DOCUTEC/MIGRACIONES\\_FINAL.PDF](http://www.cruzroja.es/pls/portal30/docs/PAGE/CANCRE/COPY_OF_ACCIONINTERNACION/DOCUMENTACION/TERNAC/INFODOCUS/DOCUTEC/MIGRACIONES_FINAL.PDF)

Within this survey, it was found that Senegal has the largest number of irregular immigration in West Africa at 54%; additionally the countries studied in this analysis are 31% for Mali, followed later by Mauritania with 3% and Nigeria with 0.17% (Ibid.).



**Table N° 9 Migration analysis of the countries under study**

<b>Nationality</b>	<b>Irregular Immigration 2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Senegal</b>	1.846	640	327	2.813
<b>Mali</b>	317	754	531	1.602
<b>Gambia</b>	111	120	53	284
<b>Mauritania</b>	55	64	36	155
<b>Guinea-Bissau</b>	20	25	58	103
<b>Guinea-Conakry</b>	16	37	31	84
<b>Cote d'Ivoire</b>	8	17	11	36
<b>Ghana</b>	11	14	11	36
<b>Sierra Leone</b>	5	1	5	11
<b>Liberia</b>	3	5	3	11
<b>Nigeria</b>	3	2	4	9
<b>Congo</b>	4	2	2	8
<b>Sudan</b>	2	-	5	7
<b>Burkina Faso</b>	2	4	1	7
<b>Chad</b>	-	1	-	1
<b>Jamaica</b>	1	-	-	1
<b>Algeria</b>	-	1	-	1
<b>Cameroon</b>	-	-	1	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	2.404	1.687	1.079	5.170

**Elaborated by:** Xavier Sánchez

**Source:** Cruz Roja Española [Acceded on: February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013] Available on:  
[http://www.cruzroja.es/pls/portal30/docs/PAGE/CANCRE/COPY\\_OF\\_ACCIONINTERNACION/DOCUMENTACION/TERNAC/INFODOCUS/DOCUTEC/MIGRACIONES\\_FINAL.PDF](http://www.cruzroja.es/pls/portal30/docs/PAGE/CANCRE/COPY_OF_ACCIONINTERNACION/DOCUMENTACION/TERNAC/INFODOCUS/DOCUTEC/MIGRACIONES_FINAL.PDF)

Since it was determined that the Bambara, who were present in Mali and Mauritania, represented 28%, this was also taken into account in this survey. This ethnicity was followed by the Peuhl (21%) of the same region. The Wolof (18%) were however present in Mauritania and Senegal. The three aforementioned ethnicities sum up 67% of all surveyed (Cruz Roja Española, 2008).

The individuals who had taken part in this survey come primarily from capital cities (83%) – urban areas. The remaining came from rural areas. In terms of getting information in order to consider migration as a possibility, they searched counseling from family and friends (67,7) followed by smugglers (2,5%) whereas the Internet merely made up (1%). It is to be supposed that the experience of those related to all surveyed individuals, achieved the European dream; despite numerous failures, many immigrants deceive those left behind telling them the opposite of what they had encountered.

It is also worth mentioning that 8% of all surveyed immigrants in most humanitarian aid centers, were minors and barely 21 accountable individuals were women (Ibid.), thus it might be assumed that men are more likely to start their journey in a more liberal manner, so they can support their relatives whereas women are occupied with their children and harvesting.

Additionally, the surveyed immigrants were asked about the reasons for their migratory failure attempt; 48% said it was because they were arrested in the ocean or after arrival. The rest however claimed lack of resources and personal reasons. They admitted they knew about their legal condition (98%) while the remaining 2% answered negatively. It should be taken into account that some answers might have been skewed because the surveyed immigrants were under arrest and were not able to answer freely (Ibid.).

The report also points out that – even though there is a significant illiteracy rate in African regions – only 25,5% claimed not having any sort of formal education (Cruz Roja Española, 2008). The remaining immigrants (75%) had indeed achieved higher educational goals, which mean that, by immigrating to Europe, their countries of origin suffer from a lack of qualified labor.

Despite their formal training, most of such immigrants will be likely to work in other fields – fields that require little or no training of any kind and even then, their quality of

life will be lower than the locals (Ralla, 2011). On the other hand, it is important to mention what pushed immigrants to their journey. 48% of all surveyed individuals organized themselves as a way of immigrating irregularly whereas 32% searched for smugglers or human traffickers (Cruz Roja Española, 2008).

Smugglers usually have a broad knowledge concerning the marine conditions of the sea and they offer their service because they don't have work and know the highly advantageous economic benefits they obtain within this network (Carnet, Pauline 2011).

The cost of irregular migration was €641 in average. In terms of financing the trip, the majority responded having worked for it (41%) followed by a bank loan and finally the family. In 2006 54% of all surveyed individuals obtained a loan, as opposed to 2007 and 2008 when they claimed having saved for it (Cruz Roja Española, 2008).

It is also known that 98% of all surveyed do not come from conflict regions, except the 2% remaining which came from a guerilla control zone in Senegal. On this matter, the situation of groups in the north of Mali is quite conflictive and provides no human rights – even though such survey was conducted in the humanitarian aid center of Nouadibou (Ibid.). The report says that 70% of all surveyed individuals carried on with the journey through their own decision, whereas 12% claimed to have been convinced by family members and only 1,2% might have been recruited by human traffickers (Ibid.). This emphasizes that the majority freely opt for the irregular journey rather than being forced.

Of those surveyed in the Nouadibou, 57,7% claimed that they expected to find work in Spain. The remaining people answered they had unknown expectations while a minimum percentage regarded studying as a possibility after arrival (Ibid.).

Concerning the penultimate question, they were asked whether they knew what to do if they were deported; 70% responded to be willing to stay in their countries of origin while 28% would be staying in Mauritania. They were also asked whether they would consider an irregular journey in the future; 60% responded negatively while 40% positively (Ibid.). Around 45 million euros were spent on the European dream between 2006 and 2008 (Castellano, 2010).

### **2.1.2 Journey's causes**

When analyzing the causes for migration from Sub-Saharan Africa to other destinations is imperative to date back to the continent's history. Neocolonialism as well as the exploitation of natural resources done by other countries, combined with the authorities' unwillingness to reactivate the economy, lack of investment and corruption, was the main causes for it (Domínguez, 2008). Such events have led the African population to imminent poverty, which has forced them to look for other ways to improve their living conditions.

Neocolonialism flourished between the XVII and XIX centuries reaching even the first decades of the XX century. Ancient colonial world powers were always interested in having control over African natural resources as well as over the economy and politics throughout the continent. They tried to settle the crisis in the European continent by seizing power over Africa – it polarized African societies without development (Fernández, 2012).

As of that time, Africa has been a victim of historical and economical backwardness, which prevents them from developing as a continent. The corruption of local governments coupled with interest of the elite have selfishly profited from African resources rendering it virtually unproductive which points out the paradoxical picture of the African continent that despite its limitless resources it has a high rate of poverty which dramatically increases (Ibid.).

Furthermore, it is worth mentioning that Senegal which is a country where the migration rate is amongst the highest in Africa, had large fishing boats – meant to be used only for fishing.

However, President Wade (2000-2012) signed contracts with foreign companies to make full use of Senegal waters; this harmed national fishers because they couldn't afford the license prices so they could exercise fishing in their country. Due to such activity, fishing is no longer a way of earning money because most of the profit is taken by these foreign companies (Ibid.).

**Graph N° 6. 82 immigrants aboard a dinghy who arrived at the port of southern Tenerife**



**Source:** El Mundo [Acceded on: February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013] Available on:  
[http://www.elmundo.es/albumes/2006/05/13/cayucos\\_tenerife/index\\_4.html](http://www.elmundo.es/albumes/2006/05/13/cayucos_tenerife/index_4.html)

Surprisingly, the money given by the companies to the government does not reach the population. As a result, the fishing boats have now a different purpose – conveying immigrants to the Canary Islands. On a different matter, large transnational petroleum companies have set their sights on Africa to profit from its resources. Similarly, the money earned by petroleum exports lands in hands of either the government or the companies, leaving not a single penny for the population (Ibid.).

Bretton Woods in Tanzania is a clear example of this problematic. With help of the politicians, the company managed to privatize the tropical forests (Firoze Manji, 1998). The agreement was reached under the condition of the foreign debt elimination. The privatization of these forests led to deforestation and desertification due to the disappearance of all endemic species in the area. (Ibid.).

Mbuyi Kabunda (1997), (PhD in international relations), claims that what triggers African migration are factors such as precariousness, lack of democracy, natural catastrophes, civil wars. They primarily affect central and west Africa. From that perspective, he presupposes the eradication of social inequality North-South.

The social, economical, political, and cultural inequalities between Europe and a close and impoverished Africa provide for the so-called “pull effect”. An example of this, is the African strip of Sahel, which affects about 18 million people and leads them to not be able to cover their daily needs limiting their nourishment to only one meal per day, according to Moumouni Abou a 28 year old man Nigerian father of seven children. He had considered migrating but remained reluctant due to his family (Hidalgo, 2012).

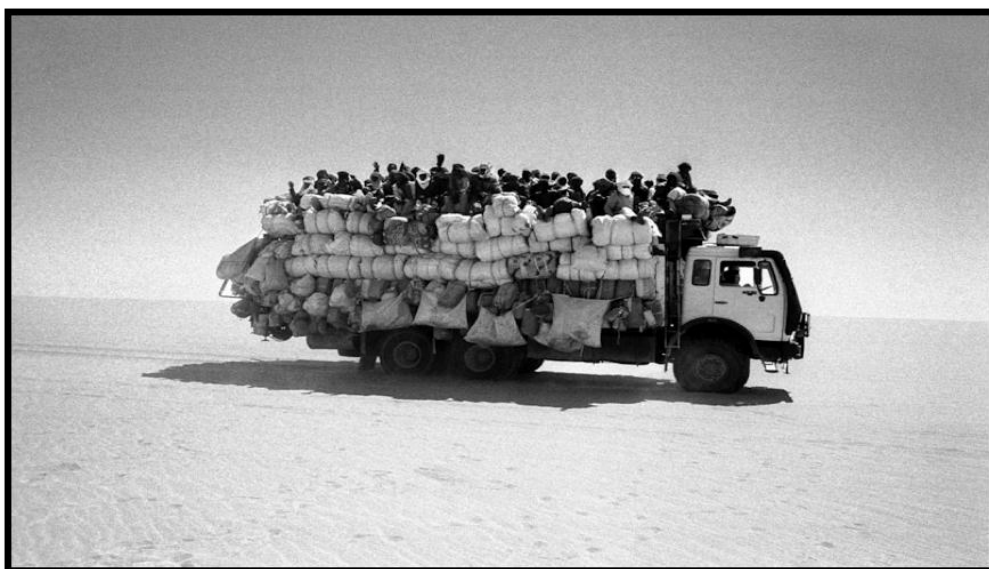
Doctor Mbuyi Kabunda also points out that immigration shouldn't be regarded as a crime but as a right – the right to life and survival. The opposite would mean adopting counter natural attitudes and hindering the contact and exchange amongst human beings. Besides, hunger, poverty and prosecution should not have frontier walls (Kabunda, 2000).

The Pull-effect is a vivid reality in the African population; hence they are forced to flee their situations of corruption, misery, and other aspects considered in this analysis.

### **2.1.3 Means of transportation and Routes**

Depending on the origin from the departing country, the means of transportation used by western Africans varies – lesser the risk, greater the payment. They use vehicles as the main mean of transportation until reaching the coasts of Senegal, Mauritania or even Morocco; they take a dinghy and traverse the Mediterranean Sea. (Bel, Gómez, 2000).

#### **Graph N°. 7 Clandestine ground transportation used by Africans from Niger**



**Source:** Le migrant. [Acceded on: February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013] Available on:  
<http://www.lemigrant.net/w0/http://www.lemigrant.net/images/africa-trucks-Photo-Sven-Torfinn.jpg>

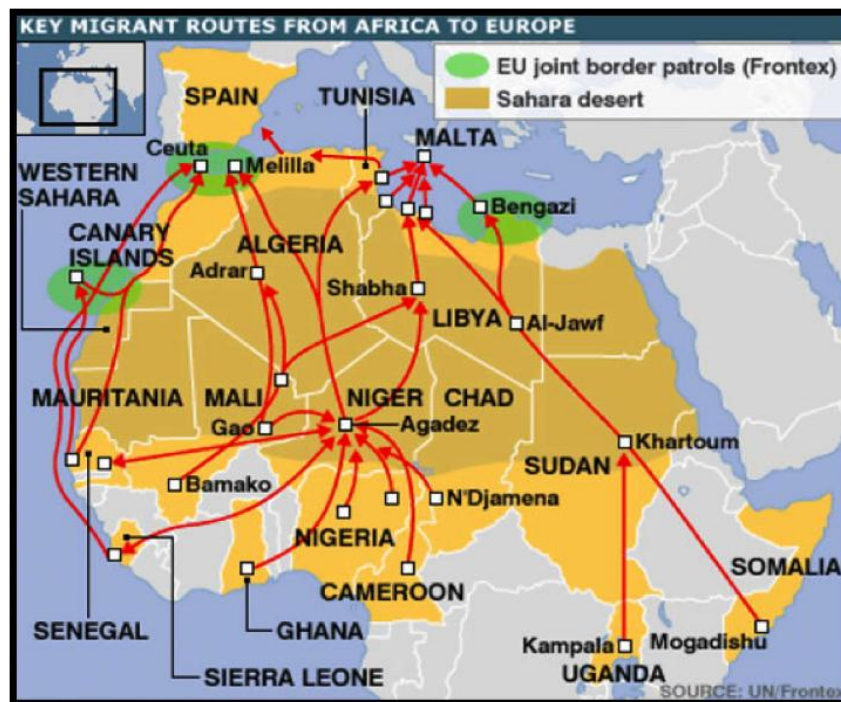
In the survey conducted in Nouadibou Mauritania, it was said that the main means of transportation for irregular immigrants was the fishing boat -- between 2006 and 2008, with 82% of the entire sample. The canoe is a type of fishing boat which has a length of 13-21 meters and a capacity of carrying anywhere between 30 to 70 people; it commonly reaches 100 passengers and is widely used for the journey to the Canary Islands (Velasco, 2006).

Another means of transportation is the dinghy, which has half of the canoe's length (0,8% claimed having used it). On the other hand, 1,8% responded having used a vehicle and 15,1% used other means for their journey (Cruz Roja Española, 2008). Despite the risks involved while using the fishing boat, these immigrants decided to traverse the sea in it. As a result, many were found dead because of hypothermia, drowning amongst other unfortunate factors (Diariopanorama, 2008).

Regarding the status of the documentation the immigrants carry before departing, 65,5% responded they didn't have any sort of identification with them; especially in 2006. Nevertheless, in 2008 the majority claimed having had documents. Should an immigrant be caught with documents, there is a possibility of his immediate deportation; therefore many of them avoid carrying identification documents, because deportation is difficult if the country of origin is not determined. The ones who had documents were only 30,72% who carried a National Identity Card and only 0,87% had a passport. (Cruz Roja Española, 2008).

Amongst the more common routes, they use the Islamic Republic of Mauritania as a departing point towards the Canary Islands. It is also known that clandestine immigrants use Morocco as a route with the destinations of Ceuta and Melilla. However, the border patrol reinforcement has increased in the past years through a petition from the European Union and Spain regarding Morocco. Immigrants with Libyan and Tunisian origin tend to immigrate towards Malta and Sicily Islands (BBC News, 2007).

## Graph N° 8 Clandestine routes from Africa towards Europe



Source: BBC News [Acceded on: February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013] Available on:  
[http://newsimg.bbc.co.uk/media/images/42481000/gif/\\_42481600\\_africa\\_migration416x355.gif](http://newsimg.bbc.co.uk/media/images/42481000/gif/_42481600_africa_migration416x355.gif)

### Route # 1

#### Western African Coast with destination to the Canary Islands.

Route: Liberia, Sierra Leona, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal, Gambia, Mauritania and Western Sahara to the north of Morocco.

**Dangers:** Crossing the Sea to the Canary Islands. Generally, there are Swindling, Capsizes, abandonment, and drowning (BBC News, 2007). Experts consider that the number of total immigrants drowned between the canaries and African were approximately 18.000 since 1998 until 2009 (Libertad digital, 2009).

### Route # 2

#### Eastern Sahara with destination to the West or South of the Canary Islands.

Route: Mali, Mauritania, Western Sahara or the South of Morocco.

**Dangers:** Crossing the Sahara, confronting guerillas, swindlers, thieves, rapists, brawls, abandonment, bribery, shooting, getting lost and dehydration. On the border between



Mali and Algeria is the city of Tinzaouatine where a cemetery has been built to bury the victims (BBC News, 2007).

### **Route #3**

**Central Sahara with destination to the Canary Islands, Spain and Italy.**

Route: Niger, Mauritania, Western Sahara or southern Morocco. Northern Morocco, Tunisia or Libya.

**Dangers:** Crossing the desert, and the sea. The organization Fortress Europe apprised that around 12,000 foreigners might have died along the European borders between 1998 and 2008, followed by deceased in the ocean (8173) and in the Sahara (1600 victims) (Ibid.).

### **Route # 4:**

**Eastern Sahara with destination to Lampedusa, Sicily and Malta.**

**Route:** Tunisia and Libya.

**Dangers:** Crossing the desert and the sea. It generally causes exhaustion, hunger and mistreatment from the smugglers. Bribery in the borders from the military and police is also common (Ibid.).

### **Route # 5:**

**From the African horn toward Libya and the Algerian coast with destination to Lampedusa, Sicily, Malta and the African coasts.**

**Route:** Sudan

**Dangers:** Crossing the desert and the ocean; the existence of the mafias along the routes. (Ibid.).

According to the depicted routes, the journey is tough and dangerous, during which African immigrants have surmounted different difficulties to arrive in Europe. In this survey only the immigrants who travel to the Canary Islands through Mauritania were

taken into account. The surveys are related to western Africans who cross the Atlantic on fishing boats.

Therefore, most immigrants chose the Mauritanian coasts as a point of clandestine confluence in their attempt to arrive of the Spanish coasts. Despite their new route, it was not long before the European patrol controlled the beaches to avoid massive migration. Immigrants also use the coasts of Senegal as a departing point, but they are 1500 km. away from the Canary Islands. Despite this regulation, there is still clandestine migration in the northern African coasts such as; Algeria, Tunisia and Libya. (Movimientos.org, 2008).

In terms of the length of time spent on the high seas, 38,55% responded they didn't spend a single day, because they were arrested on the mainland before embarking. 17% responded that they had spent one day in the ocean – which reflects the possibility of arrest in any close coastal region.

Following responses include: 6% who had spent between 7 and 9 days, 5% 11 days spent (4-11 days). These data makes up for the total of 26% of all surveyed. They have been arrested by border patrols called FRONTEX and later transported to a Facility Center for Foreigners on the Canary Islands. The Red Cross performed a medical inspection and the latter repatriation from Nouadibou (Cruz Roja Española, 2008).

It should not be estimated that fishing boats are the primary mean of transportation used by all western Africans, despite their declarations. Airports might also be used as a departing point for clandestine immigrants (Ibid.).

Mauritania is not only considered a country of immigration but also of transit because, as stated before, many immigrants use its coastal region in order to prepare their later trip to Europe. Hence, Mauritania has two types of migration; immigrants from Mauritania and residents from other countries who are in transit before reaching Europe (Afrol News, 2010).

The route from Mauritania toward the Canary Islands, might have been used in 2001, but in spite of the risk, immigrants decided to cross the borders from Morocco and cross

the strait by using dinghies. However, the cooperation between Spanish and Morocco patrols, made the arrest of massive waves of migration possible. Because of the surveillance and the need to avoid the patrolling controls in northern Africa, immigrants changed routes and used the dangerous routes from Nouadibou and Nouakchott in Mauritania; 700km. until the Canary Islands (Cruz Roja Española, 2008).

They were also asked whether they received help throughout the journey, but 96,7% answered negatively. The ones who did receive help were mainly from family members and belonged to NGO – the help consisted of Lodging, food, money, clothing, etc. (Ibid.).

Only 8,3% of all surveyed individuals had saved money during the journey which indicates that the majority had already saved before even beginning it and used their saving during the trip. Many worked as fishers, masons, and launderers, amongst others and earned the average salary of 61 Euros per month (Ibid.).

It is also relevant to emphasize that in 2006, a new migratory route was born - the Atlantic route, known as the “crisis of the dugout canoes.” This route is dangerous and was related to the deficiency regarding Spanish laws as well as police control.

The cooperation of countries of origin such as Senegal, Mali and Mauritania, provided for the majority of immigrants who arrived in the Canary Islands. The so-called “crisis of the dugout canoes”, caused the arrival of 31.678 immigrants and is considered as a synonym for Sub-Saharan migrants in the Canary Islands (Pardo y Parra, 2007).

The European Dream however, continues to be a goal for many African youths. According to Yaye Bayam, it is difficult for these people to understand the gravity of the situation and become aware that life in Paris or Madrid is tough. His son, amongst others, died while venturing to Europe before reaching the destination (Hidalgo, 2012).

#### **2.1.4 Honorary for Smugglers and Disembark.**

The smugglers are mainly responsible for increasing the influx of irregular immigrants. They are well-established abroad and acquainted with the required paperwork in order to facilitate clandestine migration. Their offers have multiplied during the years profiting from the necessities of the people affected in their regions. Prices and means

of transportation vary according the trip. Because of increasing demand, the smugglers have lowered the cost so they can enable the journey of hundreds of immigrants.

The cost of transport ranges between 600 and 700 Euros. This price solely comprises the journey leaving other expenses such as; food, bribery and other unconsidered (Cruz Roja Española, 2008). Bribery is considered essential to pay off the border patrol in Mali; otherwise the immigrants are sent back to their countries or origin – this confirms the widely spread corruption network (YouTube, 2007).

The ones, who opt for a way without jeopardy, have to pay between 9.000 and 16.000 Euros – this journey involves air, land and sea. According to the Spanish government, the prices of the “Business concerning the journey through Atlantic Routes” oscillates around 600 Euros – without logistic help for the immigrant that means lack of safety.

On the other hand, they charge 900 Euros to guarantee trips with logistic support and proper equipment. If departure is to be done on a fishing boat – industrial ships – the estimated price is around 1.800 Euros.

The smugglers guarantee the departure and safe arrival to the destination. The Real Institute Elcano says that such journeys have duration of 7 to 15 days. They involve shifting navigation and immigrants change fishing boats so they can finish the journey – some boats are equipped with food, water, GPS, clothing etc. (Vélez, 2008).

It is estimated that the smuggler’s salary ranges up to 300 and 500 Euros, while the organizers that ensure the departure of the dinghies and the processing of the trip earn around 9,000 to 11,000 Euros (ibid.).

Disembarkation depends on the price that the migrant is willing to pay. As mentioned above, if the choice is by canoe towards the Canary Islands, the price would be 600-700 Euros. Usually these trips involve more preparation for the organizers, as well as for owners of the canoes to reach the European coasts undetected by the Coast Guard. Those who are detained by the Coast Guard are attended by members of the Red Cross and taken to immigration centers to determine their nationality; if the nationality of these people is not found within 40 days, they are released so they can either stay in the

Canary Islands or travel to other countries; in other words, facilitating their escape to Europe (Sims, 2006).

Moreover, the number of African migrants arriving in Ceuta and Melilla is considerable but inferior compared to the Canary Islands due to intensive surveillance work in the zone; however the arrival of migrants to the region persists. As migration from Morocco to Spain is barely 14km away from the Strait of Gibraltar, it does not facilitate Western African migrants to cross over it because on the one hand there are hundreds of Moroccan migrations daily and the journey is more expensive; moreover, in southern Spain the zone is intensively guarded. Despite this, Andalucía is the main migrant-receiving area (Diaz, 2012).

That is the reason why African migrants prefer to migrate to the cities mentioned throughout this chapter to gradually get into Europe, either camouflaging in tourist or industrial ships that travel to Spain from the islands or hoping they are not fully investigated by guards to avoid tracking their nationality (Vélez, 2008).

It is worth mentioning the life experience of a Cameroonian immigrant named Bertin Youmssi that thanks to the Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia in Spain, his story was obtained. According to this immigrant, he said that in his hometown in Cameroon, there were still no malaria drugs and people were most likely to pass away of this disease. For Youmssi, it was impossible to study because of the high cost since public universities cost about 100 Euros per month. That is the reason that one night he decided to run away from home without leaving a trace since he could not bear to see his family unable to feed every day.

This migrant said he had to slip through the night to cross into Morocco, while he spent several nights walking up to Ceuta, and drawing an illusionary thought of, " I have arrived to the paradise." But this mirage became three electric walls guarded by border patrol, so he had to settle in Morocco for over a year. He contacted a friend who worked in France and continued his journey. He worked for a year and a half to save 1,300 Euros, which he had to pay the smugglers to cross the border irregularly. After having his " authorized ticket " through the strait, he took the leap of his life; he swam the strait. However, coastal patrol caught him and his hopes apparently vanished.

Youmssi spent three months in a shelter in Ceuta, which sought refuge, but at first he was denied from it. Later, after telling the story of his harsh journey from Cameroon, he was granted a 6-month residence permit only if he committed to return to his country of origin (UNED, 2007).

Youmssi did not know the language, had no friends and he spent his time in a shelter for those six months. He found people who had migrated from Africa and were disappointed by the false opportunities that they thought about Europe, while others did not adapt to society. However, he ended up extending his stay in Europe and said that thanks to his optimism he put away the frustration and started a music band with a group of friends, which later on he was able to save money and send 50 Euros to his family monthly and thereby able study law at the Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia (ibid.).

Youmssi affirmed, those who study in Europe and return to Cameroon, have good jobs, but he also mentioned that life was very hard in Spain. So that, stories like this migrant are very common to those Africans who cross clandestinely, for a better welfare as reaching the European dream or die trying (ibid.).

### **2.1.5 Dispersion to other European countries**

The European destination for thousands of African irregular migrants varies according to the expectations created by each of them. In other words, migrants choose their destination country according to the facilities that can be provided to them, and as a last resort they settle in any country where they feel more confident. According to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development estimates that countries with higher rates of migration from West Africa to Europe are mainly France, the UK, Spain, Italy, Portugal and the Netherlands respectively (IOM, 2008 p.29).

It is known that France hosts the largest number of legal immigrants in Europe, but with the influx of irregular immigrants to southern Europe in recent years this view has changed. It is worth mentioning that countries such as Spain and Italy, addresses a greater number of clandestine migration due to their close shores with Africa. The arrival and stay of African migrants usually are greater in these regions compared to

other European countries because most migrants fear to risk a new crossing odyssey (Paralibros, 2010).

According to the International Organization for Migration, migration flows analyzed by the OECD, still often follow colonial patterns, which means that people migrate to countries that have affinity with theirs due to foreign domination and colonialism history. For example, migrants from Sierra Leone, Ghana and Nigeria are identified more with countries like the United Kingdom and the United States. Moreover we have that migrants from Mali, Chad, Gabon and Benin who reside in France. Finally, migrants from Cape Verde and Guinea Bissau are geared with Portugal (IOM, 2008 p.29).

Similarly, for countries that do not necessarily follow a West African colonial migration model, so they have diversified migration towards southern Europe. For instance, Senegalese migrants choose to travel to Spain and Italy, becoming more numerous lately. The Gambian and Ghana communities have increased migration to Spain, Italy and the Netherlands, despite the English language. As for Malian migrants, they choose to migrate to where they are mostly comfortable either in France or Spain (ibid.).

This shows that irregular migration cannot afford to choose the destination country, or which provides a greater opportunity to settle, where in this case most migrants' concern is about the language. Instead, they choose a country where they can adapt as quickly as possible. In other words, to be informed about the laws of the country they have reached, to be part of the new home country by learning the language and work. In other circumstances, those who know legal aspects in the destination country, can obtain their residence either by getting a job that are supported by their careers, getting married or applying for settlement in the country.

Due to limited information about the destination countries that migrants obtained before the journey, the consequences are frustration, inadequacy and ignorance of immigration laws; thus thousands of Africans who have come to Europe either live in precarious conditions or are deported.

## **Chapter 3: THE MIGRATORY REGULATION IN SPAIN AND THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Graph N°. 9 Waving flags representing the European Union and Spain**



**Source:** Prensa Libre [Acceded on: February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013] Available on: <http://www.prensalibre.com/>

### **3.1 Spanish migration policy. The Cooperation policy for the development as a mechanism to stop migration.**

Migratory policies have become important in the last decades due to increasing influx of immigrants to the various countries of the region. This has increased a massive flow of people to the Spanish coasts, just like it has increased the amount of smugglers and human traffickers. Aside from that, new migratory routes and thus a high amount of money that benefits various mafia-networks along the African and European continents have been created, to carry out such migratory projects.

In the case of Spain, the most affected country, it has received hundreds of African immigrants along its coasts on a daily basis. Spain is concerned because the pressure exerted by the European Union and its members, hasn't signified a change for the past ten years.

Despite the reduction of fishing boats and the agreements signed by several transit countries, such as Mauritania, where boats disembark as well as the efforts done by marine patrol units belonging to the Spanish government in the Gibraltar strait, Ceuta, Melilla and the Canary islands, the amount of African immigrants in the region is



considerable (Azañedo, 2010). Due to the increasing wave of African immigrants along the southern European border accompanied by the fishing boats crisis, Spain has created three sorts of agreements with African countries. They will be mentioned as follows.

The negotiations with African countries have evidently prevailed. They were meant to counterattack clandestine immigration and to fight against western and central African terrorism (El universal, 2006).

For the last years, Spain has initiated cooperation with some countries such as: Mauritanian, Cape Verde and Senegal, along with other countries of the region in order to reinforce communitarian aid and to prevent irregular immigration (El mundo, 2006).

The Spanish focus has developed various measurements to stop migratory influx and diplomatic strategies with western African countries. These measurements have been endorsed in European forums and built upon political dialogues with African countries, by materializing third generation agreements with these African countries.

**They include:**

- Hiring by countries of origin – to regulate the influx of legal workers.
- The control of influx in order to exert a higher border control in these African countries.
- Foreign aid which is cooperation for their development (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, 2011).

Studies about the Coherences in terms of Spanish policies towards Africa and migration indicate that Spain has contributed with 25 million Euros. The money was directed to the community of western African states between 2004-2008. It was meant to train state agents, to promote the incorporation of migratory topics to public policies in African countries, fight poverty and control government's expenditure (Radio y Televisión Española, 2011).

Amongst the studied countries, which might get economic aid, Spain has shown preoccupation for Mauritania and Senegal, because their coasts have routes, which facilitate clandestine migration (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, 2011).

In the Coherence of Policies for the development, Spain and the OCDE have shown commitment so all member countries support development. The goals also comprise an endorsement of human rights and democratic govern abilities.

As of 2004, four bases concerning Spanish migratory policies:

- 1. -Management of migratory influx according to the Spanish market's labor market.**
- 2. -A fight against irregular migration and human trafficking**
- 3. -Immigrants integration**
- 4. -International cooperation with the European Union (Ibid).**

In 2009, the organic law (2004) underwent a reform and dialogue was endorsed as the cooperation with countries of origin and transit of immigrants was developed through cooperation.

However, a better perspective regarding Spanish migratory policies towards Africa is to be found in the bilateral agreements signed with African countries in the Plan Africa (2006-2008) and II (2009-2012).

This plan has drawn seven objectives of the foreign Spanish aid

- Peace
- Democracy
- Respect of Human rights
- Poverty reduction
- Collaboration against migratory influx
- Reinforcement of economic and commercial relations
- Endorsement of mutual knowledge and exchanges.

An economic plan and an increment in the socio-economic development of Africa, has been presented by Spain. Spain has committed to provide around 240 million Euros within the next 20 years aimed to finance vaccination, education projects along with exchange of debts which go beyond the migratory control projects and repatriation to western Africa (Canal Solidario.org, 2006).

The NGO Alboan and Entreculturas analyzed them. Spain has invested 45 million Euros; 5,2% of the total official aid towards the bilateral development with western Africa – mostly aimed to border control. The creation of three embassies in Mali, Sudan and Cape Verde was carried out thanks to the Plan as goal to enable diplomatic deployment in the regions (Ibid.).

The creation of offices for technical cooperation in Cape Verde, Ethiopia, and Mali which will add up to Angola, Equatorial Guinea, Mozambique, Namibia, Senegal and Mauritania. This will also help the creation of commercial offices in Angola, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal and South Africa. They will also reinforce the aggregate of the Interior and Defense in countries such as Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal (Ibid.).

These dealings led to a critical opinion from the NGOs towards the Spanish government about the funds investment for Africa, because they are mostly aimed to migratory objectives as opposed to defeating poverty in the region. These funds have been directed to nine countries: Mauritania, Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal. It was meant to contribute to migratory prevention in the coastal regions (Entreculturas.org, 2011).

It is also relevant to point out that the dispersion degree regarding the aid amongst Spanish ministries is high. It involves certain administrative percentages in the Ministry of Foreign relations and Cooperation, the Ministry of Economy and Lodging, the ministry of Industry, Tourism and Commerce, the Ministry of Labor and the Ministry of the Interior (Ibid.).

Nonetheless, despite the Spanish efforts regarding the fight against irregular migration from African countries, there is a big controversy because of the walls in Ceuta and Melilla, which Spain built in the nineties so they could prevent the access of unauthorized African immigrants (Inter Press Service, 2005).

On this matter, the border has been continuously modernized and provided with infrared cameras, the rise of six meters in walls, tear gases, and maze of entangles wires, barbed wires which are meant to make the access impossible. With a length of more than 8 kilometers in Ceuta and 12km in Melilla, there is still a high rate of immigrants from Africa (Radio y Televisión Española, 2012).

However, the Spanish government, along with the demands of border control by the European Union, has received financing from the Regional Development of European funds (FEDER) for marine transportation (Alonso, 2013). On the other hand, the security mechanisms have tripled in these Spanish cities, thus they built three walls as a response to irregular migration. Despite this, dozens of immigrants have died in their failed attempts. (Ibid.).

**Graph N° 10. Migrant's belongings while crossing the fence.**



**Source:** Frontera Sur Melilla [Acceded on: February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013] Available on:  
[http://miradasporeldesarrollo.files.wordpress.com/2013/08/medium\\_2503296106.jpg](http://miradasporeldesarrollo.files.wordpress.com/2013/08/medium_2503296106.jpg)

Amongst the numerous border controls – initiated by the same countries with European aid to counterattack irregular migration – there are still migratory networks on the African coasts, which have managed to manipulate authorities and mock the law.

Therefore, the intensification of patrolling units in these Spanish cities has been evident. However, despite the logistical support they haven't yet been able to entirely stop its dispersion.

### **3.2 The European Norm about Migration.**

The European Union has shown a crucial focus regarding external border controls in the Schengen region, which was authorized in 1995. This agreement was approved because of the increasing rise in immigrants and allows free access to all citizens of member countries but intensifies the control in the Schengen space (Europa-EU, 2009).

In the last decade, diverse mechanisms have been endorsed in order to prevent, sanction and control irregular migration within the European Union. Italy and France have temporarily closed their borders in order to prevent the influx because of the recent arrival of northern African immigrants due to the Arab revolts (Presseurop.eu, 2011).

The Schengen agreement along with other vigilance systems such as the Information Schengen System (SIS) and the European Agency for Administration of Operative Cooperation along Foreign Borders (FRONTEX) were purposely created to fight and deter the irregular migration (Sur Journal, 2010).

It is worth emphasizing that the European Union has always been a magnet-factor for millions of immigrants, where the majority arrives legally. The European Union faces a challenge because migration is necessary in order to make up for lack of labor in a region where its population gets inexorably older. (Real Instituto Elcano, 2007).

However, the Parliament of the European Union is not willing to put up with irregular migration by means of cooperation with western African countries by making them return voluntarily (Ibid.).

According to a report published by the European Commission in 2009, irregular immigration has caused many negative consequences due to the linking with criminal organizations and the reputation that causes. Because of the help that the European Union offers those who legally apply for political asylum, it has become difficult to identify those who flee armed conflicts in search of a better life in Europe, because they attempt to arrive simultaneously (Europa-UE, 2009).

The European Union is most interested in legal migration in order to endorse the introduction of foreign legal labor force and to ensure the economic growth according to the lessening of the active European population – by the year 2050, the European population is estimated to be older than 65 years of age (Fundación Cajamar, 2008).

According to the European Commission granted in 2008 – established by the European Union Counseling – in order to fight irregular migration, the immigrant found to be residing without legal permits, must return to their country after the member state has guaranteed the human rights for such person. Despite these regulations by the European Union and the cooperation of some African countries, the political and monetary cooperation in Europe is not enough to counterattack the influx of people who daily migrate to Spain.

Therefore, organisms such as; (EUROPOL) and (CEPOL), police based organisms; ensure the prevention of illicit actions – clandestine migration, trafficking of people, amongst others (Europa-UE, 2009). FRONTEX (European Agency for Administration of Operative Cooperation along Foreign Borders) enables communitarian aid by controlling border.

FRONTEX has planned to organize surveillance beyond its borders by employing 400 drones in 19 Member states – these are non-steered aerial systems in charge of controlling borders where irregular migration can be registered; for instance Mali (Infodesensa, 2013).

**Graph N° 11 Non-tripulated drones used for vigilance by the E.U.**



**Source:** Poderío Militar: [Acceded on: March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013] Available on: [http://poderiomilitar-jesus.blogspot.com/2012\\_03\\_30\\_archive.html](http://poderiomilitar-jesus.blogspot.com/2012_03_30_archive.html)

EURODAC is basically a compilation of data through fingerprints, so the identification between asylum seekers and irregular immigrants can be determined (Europa-UE, 2009).

Euro-African programs, like (EPN) European Political Neighboring are meant to endorse the tightening of links between the European Union and its neighbors. In addition to financial assistance, this initiative also offers developing programs to find solutions regarding conflictive border problems (Ibid.).

On the other hand, the actions of the (EPN) European Patrol Network, created by FRONTEX, consist in implementing surveillance systems along maritime borders in the Atlantic and the Mediterranean (Europa-EU, 2007).

RABIT (Quick intervention Border Unit) provides help to member states in case of an emergency. At last, the maritime interception on the Spanish coasts and the Ceuta and Melilla walls, have also been supported by the European Union as a way to impede the arrival of illegal immigrants in Europe (Ibid.).

Despite certain tough policies, which aim to stop irregular migration, the European Union has suggested certain aspects that benefit immigrants, for example those who are to be considered war refugees and those who are pursued regardless of the reason.

The European Union offers education, lodging, shelter, etc. However, this is meant to be strict and limits the application to many asylum-seekers. Amnesty International and the European Counseling of Refugees have rejected such policies because it limits aid to those in need. Although these immigrants are granted a refugee-status, they are strictly limited in terms of mobility – different to those residing legally (Council on Foreign Relations, 2007). It is estimated that by the end of 2013, the European Fund will spend around 700 million Euros to support the member states on refugee matter (Presupuesto de la UE, 2010-2014).

On the other hand, in order for an irregular immigrant to obtain a regular status in the European Union, they must first be subjects to the laws of the country where they are to reside and work – birth, naturalization, descent or marriage. (Immigration Citizenship EU, 2013).

There are countries such as France, Germany, the United Kingdom and Holland, where the migratory phenomenon had taken place in the fifties. Other such as Spain, Portugal, Greece, Italy and Ireland, which have undergone migration, waves in the last decades. (Cooperacion Internacional ONG, Vives, 2006 p 28).

The pioneer countries in term of migration have the second or even third migration wave. The way for immigrants to obtain a legal status is family reunification and asylum depending on the law and paperwork of each country (Ibid.).

However, for the countries, which are just starting to take in immigrants, a valid working permit is the only way for them to obtain residence. Countries such as Germany and Holland have kept certain policies meant to stop irregular migration by intensifying deportation and limiting family reunifications. However, in case of Germany, a plan that sustains the learning of the language, culture, and German right so regular immigrants in the country have the possibility of a better social integration (Ibid. p 28).

In the case of Belgium, it is known that all new procedures aim for the shortening of paperwork so immigrants can obtain employment and integrate more easily. The United Kingdom foresees designing a program in which a work permit enables those who are qualified and non-qualified to be integrated in the labor market and their further incorporation at work (Ibid. p 29).

France has always had a system of regularization, which facilitates the access of immigrants in the labor market. However, due to changes in regulation undergone in the country, the conditions have grown complicated, but programs that offer the learning of the language, culture and fight against discrimination have also been created (Ibid. p 29).

Italy, Spain, Portugal, Ireland and Greece, which have recently taken in many immigrants, have reacted in such way that the conditions in the countries of origin of immigrants improve. In Ireland and Spain, immigrants have ordeals to access work permits just like these countries have created laws which reinforce the legality of immigrants and the deportation of those residing illegally (Ibid. p 30).

On the other hand, Italy, Greece and Portugal endorse programs, which are centered in labor and social integration instead of deportation of illegal immigrants. By the creation of local Commissions in Italy, the social integration of immigrants along with the facilitation of paperwork is aimed. The system of Contingencies in Greece favors the majority of immigrants who access the country by obtaining an employment (Ibid. p 30).



In Portugal, the opening of information centers that are meant to provide information about human rights and social benefits to immigrants enables the social integration in the country. Nevertheless, in these countries punitive measurements against irregular employment have always existed, imposing great penalties on those who profit from the irregularity of the immigrant (Ibid. p 30).

Finally, in the case of Austria and Luxembourg, they facilitate permanent regularity. Immigrants do not have integration problems – where many of them have acquired nationality, especially in Austria (Ibid. p 30).

In many cases, African immigrants have opted for marrying European citizens in order to obtain education, work, and in some case the permit to bring their families to Europe. However, according to Aljazeera TV that broadcasts the program Surprising Europe, these strategies not always work because migration demands they prove the legality of the marriage, otherwise they might face immediate deportation (YouTube, 2011).

Nevertheless, the demand for the work force has benefited those who have received an invitation letter, because they can study and work in Europe – if the state considers this person to be necessary in the region, they can stay legally. In many cases, they are however restricted to perform certain activities (Immigration Citizenship EU, 2013).

At the same time, The European Union attempts to provide dynamism to their resources by providing the immigrant with help -- for a certain period of time – so the immigrant is able to return to the country of origin which helps reducing the brain drain in these countries which is necessary for improving the economic growth (Comisión de las Comunidades Europeas, 2005).

On the other hand, the so-called Blue Card, introduced in 2011 in the European Union, enables foreigners to work and reside within the region for about two years (Apply-EU, 2013).

With these politics, the European Union endorses the availability of information about the requirements to enter and leave the European Union for those who are planning to emigrate. This policy helps the development of African countries. (Fundación Cajamar, 2008).

On the Program “Haya” adopted by the European Council in 2004, certain parameters are established such as; regular and irregular migration, integration, refugee’s protection, fight against human trafficking and common goals between migration and development. In terms of the European agreement approved in 2008, the repatriation of irregular migrants was established as well (Fundación Ciudadanía y Valores, 2012).

Through these parameters, the Union offers help to those countries whose migration profiling is highly extensive. It also offers Cooperation and Support Equipment Assistance to third parties, which apply for such help.

In this matter, countries like Mali (2007) applied for the creation of an Information Center and a center of Migration Administration in the capital. Other countries such as Senegal, Ghana and Mauritania followed (Fundación Cajamar, 2008).

On one hand, there is the European Development Fund (EDF), which is financed by the member states – money that is meant for the social, economical and cultural development of 79 countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific.

The EDF is accorded for a five-year period – the latter comprises the period 2008-2013 and has been supporting these countries by subsidies, capitals of risk and loans to the private sector for the development (3700 million Euros for national programs and 478 million Euros for regional programs) (Europa-UE, 2007).

On the other hand, the European Neighboring Plan has contributed around 654 million of Euros to Morocco and 220 million of Euros to Algeria within the 2007-2013 agenda (España Exportación e Inversiones, 2012). Similar to this aid-project, the program AENEAS adopted by the European Union in 2004 also provides technical and financial help to third countries in terms of migration and asylum. Its objective is to shape up migratory influxes and reduce clandestine migration by reinserting migrants in their countries of origin within a frame of financial perspectives from 2007 until 2013 (Europa-UE, 2006).

**Graph N°. 12 Spanish coastguards intercept African migrants in the Canary Islands.**



**Source:** Vidas Anónimas [Acceded on: March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013] Available on:  
[http://1.bp.blogspot.com/\\_ILF7hrc-r4g/S7tmjhydt8I/AAAAAAAAA-I/U7TmXd9n90Y/s320/Cayucos\\_Gomera\\_a.jpg](http://1.bp.blogspot.com/_ILF7hrc-r4g/S7tmjhydt8I/AAAAAAAAA-I/U7TmXd9n90Y/s320/Cayucos_Gomera_a.jpg)

By way of summarizing this brief analysis about foreign policy and cooperation between Spain and the European Union, it has demonstrated a practice which is convincing and somehow resembles geo-strategic and economic interests with social forums of speech.

The question is if these initiatives and agreements are truly focused in a balance of relations between the European Union and African countries. It cannot be doubted that even though the strategies for development feature a worrisome image, these are adjusted to political and commercial interests of European investors.

It is also evident that despite the willingness to receive irregular immigrants by some European countries, the general objective is to reinforce the borders by providing millions of Euros so this phenomenon can finally be stopped.

The financial help has failed according to the annual report of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The G-8 countries originally committed to donate 16.000 million Euros in order to stop earth famine.

This money however, had been primarily aimed to western Africa; a zone with the highest malnourishment rate. Experts show great concern because the European donors do not foresee a safe network so that the aid is exclusively destined to the population just like they did not foresee a way to properly handle the system of cereal reserves that would stop starvation (El mundo, 2010).

Nevertheless, these African countries have subscribed to the African Agricultural development program, which demands 10% of their national budget to be invested in natural resources. Countries like Burkina Faso, Ghana, Ethiopia, Mali and Senegal have surpassed the invested amount and this constitutes one the goals of the New Millennium (UNICEF, 2011).

It is due to these inconsistencies that the question, whether these aid aims mutually benefit unilateral interest, is raised. This is because it is very difficult to suppose the existence of a relation that is meant to intensify the bond between Europe and African countries in a proper manner in order to guarantee an equal development in the African region, if there is are irregularities in their migration policies (Real Instituto Elcano, 2011).

### **3. 3 Repatriation and Humanitarian Aid**

#### **Graph N°. 13 Africa migrants being rescued by the Spanish Red Cross members**



**Source:** Diario de avisos [Acceded on: March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013] Available on: <http://www.diariodeavisos.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/inmigrantes-La-Restinga2.jpg>

Migration is a right, right to life and survival (Mbuji Kabunda, 2000) and the fact to migrate or leave the country of origin given the economic crises, famines, natural disasters, armed conflicts, poor use of natural resources and others should be condoned. We also ran into another reality; the so-called repatriation or return.

Repatriation can be analyzed from two perspectives. There is the voluntary- compulsory and mandatory repatriation to their homeland. Voluntary return corresponds to migrants that failed in their plans to settle in a foreign land or prospered in that country and unconditionally returns to their native land. While the mandatory return is due to police expulsions that reimburse undesirable foreigners to their land of origin and also the exchange of prisoners during operation or returned at the end of a civil war. Therefore, the issue of repatriation has a number of important key factors that define the fate of the immigrant and – in the case of African migrants – corresponds to the mandatory return since most of them are returned to their place of origin because of their irregular status in Spain (Universidad de Granada, 2005).

Considering the border position of Spain on the southern side of the European Union, this has become a major destination country for migration. Besides being a transit country for migrants to other European states. As mentioned in previous chapters, the Canary Islands – due to geographical proximity to the African continent and border position in southern Europe – is the Spanish territory that is currently suffering the impact of the influx of irregular migrants by sea-Saharan Africa and had its peak in 2006 with the so-called "crisis of the canoes" (Asin Cabrera, 2005).

According to Maria Asuncion Asin, the phenomenon of irregular migration and particularly, the fight against irregular immigration of third-country nationals is a priority of the European Union action and, therefore, the Spanish state.

Likewise, according to an immigration trend at the Spanish coasts, it has seen a decline – although a slight increase in migratory flows has been shown. According to the Spanish Ministry of Interior, since 2006 the number of immigrants has decreased gradually until in 2011, reaching 33,737 fewer immigrants. Additionally, in the case of the Canary Islands the number of irregular immigrants who reached the island in 2011 has increased 144 income immigrants (Ministerio del Interior de España, 2012).

The Spanish Ministry of interior also noted that in 2011, 30.792 people were repatriated compared to 30,163 in 2010; which represents an increase of 629 more people and the expulsion of foreign criminals had increased by 11.2% over the previous year. Moreover, 8 out of 10 expelled immigrants have a criminal or judicial record, reflecting that most immigrants trying to settle in Spain have had legal problems; thus making it difficult for they are considered a danger to the Spanish society (Ibid.).

It is noteworthy that repatriations were specifically in 2011 and that this year there was a high repatriation movement due to an increase of intervention against the problem of irregular entry of immigrants from sub-Saharan Africa.

On the other hand, it is important to envisage that the cost for the repatriation of migrants to their countries of origin that the Ministry of Interior stated, was around 24 million Euros to repatriate the "undocumented immigrants", and that this expenditure covers airline tickets as well as the policemen too; this cost is very high, especially with the economic circumstances in which Spain is facing. Therefore, the population suggests creating a cheaper alternative when repatriating immigrants (El Confidencial Digital, 2012).

During their migratory journey to the Canary Islands, immigrants are vulnerable due to the conditions in which the trips are carried out. It is important to note that one of the cities with highly transit migrants is Nouadibou – the second largest city in Mauritania and commercial capital of the country – which is considered one of the closest to the Spanish coasts and where immigrants usually tend to travel to the Canaries.

Therefore, due to the high traffic of immigrants, a humanitarian center intended for irregular migrants in transit was created, which was carried out by the Mauritanian Red Crescent, a member of the National Society Member of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent and Spanish Red Cross. They are in charge of receiving migrants with food and non-food aid, as well as with health care – in a way, restoring family ties and providing psychological support (Cruz Roja Española, 2008).

According to the Spanish Red Cross, the Nouadibou center has humanitarian assistance 24 hours a day and is managed by the Regional Directorate of the Mauritanian Ministry of Internal Security. Attendance is carried out by groups of volunteers, helping with food delivery kits and restoration of family ties, etc. Besides, having a nurse for first aid

situation in case of emergency facilitates the patient to be transferred to a hospital. All this is done under the control of local president of Mauritanian Red Crescent. Not only are these centers responsible for helping immigrants but as already stated, institutions like UNICEF, NGOs, help combat this painful experience in Africa (Ibid.).

Humanitarian aid to irregular immigrants is very positive; however this support does not happen in all the routes immigrants go through. In many cases the travelers are in very vulnerable situations – if not deplorable.

## **CHAPTER 4: "European Dream"?. The Integration Of African Immigrants In Europe, And The Influence Of The Crisis In Spain.**

**Graph N° 14 Foreign workers demanding for an immediate shelter**



**Source:** Humans Rights Watch [Acceded on: April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013] Available on:  
<http://www.hrw.org/news/2011/03/02/libya-stranded-foreign-workers-need-urgent-evacuation>

### **4.1 Social Integration**

The role of social integration as part of the migrants' new environment depends on the individuals that make part of this global phenomenon, both the adaptation of migrants as well as government policy actions to be carried out. As the host government of migrants, the task of such integration is directly dependent on the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs so there is no doubt to reinsure that the flow control, immigration social integration and development cooperation are the three main areas of migration policies in the European Union and Spain since the late eighties to the present (Basabe, Zlobina, y Páez, 2006).

Giménez affirms that:

Immigration is a generating social cohesion and intercultural harmony through mutual adaptation processes between two culturally distinct legal subjects – by which:

- a) People of foreign origin are incorporated to equal rights, obligations and opportunities to the local population, without losing their own identity and culture, b)



society and the local State gradually introduces regulatory organizational, budgetary and mentality changes which are necessary (p.78).

With this brief definition, this chapter will focus on the situation that irregular migrants face by partaking in a capitalist, industrialized, and individualistic society. The African community will be more affected than other communities due to their poor political, economic and social development as well as global marginalization.

The immigrant's first difficulty is encountered when they exit their cultural environment and face a cultural and social shock; a feeling of disorientation that people experience when adapting to a new culture. It can manifest in a number of emotional reactions such as depression, frustration, feelings of marginality and alienation. Moreover, the legal barriers and police vigilance positions the immigrant as highly vulnerable to stress and discrimination concerning the labor market and the educational area. Finally, the pressure to repay debts or monthly remittances to their home countries, carry an overload labor on the immigrant without measuring health status in order to carry out the European dream (Olmedo y colaboradores, Vives, 2006, p. 17).

For those migrants with a regular status, mostly as temporary and permanent workers, no integration problems have been shown except for a couple of xenophobic acts from the local population and language difficulties. On the other hand, for those irregular migrants the situation is much more complicated since these individuals will have to adapt in the country while hiding from being arrested, complicating their accommodation, education, employment, among others, especially if the individual is illiterate or with academic deficiencies (Ibid. p. 22).

The desire for migrants to revive once they reach European soil becomes a daily fear. For irregular immigrants the consequences are several, such as "psychologically it creates dissatisfaction, fear and perplexity, difficult to rent an apartment and open a bank account prevents access to public resources and therefore the immigrant is placed in a situation of vulnerability and exploitation". (Giménez, 2003, p. 107). According to a young Nigerian citizen in Barcelona, Spain, when he was hiding under a truck to travel from Almeria to Barcelona, the driver and his assistant noticed him and began beating him. Notwithstanding the caning, he carried on to his destination deeply wounded. He denounced the loss of his identity and was released without the risk of

being stopped because of his irregular status (Estepa, 2013). Such occurrences happen daily and the freedom they get when the police reinstates their identity.

As police aggression against African migrants, become a social controversy, racial and physical violence against detainees has been public in France, Switzerland, Belgium and Spain where migrants have been beaten, drugged and driven like animals. Cases like these are seldom known but justified by the government; on the other hand, if an immigrant commits a crime against a European this is immediately shown in the media promoting distrust towards migrants (De Philippis, 2010, p.7).

According to the documentary *Surprising Europe* by Al Jazeera TV, the plight of Africans, especially West Africans, who have trouble in adapting to European countries is shown. On the one hand, there is the situation of immigration control that disables the irregular migrant to improve their life conditions and the ignorance of those migrants about legal aspects of the European legal system. The fundamental difference in these sectors is that the cultural level on migration is ignored (YouTube, 2010).

The situation of regulating documents, has become a vexing problem for the irregular migrant because, migration policies have increasingly hardened in Europe so the migrant and the police play a role known as the cat and mouse game, tormenting the tranquility of their stay in the country. Nevertheless, socialization and the very fact they are far from home, it becomes a challenge to settle in the host society.

Additionally, the African culture is completely different since the majority of West Africans have been educated within clans; for instance, an education of belonging to a group which is transmitted to generations unlike a seemingly individualistic Europe, directly affect migrants (Lassiter, 1999).

As for the children of migrants born on European soil, their adaptability is not hindered because they grow within the new environment, but for the migrant child and in some cases even for the child born in Europe, it will be difficult to adapt because as the child grows, he suffers prejudice and racial attacks by peers so that perception becomes a traumatized experience to socialize and to adapt. Also the fact that at home, they are taught cultural aspects of African families and about their native culture learnt at school, somehow may confuse a child's development in Europe.

In addition, the problem lies in the identity of the children of African migrants born in Europe due to marginal aggression from childhood and the conundrum of their identity in possible school failure and resentment toward whites (Guzmán, 2011).

It is relevant to mention that the adaptability to a much more strict surrounding, either by its legal system, punctuality, the intellectual aspect, the formality, the family relationship along with the person's individuality among others (Basabe, Zlobina, y Páez, 2006) has resulted in a "cold" image of European inhabitants. It has burdened the adaptation for migrants that come from ethnic and religious collectivist societies, followed by the poor African performance in education, government, among several problems that aggravate the situation of the immigrant positioning on a social disadvantage compared to Europe. Likewise, their behavior is influenced by these events that are ultimately askew to the new cultures (Mac Donald, 2010).

Concerning media affects on the immigrant perception and ethnic minorities; there are different methods in which the media represent these Groups.

“1-Exclusion: ethnic minorities are not fully represented in the media

2-Threat: minorities are shown in the news but perceived as a threat to national security issues and social order; mainly represented in criminal acts, poverty and deaths

3- Opposition: minorities are shown as enemies, encouraging local people that migration is a serious issue to fight against; imposing laws against migration as a result.

4-Stereotyped selection: minorities are represented in positive issues in order to integrate them into the society.

5- Total coverage: Any prejudice towards a minority is removed. Social integration is promoted so that migrants are treated as a majority.” (Wilson y Gutiérrez, 1985).

Migrants in Europe are considered as a threat and opposition modalities. Generally speaking, the media have played a challenging and unfavorable role in migration worldwide. This is because in Europe, the media mirrors the negative aspects of African

ethnicity, which constantly broadcast news, and images of miseries and disasters on the African continent, indirectly transmitting a negative perception of African people.

Furthermore, the European humanitarian organizations show the misfortunes suffered in Africa through photographs and advertisements in public places and on television. The intent of these organizations is to raise the awareness of the European public to cooperate with those who suffer from malnourishment, violence and poverty, emphasizing more children; however these images produce irreparable damage to the African migrants because it increases an inferiority complex causing them to be ashamed of their origins while Europeans feel sorry for them and reluctant to join them as well (Vi-makomé, 2006).

As for the depiction of irregular migrants on TV – who have committed criminal acts – it has constituted part of an opposition towards migration, since an unpropitious behavior of an immigrant, stereotypes all those migrants residing in Europe, creating an atmosphere of hostility from the locals (Ibid.).

The accommodation for migrants is part of the ability to adapt, as this becomes the refuge site for African irregular migrants. Within this conundrum, many owners rebuff rentals to Africans in order to avoid any kind of law sanction. For example, in Spain there are places where they concentrate a large number of Africans staying in cities as Catalonia, Almeria, etc. Such actions relive legends as "overcrowded as blacks" in which for some Europeans it becomes an act of mockery and xenophobia towards migrants. In countries like France and England the problem is solved by municipal councils that are homes that can be rented at reasonable prices, but with the problem of the irregularity status and the fear of getting arrested and deported, they flee to ghettos. (Ibid.).

The idea of the ghetto has usually become impregnated in zones where poverty, crime and migrants are present. Once again these images provided by the media reflect the negative influence of migration so that the locals reject the idea of integration. However, the media might have shown the truth about migration on its negative aspects, but not necessarily what leads to them. Anxiety over the irregularity and the incompetence of adapting in Europe, leads to despair; forming a neighborhood of the migrant community itself and gangs to protect themselves towards racism acts. These

acts are not justifiable but this has been created as an identity resource rather than integration (Al Jazeera, 2010).

Due to the hostile environment that in some cases immigrants face, they form their own territories in the outside areas, where in several European countries ghettos of African immigrants already exist. "It has been observed that if the host society predominates exclusion, rejection and xenophobia on a particular group, the group tends to close in on itself, creating dangerous ghettos processes" (Giménez, 2003, p. 123). Thus states that if there has been established relationship only within a migrant community due to exclusion resentment by the locals, it leads to isolation and marginalization which it makes difficult their adaptation to the host country.

As mentioned before about African irregular migrants in Europe, it is clear that the migrant will not be able to adapt without the state's cooperation – which ensures the comfort of the immigrant for its contribution to the country in order to reach their commonwealth along with their locals. It is essential that migrant's integration depend on two subjects: "Those who have just arrived or are in the process of settlement and those who are already installed" (Giménez, 2003, p.77); where locals and foreigners can live along.

Political promotions such as the National Integration Strategies, elaborated by Spain in recent years, to deter racism, discrimination, xenophobia and other related intolerances, in which migrants can settle and feel at home with those rights without any type of recrimination such as health, housing, control of the media and the internet to fight against racial acts, also the promotion of sports and awareness of the local population's stereotype views on immigrants (Ruteere, 2013).

Through these initiatives formulated by the Spanish Government, it has tried to convey to other Member States of the Union, even though these laws have already existed, even before the Spanish politics on migration. They aim to facilitate the adaptation of migrants as discussed in the previous chapter, in order to promote the social integration of immigrants and eliminate wrongful image concocted by the media.

Thus for an optimal integration, awareness and tolerance from locals and the migrants' willingness to learn and adapt to European culture must be mutual and this is known as interculturality whose meaning is expressed by Giménez (2003) as follows:

Interculturality has primarily emphasized remembering what we have in common and in work, plus an equal treatment, opportunity and respect for differences, mutual knowledge, cross-cultural learning, cooperation, in ultimately, under the positive interaction principles (p.160).

#### **4.2 Economic and Labor integration**

As stated in social integration, the African immigrants find it difficult to get a job since they fear of their status in the country. However, the employment situation is not as distressing as social integration along with its irregularity in the country, given that migrants are willing to work on anything and make money to support their family and send remittances to their home countries.

To stimulate a comfortable employment environment for immigrants, certain factors such as host government policies, the labor market situation, the characteristics of existing ethnic communities and public opinion on immigration must be taken into consideration.

“The employment of foreign workers adds to the local demands and does not compete with it.” (Giménez, 2003, 91). On one hand, the migrant community along with the locals would agree with this statement, but the population does not react favorably with immigrants due to lack of information on migration, thus ignoring the situation of those who reached Europe. Also certain political speeches affect the situation of the migrant since they blame immigrants for the lack of jobs to locals and the increase of crimes in the country, generating a sense of nationalism by the locals through isolation and discrimination. The mere fact that the migrant is willing to work on any job, it conditions them to a vulnerable status.

Several studies conducted by Giménez (2003), say that the main access ways for migrants to get a job are based on personal contacts and mutual support from nonprofit entities where it is determined that the majority of immigrants traveling to the country of destination, already have ensured a job, either through relatives abroad, as well as coyotes' contacts offering jobs to immigrants in exchange for a premium payment in Europe.

The employment status of African men and women, they perform jobs most Europeans rebuff. “The coexistence of unemployment and foreign immigration is explained, in

fact, because the unemployed labor force do not want to deal with those jobs that immigrants do.” (Giménez, 2003, p.97). These are usually hard, dangerous and poorly paid. For example, statistical yearbooks the Spanish Ministry shows that in Catalonia which houses Gambian migrants, they are willing to work in the fields. As for the Senegalese community, which is large in Europe, they devote most of their time as street sellers. Usually immigrants work at what they are offered in order to survive and reach their coveted "European dream" (Mutume, 2006).

According to the documentary *Surprising Europe*, African immigrants are dedicated to work in domestic as well as in construction areas. However, some respondents were jobless and homeless on the streets of Barcelona, Spain. As a response to the failure to find work in the region, they were engaged in the illicit sale of drugs in which they had to sell drugs through Spanish growers who distribute marijuana to migrants. Due to these activities that African immigrants are forced to undertake, the Europeans' perception of African migrants is certainly reprehensible when they perceive these situations without understanding the causes involved (YouTube, 2011).

There are also African immigrants as college technicians working in Europe, either by means of a working period visa or as an irregular student at a university. There was a case of two immigrants from Burkina Faso and Kenya in which they had to bribe to obtain a passport and be able to study in the Netherlands. They also added that they could never get an education in their homeland as in Europe due to the lack of support from their governments (Ibid.).

The same documentary shows that there was an African irregular immigrant from Ghana, who was successful in Holland in terms of setting up his own business; sending shipments back to Africa known as *Tran African Travel* where he commented that in order to stay regularly employed and succeed, the key was to study in the Netherlands after having worked as a floor cleaner in hotels in the beginning. He gradually overcame hardships and survived. Not everyone is as lucky to obtain a job reported a migrant who was also interviewed. He did not find work as a bricklayer or farmer for six months, when he lived in unsanitary conditions and was forced to beg in blistery European weather. He also commented that his dream was frustrated by not sending back anything to his family and he had not found the Europe he expected.

Regarding the employment status of African women in Europe, it seems to be the same conditions as men; willing to do any activity to survive and send money to relatives in their countries of origin. Such jobs are often in factories, stores, hospitals, etc. to prostitution as an ultimate resort. According to an article on the problems facing African immigrants in Europe, written by Inongo vi-Makomeé, black women have two work options, home or prostitution, where even though the migrant has a high level study and the regular documents, the probability of finding a job is rather implausible (Vi-makomé, 2006).

With this phrase, “foreign women that work in prostitution and the sex industry in Spain, are the major occupational job sectors, but not exclusive” (Giménez, 2003, p. 89) lets us know that the African women’s stories contribute to the previous article regarding on what happens in Spain about the employment status of the immigrant women.

In the documentary *Surprising Europe*, prostitution by a Nigerian woman was no exception. The migrant argued that the reason for not having found work elsewhere, prostitution was her last resort to send money back home to her family in her home country for nearly six years in the same activity. She mentioned her frustration at not getting a decent job in Italy and sometimes she thought to return and live with her family in Nigeria, but she rather wanted to continue this work and fully pay the coyote that took her to Europe and who placed her in this job. Besides when she had to rethink about abandoning Europe, she did not want to return home because she mentioned her country is very violent and there was no future (YouTube, 2011).

Another migrant who was interviewed, commented that African women are deceived upon arrival to Europe by the person who brought them who promised them a job which turned out to be prostitution. Also that they had to pay around 30,000 Euros and once the debt was fully paid, legal papers and a decent job were supposedly given to them, which turned out to be an extortion. After all if they could not pay, coyotes constantly threatened to kill their family and report to the authorities about those who were in Europe irregularly (Ibid.).

As previously discussed, not all immigrants work in professional occupations in Europe so they are not a competing threat to locals, instead they complement those jobs in which Europeans do not usually want to work, for example as home cleaners, builders,



planters, garbage and recycling collectors, metal workers in factories, where these jobs can sometimes be hazardous and even harmful to health. In the case of drug dealing is an exception since in Spain it is illegal and African immigrants were forced to sell to survive as recounted in the documentary. Regarding prostitution and other not favorable activities, women are forced to perform these tasks that according to the documentary mentioned throughout this chapter, they did not foresee as a permanent job in Europe. According to statistics provided by Giménez (2003), notes that:

Immigrants are located in secondary sectors of the market, where wages are lower, there is no contract, and the conditions are harder.... The incorporation of foreign workers to different jobs is a complementary effect and no substitution for indigenous workers (p.97).

It is relevant to mention that migration contributes to the local country's wealth in economic, social and cultural way as well as their countries of origin in which remittances represent a high level of income to the African country as well as the European experience in incorporating new entrepreneur investments and democracy thought Africa. From the positive perspective and a broad knowledge in the population, immigration is an increase in the GDP of the European country, rejuvenation of the population, increases local and foreign employment, increases demand and overall consumption, increases the number of enterprises and activities trade, revenue increases and thus improves social welfare state (Hernández, 2009).

#### **Graph N°. 15 Money on African soil**



**Source:** Banco Mundial [Acceded on: April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013] Available on:  
<http://blogs.worldbank.org/files/peoplemove/Story-2%281%29.jpg>

Remittances constitute the essential part of migration, which depends on the economic situation of migrants in the place of origin. If its adaptation in Europe has shown a positive effect on the environment and also financial prosperity, then the African immigrants can support themselves in order to survive in Europe, repay their debts and send money to relatives to their home countries.

However, according to Sander and Munzele (2005), remittances are integrally linked to migration; nevertheless, migration does not correlate with their transfers because each immigrant or immigrant group behave differently. The volume of remittances to a country of high migration can be lower than a country with a lower volume of migration sent from developed regions, with major economic activity and with higher incomes, for instance: Europe. This is explained in the following paragraph “The reasons for migration, the selection of its destination and the purposes and the means to send money to the country of origin, are important factors to understand remittances” (p.44).

The amounts of migrant remittances vary as manifested, but there are distortions in the flows, such as the cases of refugees who reside abroad and send money to family members who are also refugees in neighboring countries close to their home countries, due to insecurity, lack of transfer systems, etc. They finally end up sending remittances to a neighboring country, burdening the process of analyzing the financial situation of remittances’ destinations and their aims in African countries. Moreover, some migrants once established in the destination country, stop contributing back to their families or even wait until they reunite in the immigrants’ place.

“Remittances have grown rapidly and now represent the second most important source of external flows to developing countries” (Ratha 2003); meaning that in terms of the African situation, remittances have surpassed in some cases, official development assistance and foreign direct investment. Historically, Africa has had many years of migrant remittances among regions, which has intensified migration to Europe in recent years due to the crises that invaded the continent as well as modern European image showed by the media to African countries and the increase of clandestine trips to industrialized countries.

According to the analysis studied by Sander and Munzele (2005), West Africa has always received a small share of total remittances of African migrants in developing countries. Instead, northern Africa has received more remittances’ shares since West

African migrants tend to stay on the continent, migrating among African regions and to a lesser extent to Europe. On the other hand, because of its proximity to Europe, Northern African migrants tend to travel to these developed countries and thus draw a larger amount of money transfers.

The infrastructure for remittance transfers that exists in Africa is weak and does not supply services to low-income and rural households. This prevents efficient transfer through formally built channels and limits the potential of remittances to stimulate development through investment.

As a result of this, many African immigrants use informal channels since there is lack of viable services and they consider informal channels more efficient because they are more familiar, They trust and which are less expensive. Most migrants send informally either by a relative, friend or taxi and bus drivers. Within this group are also Africans who own their shipping business in Europe. Among the formal remittance channels controlled through banks are operators such as Western Union and Money Gram that are increasingly covering services through marginalized areas of African countries, unlike banks that do not have required systems and necessary coverage. ATM systems are not integrated to banking networks and are restricted to urban centers; on the other hand, postal services are considered inefficient and unfriendly. In Senegal, immigrants have mostly used the service offered by Western Union since its establishment in 1995.

Additionally, Sander and Munzele (2005) found that there is no report on remittances that are sent to the African continent, and for this reason it is difficult to calculate the effects that they have in development. Most shipments arrive to family groups through wives or parents, and women are usually heads of receiving households. Generally, these transfers represent an important source of foreign exchange and influence the balance of payments. At the same time, they constitute a vital source of income for families because although used for their personal needs such as education, nutrition and health, also a portion is spent on goods such as, business, savings or equity Community. The main motivation for investment and savings are usually as a response to the uncertainty of the immigrant as well as the context of the country of origin that affects the type of investment already made.

It is said that remittances are the migrant strategies to reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of those who migrate and their families since it provide a contribution

towards educational opportunities (Sander y Munzele, 2005). For example, in Zimbabwe, households with migrants possessed less cultivated land than households without migrants, but these had a higher level of education.

Moreover, the transfers between individuals or families of immigrants are part of community groups that send collective remittances back to communities in their countries of origin. Commonly these remittances are for diverse investments, including the construction and renovation of schools and churches. Among those African immigrant community groups, are associations as cultural groups, church, refugee groups, ethnic groups, and even online groups for social forum. For example, groups from Mali and Senegal in France, financed community projects, similar to Ghana, which is part of ethnic and racial associations.

Thus, factors such as economic and political instability from their home country, the limited reintegration of technologies for transfer services, such as the poor financial infrastructure of Africa and the restrictions that hinder the establishment of these in rural areas, deter remittance flows and investment, diverting towards informal channels and unnecessary money expenditure.

#### **4.3 The influence of the economic crisis for the migration project of the West African**

As of May 9, 2010, Spain began a period of both economic as well as social and political changes. It was the beginning of an era of a forced austerity, which would reconfigure the style of life and thought of Spanish citizens, that would result in a period of suffering, work stoppage, impoverishment, reduction of social protection, changes in the political structure, economic insecurity, etc. This has not been the strongest crisis that Spain had faced. The closest thing to this crisis was 19 years ago when Emperor François Mitterrand, having won the French presidential elections in collective ecstasy along with a socialist hegemony period, was forced by economic markets to change the political left wing, expanding the deficit to increase public investment, reduced working hours, the nationalization of 36 banks, etc. (Estefanía, 2013).

It has been three years since Spain has been in economic collapse, accompanied by pressure from the economic and finance ministers of the Euro group, which pressured the Zapatero's government for this change of economic policy and constant sacrifices

that would open the long period of austerity in which Spain has been stalled. In 2011 Spain had elected president, Mariano Rajoy, who at the time of coming to power threw away his electoral roadmap to apply again and again the demands of Brussels and follow the European model especially with the same goal of Zapatero: avoid at all costs the direct intervention in the EU to the Spanish economy.

However, the economic and political problem does not end there, not only Spanish citizens are in a period of crisis and economic and social adjustments but also immigrants who reside in the country are affected as well even more than the locals. Rajoy imposed a greater control against immigration and before the beginning of the crisis, immigrants were regarded as one of the main protagonists of the Spanish economy. In September 30, 2009 4'715 .757 foreign registration certificates or residence cards were issued (Laura Tedesco, 2010).

**Table N° 10 Number of foreign residents in Spain by 2009**

Moroccans	758.174
Romanians	728.580
Ecuadorians	441.455
Colombians	288.255
British	221.073

**Elaborated by:** Xavier Sánchez

**Source:** A European Think Tank for Global Action [Acceded on: May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013] Available on:

[http://www.fride.org/descarga/PB\\_Spain\\_Immigration\\_ESP\\_ene10.pdf](http://www.fride.org/descarga/PB_Spain_Immigration_ESP_ene10.pdf)

Within this context, it is important to note that throughout the year 2009, there were more than 800,000 legal immigrants from African countries with a Muslim majority. The Spanish government managed to integrate them into the labor market to regular and irregular immigrants.

The Spanish crisis did not favor immigrants, mostly irregulars, since they were vulnerable and prone to accept precarious jobs and more exposed to social discrimination. Also, the migratory flow decreased and there were more departures by

migrants than entries into the country between 2007 and 2011. The annual migration balance was reduced from 700,000 to 100,000 per year due to a drop in immigration. Likewise, the 2011 data show a negative balance of South American migration and to a lesser extent from Africa.

In addition, there was a loss of jobs, most affected being the immigrant community. According to the Collective Loé for the International Organization for Migration, within four years of crisis (2008-2011), around 2.2 million jobs were lost, 11.5% were from locals, 15% were from Latin American and the rest of Europe, and 21% were from the African continent. Also during the period of growth, employability increased for Spanish locals as well as availability for immigrants and when the crisis hit, jobs fall apart, especially for immigrants (from 83-68%) and to a greater extent for African (from 74% to 51%). The most affected are African women and men from Latin America.

On the other hand, with regard to social discrimination and xenophobia, a report by the International Organization for Migration warned everyone due to increase in xenophobic attitudes in Spanish society, the wages of immigrants are lower than those of the Spanish as well as opportunities to get jobs and even more in the crisis stage which is currently facing Spain.

Also between 2007 and 2010 there has been an increase in support to government measures that diminish the rights or expelled from the country certain immigrant groups, an example of this is that it has increased the idea of expelling those who commit crimes of any kind since these represent an unrecoverable expense as undocumented immigrants and to immigrants who are unemployed, which 43% of Spanish believe should return to their country of origin.

Finally, emphasizing the African community reaching Melilla and Spanish coasts, the IOM notes that derogatory terms like "full-scale invasion" or "massive influx" to refer to the entry of 100 people, or the "avalanche of boats" to refer to the arrival of inflatable boats with 29 people have been used. This refers to a discrimination against African migrants without consciously thinking that these people have been through many difficult circumstances followed by several obstacles placed by the same Spanish migration, which in the end these people are risking their lives to try to reach Spain. Finally the IOM points out that immigrants are not responsible for the crisis in Spain and that they too are victims of the consequences of the crisis.

#### **4.4 Was the journey worth it? Perceptions and expectations.**

“The streets are paved with gold, money falling from the trees, and who ever manages to enter Europe awaits a good life” (Van Tol, 2009).

This sort of ideas have been perceptions that Africans have on the European continent, whether the media point out and capture attractive images of major cities or perhaps the successful stories along with financial contributions ranging from the migrant community in Africa. Most people think of traveling, making money, getting married, obtaining better education for their children, but the situation is different when the lack of information and education in Africa does not allow a self-critical notion to redefine their European journey decision.

Throughout this analysis, it has been shown that migrants interviewed in the second chapter, have been people with certain educational level and professionals, but not capable enough to inform themselves on what they plan to do in Europe and its legal status. It is by that reason that the need to seek work overseas is so demanding that not only is the poor education of some Africans who take this type of decision, but it is the desperation of every immigrant willing to perform any type of job in order of generate money and support their family for a better life which even now they still have the expectation of the European success.

The harsh reality is that expectations change once immigrants have come to Europe because of their status, and thus the circumstances become a torture. Irregular migrants reach European shores daily seeking better prospects, either for a job, education and success. Nevertheless this carries certain risks that may culminate in tragedy and for those who arrive, live a life on the brim of the society before integration into a new culture (Mora, 2011).

Usually, the migrant population does not mention their relatives undergo a hard journey to get to Europe, and if they do, even those who try to migrate, take this as a cautious journey rather than being disheartened. Moreover, the necessity of surviving leads to take risks on the way, and the false image of a few migrants who have contributed in their hometowns with monetary resources and housing constructions, generalizes this phenomenon as the only prosperous way of whoever works abroad (Ibid.).

While, in the documentary *Surprising Europe*, presented by Aljazeera TV, to my knowledge only three out of many African interviewed, had a huge success in Europe, and were drawn along this chapter as migrants who accomplished their opportunity to a better life. The rest of the respondents chose to perform certain lifestyles that would have never thought so, as in the case of prostitution and drug smuggling. Destitution was mostly captured in the documentary, mentioning that they were living much more decently in Africa than in Europe.

In some cases, undocumented migrants are easy prey for exploiters and trafficking of children, fooling them with the naive dream of becoming football stars in Europe. However, those who fail are abandoned. Like prostitution, cheating scenarios like this has proliferated over irregular migration, turning into a criminal business between the two continents (Alcantud, 2013).

Many immigrants prefer to belie their miseries to relatives in Africa with different stories. For example, in an interview to an immigrant from Uganda that resides in Holland, he said that his partners have taken pictures with automobiles of their neighbors to insinuate that all was going well when in fact it was not. The interviewed African named Ssuna Golooba, mentioned that life in Holland without papers was very difficult, he even had to pretend to be a cleaning woman in order to work, since in the European country, men are not welcomed regarding household cleaning.

The loneliness, discrimination and fear of being arrested and deported became a torture for this immigrant, whose family had all hope pinned on Golooba's success in Europe. That is the reason why this immigrant decided to perform a project which later on became a documentary, that consisted of warning Africans that those who saved money all their lives for traveling irregularly towards Europe, to take caution according to his experience; in other words to get the proper information before traveling, mentioning that the final decision depends upon the migrant. This project not only recounts about their experience but also the successful and positive aspects that luckily Africans can achieve in Europe (Van Tol, 2009).

Finally from this analysis, it can be deduced that for many immigrants the journey has been just a passing experience compared to the harsh odyssey in Europe by not adapting to a new environment, either occupationally as well as socially. While it is true that the majority were not satisfied with their experiences as compared to those media images



from Europe, migratory waves will persist as well as risking the journey where the question will not be stated as though the dangerous trip was worth it, but whether it was really worth living in Europe?

**Graph N°. 16 Coast Guard ship intercepting a dinghy**



**Source:** Salvamento Marítimo España [Acceded on April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013] Available on:  
<http://www.salvamentomaritimo.es/sm/multimedia/cayucos-y-pateras/?id=7951>

## CONCLUSION

Firstly, the importance of the migratory phenomenon that originates due to several conflicts in Eastern Africa it ought to be envisaged. There are economic and social reasons that are bound to countries like Senegal, Mali, Mauritania and Nigeria – even though life standards in some countries are barely above or below others, all remain smothered under a fictitious development. Secondly, the utmost factor which leads to migration is the economic situation which hinders the population to carry out their daily tasks and worsens their living conditions which is commonly pestered with diseases.

The deficiency of acquiring an education on the part of immigrants coupled with the lack of initiative of authorities leads the population to be at utter disadvantage and therefore be forced to begin with the journey of their lives.

Despite education being tantamount to finding a good job – as well as acquiring a way of professional exercise – this analysis reveals that the most migrants had a higher education and were working on their professions. Therefore, the academic status of a person doesn't necessarily condition them to be biased by a specific profile that means a lack of jobs may not be linked to a higher migration rate. The plagues, just like a blunt shortage of drinking water, pushes the common migrant to seek a better place.

Civilian conflicts and political instability also obliges them to begin the journey. Their poor financial conditions do not seem to be a burden for them, because they borrow large amounts of money to afford the menacing trip and end up opting to live within a clandestine frame, unless they are gobbled up by the sea or the desert while crossing the gap between continents. Significantly, the corruption rate is evident – even among authorities at border control offices. They charge migrants a lavish amount of money. About eighty migrants risk drowning in the ocean while traveling to Europe on fishing boats daily. According to the money they had paid, they are taken directly to Europe; nevertheless they risk to be left in zones such as Ceuta, Melilla or the Canary Islands. Some conceal their documentation so that the corresponding authorities can't deport them until further notice.

Many European countries have succeeded in creating an inclusion program in order to facilitate integration, however in terms of irregular immigrants; they haven't yet achieved a common policy that would allow them to move freely in the European Union. In spite of this, the media has a strong bias against immigrants especially Africans. In Spain, for instance, this type of discrimination has shown its disparities in salaries, lodging and acceptance, which hinder the immigrant in having a positive integration in society while improving his life conditions.

International cooperation has actually focused on helping with integration, but the inefficiency from part of the countries of origin makes it burdensome to even achieve a solution.

Diplomatic agreements in order to improve the quality of African immigration haven't shown a positive development because Europe extrinsically analyses the problem and doesn't focus on the inner difficulties of each of the countries. The endorsement of African embassies has in fact controlled migration, but these embassies haven't controlled the finances from Europe to the African countries, mostly because of corruption.

The crisis that all developed countries is currently undergoing has partially stopped the migratory influx; however, African citizens will carry on traveling to western countries despite their financial plummeting.

"A globalization of indifference" as stated by Pope Francisco, is an evident concern for human suffering to stop the death of thousands of unlucky migrants who have perished during the dangerous journey. Seven people died in June 2013 after clinging to fishing nets that were arbitrarily cut off. According to the UNO commission, forty migrants have already died in 2013.

All in all, after this in-depth analysis it has become clear that the European Union aims to stop clandestine migration by funding millions of Euros in migration control instead of a solid quest of mutual interest with African countries. The right to migration is tightly linked to the right of human beings and both, locals and foreigners should work together and give each other tolerance, union and acceptance – this should shape the global society in our planet.



Pope Francis while visiting the Sicily Island in southern Italy criticized “the indifference” from the world to the immigration matter. At this point is where thousands of migrants arrive for a better life style.

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