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***Child and Youth Migration in West Africa:  
Research Progress and Implications for  
Policy***

**Centre for Migration Studies, University of  
Ghana**

**9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> June 2009, Accra**

## The Migration DRC at Sussex

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- DFID funded Development Research Centre
- Began in 2003
- Aim: to promote new policy approaches that will help to maximize the potential benefits of migration for poor people, whilst minimizing its risks and costs.
  
- Partnership of eight institutions in five countries - Bangladesh, Ghana, Albania, Egypt and the UK
  
- In Ghana, partnership with ISSER and RIPS

## Migration DRC Activities

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- Remit is broad including carrying out research and promoting initiatives,
- Plus training, policy influencing and capacity building activities

### Core ideas

- Migration is an integral part of the everyday life of many poor people.
- Some forms of migration typify the poor more than others.
- Migrants need to be consulted and involved in the research process.

# DRC work on Child Migration

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- Shared interest in children migrating without their parents or guardians
- contentious and under-researched but significant contemporary migration flow, especially in poor families.

Understudied because

- Research in childhood/children assumes are sedentary
- Research on migration assumes migrants are adults
- Separate projects in Bangladesh India Ghana (4), Burkina Faso with shared perspectives

# Website resources

[www.migrationdrc.org](http://www.migrationdrc.org)

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- Research reports, working papers, policy briefings
- [www.childmigration.net](http://www.childmigration.net)
- MiNS

# Dialoging with Policy Actors

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- Key issue: different forms in different places
- Sept 2007 London – Europe and UK focused event brought together some Anglophone and Francophone actors
- West Africa Regional Event planned

# Workshop Aims and Format



- Not about showcasing DRC work
- Research Reviews and Interventions/Action/Policy
- Research reviews NOT comprehensive
  - Less well publicised migration flows
  - Research of Plan International (WARO) and other members of the West Africa Youth Mobility Platform
- Interventions/Action/Policy Also not comprehensive
  - children as rural workers
  - different ways of supporting child migrants

# Day 1 Research Review

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- What do we know about children's experiences of migration in these circumstances?
- What are the issues raised for child rights advocates?
- How can today's findings about children's experiences illuminate understanding of migration in other sectors and circumstances?