



3003 Berne-Wabern, 14 June 2013

Switzerland-Nigeria migration partnership

4th Meeting of the Joint Technical Committee

Memorandum of Understanding for a migration partnership

On 14 February 2011, Switzerland and Nigeria signed a Memorandum of Understanding for a migration partnership between the two countries. This partnership covers various fields of cooperation, such as dealing with legal migration, preventing irregular migration, migration and development, multilateral cooperation, and cooperation in relation to returns. Numerous projects are being implemented in these areas.

Action Plan for asylum and returns

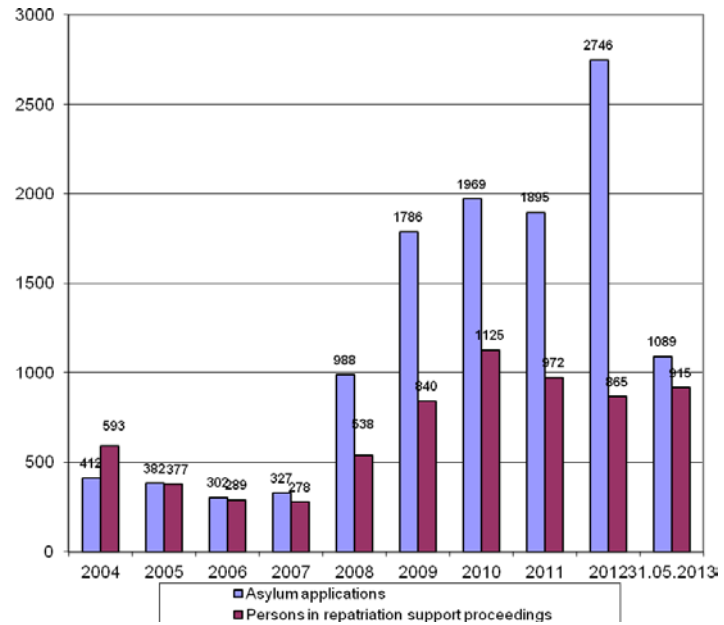
In the spring of 2013, the FOM also introduced accelerated asylum procedures for Nigerian citizens. A Joint Action Plan was passed at the fourth meeting of the Joint Technical Committee for the Switzerland-Nigeria migration partnership on 20 June 2013. This Joint Action Plan also seeks to accelerate the returns procedure and thereby contribute to a decline in irregular migration from Nigeria.

The Action Plan provides for measures in the following four areas:

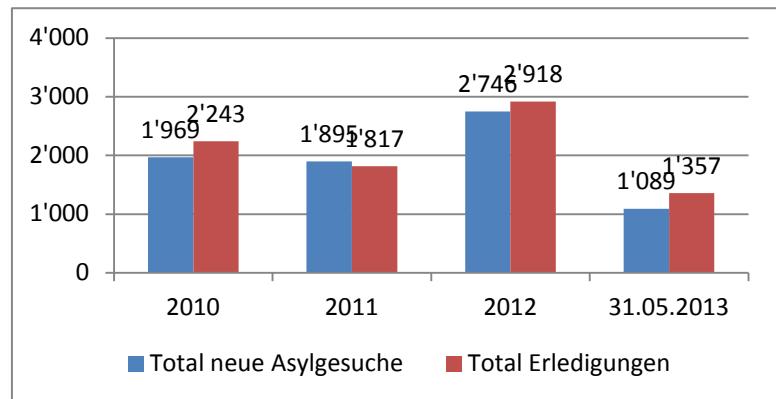
1. Identity checks
2. Increasing the number of charter flights, if necessary
3. Limiting the registration period for the returns programme to three months
4. Awareness campaigns on the risks of irregular migration.

Asylum applications of Nigerian citizens

- There has been a rise in the number of asylum applications from Nigerian citizens since 2008.
- Nigeria is thus one of the top countries of origin with regard to asylum applications since 2009 (no. 1 in 2009 and 2010; no. 3 in 2011, no. 2 in 2012 and no. 2 as of 31 May 2013).
- Europe's economic crisis is likely to be one of the reasons behind the increase (e.g. Spain); see below: Increase in proportion of Dublin cases.
- The chances of being granted asylum are extremely low; since 2008 only six applications have been successful.



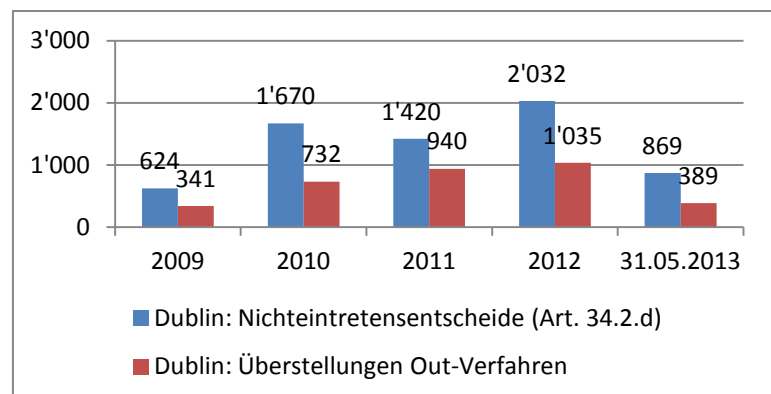
Asylum applications - Cases settled



Increase in the proportion of Dublin cases since 2012

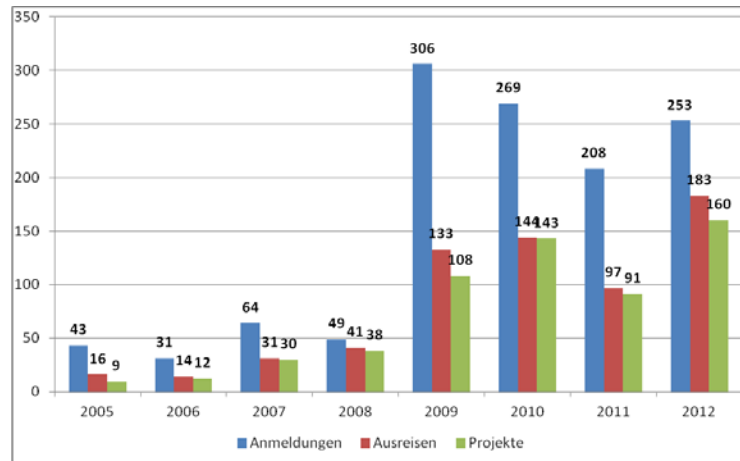
A very high number of Nigerian asylum seekers are Dublin cases, i.e. applicants for whom a comparison of fingerprints has proven they have already applied for asylum in another European country. The proportion of Dublin cases is 74% on average.

Trend in Dublin out-procedures



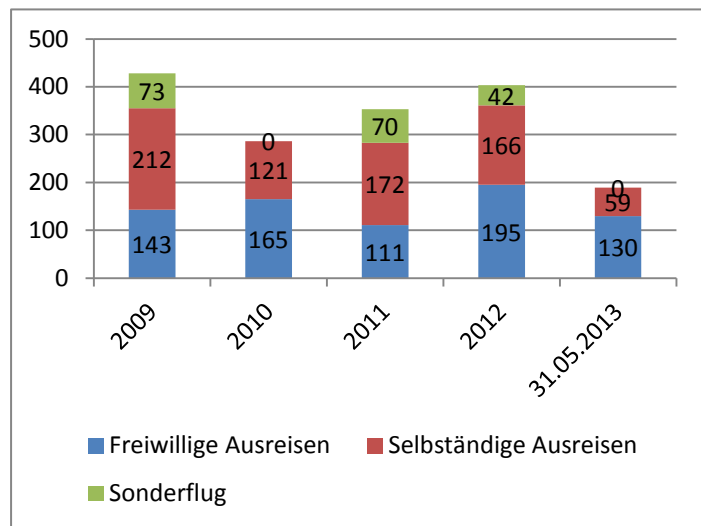
Voluntary return with return assistance programme

- The return assistance programme for Nigeria offers the following benefits: CHF 1,000 in cash and CHF 6,000 for implementing a project.
- Projects are generally defined in association with the return advisory offices in Switzerland; the IOM then provides support and assistance on site.
- The number of people registering to participate in the return assistance programme has risen sharply since 2009. This may also be due to the fact that the identification delegations have stepped up their counselling efforts this year to encourage their citizens to accept voluntary return.



Departure of Nigerian citizens since 2009

- The initial focus is on controlled voluntary departure through, if possible, participation in the return assistance programme specially developed for Nigeria. In terms of absolute figures, voluntary departure is a success.
- If the individuals concerned do not make a controlled voluntary departure, the next step is to accompany them to the plane, allowing them to return on a scheduled flight by themselves (without an escort or restraints).
- Only as a last resort are individuals forcibly deported to their home country on a charter flight.



The vast majority of returns are classified as "uncontrolled returns"; 2009: 431; 2010: 433; 2011: 617; 2012: 757 and as of 31 May 2013: 293 people.