

Examination of the Magnitude of Passengers' Exchange across Nigeria and Ghana Land borders: A focus on Seme International Border

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Abstract— The research aims at assessing the degree of passenger exchange across the international land border between Nigeria and Ghana with a focus on Seme Border, Lagos, Nigeria, being the busiest border between the two countries. The data for the study were sourced from a secondary source which was extracted from passenger manifests of the registered transport companies that operate across the border from 2012 to 2021. The descriptive and inferential statistics were employed for the data analysis. The findings established that a total of Three Million, One Hundred and Forty-Nine Thousand, Five Hundred and Forty-Six passengers transited from Nigeria to Ghana and vice versa through the land borders between 2012 and 2021. It was also revealed that 2018 recorded the highest outflow of passengers from Nigeria to Ghana. The study shows that Chisco Transport Company which carried the highest number of passengers recorded 25% of the whole passenger movements was followed by ABC transport with (19%). The study also observed that Nigerians travel more than Ghanaians and any other west African country. Furthermore, Tables 1 and 2 indicate that more foreigners enter Nigeria compared to the number that left the country between 2012 to 2021. The paper recommends creation of more gainful employment so as to lessen the number of Nigerians leaving the country especially the most skilled and best-educated human resource of our nation. This portends serious danger to our overall national growth and development. Curtailing the mass exodus of our people will help in reducing the xenophobic attack by the host country.

Keywords—Transport, Passenger, Operators, Border, Xenophobic, Transit

I. INTRODUCTION

Borders could be described as geographic boundaries of political entities or legal jurisdictions, such as governments, sovereign states, federated states and other sub-nation entities. Borders are usually established through pacts between social or political entities governing those areas; the creation of those agreements is known as Boundary Delimitation [1]. Most countries exercise some form of border control to regulate or limit the movement of people, animals and goods in and out of the country. Under international law, each country is generally allowed to make laws on the conditions that have to be satisfied to cross its borders and to prevent people from crossing its borders in violation of laid down rules and laws.

Some borders require the presentation of legal paperwork like passports and visas or other identity documents for persons to cross them. In order to stay or work within a country's border, foreigners may need special immigration documents or permits, but possession of such documents does not guarantee that the person would be allowed to cross the border for obvious reasons. Trans-border activity has prompted states throughout the world to enhance their border security in an effort to better manage the in and out flows of their territories. For instance, the United State erecting hundreds of miles of fencing along the Mexican border; India fencing its 2,500 miles (4,000km) border

with Bangladesh and 1,800 miles (2,500km) border with Pakistan; Pakistan building fences and laying minefields along sections of the Afghanistan border; and Iran walling its 430-miles (700km) border with Pakistan. Alongside these highly published examples, numerous other countries like Greece, Kuwait, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Thailand, etc. have their borders fenced with additional conspicuous security enhancements, such as surveillance technology and patrols to secure their borders against illegal immigrants [2].

The movements of human population are a significant component in a wide range of diverse processes, including urban and regional development, economics and epidemiology. Migration has become an important aspect of human life. Some people leave their native countries to find a better place to live. The push or pull factors can influenced it. Some of the factors are; job, education, medical treatment, weather condition, tourism, natural disaster, war, etc. [3].

The free movement of people has been a quick win on development for centuries, regions, and the continent as a whole. Once visa or work permit restrictions are cut, gains in time and resources open up, which supports more competitive businesses and economies. Similarly, if the nation's borders are not well secured it gives rise to so

many social vices to the point of compromising national security.

Issues concerning the border movement of migrants have been of interest considering the impact of such movement on security and the economy. Nigeria has maintained a cordial relationship with her neighbours, but this has been with caution considering the regulation guiding the movement of migrants across her border. It is on this premise, that this study assesses the passengers' movement across Nigerian and Ghanaian international borders to ascertain the impact of international migration on Nigeria.

II. RELATED WORK

There are many studies that analysed the magnitude of passengers' exchange across the border both at international and local levels. Some among them include; Reference [4] that analyses the border crossings in South East Europe and measures for their improvement. Reference [5] examines trends in passenger vehicle traffics across the Canada–US border from 1972 to 2011. The study shows a strong declining trend in same day trips over the period from 2001 to 2011, which may be connected with the enhanced security regime at the border in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. On the other hand, other factors comprising strengthening Canadian dollar and slow economic growth after 2008 might have also contributed to this trend.

Reference [6] studies the effects of the terrorist attacks of 9/11 and the subsequent strict border security regime on the levels of truck movement across the Canada–US border. The results indicate that in general, 9/11 have had a negative consequence on the cross-border movement of Canadian and US trucks, but the impacts were more pronounced in the case of the US trucks. Other fascinating results include an increase in the number of US trucks during the period that followed the last US financial crisis. The results also illustrate the relevance of *GDP* in explaining the observed truck movements across the Canada–US border.

Reference [7] assesses the impact of COVID-19 border restriction on dengue transmission in Yunnan Province, China. The study finds strong evidence that dengue incidence between 2013 and 2019 in Yunnan was definitely linked with international importation of cases. Reference [8] developed a bi-national freight network model connecting freight flows of trucks between the US and Canada. The results demonstrate that core regional bodies are the primary users of major POE between the US and Canada.

Besides offering an improved understanding of the economic implications of US–Canada border crossings, this study contributes to developing a simulation tool, a bi-national Transportation - combined National Interstate Economic Model. Reference [9] examines the overall current panorama of cross-border transports in the EU. The

findings indicate that cross-border transports are not yet adequately developed in the face of the increasing needs of EU citizens to cross borders, even in the most advanced and socio-economically developed EU border areas, the complex administrative and legal frameworks from each side of the border make the establishment of joint solutions for improving cross-border transportation across EU borders a daunting task. In view of the above literature, this paper aims at assessing the proportion of passengers' exchange across Nigeria and Ghana international land borders.

III. METHODOLOGY

The selected border is the Seme border. The border is selected because it is the major border connecting Nigeria and Ghana in terms of the bulk of freight and passengers that are being transported across the routes. In effect, the data for the work were obtained from a secondary source which was extracted from passengers' manifest through the registered transport companies (operators) that operate across the border from 2012 to 2021. The operators include Chisco transport, ABC transport, Cross Country transport, Young Shall Grow transport, GUO transport and Africa Eagle transport. In cooperation, the inferential and descriptive statistics were used to analyse the data obtained.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Magnitude of Passenger Exchange Across Nigeria - Ghana Land Borders

Figure 1 shows the trend of passenger movements within the three selected borders between Nigeria and Ghana from 2012 to 2021. From the findings, it was established that a total of three million one hundred and forty-nine thousand five hundred forty-six passengers were conveyed from Nigeria to Ghana and vice versa through the land borders between 2012 and 2021. From this figure, two million, two thousand six hundred and ninety-five (2,002,695) people travelled from Nigeria to Ghana, while a total of one million one hundred and forty-six thousand eight hundred and fifty-one passengers travelled from Ghana to Nigeria within the study period. This implied that Nigeria has a higher influx rate of passengers.

It was revealed that 2018 recorded the highest outflow of passengers from Nigeria to Ghana with a total of three hundred and ninety-nine thousand three hundred and ten (399,310), the total inflow to Nigeria from Ghana is one hundred fifty- nine thousand one hundred forty (159,140) passengers. The lower number of movements was recorded in 2021. This may be as a result of the negative effect of the COVID'19 as people were trying to resume their normal life from the movement restrictions orchestrated by the pandemic. No data was generated in 2020 and this may be attributed to lockdown as no movement was allowed then by both Governments due to the pandemic.

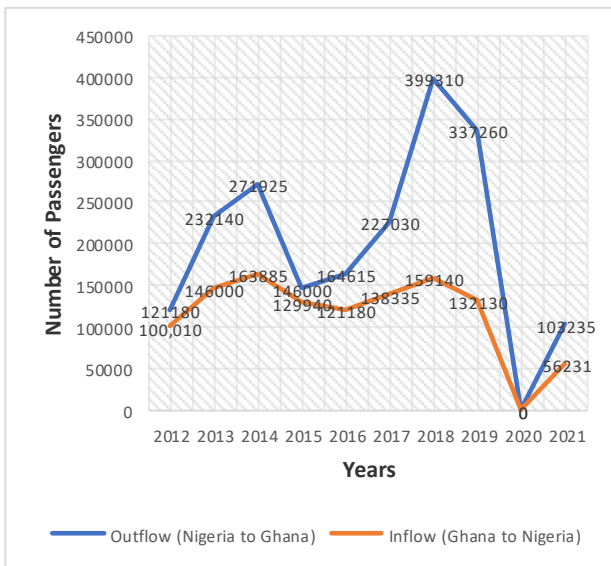


Figure 1: Outflow and Inflow of Passengers (2012 to 2021)
Source: Author’s fieldwork, 2021

Level of Movement (Outflow and Inflow) and their Nationalities

The descriptive statistic of the passenger’s movement from Nigeria to Ghana within the years under review is as presented in Table 1. The study shows that a total of two million two thousand six hundred and ninety-five (2,002,695) passengers moved from Lagos to Accra between 2012 and 2021 by seven private operators namely; Chisco, ABC, Young Shall Grow, Cross Country, GUO, and Africa Eagle. It was further revealed that Chisco carried 27% of the total passengers followed by ABC transport with 22%, Cross Country (16%), Young Shall Grow transport (12%), GUO (11%), Effex (8%) and lastly Africa Eagle (4%).

Though GUO transport joined the crew of transporters that conveyed passengers from Lagos to Accra in 2014 and Africa Eagle came on board in 2015. This must-have contributed significantly to the overall low patronage that the two companies had experienced between 2012 and 2021. This is an indication that Chisco Transport Company enjoys the highest rate of patronage. Going further, it was discovered that 59% were Nigerians 22% were Ghanaians and 12% of the passengers were from other West Africa Countries.

Table 1: Outflow of Passengers from Nigeria to Ghana & Nationality

Company	Nationalities							
	Total Passenger Annual Movement	%	N	%	G	%	O	%
Chisco	543480	27	343676	63	124689	23	72100	13
ABC	438923	22	256889	59	87978	20	37960	9
YSG	238982	12	100168	42	42578	18	46264	19
Cross Country	321247	16	197462	61	78170	24	44617	14
Effex	154763	8	101489	66	25709	17	18550	12
GUO	224984	11	147545	66	51394	23	18921	8
Africa Eagle	80316	4	40769	51	25671	32	9354	12
Total	2002695	100	1187998	59	436189	22	247766	12

Note: N = Nigerians, G = Ghanaians, W/A = Other West African countries.

Source: Author’s fieldwork, 2021

The inflow analysis of passengers and their nationalities is given in Table 2. The total number of passengers that transited from Ghana to Nigeria was one million one hundred and forty-six thousand eight hundred and fifty-one (1,146,851). Further findings show that Chisco transport which had the highest number of passengers conveyed recorded 25% of the whole movements of passengers, followed by ABC transport (19%), Cross Country transport (18). Lastly, Africa Eagle recorded a low 4%. Chisco transport company still maintained the lead in passengers’ patronage from Ghana to Nigeria.

The study also observed that Nigerians travel more than Ghanaians and any other west African country. Other West African countries travel as low as 11%. Moreover, the results from Tables 1 and 2 indicate that more foreigners enter Nigeria compared to the number that left between 2012 to 2021. This may be as a result of Nigeria having the largest markets in West Africa which attract foreigners from the neighbouring countries to do business. The results show that some Nigerians relocated to Ghana or transited from Ghana to another country of their choice probably in search of greener pasture or a better life.

The patterns of the flow of people between countries are widely influenced by economic, political and cultural interrelations. Thus, international economic disparities, poverty, and environmental degradation, combined with the absence of peace and security and human rights violations are all factors affecting international migration. When mass exodus of our citizens to foreign lands, is allowed, then we must expect the negative effect of such movement, for instance; loss of the most skilled and best-educated human resource of our nation and this portends serious damage to our overall national growth and development.

Another hazard of the influx of Nigerian citizens to foreign lands is the danger of xenophobic attack by the host country as is being experienced from time to time by our citizens in South Africa and Ghana. Xenophobia is a crime against humanity that involves such attitudes as dislike, fear, distrust or intolerance of foreigners, often expressed in terms of hostilities towards the outsiders. Most often, the host country accused the immigrants of taking jobs meant for locals and suffocating their businesses as well as taking women. South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) describes xenophobia as “the strong dislike of non-nationals by nationals of a recipient state”. It is imperative to bear in mind that xenophobia is more than just an attitude towards foreigners; it can also take shape as a practice.

Table 2: Inflow of Passengers from Ghana to Nigeria and Nationality

Company	Nationalities							
	Total Passenger Annual Movement	%	N	%	G	%	O	%
Chisco	287869	25	142612	50	97090	34	22265	8
ABC	213965	19	116341	54	76380	36	20611	10
YSG	183845	16	89000	48	53612	29	31028	17

Cross Country	207989	18	101190	49	83591	40	22995	11
Effex	111930	10	53667	48	33990	30	14336	13
GUO	94476	8	54790	58	28115	30	11319	12
Africa Eagle	46777	4	24210	52	13897	30	4749	10
Total	1146851	100	581810	51	386675	36	127303	11

Note: N = Nigerians, G = Ghanaians, W/A = Other West African countries.

Source: Author's fieldwork, 2021

V. CONCLUSION

This research assessed the passengers' movement across Nigeria and Ghana land borders using some border as a case study. It has provided insightful information on the magnitude of passenger exchange from Nigeria to Ghana and vice versa. The study established that Nigerians travel more than Ghanaians and any other west African country nationals along that corridor. It was also established that more foreigners enter Nigeria compared to the number that left between 2012 to 2021 through the Seme border.

Finally, it was established that Chisco transport company-maintained a lead in passenger patronage from Nigeria to Ghana and vice versa. The study made useful recommendations on the need to create mass profitable employment in the country in other to minimize the number of Nigerians leaving the country especially the experts and most-educated human resource of our nation. It has already started happening and this foretells serious danger to our overall national growth and development. Therefore, curtailing the mass exodus of our people will help in reducing the xenophobic attack by the host country as is being experienced now and then in South Africa and Ghana.

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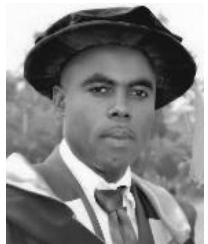
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