

## West Africa

### 4Mi Visualization Mali / Niger 2018



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This visualization aims at presenting data collected by the 4Mi in 2018, on the reasons of departure, protection incidents and assistance along the migratory routes in West Africa. This qualitative data should not be considered as representative of mixed migration flows in the region.

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## Profiles

Between January and September 2018, 4Mi interviewed 2,255 refugees and migrants in Mali and Niger. 1,497 people were interviewed in Mali, in the cities of Gao, Mopti and Timbuktu and 758 people in Niger, in the cities of Niamey and Agadez. Among the respondents, 727 were women and 1,528 were men. The average age of respondents was 28 years old.

Respondents came from 22 countries in West and Central Africa, mostly from Guinea (23%), Côte d'Ivoire (13%), Burkina Faso (13%) and Senegal (10%).

# West Africa

## 4Mi Visualization Mali / Niger 2018



### Reasons of departure

Economic reasons are the main reasons for departure indicated by respondents (93%), regardless of sex and country of origin. Having a job that does not make it possible to earn enough money (56%) or difficulties in finding a job (53%) are the main economic reasons for leaving reported by interviewees. 22% of respondents indicated that the job market did not offer them job opportunities corresponding to the level of education obtained.

**Graph 1** illustrates in further detail reasons for departure of respondents among the four main nationalities of refugees and migrants interviewed by 4Mi: Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso and Senegal. Among these respondents, economic reasons are the main factor motivating departure. All of them show that economic reasons are major indicated reason for departure, followed by personal and family reasons.

Personal and family reasons are the second most reported reason for departure (15%), with differences observed between men and women. For example, 55% of Guinean women, 29% of Ivorian women, 28% of Burkinabe women and 19% of Senegalese women indicated having left for personal or family reasons. These women mostly reported fleeing cases of forced marriage (27%) and domestic violence (26%), or deaths in their family (25%). Some women reported that they had left in order to join the family abroad or because of divorce. Fewer men reported personal and family reasons (11% of Guinean men; 13% of Ivorian men; 5% of Burkinabe men and 13% of Senegalese men.)

# West Africa

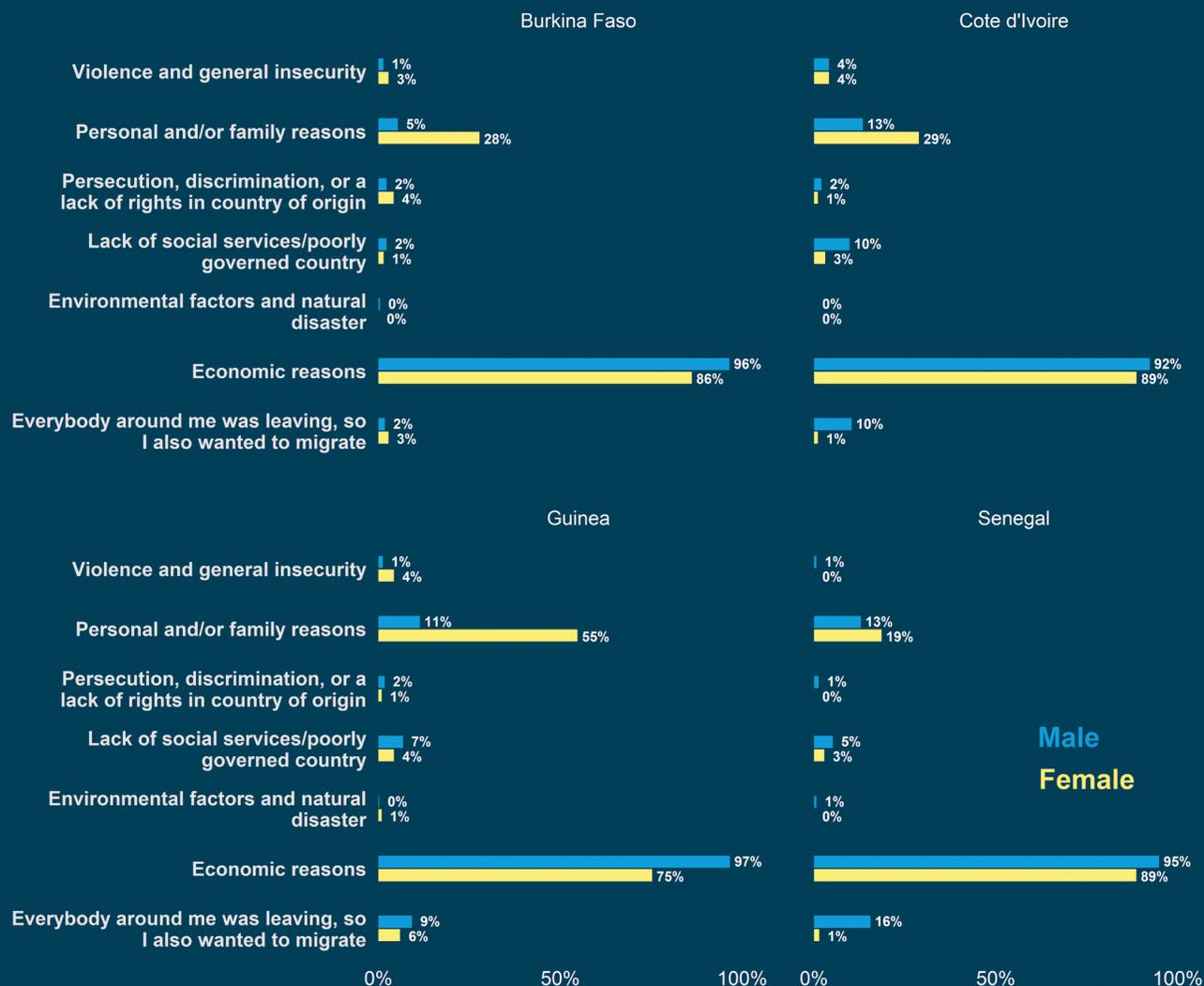
## 4Mi Visualization Mali / Niger 2018



Graph 1

Reasons for departure among refugees and migrants interviewed by 4Mi from the four main countries of origin

### Why did you leave your country of origin?



## West Africa

### 4Mi Visualization Mali / Niger 2018

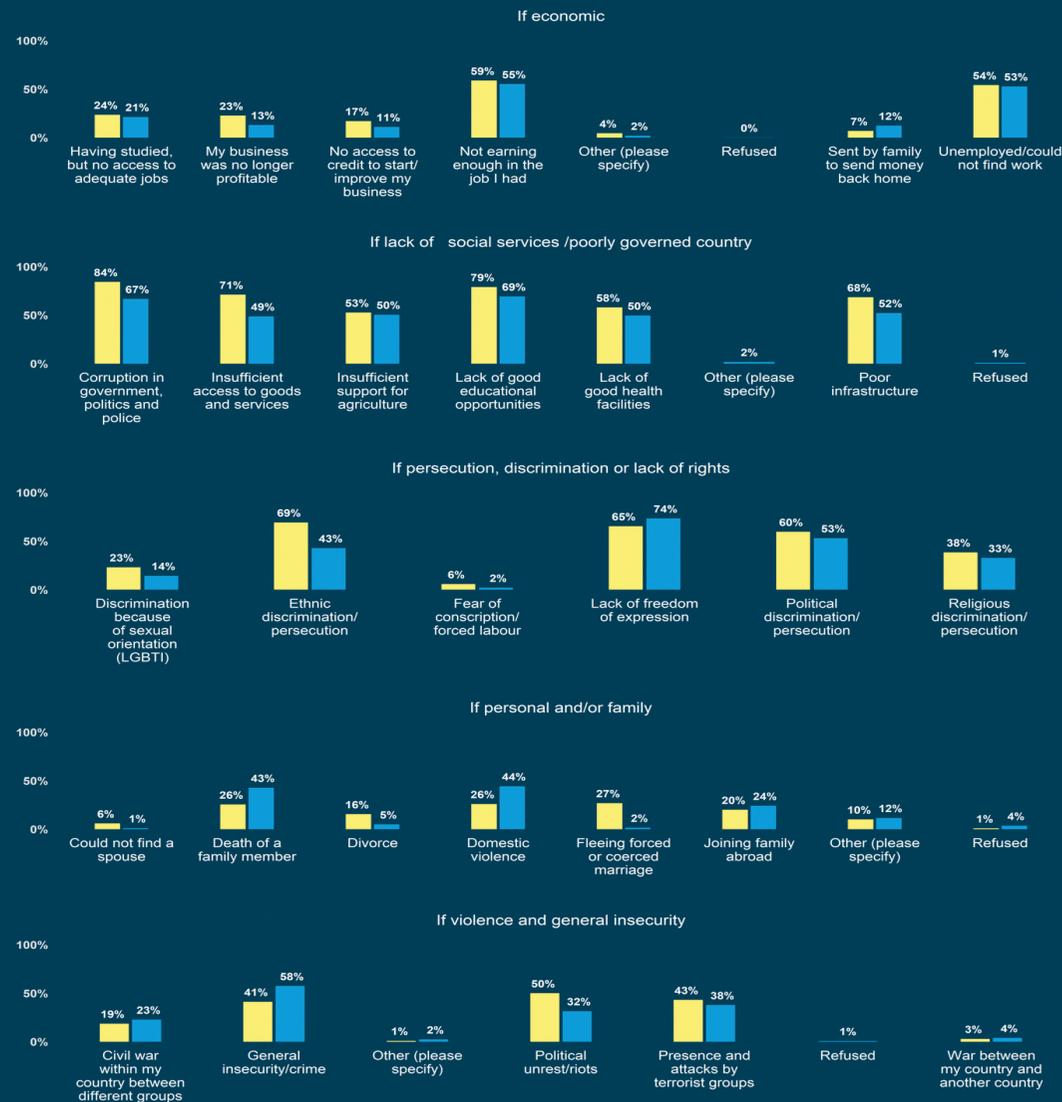


**Graph 2** provides a more detailed overview of reasons of departure for the entire sample interviewed by 4Mi during the reporting period. For those who mentioned economic reasons, the main factors mentioned were unemployment and being underpaid in their job. Fewer respondents mentioned underemployment as the cause of their departure. Among those who mentioned violence and insecurity as reasons for their departure, the main factors cited by the respondents were general insecurity and crime, political unrests, presence and attacks by terrorist groups.

Graph 2

Detailed reasons for departure of refugees and migrants interviewed by 4Mi

### Why did you leave your country of origin? Detailed reasons



## West Africa

### 4Mi Visualization Mali / Niger 2018



## Intention to apply for asylum

**Graph 3:** Almost half the respondents expressed an intention to apply for asylum (43%), while 45% do not intend to apply. Similar proportions are characteristic for respondents from Senegal, Guinea and Burkina Faso. Less respondents coming from Nigeria, Niger and intend to apply for asylum. Among the respondents surveyed, fewer refugees and migrants from Nigeria and Niger intended to apply for asylum.

# West Africa

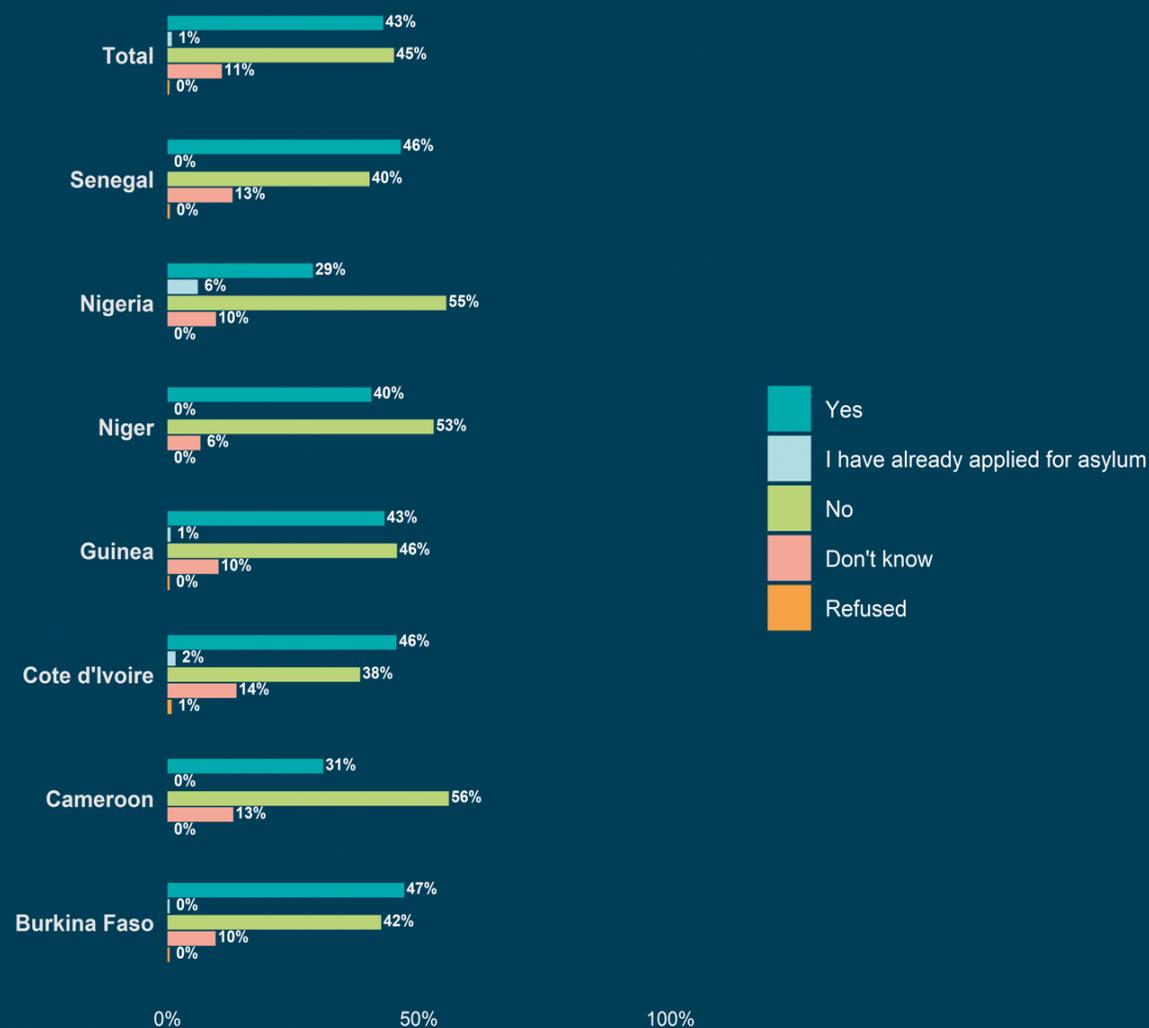
## 4Mi Visualization Mali / Niger 2018



Graph 3

Intention to apply for asylum among refugees and migrants interviewed by 4Mi, by country of origin

### Are you going to apply for asylum?



# West Africa

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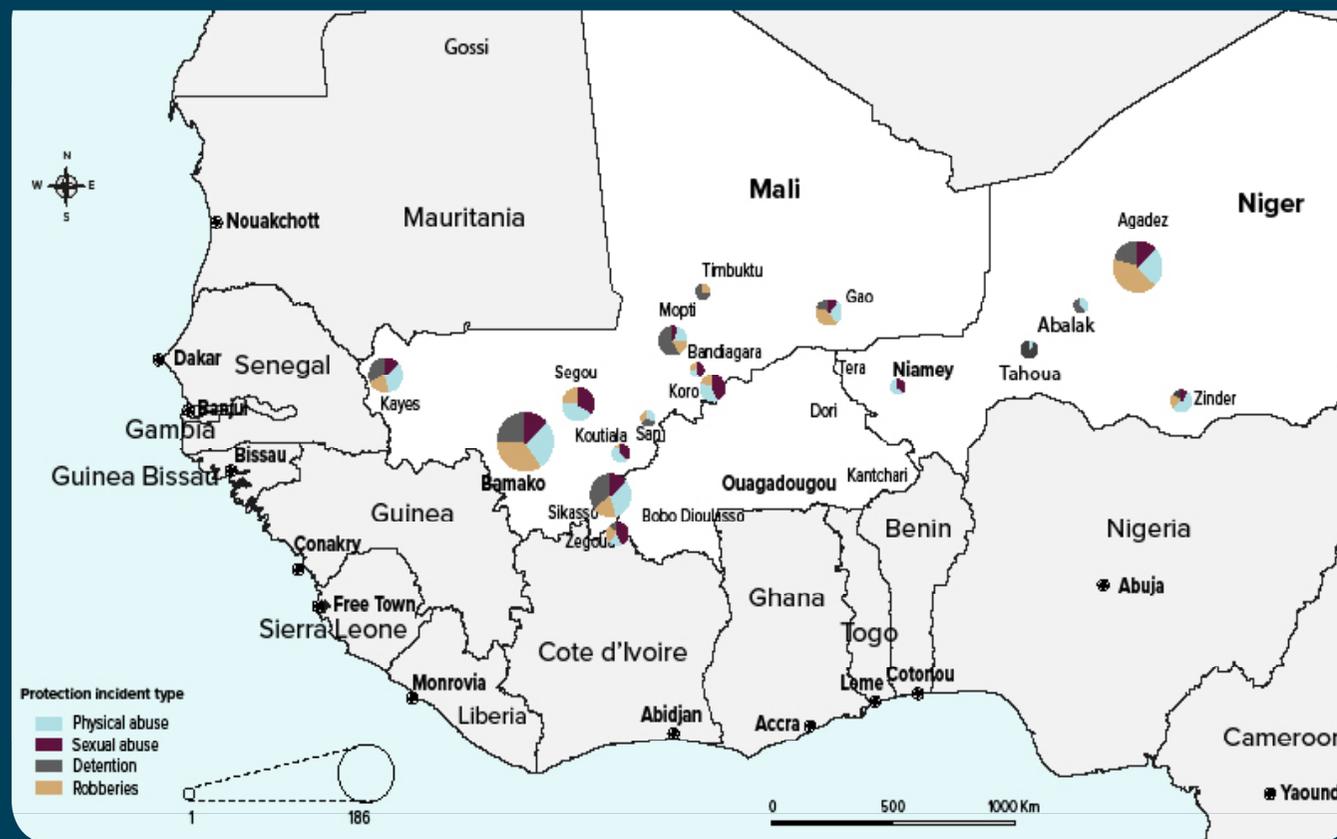


### Protection incidents<sup>1</sup>

33% of respondents reported at least one protection incident (detention, physical or sexual abuse, theft) and 5% of respondents reported more than three protection incidents.

#### Graphic 4

Protection incidents reported by respondents in Mali and Niger



1. The 4Mi monitors are located in Gao, Mopti and Timbuktu, as well as Agadez and Niamey. The border regions with Algeria and Libya are not included in these data.

## West Africa

### 4Mi Visualization Mali / Niger 2018



A total of 815 protection incidents were reported by respondents in Mali and Niger between January and September, including 134 cases of sexual abuse, 252 cases of physical abuse, 203 detentions and 226 robberies. These figures relate to protection incidents reported by refugees and migrants surveyed by 4Mi only, and does not provide a full overview of all protection incidents witnessed or experienced by refugees and migrants in Mali and Niger. Moreover, as fewer 4Mi surveys were conducted in Niger compared to Mali (more than double were conducted in Mali), the number of protection incidents cannot be compared between the two countries.

In Mali, 611 protection incidents were reported by 4Mi respondents, including 191 cases of physical abuse, 162 cases of theft, 149 detentions and 109 sexual abuse. The cities with the highest number of abuses reported by 4Mi respondents in Mali are Bamako (186), Sikasso (95), Kayes (65), Segou (57), Mopti (44) and Gao (37). The 4Mi data suggest that in Mali, refugees and migrants are also vulnerable to protection incidents in the South, including the entry points (Kayes and Sikasso).

In Niger, 204 protection incidents were reported, including 64 cases of theft, 54 cases of detention, 61 cases of physical abuse, and 25 cases of sexual abuse. Most of these were reported to have occurred in Agadez (138). 24 incidents were also reported in the city of Zinder and 15 in Tahoua.

## West Africa

### 4Mi Visualization Mali / Niger 2018



## Perpetrators of abuse

**Graph 6** above provides information on the alleged perpetrators of protection incidents as reported by 4Mi respondents in Mali and Niger. According to the 4Mi data, perpetrators of abuses are different according to the type of abuse. Migrants and refugees who reported cases of sexual abuse reported that these were mainly perpetrated by other migrants (28%), security forces (24%) and smugglers (18%).

Physical abuse was reportedly mostly committed by security forces (53%) and smugglers (14%), while thefts were reportedly committed by unidentified persons (38%), other migrants (21%) and criminal groups or bandits (16%).

While in Mali security forces were mentioned by respondents as being the main perpetrators of abuse, in Niger the smugglers were mentioned as the main perpetrators.

# West Africa

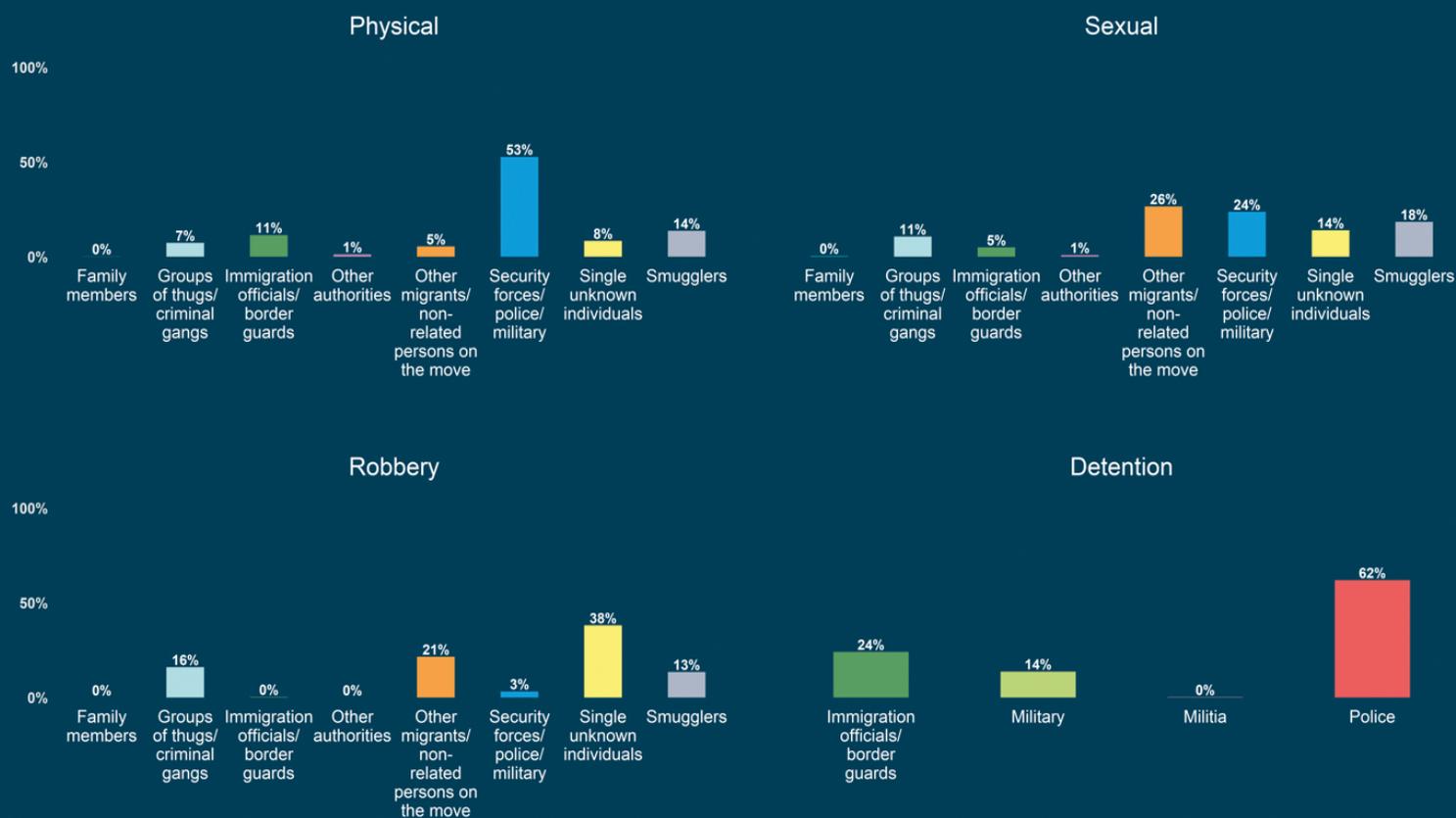
## 4Mi Visualization Mali / Niger 2018



**Graph 6**

Alleged perpetrators of violence and protection incidents reported by refugees and migrants interviewed by 4Mi

### Who was the perpetrators of violence/abuse against you?



# West Africa

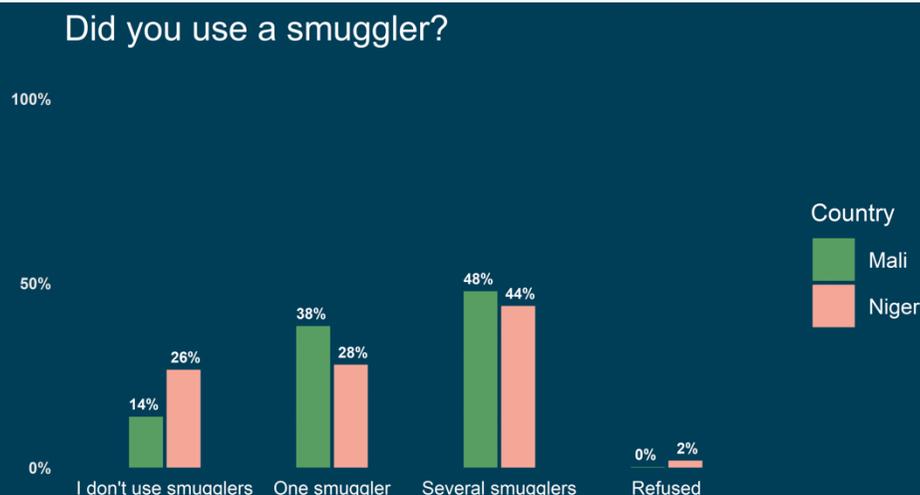
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### Use of smugglers

Graph 7

Use of smugglers in Mali and Niger by refugees and migrants interviewed by 4Mi



73% of the refugees and migrants surveyed by 4Mi reported to have already used at least one smuggler during their journey. The term «smuggler» includes actors playing different roles, such as «coxeurs», ghetto owners or managers, transporters and border smugglers.

The use of smugglers differs between cities of interview.

In Mali, most refugees and migrants are already connected to a smuggler (100% in Gao, 97% in Timbuktu and 84% in Mopti. While in Mopti and Timbuktu, the majority of refugees and migrants interviewed indicated that they had used only one smuggler, most respondents in Gao indicated that they were in contact with several smugglers.

## West Africa

### 4Mi Visualization Mali / Niger 2018



In Niger, in Niamey, 45% of respondents indicated that they had already used the services of at least one smuggler. In Agadez, 83% of respondents reported being in contact with at least one smuggler, among them the vast majority with several smugglers.

The services offered by smugglers are varied. In Niger, respondents reported more services offered by smugglers than in Mali. Transportation to a waiting area is the most reported service (61% in Mali and 55% in Niger). Housing is the second service reported (66% in Niger and 35% in Mali). More refugees and migrants surveyed in Niger than in Mali reported that smugglers were in charge of ensuring a secure border crossing (57% in Niger compared to 13% in Mali) and that they had a link with the authorities to facilitate migration (36% in Niger compared to 12% in Mali). 14% of respondents who used smugglers in Niger and 10% in Mali indicated that smugglers also provided identity documents, mainly in Niamey and Bamako.

## Assistance (draft)

63% of refugees and migrants interviewed by 4Mi monitors indicated that they did not receive assistance during their journey towards Mali and Niger. Graphs 7, 8, 9, 10 below provide an overview of assistance respondents reported to have received during their journey, compared with the assistance they would have liked to receive, by country of interview and by gender.

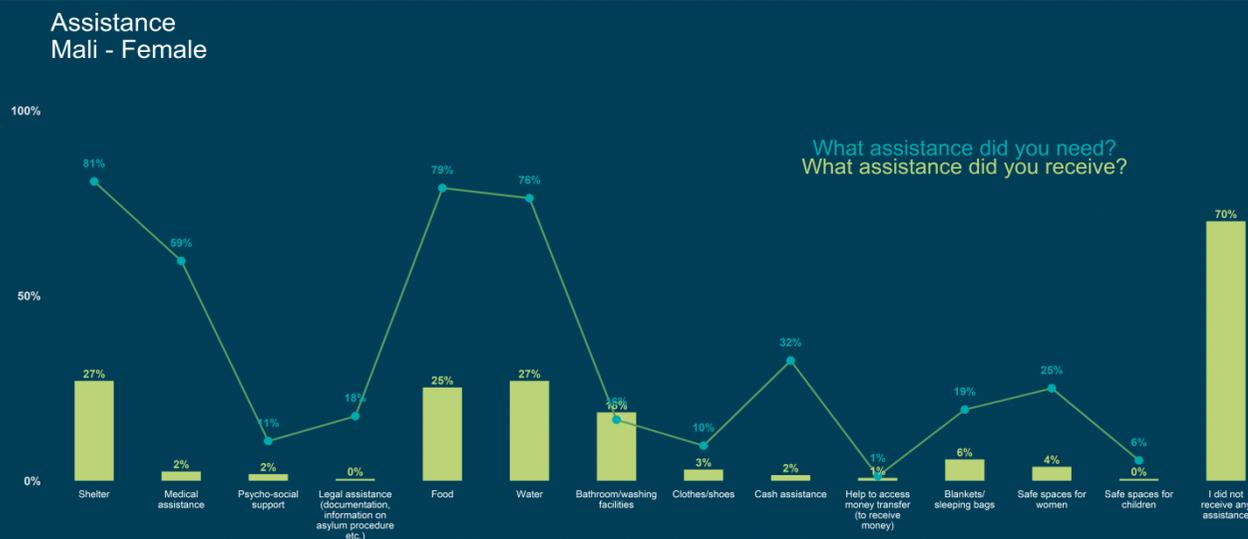
# West Africa

## 4Mi Visualization Mali / Niger 2018



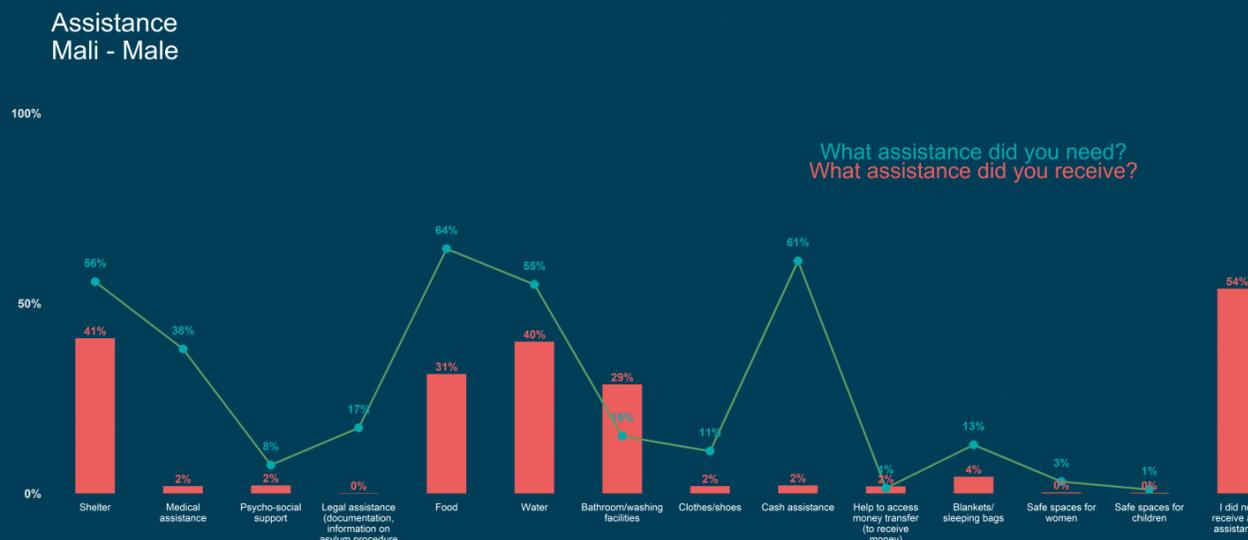
Graph 8

Assistance received and reported to have been needed by female refugees and migrants interviewed by 4Mi in Mali



Graph 9

Assistance received and reported to have been needed by male refugees and migrants interviewed by 4Mi in Mali



## West Africa

### 4Mi Visualization Mali / Niger 2018



#### Mali

Among respondents surveyed in Mali, 70% of women said they had not received any assistance compared with 54% of men. The respondents reported to have mostly received the following types of assistance: housing (37%), water (36%), food (30%) and washing facilities (26%).

According to the survey responses, the type of assistance received corresponds on the whole to the type of assistance reported to have been needed: 68% of respondents reported to have needed food, 62% reported to have needed housing; 61% reported to have needed and water. 54% of respondents in Mali indicated that cash assistance was one of their priority needs, while only 2% declared that they received any cash assistance. Medical assistance and legal assistance are needs expressed by respondents in Mali (59% of women and 38% of men for medical assistance and 18% of women and 17% for legal assistance), while access to these services was very limited (2% of respondents for medical assistance and 0% for legal assistance).

16% of women and 29% of men reported to have received bathroom and washing facilities, while only 16% of women and 15% of men interviewed expressed a need for this assistance.

#### Niger

In Niger, 71% of men and 62% of women interviewed by 4Mi said they had not received help during their journey to Niger. For both men and women, the assistance they reported to have most received was water (21%), food (17%), housing (17%) and medical assistance (16%). The survey responses suggest that medical assistance was the most needed assistance (64%), followed by water (56%), psycho-social support (53%), housing (50%), cash assistance (49%), food (46%) and legal assistance (43%). In Niger, for both men and women, the level assistance received did not meet the needs that were reported, according to survey responses.

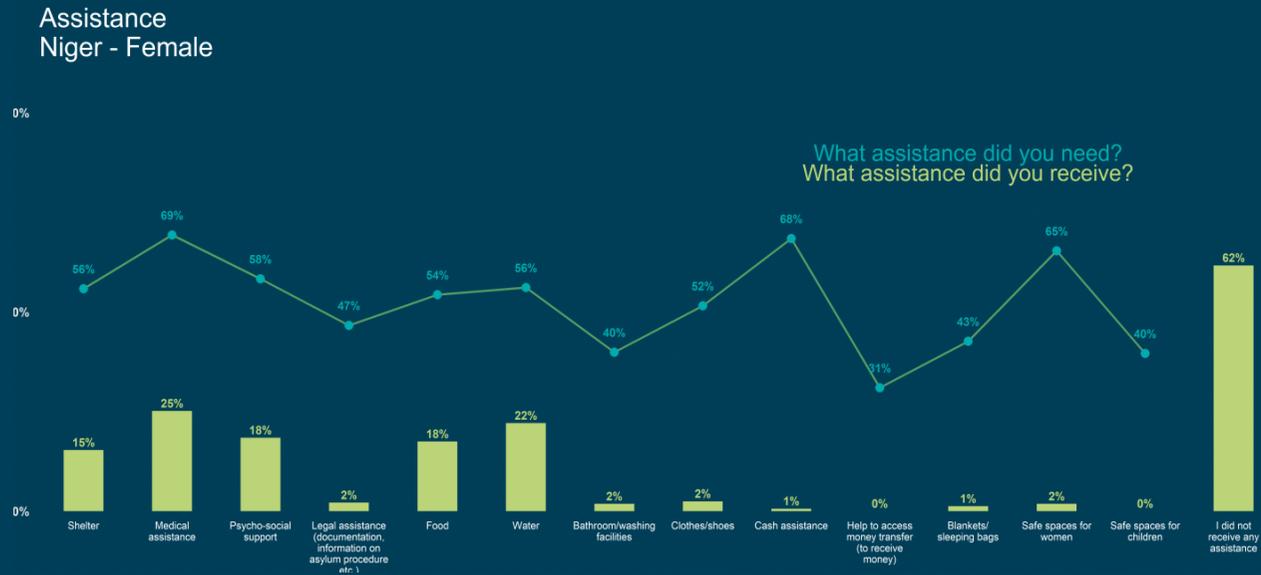
# West Africa

## 4Mi Visualization Mali / Niger 2018



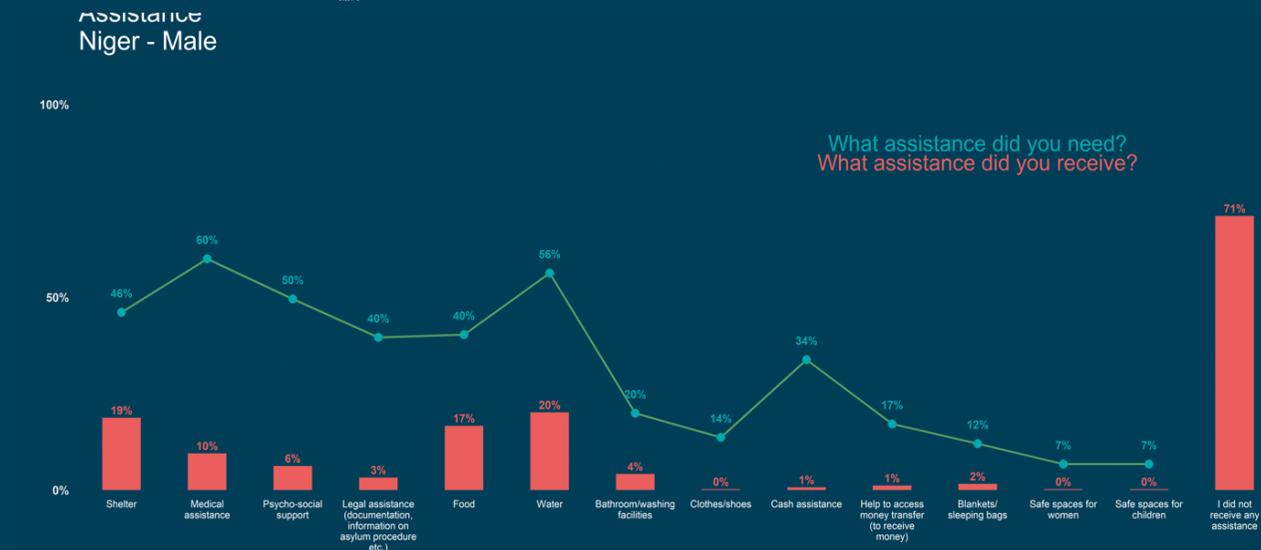
**Graph 10**

Assistance received and reported to have been needed by female refugees and migrants interviewed by 4Mi in Niger



**Graph 11**

Assistance received and reported to have been needed by male refugees and migrants interviewed by 4Mi in Niger



# West Africa

## 4Mi Visualization Mali / Niger 2018



**Graph 11**

Providers of assistance in Mali and Niger according to refugees and migrants interviewed by 4Mi, by gender

### Who provided assistance?



Respondents in Mali indicated that 37% of assistance is provided by smugglers. In Niger only 13% indicated that services were provided by smugglers. Family and friends play a crucial role in providing assistance, particularly in Mali (44%). In Niger, 44% of respondents reported that assistance was provided by NGOs, especially to women interviewed in Agadez, where the presence of NGOs is higher than in northern Mali.

# West Africa

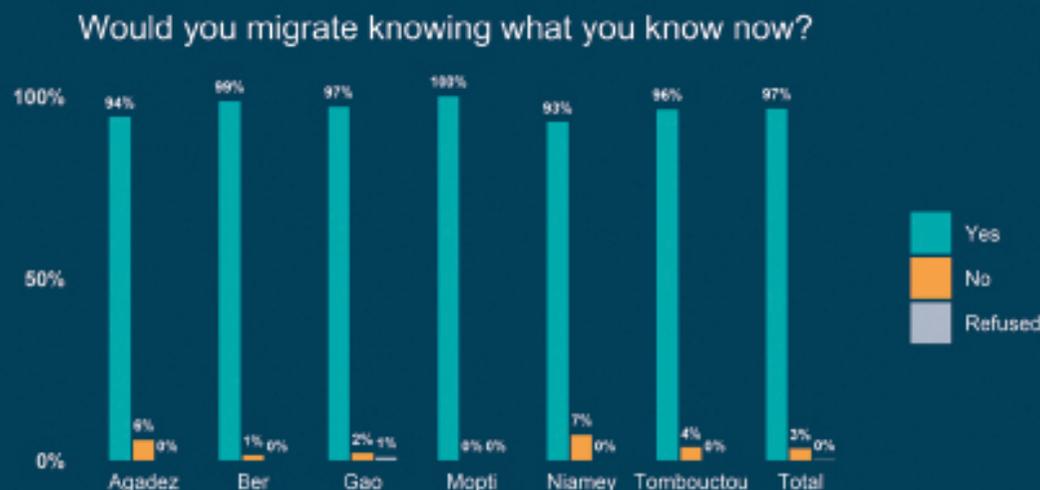
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### Perception and encouragements

Graph 12

Decision to migrate after the experience that was lived by refugees and migrants interviewed by 4Mi, by city of interview



The majority of refugees and migrants surveyed indicated that they were aware of the risks associated with migration before leaving (70%). Respondents interviewed in Mali (78%) were more aware of the risks than those who were surveyed in Niger (56%). Almost all the interviewed refugees and migrants (97%) answered positively to the question «Would you have migrated knowing what you know now» (Graph 12). There are no significant variations across the different cities where the 4Mi surveys were conducted. The data indicates that the knowledge of the risks of migration and their personal experience, often related to protection incidents does not significantly influence their decision to migrate.

## West Africa

### 4Mi Visualization Mali / Niger 2018



In relation to the question “Would you encourage others to migrate?”, the responses of migrants and refugees vary from country to country. In Mali, only 33% of respondents indicated that they would encourage others to migrate, compared to 69% in Niger. In northern Mali, in Gao, migrants largely indicated that they would not encourage migration (98% in Gao and 90% in Timbuktu).

The Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism Initiative (4Mi) is an innovative approach for the collection and analysis of data along major mixed migration corridors, responding to the need for better data on protection issues with regards to asylum seekers, refugees and other people on the move. In Niger and Mali, 4Mi seeks to help fill the knowledge gaps regarding the nature of the mixed migratory movements and the protection risks for migrants and refugees on the move within and from West Africa.

4Mi data, graphics and analysis are based on the accumulated, ongoing data collection by 4Mi field monitors through direct interviews with migrants/refugees on the move. Sample sizes are clearly indicated and represent a limited section of those on the move. All findings derived from the surveyed sample of migrants/refugees and should not be used to make any inferences about the total population of any mixed migration flow.

