

MMC West Africa
September 2018



Monthly Trends Analysis

The following trends analysis is put together on the basis of available secondary data at the time of publication. It is representative of the available information and therefore indicative of mixed migratory trends in West Africa.

The Mixed Migration Centre (MMC) was established in February 2018. It brings together various existing regional initiatives – hosted or led by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) – engaged in data collection, research, analysis and policy development on mixed migration issues into a new global network of mixed migration expertise.

The Mixed Migration Centre - West Africa, provides quality mixed migration-related information for policy, programming and advocacy from a regional perspective. Our core countries of focus are Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger. For updates on North Africa please consult MHub Monthly Trend Bulletins at:
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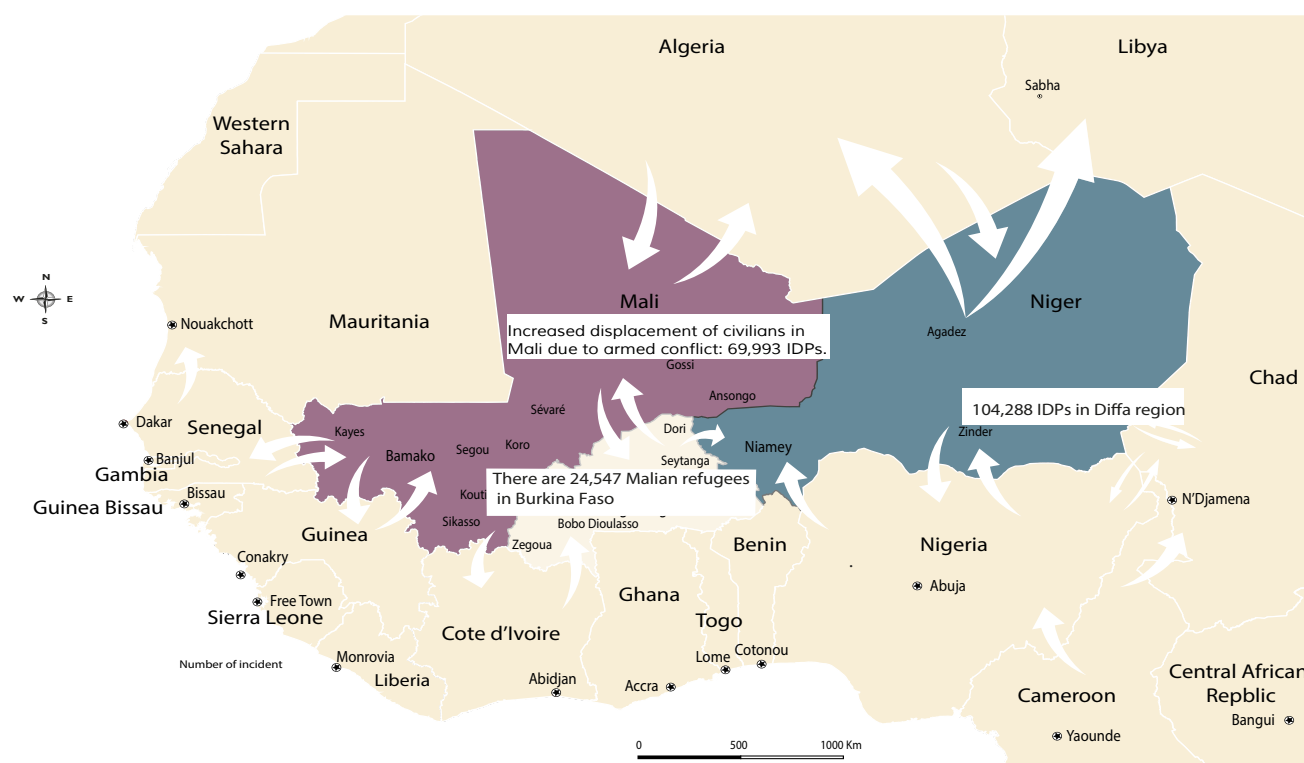
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Highlights September 2018



Increased displacement of civilians in Mali due to armed conflict: According to a report from the Norwegian Refugee Council published on 7 September 2018, close to 50,000 people have fled their homes in northern and central Mali in 2018, due to intercommunal clashes, a rise in armed groups and military operations.

Renewal of the state of emergency in the Diffa and Tillabery regions of Niger: On Monday 17 September 2018, the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Niger decided to extend the state of emergency in several areas of the country beset by insecurity and terrorism.

Extension of the mission EUCAP Sahel Niger for two years: On 18 September 2018, the Council extended the mandate of EUCAP Sahel Niger until 30 September 2020, and agreed on a budget of EUR 63.4 million for the period 1 October 2018 to 30 September 2020.

Thousands displaced in Nigeria due to floods: In September 2018 a series of floods hit in particular rural areas in Niger state as well as Kwara, Benue, Kogi, Adamawa, Taraba, Kebbi, Bayelsa, Edo, Anambra, Rivers and Delta states.

Burkina Faso

IDP



SEPTEMBER
16 385 *

*latest figure available (UNHCR)

REFUGEES



SEPTEMBER
24 969 * ↗
including 24 547 * from Mali

AUGUST*
24 800
* UNHCR

Context

Rise in attacks on civilians and security forces in the east and in the north: [Crisis Watch](#) reports that in response to a rise in attacks on both civilians and security forces in the east, the military responded with airstrikes and ground operations against as-yet unidentified armed groups. In the northern region of Burkina Faso, [eight soldiers were killed](#) due to an improvised explosive device (IED) on 26 September 2018. These types of attacks are increasing and continue to cause deaths of civilians, police officers, and soldiers. Thousands protested in the capital against growing insecurity.

Three gold mine workers kidnapped from Burkina Faso across the Malian border and killed: On Sunday 23 September 2018, [three workers of the Inata gold mine](#) were abducted and driven across the Malian border in northern Burkina Faso. Officials reported that among the three men kidnapped, one was Burkinabé and two were expatriates from South Africa and India. Three Burkinabé police officers were killed during the escape during the gateway from Djibo across the border into Mali.

Protection and vulnerabilities

Malian refugees in Burkina Faso: On 14 September 2018, Ouagadougou [hosted the 8th session of the Tripartite Commission](#) of Burkina Faso, Mali and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). During this meeting, the experts reviewed the implementation of the tripartite agreements of 9 January 2015 on the repatriation of Malian refugees in Burkina Faso. In addition to the 24,394 Malian

refugees registered by the UNHCR in Burkina Faso, mostly in the Sahel region, a last census recorded 4,500 Malians living in the northern regions and Boucle du Mouhoun. According to UNHCR figures, since early 2018, 190 refugees have been voluntarily assisted for repatriation.

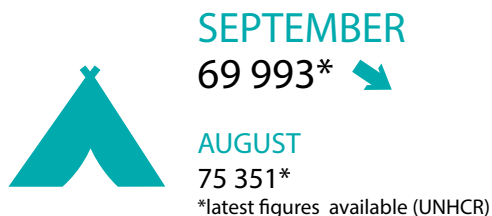
Policy updates

Sweden's strategy for development cooperation with Burkina Faso published on 14 September 2018: [Sweden's development cooperation with Burkina Faso](#) will last between 2018 and 2022 and provide a total of SEK 1 500 million (EUR 145 million). Within the framework of this strategy, the objective of Swedish development cooperation with Burkina Faso is to contribute to greater respect for human rights, institutional capacity growth, increased resilience to crises and disasters, environmentally and climate-resilient sustainable development, and improved opportunities for sustainable livelihoods.

Immigration police station under construction on the border between Cote d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso: The [immigration police station](#) is under construction in the locality of Kodjenou, located 90 km from Bouna, north of the city Doropo in Cote d'Ivoire. According to the security authorities, this immigration police station aims to optimize the control and surveillance of crossings at this border. The police station includes offices and a cell for temporary detention.

Mali

IDP



REFUGEES



Context

Attacks on civilians and security forces continued in the north and in the east, and intercommunal violence persisted in central Mali: According to [Crisis watch](#), incidents in the north included the killing of two traditional chiefs in Kidal by unidentified gunmen on 22 September 2018, and attacks on 30 September in Amalaoulaou near Ansongo, Gao region, killing at least 22 civilians. In the Ménaka region in the east, unidentified assailants shelled a MINUSMA camp on 4 September 2018, among other incidents. In the centre, intercommunal violence continued, particularly in districts of Koro, Bandiagara, Bankass and Douentza.

Protection and vulnerabilities

Increased displacement of civilians in Mali due to armed conflict: According to a [report](#) from the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) published on 7 September 2018, close to 50,000 people fled their homes in northern and central Mali in 2018, due to intercommunal clashes, a rise in armed groups and military operations. NRC highlighted that humanitarian funding has not met the rising needs, leaving people stranded without necessary assistance. The number of newly displaced represents a 60 percent increase compared to the same period in 2017, according to data from NRC and its partners in Mali.

Transit migration through Timbuktu:

According to key 4Mi informants in Timbuktu, an estimated 350 refugees and migrants, including approximately 30 women, passed through Timbuktu at the beginning of September 2018. They reportedly arrived from Mopti and were on their way to Algeria, traveling on freight trucks. They were identified by 4Mi key informants as being mainly of Gambian, Senegalese, Ivorian and Guinean nationality. 4Mi key informants reported an increase in the number of refugees and migrants transiting through Timbuktu in September, which could be related to the displacement of checkpoints due to flooding.

Niger

IDP



SEPTEMBER

Diffa 104 288 * →

Tillabery 19 444 * ↗

*latest figures available (UNHCR)

REFUGEES



SEPTEMBER

177 565 * ↗

including 118 868 from Nigeria and

58 304 from Mali *

*latest figures available (UNHCR)

Context

Renewal of the state of emergency in the Diffa and Tillabery regions of Niger:

On Monday 17 September 2018, the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Niger decided to extend the [state of emergency](#) in several areas of the country beset by insecurity and terrorism. The state of emergency was further extended by a period of three months in the Diffa Region, in the south-east of the country bordering Chad and Nigeria where Boko Haram continues its terrorist activities. During the same council, the government also extended by three months the state of emergency in the Regions of Tillabery (Departments of Ouallam, Ayorou, Bankilaré, Abala and Banibangou) and Tahoua (Departments Tassara and Tillia). The government stated during the Council that events in Libya led to the occupation by terrorists of northern Mali, which impacts security in this cross-border region and contribute to the state of emergency in Niger since March 2017, including in Tillabery and Tahoua.

Protection and vulnerabilities

Boko Haram attacks in the Diffa region:

On 10 September 2018, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Niger published a [snapshot](#) on incidents perpetrated by Boko Haram for the period 1 January to 31 August 2018 in Diffa, Niger. According to this report, the security situation in the Diffa region was marked by an increase of abuses perpetrated by Boko Haram during the reported period, but a decrease in civilian casualties related to these incidents compared to the same period in 2017. The OCHA findings also report that 50% of the incidents in 2018 were recorded in January and August 2018.

Policy Updates

Extension of the mission EUCAP Sahel Niger for two years:

On 18 September 2018, the Council extended the mandate of [EUCAP Sahel Niger](#) until 30 September 2020, and agreed on a budget of EUR 63.4 million for the period 1 October 2018 to 30 September 2020. EUCAP Sahel Niger is a capacity building mission of the EU External Action Service. The mission includes advice and training to support the strengthening of Nigerien authorities in security development and capabilities.

EU migration management projects:

On 5 September 2018, the European External Action Service issued a [press release](#) in relation to a project in Niger aiming to support local authorities to identify development and infrastructure measures and strengthen their capacity to better address the consequences of migration, co-financed by the EU Trust Fund for Africa and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The project aims to create 1500 jobs and provide access for more than 150 000 people to basic services. Launched in 2017, with a budget of EUR 28.5 million, the project 'Management of Migration Challenges in Niger' cooperated with 20 local authorities along the main migratory routes.

Other regional information

Arrivals* of West African refugees and migrants to Europe
between 1 January and 30 September 2018 *latest figures available (UNHCR)

Main countries of origin of West African refugees and migrants	Italy	Spain
Guinea	809	6,677
Mali	875	4,437
Nigeria	1,248	---
Cote d'Ivoire	1,047	1,215
Senegal	439	797

Nigeria

Network Against Trafficking and Irregular Migration established in Nigeria: The first [National Awareness Raising Strategy Synergy meeting](#) to combat human trafficking in Nigeria was held on 18 September 2018 in Calabar. It is an EU-IOM initiative, organized in collaboration with the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI) to better equip stakeholders with the required skills to create more effective awareness campaigns on human trafficking and irregular migration. "We are not going to stop people from migrating; migration is a right, but we must work together to ensure that those migrating are not being trafficked," said Arinze Orakwue Director, Public Enlightenment, National Agency for Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) during the meeting.

The Nigerian president warns citizens about irregular migration: On 1 September 2018, during a [joint press conference](#) with Angela Merkel, the Nigerian president discouraged Nigerians from migrating through irregular channels: "I believe you know the ECOWAS protocol encourages free movement of persons, goods and services. But for those going to Europe, we are not, as an administration, agreeing with those who continue to defy the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean because they feel there are greener pastures there, whether they are prepared for it or not. We do not support anything illegal and indiscipline. You must recall that about six weeks ago, we repatriated about 3,000 Nigerians that were stuck in Libya on their way to Europe. You must have read in the newspapers and watch on the television the number of Nigerians lost in the Mediterranean".

Thousands displaced in Nigeria due to floods: In September 2018 there were series of floods in particular in rural areas in Niger state and also Kwara, Benue, Kogi, Adamawa, Taraba, Kebbi, Bayelsa, Edo, Anambra, Rivers and Delta states. [Thousands of people were displaced](#) and vast swathes of farmlands were destroyed by the floods in central and southern Nigeria, according to the BBC's Is'haq Khalid in the capital, Abuja.

New resources and reports

A new web portal of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration: the [EU-IOM Joint Initiative website](#) was launched on 18 September 2018 and aims to become a one-stop resource for information on the program's activities and results. It is intended for journalists, the public, and anyone interested in trends along the Western and Central Mediterranean migration routes. The website will provide news releases, data, reports, videos and background information on the migration context in the Sahel, North Africa and the Horn of Africa.

[Jérôme Tubiana, Clotilde Warin & Gaffar Mohammad Saeneen, Multilateral Damage. The impact of EU migration policies on central Saharan routes, Clingendael, CRU report, September 2018.](#)

This report studies the effects of EU migration policies and the externalization of EU border control on Saharan migration routes and on practices in the border regions connecting Niger, Chad, Sudan and Libya. The report finds that the obstacles and opportunities that border externalization policies present for migrants lead to a diversification of migration routes. The report carries out specific case studies in Niger, Chad and Sudan, analyzing impacts of EU policies on each of these countries. An overall conclusion of the report is that EU policies have not led to stability in the region but their effects contribute to the 'militia-isation' – the growing power of militias whose presence undermines the state in the countries analyzed.

[Desperate Journeys: Refugees and migrants arriving in Europe and at Europe's borders, January - August 2018, UNHCR.](#)

In September 2018 UNHCR released a new report covering January – August 2018 and focused on the Mediterranean crossing. According to the report, this route is becoming increasingly deadly: while the total number of people arriving in Europe has fallen, the rate of deaths has risen sharply. In the Central Mediterranean, the report indicates that one person died or went missing for every 18 people who crossed to Europe between January and July 2018, compared to one death for every 42 people who crossed in the same period in 2017. According to the report, West African countries were among the main countries of origin of refugees and migrants arriving in Spain between January and July 2018, including Guinea, Mali and Cote d'Ivoire. Nigeria was the fourth main country of origin of refugees and migrants arriving in Italy during the reporting period.

[Tom Westcott. The Tebu: the little-known community at the heart of Libya's people smuggling trade, IRIN News, 6 September.](#)

This news feature presents the Tebu, an indigenous Saharan ethnic group living between Southern Libya and Northern Niger. The Tebu came under media scrutiny because of their transporting and smuggling activities in the Libya-Niger corridor. This article illustrates the difficulties and challenges that this community face. Human smuggling or transporting people from Agadez to the southern Libyan city of Sebha is an opportunity for young Tebu. According to the article, until they do not have an alternative and there is an improvement in the economic situation in southern Libya, they will not stop these activities. The article discusses the local constraints and international pressure exerted on this community.

[Antonia Carrion, Manuela De Gaspari, Serena Zanella, Thomas Munsch, William Powell. Young and on the move in West Africa, Mixed Migration Center, Save the Children International, Research paper, 28 September.](#)

This report aims to offer a better understanding of child mobility in West Africa in the context of mixed migration movements. It provides an overview of the routes that children move along in and from the region, the reasons that children move, and risks that they face whilst on the move, with a particular focus on Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Senegal. The report also examines the legal frameworks affecting child mobility in the region. The research entailed an extensive literature review, as well as primary data collection in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, and Senegal, including focus groups, interviews with NGOs, governmental, and multi-lateral agencies, as well as participant observation where children were present.

[Tom Westcott, Destination Europe: Overlooked. At Libya's unchecked southern borders, a key to easing the migration crisis, Special Report, IRIN News, 6 September 2018.](#)

This special report by Tom Westcott explores the desert border in Southern Libya, including border crossing between Niger and Libya. The article cites a Tebu smuggler from Murzuq saying "The Nigerien army are still escorting smuggler convoys and the numbers of migrants we are transporting has not decreased at all". The article discusses the convoys of military trucks escorting vehicles every week along the most dangerous 670-kilometre stretch of Niger desert, from Agadez to Dirkou. It also highlights protection incidents, including bribes that must be paid at each Niger checkpoint by non-Nigerien smugglers and passengers, and rape perpetrated by Niger checkpoint guards on female migrants unable to afford the bribes.

[Idrissa Beogo, Amadou Darboe, A. Oluwafunmilade Adesanya and Bomar Mendez Rojas, Critical assessment of refugees' needs in post-emergency context: the case of Malian war refugees settled in northern Burkina Faso, BMC International Health and Human Rights, 2018.](#)

The paper provides an empirical assessment of the needs of Malian refugees in camps in northern Burkina Faso following the 2012 armed conflict, in order to better understand these and enhance their well-being. The study aims to assess the level of their involvement in policies and practices targeted towards improving their livelihood. The study suggests that refugees' voices were not taken into consideration in humanitarian programming. It also found that there were discrepancies in advantages and resources from one camp to another. The lack of classrooms facilities for pre-school children and lack of continuous healthcare services were also major concerns.

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