

2,184 refugees and migrants were interviewed by 4Mi in West Africa between 1 January and 31 July 2018, in Mali (Mopti, Gao and Timbuktu), Niger (Niamey and Agadez) and Burkina Faso (Dori and Bobo Dioulasso).

1. Age, gender and family situation

Respondents are from more than 18 countries in West and Central Africa.¹ The average age of respondents is 29, ranging from a minimum age of 18 to a maximum of 64 years old.²

The majority of the refugees and migrants interviewed are single (64% of men and 69% of women). 33% of men and only 13% of women are married. There are significantly more divorced or widowed women (15% and 3% respectively) compared to men (3% and 0% respectively).

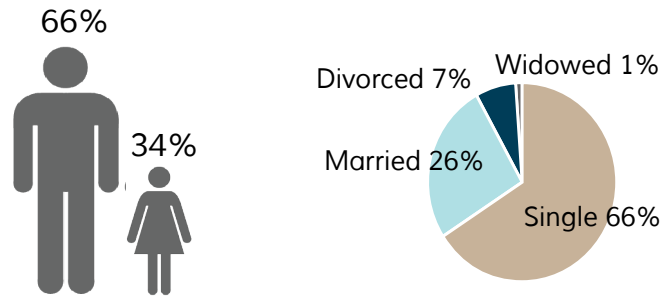


Figure 1. Gender of respondents Figure 2. Marital status

Most respondents lived in an urban area prior to their departure (79% of women and 89% of men). Over half of the male respondents interviewed (55%) had lived in another village/city before migrating, while 54% of women had not lived anywhere other than home, illustrating that international migration is often preceded by internal migration from rural to urban areas.

1. Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, CAR, Chad, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Sudan, Togo.

2. 4Mi interview only refugees and migrants older than 18 years.

Over half of the refugees and migrants interviewed do not have children (56% of women and 60% of men).

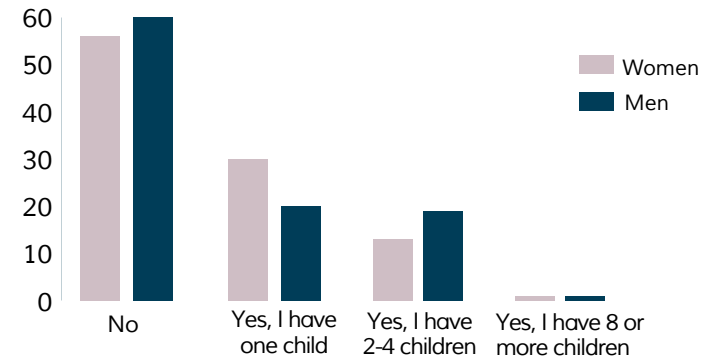


Figure 3. Children of respondents

2. Education and occupation in country of origin

The majority of the refugees and migrants interviewed (90%) have received at least some level of education. There is no significant gap in the level of education between the men and women interviewed.

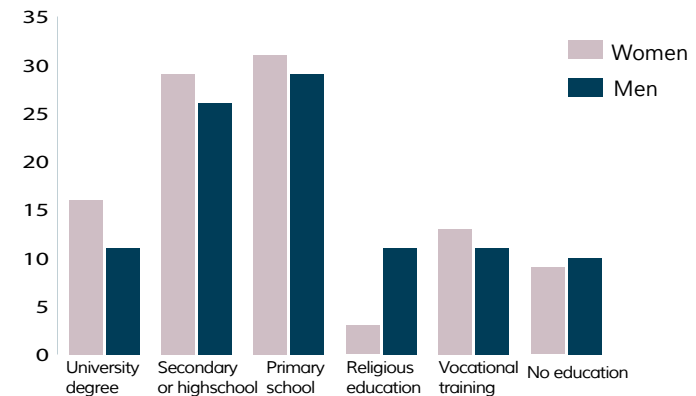


Figure 4. Level of education

In their home country, the female refugees and migrants interviewed had mainly worked in the service industry (29%), or as farmers/farm workers (13%) and labourers (15%). The male refugees and migrants reported that they had mainly worked as labourers (46%), in the service industry (15%) and as farmers/farm workers (15%).

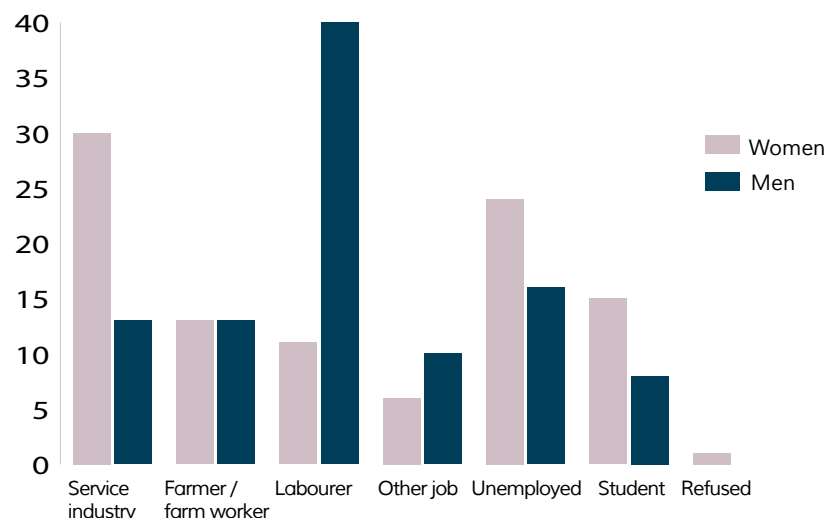


Figure 5. Main activity in the country of origin

3. Reasons for departure

The refugees and migrants interviewed mentioned different reasons motivating their departure. 71,5% out of total of 2,184 repondents gave only one reason, while 28,5% mentioned two or more reasons.

The main reasons of departure cited among all respondents were economic (80% of women and 93% of men interviewed). This was followed by personal/family reasons (31% of women and 13% of men), violence and general insecurity (13% of women and 8% of men) and the departure of people around them (7% of women and 11% of men).

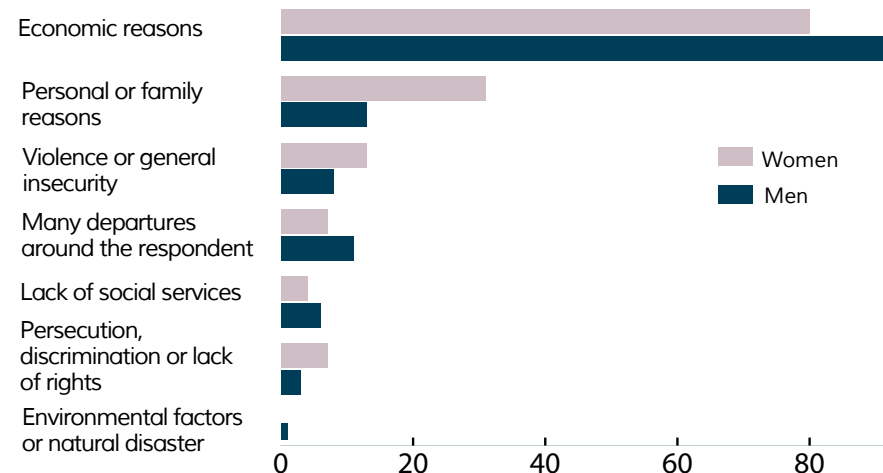


Figure 6. Reasons motivating departure ³

With regard to economic reasons of departure, refugees and migrants mentioned two main factors: not earning enough in their home country (46% women and 51% men) and/or being unemployed/not being able to find work (42% women and 47% men).

As regards personal and family reasons motivating departure, the main factors mentioned were the death of a family member (25% women and 43% men), domestic violence (22% women and 35% men), and joining a family member (25% women and 24% men). Family reasons were mentioned by more women than men (31% for women compared to 13% for men).

Among the women who were migrating for family reasons, 20% were fleeing a forced or coerced marriage and 15% migrated because of the divorce. As mentioned above in the section on marital status, more widowed and divorced women among the refugees and migrants interviewed decided to migrate than men.

3. This is a multiple choice question, respondents could select as many options as they wanted.

The respondents cited 1 to 10 factors that could have influenced their decision to not leave their home country: 52% gave one or two factors that would have influenced their decision to remain in their country of origin/departure. 40% of migrants listed 3 or more factors influencing their decision. 6% of the respondents stated that no improvements in their home countries would have changed their decision to migrate.

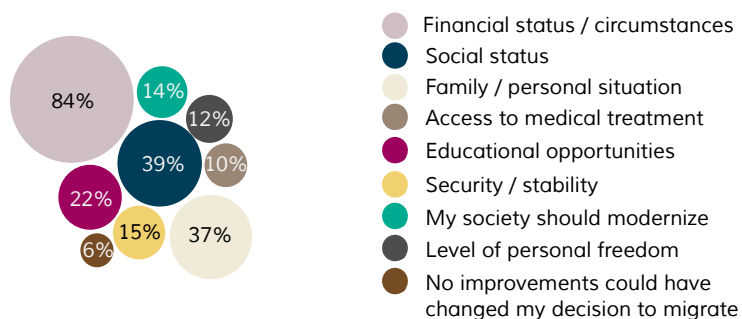


Figure 7. What would have had to improve in order for you to have considered remaining in your country of origin?⁴

Improvement of financial status and economic circumstances in the home country would have deterred the majority of respondents from migrating (84%), however there are still other factors also play a significant role in the decision to leave or to stay (social status, family status, career advancement etc).

4. Persons encouraging decision to migrate

Among the respondents 43% indicated that they made the decision alone to migrate, while 57% were encouraged by someone else, especially by family (40% including parents, siblings, spouse and/or other family members) and friends (41%).

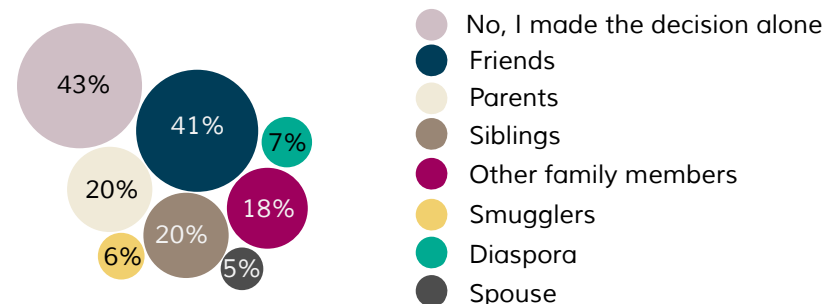


Figure 8. Did anyone encourage you to migrate?⁵

Many refugees and migrants interviewed also reported that they were influenced by information received either from returnees (50% women and 52% men) or by family expectations for them to earn money (22% women and 46% men).

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, Mali and Burkina Faso, 4Mi seeks to help fill the knowledge gaps regarding the nature of the mixed migratory movements and the protection risks for refugees and migrants 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 refugees and migrants 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.

4. This is a multiple choice question, respondents could selected as many options as they wanted.
5. Idem



Government of the Netherlands