



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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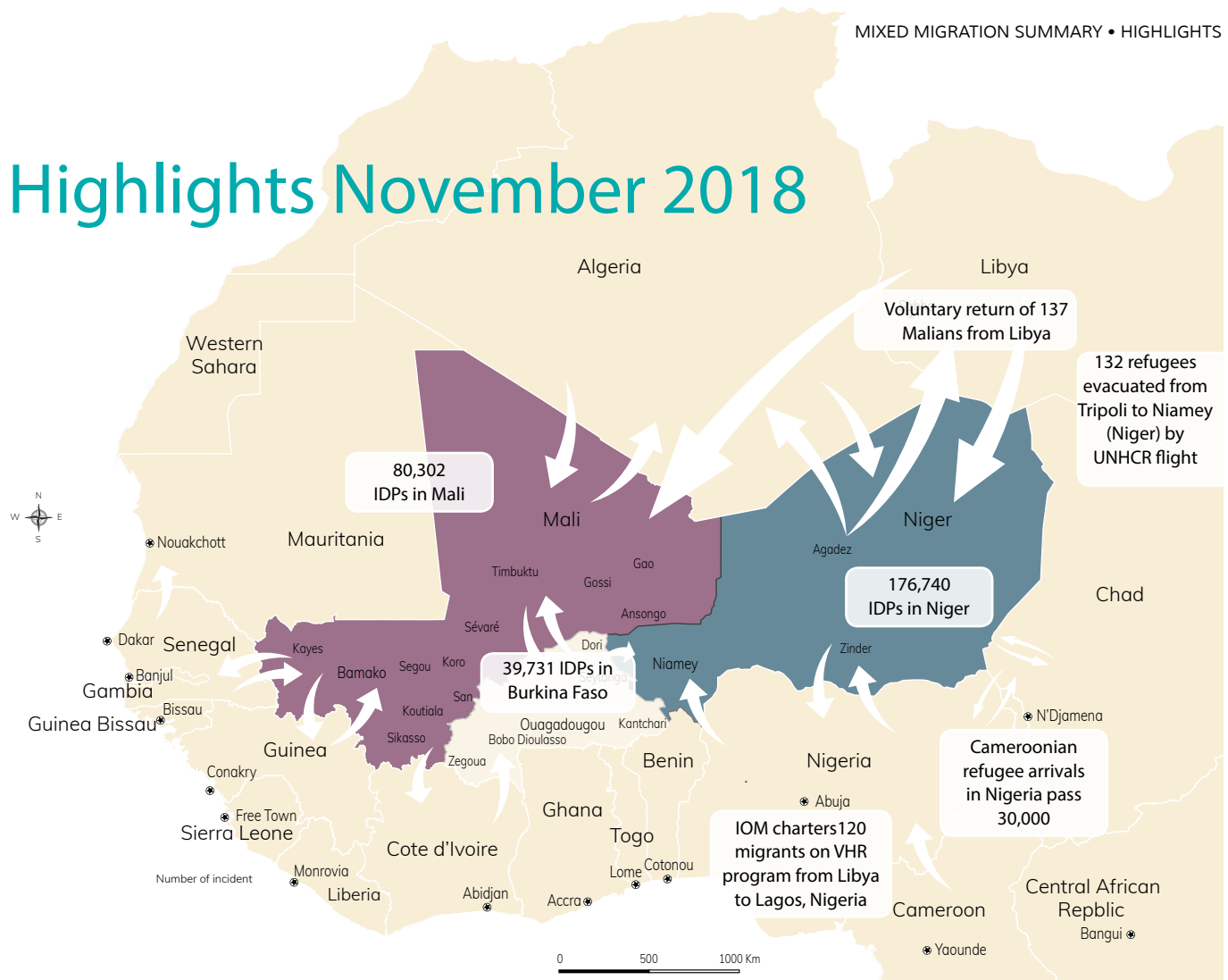
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Highlights November 2018



Increased displacement and shortage of humanitarian assistance in central and northern Mali: More than 34,000 persons recently displaced by violence in central and northern Mali are left without humanitarian assistance despite having their needs recorded by aid agencies. The number of people fleeing intercommunal violence, armed groups' activities, and military operations is rising in central and northern Mali.

IOM resumes Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) program from Libya's southern city of Sebha: On 8 November 2018, IOM resumed its Voluntary Humanitarian Return in Libya's southern city of Sebha. VHR provides support to stranded migrants wishing to return to their home countries. The charter carried 120 migrants (75 men, 30 women, 6 children and 9 infants) and landed in Lagos, Nigeria.

Morocco imposes travel restrictions on West African citizens of Mali, Guinea and Congo-Brazzaville: Morocco has imposed new travel restrictions on nationals of Mali, Guinea and Congo-Brazzaville since 1 November. Nationals from these countries were previously exempt from visa requirements. They will now be required to obtain an "electronic travel authorization" online four days before departure.

Burkina Faso

IDP



NOVEMBER
39,781

(UNHCR, last updated on 31 October 2018)

REFUGEES



NOVEMBER
23,929



(UNHCR, last updated on 31 October 2018)

Protection and vulnerabilities

Two-year project on humanitarian assistance to refugees and migrants in five regions of Burkina Faso: On 22 November 2018, the Burkinabè Red Cross, in collaboration with the Spanish Red Cross, launched the [two-year project AMiRA](#). The project aims to provide relief and assistance and information to people on the move, without seeking to encourage nor discourage migration. The project covers five regions of Burkina Faso. According to Dr Mariette Nadège Ouédraogo, health coordinator of the Burkinabe Red Cross, this project aims primarily to make migration safer and more orderly and reduce death and suffering along the migration routes.

Mali

IDP



NOVEMBER
80,302

(UNHCR, last updated on 31 October 2018)

REFUGEES



NOVEMBER
26,492



(UNHCR, last updated on 30 November 2018)

Context

Interim authorities set up in Taoudéni and Achourat, northern Mali: On 1 November, [MINUSMA announced](#) that interim authorities of the Taoudéni and Achourat circles had been set up. The installation ceremony took place in the Conference Hall of the Governorate of the Taoudeni region. This news raises hope for the communities of this new region, who hope that this will benefit the process of operationalization and stability of the region. Taoudéni is located on one of the routes linking Gao to Algeria.

Regional conference on migration in the Sahel held in Bamako: On 23 and 24 November 2018 the Konrad Adenauer Foundation organized a [regional conference](#) on "Migration in the Sahel: State of play" in Bamako. During the conference, Dr. Broulaye Keita, the representative of Ministry of Malians abroad, underlined that the reasons for migration, are diverse and include the rise in unemployment the generalized economic crisis, as well as instability in some Sahel countries. He also highlighted that in recent years, Mali has been impacted by many cases of mass evictions and deaths on migratory routes. "In light of this situation, the time is no longer for the diagnosis of the causes of migration, nor for the endless commentary on its dramatic consequences, but rather for that of action and awareness of the phenomenon. It is more than urgent to propose concrete actions together and to work on their implementation," said Dr. Broulaye Keita.

Protection and vulnerabilities

Increased displacement and shortage of humanitarian assistance in central and northern Mali: The number of people fleeing intercommunal violence, armed groups' activities, and military operations is rising in central and northern Mali. According to the [Norwegian Refugee Council](#) (NRC), nearly 70,000 people have been newly displaced by violence and insecurity over the past two months, bringing the total number of displaced people to 120,000 since the beginning of 2018. The large majority of new displacements have occurred in regions affected by intercommunal violence, armed groups' activities, and military operations such as Segou, Mopti, Timbuktu, Gao and Ménaka. More than 34,000 persons recently displaced by violence in central and northern Mali are without humanitarian assistance despite having their needs recorded by aid agencies, as reported by the Norwegian Refugee Council. Humanitarian agencies are unable to provide emergency relief to starving women and children after running out of funds.

Voluntary return of 137 Malians from Libya: On 20 November, 137 Malian migrants landed in Modibo Kéita International Airport in Mali aboard a [humanitarian flight from Libya](#), carrying mostly young people aged between 18 and 30, including women with children. One returnee, Mrs. Ndiaye Aminata Boiré, said: "I went to Libya since 2007. I was really tired there. That's why I decided to go back to my country to do something else. Even though I was not in jail in Libya, what I endured was more than a prison. I'm back. My husband stayed there". This is the 16th voluntary return flight 2018 and was the result of a collaboration between the Malian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Niger

IDP



NOVEMBER

156,136

104,288 in Diffa
51,848 in Tillabery and Tahoua

(UNHCR, last updated 30 June 2018)

REFUGEES



NOVEMBER

176,321



(UNHCR, last updated on 30 November 2018)

Context

Regional meeting of labor ministers in Niamey on cooperation in the management of labor migration: On 28 November the governments of Niger and Libya organized a [Regional Meeting of Labor Ministers](#) on Cooperation in the Management of Labor Migration in collaboration with the European Union (EU) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The meeting aimed to strengthen the position of the countries and partners involved in this initiative, and to identify the sectors of activity and areas of expertise in which the different countries involved require foreign workforce. The participants also discussed key aspects to be governed by bilateral arrangements and the development of a joint roadmap.

Anti-bandit patrols deployed on the border area between Niger and Burkina Faso: On 3 November the Nigerien army launched an [anti-terrorist operation](#) on the border with Burkina Faso. The objective of the operation is to dismantle terrorist cells in W Park, a large forest that stretches between Burkina Faso, Niger and Benin, and which is a corridor of trafficking and banditry.

Protection and vulnerabilities

Local association working to report migrant deaths in the Sahara: The association [Alarm Phone Sahara](#) is working to document the deaths and abandonment of migrants in the Sahara. The association has set up an information system based on alerts from correspondents located on migration routes. Their objective is to raise awareness on the human tragedies occurring in the Sahara. For Almoctar Hamado, local administrator of Alarme Phone Sahara, based in Agadez stated: "It is time to break the silence on all these tragedies taking place in the desert. Migrants die in the anonymity of the desert and this is due to the implacable repression of the phenomenon by the Nigerian authorities with funding from the European Union".

132 refugees evacuated from Libya to Niger by a UNHCR flight: On 22 November, UNHCR evacuated [132 refugees and asylum-seekers](#) on flights from Tripoli (Libya) to Niamey (Niger), including women and children. In Niger, they are hosted at a UNHCR Emergency Transit Mechanism while longer-term solutions in third countries are sought. UNHCR has undertaken 23 of such evacuations from Libya since November 2017. According to the [UNHCR Resettlement Update #37](#) on the Libya-Niger Situation published on 27 November, a total of 2,069 persons (including unaccompanied children) have been evacuated to Niger since the start of the evacuation operation from Libya in late 2017. There are 259 evacuated unaccompanied children remaining in Niger.

Other regional information

Nigeria

IOM resumes Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) program from Libya's southern city of Sebha: On 8 November 2018, IOM resumed its [VHR program from Libya's southern city of Sebha](#). VHR provides support to stranded migrants wishing to return to their home countries. The charter landed in Lagos, Nigeria carrying 120 migrants (75 men, 30 women, 6 children and 9 infants). IOM also reports to have carried out outreach activities with local authorities and Nigerian communities in the south. In close coordination with the Nigerian Embassy in Tripoli, the IOM facilitated the provision of online consular support which enabled the embassy to conduct consular authentication and issue travel documents. IOM reports that the organization has so far provided VHR assistance to a total of 14,622 migrants in Libya, out of which 3,503 were Nigerians.

ECOWAS and ICRC validate plan of action for the implementation of international humanitarian law in the region: On 2 November, the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) validated the [ECOWAS Plan of Action](#) on the implementation of the International Humanitarian Law (IHL) (2019-2023), following a four-day consultative meeting held in Abuja. The Plan of Action seeks to ensure that IHL are observed during armed conflict in the region thereby protecting the fundamental human rights of community citizens. In order to achieve this, the Plan of Action proposes to disseminate information to security agencies and armed forces of Member States about the IHL, raise awareness among civil society organizations, NGOs and the judiciary, and include IHL in school curriculums in the region.

IOM launches a radio series to address irregular migration in Nigeria: [As announced on the 30 October](#) IOM launched Abroad Mata in Nigeria, a radio program on the perils of irregular migration and opportunities to migrate safely. The awareness raising initiative is part of the Migrants as Messengers and Aware Migrants projects in Nigeria. The National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI), the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) and the Edo State Task Force on Human Trafficking, as well as several local radio stations, joined IOM to co-produce the series. Abroad Mata is a 13-episode series consisting of a radio drama titled Waka Well ('travel well', in Pidgin English), returnee testimonies, an expert panel and live phone-in sessions. The feedback segment of the show seeks to encourage dialogue around irregular migration and human trafficking.

Cameroon

Cameroonian refugee arrivals in Nigeria pass the 30,000: On 9 November [the UNHCR announced](#) that the number of Cameroonian refugees fleeing violence and seeking refuge in Nigeria crossed the 30,000 mark and that almost 600 had arrived in refugee settlements in the last two weeks. Refugees fleeing the South-West and North-West Regions of Cameroon have been arriving in Nigeria since September 2017. Four out of every five of those registered so far are women and children. They are being sheltered in Nigeria's states of Akwa Ibom, Cross River, Benue and Taraba, most of them being hosted within local communities. The crisis erupted in 2017 after protests turned violent, with some calling for secession.

Morocco

Morocco imposes travel restrictions on citizens of Mali, Guinea and Congo-Brazzaville: Since 1 November Morocco has imposed [new travel restrictions](#) on nationals of Mali, Guinea and Congo-Brazzaville. Nationals from these countries were previously exempt from visa requirements. They will now be required to obtain online an "electronic travel authorization" four days before departure. According to a source at the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs cited in RFI Afrique, it is not yet planned to extend this visa requirement to other African countries. According to the same source, the objective is to streamline applications and to better ascertain the reasons for travel of nationals from these countries.

Central African Republic

Resuming of fighting in Northern part of Central African Republic: [The Danish Refugee Council reported](#) on 14 November that fighting has resumed between armed groups in Batangafo, in the Northern part of Central African Republic (CAR). This has led to the displacement of nearly 25,000 people and affected 37,000 persons. Most of the affected populations are families who were already displaced and living in straw huts in settlements in the city center of Batangafo. All of these were burnt to the ground. Around 12,000 people sought refuge at the town hospital supported by another INGO and others have traveled to the outskirts of Batangafo to hide in the bush. As a result, thousands of men, women and children are currently sleeping outdoors on the ground, eating only one meal a day and lacking access to drinking water. A [press release](#) was issued on 21 November by the Office of the Humanitarian Coordinator in CAR affirming that civilians need urgent protection and assistance. [UNICEF](#) published a related Child Alert concerning urgent needs by displaced children in CAR.

New research and reports

In Burkina Faso, a local drive to educate children fleeing extremist violence. Hundreds of schools have been forced to close in the north as jihadist attacks spread. IRIN News, 23 November 2018. The article, [published on IRIN News](#), focuses on two main topics: jihadist violence and closure of schools in the northern regions of Burkina Faso and on the empowerment of local aid groups. It tells the story of twins, Jan and Jannick, displaced by jihadist violence from Oursi in the North of the country to Ouagadougou. They moved to the capital with their parents and are attending CEFISE, the center for integrated education and training of the deaf and hearing. This is a local initiative committed to providing for the needs of all children, including those with disabilities and children displaced by armed conflict.

In the centre of Mali, populations trapped by terrorism and counter-terrorism. FIDH, Research Report, November 2017/N 727f. The Worldwide Human Rights Movement (FIDH) and the Malian Association for Human Rights (AMDH) published a [report](#) on the security and human rights situation in central Mali. It describes the rooting of armed terrorist groups, the intensification of inter-communal violence, and abuses committed in the context of anti-terrorist operations. Both organizations call on the Malian government to bring to justice the perpetrators of the crimes and serious abuses committed in the region, including the military. According to the report, the crisis in central Mali in the last two years has resulted in at least 1,200 killed, hundreds injured and an estimated 30,000 displaced.

Rida Lyammori, Overview of Key Livelihood Activities in Northern Niger, Research Paper, OCP Policy Center, November 2018. This [Research Paper](#) focuses on the livelihoods of northern Niger's population, who have depended for centuries on trade and cross-border movement of goods with Libya. It provides a historical overview of cross border movements between Niger and Libya, explores different forms of legal and illicit trade, movements of populations and recent socio-economic trends in the community in Northern Niger. The research contends that "Transportation and smuggling of licit subsidized goods from Libya and Algeria, will continue. Northern Niger's local markets depend on foodstuff, goods, and fuel from Libya and Algeria due to affordable prices. With cracking down on migration, more drivers will engage in transporting and trading goods to generate income. Persistent demand for reliable vehicles at affordable prices will continue to encourage vehicle smuggling from troubled southern Libya".

Regional migration in West Africa: attitudes and perceptions toward migrants in Ghana, Background paper prepared for the 2019 Global Education Monitoring Report, UNESCO, 2018. This [background paper](#) explores the question of migrant self-perception and sense of belonging. It is based on field research in Accra, Ghana with migrant children and youth from West African countries. The research suggests that the extent to which migrants felt accepted or not was primarily dependent on the attitude of the host community. The report concludes that schools can lead the way in promoting better integration and support programs that enhance positive self-perception and identification of migrants.

Mixed Migration Review 2018, Mixed Migration Centre, 9 November 2018. This first publication of the annual [Mixed Migration Review](#) by the Mixed Migration Centre offers a review of mixed migration around the world focusing on key events and policy developments during the 2017/2018 period. The report includes a series of essays looking at the most salient and polemical issues facing the refugee and migration sectors with respect to mixed flows, as well as a series of interviews with individuals and officials closely associated with or relevant to the sector and its challenges. The report is based on a range of research as well as exclusive access to 4Mi data from over 10,000 interviews with refugees and migrants in over twenty countries along seven major migratory routes. In three major sections (the migrants' world, the smugglers' world and global debates), the report offers a deep analytical dive into the world of mixed migration.

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