

MMC West Africa  
October 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:

<http://www.mixedmigrationhub.org/monthly-trend-bulletins/>

For more information visit: [www.mixedmigration.org](http://www.mixedmigration.org)

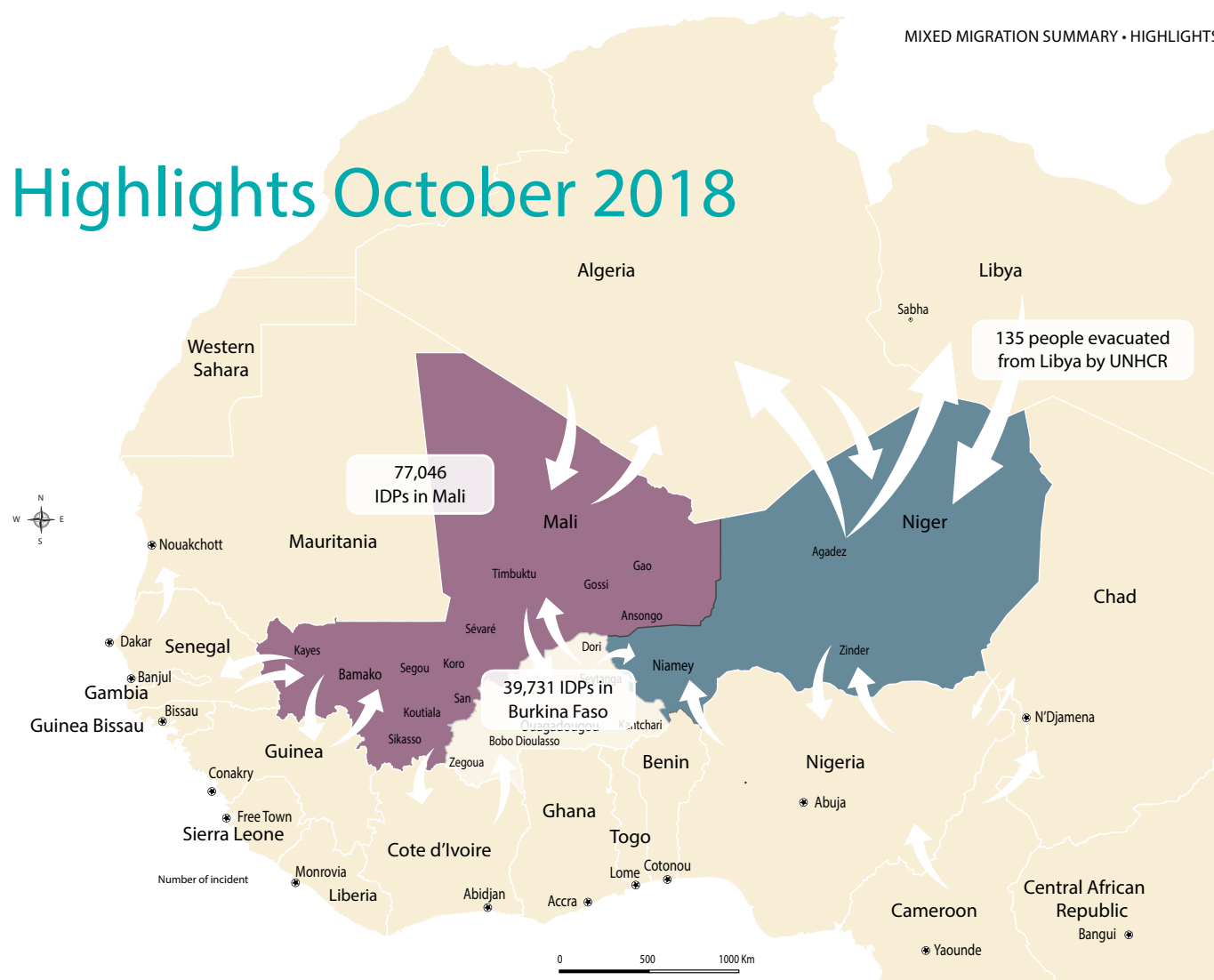
You can contact us by email: [west-africa@mixedmigration.org](mailto:west-africa@mixedmigration.org)

Photo credit: piccaya, [www.123rf.com](http://www.123rf.com)

SUPPORTED BY:



# Highlights October 2018



**West African migrants rescued by the IOM in northern Niger:** according to IOM, seventy-four West African migrants were rescued on 4 October in northern Niger, in the middle of the desert bordering Algeria.

**Crisis simulation in the Tillabéri region:** On the week of 17 October, more than 500 members from communities, local authorities, civil society and security forces participated in IOM's fourth crisis simulation exercise in Tillabéri, Niger. The aim of this simulation was to test local and regional authorities' ability to respond to a large migration movement into Niger, precipitated by a crisis at the border.

**State of emergency in Mali extended:** on 24 October the state of emergency was extended in Mali for another six months due to continued insecurity in the north of the country.



# Burkina Faso

## IDP



OCTOBER  
39,731

(according to OCHA,  
as of October 2018)

## REFUGEES



OCTOBER  
24,969

(as of 30 September)



## Context

### French forces willing to deploy in Burkina Faso:

The new commander of the French force Sahel Barkhane, General Frederic Blachon, said in [an interview](#) with the French Media Agency (AFP) that Burkina Faso can count on French military support. Terrorist attacks have multiplied since the beginning of the year in Burkina Faso. Defense Minister Florence Parly stated that the Barkhane force had intervened in Burkina Faso at the beginning of October, something that had never been done before on such a scale. "It's also Barkhane's role to support national forces wherever they are needed or where they request them," said the minister.

## Policy updates

**Discussion on migration and social justice:** On 12 and 13 October, the Burkinabe party People's Movement for Progress (MPP) invited members of the Progressive Alliance to Ouagadougou for [discussions on migration and social justice](#). With more than 25 delegations represented, of which many from African countries, the seminar was an opportunity to generate discussion on migration. During the seminar, speakers emphasized the fact that most African migrants stay within the continent, and mostly within the region. They also highlighted the need to elaborate a strategy to manage and monitor African migration.



# Mali

## IDP



OCTOBER  
77,046

## REFUGEES



OCTOBER  
24,418 

(as of 22 October 2018)

## Context

**State of emergency in Mali extended on 24 October 2018:** Mali's National Assembly voted to [extend a state of emergency](#) by a further six months in a bid to quell an upsurge in attacks by Islamist militants based in the north of the country. This was the latest extension since the state of emergency was introduced in 2015.

**Insecurity in the north and in the center of Mali:** during a [twelve-day visit to Mali](#), Mr. Alioune Tine, an independent expert on the situation of human rights in Mali, expressed concern relating to the continuing deterioration of the security and humanitarian situation in the north and center of the country. According to the expert, "there is a real climate of fear and insecurity with a real impact on the lives of people, haunted by daily violence. This situation is due to the absence of certain state authorities in Timbuktu, Gao, Kidal, Mopti and Menaka, including the absence of the judiciary, administrative, defense and security systems". The resurgence of confrontations between members of different communities, settling of accounts, targeted killings, explosive devices, attacks on humanitarian convoys, kidnappings, robberies, rapes and sexual violence committed on the roads and cities impact on life, physical integrity, mobility of people and their economic activities.

## Protection and vulnerabilities

**Report on population movements in Mali:** On 18 October the Mali Protection Cluster published a [report on population movements in Mali](#). Movements of internally displaced persons (IDPs) from the southern regions to the northern regions continue to be reported. While some IDPs have indicated that they have returned definitively, others say they travel back and forth between the place of displacement and their place of origin. New displacements continue to be reported. Causes include inter-community conflicts, insecurity and clashes, or the prospect of a possible clash between armed groups. The Commission for the Movement of Populations (CMP) collects information on movements within Mali. As of 30 September 2018, the CMP counted 68,978 returnees (68,880 repatriated), which corresponds to an increase of 98 persons compared to the CMP data for September 2018.

**International NGOs call for a response to insecurity in Menaka:** Several NGOs working in Menaka, including ACTED, Norwegian Church Aid, Norwegian Refugee Council, Mercy Corps, Médecins du Monde, International Rescue Committee, International Emergency and Development Aid, published a [joint document](#) on 29 October. They called for a prevention of further destabilization and an improvement to the safety and security of the population and humanitarian workers. They highlighted the persistence of insecurity in the city of Menaka, which impacts both the area's population as well as NGO staff. Since the beginning of 2018, at least 28 incidents have targeted NGO staff in the Menaka region, making it one of the most dangerous areas for the NGOs to work in Mali.

# Niger

## IDP



**OCTOBER**  
**118,868**

(Last updated 30 Jun 2018)  
IDPs in the Diffa region

## REFUGEES



**OCTOBER**  
**177,565** ↗

(Last updated 31 Aug 2018)  
Nigerian refugees in the Diffa region

## Context

### **UN Special Rapporteur urges Niger to place human rights at the center of migration policies:**

On 11 October 2018, Felipe Gonzalez Morales, the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, [urged Niger to place human rights at the center](#) of its migration policies. He called on international donors to provide more assistance to Niger for its migration management strategy, strengthening of national institutions and capacities, as well as for improving independent monitoring of the human rights conditions of migrants and supporting development projects in local communities. The Special Rapporteur emphasized the need for the Niger authorities to adopt a comprehensive national migration policy that is child-sensitive, gender-sensitive and human rights-based, and that goes beyond the rule of law and safety considerations. He also called on the EU and other destination countries to share the responsibility for global migration management by incentivizing regular and safe pathways.

## Protection and vulnerabilities

### **West African migrants rescued by the IOM in northern Niger:**

IOM [reported](#) that seventy-four West African migrants, including a woman and two children, were rescued on 4 October in Assamaka in northern Niger, in the desert bordering Algeria. According to IOM, they were from nine West African states (Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Mali, Gambia, Niger, Guinea, Guinea Bissau and Liberia). IOM reported that they had endured a long walk and had received first aid on the spot before being transported and housed in an IOM center in Arlit (northern Niger).

### **Crisis simulation in the Tillabéri region organized by IOM:**

On the week of 17 October, more than 500 members from communities, local authorities, civil society and security forces [participated in IOM's fourth crisis simulation exercise](#) in Tillabéri, Niger. The aim of this simulation was to test local and regional authorities' ability to respond to a large migration movement into Niger, precipitated by a crisis at the border. The exercise took place in close partnership with the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Humanitarian Action and Natural Disaster Management, and the Ministry of Health in Niger. It was organized under the project Engaging Communities in Border Management in Niger – Phase II, funded by the US Department of State. This was the fourth simulation exercise organized by IOM in Niger, having previously held similar exercises in 2017 and 2018 – two in Zinder region and one in Agadez region.

**UNHCR evacuates vulnerable refugees from Libya to Niger:** [UNHCR reportedly evacuated 135 people out of Libya](#) to Niger on 16 October, in the context of an increasingly volatile security situation in Tripoli. The evacuated refugees are currently hosted in UNHCR's Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM). "These evacuations are a life-changing and life-saving escape for refugees trapped in detention in Libya," said UNHCR Chief of Mission in Libya Roberto Mignone. He added that "Refugees and migrants in detention centers often suffer squalid conditions and are at risk of being sold to traffickers and smugglers." UNHCR reported that the 135 individuals were the first to be evacuated from Libya since June 2018. There have been concerns that arrivals to Niger were outpacing the speed at which people were being resettled to third countries.

**Shelters for up to 12,500 refugees installed by the Luxembourg Red Cross in Niger:** In 2018, the Luxembourg Red Cross continues its emergency activities for refugees and displaced populations in the Diffa region, in south-eastern Niger, where more than 250,000 people are displaced. The Luxembourg Red Cross, in cooperation with the Nigerien Red Cross Society, is in the process [of installing 2,500 shelters](#) for families of six. This operation is being carried out with the support of the Luxembourg donors, the European Humanitarian Aid Office ECHO, UK Aid, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Swedish Red Cross.

## Policy updates

**Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation finances activities of IOM in Niger:** The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy arranged for the [financing of 2.5 million euros](#) through the Africa Fund to support the activities of IOM in Niger and Egypt. The 1.5 million euro project for "Direct Assistance to Abandoned Migrants" aims to boost the presence of the IOM in the north-eastern regions of Niger bordering with Algeria, in order to provide emergency assistance and medical aid to migrants and support their voluntary return to their countries of origin.



# Other regional information

## Cameroon

### **Violent clashes between military and armed separatists drive 26,000 Cameroonians to Nigeria:**

According to a [UNHCR report](#) from October 2018, at least 26,000 predominantly Anglophone Cameroonians have fled the southwest and northwest regions of Cameroon and sought safety in Nigeria's south-eastern Akwa Ibom, Cross River, Benue and Taraba states. UNHCR reported that so far in 2018, some 400 civilians have been killed in escalating attacks between separatist groups and government forces. The crisis erupted in 2017 after protests turned violent, with some calling for secession.

**Presidential elections in Cameroon:** the presidential election in Cameroon on 7 October 2018 was marked by both civil unrest and low turnout. A [premature declaration](#) of victory from opposition leader Maurice Kamto on 8 October 2018 threatened to cause further violence. On 22 October the results of presidential elections were announced and Paul Biya was declared winner with 71,28% of votes. This resulted in further protests and mobilization of the police and army in Yaounde and Douala, while at the same time many Cameroonians felt frustrated by the results of elections, as reported by [the Guardian](#).

## Nigeria

**IOM launches a radio series for migrants on the risks and opportunities of migration:** the [radio series](#) aims to raise awareness among vulnerable people seeking to pursue economic opportunities abroad. According to IOM the radio series will focus on perils of irregular migration and provide information on how to migrate legally and safely. "The idea is to create awareness through the candid testimonies of returnees who have gone through the harrowing journey both at sea and through the Sahara," said Abraham Tamrat, who manages IOM's migrant protection and reintegration projects in Nigeria. The program will also promote social cohesion and address the issue of stigmatization of returned migrants who face discrimination and shame for having failed to reach their destinations.

# Regional policy updates

**Two day consultative meeting on the African union free movement protocol:** During a [stakeholder meeting](#) on 9-10 October, the Directorate of Free Movement of the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) shared good practices on the implementation of its regional protocol in a stakeholders consultation meeting with the African Union (AU) and the East African Community (EAC), with the aim of accelerating the ratification and implementation of the AU free movement protocol by Member States. The harmonization of regional norms and free movement policies with the AU by 2020 was also discussed during the two-day meeting.

**EU funding for the Sahel region and the Central African Republic:** On 29 October 2018 the [EU allocated an additional 58 million euros for the Sahel region and the Central African Republic](#) to address the increased food, nutrition and emergency needs in the countries concerned. The total EU humanitarian aid for 2018 to the Sahel countries now stands at 270 million euros, and 25.4 million euros for the Central African Republic. The aid will be allocated to seven countries in the Sahel region and the Central African Republic: Nigeria (10 million euros), Mali (6 million euros), Niger (6 million euros), Burkina Faso (5 million euros), Mauritania (5 million euros), Chad (12 million euros) and Cameroon (3 million euros), as well as the Central African Republic (8 millions of euros). In addition, a regional allocation of 3 million euros will be allocated to the Sahel region to provide vital treatment for malnutrition.

# New research and reports

[Coleen Moser, 'It Takes a Village: Despite Challenges, Migrant Groups Lead Development in Senegal', Migration Policy Institute, 4 October 2018.](#) This article explores the impact of policy changes in France on Senegalese migrants and the activities of home town associations (HTAs), which are formal or informal organizations of migrants from the same town, region, or ethnic group living outside their region or country of origin. The article assesses how such changes influence development and quality of life in migrants' origin communities in the Senegal River Valley. It highlights that understanding the complex relationship between emigration, HTA development activities, and political, economic, and social changes in both France and at home is essential to the future of development in eastern Senegal.

[Ruth Maclean, 'Complete equality': refugees find a home – and citizenship - in Guinea-Bissau, The Guardian, 10 October 2018.](#) This article focuses on personal stories of Senegalese refugees in Guinea-Bissau and governmental efforts of naturalizing them as citizens. In December 2017 the Government of Guinea-Bissau made a declaration which was approved in July 2018 as a new policy of naturalization for 7,000 refugees in the country of 1.8 million population. Since then the UN refugee agency has been working with a local contractor to produce and distribute ID cards, naturalization and birth certificates for the refugees and their children.

[Yomi Kazeem, The harrowing, step-by-step story of a migrant's journey to Europe, 25 October 2018.](#) The article recounts the story of a young migrant from Edo state in Nigeria, who journeyed to Europe following the routes linking Edo state with the EU. His journey lasted 9 months, six months longer than the initially three months planned. The article also explains how migration is entrenched in the social fabric in Edo state, as well as government attempts to manage migration and the role of smugglers.

[4Mi snapshot: aspirations or refugees and migrants from West Africa, MMC West Africa, October 2018.](#) In October 2018 MMC West Africa published a 4Mi snapshot with key data on the aspirations of the respondents, including preferred final destinations, factors driving the selection of destination countries and work related aspirations. It also presents data on intention to request asylum in the country of destination. This 4Mi snapshot is a continuation of the [snapshot](#) published in September 2018 on profiles and reasons for departure of refugees and migrants from West Africa.



For more information visit:  
[mixedmigration.org](http://mixedmigration.org)

