



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

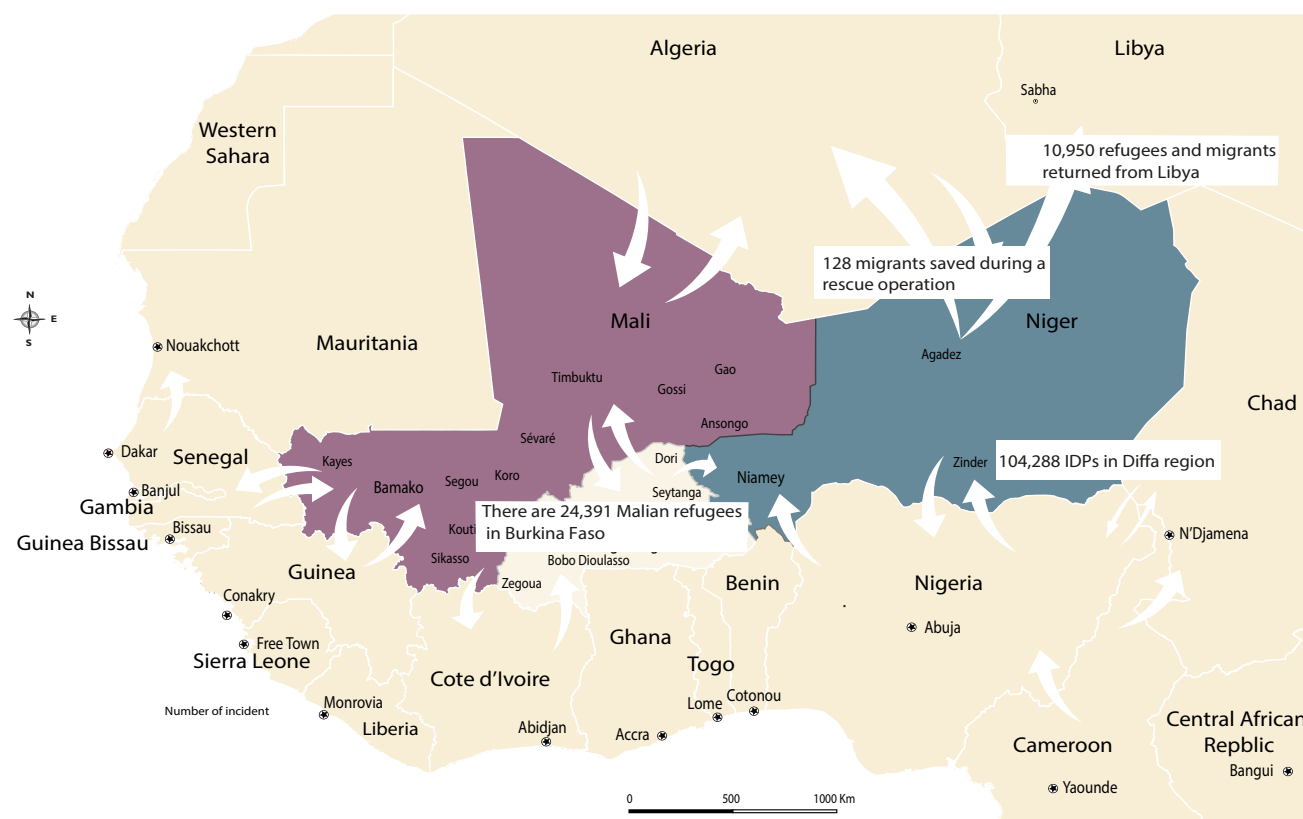
You can contact us by email: west-africa@mixedmigration.org

Photo credit: DRC

SUPPORTED BY:



Highlights August 2018



IOM voluntary humanitarian returns from Libya: On 8 August 2018, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), reported that it had facilitated the return of 10,950 stranded migrants from Libya through its Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) Programme, following an important increase in the number of detainees recorded in Libya. Among these, 9,636 were returned to countries in Central and West Africa

128 West African migrants rescued in the desert near Algeria: on 11 August 2018, 128 West African migrants, including women and children, were rescued by an IOM mission in the desert near Algeria border in Niger and transported to Arlit, in northern Niger.

Ongoing displacement crisis in the Lake Chad Basin: According to the Humanitarian Information Unit, there are 2,4 million persons displaced in the region resulting from the Boko Haram insurgency and 10,7 million in need of humanitarian assistance.

Burkina Faso

IDP



AUGUST
16 358 *

*last figure available (UNHCR)

REFUGEES



AUGUST
24 800 * →
including 24 391 * from Mali

JULY
24 798 *
*latest figures available (UNHCR)

Context

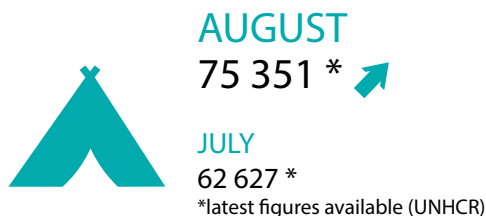
Continued insecurity in the country: [Crisis Watch](#) reports numerous attacks on checkpoints and security forces, as well as ambushes of police convoys, particularly in the north and the east of the country.

On 17 August unidentified individuals ambushed a vehicle of a Canadian mining company Semafo in the west in Bekuy, Hauts-Bassins region, killing two civilians.

On 28 August eight security forces members were killed by a landmine while they were driving in the far east of the country, towards the Benin border. This is a second mine attack in one month.

Mali

IDP



Context

Presidential elections in Mali: The second round of the presidential elections was held on 12 August, opposing incumbent Ibrahim Boubacar Keita (IBK) and Soumaila Cisse (Soumi). The IBK won the election with 67% of votes. The election process was marred by violence and security incidents, despite increased security measures put in place for the event. A president of a polling station in Timbuktu was killed and a polling station was burned down, according to the Citizen Observation Pool of Mali which had more than 2,000 observers in the region, as reported by [Voice of America](#) (VOA). The same source reported that 50 polling booths closed early in northern and central Mali following threats by extremists.

Final report of the Panel of Experts on Mali: On 29 August a [final report](#) was published by the Panel of Experts on Mali established pursuant to Security Council resolution 2374 (2017) on Mali to monitor actions or policies that threaten the peace, security, or stability of Mali. The report highlights insecurity in northern and central Mali driven by terrorism and organized crime. This is exacerbated by intercommunal violence in Mopti and Menaka resulting in cross-border movements and internal displacement. In the current situation the return or repatriation of IDPs and refugees has not been possible due to the volatile security situation, drought and famine, as well as lack of basic services in return areas.

REFUGEES



Protection and vulnerabilities

Non-state armed groups attack causes internal displacement in Ansongo: On 27 July, non-state armed groups attacked the village of Tindinbawen, Ansongo district, in northern Mali. Several people were killed and around [80 families](#) were forced to walk 80km to the Tin Hama village, including pregnant women, children and elderly persons. The MSF staff who travelled to Tin Hama to assess immediate needs of the displaced persons reported on the deplorable living conditions in Tin Hama and the difficult journeys endured: "People arrived exhausted; they ran out of water and food and had to travel through the middle of a storm during their journey."

Policy updates

School construction project in the Gao region: On 15 August the construction project of a school in Tacharane was inaugurated, 18 km south of Gao. The project involved the financing of school furniture, a class room and an office for the director. It was funded by the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali ([MINUSMA](#)), through a contribution from Germany, and is part of the civil-military coordination activities of the United Nations Mission in Mali. Colonel Aslak Heisner, Commander of the United Nations underlined that this project is part of a return to normal life for people, especially for children. All basic infrastructures, such as schools and health centers, were destroyed during the occupation of the North of Mali. The humanitarian situation remains a major challenge in the north of the country.

Niger

IDP



AUGUST

Diffa 104 288 * →

Tillabery 19 444 * ↗

*latest figures available (UNHCR)

Context

Angela Merkel visits Niger during her West Africa tour: On 15-17 August German Chancellor Angela Merkel visited Niger to discuss migration from West Africa to Germany. According to the [Deutsche Welle](#), she stressed the need for security and development to tackle issues related to brain drain and migration to Europe.

President of Niger stresses need to end state of chaos in Libya and calls for further EU assistance in Niger: Niger's President Mahamadou Issoufou told [Reuters](#) on 16 August that if Europe wants to halt migrant boat arrivals on its shores from Africa it must end the state of chaos in Libya. Prior to talks with Angela Merkel, President Issoufou also called for more European assistance for Niger in the field of security and development.

Protection and vulnerabilities

IOM voluntary humanitarian returns: On 8 August 2018, the [IOM](#) reported that many migrants evacuated to Niger from Libya often opt to return home after arriving in Niger by land, from where IOM organizes their onward transportation to their countries of origin. Between January and July 2018, IOM reports having returned 2,175 migrants from Niger to their homes (1,443 by charters and 732 by commercial airlines).

128 West African migrants rescued in the desert near Algeria and brought to northern Niger: 128 West African migrants, including women and children were rescued

REFUGEES



AUGUST

177 565 * ↗

including 118 868 from Nigeria and 58 304 from Mali *

*latest figures available (UNHCR)

by an IOM mission in the desert near Algeria and brought to Arlit in northern Niger, as reported by [VOA](#) on 11 August. Among the refugees and migrants were nationals of Nigeria, Benin, Guinea-Conakry, Guinea-Bissau, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, The Gambia, Liberia, Cameroon and Senegal. IOM reported that they were welcomed on 25 July in the transit center of Arlit and received first aid, while six refused UN assistance and opted to travel to Algeria.

Policy Updates

EUCAP Sahel Niger trains women leaders on prevention of smuggling: [EUCAP Sahel Niger](#), an EU civilian capacity building mission, helps women leaders gain a better understanding of the work of security forces so that they can sensitize other women in their communities about the prevention and fight against migrant smuggling. The European Commission reported on 28 August that the mission had organized 198 training events in 2017 for more than 3400 people on issues such as public order, crisis management and trafficking.

Emergency Trust Fund for Africa supports municipalities to respond to pressures on host communities along migratory routes: Since 2017, the project "Strengthening the sustainable management of the consequences of migratory flows in Niger" ([ProGEM](#)) cooperates with 20 local authorities located on the main migratory routes in Niger to strengthen their capacities "to better react to the consequences of migration". To respond to pressures on host communities along migratory routes in Niger,

ProGEM is building and expanding health centers and hospitals, drinking water supply systems and standpipe networks, toilet blocks and treatment rooms in the regions of Agadez, Tahoua and Zinder. The European Union External Action reported on 13 August that more than 150,000 people will benefit from better access to these basic services.

Other regional information

Arrivals of West African refugees and migrants to Europe between 1 January and 31 August 2018. *latest figures available (UNHCR)

Main countries of origin of WA refugees and migrants	Italy	Spain
Guinea	809	3,081
Mali	875	2,241
Nigeria	1,248	---
Cote d'Ivoire	1,054	1,215
Senegal	439	419

Cote d'Ivoire

Presentation of a platform for the protection of migrants: The [Directorate General of Ivorians Abroad](#) (DGIE) presented on 22 August in Abidjan a "multi-stakeholder coordination platform" for the protection of Ivorian migrants in times of crisis, as reported by Agence de Presse Africaine. This protection system is funded by the European Union and was presented to the Ivorian authorities by the International Center for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD). It aims in particular to create a multi-stakeholder coordination framework for the protection of migrants in times of acute crisis in Côte d'Ivoire and beyond the country's borders. This platform will make it possible to identify and define the roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders, pool the resources of various entities in emergency situations and carry out the monitoring and evaluation of interventions in favor of migrants in times of crisis.

Nigeria

Deadly cattle raids causes displacement in Zamfara state: [Hundreds of persons were killed](#) and thousands displaced due to an escalation in cattle rustling and violence by cow thieves in Zamfara state, in the north-west of Nigeria, as reported by Al Jazeera. According to an estimate from [Amnesty International](#), at least 371 people were killed in Zamfara state alone since January. As a response to violence, young people armed with sticks and crude weapons have formed vigilante groups in several communities. According to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) cited in the Premium Times on 2 August, victims from different villages in Zamfara are moving to Maradun town as a result of the violence, and five IDP camps have now been established.

Chad

Refugee Housing Unit (RHU) training: Between 14 and 18 August, 18 persons (refugees, UNHCR staff and UNHCR partners) participated in a training course on the installation of the RHU in the host villages of Moissala in Chad. This training allowed the participants to learn the different steps in the process of setting up and installing RHU. According to the National Administrator in charge of the environment and shelter UNHCR N'Djamena, RHU is a revolutionary prototype for new housing units in refugee camps. Through the RHU, UNHCR aims at improving the emergency shelters by providing better housing for refugees in camps and host villages.

Ongoing displacement crisis in Lake Chad Basin: on 24 August the Humanitarian Information Unit released a [factsheet](#) entitled the Ongoing Displacement Crisis in the Lake Chad Basin. According to their data, 2,4 million persons are displaced in the region as a result of the Boko Haram insurgency and 10,7 million are in need of humanitarian assistance.

New research and reports

Impact of EU migration management measures in Niger: On 25 August the [New York Times](#) published an investigative piece on the economic and security impacts of EU funded border management activities in Niger. According to the report the closing of the migration route has impacted on border town's ability to pay for essential services such as schools and health services, as a result of the loss of funds from the migration industry. The research also cites a military intelligence document reporting an increase of criminal activity in Niger, including drug smuggling and robbery. The report attributes this to the closure of migration routes, arguing that it has led to former smugglers turning to other criminal activities as a source of income.

["Meet 'Baba IDP': the local hero making sure Boko Haram victims get healthcare", IRIN News, 7 August 2018.](#)

A retired civil servant, Iddrisu Ibrahim Halilu, also known as Baba IDP, has been struggling to provide people displaced by Boko Haram insurgency with health care. His main activity is sourcing funds to meet the urgent medical needs of people in the IDP camp in Darumi district in Abuja. More than 3,000 persons live in the camp and are not able to return to their homes.

[Nora McKeon, 'Getting to the root causes of migration' in West Africa – whose history, framing and agency counts?, Globalizations, Volume 15, Issues 6, pp. 870-885, 2018.](#)

The article critically assesses "the root causes of migration" in West Africa and links them to decades of policies which have impoverished rural economies and dispossessed small scale producers to make room for export-oriented monocultures. The article outlines how the EU's strategy for 'addressing the root causes of migration' involves using EU cooperation funds to leverage resources from private investors 'looking for new investment opportunities in emerging markets'. The author argues that this approach promotes the same aforementioned model of agricultural production and global value chains that lead persons to migrate. The paper seeks to reframe the issues from the viewpoint of rural organizations in the territories from which migrants originate, and argues that their voice is always lacking from the debate.

[The Linkages between Migration, Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Development, IFAD, August 2018.](#)

This joint publication by IFAD, FAO, IOM and WFP explores drivers and impacts of migration (international, internal, rural-to-urban, rural-to-rural). The publication draws on a range of contexts and situations, including examples in the Sahel, including specific countries such as Nigeria, Mali and Niger. The report assesses the impact of migration on the countries of origin and destination, with a focus on rural areas and the agricultural sector. It also discusses how agricultural and social policies can address these challenges and capitalize on the opportunities created by migration trends.

For more information visit:
mixedmigration.org

