

Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism Initiative (4Mi)

The Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism Initiative (4Mi) is an innovative, low-cost approach to collecting and analyzing 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 and Mali, 4Mi seeks to help fill the knowledges gaps regarding the nature of the mixed migratory movements, and the protection risks for migrants and refugees on the move, within and from West Africa.

In June 2017, 4Mi West Africa’s monitors conducted 93 surveys with migrants and refugees in Mali and Niger. In Niger, 4Mi interviewed 41 people in the cities of Agadez and Niamey, and, in Mali, 52 in the cities of Gao, Mopti, and Timbuktu.

Profile



Age
18 — 57
Average 28

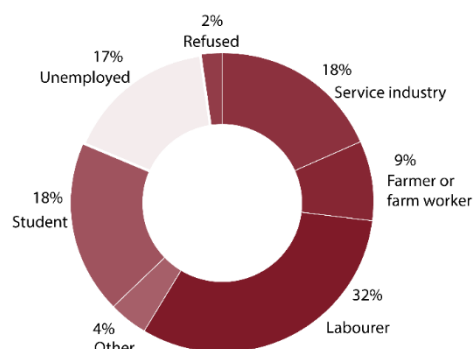
Countries of origin



The 4Mi monitors interviewed 93 migrants and refugees, aged between 18 and 57 years old. The average age of interviewees is 28, for both men and women. Respondents come from 11 countries, 10 from within West Africa and one from the Republic of the Congo. The 3 main countries of nationality are Burkina Faso, Senegal and Nigeria. Most of the migrants interviewed lived in an urban area in their country of origin.

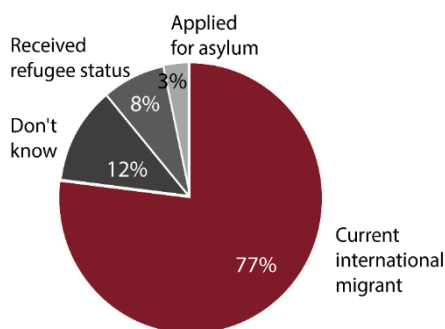
Main occupation

A minority of the migrants and refugees interviewed (16) did not receive any formal education. Half of those surveyed stopped school in primary, secondary or high school. 11% of them have a Bachelor, Master or equivalent degree. 18% were students at the time they started their journey, while 63% were working, mostly as laborers or in the service industry.

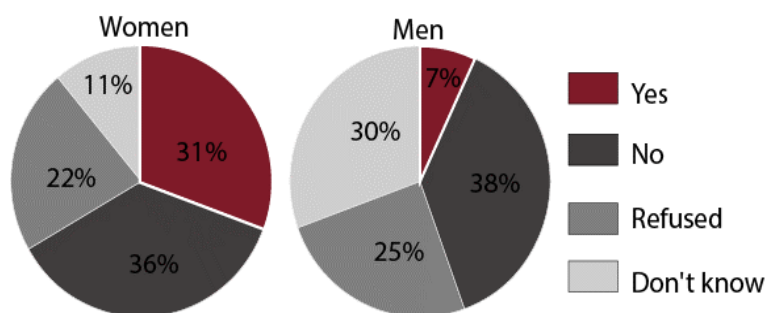


Asylum

Current status



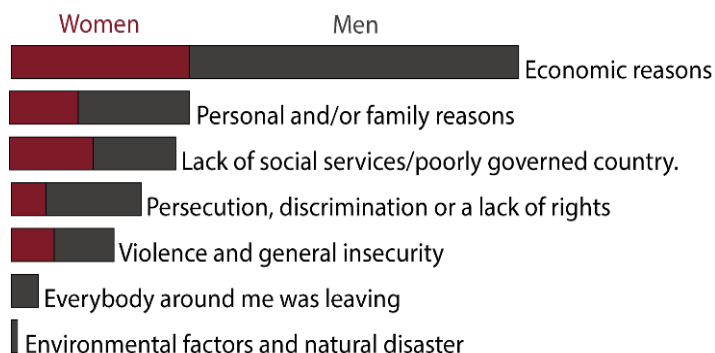
Intent to ask for asylum in the country of destination



Among all the migrants and refugees interviewed, 16% of them intend to apply for asylum in their country of destination and 23% don't know yet. Women interviewed are more likely to ask for asylum than men.

Journey

Reasons of departure



69 people declared that economic factors were one of the main reasons for their departure. Most of migrants and refugees stated that a lack of services and personal or family reasons encouraged them to leave. Initial motivations can be interwoven: those interviewed gave on average two reasons for migrating. Likewise, on average interviewees indicated that more than one person had influenced their decision to leave. Of those interviewed the family had the most significant influence over the decision to leave, (parents, siblings and other family members), followed by friends.

17 migrants and refugees stated that violence and general insecurity was one of their reasons for their leaving. Most of them were interviewed in Niger, in Agadez. Among these 17 respondents, the majority indicated that violence and insecurity were linked the criminality. The presence and attacks by terrorist groups is also source of violence and general insecurity, especially for Malians and Nigerians.

14 respondents, from most of the countries in West Africa stated that persecution, discrimination and lack of rights is one of the reasons of their departure. Discrimination or persecution on ethnic grounds is the main reason for ten of the respondents (including, two Nigerians, two Nigeriens, and one person from Burkina Faso, Congo, Cameroon, Guinea, Gambia and Mali). This was followed by a lack of freedom of expression from eight respondents, including two Ivoirians and one person from the Congo, Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Cameroon and Gambia.

Smuggling

In regard to smuggling, the most common method used by respondents is continuous payment during the journey. To get money, most respondents use formal money transfer systems to receive funds from friends and relatives. One third said they have enough cash to pay and 16% think they will work to pay. The journey is financed mostly by family, friends or community of origin (40%) and by the savings of migrants and refugees (37%). A minority borrowed money from other people or sold assets and furniture (15%).

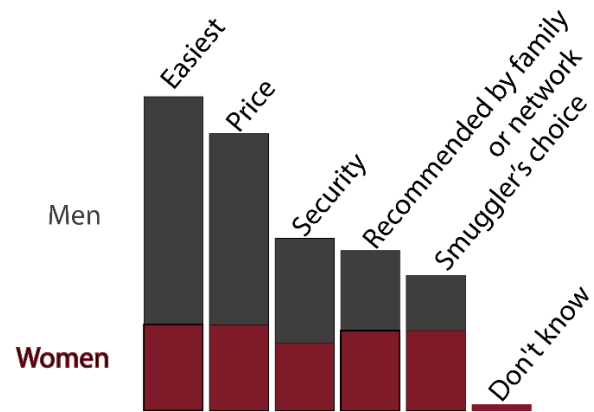
Preferred final destination



The majority of respondents declare North Africa (45%) or Europe (45%) as their final destination. The majority of migrants interviewed in Mali want to go to North Africa. Among the surveys conducted in Gao, Ber, Mopti and Timbuktu, Algeria remains the privileged country (53% of respondents), following by Libya (11%). Europe is the preferred destination for people on the move interviewed in Niger. For those interviewed in Agadez and Niamey, Italy remains the privileged country (37% of respondents), with 28% of respondents wanting to go to other countries in Europe.

Choice of the route

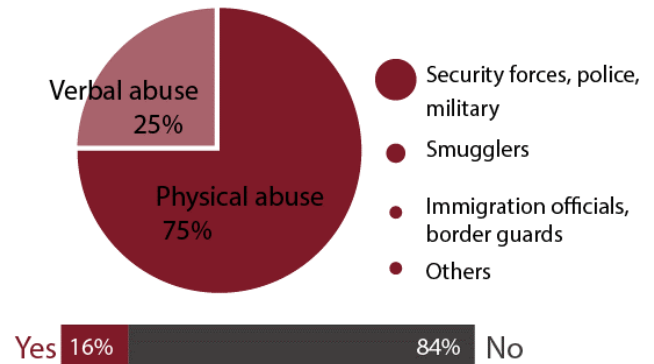
The choice of the route is made according to different criteria, mostly the easiest route (for 55% of respondents) and the price (48%). The women interviewed rely more on the recommendations of the smugglers (36%), families, friends or network (36%) to choose the route than the men (16% smugglers and 22% families, friends or network). During their journey, the migrants and refugees interviewed use mainly buses (88%), then cars and trucks.



Protection

Abuse

16% of migrants and refugees interviewed experienced physical or verbal abuse of a non-sexual nature. Cases of physical abuse are mainly slapping, beating, punching, whipping and a case of sleep deprivation has been reported. Among the 20 reported cases, the most affected countries are Burkina Faso (nine cases including five in Kantchari on the border with Niger) and Niger (seven cases).



Sexual assault (Women only)



14% of women have witnessed or experienced sexual assault, either committed by smugglers, immigration officials, security forces, groups of thugs or other migrants. Niger is the most concerned country, particularly the city of Zinder.

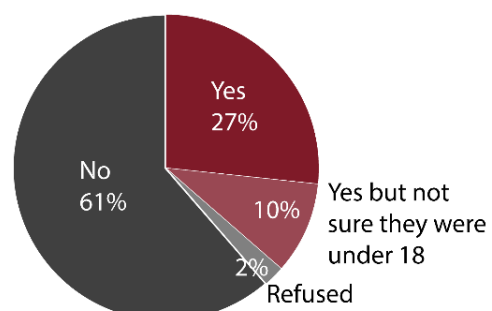
Detention by police, military or immigration officials



17% of migrants and refugees interviewed have been detained at least once by police, military or immigration officials. Among the 22 cases reported, the most concerned countries are Niger (10 cases) and Mali (9 cases).

Witnesses of Children on the move

27% of respondents have seen children on the move, with the majority having seen children traveling in groups of both children and adults (38%). 32% of the witnessed children were alone and 30% in a group composed only of children.

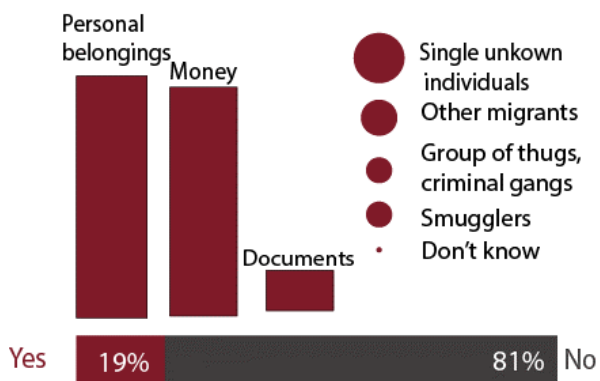


Bribes to government officials

Half of the migrants and refugees interviewed had to pay bribes to government officials, on average 3 times and 10,000FCFA per bribe. Among the 140 cases reported, the cities of Agadez, Mopti and Zinder are the most common.



Robberies



19% of the respondents were robbed at least once during their journey, mostly by unknown individuals or other migrants. Among the 26 cases reported, 14 occurred in Niger, six in Mali and four in Burkina Faso.