



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/>

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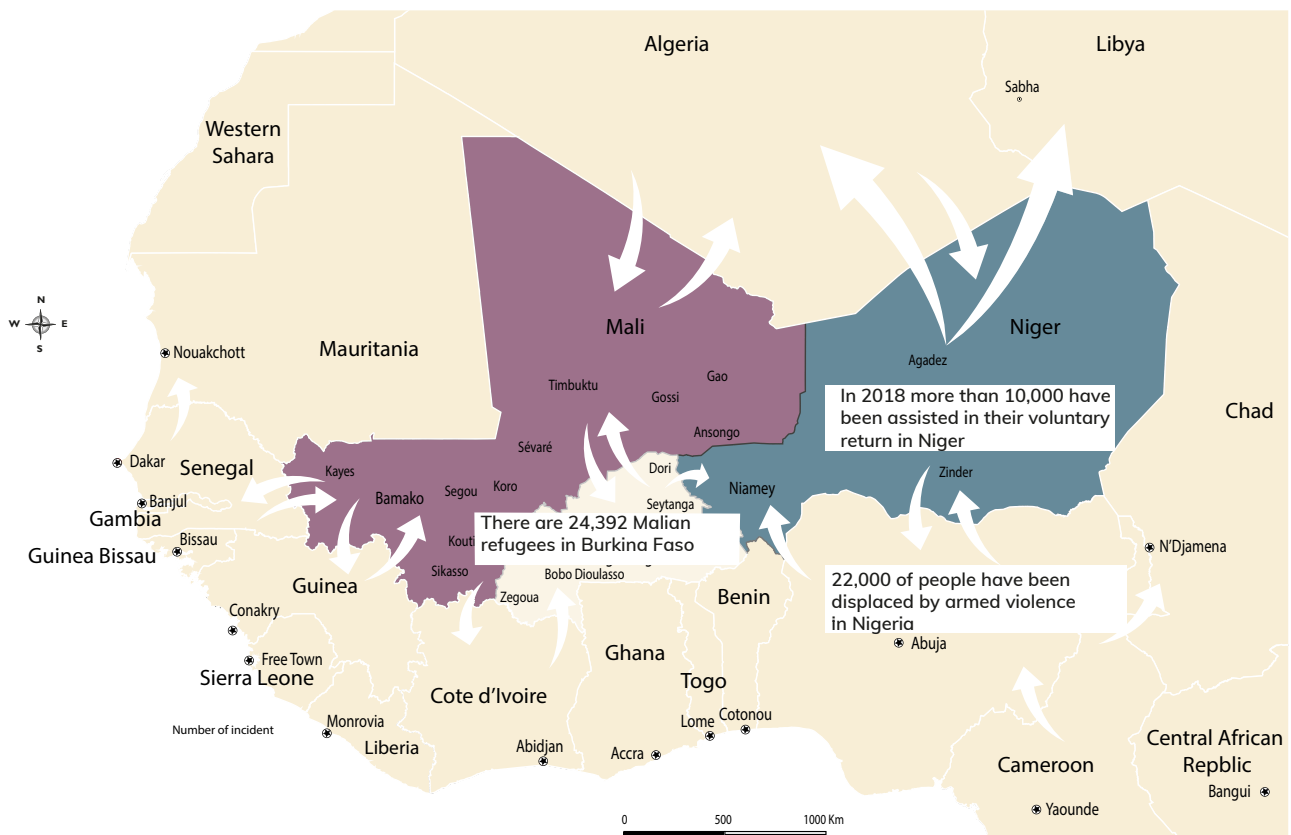
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Highlights July 2018



Voluntary Return Assistance by International Organisation for Migration (IOM) Niger: As of July 2018, 8,000 refugees and migrants were rescued during 84 search and rescue operations. 90% of them were rescued near the border towns of Arlit and Assamaka. Half of the refugees and migrants who arrived at IOM Transit points in Niger had no identification documents.

Violence in Plateau state: As of July 2018, more than 22,000 people have been displaced by recent armed violence in Barkin Ladi, Riyom and Jos South Local Government Areas, Plateau state, Nigeria. Most of the displaced women, children and elderly are staying in congested impromptu camps.

IOM Chad calls for funds to help stranded migrants: On 1 July, 20 migrants from sub-Saharan Africa, including eight potential victims of trafficking, were stranded in Faya, northern Chad. The city of Faya is located on one of the migration routes in northern Chad, where Chadian authorities regularly identify victims of trafficking and refer them to IOM.

Displacement in Cameroon due to violence: As of July 2018, violence has forced more than 21,000 people to flee Cameroon to neighboring countries, according to UN humanitarian staff, while 160,000 have been internally displaced, many reportedly hiding in forests to protect themselves. Grave human rights abuses have emerged against a backdrop of protests in the English-speaking northwest and southwest regions of the country.

Burkina Faso

REFUGEES



JULY

24 798 * ↗

including 24 392 * from Mali

JUNE

24 248 *

***last available figures (UNHCR)**

Context

Attacks against security forces: Attacks against security forces and civilians continued in the Sahel region in the north. [Crisis Watch](#) reports numerous attacks by unidentified gunmen in different parts of the country contributing to the overall climate of insecurity.

Education under attack in Burkina Faso: Schools are continuously under attack in the increasing Sahel crisis, as reported by [OCHA in Humanitarian Dispatches released on 11 July](#). A surge in armed raids in the northern borderlands has driven 65,000 pupils and more than 2,000 teachers from schools.

Policy Updates

Support of social entrepreneurship in Burkina Faso: The European Union, in particular through the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa, has launched [initiatives](#) to promote inclusive economic programs that generate employment, with a focus on vocational training, the creation of micro- and small businesses, and entrepreneurship. The European Union also supports the emergence of the private sector, through work on value chains as well as the structuring of the Euro-Burkinabe Chambers of Commerce.

Raising youth awareness of the dangers of irregular migration: On 14 July, Tenkodogo, province of Boulgou (central-east region) hosted the final of the maracaña tournament called "Youth and Migration". This is an [initiative](#) of the IOM and its partners, aimed to raise youth awareness in the province concerning the dangers of and alternatives to irregular migration. According to IOM Burkina Faso's head of mission, Abibatou Wane, the central east region remains the most affected by the phenomenon of irregular migration in Burkina Faso and refugees and migrants are often exposed to several risks during their migratory journey.

Mali

IDP



Context

Elections in Mali, 29 July: As scheduled, the presidential election in Mali was held on 29 July 2018. According to the [provisional results](#) of 2 August, incumbent president Ibrahim Boubacar Keita (IBK) secured 41.4% of votes, while his main challenger Soumaïla Cissé (Soumi) obtained 17.8%. Turnout was 43%. A run-off election is scheduled for 12 August 2018. Some 23,041 polling stations were set up across the country. The election was mainly peaceful with some incidents of violence and disruptions, mainly in central and northern Mali. At least 6,400 sites reported disruptions and nearly 700 sites were unable to operate.

Insecurity and intercommunal violence: In July 2018, [Crisis Watch](#) reported clashes between Tuareg and Arab communities and between Tuareg and black communities in the north. In the central Mopti region, intercommunal clashes between ethnic Dogon and Fulani self-defense groups continued. Seventeen people are reported to have been killed in Somena village on 25 July.

Terrorist attacks during the month of July: According to [Crisis Watch](#), throughout the month of July, suspected jihadist attacks on national, regional and international forces as well as on civilians continued in several regions in the north and in the centre of the country.

Evaluation of the situation of human rights in Mali: The UN Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Mali, Alioune Tine, [urged the authorities of Mali](#) to carry

REFUGEES



out prompt, detailed and independent investigations into an “alarming” increase in human rights violations amidst a humanitarian emergency. He also affirmed that he is gravely concerned with the deterioration of human rights in the centre of the country where a lack of basic community services has caused serious damage and severe consequences.

Protection and vulnerabilities

Crisis simulation on the Mali-Mauritania border: As reported on 3 July, and on 27 and 28 June, IOM organized a massive [crisis simulation](#) on the Mali-Mauritania border. The scenario simulated a massive population displacement from Mauritania to Gogui, Mali, provoking material, sanitary and human damage. The simulation aimed to assess the human and material capacities of the different stakeholders involved in border crisis situations, especially local communities. This exercise was organized within two projects, the EU-funded project "Strengthening Border Management, Fostering Protection and Reintegration of Migrants in Mauritania" and the project funded by the Government of Japan "Enhancing the Collective Operational Preparedness for Cross-border Migration and Humanitarian Crises between Mauritania and Mali" in order to strengthen border management by involving local populations in humanitarian crisis management.

Niger

IDP



JULY

Diffa 104 288 *

Tillabery 17758 * ↗

*last available figures (UNHCR)

REFUGEES



JULY

177 771 * ↗

**including 118 868 from Nigeria
and 58 510 from Mali ***

*last available figures (UNHCR)

Context

Numerous attacks by Boko Haram: According to [Crisis Watch](#), several attacks by Boko Haram took place during the month of July in Diffa region. For instance, on 19-20 July, Boko Haram militants attacked a military post in Baroua village near the border with Nigeria, killing soldiers; ten Boko Haram militants were also killed.

Boko Haram attack on Nigerien military: On 1 July, in Bla Brin village in southeast Niger, not far from the Lake Chad area and 40km from the town of N'Guigmi, [ten Nigerien soldiers were killed](#) and four reported missing after an attack attributed to Boko Haram.

Protection and vulnerabilities

Voluntary Return Assistance by IOM Niger: As of July 2018, [IOM Niger](#) assisted more than 10,000 migrants and refugees in their voluntary returns. Close to 90% of more than 8,000 rescued migrants were discovered during 84 search operations near the border towns of Arlit and Assamaka. Half of the migrants and refugees who arrived at IOM Transit points in Niger had no identification documents. Assistance in Niger is delivered by IOM to people of all nationalities. The main countries of origin for those who have received voluntary assistance this year are Mali, Guinea-Conakry, Cameroon, Niger, Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Burkina Faso.

Humanitarian response in Niger: According to [a snapshot released by OCHA](#) in July, the current emergency in Niger requires more than just a humanitarian response. Government, development and humanitarian actors need to work together to address the drivers of vulnerability in order to release communities from the cycle of adversity. Displacement in Niger is one of the major aspects of the crisis concerning refugees, migrants, the internally displaced and returnees. Deterioration of security in the northern areas of Tillabery and Tahoua regions have forced more than 17,000 civilians from their homes since the beginning of 2018.

Policy Updates

Niger will continue to welcome migrants in transit: As affirmed by President Mahamadou Issoufou during the [summit of the African Union](#) in Nouakchott on 2 July: "We are a people open to hospitality, we are a generous people. We will welcome people who are in difficulty, who are in disarray. It is the tradition of our country," President Issoufou said after meeting a UN delegation led by Deputy Secretary-General, Amina Mohamed. "The main thing is that people do not stay long in Niger. It is necessary that the transit in Niger happens very quickly... that is the only condition that we pose," Issoufou told journalists.

Tajani visit to Niger: The President of the European Parliament, Antonio Tajani, visited Niger on 17 and 18 July. He [affirmed](#) that there is a 95% decrease in migration flows to Libya and Europe thanks to EU partnership and funds. "Niger is an example of the successes achieved by the European Union, also thanks to the optimal deployment of the Trust Fund for Africa. The resources are running out, and new appropriations are needed to help the country - among the poorest in the world - protect borders, manage migratory flows and guarantee security. My visit aims to strengthen the good partnership with Niger by offering concrete opportunities for economic growth through the network of entrepreneurs, researchers and international organizations that will accompany me." added Tajani.

Other regional information

Arrivals of West African refugees and migrants to Europe between 1 January and 31 July 2018.

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	1,047	1,215
Senegal	418	419

Cameroon

Displacement in Cameroon due to violence: As of July 2018, violence has forced more than [21,000 people to flee Cameroon](#) to neighboring countries, according to UN humanitarian staff, while 160,000 have been internally displaced, many reportedly hiding in forests to protect themselves. Grave human rights abuses have emerged against a backdrop of protests in the English-speaking northwest and southwest regions of the country.

Chad

Boko Haram attack: According to [Crisis Watch](#), on 19 July, Boko Haram militants attacked a village near the Niger border, killing eighteen people and abducting ten women.

IOM Chad calls for funds to help stranded migrants: On 1 July, [20 migrants from sub-Saharan Africa](#), including eight potential victims of trafficking, were stranded in Faya, northern Chad. The city of Faya is located on one of the migration routes in northern Chad, where Chadian authorities regularly identify victims of trafficking and refer them to IOM. IOM in Chad is actively working with the government to bring these vulnerable refugees and migrants to N'Djamena for examination and assistance, but resources are needed to provide medical and psychosocial assistance and voluntary return assistance. IOM is appealing for at least US\$ 2.1 million to address the urgent needs of stranded migrants who have been transiting Chad over the past 24 months.

Nigeria

Violence in Plateau state: As of July 2018, more than [22,000 people have been displaced](#) by recent armed violence in Barkin Ladi, Riyom and Jos South Local Government Areas, Plateau state. The International Committee of the Red Cross is assisting them in close cooperation with the Nigerian Red Cross. In total, violence has forced 38,000 people to flee their homes since June. Most of the displaced women, children and elderly are staying in congested impromptu camps.

Human traffickers target vulnerable children in IDP camps: About [50,000 orphaned children](#), the majority of whom are girls, live in IDP camps in and around Maiduguri, according to the Borno State government. Child rights campaigners have warned that unless children are moved away from these camps and raised in families, they may continue to be victims of exploitation. Human traffickers particularly target children and orphans in IDP camps because their vulnerability is much higher in such contexts.

Nigeria inaugurates committee on displaced persons: Nigeria's Presidential Committee on Northeast Initiative (PCNI) has inaugurated a [committee](#) for the return and resettlement of persons displaced by the Boko Haram insurgency in the northeastern Borno State. According to the Vice Chairman of the PCNI, Alhaji Tijjani Tumsa, the members of the committee included the Borno Government, UN agencies, humanitarian and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), military, police and other security agencies as well as representatives of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). The aim of the committee is to facilitate safe and dignified return of more than two million displaced persons to their homes.

Regional Policy updates

EU mobilises over € 191 million in humanitarian aid for Africa's Sahel countries: The [EU is providing](#) more than € 191 million for the humanitarian aid to the Sahelian countries. The Commission has announced a package of humanitarian aid worth € 191.3 million, which will benefit eight countries in the region: Burkina Faso (€ 11.1 million), Chad (€ 2 million), Cameroon (€ 13.9 million), Mali (€ 35.3 million), Mauritania (€ 11.4 million), Niger (€ 32.2 million), Nigeria (€ 35.3 million) and Senegal (€ 1 million). In addition, regional funds worth € 10.8 million will be allocated. EU funds will also support disaster risk reduction initiatives that can help people better prepare for natural disasters.

ECOWAS Migration Dialog for West Africa (MIDWA): On 17 July, ECOWAS inaugurated [Migration Dialogue for West Africa](#) (MIDWA), a three-day annual meeting of thematic work groups, resulting in the recommendation of an improved collaboration and synergy between member states and migration institutions in the areas of border management, immigration data, mixed migration and the return and reintegration of migrants in the region. During the meeting, experts advised on increased border surveillance and raising awareness among local authorities, civil society actors, the private sector, the media and any relevant organizations in order to increase their participation in managing irregular migration flows.

New research and reports

[International Rescue Committee, "Pushing the boundaries. Insights into the EU's response to mixed migration on the Central Mediterranean Route", July 2018.](#)

This report aims to draw greater attention to the humanitarian crisis facing people moving along this route, and to offer insights into the impact of EU interventions on their situations. For instance, it looks at migration management, response to urgent needs of vulnerable migrants, asylum claims, resettlement, returns, economic development and diplomacy. In particular, the report examines the costs at which the flow of refugees and migrants to Italy has been stopped and proposes a ten-point action plan for migration across the Central Mediterranean Route.

[Irin News, "Destination Europe". Special report, June - July 2018.](#)

During the month of June and July, Irin News published a multi-part special report dedicated to refugees and migrants at different legs of their journey from sub-Saharan Africa to Europe through the Central Mediterranean Route: transiting through Niger, crossing the desert, detention in Libya, voluntary repatriation, resettlement in France. The research is based on first-hand data collected by journalists from refugees and migrants at different stages of their journey. It illustrates the complexity of the current situation, discusses policy decisions and the vulnerable positions of refugees and migrants.

[Peace Direct, "Mali on the brink. Insights from local peacebuilders on the causes of violent conflict and the prospects for peace", July 2018.](#)

This report by Peace Direct analyses a multidimensional security crisis, which in 2017-2018 was more intense and widespread than in 2012-2013, when it began. It is based on findings from the first Peace Exchange workshop held in Bamako, which also addressed the drivers of violent conflict as well as opportunities and challenges. The main findings are that the causes of the conflict are: limited state presence in almost all areas of the country (including poor basic services like education and health care); poor quality of governance and justice; corruption and impunity; pervasive poverty; under-development and unemployment, especially the impact this has on young people. Other dynamic factors include the impact of violent conflict elsewhere in Northern and Western Africa and its influence on arms and drug trafficking, migration (in, through and out of Mali) as well as tensions around elections.

[Anca-Elena Ursu, "Under the Gun: Resource Conflicts and Embattled Traditional Authorities in Central Mali", Clingendael, CRU Report, July 2018.](#)

This report explores lack of governance as a structural driver of resource conflict in the region and identifies a mix of short- and long-term measures to increase the legitimacy of the Malian state. In the Mopti region of central Mali, different complex causes, including unequal access to resources, poor resource management and subsequent conflict, have caused friction between socio-professional groups, such as herders, farmers and fishermen. The increase in intercommunal conflicts has also provided fertile ground for radical, armed groups. These and other triggers create a climate of great insecurity and vulnerability provoking displacement, migration and locally-driven conflicts. According to the authors, only solutions that address the underlying drivers of instability will enable sustainable peace to emerge.

[Kirwin, Matthew and Anderson, Jessica, "Identifying the Factors Driving West African Migration". West African Papers, No 17, OECD Publishing, July 2018.](#)

This report focuses on the patterns of migration along the Central Mediterranean Route with a specific focus on migrants and refugees coming from Nigeria. This is a quantitative survey using data from several focus groups and examining nationwide surveys on an individual level. It takes into account a variety of push and pull factors, such as the economic, social and political motivations behind decisions to migrate.

[Frowd, Philippe M., "Security at the Borders. Transnational Practices and Technologies in West Africa". Cambridge University Press, July 2018.](#)

This academic research explores borders and border management in West Africa with a specific focus on Senegal and Mauritania. It looks into EU-led interventions and local clashes related to border management. A specific chapter is dedicated to migration and cooperation. Here, the author coined the term 'border work', denoting the interwoven nature of all border activities, from training to technological management to migration deals.

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