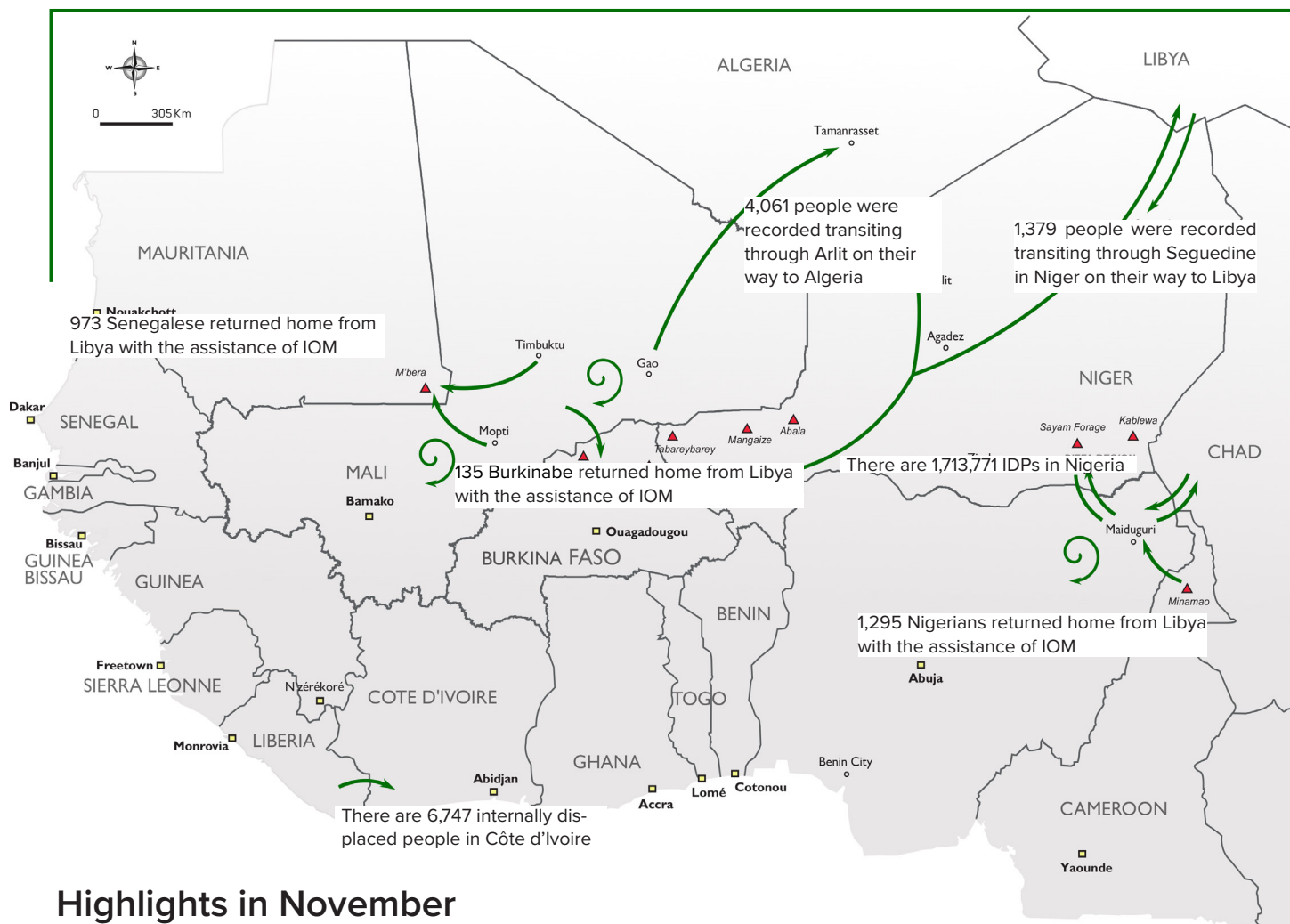


West Africa

Monthly Mixed Migration Summary

Covering mixed migration events, incidents, trends and data from the West Africa region.

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Highlights in November

- In November, CNN broadcast footage of smugglers selling sub-Saharan African migrants and refugees by auction near Tripoli in Libya. The international community condemned the treatment of migrants in Libya, with the African Union and European Commission calling for an immediate end to these practices and evoking the need for positive cooperation between concerned African countries and the UN, in order to allow for the safe return of those stranded in Libya. The UN Security Council called for investigations into the slave markets in Libya.
- The fifth African Union - European Union (AU-EU) summit took place on 29 and 30 November 2017 in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire. EU and African leaders defined Mobility and Migration as one of the four strategic priorities in a joint declaration adopted at the conclusion of the summit and discussed how to tackle migrant smuggling and how to jointly address the root causes of irregular migration. They agreed to establish a joint migration task force with the UN, aiming to save and protect the lives of migrants and refugees, accelerate assisted voluntary returns and speed up the resettlement of those in need of protection.

Burkina Faso

Context: Insecurity remained high in north regions of Burkina Faso. The joint force of the Sahel G5 countries (Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Chad, Mauritania) conducted its [first operation](#) “Hawbi” in Burkina-Mali-Niger border area between Ansongo (Mali) and Diori (Burkina Faso), involving troops from three countries.

Humanitarian repatriation: In November, IOM assisted [135 Burkinabe migrants](#) to return home from Libya, bringing the total number of migrants from Burkina Faso assisted by IOM to return home from Libya to 669 so far in 2017.

Malian refugees in Burkina Faso:

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov
2017	32,017	32,498	32,972	33,056	33,501	33,501	33,501	33,501	33,501		23,614

Cote d'Ivoire

Repatriation of Ivorian Refugees: In November, UNHCR assisted 99 Ivorian refugees to return home from Mali and 67 Ivorian refugees to return home from Liberia. Between January and November 2017, UNHCR has assisted a total of 7,294 Ivorian refugees to return home.

Internal Displacement: UNHCR registered [6,747 internally displaced people](#) in Côte d'Ivoire in November. These displacements are mainly due to inter-communal conflicts in the protected forests of the western region of Cote d'Ivoire, near Guiglo.

Statement on the repatriation of migrants in Libya: In November, [the President of Cote d'Ivoire, Alassane Ouattara](#), indicated that the government of Cote d'Ivoire intends to repatriate 595 Ivorians in distress from Libya to Côte d'Ivoire. This statement follows the publication of media footage showing the auction of migrants by smugglers in Libya.

Arrivals of Ivorians in Italy:

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Total
2017	839	806	882	1,393	1,737	1,697	551	358	490	185	384	9,322
2016	332	402	807	701	1,444	1,681	1,303	1,006	1,039	1,787	1,054	11,556

Ivorian refugees:

	Sept	Oct	Nov
Liberia	11,937	11,937	11,937
Ghana	6,656	6,656	6,656
Guinea	4,577	4,577	4,577
Togo	2,092	2,092	2,092
Mali	910	714	714
Total in the region	28,330	27,744	27,744

Guinea

Arrivals of Guineans in Italy:

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Total
2017	796	1,296	1,076	1,016	1,776	1,799	872	226	360	144	243	9,604
2016	504	259	831	530	1,313	1,818	1,063	1,150	1,245	2,421	1,403	12,537

Humanitarian repatriation: In November, IOM assisted [243 Guinean migrants](#), including eight unaccompanied children and 10 women, to return home from Libya. In total, since January 2017, [2,682 Guinean migrants](#) have returned to Guinea with IOM support, 135 children among them.

Mali

Context: Despite the holding of the ceasefire between rebel Coalition of Azawad Movements (CMA) and the pro-national unity Platform coalition that was initiated in September, [attacks on national and international forces](#) continued in north and center Mali in November. Between 27 October and 11 November, the joint force of Sahel G5 countries (Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Chad, Mauritania) conducted its [first operation](#) “Hawbi” in Burkina-Mali-Niger border area between Ansongo (Mali) and Diori (Burkina Faso) which involved troops from three countries.

Fight against irregular immigration: In November, the Kingdom of the Netherlands [launched a project](#) to support initiatives preventing irregular migration from Mali, worth 325,000,000 CFA francs (around 600,000 USD). The project will last 15 months and will focus on raising awareness of the population about the harms of irregular migration. The project will be implemented in five regions in Mali, namely, Koulikoro, Segou, Mopti, Timbuktu and the district of Bamako.

Humanitarian repatriation: Between January and November 2017, IOM assisted [1,305 Malians](#) to return home from Libya.

Malian arrivals in Italy:

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Total
2017	282	363	496	738	1,271	1,639	737	427	508	279	306	7,046
2016	393	400	649	472	960	1,156	992	932	1,098	1,512	852	9,416

Refugees in neighbouring countries:

	Oct	Nov
Niger	57,405	57,705
Mauritania	51,828	52,591
Burkina Faso	24,083	23,614
Total in the region	133,316	133,910

IDPs in Mali:

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov
2017	36,690	44,762	45,766	58,985	51,961	n/a	55,382		58,594	n/a	40,743

Niger

Transit Migration through Niger: According to IOM, in November 2017, [4,061 people](#) were recorded transiting through Arlit on their way to Algeria, representing an increase from the 1,352 people recorded leaving Niger through Arlit in October. In November, 881 people were recorded arriving in Arlit from Algeria.

In November, 1,379 people were recorded transiting through Seguedine on their way to Libya. The number of migrants from West African countries transiting through Seguedine has dropped significantly, with many people taking more remote and dangerous routes through the desert in order to avoid the increased presence of authorities in key transit towns between Niger and Libya that have been in place since late 2016. Between January and November 2017, 97% of those [recorded](#) leaving and 92% of those arriving in Seguedine were Nigerien. This is in contrast with the same period in 2016, when [IOM estimated](#) that 22% of those leaving Niger through Seguedine were from Nigeria, 19% from Niger, 15% from Gambia and 13% from Senegal.

First group of refugees evacuated from Libya to Niger: In November, [a group of 25 refugees](#) from Eritrea, Ethiopia and Sudan were evacuated from Libya to Niger by the UN to have their resettlement claims processed. This first operation of its kind from the North African country aims to provide protection for refugees and other vulnerable migrants in Libya.

Forced Displacement in Diffa Region:

	October	November
IDPs	129,015	129,015
Refugees	108,470	108,470

Nigeria

Context: In November, Boko Haram (BH) [increased attacks](#) in north-east Nigeria causing an increase in the number of civilian casualties, and tensions between herder and farming communities rose. Several successive attacks in Borno State killed at least 33 people. In Adamawa state, a [suicide bombing](#) on a mosque at Mubi killed some 60 people.

Arrivals of Nigerians in Italy:

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Total
2017	483	1,204	1,472		4,033	4,832	2,199	305	478	362	587	18,049
2016	905	713	1,797	896	2,921	4,660	6,695	3,742	4,843	6,636	2,544	36,352

Humanitarian repatriation: According to the National Emergency Management Agency (MENA), [1,295 people](#) returned to Nigeria from Libya in November with the assistance of IOM and the EU. Between January and November 2017, IOM assisted [4,316 Nigerians](#) to return home from Libya.

Displacement context: According to UNOCHA, in November new population movements, including displacement caused by ongoing conflict, as well as returns of refugees and IDPs, [were recorded](#) in Borno State with 1,862 new arrivals in Gwoza, 729 in Askira/Uba, 428 in Mafa, 373 in Ngala and 358 in Madagali. In addition,

over [13,000 people](#) were recorded arriving in Nganzai, Konduga, and Magumeri, where there is a very limited humanitarian presence due to lack of access caused by ongoing insecurity.

Refugees in neighbouring countries:

	October	November
Chad	9,191	9,541
Niger	108,470	108,470
Cameroon	90,728	90,728
Total	208,389	208,739

IDPs in Nigeria:

	Jan	March	May	June	August	October	November
2017	1,899,830	1,832,743	1,884,331	1,825,321	1,757,288	1,713,771	1,713,771

Senegal

Arrivals of Senegalese in Italy:

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Total
2017	431	784	700	640	1,380	899	532	139	206	75	130	5,916
2016	493	406	762	324	580	1,482	951	886	1,001	1,855	903	9,643

Humanitarian repatriation: Between January and November 2017, IOM assisted [973 Senegalese people](#) to return home from Libya.

Other Regional Information

Arrivals in Europe: Between January and November 2017, [25,900 migrants and refugees](#) arrived in Spain by land and by sea, including 4,679 in November. This represents an increase of 106% compared with the same period in 2016. Ivoirian migrants and refugees represented 20% of arrivals, while Guineans represented 12%. Arrivals by sea, mainly to the Andalusia coast, represent 80% of arrivals to Spain during this period.

As of 30 November 2017, over 117,000 refugees and migrants had arrived in Italy by sea in 2017, 32% lower than during the first 11 months of 2016. As of the end of November, the main nationalities who had arrived in Italy were Nigerians, Guineans, Ivoirians, Bangladeshis and Malians.

Deaths at sea: In November, [54 migrants and refugees](#) traveling on the western Mediterranean route and [193 migrants and refugees](#) traveling on the central Mediterranean route drowned or went missing in the Mediterranean sea. In total, between January and November 2017, [3,031 people](#) lost their lives trying to cross the Mediterranean from the western and central Mediterranean routes.

Rescue in the Mediterranean Sea: On 1 November, [588 people](#) were rescued in the Mediterranean by Aquarius, a search and rescue vessel run by Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and SOS MEDITERRANEE.

Slaves market in Libya: On 14 November, CNN [broadcast footage of smugglers selling sub-Saharan African](#)

migrants and refugees by auction near Tripoli in Libya. In a [statement](#) on 18 November 2017, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat strongly condemned the existence of slave markets in Libya and called for an immediate end to these practices and other criminal acts. He urged the Libyan authorities to do everything in their power to improve the conditions for African migrants and refugees on their territory.

[In a joint press release](#) on 20 November, the President of the African Union, Alpha Condé, and the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs/Vice President of the European Commission, Federica Mogherini, also [condemned these acts](#) and evoked the need for positive cooperation between concerned African countries and the UN, in order to allow for the safe return of their citizens stranded in Libya. Alpha Condé and Federica Mogherini also agreed on the need to pursue cooperation between the EU and African countries to actively fight against the traffickers' and smugglers' networks.

The slave markets were strongly condemned by the international community, with the French President referring to these acts a "[crime against humanity](#)" and the [UN Secretary General](#) commenting that, "In recent days we have been horrified by images of African migrants being sold as 'goods' in Libya." The UN Security Council called for investigations into the slave markets in Libya.

A feature article, [published by RMMS](#) in December, explored the reactions of the international community to the CNN footage and questioned whether, despite evidence of slave markets for migrants and refugees in Libya having been widely available since at least April 2017, this footage might represent a tipping point towards concerted political action and resolve to end the suffering of migrants in Libya.

Fifth AU-EU summit: The fifth African Union - European Union (AU-EU) summit took place on 29-30 November 2017 in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire. EU and African leaders gathered to define the future direction of cooperation between the two continents. Mobility and migration was highlighted as one of the four strategic priorities in the [joint declaration](#) adopted at the conclusion of the summit. EU and African leaders agreed to support the mobility of students and discussed how to tackle migrant smuggling and how to jointly address the root causes of irregular migration.

The EU and AU agreed to establish a [joint migration task](#) force with the UN, aiming to "save and protect lives of migrants and refugees, in particular in Libya, accelerate assisted voluntary returns to countries of origin and speed up the resettlement of those in need of international protection."

News, Reports, Books

J. Bergmann, J. Lehmann, T. Munsch, W. Powell (November 2017) '[Protection Fallout: How Increasing Capacity for Border Management Affects Migrants' Vulnerabilities in Niger and Mali](#)' Global Public Policy Institute, Danish Refugee Council, Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat West Africa.

This study looks into the potential benefits and risks associated with increasing capacity for border management in Niger and Mali, and proposes ways to address protection more effectively. The study focuses on Niger and Mali, where northward mixed migration movements have turned capacity building for border management into a growth industry. The report concludes that growing capacity and will to control borders in Niger and Mali has exacerbated the vulnerabilities of people on the move by pushing them onto more precarious routes and, to a lesser extent, expanding the space for their abuse and exploitation at border-crossings and checkpoints. Further, the report highlights that increasing capacities for border control can have broader negative repercussions for regional development and stability in West Africa, two factors that in themselves greatly influence migration.

S. Mercandalli, B. Losch (eds.) (November 2017) [‘Rural Africa in motion: Dynamics and drivers of migration South of the Sahara’](#) Food and Agriculture Organisation and CIRAD.

This Atlas aims to offer a better understanding of the complex rural migration patterns in sub-Saharan Africa and highlights the important role that rural areas will continue to play in shaping migration on the continent for decades to come. Through a series of maps and in-depth case studies, the Atlas explores the complexity of the interrelated causes that motivate people in Africa to leave their homes.

The Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat (RMMS) West Africa is a unit hosted by the Danish Refugee Council which aims to enhance the protection of people on the move in mixed migration flows in West Africa, including refugees, asylum seekers and migrants. RMMS West Africa distributes this summary to agencies, academic institutions, donors, embassies, journalists, government officials, international and multinational organisations and related non-government organisations. Data is sourced from a wide variety of collaborators, partners, international and local organisations, media outlets and individuals in the region. RMMS West Africa makes independent editorial decisions as to what sections and what data is included in this summary.

If you would like more information about RMMS West Africa please visit our website at www.westafrica.regionalmms.org

*The term migrant/refugee is used to cover all those involved in mixed migration flows (including asylum seekers, trafficked persons, economic migrants, refugees). If the caseload mentioned refers only to refugees or asylum seekers or trafficked persons it will be clearly stated.