

West Africa

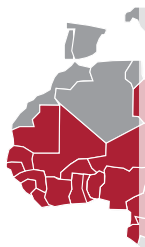
Monthly 4Mi Update

Covering data collected by 4Mi in Mali and Niger in August.
 Please visit our [website](#) or sign up to the mailing list [here](#)

Overview

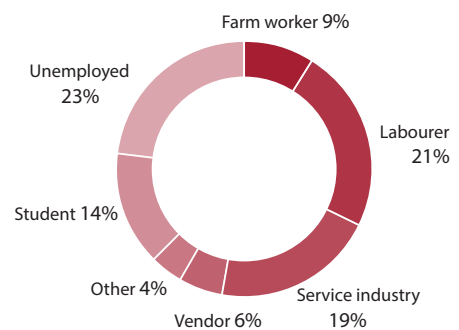
In August, the Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism (4Mi) conducted 240 in-depth interviews with migrants and refugees in West Africa, including 94 people in Agadez and Niamey in Niger, and 146 people in Mopti, Gao, Ber and Timbuktu in Mali.

Profiles



In August, 4Mi conducted interviews with 128 men and 112 women from 19 countries in Central and Western Africa and Libya, with an average age of 27 years old. Of those interviewed, 89% indicated that they had received some formal education, with 23% indicating they had primary education, 22% secondary school, 17% a university degree. The remaining indicated religious or vocational training. Prior to migrating, the majority of those surveyed were working (59%), with 23% indicating that they were unemployed when they left their country of origin and 14% indicating that they were students prior to leaving.

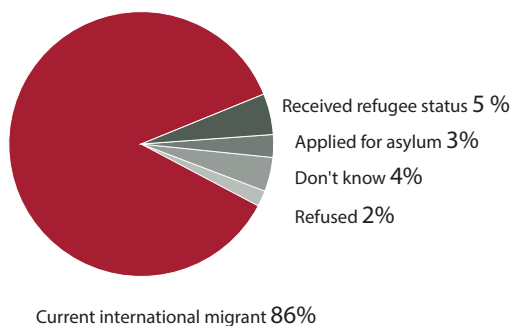
1. Employment in Country of origin



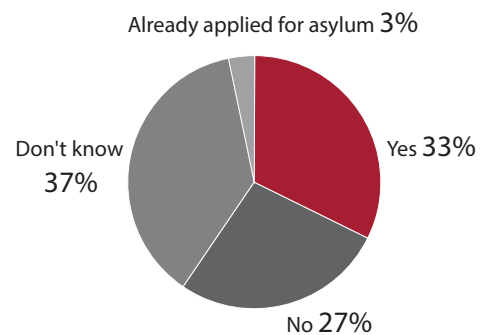
Asylum

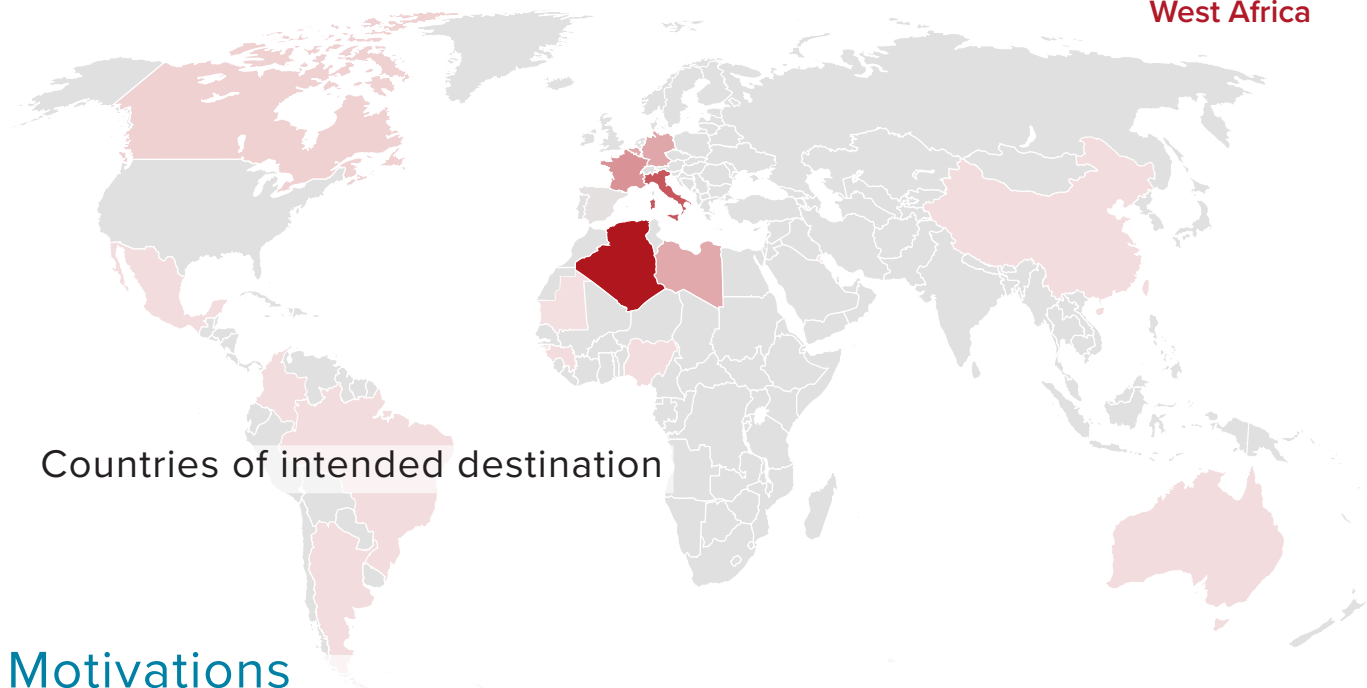
Of those interviewed, six respondents had already applied for asylum in Niger, Burkina Faso and 12 had received refugee status in Niger (7) and in Mali (5). 33% of those interviewed said that they intended to apply for asylum in their country of destination, the majority indicating Algeria. While not representative, these figures give some indication of the asylum seekers and refugees moving as part of these flows.

2. Legal Status



3. Intention to apply for asylum





Motivations

The majority of migrants and refugees indicated that economic factors were a part of their motivation for leaving their home country. 46 people reported having left their country because of violence or general insecurity, 24 of them due to the presence of armed groups, notably in Nigeria, Mali and Niger. 39 people also indicated that a lack of services and bad governance in their country had encouraged them to leave. Further, 16 people reported having left due to persecution, discrimination or lack of rights; for ethnic, religious or political reasons or because of discrimination based on sexual orientation. Finally, 47 people, of whom 28 were women, indicated that they had left for family reasons, in three cases to flee a forced marriage in Gambia, Senegal and Ghana, in six cases because of domestic violence and in five cases due to a divorce.

4. Motivations for departure



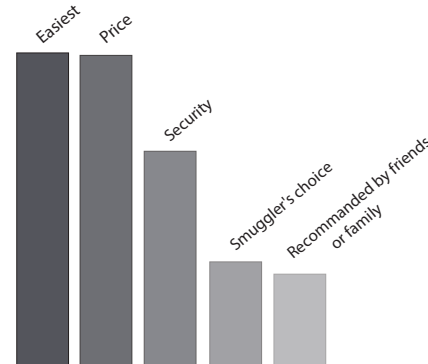
Journey

Those interviewed in August indicated different criteria for choosing their migration route including: ease of access (128), price (127), safety (88), choice of route by the smuggler (43) or recommendations from friends or family (38).

34% of respondents indicated that that had made the decision to leave on their own. The remaining interviewees said they had been influenced to migrate by different persons: 52% by friends, 33% by their parents, 31% their siblings, 20% by the diaspora.

The majority of respondents reported Europe (50%) as their desired final destination, in particular Italy (19%) and Spain (10%). 38% of migrants and refugees interviewed indicated that they want to travel to North Africa. 3% of respondents are migrating towards a west African country, and 8% of interviewed indicated other regions as preferred final destination.

5. Reasons for choosing route



Protection

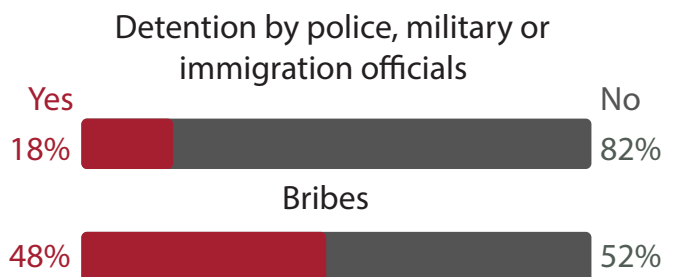
Respondents reported 46 cases of physical abuse mostly committed by smugglers (47%), security forces, police or military (18%), other migrants on the route (12%), immigration officials (8%) and single unknown individuals (8%). Most of these abuses were committed in Niger (30 cases) and Burkina Faso (7 cases). Women surveyed reported 23 cases of sexual abuse mostly committed by smugglers (26%), criminal gangs (17%), other migrants (13%) and single unknown individuals (13%). Seven cases of rape were reported in August, including four in Agadez, Niger. Respondents reported 43 cases of theft, including 25 committed in Agadez, Niger. These robberies most often concern personal belongings (36 cases), money (32 cases) and documents (21 cases). Women interviewed were more often robbed than men (26% of women against 8% of men).

18% of the migrants and refugees interviewed were detained by police, military or immigration agents in Mali (20 cases in Mopti, 8 cases in Sikasso, two cases in Gao and Bamako), in Niger (eight cases in Agadez and three in Zinder) and in Burkina Faso (three cases in Kantchari, one case in Ouagadougou and Bobo Dioulasso). 48% of respondents paid bribes to immigration officers, an average of two times during their journey and an average of 11,000 CFA francs per bribe (22 USD). The most common locations that those interviewed reported having paid bribes were in Agadez (38 cases) and Zinder (27 cases) in Niger, Mopti (26 cases) and Sikasso (18 cases) in Mali (9 cases), and Kantchari (16 cases) in Burkina Faso.

6. Protection Incidents



7. Detention and Bribes



The Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism Initiative (4Mi) is an innovative low-cost approach to collection 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 knowledge 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.

4Mi is generously supported in Mali and Niger by UNHCR

