

West Africa

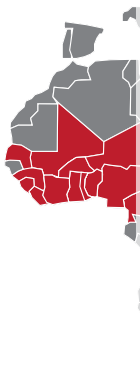
Monthly 4Mi Update

Covering data collected by 4Mi in Mali and Niger in September
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Overview

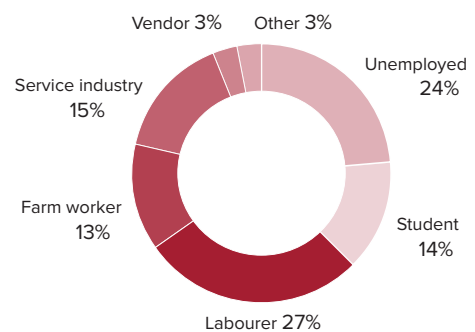
In September, the Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism (4Mi) conducted 281 in-depth interviews with migrants and refugees in West Africa, including 103 people in Agadez and Niamey in Niger, and 178 people in Mopti, Gao, Ber and Timbuktu in Mali.

Profiles



In September, 4Mi conducted interviews with 160 men and 121 women from 21 countries in Central and West Africa, with an average age of 28 years old. Of those interviewed, 91% indicated that they had received some formal education, with 33% indicating they had primary education, 20% secondary school and 20% a university degree. The remaining indicated religious or vocational training. Prior to migrating, the majority of those surveyed were working (62%), with 24% indicating that they were unemployed when they left their country of origin and 14% indicating that they were students prior to leaving.

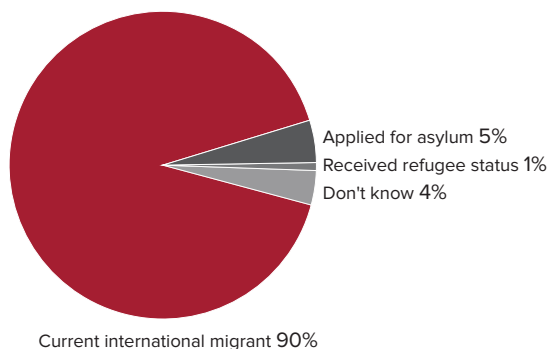
1. Employment in Country of origin



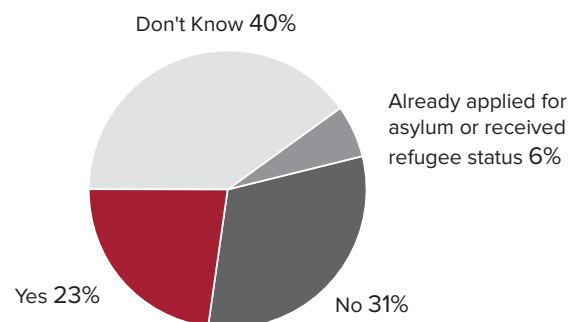
Asylum

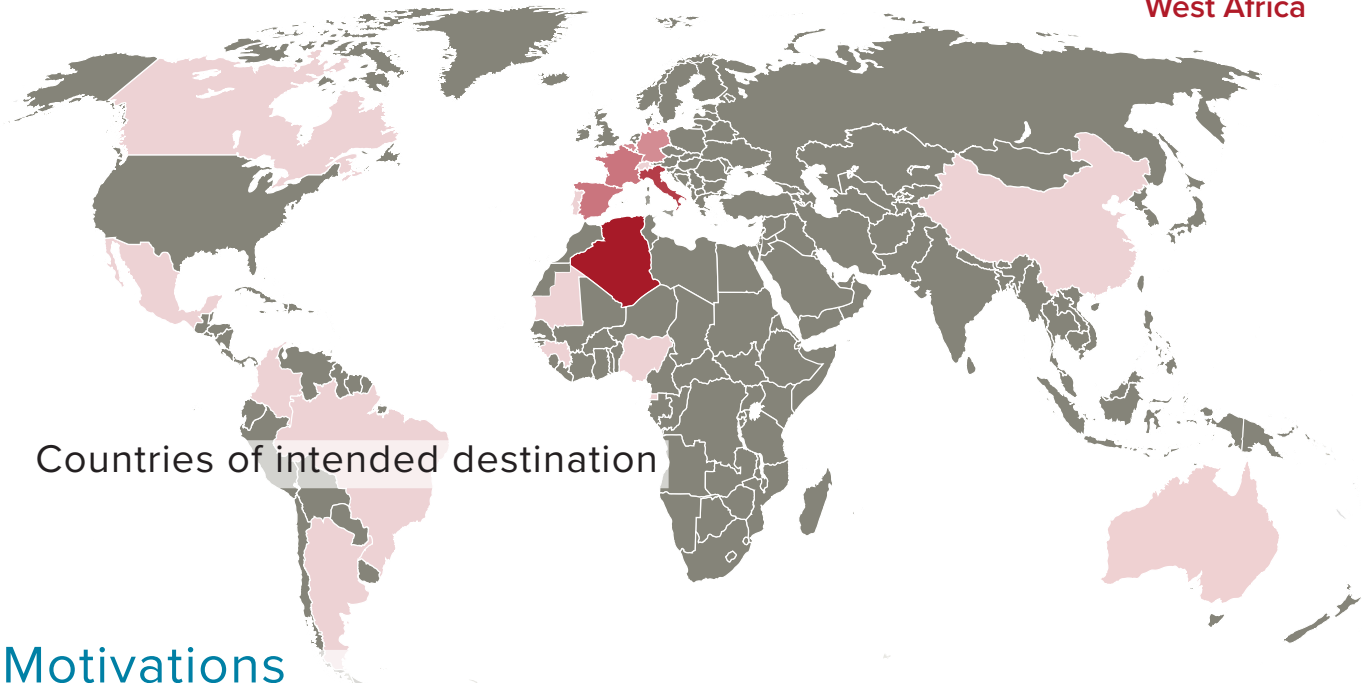
Of those interviewed, 13 respondents had already applied for asylum in Niger and Nigeria and two had received refugee status in Niger. 23% of those interviewed said that they intended to apply for asylum in their country of destination, the majority indicating that with would be in Algeria. While not 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

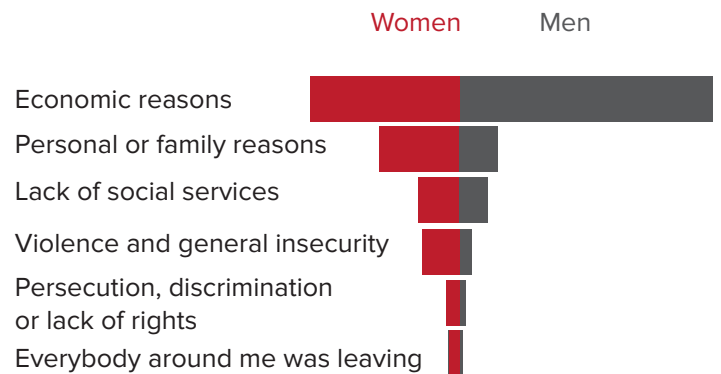




Motivations

The majority of migrants and refugees indicated that economic factors were a part of their motivation for leaving their home country. 67 people, of whom 42 were women, indicated that they had left for family reasons, in seven cases to flee a forced marriage in Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria and Cameroon, in nine cases because of domestic violence and in seven cases due to a divorce. 39 people also indicated that a lack of services and bad governance in their country had encouraged them to leave. Further, 28 people reported having left their country because of violence or general insecurity, 13 of them due to the presence of armed groups, notably in Nigeria, Mali and Niger. Finally 11 people reported having left due to persecution, discrimination or lack of rights for ethnic, religious or political reasons.

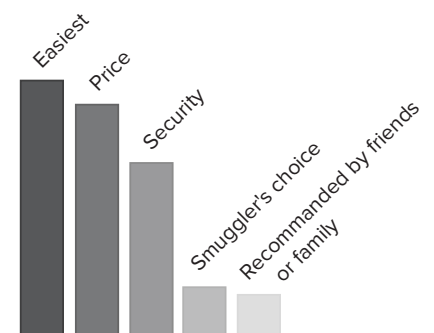
4. Motivations for departure



Journey

Those interviewed in September indicated different criteria for choosing their migration route, including ease of access (201), price (182), safety (136), choice of route by the smuggler (38) or recommendations from friends or family (32). 31% 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: 42% by friends, 16% by their parents, 21% their siblings, 11% by the diaspora, 6% by their spouse and 5% by smugglers. The majority of respondents overall reported Europe (48%) as their desired final destination, in particular Italy (19%), Germany (9%) and France (8%). However, migrants and refugees transiting through Mali reported North Africa as preferred final destination (55%), mostly Algeria (47%). 4% of all respondents were migrating towards a West African country, and 8% indicated other regions as their preferred final destination.

5. Reasons for choosing route



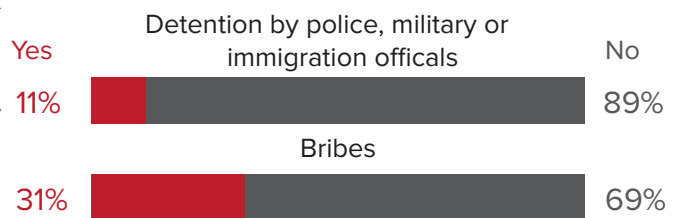
Protection

Respondents reported 59 cases of physical abuse most often committed by security forces, police or military (46%), smugglers (15%), other migrants on the route (10%), and immigration officials (10%). Most of these abuses were committed in Niger (31 cases) and Burkina Faso (19 cases). Women surveyed reported 24 cases of sexual abuse most often committed by security forces (30%), smugglers (18%), criminal gangs (18%), other migrants (17%) and single unknown individuals (17%). Seven cases of rape were reported in August, including three in Mali and two in Niger. Respondents reported 47 cases of theft, including 17 committed in Agadez, Niger. These robberies most often concerned personal belongings (33 cases), money (21 cases) and documents (15 cases). 11% of the migrants and refugees interviewed were detained by police, military or immigration agents in Mali (six cases in Mopti/Sevare, six cases in Sikasso, two cases in Bamako, Kayes and Segou) in Niger (8 cases in Agadez and three in Zinder) and in Burkina Faso (four cases in Dedougou, one in Ouagadougou, Ouahigouya, Djibo and Kantchari). 31% of respondents paid bribes to immigration officers, an average of three times during their journey and an average of 10,000 CFA francs per bribe (18 USD). The most common locations that those interviewed reported having paid bribes were in Agadez (45 cases), Niamey (25 cases) and Zinder (13 cases) in Niger, Bamako (18 cases) in Mali and Kantchari (20 cases), Dori (11 cases) and Ouagadougou (11 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

