

# West Africa

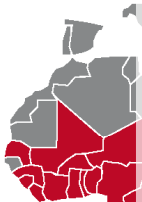
## Monthly 4Mi Update

Covering data collected by 4Mi in Mali and Niger in October  
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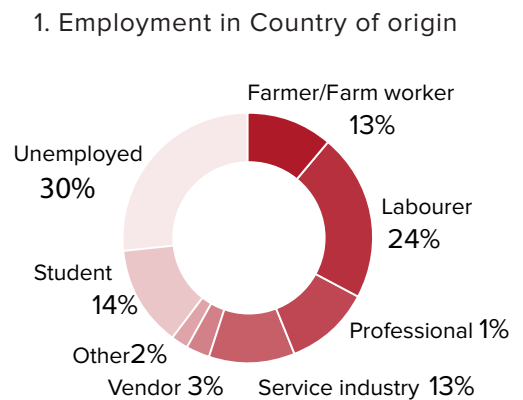
### Overview

In October, the Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism Initiative (4Mi) conducted 267 in-depth interviews with migrants and refugees in West Africa, including 91 people in Agadez and Niamey in Niger, and 176 people in Mopti, Gao, Ber and Timbuktu in Mali.

### Profiles



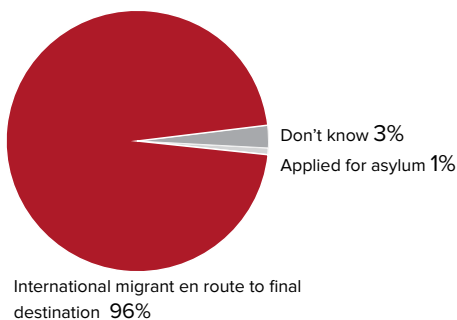
In October, 4Mi conducted interviews with 166 men and 101 women from 19 countries in Central and Western Africa, with an average age of 28 years. Of those interviewed, 89% indicated that they have received some formal education, 30% indicating they had primary education, 20% secondary school, 17% a university degree. The remaining indicated religious or vocational training. Prior to migrating, the majority of those surveyed were working (56%). 30% indicating that they were unemployed when they left their country of origin and 14% indicated that they were students prior to leaving.



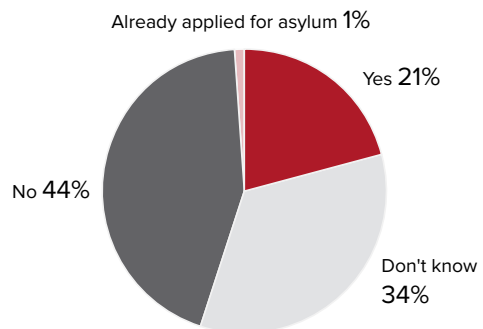
### Asylum

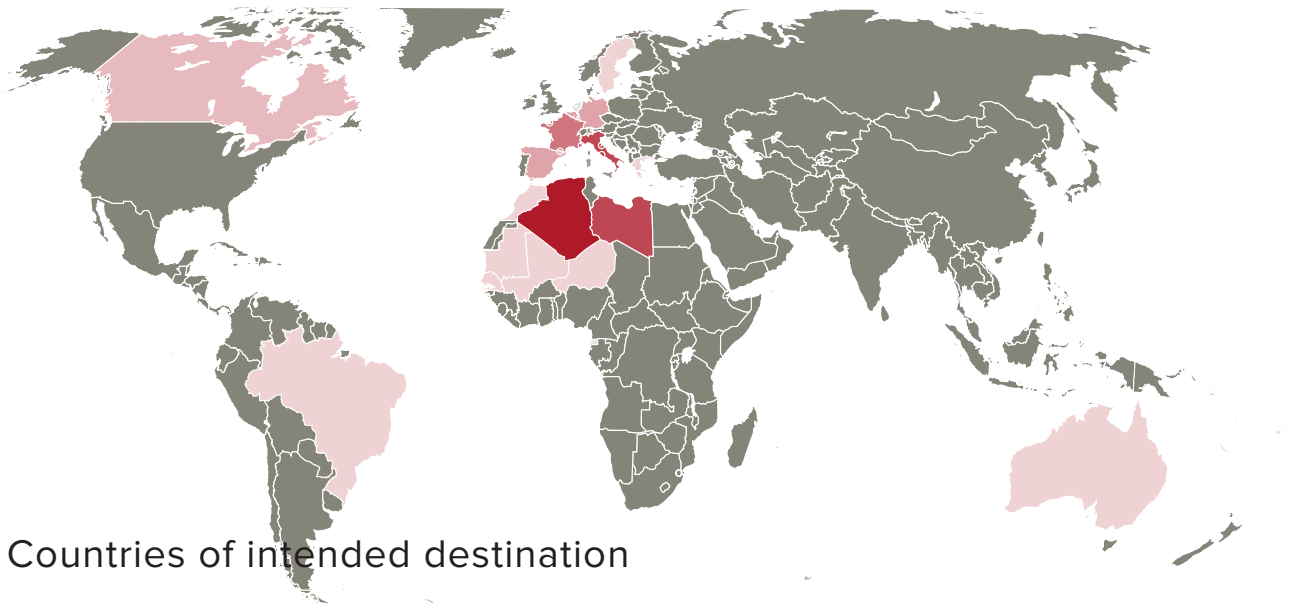
Of those interviewed, two respondents had already applied for asylum in Niger. 21% of those interviewed said that they intended to apply for asylum in their country of destination, the majority indicating Algeria.

2. Legal Status



3. Intention to apply for asylum



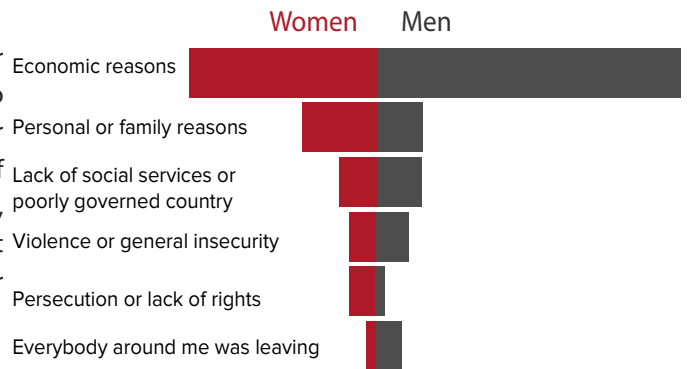


### Countries of intended destination

The majority of migrants and refugees indicated that economic factors were a part of their motivation for leaving their home country. 51 people, of whom 32 were women, indicated that they had left for family reasons, in twelve cases because of domestic violence, in four cases due to a divorce, in nine cases to flee a forced marriage in Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Gambia, Senegal and Cameroon.

35 people also indicated that a lack of services and poor governance in their country had encouraged them to leave. Further, 25 people reported having left their country because of violence or general insecurity, 10 of them due to the presence of armed groups in Nigeria, Mali and Niger. Finally 15 people reported having left due to persecution, discrimination or lack of rights for ethnic, religious or political reasons.

#### 4. Motivations for departure

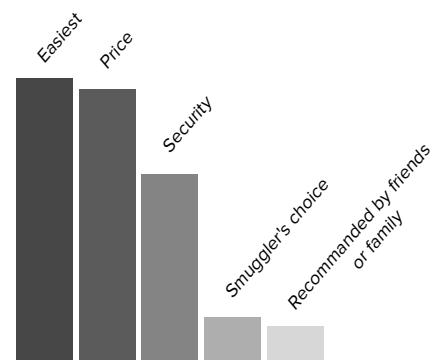


## Journey

Those interviewed in October indicated different criteria for choosing their migration route, including ease of access (182), price (175), security (123), choice of route by the smuggler (36) or recommendations from friends or family (30).

24% of respondents indicated that they made the decision to leave on their own. The remaining interviewees said they had been influenced to migrate by different persons: 58% by family (20% by parents, 19% by siblings and 19% by other family members), 46% by friends, 16% by the diaspora, 6% by their spouse and 6% by smugglers.

#### 5. Reasons for choosing route



Migrants and refugees transiting by Mali reported North Africa as their desired final destination (55%), in particular Algeria (49%). However, migrants and refugees transiting by Niger reported Europe as preferred final destination (47%), mostly Italy (30%) and Germany (9%). 4% of all respondents were migrating towards a West African country, and 6% indicated other regions as their preferred final destination.

## Protection

Respondents reported 41 cases of physical abuse, most often committed by security forces, police or military (43%), smugglers (18%) and other migrants on the route (18%), and immigration officials (10%). Most of these abuses were committed in Niger (16 cases) and Burkina Faso (14 cases).

Women surveyed reported 21 cases of sexual abuse, most often committed by security forces (29%), smugglers (19%), single unknown individuals (18%), other migrants (18%) and criminal gangs (16%). Five cases of rape were reported in October, including three in Niger and one in Mali.

Respondents reported 30 cases of theft, including 15 committed in Agadez, Niamey and Zinder. These robberies most often concerned personal belongings (24 cases), money (13 cases) and documents (three cases).

8% of the migrants and refugees interviewed were detained by police, military or immigration agents in Niger (seven cases in Agadez, six in Tahoua and for in Zinder) and Mali (three cases in Sikasso, two in Bamako and one in Sevre).

32% of respondents paid bribes to immigration officers, an average of three times during their journey and an average of 8,000 CFA francs per bribe (14 USD). The most common locations that those interviewed reported having paid bribes were in Agadez (46 cases), Zinder (22 cases) and Niamey (16 cases) in Niger, Bamako (19 cases) and Segou (six cases) in Mali, Ouagadougou (10 cases) and Kantchari (eight 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.

