

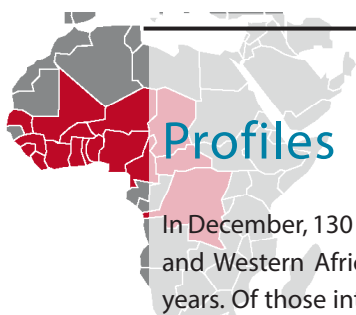
West Africa

Monthly 4Mi Update

Covering data collected by 4Mi in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger in December
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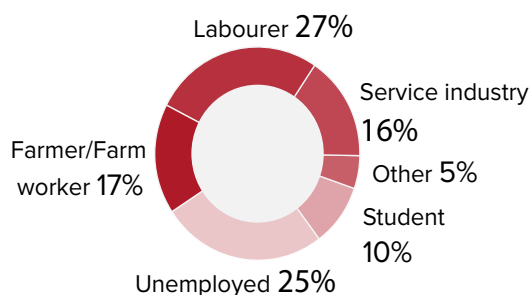
Overview

In December, the Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism Initiative (4Mi) conducted 182 in-depth interviews with migrants and refugees in West Africa, including 58 people in Dori in Burkina Faso, 44 people in Agadez and Niamey in Niger, and 80 people in Mopti, Gao, Ber and Timbuktu in Mali.



In December, 130 men and 52 women from 14 countries in Central and Western Africa were interviewed, with an average age of 28 years. Of those interviewed, 92% indicated that they have received some formal education, with 32% indicating they had primary education, 30% secondary school and 14% a university degree. The remaining indicated religious or vocational training. Prior to migrating, the majority of those surveyed were working (65%). 25% indicating that they were unemployed when they left their country of origin and 10% indicated that they were students prior to leaving.

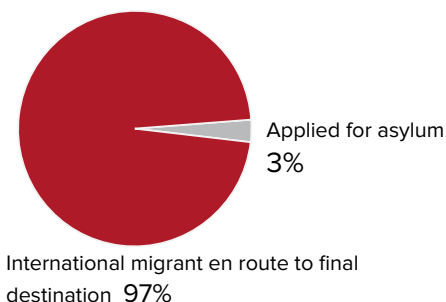
1. Employment in Country of origin



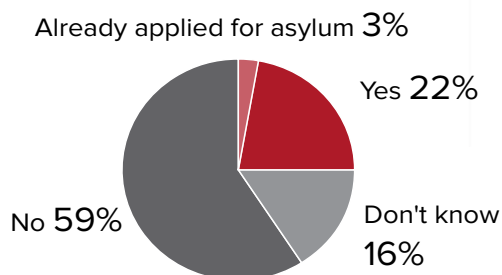
Asylum

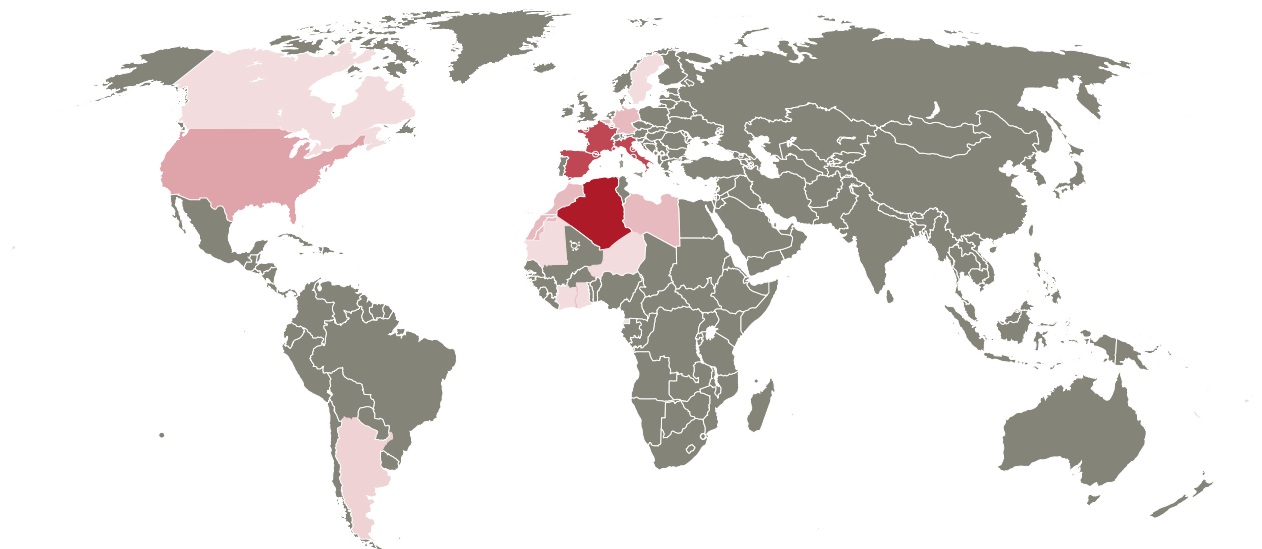
Of those interviewed, five respondents had already applied for asylum in Niger and one respondent obtained refugee status in Niger. 22% of those interviewed said that they intend to apply for asylum in their country of destination.

2. Legal Status



3. Intention to apply for asylum





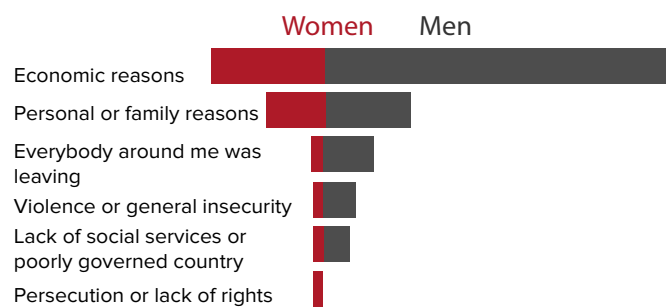
Countries of intended destination

The majority of migrants and refugees indicated that economic factors were a part of their motivation for leaving their home country. 44 people indicated that they had left for family reasons, in twelve cases because of domestic violence, in for cases due to a divorce, in three cases to flee a forced marriage in Guinea.

19 people reported having left due to numerous migration departures around them. 13 people reported having left their country because of violence or general insecurity, nine of them due to the presence of armed groups in Nigeria, Mali and Niger.

Further, 11 people also indicated that a lack of services and poor governance in their country had encouraged them to leave. 3 people reported having left due to persecution, discrimination or lack of rights for ethnic, religious or political reasons.

4. Motivations for departure

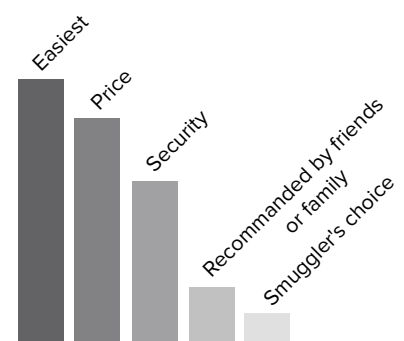


Journey

Those interviewed in December indicated different criteria for choosing their migration route, including ease of access (122), price (104), security (75), recommendations from friends or family (26) or choice of route by the smuggler (14).

41% 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: 74% by friends, 35% by parents, 23% by siblings, 15% by other family members, 11% by spouse and 20% by diaspora.

5. Reasons for choosing route



62% of migrants and refugees reported Europe as their desired final destination, mostly Italy (26%), Spain (25%), France (21%) and Belgium (7%). 32% of respondents reported North Africa as preferred final destination, in particular Algeria (80%).

Protection

Respondents reported 64 cases of physical abuse, most often committed by security forces, police or military (76%), smugglers (7%) and single unknown individuals (7%). Most of these abuses were committed on the border between Mali and Burkina Faso (15 cases), in Dori (six cases), Bobo Dioulasso (three cases) and Kantchari (three cases) in Burkina Faso, in Bamako (three cases), Gao (two cases) and Sikasso (two cases) in Mali and in Agadez (for cases) and Zinder (two cases) in Niger.

Women and men surveyed reported 12 cases of sexual abuse, most often committed by security forces, police or military in Niger and Mali. Respondents reported 12 cases of theft, including 17 committed in Agadez, Niamey, Bamako and Gao. These robberies most often concerned personal belongings (nine cases), money (nine cases) and documents (two cases).

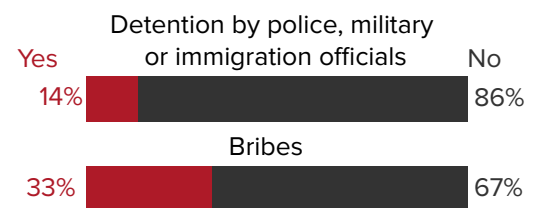
14% of the migrants and refugees interviewed were detained by police, military or immigration agents mostly in Niger (six cases in Tahoua, five in Agadez and two in Abalak), Mali (two cases in Sikasso) and Burkina Faso (two cases in Ouagadougou).

33% 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 (17 USD). The most common locations that those interviewed reported having paid bribes were Agadez (23 cases), Niamey (13 cases) and Zinder (eight cases) in Niger, Dori (22 cases), Ouagadougou (ten cases) and Kantchari (six cases) in Burkina Faso and Bamako (nine cases) and Mopti (six cases) in Mali.

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.

