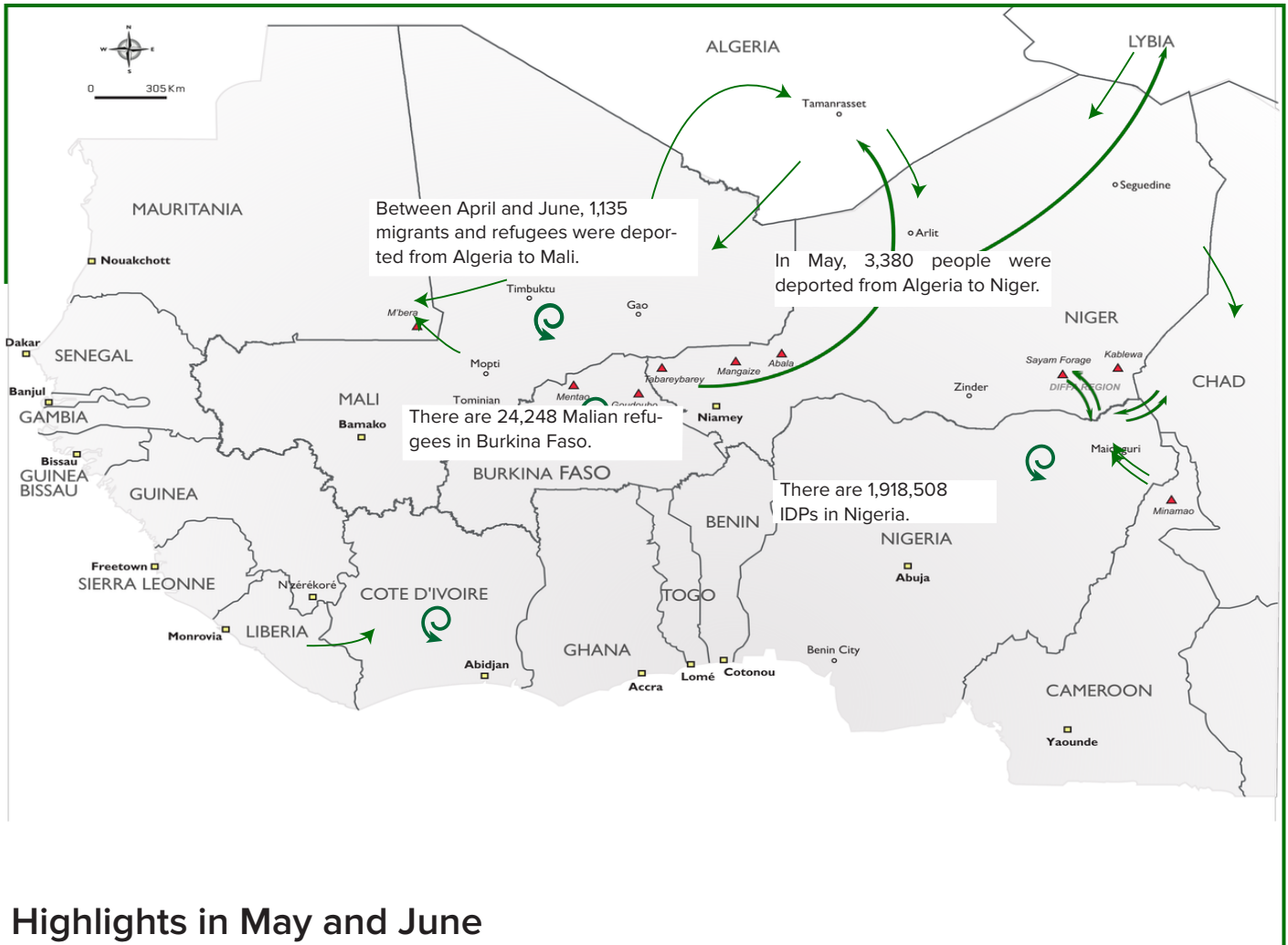


## West Africa

# Monthly Mixed Migration Summary

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

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## Highlights in May and June

- In May and June Algeria continued to expel sub-Saharan migrants to Mali and Niger. In total 12,387 people were left at the border with Niger since January, 6,423 of them were Nigeriens (52%). Since the 10th of April 1,135 West African migrants were deported by Algerian authorities to Mali.
- In May IOM launched the “Community Stabilization Initiatives in Northern Niger” (COSINN) in Agadez to respond to the pressure on Niger’s limited resources created by the important migratory flows across the country and the resulting frustrations of local communities.
- On the 29th of May EU adopted new programs and projects worth a total of €467 million under the Emergency Trust Fund for Africa in order to assist vulnerable migrants and address root causes of irregular migration.

## Burkina Faso

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**Context:** Insecurity persists in the north and in the east of the country. In May and June a [number of attacks](#) took place, including kidnappings of civilians and attacks on security forces.

**Launch of a cross-border project in Liptako-Gourma:** On the 26th of April in Dori, capital of the Sahel region of Burkina Faso, the official launch of the [cross-border project](#) “Promotion of Community Security and Social Cohesion in the Liptako-Gourma Region” (Burkina, Mali, Niger) took place. This initiative is promoted by the governments of the Liptako Gourma’s three member countries, the United Nations country teams, the civil society organizations based in these three countries and the beneficiary communities at the borders.

### Malian refugees in Burkina Faso:

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2017	32,017	32,498	32,972	33,056	33,501	<b>33,501</b>	<b>33,501</b>	<b>33,501</b>	<b>33,501</b>	24,083	23,614	<b>23,614</b>
2018	23,874	<b>23,874</b>	24,149	24,216	24,248	<b>24,248</b>						

## Cote d’Ivoire

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**Repatriation of Ivorian Refugees:** Between the 1st of January and the 31st of May 2018, a total of [1,017 Ivorian refugees](#) have been repatriated to Cote d’Ivoire with UNHCR support.

### Arrivals of Ivorians in Italy:

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2017	839	806	882	1,393	1,737	1,697	551	358	490	185	384	183	9,505
2018	180	31	29	286	266	n/a							792

### Ivorian refugees in neighbouring countries:

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June
Liberia	11,087	<b>11,087</b>	10,793	<b>10,793</b>	9,461	<b>9,461</b>
Ghana	<b>6,687</b>	<b>6,687</b>	<b>6,687</b>	<b>6,687</b>	<b>6,687</b>	<b>6,687</b>
Guinea	<b>4,577</b>	<b>4,577</b>	<b>4,577</b>	<b>4,577</b>	<b>4,577</b>	<b>4,577</b>
Togo	2,058	<b>2,058</b>	1,943	<b>1,943</b>	<b>1,943</b>	1,951
Mali	<b>614</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>614</b>	550	<b>550</b>
Total in the region	24,992	<b>24,992</b>	24,583	<b>24,583</b>	23,218	23,226

## Guinea

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**Protection of migrant children and youth:** In June 2018 the IOM and the National Directorate of Social Action (Direction Nationale de l’Action Sociale) signed a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) aiming at protecting the rights of migrant children and youth in Guinea and facilitating voluntary return of Guinean children on the move, their reintegration and access to protection services in Guinea. This decision is due to the fact that in 2017 11% of adolescents and young people under the age of 24 who travelled along the Central Mediterranean Route came from Guinea.

**Arrivals of Guineans in Italy:**

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2017	796	1,296	1,076	1,016	1,776	1,799	872	226	360	144	243	97	9,701
2018	132	45	53	174	81	n/a							485

**Mali**

**Context:** On the 29th of June the United Nation Security Council (UNSC) has unanimously approved [Resolution 2364](#), extending the mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) for one year.

With the upcoming presidential elections scheduled for the 29th of July, [intercommunal violence escalated](#) in May and continued in June in the central region of the country (Mopti) and in the border area between Niger and Mali, in the north of the country. Suspected jihadists carried out attacks targeting both government, international military forces and civilians.

People continue to flee violence in the Central and Northern Mali, according to a [report](#) released on the 14th of May by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). The organization estimates that more than 600 people have fled clashes in the villages of Anakila, Madougou-Peulh and Alajina-Peulh in the Koro area and hundreds of houses have been burned down.

An [assessment](#) conducted later the same month by the Norwegian Church Aid confirmed urgent needs for water, food, medical and psychosocial support in these regions.

On Saturday 30th of June, a vehicle with 19 dead bodies of migrants was found near Arawane, a locality in the cercle of Timbuktu. The vehicle left the Algerian town of Borj Badji Mokhtar for Timbuktu around 20th of June. The information was reported by the web portal [niarela.net](#).

**Malian arrivals in Italy:**

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2017	282	363	496	738	1,271	1,639	737	427	508	279	306	72	7,118
2018		138	60	219	188								605

**Refugees in neighbouring countries:**

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June
Niger	57,067	57,067	57,285	57,327	57,952	57,952
Mauritania	52,591	52,591	55,263	56,221	56,490	56,490
Burkina Faso	23,874	23,614	24,149	24,149	24,248	24,248

**IDPs in Mali:**

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2017	36,690	44,762	45,766	58,985	51,961	51,961	55,382	55,382	58,594	58,594	40,743	40,743
2018	47,706	47,706	50,311	50,311	61,404	61,404						

**Expulsion of migrants from Algeria to Mali:** Since the 10th of April, [1,135 West African migrants](#) deported by Algerian authorities to Mali – including 9 women and 30 children – have been assisted by IOM and the NGO ‘La maison des migrants’ in Gao, northern Mali.

## Niger

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**Context:** The government renewed on the 18th of June the state of emergency in Diffa, Tillabéry and Tahoua regions. According to the [International Crisis Group](#) (ICG), several attacks by Boko Haram and clashes between military forces and heavily armed bandits took place in the north of the country, near the borders with Chad and Libya.

**Launch of Community Stabilization Initiatives:** On the 9th of May IOM launched the “[Community Stabilization Initiatives in Northern Niger](#)” (COSINN) in Agadez to respond to the pressure on Niger’s limited resources created by the important migratory flows across the country and the resulting frustrations of local communities. The COSINN project aims to contribute to the stabilization and immediate recovery of these communities by revitalizing the local economy, improving access to basic socio-economic infrastructures, and strengthening the social cohesion among communities.

**Humanitarian repatriation:** After a two-month break, since the 10th of May UNHCR has resumed [its evacuation flights](#) from Libya to Niger. These emergency evacuation flights are part of a broader effort to address the complex movement of migrants and refugees along the Mediterranean routes, several of which converge in Libya. 132 refugees and asylum seekers reached Niger on the first flight.

**Transit Migration through Niger:** According to IOM’s [Displacement Tracking Matrix](#) (DTM) in May/June the daily average number of individuals observed at the two Niger flow monitoring points (Arlit and Séguédine) increased by 40% compared to April. Compared to the month of March and April, the outbound movement increased: 2,891 individuals transited through Arlit towards Algeria and 3,879 individuals transited Séguédine towards Libya.

**Expulsion of migrants from Algeria to Niger:** According to the Associated Press, Algeria’s [expulsion of migrants and refugees](#) continued during the reporting period, leaving them at the border with Niger with no food and water.

Human Rights Watch (HRW) interviewed people expelled from Algeria and condemned the inhumane treatment of migrants. According to [a report](#) of HRW, between the 1st January and the 18th May, IOM had rescued more than 7,000 migrants of various non-Nigerien nationalities expelled from Algeria and left at the Niger border.

According to the UNHCR, during the month of May only, [3,380 people were deported](#) from Algeria to Niger in convoys. In total 12,387 people were deported since January, including 6,423 Nigeriens (52%). According to the UNHCR, there is no reception mechanism in Assamakka (Niger), and the deported migrants often have to wait for 2 or 3 days without any food, medical assistance and shelter before their transfer to the IOM transit center in Arlit or Agadez.

**Expulsion of migrants from Niger to Libya:** On the 10th of May Niger has deported back to Libya at least 132 Sudanese refugees and asylum seekers, as reported by [IRIN news](#). According to the UNHCR those deported were part of a group of around 160 Sudanese refugees and asylum seekers arrested in Agadez on the 2nd of May. The majority fled to Niger to escape harsh conditions and treatment in Libya and were receiving assistance from UNHCR.

	January	February	March	April	May	June
IDPs	129,015	129,015	129,015	129,015	129,015	104,288
Refugees	n/a	165,972	165,972	165,972	165,972	118,868

## Nigeria

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**Context:** According to the [ICG](#), attacks linked to the tensions between herder and farmer populations increased over the reporting period, mostly in central-northern states. In addition to that, Boko Haram (BH) violence in northeast and clashes between bandits and security forces in northwest continued, resulting in over 400 killed in total.

### Arrivals of Nigerians in Italy:

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2017	483	1,204	1,472	2,094	4,033	4,832	2,199	305	478	362	587	109	18,158
2018	212	114	45	24	521	n/a							916

**Humanitarian Repatriation:** On the 5th of June [171 Nigerian migrants](#) were repatriated with the first charter flight from the Libyan city of Zintan (136 kilometers southwest of Tripoli) organized by the IOM. Among the migrants there were 75 women, seven of whom were in their early stage of pregnancy.

### Nigerian refugees in neighbouring countries:

	January	February	March	April	May	June
Chad	9,541	9,537	9,537	9,537	10,255	10,255
Niger	108,470	108,470	108,470	108,470	108,470	108,470
Cameroon	90,728	90,728	90,728	95,027	96,367	96,367

### IDPs in Nigeria:

	Jan	February	March	April	May	June
2017	1,899,830	1,899,830	1,832,743	1,832,743	1,884,331	1,825,321
2018	1,782,490	1,782,490	1,782,490	1,881,198	1,881,198	1,918,598

## Senegal

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### Arrivals of Senegalese in Italy:

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2017	431	784	700	640	1,380	899	532	139	206	75	130	84	6,000
2018	166	6	28	79	131								410

## Other Regional Information

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**Rejection of the rescue ship *Acquarius*:** In June 2018 the rescue ship *Acquarius*, operated by SOS Méditerranée and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), travelling with [630 migrants](#) rescued off the Libyan coast, was turned away from Italy and Malta. After one week in the sea and intense negotiations, the ship was eventually accepted by the Spanish authorities and docked in Valencia on the 17th of June.

**Potential set up of secure centers for migrants in EU:** After the summit held in Brussels on the 28th and 29th of June, [secure centers](#) for migrants and refugees may be set up in EU states to process asylum claims, as reported by BBC. The summit's conclusions also include a statement about the need for boats that pick up migrants in the Mediterranean to respect international law.

**Migrant deaths in the Mediterranean:** As reported by the Tunisian ministry of Defense, on Sunday 3rd of June, a boat carrying [180 migrants](#) toward Europe sunk off the coast of Tunisia near Kerkennah island. According to the Independent, at least 46 people drowned, while 68 people were rescued.

According to the [Spanish network Telesur](#) on Tuesday 19th of June two boats capsized off the Libyan coast. The first was reportedly carrying around 100 people and only 5 of them survived. The second boat was carrying around 130 passengers and only half of them survived.

On the 29th June a boat with around 120 people sank off the coast of Libya causing around 100 people missing and three babies dead. Sixteen people survived, as reported by [Daily Mail](#).

**EU Emergency Trust for Africa:** On the 29th of May EU adopted [new programs](#) and projects worth a total of €467 million under the Emergency Trust Fund for Africa. According to the European Commission through these funds “EU continues to deliver on its commitments to assist vulnerable migrants and refugees and address root causes of irregular migration”

## Reports and publications

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[Louise van Schaik, Stefano Sarris, Tobias von Lossow & Anca-Elena Ursu \(2018\) 'Climate-related security risks Policy Brief in Iraq and Mali: What the EU can do', Clingendael,](#)

In May the think tank Clingendael issued a policy brief on climate-related security risks in Iraq and Mali. A significant part of the study is dedicated to the relation between climate-related risks and migration, the integration of climatic migration into development planning and investment in the understanding of internal climate migration. The study also states that prudent management of migration could be a climate change adaptation strategy if it is accompanied by effective development policies and targeted investments.

[Maegan Hendow, Alessandra Bravi, Albert Kraler, Robtel Neajai Pailey, Bernhard Perchinig and Katharina Schaur \(2018\) 'Migrants in countries in crisis', International Centre for Migration Policy Development \(ICMPD\).](#)

On the 2nd of May the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) released the report 'Migrants in Countries in Crisis - Resilience in the Face of Adversity: A Comparative Study of Migrants in Crisis Situations'. The report presents a comparative research focused on migrants and refugees caught in situations of crisis in a destination country, looking at the longer-term socio-economic impacts of these crises on migrants,

on their families and on the countries affected by the crisis.

[Mark Akkerman \(2018\) 'Expanding the fortress. The policies, the profiteers and the people shaped by EU's border externalisation programme'. Transnational Institute.](#)

On the 11th of May the Transnational Institute has released the report “Expanding the Fortress” focusing on the EU’s policies in the area of migration management and borders externalization. This is a comparative study of 35 countries with case studies on Mali, Niger, Libya, Sudan, Mauritania and others. According to the authors, the consequences of the cooperation between the EU and Niger on the anti-migration action can have far-reaching consequences for forcibly displaced persons, the population of the Agadez region and the country’s long-term internal stability. In Mali increased border security has led to more police corruption, with vastly increasing ‘fees’ for migrants to pass police controls. The principle of free movement between ECOWAS member-states is also undermined by these interventions.

The Mixed Migration Center (MMC) 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. MMC West Africa distributes this summary to agencies, academic institutions, donors, embassies, journalists, government officials, international and multi-national 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. MMC 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 MMC West Africa please visit our website at [www.westafrica.regionalmms.org](http://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.