

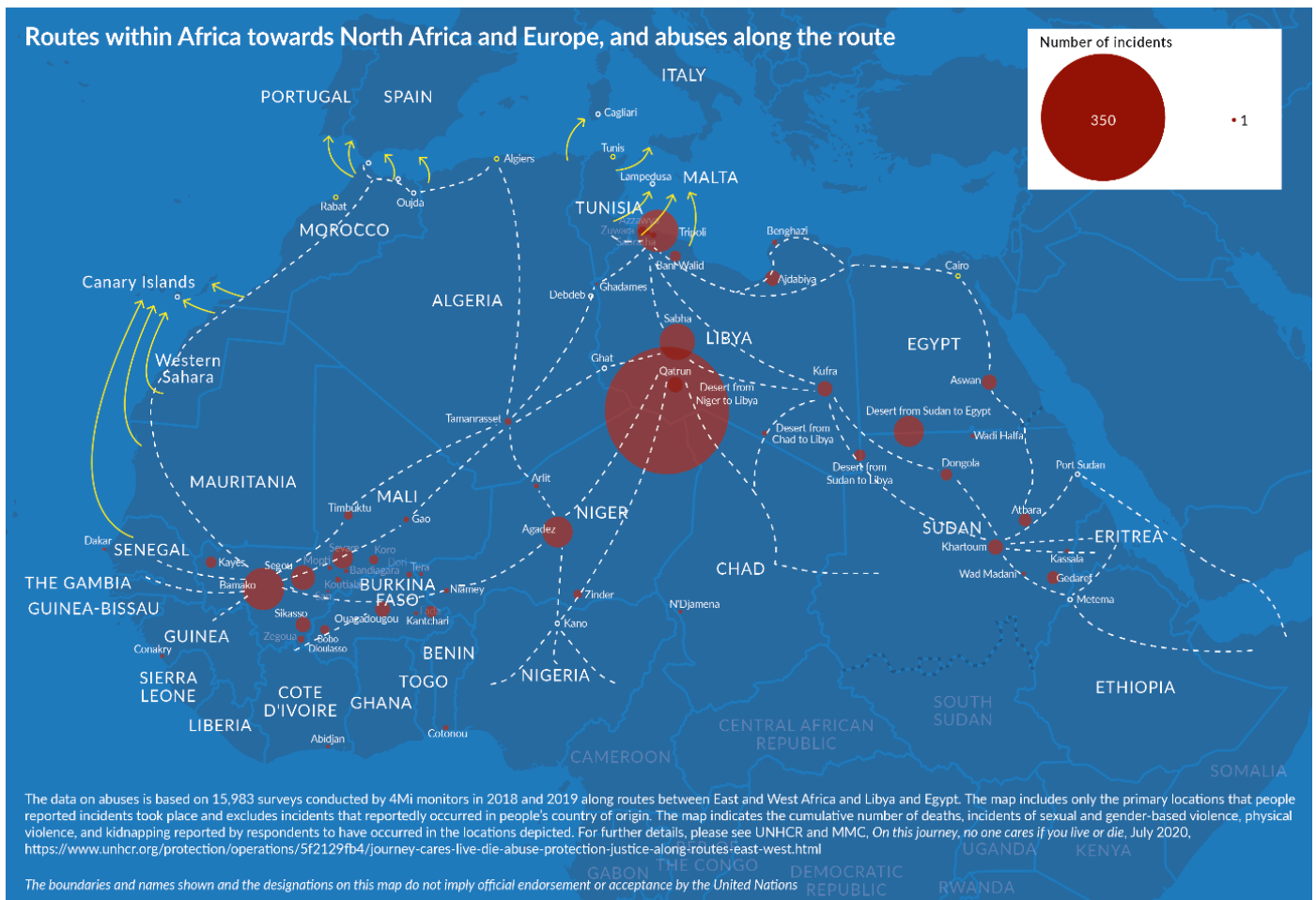
Mixed movements in West and Central Africa

August – October 2020

This update covers the period from August to October 2020 and provides a brief overview of the regional trends for West and Central Africa as well as UNHCR’s implemented activities pertaining to mixed movements across the region.

People travelling as part of mixed movements have varying needs and profiles and may include asylum-seekers, refugees, stateless persons, victims of trafficking, unaccompanied or separated children, and migrants in an irregular situation. Mixed movements are often complex and can present challenges for all those involved.

Overview of Mixed Movements



Recent mixed movements in West and Central Africa

Mali

Border monitoring, access to asylum and identification of people in mixed movements:

- From August to October 2020, UNHCR's implementing partner CIAUD-Canada has identified 1,549 persons – including 1,131 in outgoing flows and 418 in incoming flows – at the various entry points and border posts in Bamako, Segou, Mopti, Timbuktu, Gao, Ménaka and Kidal.
- Among those who arrived in Mali, 16 had been expelled from Algeria into Mali and 9 were returning voluntarily to the country from Guinea Conakry, Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire, Benin and Niger.
- A total of 24 women and 4 unaccompanied/separated children were referred to the National Directorate for Child and Family Promotion. It is important to note that no person falling under the UNHCR mandate was identified during this reporting period.

Niger

Niamey/Border surveillance

- As part of its mixed movement monitoring activities at the borders of Niger, UNHCR's implementing partner CIAUD-Canada identified 499 asylum seekers, 70 refugees in secondary movement and 7 persons at risk of statelessness.

Agadez region

- As of October 31, 2020, 1,100 people from 863 households have been registered by the authorities (DREC-M-R) and UNHCR. These persons are mainly Sudanese nationals fleeing Libya and in need of international protection and include unaccompanied or separated children.
- Of these 1,100 registered persons:
 - 671 (61%) are asylum seekers and 429 (39%) are recognized refugees in Niger or elsewhere
 - 264 (24 %) are persons with special needs 39 (3.5%) are unaccompanied and separated children some of whom were reportedly victims of exploitation, torture, and human trafficking
- 282 people of concern amongst the most vulnerable are currently housed in 5 guest houses (transit cases) managed by UNHCR where assistance was given, while the other 773 other Persons of concern are housed in a Humanitarian Center managed by UNHCR and its partners.
- For protection or health reasons, 402 persons of concern including 83 were unaccompanied minors (48% refugees and 52% asylum seekers) were transferred from Agadez to Niamey on 31 October 2020. The majority were Sudanese nationals (79 %), and of these. They are currently housed in various sites managed by UNHCR and its partners where they receive assistance.

Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM)

- During the reporting period, 59 cases which represented 79 refugees (69 ETMs and 21 Niger) were assessed and submitted to Sweden and Finland for resettlement.
- As of 31 October 2020, 3,361 people had been evacuated from Libya to Niger and 2,647 (79%) of them have been resettled since the ETM was established in 2017.

Burkina Faso

- As of 31 October 2020, 433 migrants were profiled in the three project intervention regions at the counselling centres and transit centers in Bobo Dioulassa and Dori, including 181 men, 99 women, 112 boys and 41 girls. They were mainly Burkinabe, Malians, Ivorians, Guineans and Senegalese migrants. Amongst these profiled

migrants 173 were outgoing migrants, 208 internal movements and 52 incoming migrants. The main cause reported by 163 people, a majority of whom were men, was insecurity and/or conflict in their areas of origin.

- Out of the 433 migrants, 63 were identified as victims of abuse or exploitation, among them 51 children.

Chad

- During the reporting period, 779 people were expelled from Libya to Chad. The presence of persons of concern to UNHCR was not reported.

Senegal

- Between 07 and 25 October 2020, 388 illegal migrants were intercepted at sea by the National Navy supported by the Spanish Civil Guard and 28 alleged smugglers arrested,
- On 23 October 2020, more than 100 migrants disappeared at sea following the capsizing of a boat leaving for Spain.

Impact of COVID-19 on access to territory and asylum for mixed movements

Mali – UNHCR and its border monitoring partner CIAUD-Canada continue to monitor the situation at official and unofficial entry points and transit/displacement sites. Despite August and September's socio-political crisis and ECOWAS's sanctions, the identification of persons in mixed movements and the sensitization sessions on "methods of prevention and control of the COVID -19 pandemic" for persons on the move have continued. A preparatory meeting on cross-border population movements between Mauritania and Mali was organized with UNHCR country operations in these two countries. There was no incident relating to access to territory and asylum affecting people on the move reported during the period under review.

Niger – Regarding access to territory, international air traffic resumed on August 1, 2020, but land borders are still closed, and the government renewed its restrictive measures in October 2020. The mandatory self-quarantine for travellers throughout the country had a significant impact on refugees and asylum seekers in mixed movement flows. Nevertheless, these restrictions did not hamper the ability of UNHCR and its implementing partners to carry out key activities, particularly protection case management, protection response and solutions in strict compliance with Covid-19 pandemic protocols put in place.

Burkina Faso – All thirteen (13) regions of the country and 41 health districts out of 70 are affected by the epidemic for a cumulative total of 2754 cases as of 22 November 2020. The majority of these cases are men (1810).

Senegal – Since September 2020, there has been a gradual decline in COVID19cases, which has led to a normal resumption of activities with the compliance to certain barrier measures. As reported by the Ministry of Health on October 17, 2020, there has been to this day 15,806 cases of Covid-19 infection, 15,425 cases declared cured, 51 cases under treatment and 329 deaths.

Activities in the field of mixed movements

Mali

- UNHCR participated in the national workshop for the revision of the action plan (2020-2024) of the National Migration Policy of Mali (PONAM), from 21 to 23 October 2020 in Ségou.

- An inter-regional UNHCR-IOM teleconference took place on 18 August 2020 to discuss information management and data harmonization between the two agencies.
- UNHCR organized 55 awareness-raising sessions on "asylum procedures", "the consequences of irregular migration", "the protection of persons entering and leaving mixed movement flows", "the importance of civil documentation", "the risks of forced marriage" and "the consequences of child marriages". There was 1,661 people in transit movements (inward and outward flows), including 1,065 men and 596 women that took part in these sessions.

Niger

Niamey

- The departure of 50 was organized, including 48 refugees (1 ETM and 47 Agadez) resettled to Italy and 02 refugee through complementary pathways (students visa) to France.
- The 2nd session of the National Commission for Eligibility for Refugee Status (CNE) took place, during which 72 cases were examined.
- UNHCR participated in the presentation of Niger's National Migration Policy and Action Plan. This document is important as it also considers persons of concern.

Agadez

- UNHCR organized sensitization campaigns in different sites hosting People of concern as part of its COVID-19 sensitization activities
- There was the 983 Refugees Status Determination (RSD) cases of all nationalities finalized during this reporting period.

Burkina Faso

- On 27 and 28 October 2020, a training session for state actors and partners in the Sahel region on the protection of refugees and asylum seekers in mixed migratory flows took place.
- Two training sessions on the issue of protection of refugees and other categories of migrants under the jurisdiction of UNHCR, benefiting the new local elected officials of the commune of Niankorodougou and Mangodara (new communes identified to house the two listening points) took place
- UNHCR organized 43 educational talks on the issue of identification, protection and referral of refugees, asylum seekers, IDPs and stateless persons in situations of vulnerability and exploitation of children. These various sessions reached 1,432 people (571 men, 563 women, 141 girls and 257 boys).

Chad

- The Chadian Red Cross (CRT) interviewed 2,624 people as part of mixed movements in the country's 74 main entry and exit points. Chadians represent the majority of those interviewed (51%), followed by nationals of neighboring countries such as the Central African Republic (13%), Cameroon (9%), Sudan (9%), and Nigeria (6%). Refugees and asylum seekers account for about 4% of these migration flows.
- Between August and October 2020, UNHCR's operational partner the Chadian Red Cross (CRT), organized several field visits in northern Chad, to Ounianga Kebir in the western province of Ennedi, which is part of the main migration route.

Senegal

- In the Matam Region, awareness programs on COVID-19 were broadcasted on the radio,
- On September 14 until 28 September, a joint IOM, WHO, UNFPA and UNHCR, mission took place in the 10 points of entry in the region of St-Louis. This mission was part of the border surveillance and control initiative.

- The delivery of medical equipment worth more than 23,600,000 CFA francs (USD 44,000) to the 8 isolation sites in the Matam region and the installation and equipment of an isolation site at the Ziguinchor airport took place during this reporting period

Key upcoming activities in the field of mixed movements

Mali

- UNHCR with its partner IOM, will continue working on the revision of standard operating procedures on the identification and referencing of people in mixed movements.

Niger

Niamey

- The next humanitarian corridor flight Caritas & Gandhi for about 50-60 people (recognized refugees) to Italy is planned to take place in March 2021

Agadez

- **A Joint DREC-HCR-IOM mission to the entry points** of Assamaka and Arlit is planned.

Chad

- In collaboration with the CRT (Chadian Red Cross) and the CNARR (National Commission for the Reception and Reintegration of Refugees and Returnees) UNHCR will **continue the implementation of the project to monitor protection** in mixed movements

Burkina Faso

- Profiling of vulnerable migrants with a focus on people of concern through listening points and transit centres will continue to take place
- Broadcasting of sensitization messages on mixed movements and important information through radios will continue
- Dissemination of the referral mechanism at the community level;
- Support to the community networks for the implementation of the activities of their action plan;
- Follow-up on the implementation of two new listening points.
- Strengthening the capacities of relays and members of community protection networks

Communication

- [Thousands of refugees and migrants suffer extreme rights abuses on journeys to Africa's Mediterranean coast, new UNHCR/MMC report shows](#), Press Release, 29 July 2020
- [UNHCR warns of mounting needs in Sahel as forced displacement intensifies](#), Briefing Note, 16 October 2020
- [IOM and UNHCR carry out joint visit to the Canary Islands amid increasing arrivals](#), Press Release, 16 November 2020
- [UNHCR warns 2020 risks lowest resettlement levels in recent history](#), Press Release, 19 November 2020

Financial Requirements

US\$ 479.3 million requested for UNHCR's Central Mediterranean Route Situation across the concerned regions.

US\$ 379.1 million received by UNHCR **for the Central Mediterranean Route Situation across the concerned regions.**

US\$ 11.7 million received **for the Central Mediterranean Route Situation in West and Central Africa.**

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