



Quarterly Mixed Migration Update: West Africa



This Quarterly Mixed Migration Update (QMMU) covers the West Africa (WA) region. The core countries of focus for this region are Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso and Nigeria. Depending on the quarterly trends and migration-related updates, more attention may be given to any of the countries over the rest.

The QMMUs offer a quarterly update on new trends and dynamics related to mixed migration and relevant policy developments in the region. These updates are based on a compilation of a wide range of secondary (data) sources, brought together within a regional framework and applying a mixed migration analytical lens. Similar QMMUs are available for all MMC regions.

MMC is a global network engaged in data collection, research, analysis, and policy and programmatic development on mixed migration, with regional hubs hosted in DRC regional offices in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America, and a small global team in Geneva. For more information on MMC, the QMMUs from other regions and contact details of regional MMC teams, visit mixedmigration.org and follow us at [@Mixed_Migration](https://twitter.com/Mixed_Migration)

MMC's understanding of mixed migration

"Mixed migration" refers to cross-border movements of people, including refugees fleeing persecution and conflict, victims of trafficking, and people seeking better lives and opportunities. Motivated to move by a multiplicity of factors, people engaged in mixed migration have a range of legal statuses as well as a variety of vulnerabilities. Although entitled to protection under international human rights law, they are exposed to multiple rights violations along their journey. Mixed migration describes refugees and migrants traveling along similar routes, using similar means of travel – often traveling irregularly, and wholly or partially, assisted by migrant smugglers.

Front cover photo credit:

Jean-Baptiste Joire (2017)

Women watching boats in Joal-Fadiout, Senegal, February 2017.

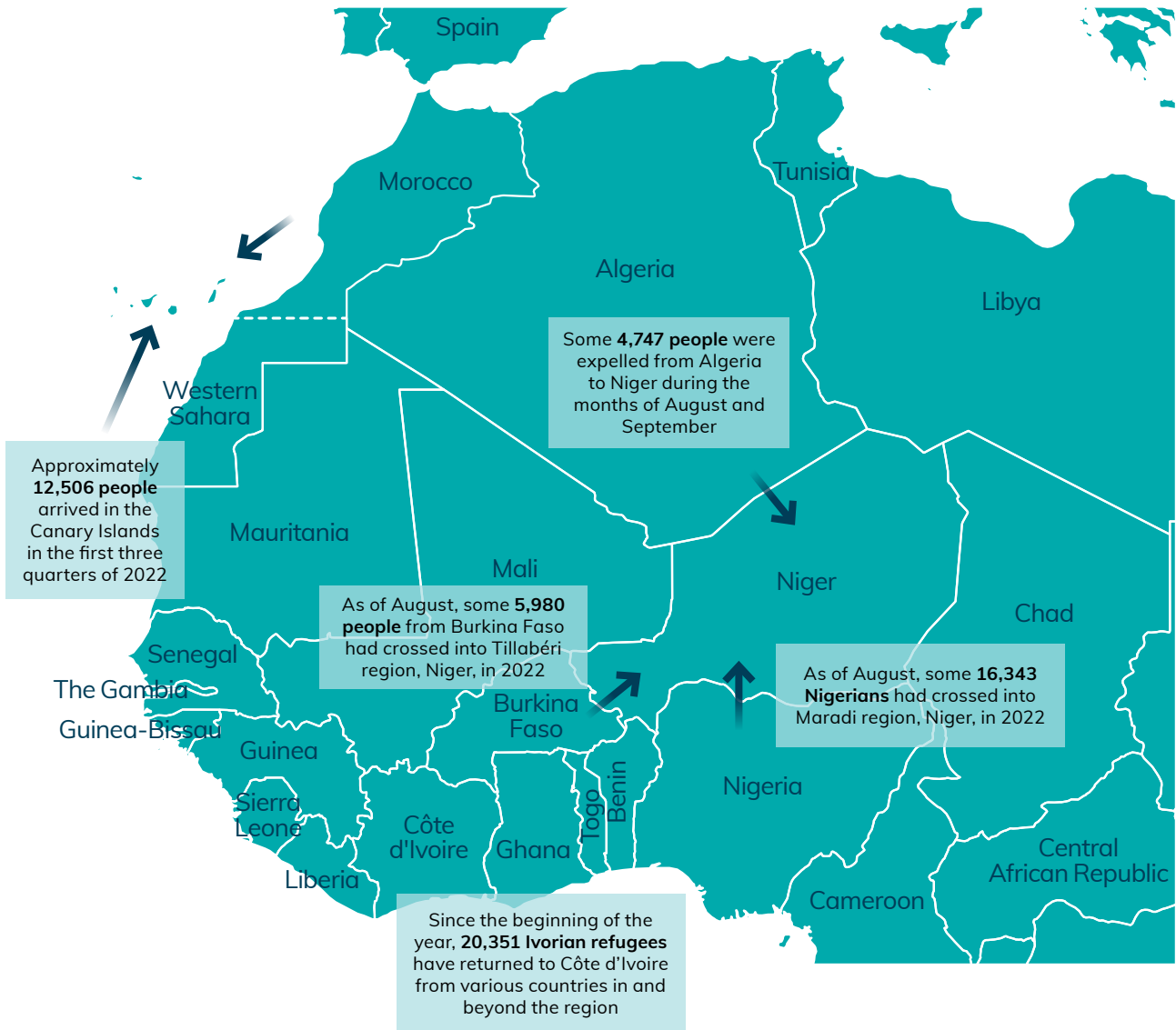
Quarterly Mixed Migration Update: West Africa

Quarter 3 - 2022

Key Updates

- **European migration cooperation with Niger:** Mid-July in Brussels, **Niger** and the **European Union** launched an [operational partnership](#) to combat migrant smuggling. Amongst other objectives, this adaptive partnership aims to build on the model of the Joint Investigation Team and implement new sensitization campaigns on the dangers of irregular migration. On the same day, a working arrangement between Frontex and EUCAP-Sahel was [signed](#) in the presence of the Minister of Interior of Niger. Another [working arrangement](#) between Frontex and Niger remains under discussion. Meanwhile, in Niamey, the **International Center for Migration Policy and Development (ICMPD)** signed a [Seat Agreement](#) with Niger, which will [help](#) to "define and strengthen the relationship between ICMPD and the government of Niger" and will assist in the development of ICMPD's interventions in Niger.
- **Pace of Canary Islands arrivals slows:** According to the Spanish Ministry of Interior, [12,506](#) people had arrived irregularly by sea in the Canary Islands from 1 January - 30 September 2022. This is a 5% reduction in arrivals so far this year compared to the same period in 2021. Notably, this quarter marks a deceleration in the pace of arrivals, as arrival figures at the end of the second quarter 2022 were [26% higher](#) than in 2021, and at the end of the first quarter they were [71% higher](#) than in 2021.
- **Expulsions to Niger continue:** The NGO Alarme Phone Sahara estimated that at least [4,747 people](#) were expelled from Algeria to Niger during August and September. About half of those who were expelled were Nigerien nationals, and the rest held different sub-Saharan African nationalities, primarily hailing from Mali, Guinea and other West African countries.
- **ECOWAS mission to Niger:** In late September, [ECOWAS](#) sent a high-level delegation to Niger to look into the situation of migrants stranded there - many of whom had been expelled from Algeria - with the aim of proposing "an appropriate recovery and reintegration plan for these migrants." The delegation issued a series of [recommendations](#), denouncing the frequent [expulsions](#) from North Africa to Niger, and underscoring the necessity for better management of migration between ECOWAS and Maghreb states. The visit follows a period of migrant [protests](#) in IOM's Nigerien [transit centers](#).

Regional Overview*



*Information on the map relates to selected updates and does not represent all mixed migration flows within and out of West Africa.

Mixed Migration Regional Updates

West Africa region

According to [UNHCR](#), from January through 24 August, some 63,326 people had crossed into **Niger** from three neighboring countries. This included 5,980 people who entered Tillabéri region from **Burkina Faso**; 27,036 people from **Mali**, of whom 9,438 crossed into Tillabéri and 17,598 into Tahoua; and 30,310 people from **Nigeria**, 13,967 of whom entered Tahoua and 16,343 of whom had gone to Maradi.

From the beginning of July to the end of August, [5,007 people](#) returned to **Côte d'Ivoire** from multiple countries in the region and beyond. This brought the total of voluntary repatriations for the year to 20,351.

Policy, diplomacy and legal updates

Frontex expansion in West Africa

A 7 June [EU action file](#) published in July by the NGO [Statewatch](#) laid out cooperation objectives for the relationship between **Frontex** and **Senegal**. It emphasized the EU's ambition to conclude a Frontex working arrangement with Senegal "as soon as possible, taking into account Senegal's wishes and feedback on on-going exchanges." This was framed as a short-term measure, with the longer-term objective being the negotiation of a status agreement to allow for [operational Frontex deployment](#). On 4 July the [Council of the European Union](#) formally authorized the opening of negotiations on a status agreement between the EU and Senegal. In an [Annex](#) to this decision posted by [Statewatch](#), the Council laid out guidelines for negotiation of such an agreement, which included seeking the right for Frontex personnel to carry service weapons in accordance with Senegalese law as well as complete immunity from Senegalese criminal jurisdiction.

The [action file](#) also identified other measures to pursue in relation to migration cooperation with Senegal. One of these – dependent on Senegal's progress on other migration objectives – was exploring the possibility of a [Talent Partnership](#) with Senegal. Such partnerships are intended to "enhance legal pathways to the EU while engaging partner countries strategically on migration management."

Key messages outlined in the [action file](#) included: the significance of Senegal as a country of departure on the Atlantic Route and the interest of the EU to provide operational support in this regard; encouragement of the Senegalese government to "identify the margins for progress in terms of readmission of Senegalese in an irregular situation in the EU;" and emphasis on the various funding frameworks that assist Senegal to address the root causes of migration.

[Statewatch](#) also published an 8 June [EU action file](#) – apparently in draft form with track changes still visible – regarding objectives for enhancing cooperation between **Frontex** and **Mauritania**. Seemingly reflecting a less advanced state of cooperation than with Senegal, the document sought "an overall strengthening of the EU's relations with Mauritania on all aspects of migration and mobility." Specific objectives also included the conclusion of a working arrangement and eventually the negotiation of a status agreement. The stated objectives of a potential status agreement would be to prevent irregular departures and address cross-border crime connected to irregular migration, and enhance a human rights-based approach. The

[Council of the European Union](#) gave its approval for the commencement of negotiations for a status agreement with Mauritania on 4 July.

As in the Senegal document, this [action file](#) spoke specifically of providing support in deterring departures to the Canary Islands. It also welcomed the progress already made in this regard, while underscoring that Mauritania remains the second most significant country for departures towards the Canary Islands.

On 20 September, Frontex officially opened a risk analysis cell in [Nouakchott, Mauritania](#). Earlier in the quarter (6 July) it opened a risk analysis cell in [Lomé, Togo](#), and one was also launched in [Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire](#) at the end of June. These risk analysis cells join those already created in the Gambia, Ghana, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal as part of the [Africa-Frontex Intelligence Community](#) (AFIC), a network for capacity building and information exchange in relation to smuggling and cross-border crime. According to Frontex, the aim of the cells is to support border management objectives through the gathering and analysis of data on subjects such as irregular border crossings, document fraud and human trafficking. Information is [shared](#) between Frontex and national authorities with the goal of realizing effective responses to cross-border crime.

Migration cooperation between Niger and Europe

In mid-July, **ICMPD** signed a [Seat Agreement](#) with **Niger** – making it the third country in West Africa (along with Ghana and Nigeria) to have such an agreement. According to the [ICMPD](#) Project Manager for West Africa, “this agreement aims to define the framework of the relationship between the ICMPD and the government of Niger in order to work to resolve the difficulties posed by the migration phenomenon at the level of the Niger territory.” He noted that this new step in the cooperation between Niger and ICMPD was due to the willingness of the Nigerien authorities to work to counter irregular migration. ICMPD’s Director General explained that the agreement will give ICMPD recognition as an international organization working on migration and will help develop its interventions in Niger. ICMPD and Niger already have a history of [collaboration](#), including on anti-trafficking and in the context of the Rabat Process.

Also in mid-July, **Niger** and the **European Union** launched an [operational partnership](#) to combat migrant smuggling. It will build on the model of the Joint Investigation Team (JIT) which fosters cooperation between Nigerien and European authorities on anti-smuggling operations, also “strengthening links with other operational activities in the region to address migrant smuggling.” Under the partnership, new information and sensitization campaigns on irregular migration will be implemented. The EU press release on the partnership also refers to two working arrangements with Frontex. One, between Frontex and Niger, remains under discussion. Its objective would be to improve risk management and assessment on the part of Nigerien authorities to better manage migration and address cross-border crime. The other, between Frontex and [EUCAP-Sahel](#), was [signed](#) on the same day in the presence of the Minister of Interior of Niger, and is seen as a measure which “will now formalize existing cooperation” between the two bodies. Specifically, this [working arrangement](#) seeks to strengthen border management structures and target human smugglers and traffickers.

According to Niger's Interior Minister, the operational partnership is in line with Niger's National Migration Policy and can help to achieve Niger's objective to "improve living conditions for migrants and their host communities." The [EU press release](#) also states that the operational partnership will be complemented by activities which aim to foster economic development and access to quality public services. For her part, the EU Commissioner for Home Affairs said:

“Together, we will do all we can to save migrants' lives and prevent violations of their rights, strengthen the management and security of borders, dismantle the criminal networks that are responsible for smuggling and offer genuine economic alternatives to people seeking a better life in Niger.”

Counter-trafficking cooperation between Niger and Morocco

On 1 August, **Niger** and **Morocco** signed a [memorandum of understanding](#) intended to strengthen their cooperation in combatting human trafficking. The agreement was signed by Morocco's *Commission nationale de coordination des mesures de lutte et de prévention contre la traite des êtres humains* (National Commission for the Coordination of Measures to Combat and Prevent Trafficking in Human Beings) and Niger's *Commission nationale de coordination de lutte contre la traite des personnes et le trafic illicite de migrants* (National Commission for the Coordination of Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants) and *Agence nationale de lutte contre la traite des personnes et le trafic de migrants* (National Agency for Combating Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants). The [collaboration](#) is meant to facilitate an exchange of experience and best practice in this area.

Mixed migration from West Africa towards North Africa and Europe

Western Mediterranean and Atlantic Route

According to the [Spanish Ministry of Interior](#), as of 30 September, 23,197 refugees and migrants had arrived irregularly in Spain via land and sea in 2022. This was a decrease of 19% in year-to-date arrivals compared to 2021, making Spain the only portal to Europe that showed a [reduction](#) in arrivals to date in 2022. This is largely accounted for by reductions in arrivals along the Western Mediterranean Route, as arrivals to the Canary Islands had only decreased slightly ([5%](#)) compared to 2021.

Data from the end of the quarter show that the rate of arrivals in the Canary Islands has been slowing. At the end of the third quarter of 2022, Canary Islands arrivals stood at [12,506](#), comparable to those seen at the end of the third quarter in 2021 (13,118). By contrast, arrival figures at the end of the second quarter 2022 were [26% higher](#) than in 2021, and at the end of the first quarter they were [71% higher](#) than in 2021.

Some [sources](#) have attributed this decline to increased migration cooperation on the part of Morocco following a [resumption](#) in diplomatic relations between Morocco and Spain earlier in the year. Late August reporting from [El Pais](#), on the other hand, points to only a 6% increase in the deterrence of boat departures from Morocco compared to 2021. Nonetheless, greater effort has been shown on the part of Moroccan

authorities to combat irregular migration in and through its territory. A [Canary Islands official](#), quoted in El Pais, has noted a “change in attitude” on the part of the Moroccan government, stating that “Rabat monitors more, harasses more, detains more on land especially because before it hardly did anything despite the existing agreement.”

The Atlantic Route to the Canary Islands remains extremely dangerous, as illustrated by shipwrecks and deaths at sea spanning the northwest African coast from [Senegal](#) to [Morocco](#). In spite of a reduction in deaths and disappearances estimated by the NGO Caminando Fronteras in the first half of 2022, some [800](#) people lost their lives on this route from January to June.¹ Canary Islands government estimates, reported by [El Pais](#) in early September, put the number at around 1,000. This article also highlighted that in 2022 the principal means of transport to the Islands was inflatable boats, largely replacing sturdier wooden boats. More vulnerable to rough sea conditions and overcrowding, these boats increase the danger of the route, and they correspond with an increase in [shorter journeys](#) departing from Morocco and the north of the disputed territory of Western Sahara² towards the islands of Lanzarote and Fuerteventura.

In terms of profiles on the route, officials in the Canary Islands have noted that as of late August/early September, the majority of arrivals to the islands in 2022 continue to hail from [sub-Saharan Africa](#), particularly Mali, Senegal and Côte d’Ivoire. Roughly [45%](#) of arrivals this year are Moroccan. A 21 September [tweet](#) from an [advisor](#) to the vice-presidency of the Canary Islands Government also pointed out that in recent weeks there had been a greater diversity of nationalities seen among people rescued at sea on this route, with one boat carrying people from eleven different countries. Women and minors have made up nearly [one-third](#) of arrivals.

Expulsion of Ivorian citizen from the Canary Islands

In September, an Ivorian national, age 23, was said to have been expelled from the Canary Islands to Morocco. The NGOs Caminando Fronteras and Coordinadora de Barrios issued a [statement](#) condemning this case. The two NGOs stated that the authorities had rejected attempts by the Ivorian’s lawyer to meet with him in the days preceding the deportation. They also reported that the young man was fearful after he had been told by the police that he would not be returned to his country and that the Ivorian Embassy had accepted his expulsion to Morocco. According to a later clarification by the [Superior Court of Justice](#) of the Canary Islands, the plane made a [stopover](#) in Casablanca to discharge deportees from Morocco, and then took the Ivorian citizen to Côte d’Ivoire.

Deportations from the Canary Islands to Morocco [resumed](#) in late March following the diplomatic rapprochement between Spain and Morocco. While Morocco has previously [resisted](#) pressure to receive deported third-country nationals, a 15 August article from [El Pais](#) cited Spanish sources which hinted at a greater willingness to do so following their resumption of relations with Spain.

Young migrant woman from sub-Saharan Africa shot by Moroccan authorities

In September Caminando Fronteras was joined by eight other NGOs in denouncing the reports of Moroccan gendarmes [shooting](#) at migrants bound for the Canary Islands in an attempt to prevent the migrants from boarding an inflatable boat on Morocco’s southern coast. This [group](#) was comprised of 29 people from

¹ As compared to [1,922](#) in the first half of 2021.

² Western Sahara has been on the United Nations list of Non-Self-Governing Territories since 1963.

sub-Saharan Africa and six from Morocco, among whom were 15 women and two children. One young woman was killed in the gunfire, and others were injured, three seriously. Additionally, several young men were hit by a car as they fled the shooting.

The [Moroccan government](#) had not confirmed the incident several days after it occurred, but [Infomigrants](#) reported that a local Moroccan [media source](#) framed the incident as “warning shots” fired in order to halt a human smuggling operation. In their [statement](#), the nine NGOs point to the “absence of control and supervision mechanisms for police actions,” which “perpetuates the impunity of the use of force against communities on the move,” while highlighting the context of European and Spanish migration externalization in which this incident occurred.

This comes just a month and a half after the tragedy³ in which dozens of migrants died attempting to enter the Spanish enclave of Melilla from Morocco, amidst reports of [excessive force](#) on the part of Moroccan border authorities.⁴ It also recalls a 2018 [incident](#) in which the Moroccan navy opened fire on a migrant boat attempting to reach Spain via the Strait of Gibraltar, killing one young Moroccan man and injuring three other passengers.

Interception and arrests en route

Migration deterrence on the part of Morocco has [ramped up](#) since its resumption of diplomatic relations with Spain, and other African countries also continue to play a role in patrolling on land and sea along the Atlantic route. In early August the [Mauritanian coast guard](#) intercepted a boat carrying approximately 140 migrants of sub-Saharan African origin who were taken to the northern coastal city of Nouadhibou. According to a security source quoted in El Pais, the boat was running out of fuel. Just a few days later the [Senegalese gendarmerie](#) arrested 143 people south of Dakar who were about to embark for the Canary Islands. Most of the would-be migrants were Senegalese, and 57 were of other nationalities. They had each paid 300,000 CFA (approximately \$440) to make the trip.

Central Mediterranean Route (CMR)

As of 2 October, [UNHCR](#) data showed 71,381 irregular sea arrivals in Italy in 2022, an increase of 53% over the same period in 2021. As of 31 August, only two West African countries were among the top 10 nationalities of arrival: Côte d'Ivoire (3%) and Guinea (2%). This shows a slight decrease over the same period in 2021, in which Ivorians accounted for 7% of arrivals and Guineans for 4%. Other main nationalities of arrival hail from North Africa and the Horn of Africa, as well as Asia.

These numbers reflect only the people who arrived in Italy, not those who set off from the North African coast and were lost at sea or returned to North Africa. Notably, an [analysis](#) of data on interceptions at sea from 2021 identified that some nationalities – among them Malians – appear to get turned back at sea more frequently than others, perhaps because the smuggling networks they tend to make use of are less effective.

³ For more information on the aftermath of this incident, see [MMC North Africa Q3 2022 OMMU](#).

⁴ See for instance comments from the Melilla regional president as reported by [Reuters](#) and the [report](#) on the incident by the Association Marocaine des Droits Humains.

In early July, the government of Mali confirmed that [22 of its citizens](#) had died – some of dehydration, some of drowning – following nine days at sea in a rubber dinghy. This death toll included three children. Sixty-one survivors of this disaster – the majority also from Mali – were returned to Libya. According to the spokesperson for IOM, as reported in [InfoMigrants](#), survivors with medical needs were taken to the hospital, and the rest were taken to Al Maya detention center. Further south along the CMR, IOM has also noted a substantial increase in the number of people traveling through Mali and Niger during the first quarter of 2022 as compared to the corresponding period in recent years.

Southbound mixed migration

Search and rescue

In September, [50 West Africans](#) who had been stranded in the desert near Dirkou, **Niger**, were found and brought to safety by IOM. The group, which was described by IOM as “vulnerable and in distress,” comprised 49 Nigerians and one Cameroonian, and included women and children. The [majority](#) had been returning from Libya, though some were en route there and had run out of resources to continue the journey. The group was ultimately flown to Agadez to be accommodated in the reception center there.

Earlier in the quarter, on 6 July, IOM and the Civil Protection Agency of Niger rescued [44 people](#) who had been stuck in the desert for two days after their driver abandoned them following a vehicle breakdown. This group included people from different West African states, among whom were twelve women and three girls. IOM reported that most of this group still wished to continue their journey to Libya.

Returns and evacuations within and to the West Africa region⁵

Emergency Transit Mechanism

At the end of September, [179 asylum seekers](#) were evacuated from Libya to Niger under UNHCR’s Emergency Transit Mechanism. Since 2017, 3,425 people have been evacuated to Niger under this program.

Assisted Voluntary Returns

Substantial returns of Malian citizens [continued](#) in the third quarter with IOM supporting the **Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR)** of at least 706 people from **Niger** to **Mali** on flights taking place on [5 July](#), [19 July](#), [26 July](#), [29 July](#) and [10 August](#).

Returns to **Niger** also took place during the quarter, with at least [204 Nigerien citizens](#) supported to return from **Chad** in August.

In [mid-July](#), IOM assisted 29 citizens of the **Gambia** to return to their country from **Niger**. In early [August](#), it supported the return of 14 more Gambians from Niger, one from **Mali** and 142 from **Libya**.

⁵ This overview does not necessarily capture all return activity within the region.

During the quarter, multiple assisted return operations took place between **Libya** and **Nigeria**. Some 492 Nigerians returned on charter flights taking place on [20 July](#), [27 July](#) and [16 August](#). The flights included men, women, boys and girls, among whom were people with medical issues. As of mid-August, IOM had facilitated [twelve](#) such flights to Nigeria carrying [2,044 people](#) during the course of the year.

Expulsions from Algeria

During the quarter, multiple waves of expulsion of refugees and migrants took place from **Algeria** to **Niger**, with the NGO Alarme Phone Sahara (APS) estimating that at least [4,747 people](#) were expelled during August and September.

“Official convoys” of Nigeriens

In early September, some [847 people](#), primarily from Niger, were deported from Algeria and brought to Agadez. This group included 40 women and 74 unaccompanied minors; the latter group was taken charge of by the [Direction régionale de la promotion de la femme et de la protection de l'enfant](#) (Regional Directorate for the Promotion of Women and Child Protection) which will ultimately help return them to their homes. APS published slightly lower numbers ([822](#)) for this convoy, and also documented the expulsion of 736 Nigeriens on 16 August and 1,016 Nigeriens on 19 September.

“Unofficial convoys” of non-Nigeriens

On [17 September](#), a group of some [669 people](#), almost all from West and Central Africa, arrived on foot in the northern Nigerien town of Assamaka after they had been left in the [desert](#) near the Algeria-Niger border – the typical modus operandi for the expulsion of non-Nigeriens. The [group](#) was primarily comprised of Malians (286) and Guineans (166), and in addition to a variety of other West African nationalities, it included nationals of Sudan, Chad, Mauritania and Cameroon. There were also [14 women and five children](#) among those who were expelled. APS also documented similar [expulsions](#) occurring earlier in the quarter: 730 people on 14 August and 774 people on 2 September.

Protests at transit centers in Niger

According to reporting in [Senemedi](#), in mid-August, several human rights organizations in Senegal raised concerns about the situation of 115 Senegalese citizens who were expelled from the Maghreb and stranded in Niger. They called on the government of Senegal, in partnership with IOM, to take rapid action to ensure their return. The issue was also raised by a Member of Parliament who sent a letter to the Secretary of State for Senegalese Abroad seeking a solution to the situation. APS reported that on 19 September, more than [100 Senegalese migrants](#) who were registered at the IOM transit center in Agadez began a protest march from Agadez to Niamey. Protesters cited numerous scheduled return dates which were canceled at the last minute.

A 22 September [IOM news update](#) cited airline-related delays in relation to this return, and noted that “in some cases, government-specific administrative procedures require the postponement of voluntary return dates for migrants.” It underscored the fact that every return process requires approval from the countries of origin and destination, as well as countries through which a return flight will pass.

APS also documented [protests](#) on 27 and 28 August at the IOM transit centers in Agadez and Arlit, comprising migrants of various nationalities demonstrating against poor living conditions and a lack of progress on their return home. Among the expressions of protest and advocacy raised by [civil society](#) and by [migrants](#) themselves have been calls for countries of origin, ECOWAS, IOM and [donor states](#) to better support and assist stranded migrants in full dignity.

ECOWAS high-level mission to Niger

In late September, [ECOWAS](#) sent a high-level delegation to Niger to look into the situation of stranded migrants, with the aim of proposing “an appropriate recovery and reintegration plan for these migrants.” The delegation comprised representatives from the majority of ECOWAS states. It began its mission by visiting the IOM transit center in Agadez as well as meeting with local authorities, who also came to inquire into the situation of migrants staying in the transit center. Additionally, the visit to Niger included a roundtable between IOM, ECOWAS, officials from its most affected member states and representatives of Niger to strategize on durable and effective means of supporting stranded migrants and assisting their return and reintegration.

According to an overview of the [mission](#) published on the ECOWAS website, “the high-level ECOWAS mission comes at the heels of the report of IOM, brought to the attention of the ECOWAS Commission, of the mass expulsions of ECOWAS citizens, mainly from Algeria to Niger.” As reported by [France24](#), IOM has indicated that more than 80% of the people currently hosted in their Agadez transit center were expelled from Algeria. IOM’s data indicates that between September 2017 and July 2021, [41,193](#) migrants and refugees were expelled from Algeria to Niger, which according to ECOWAS is putting “enormous pressure on the Government of Niger and IOM to manage the safe migration of these migrants in transit.”

At the end of the mission, the participants issued a [communiqué](#) which denounced the frequent expulsions, and underscored the necessity of improving management of migration between ECOWAS countries and Maghreb states. As reported by [Le Sahel](#), it outlined multiple recommendations, calling on governments and development partners to promote “migration with a human face.” It urged the creation of legislation which could support good migration governance and called for enhanced cooperation between technical services at the national and international level. The mission encouraged relevant actors to identify and refer persons in need of international protection, and to improve return and reintegration of migrants through humanitarian actions. It advocated for ECOWAS, through its MIDWA platform for migration dialogue in West Africa, to support member states in managing migration with the Maghreb. It also called on the Maghreb and other states to avoid the forced return of persons in need of protection.

Highlighted New Research and Reports



[Northwest African \(Atlantic\) Route – Migrant Smuggling from the Northwest African coast to the Canary Islands](#)

UNODC Observatory on Smuggling of Migrants | July 2022

Given the considerable increase in arrivals on the Canary Islands since 2020, with this study UNODC sought to identify the characteristics of migrant smuggling from the North and West African coasts of Africa toward the Canary Islands. Conducted in November 2021 and published in July 2022, the research is presented as an interactive StoryMap providing an overview of the profile of migrants and smugglers as well as the overall migratory experience on this route. Over 40 interviews conducted with migrants and key informants supported and complemented findings from a variety of secondary sources. The StoryMap is grounded in a comparison of migration routes and trends over the past decades. It offers an analysis of drivers of migration and smuggler use, journeys, smugglers' modus operandi, smuggling fees and smugglers' incomes, and risks and abuses encountered on the route.



[Migrant Smuggling from Nigeria - Research Findings on Migrant Smuggling of Nigerians](#)

UNODC Observatory on Smuggling of Migrants | September 2022

In September UNODC published another StoryMap, this one focusing on smuggling of Nigerians to and through West and North Africa, and to southern Europe, seeking to provide an overview on the particularities in this case. In addition to secondary sources, it bases its analysis on 198 in-depth qualitative interviews with key informants and Nigerian migrants and 746 quantitative surveys with Nigerians on the move carried out by MMC's 4Mi program. This StoryMap focuses on similar themes to those outlined above, and also examines responses to smuggling on the part of Nigerian authorities.



The Price to Stay – Generation Africa

ARTE.tv | July 2022

This 35-minute documentary tells the story of Paabie, a 23-year old Gambian returning home after his second failed attempt to reach Europe through the “backway” (ie irregularly). While primarily focusing on his experience of reintegration, the documentary also grounds his migration attempts in the social dynamics of his home, showing how the hopes and needs of his family served as an important motivating factor driving him to migrate in the first place. It follows Paabie as he seeks to navigate the bureaucratic demands of a reintegration assistance program while at the same time balancing the expectations of his family and his own desires. As Paabie struggles to start a business, the film demonstrates the tensions that can exist between these official reintegration programs and the realities of life for a returnee. Despite the lingering traumas of his previous migration attempts, the documentary ends with Paabie getting on a bus to try and make the journey once again.



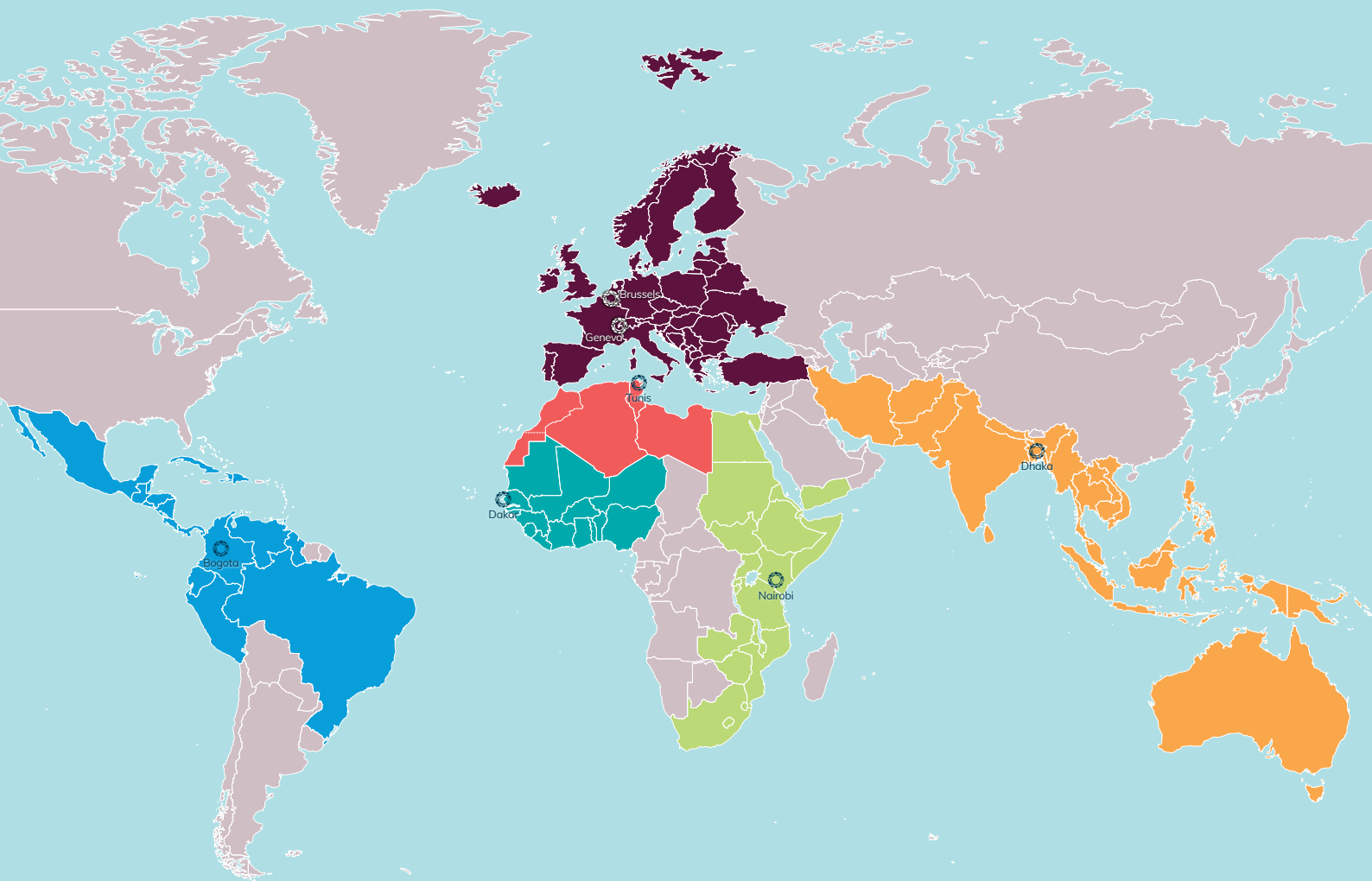
Mobilités au Burkina Faso



Mobilités au Mali

International Organization for Migration (IOM) | July/August 2022

These two reports on Burkina Faso and Mali - published in July and August 2022 respectively - bring together a comprehensive set of data and information on migration and forced displacement. Based in the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) project, and drawing on additional secondary sources, these reports provide a graphic overview of a variety of types of mobility. Both reports address some common themes, such as nationals abroad, migrants living in the national territory, migration routes and flows, and transhumance movements. Additionally, each focuses on contextually salient issues, such as remittances in Mali and internal displacement in Burkina Faso.



MMC is a global network engaged in data collection, research, analysis, and policy and programmatic development on mixed migration, with regional hubs hosted in DRC regional offices in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America, and a small global team in Geneva.

MMC is a leading source for independent and high-quality data, research, analysis and expertise. MMC aims to increase understanding of mixed migration, to positively impact global and regional migration policies, to inform evidence-based protection responses for people on the move and to stimulate forward thinking in public and policy debates on mixed migration. MMC's overarching focus is on human rights and protection for all people on the move.

MMC is part of and governed by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC). Global and regional MMC teams are based in Brussels, Geneva, Dakar, Nairobi, Tunis, Bogota and Dhaka.

For more information visit:
mixedmigration.org and follow us at [@Mixed_Migration](https://twitter.com/Mixed_Migration)

