

Regional mixed migration summary for August 2016 covering mixed migration events, incidents, trends and data for the West Africa region (in particular Niger, Mali, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Senegal and Liberia).

In this report 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.

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Country	Events / trends / data / analysis
<p>Niger</p>	<p>Departures from Niger: According to IOM, 27,138 refugees and migrants travelled from Niger to North Africa in September, representing a decline of 35% from 42,081 refugees and migrants recorded traveling in August.</p> <p>The most significant decline was recorded in Séguédine, the main transit point for those traveling to Libya, with 39,361 migrants and refugees recorded in August and 24,640 recorded in September, a decline of 40%. In September, 2,498 migrants and refugees travelled through Arlit into Algeria, a decline of 8% from those recorded in August.</p> <p>According to IOM, the Government of Niger has implemented stricter border control measures in the region of Agadez in order to control the movement of migrants without valid documentation into Libya and Algeria. Since late August, control operations have been in place in the region with security forces turning back vehicles found to be transporting migrants.</p> <p>The EU has reported that the stricter measures to control irregular migration undertaken by the Government of Niger are taking place in the context of deepened cooperation between the Government of Niger and the EU under the EU's Migration Partnership Framework, and are part of a larger strategy to implement regular and controlled migration channels in the region. The Government of Niger is also undertaking awareness campaigns to discourage people from the hazardous trip to Europe. However, given the vastness of the desert terrain on the northern borders of Niger, there is a risk that increased border control measures will cause more migrants and refugees to go around the official border points and towns in the Agadez region and undertake more dangerous crossings through the desert.</p> <p>In total, between 1 February and 31 August, 291,211 migrants and refugees moved from Niger to North Africa. The main outgoing nationalities from Niger are Nigerian (22%), Nigerien (19%), and Gambian (15%). According to IOM, in September 2016 women accounted for 18% of the outgoing flows, while men accounted for 82%.</p> <p>Arrivals to Niger: In September, 8,803 migrants and refugees arrived in Niger from North Africa, with 5,164 arriving from Libya and 3,639 arriving from Algeria. This represents a decrease of 43% from the number of migrants and refugees arriving in August. There was a 50% decrease in the numbers of people arriving from Libya, from 10,963 in August to 5,164 in September. According to IOM the decrease can be attributed to stricter border controls implemented by the Government of Niger throughout September. Men made up 94% of incoming flows.</p> <p>Between February and September 2016, 103,504 refugees and migrants arrived in Niger, the majority were Nigeriens returning to Niger (67%). During this period 77,787 arrived from Libya and 25,717 from Algeria.</p> <p>Humanitarian Repatriation: In September 2016, IOM organised its first humanitarian repatriation flight from Southern Libya to Niger. The flight transported 171 migrants (including 56 men, 76 women and 39 children) from Taminhint Airport near Sabha, to Niamey in Niger. Repatriation flights from this area are hampered by the complex humanitarian and security situation in southern Libya.</p> <p>Migrant Vulnerability: According to IOM, many Nigeriens stranded in the south of Libya are suffering from poor conditions with limited access to health services. Many are unable to return due</p>

	<p>to lack of resources and tribal affiliations that prevent them from traveling home by land because of conflicts along the road between Sabha and the Niger border.</p> <p>Repatriation from Niger: In September, IOM provided 184 migrants in Niger with return assistance to their country of origin, the majority of whom were returned to Senegal (53), Cameroon (34), Mali (24), Guinea Bissau (23), and Cote d'Ivoire (17).</p> <p>Refugees in Niger: According to updated figures from the Government of Niger, as of September 2016, the number of refugees in Niger had increased to 150,000, including 88,668 Nigerian refugees and 60,865 Malian refugees. UNHCR reports that between January and September 2016, 5,449 Malian refugees arrived in Niger.</p> <p>Refugee fatalities: On 10 September, an 18 year old Malian refugee woman and a 5 year old refugee boy were killed and 5 others were wounded in an attack by armed assailants on a security post at the camp of Tabareybarey on the Malian border in western Niger. The camp houses almost 10,000 refugees and UNHCR has expressed concern over the increasing number of violent incidents in the western regions of Niger on the border with Mali.</p> <p>Forced Displacement in Diffa Region: The security situation in the Diffa Region of Niger remained tense during September as a result of the Boko Haram insurgency. As of September, there were 302,387 displaced persons in the Diffa region, including 88,668 Nigerian refugees and 29,315 Nigerien returnees (i.e. people who claim to be Niger citizens) and 184,404 IDPs. Lack of documents (birth certificates, ID cards, etc.) for both refugees and Nigerien returnees makes it difficult to verify the status and nationality of this population, and, given the prevailing security situation, is a serious protection impediment. According to census figures published by the Government of Niger in September, the majority of refugees and other displaced people in the Diffa region of Niger are hosted in the communes of Gueskerou (130,046), Chetimari (64,388) and N'Guigimi (52,659).</p> <p>UNHCR's MoU with the Niger government regarding the provision of security in the refugee camps and hosting areas was amended in August to include the camps in the Diffa region that host refugees fleeing Boko Haram.</p>
<p>Mali</p>	<p><i>The Security conditions in Mali remain unstable, with renewed clashes occurring between members of groups that signed up to the peace agreement in 2015. In September MINUSMA expressed concern over the deterioration of the security situation and called on parties to respect the deal.</i></p> <p>Malian Arrivals in Europe: Between January and August 2016, a total of 5,954 Malian migrants and refugees arrived in Italy, representing a 42% increase from the number of Malians who arrived in Italy between January and August 2015.</p> <p>Malian Refugees in Neighbouring Countries: As of 31 September, there were 134,814 Malian refugees in neighbouring countries in the region. There were 60,792 (45%) hosted in Niger, 41,798 (31%) hosted in Mauritania and 32,227 hosted in Burkina Faso (24%).</p> <p>In September, UNHCR recorded a new wave of arrivals from Mali in Mauritania. In the last week of September and the first week of October more than 300 people arrived to seek refuge at the Mbera Camp in Mauritania. This represents a fourfold increase compared with the total number of new arrivals over the past 8 months. In total, UNCHR registered 394 arrivals of Malian refugees in Mauritania between August and early October.</p> <p>Voluntary Repatriation from Niger: Voluntary repatriation is not currently promoted by UNHCR and persons that nevertheless wish to return to Mali do so under their own responsibility. Over the month of September, UNHCR provided transportation assistance to 104 Malian refugees voluntarily returning from Niger.</p> <p>Voluntary repatriation from Mauritania: On 30 September 2016, the UNHCR-Mali-Mauritania Tripartite Commission held its first meeting in Bamako. The Tripartite Agreement framework offers a platform for discussion to ensure safe conditions of return for refugees living in Mauritania. The meeting adopted rules of procedure and put place a technical working group. In September, UNHCR assisted 83 refugees to return from Mauritania to Mali.</p>

	<p>Protection Monitoring: Between June and September 2016, UNHCR recorded 266 incidents related to protection risks and human rights violations among IDPs, refugee returnees and host communities in Mali. The majority of incidents were recorded in Goa and relate to issues including extortion, injuries and looting.</p> <p>Internal Displacement: According to latest available figures, there are 33,042 IDPs in Mali, with the majority hosted in Timbuctu (41%) and Gao (22%).</p>
<p>Nigeria</p>	<p>Arrivals of Nigerians in Europe: Between 1 January and 31 August 2016, a total of 22,329 Nigerian migrants and refugees arrived in Italy. This is an almost 50% increase from the 15,113 arrivals recorded during the same period in 2015.</p> <p>Refugees in Neighbouring Countries: As of September there were 169,977 Nigerian refugees in neighbouring countries, with 88,668 hosted in Niger, 73,392 hosted in Cameroon and 7,917 hosted in Chad.</p> <p>During September, UNHCR recorded the new arrivals of 686 refugees in Cameroon. On the 13 September, 194 refugees (including 139 children) arrived in the town of Kerawa in Cameroon, having fled the captivity of Boko Haram after the place they had been held captive since 2014 was bombed by the Nigerian army.</p> <p>Nigerian Returnees: In September, there were 136,715 registered Nigerian returnees in Nigeria, with the majority (90,572) in Gamboru Ngala in Borno State having returned from Cameroon.</p> <p>The results of a survey undertaken by UNHCR amongst Nigerian refugees in Minawo, Cameroon in September indicates that 71.4% of refugees in Minawo have the intention of returning to Nigeria. While 85% indicated that they intended to return home in 2016, 76.1% said that the government re-gaining full control of their areas of origin was a pre-requisite for their return.</p> <p>Humanitarian Repatriation: In early October, IOM assisted 154 Nigerian nationals to return home from Libya. The vast majority of the group had spent several months in Al Fallah and Abu Saleem immigration detention centres in Libya. Upon arrival in Nigeria they were provided cash grants to assist with onward travel, while those assessed as most vulnerable were provided reintegration assistance by IOM Nigeria.</p> <p>Internal Displacement: As of 31 August 2016, there were 2,093,030 IDPs recorded in Nigeria with 83% of the displacements originating from Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States as a result of the Boko Haram insurgency. Since August, the Government of Nigeria has facilitated the return of several thousand people from Maiduguri to towns in Borno state. UNHCR has expressed concern about conditions, basic services and security as Nigerians return home to areas that are back under the control of government armed forces in the north-eastern state of Borno. Many areas that returnees are returning to have been devastated by the conflict, with destroyed homes, infrastructure and a lack of health care and other services. In the town of Ngala, in Borno state, MDF has reported that 80,000 people are living isolated from aid flows, with one in 10 children under five suffering life threatening malnutrition.</p>
<p>Burkina Faso</p>	<p>Arrivals of migrants and refugees from Burkina Faso in Europe: The number of migrants and refugees from Burkina Faso attempting to reach Europe remains low with 603 refugees and migrants arriving in Italy between 1 January and 31 August 2016 and 147 between 1 January and 31 August.</p> <p>Humanitarian Repatriation: In September, IOM facilitated the repatriation of 159 migrants from Burkina Faso via a charter flight from Libya to Burkina Faso. Migrants were provided cash grants upon their arrival for onward travel, and the most vulnerable were assisted.</p> <p>Refugees in Burkina Faso: As of 30 September there were 32,224 Malian refugees in Burkina Faso, with 68% living in camps, 27% living in rural areas, and 5% in urban settings.</p>

Cote d'Ivoire	<p>Arrivals of Ivoirians in Europe: Between January and August 2016, 7,672 Ivoirians arrived in Italy by sea, making up 7% of the total arrivals in Italy in 2016. As of August, Ivoirians represented 23% of the arrivals in Spain since January 2016, and, ranked by nationality, represented the highest numbers of arrivals in Spain, with 868 Ivoirians arriving in Spain since January.</p> <p>Refugees in Neighboring Countries: UNHCR estimates that there are some 50,000 Ivorian refugees in countries around the world, with 39,139 hosted in countries neighboring Cote d'Ivoire. At the end of August there were 19,140 Ivorian refugees in Liberia, 10,968 in Ghana, and 3,991 in Guinea.</p> <p>Re-opening of Western Borders: Cote d'Ivoire re-opened its western borders with Liberia and Guinea in September, two years after they were closed to prevent the spread of Ebola into Cote d'Ivoire. The repatriation of Ivoirian refugees from Liberia resumed in December 2015, before the official opening of the border, with some 19,000 people assisted to return home so far this year. The re-opening of the border will facilitate the voluntary repatriation of the Ivorian refugees in Guinea.</p> <p>Voluntary repatriation: Between December 2015 and the mid-September 2016, some 19,000 Ivoirians returned to Cote d'Ivoire, with 53 returning in September.</p>
Liberia	<p>Ivoirian Refugees in Liberia: As of August 2016, there were 19,140 Ivorian refugees in Liberia. Liberia hosts approximately 50% of the Ivorian refugees in the region.</p> <p>Liberian migrants in the United States: In September, President Obama announced that he would defer the deportation of Liberian nationals for a further 18 months from 30 September 2016. Since 1991 the US has hosted Liberian nationals forced to flee their country as a result of armed conflict and civil strife through the granting of Temporary Protection Status (effective until October 1 2007) and has twice deferred their deportation by granting Deferred Enforced Departure (DED). Under the terms of the DED eligible Liberian nationals have the right to continuing residing and working in the US until March, 2018.</p>
Guinea	<p>Arrivals of Guineans in Europe: In 2016, there has been a significant increase in numbers of migrants and refugees from Guinea arriving in Italy by way of the Central Mediterranean Route, with Guineans now making up 6% of sea arrivals in Italy.</p> <p>Refugees in Guinea: As of 31 August, there were 3,991 Ivoirian refugees in Guinea.</p> <p>Youth migration conference in Guinea: In September, a conference entitled 'Youth and illegal migration in Africa, trends, consequences, with a special focus on the Guinea case' was held in Conakry. The conference, organized by Guinean NGOs, brought together academics, former government ministers and leaders in the NGO sector to discuss the risks and opportunities of youth migration from Guinea.</p>
Senegal	<p>Arrivals of Senegalese in Europe: Between January and August 2016, 5,884 refugees and migrants from Senegal arrived in Italy by way of the central Mediterranean Route.</p>

<p>Other Regional Information</p>	<p>UN Summit on Refugees: On 19 September, the UN General Assembly hosted a Summit to Address Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants in New York to foster a more humane and coordinated global approach to addressing large movements of refugees and migrants. The Summit led to the adoption the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants.</p> <p>The UN Summit has been criticized for remaining abstract however, with critics noting that it does not offer concrete commitments for solutions. UNHCR and other commentators have highlighted the significance of achieving a consensus on a joint declaration on refugees and migrants that provides a foundation for the much needed political process towards a framework of action. From a mixed migration perspective, this is significant.</p> <p>The Leaders' Summit on Refugees the following day saw 52 countries and international organisations announce commitments to increase their financial contributions to UN appeals and international humanitarian organizations, the number of refugees they resettled or afforded other legal channels of admission, and access to employment and education for refugees and other displaced persons. Critics have noted, however, that the scale and significance of the pledges will not be known until money is actually allocated.</p> <p>Trafficking on the Central Mediterranean Route: According to the preliminary results of a survey undertaken in Italy by IOM between March and September, 98% of migrants and refugees interviewed indicated that they would not encourage others to embark on the journey to Italy from Sub-Saharan Africa. During their journey 95% of respondents suffered or witnessed some kind of abuse and 48% of respondents report having experiences of, or witnessing, human trafficking. According to IOM, migrants from Gambia, Nigeria, Guinea and other Western African countries have higher rates of positive responses to incidences of trafficking and other exploitative practices than individuals from the Horn of Africa and from Western and South Asia.</p> <p>Arrivals to Europe: Between 1 January and 2 October 2016, 131,915 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea, compared with 132,071 people at the end of September 2015. In the first week of September there was a significant spike in the numbers of migrants and refugees arriving Italy, with 16,673 arriving in just one week. Large rescue operations were also reported in the first week of October, with 10,000 migrants rescued in 48hrs in operations led by the Italian coast guard and navy. However, overall, sea arrival trends in 2016 remain on par with 2014 and 2015. The top countries of origin among arrivals include Nigeria, Eritrea, Gambia, and Sudan.</p> <p>Arrivals of unaccompanied and separated children in Europe: According to Italian authorities, in total 18,564 unaccompanied and separated children arrived to Italy by sea as of 15 September, compared to 12,360 in 2015 and 13,026 in 2014. In 2015, children traveling unaccompanied accounted for 75% of all children arriving in Italy, however, in the first nine months of 2016, 90% of children arriving in Italy were unaccompanied. UNICEF has reported that the situation for refugees and migrant children in Italy is increasingly desperate as the Italian child protection system is overstretched.</p> <p>Deaths at Sea: At the end of September 2016, IOM estimated that 3,548 people had died or gone missing while trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea since January. In September 2016, 368 people lost their lives crossing the Mediterranean Sea. According to UNHCR, despite the total number of sea crossings in the Mediterranean in the first nine months of 2016 being 42% lower than during the same period last year, the number of dead or missing so far this year was only 15% lower than the total number of casualties for the whole of 2015.</p>
<p>New articles, reports and books</p>	<p>British Red Cross (September, 2016) 'Humanity at the cross roads: Migrants Journeys on the Central Mediterranean Route' This study from the British Red Cross examines the experiences of migrants and refugees traveling on the central Mediterranean Route to Europe. The report finds that regardless of reasons for movement, migrants and refugees suffer a wide range of discrimination and abuse, including violence, while on the central Mediterranean route and, therefore, highlights the importance of protection for people on the move in mixed flows.</p> <p>The World Bank (September 2016) 'Forcibly Displaced: Toward a development approach supporting refugees, the internally displaced, and their hosts' Conducted in partnership with the UNHCR, this World Bank study examines the role of development actors in resolving the challenges of forced displacement. The report focuses on the medium-term socio-economic dimensions of forced displacement and explores the ways development actors can, in collaboration</p>

with humanitarian partners, help find solutions by addressing the longer term, social and economic dimension of displacement.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (September 2016) [‘Migration and Protracted Crisis: Addressing the root causes and building resilient agricultural livelihoods’](#)

This report from the UNFAO explores the role that resilient agricultural livelihoods can play in addressing some of the root causes of migration in protracted crises and in assisting displaced populations and host communities to cope with protracted displacement.

IOM’s Global Migration Data Analysis Centre [‘Children and unsafe migration in Europe, Data and policy, understanding the evidence base’](#) Data Briefing Series, Issue No. 5.

More children arrived in Italy by sea in the first nine months of 2016 than arrived in Italy in 2015, with 90% of children in 2016 traveling alone. It is in this context that the latest briefing from IOM’s Global Migration Data Analysis Centre addresses the gaps, limitations and inconsistencies in data collection about children migrating to and through the EU. The report highlights the need for more consistent and comparable data as a basis for a greater understanding of children’s safe migration through Europe.

John Cosgrave *et al* (September 2016) [‘Europe’s refugees and migrants: Hidden flows, tightened borders and spiralling costs’](#) Overseas Development Institute Research Report

The EU response to the increasing numbers of migrants and refugees arriving in Europe since 2014 has been swift. This report offers a comprehensive analysis of the EU’s current deterrence and resettlement strategies. The authors argue that they are expensive and unsustainable and propose a new, more pragmatic and coherent approach to manage the movement of people in the medium to long term.

Karen Hargrave, *et al.* (September 2016) [‘Closing borders: the ripple effects of Australian and European refugee policy. Case studies from Indonesia, Kenya and Jordan’](#) Overseas

Development Institute Research Report This study from ODI examines the effects of the increasingly restrictive refugee policies that industrial nations have adopted since the 1980s on lower-income countries and how they risk overturning the existing international refugee protection regime. The authors however argue that there could also be an opportunity to actively promote positive emulation by highlighting good practices.

Maegan Hendow *et al* (September 2016) [‘Migrants in Countries in Crisis: Emerging Findings: A Comparative Study of Six Crisis Situations’](#) International Centre for Migration Policy

Development

This report presents emerging findings from ongoing research on the socio-economic and long-term impacts on migrants caught in crisis-affected countries. This research aims to broaden the evidence base on the situations of migrants in crisis-affected countries, particularly focusing on socio-economic and long-term implications at the micro-, meso- and macro-levels.

Emmanuelle Bouilly (September 2016) [‘Senegalese mothers ‘fight clandestine migration’: an intersectional perspective on activism and apathy among parents and spouses left behind article’](#) Review of African Political Economy Vol. 43 (149) pp. 416-435

This article looks at the association of Senegalese mothers who joined together to ‘fight clandestine migration’ after they lost many of their children who were attempting to migrate to Spain by boat in 2006.

This information sheet is distributed to agencies, academic institutions, donors, embassies, journalists, government officials / departments, international and multinational organisations and related non-government organisations. Sources: Data is sourced from a wide variety of collaborators, partners, international and local organisations, media outlets and individuals in the region. The key refugee agency – UNHCR – and migration agency – IOM – are frequently the origin of specific refugee or migrant return-related data. RMMS is a unit/project within the Danish Refugee Council and also uses data and information generated by DRC activities. RMMS makes its own independent editorial decisions as to what sections and what data is included in this monthly update.