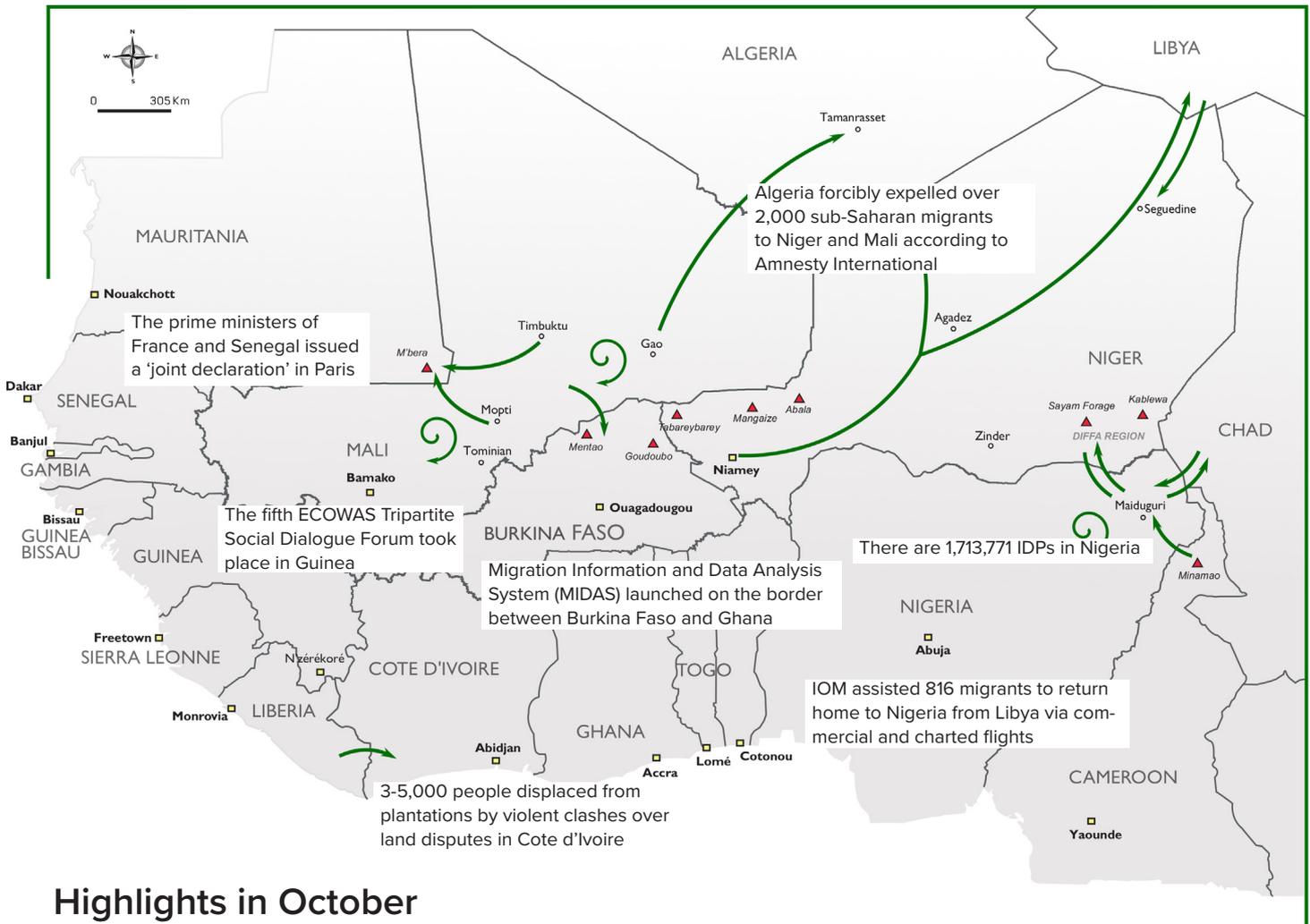


West Africa

Monthly Mixed Migration Summary

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

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Highlights in October

- The African Regional Consultative Meeting on the Global Compact on Migration took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 26-27 October. Participants agreed upon recommendations and actionable commitments on the Global Compact and underscored the desire of member states to own the narrative of the African migration story.
- Algeria has forcibly expelled over 2,000 sub-Saharan migrants to Niger and Mali since late September, including 300 minors, according to a report from Amnesty International. Amnesty claims that the arrests of migrants were made on the basis of racial profiling and that authorities did not ascertain whether the migrants had the right to stay in the country; some of those arrested and deported were undocumented while others had valid visas. Some 15 refugees and asylum-seekers who were among those detained by the police were released after an intervention by UNHCR.
- UNHCR reported that the agency had registered some 2,000 Cameroonians in south-eastern Nigeria after they had fled from the English speaking regions of Cameroon. A further 3,000 others are awaiting registration. According to UNOCHA, a humanitarian assistance plan is being readied for up to 40,000 people who could cross into Nigeria if the crisis escalates.
- Save the Children announced that it had suspended migrant rescues in the Mediterranean as departures from Libya slowed and security conditions worsened.
- The fifth ECOWAS Tripartite Social Dialogue Forum took place in Guinea
- Migration Information and Data Analysis System (MIDAS) launched on the border between Burkina Faso and Ghana
- There are 1,713,771 IDPs in Nigeria
- IOM assisted 816 migrants to return home to Nigeria from Libya via commercial and chartered flights
- 3-5,000 people displaced from plantations by violent clashes over land disputes in Cote d'Ivoire

Burkina Faso

Consultation framework on mixed migration: In October, [UNHCR organised a workshop](#) in Burkina Faso focused around developing protection strategies for people on the move. The workshop formed part of a [consultation framework on mixed migration](#) organised by UNHCR, which seeks to formulate recommendations to improve and better coordinate action to support protection for people on the move in Burkina Faso.

Migration Information and Data Analysis System: In late September, the Government of Burkina Faso launched a [Migration Information and Data Analysis System \(MIDAS\)](#) on the border between Burkina Faso and Ghana. The installation of MIDAS was supported by the Government of Japan and implemented by the Border Police of Burkina Faso and IOM. The project is next intending to install MIDAS on the Kantchari border post on the Burkina-Niger border.

Malian refugees in Burkina Faso:

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct
2017	32,017	32,498	32,972	33,056	33,501	33,501	33,501	33,501	33,501	24,083

Cote d'Ivoire

Arrivals of Ivoirians in Italy:

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Total
2017	839	806	882	1,393	1,737	1,697	551	358	490	185	8,938
2016	332	402	807	701	1,444	1,681	1,303	1,006	1,039	1,787	10,502

Internal Displacement: In October, [violent clashes](#) caused by [land disputes](#) in the western cocoa producing region of Cote d'Ivoire led to the displacement of a large number of people from plantations. According to [media reports](#), the number of people displaced by the clashes was between 3,000 and 5,000, with a number of deaths also reported. The military was deployed to halt the violence.

Ivorian refugees:

	Sept	Oct
Liberia	11,937	11,937
Ghana	6,656	6,656
Guinea	4,577	4,577
Togo	2,092	2,092
Mali	910	714
Total in the region	28,330	27,744

[Source](#)

In October, three Ivorian refugees were returned from Benin to Cote d'Ivoire. This low number of returns was due to the ongoing repairs on a ferry used for the repatriation of Ivorian refugees living in Liberia, as well as deteriorating road conditions that continue to impact returns.

Guinea

Arrivals of Guineans in Italy:

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Total
2017	796	1,296	1,076	1,016	1,776	1,799	872	226	360	144	9,361
2016	504	259	831	530	1,313	1,818	1,063	1,150	1,245	2,421	11,134

Consultation Global Compact on migration: In October, the [Secretariat of State for Communities](#) in collaboration with the IOM, organized a one-day consultation aimed at collecting the perspectives and recommendations of various actors from the public sector, civil society and the private sector towards the Global Compact on Migration.

ECOWAS Tripartite Social Dialogue Forum: In October, the fifth [General Assembly of the Tripartite Social Dialogue Forum](#) of ECOWAS took place in Guinea. [The three-day meeting](#) included discussions around the improvement of labor migration and social protection and the harmonization of labor legislation in the ECOWAS area.

Humanitarian repatriation: Between 10 October and 6 November, IOM assisted 249 migrants to return home to Guinea from Libya via commercial and chartered flights. In total between January and October, IOM has returned 10,602 migrants from Libya to 24 countries.

Mali

Context: In October, [clashes](#) occurred between the Movement for the Salvation of Azawad and the ethnic Fulani associated with Islamist militants in Menaka region, with reports of at least a dozen killed, and [an attack](#) against a logistic convoy in the Kidal region which led to the deaths of three peacekeepers. Following the agreement between rebel Coalition of Azawad Movements (CMA) and pro-national unity Platform coalition on the 20 Sept, [the parties signed](#) a new local agreement on October 10 aimed at setting up local security arrangements to keep peace in the Kidal region.

Following a UN Security Council meeting on October 30, the [US pledged](#) \$60 million to support the G5 Sahel Joint force, with the [security council recognising](#) the efforts of the G5 force to counter the activities of terrorist groups and other organized criminal groups and contribute to creating a more secure environment in the Sahel region.

According to OHCHR, in the first nine months of 2017, [100 cases of humanitarian access constraint](#) were recorded in Mali, 97% of which took place in the northern and central regions and [75% of which](#) were related to incidents of robbery, carjacking and physical aggression.

Parliamentary Seminar on Migration Governance: In October, the [National Assembly of Mali](#) hosted a two-day seminar to elaborate the involvement of parliamentarians in the governance of migration. The seminar included the participation of the Minister of Malians Abroad, IOM and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation.

Financial support for migration management: On October 24, the [Government of the Netherlands](#) signed a financial agreement with the government of Mali worth \$325 million to support the Malian government in the implementation of the nation migration policy in Mali, and specifically to support in the strengthening of information and awareness campaigns on the risks associated with irregular migration.

Expulsions of Malian Migrants from Algeria: A number of Malian migrants were expelled from Algeria in October as part of the mass expulsion of migrant workers from Sub-Saharan Africa from Algeria to Niger. The Minister for Malians Abroad indicated that over 200 migrants were expected to arrive by bus in Bamako from Niger in late October.

A number of migrants were also [reportedly transported](#) to the Malian border with Algeria. Although the precise number of migrants is unknown, according to a local NGO in Gao, a number of migrants were taken by Algerian security forces to the Malian border, where they were left beside a road in the desert, before being picked up by local truck drivers and transported to Assamaka and then to Gao.

Malian arrivals in Italy:

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Total
2017	282	363	496	738	1,271	1,639	737	427	508	279	6,740
2016	393	400	649	472	960	1,156	992	932	1,098	1,512	8,564

Refugees in neighbouring countries:

	Oct
Niger	57,405
Mauritania	51,828
Burkina Faso	24,083
Total in the region	133,316

IDPs in Mali:

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	% Change in 2017
2017	36,690	44,762	45,766	58,985	51,961	n/a	55,382	55,382	58,594	+60%

Humanitarian repatriation: Between 10 and 23 October, [IOM assisted](#) 163 migrants to return home to Mali from Libya via commercial and chartered flights. In total between January and October, IOM has returned 10,602 migrants from Libya to 24 countries.

Niger

Context: On 21 October, a [police station](#) was attacked by an armed group in the Tillabery region of Niger, leaving 10 policemen dead and several wounded. The area is home to some 10,000 Malian refugees. In another incident in the region in October, a number of Nigerien and [American](#) troops were killed in an ambush while patrolling. In the [Diffa region](#) on the border with Nigeria only very minor incidents were recorded in October, making it one of the most stable months of 2017.

Cross border crisis simulation: In October, [IOM organised](#) and led a crisis simulation exercise in Zinder, Niger, close to the border areas with Nigeria that regularly suffer security incidents linked to Boko Haram. The exercise included 650 members of communities, authorities, civil society and security forces and was designed to test the ability of the authorities to respond to a sudden crisis triggering a mass population movement across the border into Niger.

Transit Migration through Niger: According to IOM, in September 2017, [4,972 people were recorded](#) transiting through Seguedine on their way to Libya and 2,541 were recorded arriving in Niger from Libya. This is in significant contrast with September 2016, when IOM recorded 32,784 people leaving Niger through Seguedine.

Between January and September 2017, 97% of those [recorded](#) leaving and 93% of those arriving in Seguedine were Nigerien. This is in contrast with the same period in 2016, when [IOM estimated](#) that 22% of those leaving Niger through Seguedine were from Nigeria, 19% from Niger, 15% from Gambia and 13% from Senegal. This suggests that the number of Nigeriens traveling outwards through Seguedine has remained fairly consistent between January and September 2016 and 2017, at around 50,000. However, the number of migrants from other countries in West Africa transiting through Seguedine has dropped significantly, with many of them taking more remote and dangerous routes through the desert in order to avoid the increased presence of authorities in key transit towns between Niger and Libya that have been in place since late 2016.

Expulsion of migrants from Algeria: According to a report from [Amnesty International](#) published in October, since late September Algeria has forcibly expelled over [2000 sub-Saharan migrants](#) to Niger and Mali, including 300 minors. Amnesty claims that the arrests of migrants were made on the basis of racial profiling and that authorities did not ascertain whether the migrants had the right to stay in the country; some of those arrested and deported were undocumented while others had valid visas. Some 15 refugees and asylum-seekers who were among those detained by the police were released after an intervention by UNHCR.

Forced Displacement in Diffa Region:

October	
IDPs	129,015
Refugees	108,470

Nigeria

Context: In the north-east of Nigeria the [security situation](#) was marked by an increase in the number of attacks in October, with more than 50 people (both civilians and military) killed in ambushes and suicide bombings. In Borno state alone, at least [seven suicide](#) attacks took place in October. As a result [UNHCR reported](#) that a number of roads had been closed, making humanitarian interventions more difficult.

FAO reported in October that [harvests](#) from this year's season have been favourable, with many households reaping good cereal yields. According to [OCHA](#) in October, the food security situation is improving in parts of the conflict-hit north-eastern region thanks to relief assistance by aid organisations and the Government. With the start of the dry [season physical access](#) has also improved significantly, however, humanitarian access constraints remain challenging.

Arrivals of Nigerians in Italy:

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Total
2017	483	1,204	1,472	2,094	4,033	4,832	2,199	305	478	362	17,462
2016	905	713	1,797	896	2,921	4,660	6,695	3,742	4,843	6,636	33,808

Humanitarian repatriation: Between 24 October and 6 November, IOM assisted 816 migrants to return home to Nigeria from Libya via commercial and chartered flights. In total between January and October, IOM has returned 10,602 migrants from Libya to 24 countries.

Arrivals from Cameroon: On 31 October, [UNHCR reported](#) that the agency had registered some 2,000 Cameroonians who had fled to south-eastern Nigeria from the English speaking regions of Cameroon. A further [3,000 others](#) are awaiting registration. According to UNOCHA, a humanitarian assistance plan is being readied for up to 40,000 people who could cross into Nigeria if the crisis escalates.

Refugees in neighbouring countries:

	October 2017
Chad	9,191
Niger	108,470
Cameroon	90,728
Total	208,389

IDPs in Nigeria:

	Jan	March	May	June	August	October	% Change in 2017
2017	1,899,830	1,832,743	1,884,331	1,825,321	1,757,288	1,713,771	- 10%

Senegal

Joint declaration from Senegal and France: In October, the prime ministers of France and Senegal issued a [‘joint declaration’](#) in Paris on agreements relating to the issuances of visas, military cooperation and development projects. The [agreement indicates](#) that France will increase the number and duration of travel visas, and will strive to reduce the delivery time of visas, especially for students. In return, Senegal announced its intention strengthen its action against irregular migration, including by stepping up a national biometric identity file and by facilitating the voluntary return of migrants.

Arrivals of Senegalese in Italy:

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Total
2017	4 31	7 84	700	640	1380	899	532	139	206	75	5,786
2016	493	406	762	324	580	1482	951	886	1,001	1855	8,740

Other Regional Information

African regional Consultations on the UN Global Compact on Migration: The [African Regional Consultative Meeting on the Global Compact on Migration](#) took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on the 26 and 27 of October. The participants included representatives from member States, international and regional organizations, experts, academia, and civil society organizations from the Africa region involved in the formulation and/or implementation of policies and programmes related to international migration. At the conclusion of the meeting participants drew recommendations and actionable commitments on the global compact on migration, which underscored the desire of member states to own the narrative of the Africa migration story.

EU Summit: Migration and, in particular, the movement of people along the central Mediterranean route, was again high on the agenda at the [European Council meeting](#) which took place on 19 and 20 October. The EU leaders agreed that their current migration strategy, which aims to restore control of external borders and reduce arrivals and the number of deaths at sea, should be consolidated. The summit called for further action including by applying the ‘necessary’ leverage by means of EU policies, such as trade and development, to improve return rates and prevent ‘illegal’ migration. EU leaders also called for the establishment of a permanent EU presence in Libya and agreed to offer Italy more support to work with Libyan authorities.

In October, the [Commissioner for Human Rights](#) addressed [a letter](#) to the Minister of the Interior of Italy, to seek clarification with regards to Italy’s maritime operations in Libyan territorial waters, including what kind of support Italy intends to provide to the Libyan authorities and what safeguards are in place, and to underline the duty to protect and safeguard human rights. The Italian Minister’s response is [available here](#).

Ahead of the meeting, [Oxfam published a briefing paper](#) which condemns the EU Migration Agenda and argues that the EU and its member states have made almost no effort to increase options for safe and regular migration, and have shown insufficient concern about the implications of their policies on human rights and living conditions of asylum seekers in the EU and at its borders.

Training on labour migration: ICMPD organised a [joint training session](#) from 17 to 20 October on the labour market insertion of young Malian graduates, return migrants, international migrants and internally displaced as well as on labour market and migration data management for the Ministry of Employment and Professional Training in Mali.

Deaths at sea: In October, [168 migrants and refugees](#) drowned or went missing in the Mediterranean sea, a decrease from the over 400 migrants and refugees who died or went missing in October 2015 and 2016. In total, between January and October 2017, 2,831 people lost their lives trying to cross the Mediterranean.

Suspension of rescue at sea operations: In October, Save the Children announced that it had suspended migrant rescues in the Mediterranean as departures from Libya slowed and security conditions worsened.

News, Reports, Books

Oxfam (October 2017) ‘Beyond ‘Fortress Europe: Principles for a humane EU migration policy’ Oxfam Briefing Paper

This report examines the development of the 2015 EU Agenda for Migration, and argues that policies under this Agenda have sacrificed people’s safety and wellbeing in order to stop migration at all costs. The report argues that a new approach is urgently needed and outlines Oxfam’s proposals for a new and balanced approach to migration management, one that protects the people and the benefits associated with migration for European host countries, people on the move and countries of origin.

Marta Latek (October 2017) ‘Reintegration of returning migrants’ European Research Service.

Returning migrants with irregular status to their country of origin has become a key European aim in efforts to reduce irregular migration to the EU. 90 specific assisted voluntary return and reintegration programmes have been established by EU Member states and co-financed by the EU, however, the number of effective returns remains low. This briefing paper examines attempts of the EU’s voluntary reintegration assistance packages to

contribute to the sustainable reintegration of migrants in their country of origin.

Even Easton-Calabria et al. (2017) 'Research in Brief: Refugee Self-Reliance: Moving Beyond the Market Place' Refugees Studies Centre

The issue of how to promote refugee self-reliance has become of heightened importance as the number of forcibly displaced people in the world rises and budgets for refugees in long-term situations of displacement shrink. This Research in Brief presents new research on refugee self-reliance and addresses areas not commonly included in current discussions. In particular, it focuses on social and cultural, practical, and programmatic aspects of refugee self-reliance. In so doing, it rethinks the concept of refugee self-reliance and aims to contribute recommendations to help achieve positive outcomes in policy and practice.

Naohiko Omata, Noriko Takahashi (2017) 'Follow-Up Study on the Role of UNIDO's Training on the Economic Reintegration of Repatriated Refugees in Liberia' Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development Working Paper Series, Working Paper 10.

This report presents the main findings on the employment and job situation of former beneficiaries of UNIDO's training programmes which aimed to promote the economic reintegration of Liberian returnees. By comparing data collected in 2014 and 2016 the report finds that the employment conditions and socio-economic status of the beneficiaries seems to generally improved during this time. The report aims offer data about the role of training programmes in promoting economic reintegration of returnees and outlines lessons for programming on reintegration support.

The Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat (RMMS) 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. RMMS West Africa distributes this summary to agencies, academic institutions, donors, embassies, journalists, government officials, international and multinational 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. RMMS 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 RMMS West Africa please visit our website at 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.