

# West Africa

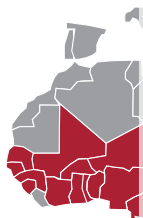
## Monthly 4Mi Update

Covering data collected by 4Mi in Mali and Niger in July.  
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### Overview

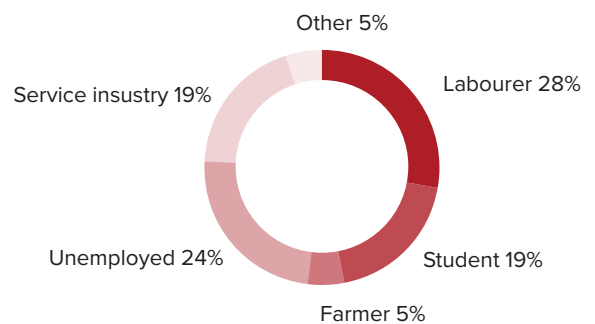
In July, the Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism (4Mi) conducted 101 in-depth interviews with migrants and refugees in West Africa, including 41 people in Agadez and Niamey in Niger, and 60 people Mopti, Gao and Timbuktu in Mali.

### Profiles



In July, 4Mi conducted interviews with 63 men and 38 women from 17 countries in Central and Western Africa, with an average age of 26 years old. Of those interviewed, 88% indicated that they had received some formal education, with 26% indicating they had primary education, 30% secondary school, and 17% a university degree or masters. The remaining indicated religious or vocational training. Prior to migrating, the majority of those surveyed were working (57%), with 24% indicating that they were unemployed when they left their country of origin and 19% indicating that they were students prior to leaving.

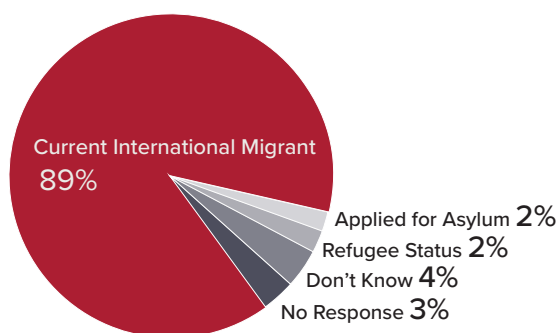
1. Employment in Country of origin



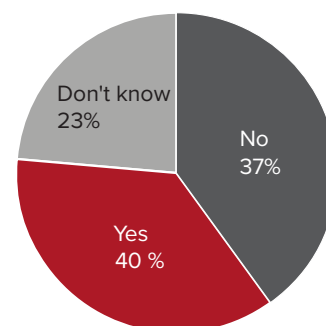
### Asylum

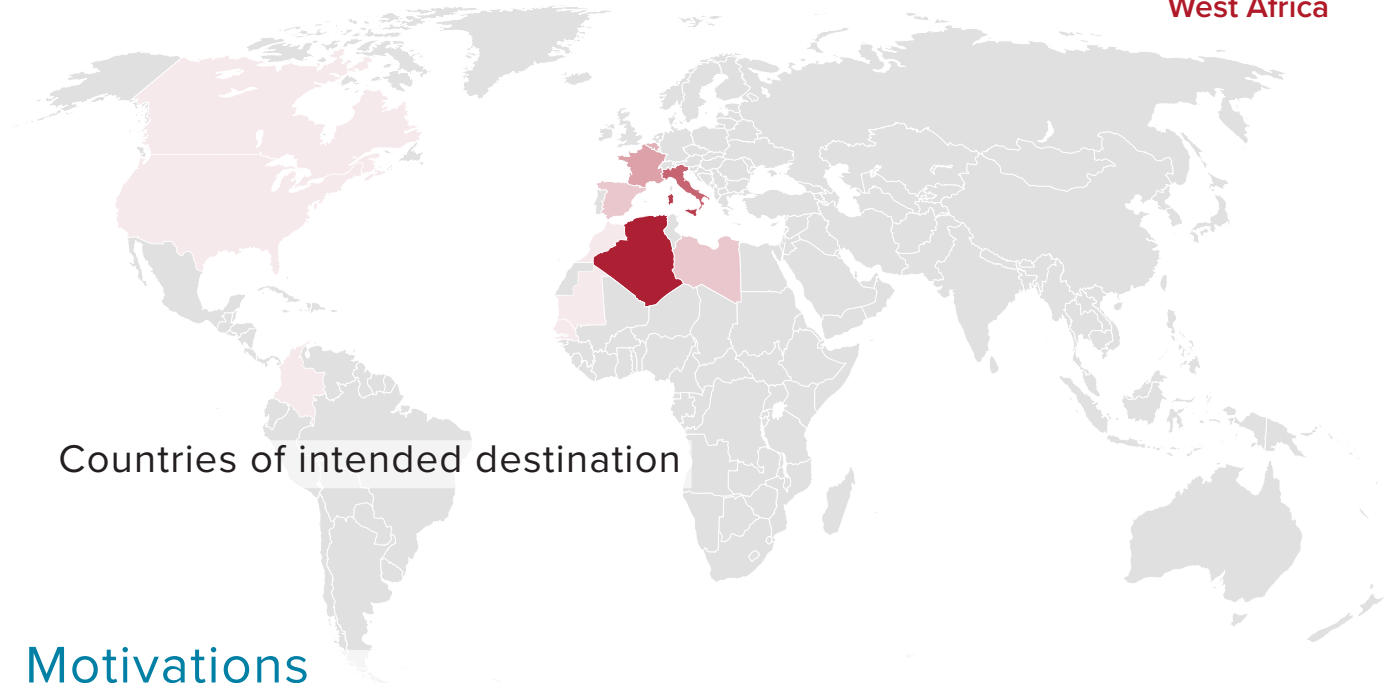
Of those interviewed, two respondents had already applied for asylum in Burkina Faso and two had received refugee status in Niger. Almost half of those interviewed (40%) said that they intended to apply for asylum in their country of destination, the majority indicating Algeria. While not representative, these figures give some indication of the asylum seekers and refugees moving as part of these flows.

2. Legal Status



3. Intention to apply for asylum

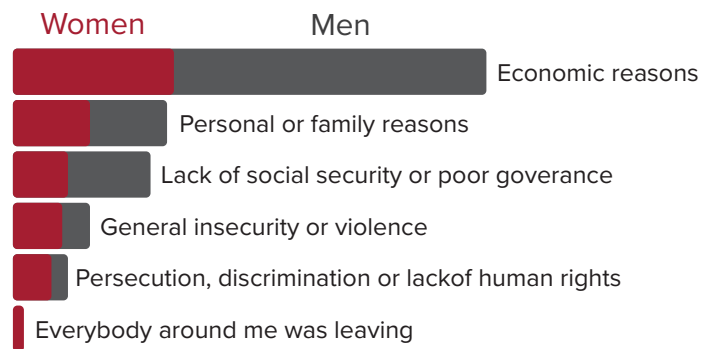




## Motivations

The majority of migrants and refugees indicated that economic factors were a part of their motivation for leaving their home country. 25 people also indicated that a lack of services and bad governance in their country had encouraged them to leave. 14 people reported having left their country because of violence or general insecurity, 9 of them due to the presence of armed groups, notably in Mali, Niger, and Nigeria. Further, 10 people reported having left due to persecution, discrimination or lack of rights; for ethnic, religious or political reasons or because of discrimination based on sexual orientation. Finally, 28 people, of whom 14 were women, indicated that they had left for family reasons, in four cases to flee a forced marriage in Niger and Nigeria, and in two cases due to a divorce.

4. Motivations for departure



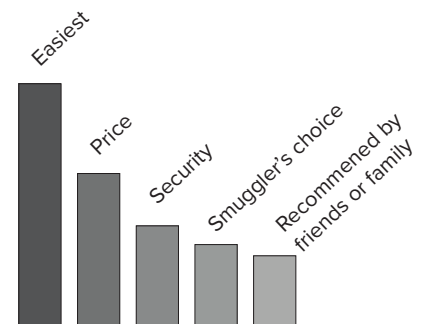
## Journey

Those interviewed in July indicated different criteria for choosing their migration route including: ease of access (65), price (41), safety (27), choice of route by the smuggler (22) or recommendations from friends or family (19).

37% of respondents indicated that they had made the decision to leave on their own. 39% of the remaining interviewees said they had been influenced in their choice of route by their friends, 17% their parents, 9% their siblings, 20% by other members of the community or family and 10% by the diaspora.

The majority of respondents reported Europe (40%) and North Africa (38%) as their desired final destination. Migrants and refugees interviewed in Mali mostly indicated that they want to travel to North Africa (62.5%) and in particular to Algeria (59%). In contrast with those interviewed in Niger, who most often indicated Europe (74%) and in particular Italy (22%) as their final destination.

5. Reasons for choosing route

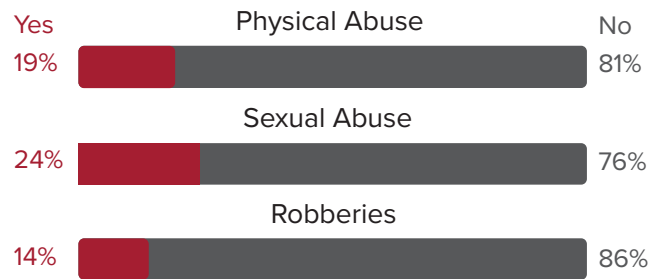


## Protection

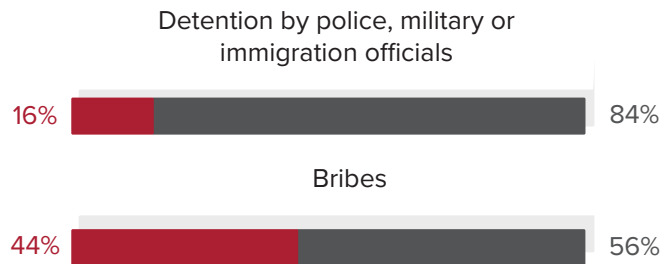
Respondents reported 32 cases of physical abuse committed by security forces, police or military (52%), smugglers (37%) or criminal groups (11%). Most of these abuses were committed in Niger (20 cases) and Burkina Faso (7 cases). Women surveyed reported 12 cases of sexual abuse committed by smugglers (59%) and security forces, police or military (41%). Five cases of rape were reported in July, including four in Agadez, in Niger. Respondents reported 15 cases of theft, including 13 committed in Agadez, Niger. These robberies most often concern personal belongings (14 cases), money (11 cases) and documents (5 cases).

16% of the migrants and refugees interviewed were detained by police, military or immigration agents in Agadez in Niger (12 cases), Kantchari in Burkina Faso (2 cases) and Mopti in Mali (2 cases). 44% of respondents paid bribes to immigration officers, an average of 3 times during their journey and an average of 12,000 CFA francs per bribe (22 USD). The most common locations that those interviewed reported having paid bribes were in Agadez (23 cases) and Zinder (12 cases) in Niger, Mopti in Mali (9 cases) and Ouagadougou (5 cases) and Kantchari (5 cases) in Burkina Faso.

### 6. Protection Incidents



### 7. Detention and Bribes



The Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism Initiative (4Mi) is an innovative low-cost approach to collection and analyzing data along major mixed migration corridors, responding to the need for better data on protection issues with regards to asylum seekers, refugees and other people on the move. In Niger and Mali, 4Mi seeks to help fill the knowledge gaps regarding the nature of the mixed migratory movements and the protection risks for migrants and refugees on the move within and from West Africa.

4Mi is generously supported in Mali and Niger by UNHCR

