WOMEN ON THE MOVE IN NORTHERN CHAD

AN ANALYSIS OF INDIVIDUAL SURVEYS CONDUCTED WITH WOMEN AT FLOW MONITORING POINTS IN FAYA, KALAIT AND ZOUARKÉ, FROM APRIL 2018 TO SEPTEMBER 2019

January 2020

NOTES & DISCLAIMERS

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METHODOLOGY

This section provides additional details on the methodologies used to obtain the data presented in this report.

METHODOLOGY

Flow Monitoring aims to identify areas of cross-border and intra-regional migration, and to collect data on the volume and the characteristics of the travellers passing through these areas. These areas of high mobility are identified at the national level with national authorities. The DTM teams then work in partnership with local authorities to identify strategic transit points at the local level. At each of these Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs), two main data collection methodologies are used: Flow Monitoring Registry (FMR) and Flow Monitoring Surveys (FMS).

The FMR consists in collecting data at the previously identified transit points, through direct observation and interviews with key informants. Key informants can be coach station staff, government officials, drivers or migrants themselves. The data collected during FMR exercises include the number of travellers passing through these transit points, their nationalities, their places of departure and intended destination, as well as their means of transportation.

Complementing the FMR, the FMS collect more in-depth data through individual interviews with a sample of travellers passing through the FMPs, to better understand their profiles. The main data collected include travellers' nationality, age, sex, education level, professional status, reasons for travel, place of origin, intended destination, as well as their needs and vulnerabilities.

The sample size of individuals surveyed during FMS is proportional to the number of people observed daily. The sample selection is random, but is also determined on a voluntary basis, and requires the consent of individuals participating in the individual surveys to be clearly communicated in order to collect further information.

LIMITATIONS

The methodology used in Flow Monitoring has some limitations that should be considered. Firstly, as mentioned above in the "Methodology" section, the selection of the sample of travellers is done on a voluntary basis, and therefore the sample cannot be entirely representative of all travellers observed. Likewise, it is also impossible to have a sample which is completely random.

The data used in this analysis are drawn from the surveys of a sample of female travellers who passed through the three Flow Monitoring Points between April 2018 and September 2019. Although the FMPs were set up at major crossing and transit points through which high volumes of migration flows pass, the results presented in this report do not reflect all movements in the North of the country.

Additionally, the temporal coverage of these surveys is limited, as data collection was restricted to working hours. The data therefore does not represent all flows passing through the FMPs, as no data are collected on flows taking place outside of these specific timeframes.

Furthermore, the responses given and described in this report have not been formally verified. It should also be noted that some questions received a significant number of non-responses, in which case the data were not included in the results presented in this report.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

619 women (out of 41,412 female travellers observed from April 2018 to September 2019) were interviewed at **3** Flow Monitoring Points (Faya, Kalait and Zouarké)

92% were Chadian nationals

5% were girls between 14 and 17 years old

59% did not receive any formal education

81% were headed to Chad

72% were travelling in a group

15% encountered difficulties during their trip

65% were married

Less than 1% were aged 60 or older

43% were self-employed

52% were travelling for economic reasons

34% used their savings to fund their trip

58% were travelling by truck

INTRODUCTION

CONTEXT & OBJECTIVE

Migration in West and Central Africa is a phenomenon that is predominantly associated with being young and male. According to this perception, there is an assumption that migrants are mainly young men, seeking economic opportunities. However, the Flow Monitoring Registry (FMR) activities in northern Chad, which began in 2017, show that a significant proportion of travellers are women (18% in 2018 and 22% in 2019), who migrate for a variety of reasons – not just to rejoin their families. In fact, it is common to encounter women who travel independently for economic reasons, to support their families, as well as to join other family members. Thus, the types of migration flows carried out by women are quite diverse.

As such, this report aims to provide an insight into the profiles, migratory experiences, motivations, intentions and needs of female mobile populations in northern Chad.

The results shared in this report are drawn from the daily data that IOM collects from travellers (males and females) passing through the Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs). It should be noted that this research was not specifically designed to study female migration and should only be understood as an entry point. In order to truly gain an in-depth understanding of female migration, specific follow-up research would need be conducted.

STRUCTURE

I. COLLECTED DATA
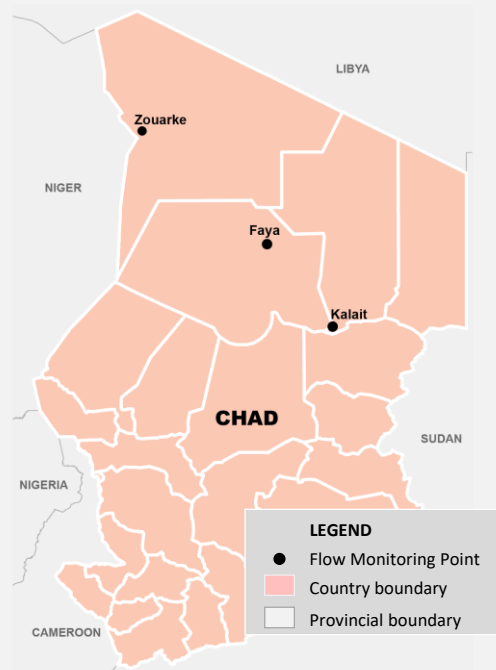
COLLECTED DATA

METADATA

This report presents key data obtained from individual surveys conducted with **619 women** at three Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs) in Faya, Kalait and Zouarké, from April 2018 to September 2019, in order to better understand the profiles, migration routes and needs of female travellers passing through these FMPs. The women who responded to these surveys were aged **between 14 and 64 years old**.

Of the total number of surveys conducted at the three FMPs, 68 per cent took place at the Faya FMP, 18 per cent in Zouarké and 13 per cent in Kalait. This discrepancy in the number of surveys carried out at the FMPs can be mainly explained by the fact that Faya is the principal town in northern Chad, especially in economic terms, and intersects several migration routes.* On the other hand, the relatively low number of women interviewed at the FMPs in Kalait and Zouarké can be explained by the fact that the Kalait FMP was closed definitively in June 2019, and the Zouarké FMP was inactive between October 2018 and June 2019.
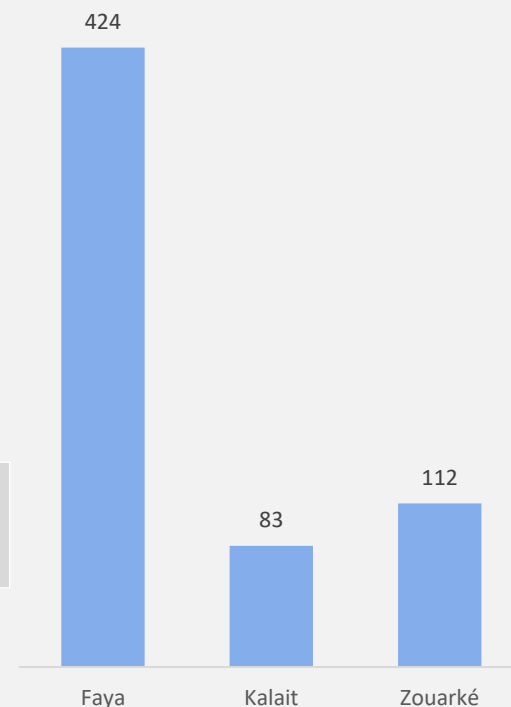
*See the report "Mobility in Chad: Mapping of mobility trends and flows in Chad" (August 2019), available here.

619 women surveyed out of

41 412 women observed at the Faya, Kalait and Zouarké FMPs between April 2018 and September 2019

1. Map of the Flow Monitoring Points

LEGEND
● Flow Monitoring Point
Country boundary
Provincial boundary

Disclaimer: This map is for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

2. Number of surveys conducted per FMP

	Faya	Kalait	Zouarké
	424	83	112
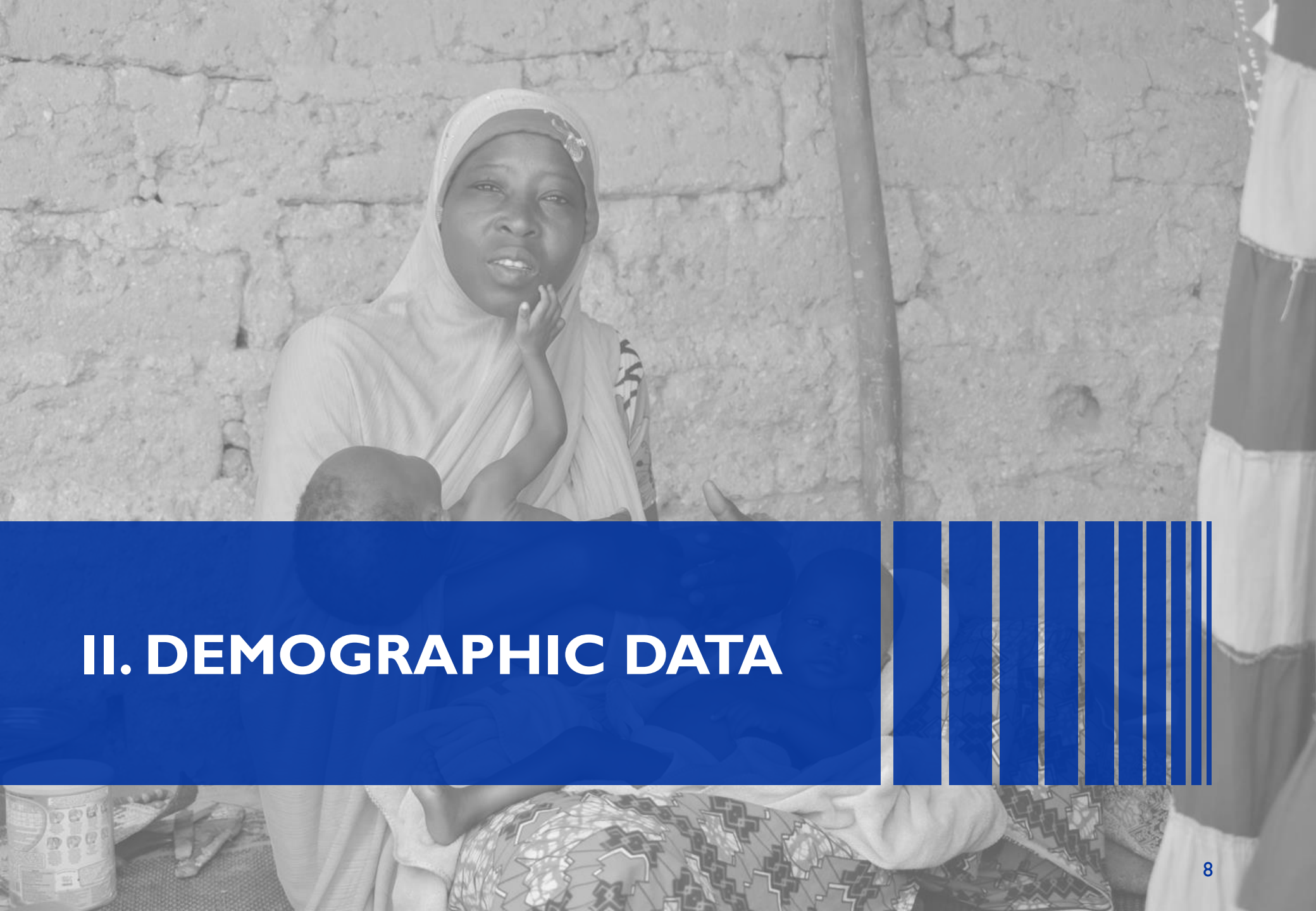
II. DEMOGRAPHIC DATA
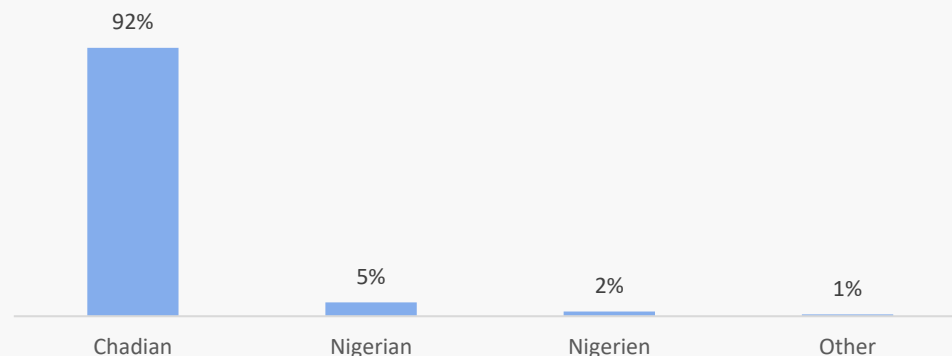
2.   DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

2.1. NATIONALITIES

Among the women interviewed, **most were Chadian nationals (92%**). This percentage, however, was lower when compared to men. Among the men surveyed at the Faya, Kalait and Zouarké FMPs, the percentage of Chadian nationals was 99 per cent. Several Nigerian (5%) and Nigerien (2%) women were also interviewed. The overall results indicate that there was a range of nationalities among migrant women, highlighting the importance of cross-border female migration in West Africa, and particularly for Nigerian women.
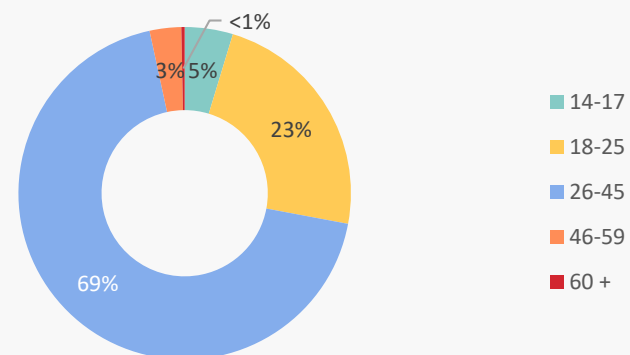
3. Nationalities of the women interviewed

2.2. AGE

The age distribution of the surveyed population shows that a significant proportion of respondents were girls. Specifically, 5 per cent were minors aged between 14 and 17 years old. Respondents who were aged 60 or older made up a relatively small portion (less than 1%) of the women interviewed at the Faya, Kalait and Zouarké FMPs. Women aged between 26 and 45 years old made up the majority (69%). Thus, overall, a significant proportion of the women surveyed were relatively young (54% of the women surveyed were under 30 years old).

4. Age of the surveyed population
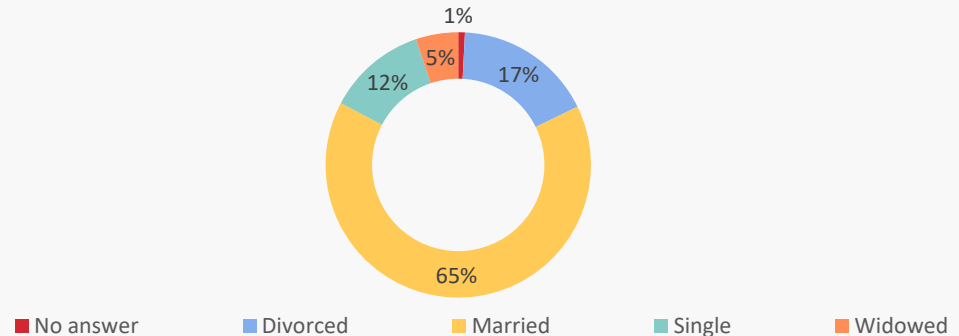
2. DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

2.3. MARITAL STATUS

Among the women interviewed, **most were married (65%)**. Women who were divorced (17%) or single (12%) also represented a significant proportion of the respondents. Additionally, 5 per cent were widowed.
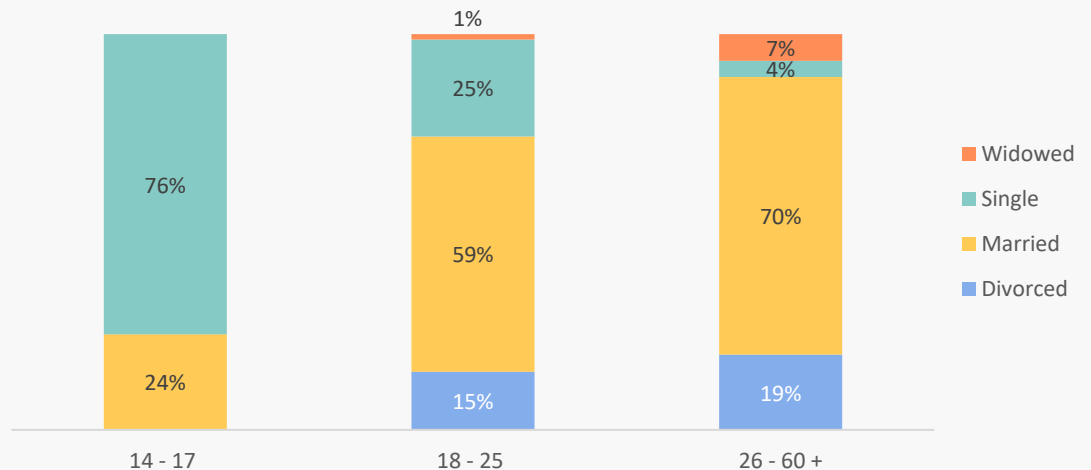
It is also worth noting that among the men interviewed, a much lower proportion were divorced (1%) and a higher proportion were single (31%), compared to women.

The distribution of the surveyed population by marital status and age group shows that **most underage girls (76%) were single**, although there was still a significant proportion who were married (24%). **Among young women between 18 and 25 years old, 59 per cent were married,** 25 per cent were single and 15 per cent were divorced. Finally, **most women over the age of 26 were married (70%)**, 19 per cent were divorced, 7 per cent were widowed and 4 per cent were single.

5. Marital status of the surveyed population

1%
5%
17%
12%
65%

■ No answer ■ Divorced ■ Married ■ Single ■ Widowed

6. Marital status of the surveyed population, by age group

■ Widowed
■ Single
■ Married
■ Divorced

14 - 17: 76%, 24%
18 - 25: 1%, 25%, 59%, 15%
26 - 60 +: 7%, 4%, 70%, 19%
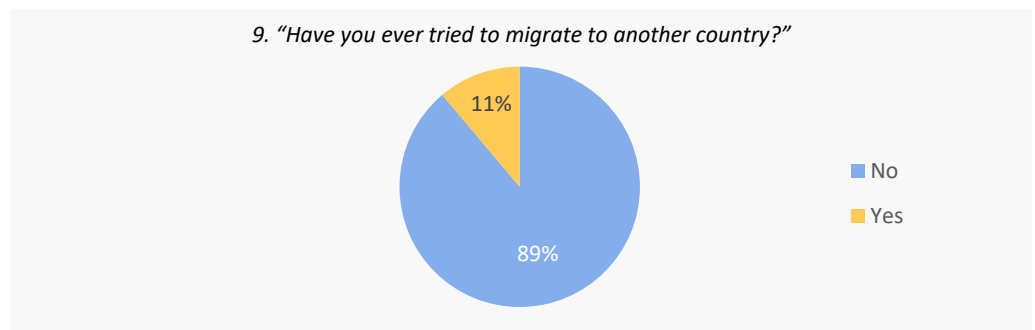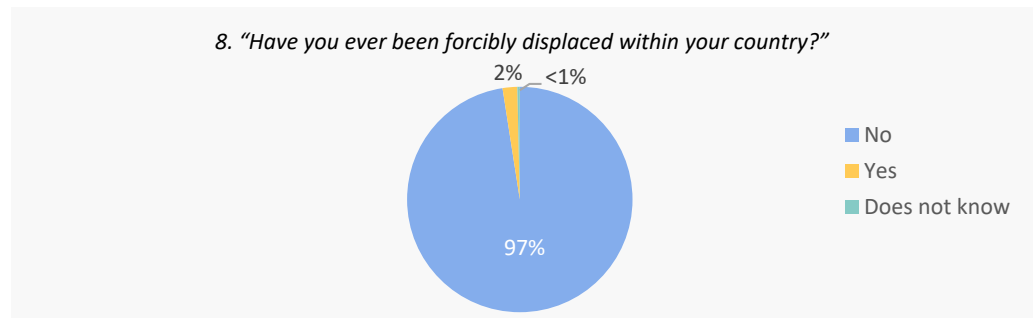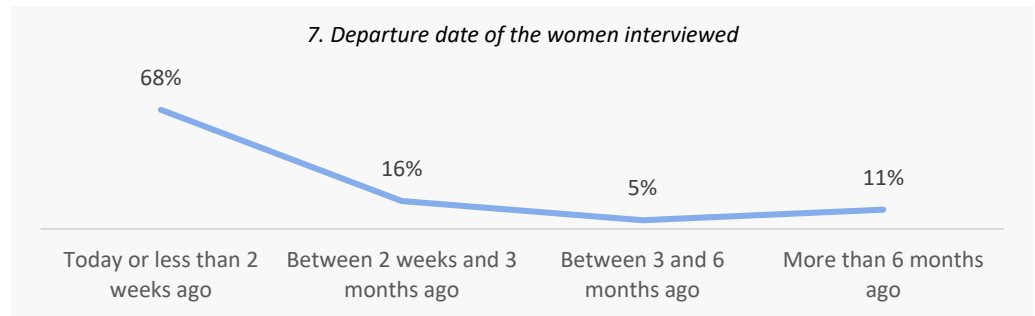
III. TRAVEL CHARACTERISTICS

3. TRAVEL CHARACTERISTICS

3.1. GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

Among the women interviewed, **most had started their trip within two weeks before the interview (68%)**. Sixteen per cent had left within two weeks to three months prior to the interview, 5 per cent between three and six months before, and 11 per cent more than six months before.

Almost all of the women interviewed (97%) indicated that they had never been forcibly displaced within their own country, but 2 per cent of women (all Chadian nationals) reported that they had already been displaced before. Among men, 11 per cent reported being forcibly displaced (87% of whom were Chadian, 9% Sudanese and 2% Libyan).

Furthermore, most of the female travellers (89%) reported never having tried to migrate to another country.

7. Departure date of the women interviewed

68%

16%

5%

11%

Today or less than 2 weeks ago

Between 2 weeks and 3 months ago

Between 3 and 6 months ago

More than 6 months ago

8. "Have you ever been forcibly displaced within your country?"

2% <1%

97%

- No
- Yes
- Does not know

9. "Have you ever tried to migrate to another country?"

11%

89%

- No
- Yes

3. TRAVEL CHARACTERISTICS

3.2. ORIGIN, DESITINATION AND REASONS FOR TRAVEL

Most of the women surveyed reported that they came from Chad (89%) and 8 per cent reported that they came from Libya.

Slightly more than half of the women surveyed (52%) reported having left their country of departure for **economic reasons**, 31 per cent declared that they were **rejoining their family** and 11 per cent were travelling to attend a **family event**. Among women travelling for economic reasons, most cited **business** (71%) as the reason for migration and 21 per cent mentioned **work opportunities**.
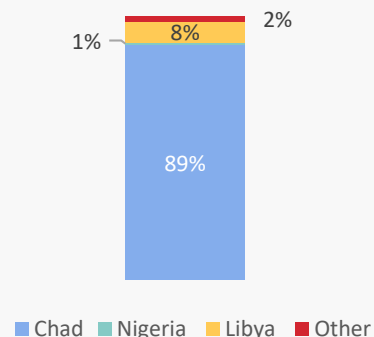
It is worth noting that while 15 per cent of men reported that they had left their place of departure because of conflict, this proportion was only 3 per cent for women .

An analysis of the reasons for travel by country of departure shows that **over half (55%) of the women leaving Libya were moving to rejoin their families**, while most of the **women coming from Nigeria (88%)** and **Chad (54%)** were travelling for **economic reasons**.
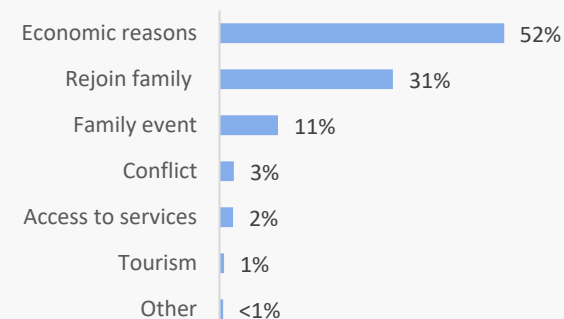
It should also be mentioned that **more than half of girls under 18 years old were rejoining their families (55%)**, while most **women over 26 were travelling for economic reasons (56%)**.

Regarding intended destinations, **most women indicated that they wanted to travel to (or stay in) Chad (81%)**. In addition, 12 per cent reported wanting to go to Libya, 5 per cent to Nigeria and 2 per cent to Niger.
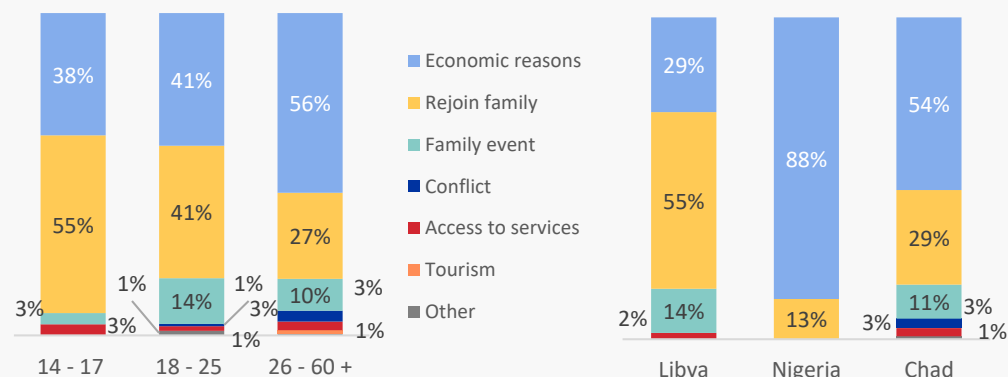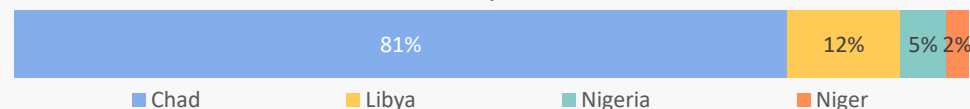
10. Country of departure

Chad 89%, Libya 8%, Other 2%, 1%

■ Chad ■ Nigeria ■ Libya ■ Other

11. Reasons for travel

Reason	%
Economic reasons	52%
Rejoin family	31%
Family event	11%
Conflict	3%
Access to services	2%
Tourism	1%
Other	<1%

12. Reasons for travel, by age group and country of departure

■ Economic reasons
■ Rejoin family
■ Family event
■ Conflict
■ Access to services
■ Tourism
■ Other

14 - 17: 38%, 55%, 1%, 3%
18 - 25: 41%, 41%, 14%, 1%, 3%
26 - 60 +: 56%, 27%, 10%, 3%, 1%

Libya: 29%, 55%, 14%, 2%
Nigeria: 88%, 13%, 3%
Chad: 54%, 29%, 11%, 3%, 1%

13. Intended final destinations

Chad 81%, Libya 12%, Nigeria 5%, Niger 2%

■ Chad ■ Libya ■ Nigeria ■ Niger
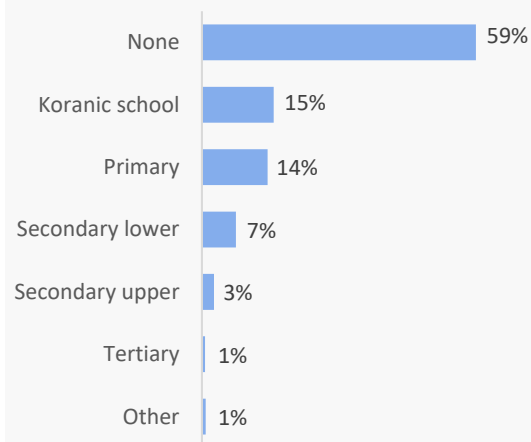
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IV. EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

4.   EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT
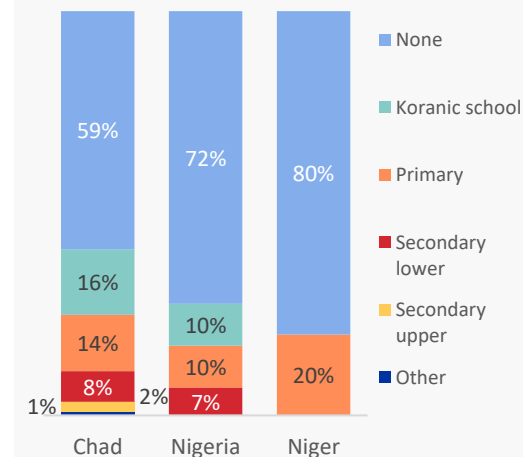
4.1. LEVEL OF EDUCATION

Among the women surveyed, **most reported having received no formal education (59%)**. Fifteen per cent of them received a Koranic education in an Islamic school, 14 per cent had finished primary school and 7 per cent had a lower secondary level. It should be further noted that 3 per cent of women surveyed received a high school education. It is worth mentioning that among the men interviewed, a smaller proportion stated that they had no education (36%), whereas a Koranic education was mentioned by 37 per cent of them. It was found that men generally had received a higher level of education than women.

By looking at women's education level by nationality, findings show that the **proportion of women with no education was higher among Nigerian (80%) and Nigerien women (72%) than among Chadian women (59%)**. An analysis of the reasons for travel and the education level shows that women having received a Koranic education (67%) and women who had no education at all (53%) were mainly travelling for economic reasons. Half of the women who received a tertiary education travelled for tourism. Finally, among the female travellers who had a primary or lower secondary education level, a high number reported travelling to rejoin family (respectively 45% and 44%).

14. Education level or surveyed women

Level	Percentage
None	59%
Koranic school	15%
Primary	14%
Secondary lower	7%
Secondary upper	3%
Tertiary	1%
Other	1%

15. Education level, by nationality

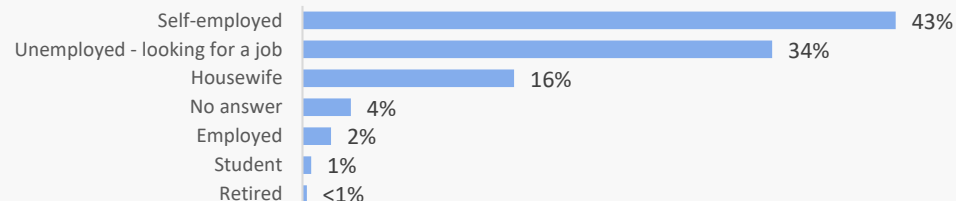16. Reasons for travel by level of education
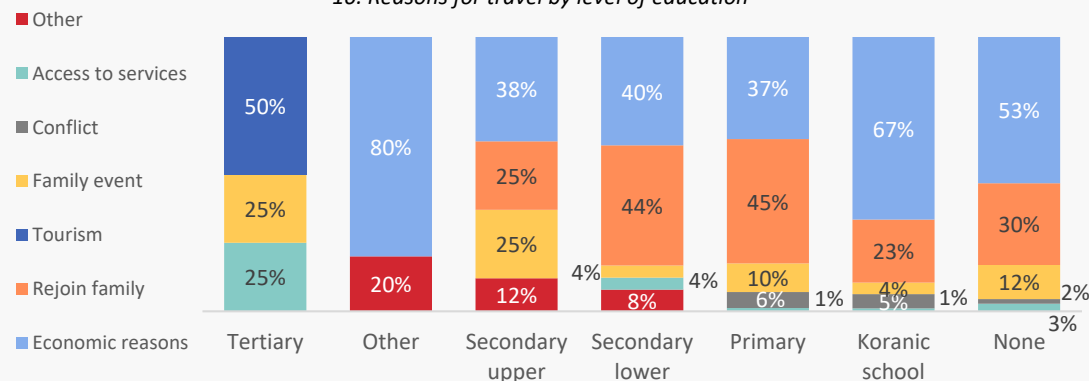
4.2. EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

Half of the women surveyed were unemployed, 34 per cent of whom were looking for employment opportunities. A large proportion of women **were self-employed (43%)**. Within this last category, a considerable number reported doing unskilled manual labor or working in the sales and service industry. The main occupations mentioned also included commerce, craftsmanship, and the medical sector. Furthermore, 2 per cent of the women were employed and 1 per cent were students.
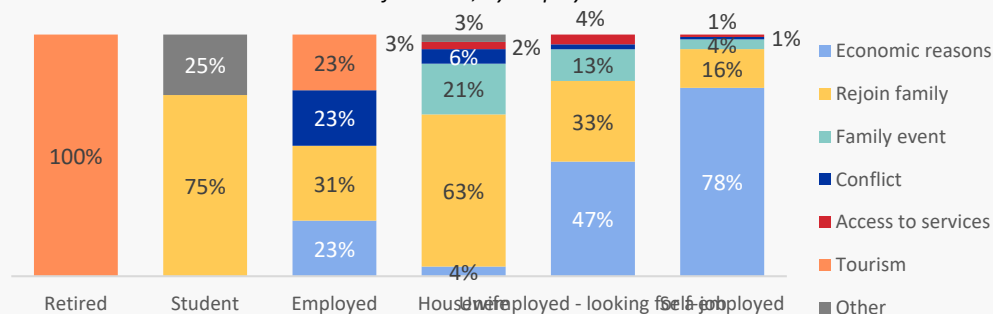
Analysis on the reasons for travel by employment status suggests that **the majority of the self-employed women (78%) and a significant number of women looking for a job (47%) had left for economic reasons**, whereas **most students (75%) and housewives (63%) were rejoining their family**.

Furthermore, analysis on the intended final destinations by employment status highlights that employment status held significant weight in the female travellers' intended destinations. Specifically, all **of the surveyed women who were students or employed were headed toward Chad**. Meanwhile, a relatively significant proportion of housewives (17%), self-employed women (10%) or unemployed women looking for a job (8%), were headed to Libya. It is also worth mentioning that 9 per cent of women who were looking for a job were moving to Nigeria and 5 per cent were going to Niger.
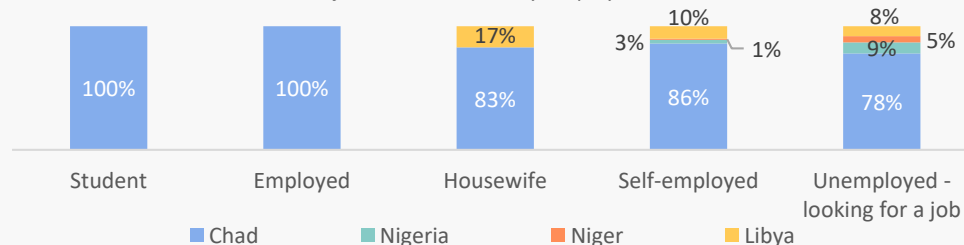
17. Employment situation of the female travellers surveyed

Self-employed	43%
Unemployed - looking for a job	34%
Housewife	16%
No answer	4%
Employed	2%
Student	1%
Retired	<1%

18. Reasons for travel, by employment status

Legend: Economic reasons, Rejoin family, Family event, Conflict, Access to services, Tourism, Other

	Retired	Student	Employed	Housewife	Unemployed - looking for a job	Self-employed
Economic reasons			23%	4%	47%	78%
Rejoin family		75%	31%	63%	33%	16%
Family event				21%	13%	4%
Conflict			23%	6%		
Access to services				3%	4%	1%
Tourism	100%		23%	2%	3%	1%
Other		25%				

19. Intended final destinations, by employment status

	Student	Employed	Housewife	Self-employed	Unemployed - looking for a job
Libya			17%	10%	8%
Niger				1%	5%
Nigeria				3%	9%
Chad	100%	100%	83%	86%	78%

Legend: Chad, Nigeria, Niger, Libya

V. TRAVEL CONDITIONS
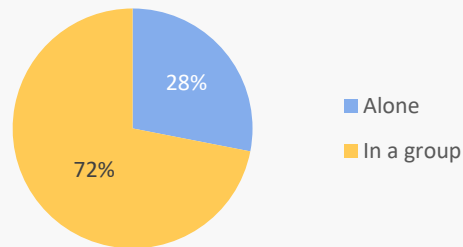
5.   TRAVEL CONDITIONS

5.1. TRAVEL CONDITIONS AND FUNDING

Most of the women surveyed travelled in groups (72%); among them, 81 per cent travelled with their family, among which 63 per cent were accompanied by children.
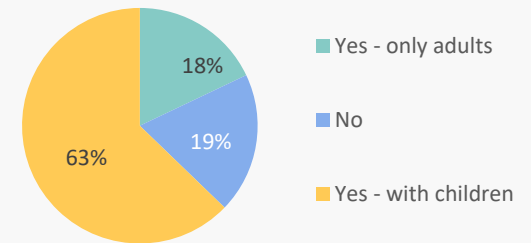
A large number of women indicated that they had funded their travel with savings that they had accumulated before their departure (34%), whereas 18 per cent had been supported by their family and friends in their country of departure.

As for the means of transportation, the most common mode of transport was the **truck** (mentioned by 58% of the women who had indicated their mode of travel) and the **private car or taxi** (12%). Three per cent of travellers also mentioned having travelled by bus.
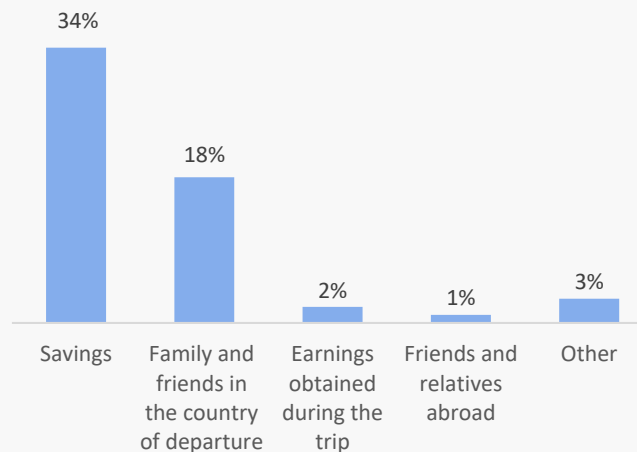
20. "Who are you travelling with?"

- Alone: 28%
- In a group: 72%

21. "If you travelled in a group, was your family included?"

- Yes - only adults: 18%
- No: 19%
- Yes - with children: 63%

22. Sources of funding for the trip

- Savings: 34%
- Family and friends in the country of departure: 18%
- Earnings obtained during the trip: 2%
- Friends and relatives abroad: 1%
- Other: 3%

23. Means of transportation used from the last place of transit

- Truck: 58%
- Private vehicle: 31%
- Bus: 3%
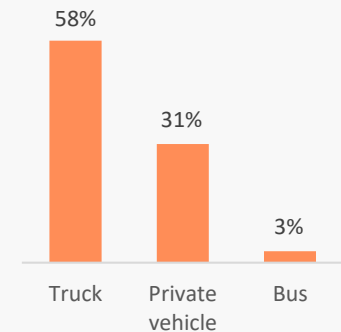
5. TRAVEL CONDITIONS

5.2. DIFFICULTIES AND INFORMATION NEEDS
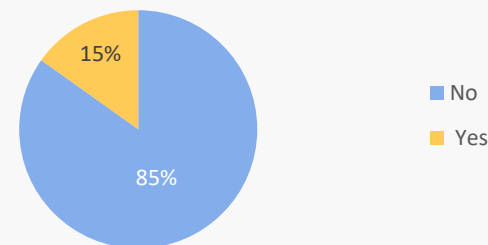
Among the women who answered the question regarding the difficulties faced during the trip (27% of the total sample of travellers surveyed), **15 per cent reported that they had faced issues during their travel** (against 29% for men). The most frequent problems mentioned included **financial difficulties** (which were reported by 40% of the women who had encountered a problem, against 16% of the male travellers surveyed), **illness** (32%, against 37% for men), **hunger and thirst** (24%, against 62% for men), and **lack of shelter** (24%, against 36% for men). Additionally, problems linked to a lack of documentation and identification as well as a lack of information were each highlighted by 20 per cent of the women surveyed.
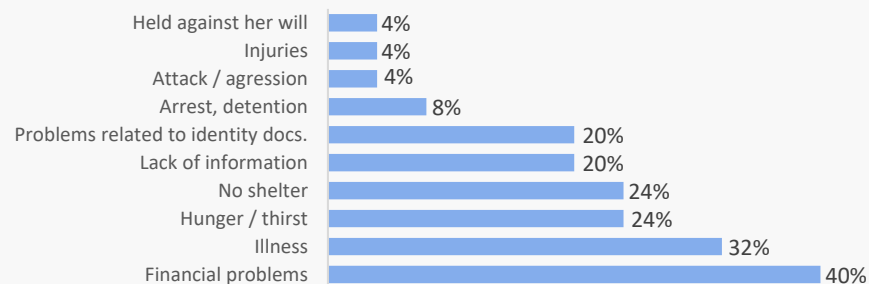
The main information needs mentioned were related to return and repatriation assistance (63%), employment opportunities (19%), risks and dangers en route (13%), and procedures regarding asylum or regulations in the country of destination (6%).

Among men, while more than half also cited the need for information on return and repatriation assistance (66%), a significant number (12%) mentioned that information on available medical services would be useful, while 7 per cent wished to receive logistical and practical information (on housing, transport, reception and transit centres).
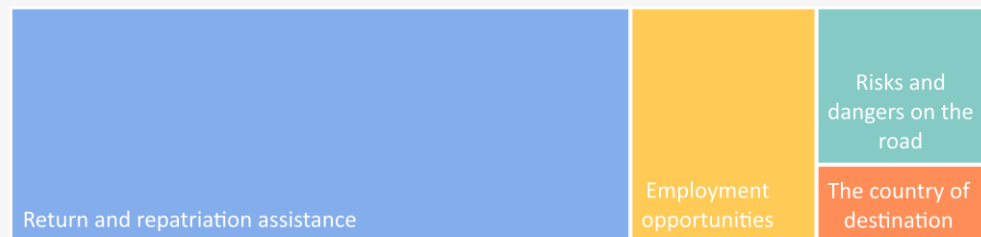
24. "Have you encountered any particular difficulties during your trip?"

- No
- Yes

15%
85%

25. Main difficulties faced by surveyed women

Category	Percentage
Held against her will	4%
Injuries	4%
Attack / agression	4%
Arrest, detention	8%
Problems related to identity docs.	20%
Lack of information	20%
No shelter	24%
Hunger / thirst	24%
Illness	32%
Financial problems	40%

26. Main information needs of female travellers

Return and repatriation assistance

Employment opportunities

Risks and dangers on the road

The country of destination

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January 2020

Kingdom of the Netherlands

German humanitarian assistance
DEUTSCHE HUMANITÄRE HILFE