



IOM works with national and local authorities to gain a better understanding of population movements throughout West and Central Africa. Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs) allow IOM to quantify and qualify migration flows, trends and routes at entry, exit and transit points (such as border crossing posts, bus stations, rest areas, police checkpoints and reception centres). Since July 2016, several Flow Monitoring Points have been progressively installed in important localities in Mali, particularly in the regions of Gao, Timbuktu, Kidal, Menaka, Mopti, Kayes, Segou, Sikasso and Bamako, to monitor the daily movements of migrants heading to West and North African countries. From July 2020, data collection operations were stopped at the FMPs in Bamako and Sévaré, two transit points. This decision comes after the suspension of data collection in Kidal at the end of 2019.



In August 2020, the average daily number of individuals observed at the Flow Monitoring Points decreased by 12 per cent compared to the previous month.

Nationals from Burkina Faso, Mali, Guinea-Conakry, Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria accounted for 88 per cent of all the migrants recorded at the Flow Monitoring Points.

Burkina Faso, Algeria, Mauritania, and the Niger are major transit countries for migrants after their stopover in Mali.

Economic migration, including long-term migration of more than six months (68% of flows) and seasonal migration (31% of flows), is the main observed type of movement.

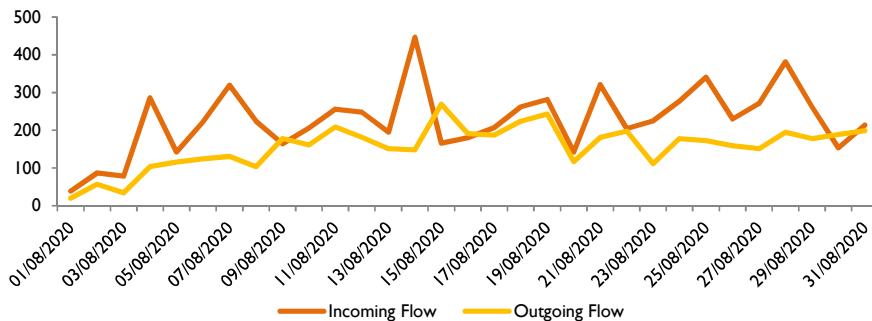
This map is for illustrative purposes only. Representations do not imply a judgment on the legal status of a territory, nor official recognition or acceptance of these boundaries by IOM.

### DEFINITIONS USED

**Incoming flows:** refers to migrants who arrive at a Flow Monitoring Point with the intention of travelling further into Mali.

**Outgoing flows:** refers to migrants who arrive at a Flow Monitoring Point with the intention of travelling towards the outer borders of Mali.

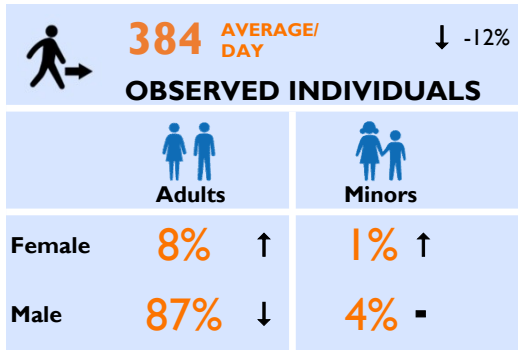
### EVOLUTION OF FLOWS OF INDIVIDUALS OBSERVED IN AUGUST 2020(\*)



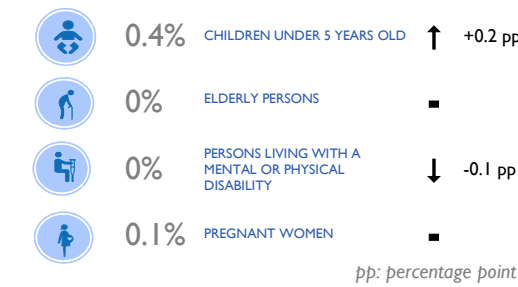
(\*) To avoid double counting, migrants recorded at the transit point of Wabaria (Gao) is not included in this total. Only those recorded at entry and exit points are considered.

### TRAVELLERS' PROFILE

(Data obtained through direct observation and during interviews with bus drivers and bus station managers. Variations calculated from previous month's data.)



DEMOGRAPHY



VULNERABILITIES

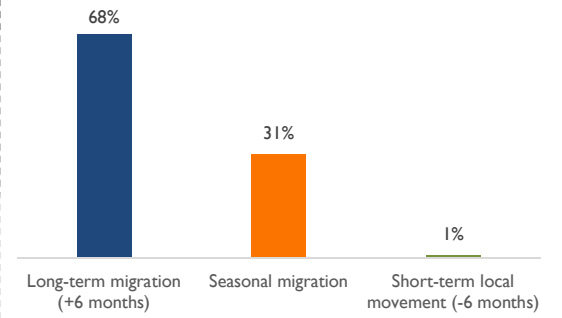
ORIGINS AND DESTINATIONS

MAIN NATIONALITIES	%	VARIATIONS
Burkina Faso	59%	-2 pp
Mali	18%	-
Guinea-Conakry	7%	-
Côte d'Ivoire	2%	-
Nigeria	2%	+1 pp
Other	12%	-2 pp

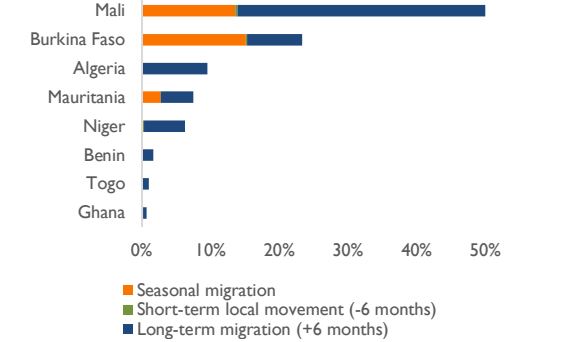
  

DESTINATION OF MIGRANTS	%	VARIATIONS
Mali	67%	+2 pp
Burkina Faso	25%	-5 pp
Algeria	4%	+1 pp
Mauritania	3%	+2 pp
Other	1%	-

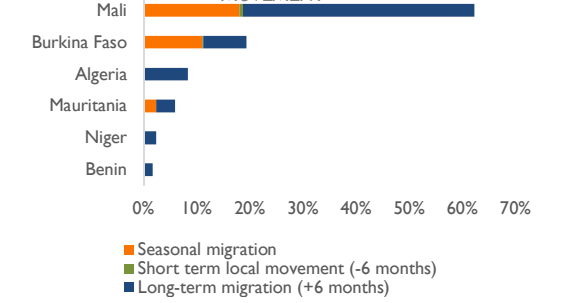
### MAIN TYPES OF MOVEMENT



### COUNTRY OF DEPARTURE OF OBSERVED MOVEMENTS BY TYPE OF MOVEMENT



### NEXT DESTINATIONS OF OBSERVED MOVEMENTS BY TYPE OF MOVEMENT



The FMPs are funded by the EUROPEAN UNION

### INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

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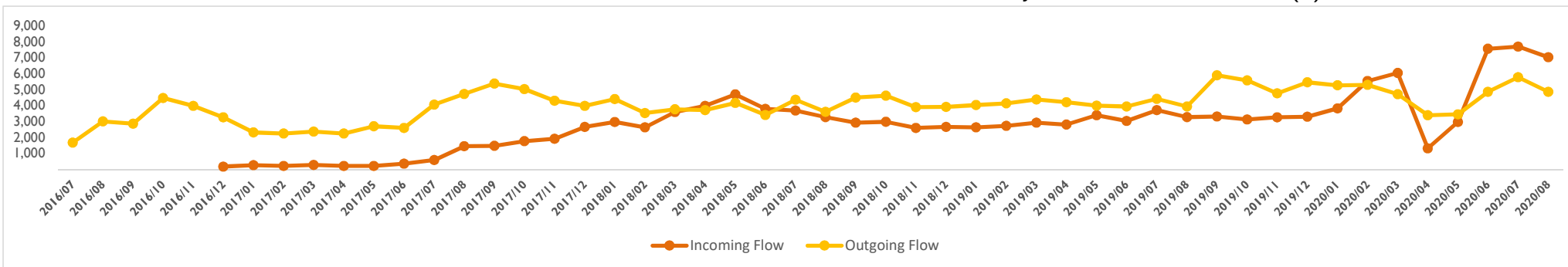


Most migrants travel through the capital city, Bamako, to the strategically located towns of Gao and Timbuktu, as well as through border areas such as Benena, Gogui and Heremakono, before heading towards Algeria, Niger, Libya, Mauritania or Morocco. Some will ultimately travel on to Europe. Gao is an important transit point and is commonly favoured by migrants for its accessibility to routes leading to the Mediterranean sea. The majority of outgoing migrants identified at the Gao and Timbuktu FMPs continue through Algeria (primarily through the Algerian towns of Tamanrasset and Bordj). Migrants transiting through Benena and Heremakono travel on to Burkina Faso, while those transiting through Gogui travel on to Mauritania. Mali is also a transit country for incoming migrants, notably those who were unable to cross the Sahara desert and those returning to countries such as Guinea-Conakry, Cote d'Ivoire, Senegal and other countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Following the appearance of the first cases of COVID-19 in West Africa in March 2020, public authorities chose to restrict mobility, including through the closure of borders. Migrants who do not want to defer their plans to migrate find unofficial means to cross officially closed borders despite the prohibition of people passing through. Therefore, from mid-March 2020, a progressive decrease in migratory flows was observed at the different FMPs of Mali, reaching a very low level in April 2020. However, during the months of May and June, a resumption was observed in the movement of migrants. In fact, Mali's FMPs recorded an increase in flows of 32 per cent in May and 100 per cent in June 2020. This increase resulted in an increased volume of flows which was higher than any period prior to COVID-19.

**7,034** Incoming individuals recorded at Mali FMPs (\*)  
**4,863** Outgoing individuals recorded at Mali FMPs (\*)  
**11,897** Individuals observed in total at Mali FMPs  
 7 Active FMPs in Mali

**TOTAL NUMBER OF INCOMING AND OUTGOING INDIVIDUALS AT MALI FMPs BETWEEN 1 JULY 2016 AND 31 AUGUST 2020 (\*\*)**

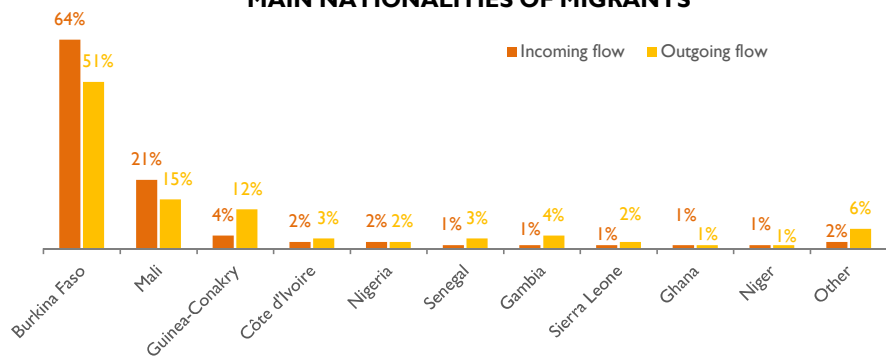


(\*) To avoid double counting, migrants recorded at the transit points of Wabaria are not included in this total. Only those recorded at entry and exit points are considered.

(\*\*) The data collection on incoming flows at FMPs started in December 2016. Due to the new FMP set up since the start of June 2017, any significant deviation observed in the figures provided from that date should not be interpreted as a significant increase in migratory flows but as an increase in data collected.

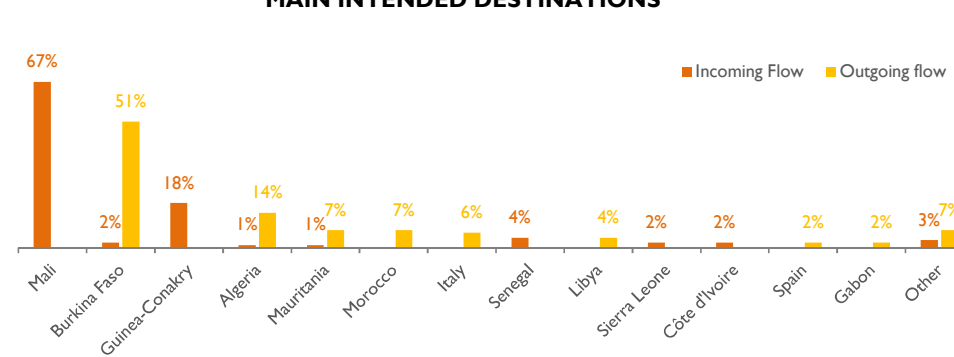
From February 2020, special accent has been placed on the registration of seasonal migrants. This has reduced the impact of the COVID-19 restrictions and has rapidly increased the volume of flows beyond the pre-COVID period.

**MAIN NATIONALITIES OF MIGRANTS**



Since the beginning of 2020, the flows of seasonal migrant from Burkina Faso continue to increase significantly. These migrants most often intend to travel to gold mining sites.

**MAIN INTENDED DESTINATIONS**



European countries were declared as the final intended destination by 10 per cent of outgoing migrants.



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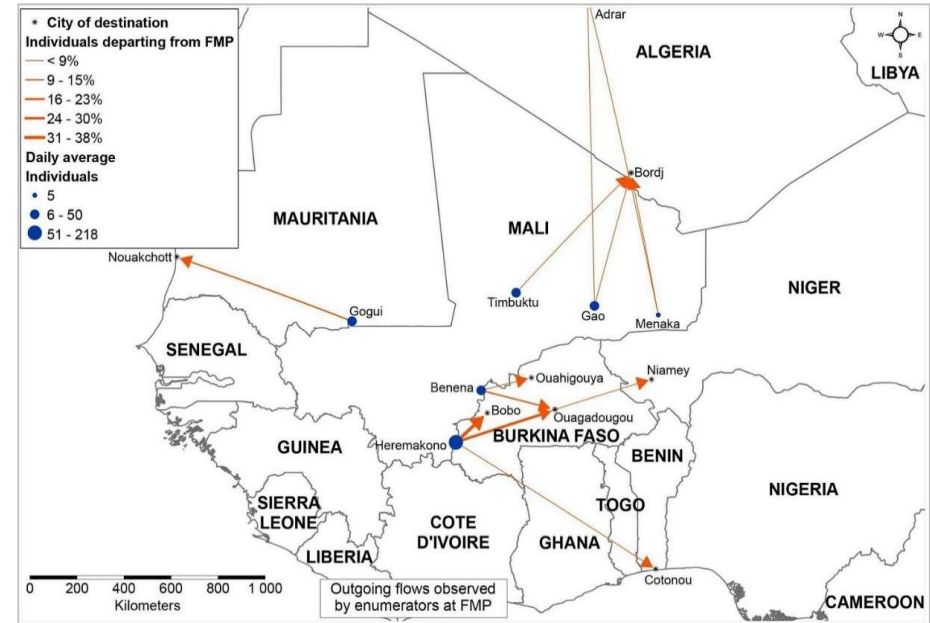
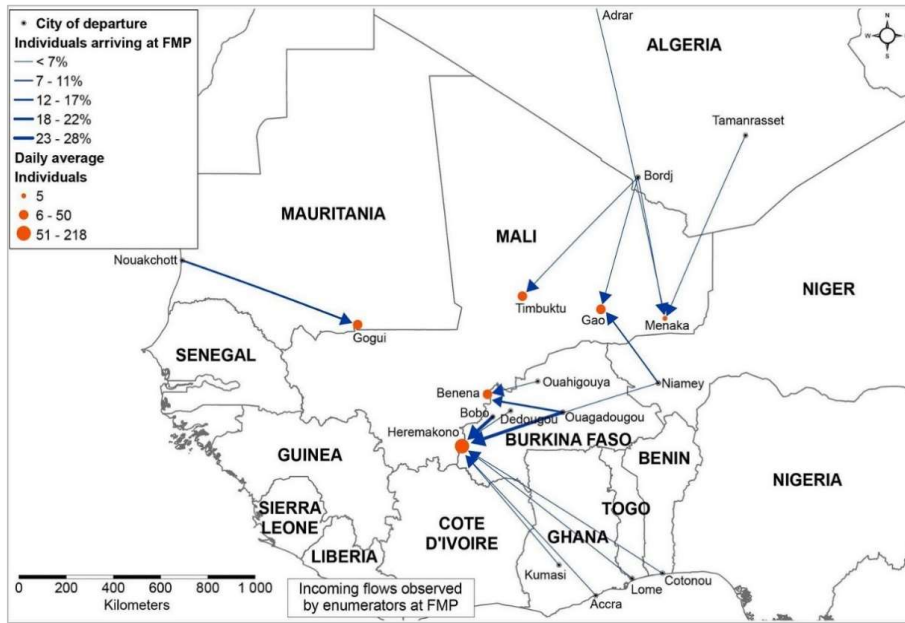
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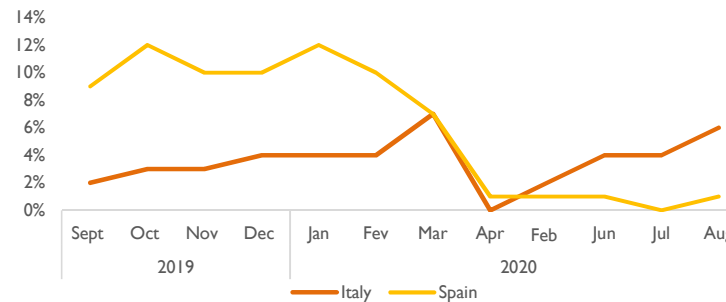
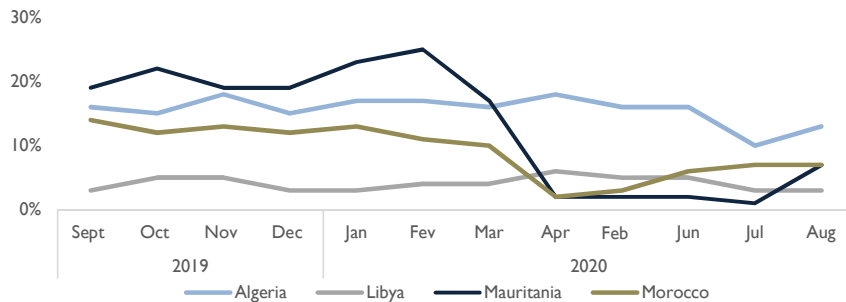
The data collected at the FMPs in Gao, Timbuktu and Ménaka permitted to determine the migrants in the direction of Algeria. These regions are localities where migrants headed for Algeria usually begin their journey, reciprocally the migrants who return from Algeria pass there.

In addition, the figures presented in pages one through three of this report do not include the numbers collected from the Wabaria FMP, which is a transit points and not points of entry or exit.



Base Map Source: ESRI. This map is for illustration purposes only. The depiction and use of boundaries, geographic names and related data shown on maps and included in this report are not warranted to be free of error nor do they imply judgment on the legal status of any territory, or any endorsement or acceptance of such boundaries by IOM.

EVOLUTION OF INTENDED FINAL DESTINATIONS BETWEEN 1 SEPTEMBER 2019 AND 31 AUGUST 2020



The number of migrants wishing to travel to Europe through Algeria and Mauritania increased. However migrants who want to travel to Europe through Morocco and Libya remained constant.

The number of migrants wishing to travel to Italy and Spain increased.

It should be noted that these figures indicate the intentions of migrants rather than confirmed destinations.

Wabaria, located at the entrance of the city of Gao, is predominantly a crossing point for migrants travelling to Gao, coming from the South and the Centre of Mali or who have transited through those areas.

At this Flow Monitoring Point, most migrants identified by data collectors remain inside Mali. However, a significant proportion wish to travel to North African and European countries. Most of them transit through Bamako to reach Gao, where they spend a couple of days before continuing their journey.

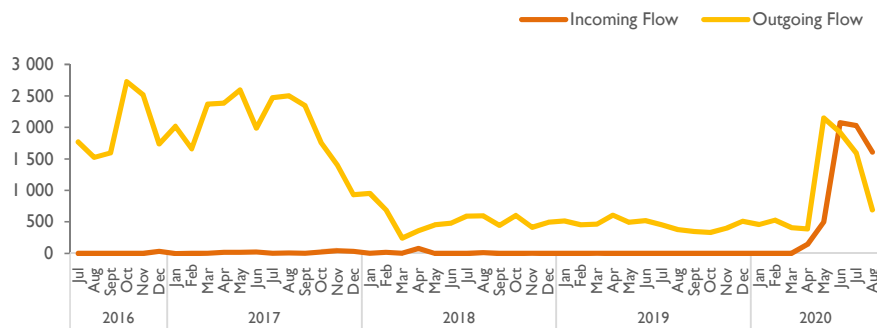
During the reporting period, most migrants transiting through the Wabaria FMP were nationals of Niger (58%), Burkina Faso (12%), Sudan (7%), Guinea-Conakry (5%) and Côte d'Ivoire (4%).

For outgoing flows, mainly consisting mainly of seasonal migrants, Algeria (25%), Niger (19%), Spain (14%), Libya (14%), Italy (8%), Burkina Faso (5%), Morocco (5%) and Sudan (2%) were the main intended destinations reported.

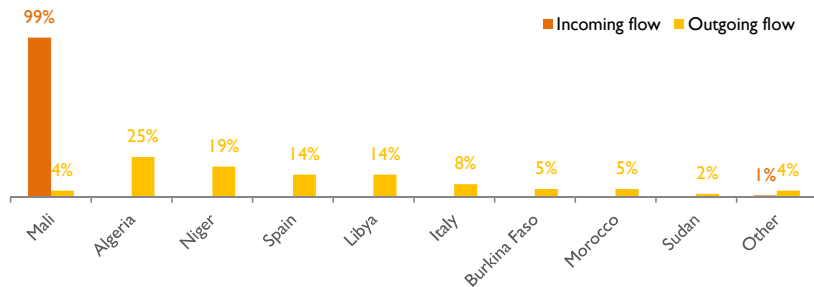
From May 2020, an accent has been placed on the registration of seasonal migrants. This permit a considerable increase in migration flows, resulting in a multiplication by 4 the daily average compared to that of the first quarter.

During the reporting period, 2,295 migrants were recorded at this FMP (Incoming flow: 1,607; Outgoing flow: 688).

### MONTHLY FLOWS OF INDIVIDUALS OBSERVED SINCE THE FMP WAS INSTALLED



### MAIN INTENDED FINAL DESTINATIONS



### TRAVELLERS' PROFILE

(Data obtained through direct observation and during interviews with bus drivers and bus station managers. Variations calculated from previous month's data.)

**79** AVERAGE/  
DAY

**OBSERVED INDIVIDUALS**

↓ -35%

	<b>Adults</b>
	<b>Minors</b>
<b>Female</b>	1% ▬
<b>Male</b>	95% ↑
<b>Female</b>	0% ▬
<b>Male</b>	4% ↓

0.1% CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS OLD

↑ +0.1 pp

0% ELDERLY PERSONS

▬

0% PERSONS LIVING WITH A MENTAL OR PHYSICAL DISABILITY

▬

0% PREGNANT WOMEN

▬

pp: percentage point

DEMOGRAPHY

VULNERABILITIES

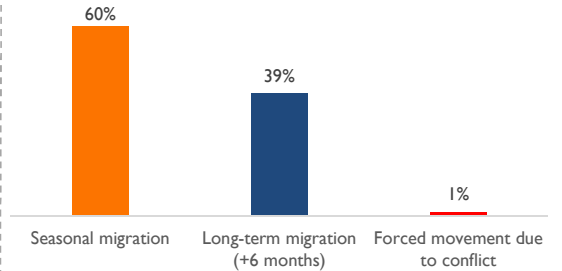
ORIGINS AND DESTINATIONS

MAIN NATIONALITIES	%	VARIATIONS
Niger	58%	+8 pp
Burkina Faso	12%	-13 pp
Sudan	7%	-1 pp
Guinea-Conakry	5%	+2 pp
Côte d'Ivoire	4%	+2 pp
Other	14%	+2 pp

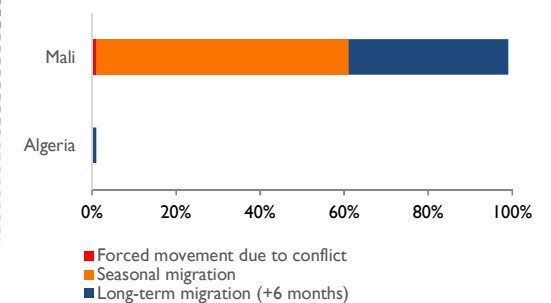
DESTINATION OF MIGRANTS	%	VARIATIONS
Mali	96%	+3 pp
Algeria	4%	-3 pp

With the methodology, Mali is indicated as the destination country and Gao as the destination city. Then flows continue to Algeria.

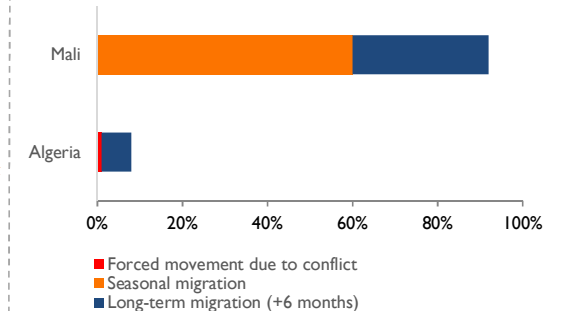
### MAIN TYPES OF MOVEMENT



### COUNTRY OF DEPARTURE OF OBSERVED MOVEMENTS BY TYPE OF MOVEMENT



### NEXT DESTINATIONS OF OBSERVED MOVEMENTS BY TYPE OF MOVEMENT



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Place Kidal is mainly an exit point for migrants leaving Gao.

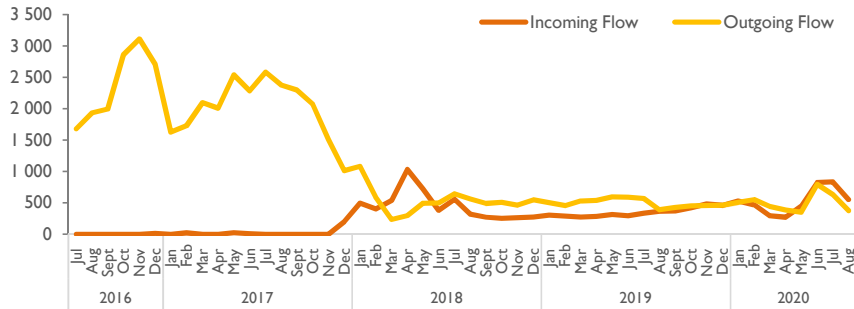
At this Flow Monitoring Point, the data collectors identify migrants who have spent a number of days in Gao in transit before travelling onwards, predominantly to North African and European countries. Incoming migrants who transit through Niger or Algeria and return to Mali or their countries of origin (Guinea-Conakry, Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire, ...), as well as seasonal migrants traveling from one city in Mali to another are also identified at this FMP. Forced movements due to a conflict (5%) were also seen.

During the reporting period, most migrants identified at Place Kidal FMP were nationals of Mali (40%), Guinea-Conakry (16%), Côte d'Ivoire (10%), Nigeria (9%) and Senegal (6%).

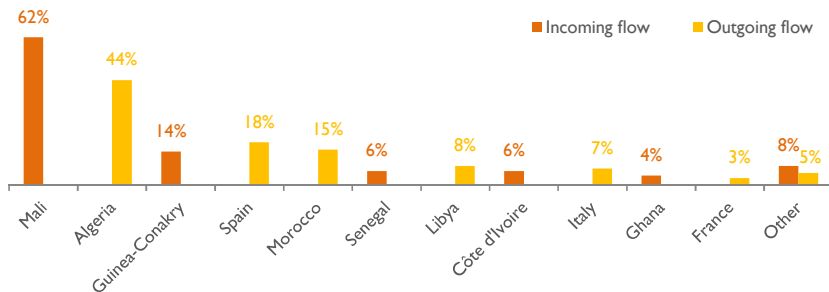
For outgoing flows, Algeria (44%), Spain (18%), Morocco (15%), Libya (8%), Italy (7%) and France (3%) are the main destinations for migrants.

During the reporting period, 932 migrants were recorded at this FMP (Incoming flow: 553; Outgoing flow: 379).

### MONTHLY FLOWS OF INDIVIDUALS OBSERVED SINCE THE FMP WAS INSTALLED

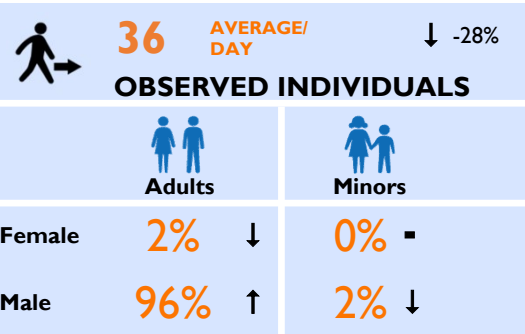


### MAIN INTENDED FINAL DESTINATIONS

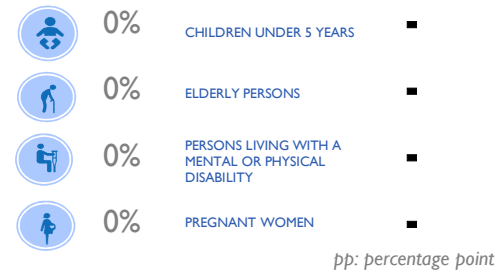


### TRAVELLERS' PROFILE

(Data obtained through direct observation and during interviews with bus drivers and bus station managers. Variations calculated from previous month's data.)



DEMOGRAPHY



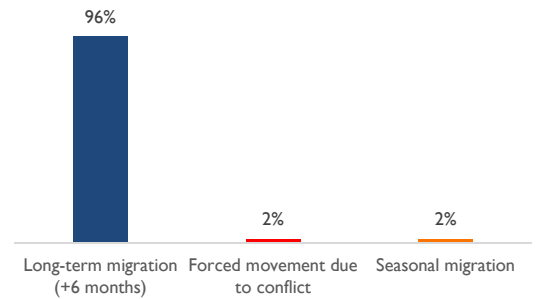
VULNERABILITIES

ORIGINS AND DESTINATIONS

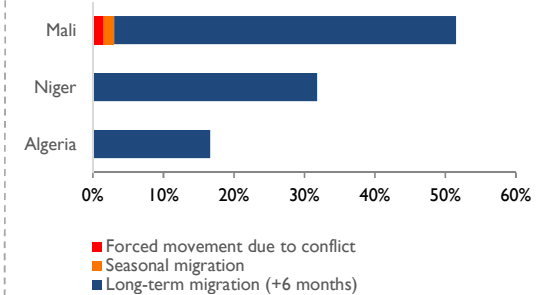
MAIN NATIONALITIES	%	VARIATIONS
Mali	40%	+13 pp
Guinea-Conakry	16%	-3 pp
Côte d'Ivoire	10%	+1 pp
Nigeria	9%	+7 pp
Senegal	6%	-
Other	19%	+6 pp

DESTINATION OF MIGRANTS	%	VARIATIONS
Mali	61%	-16 pp
Algeria	39%	+16 pp

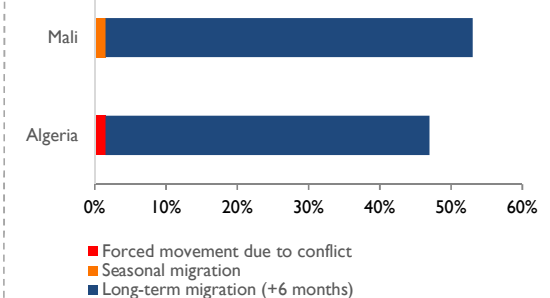
### MAIN TYPES OF MOVEMENT



### COUNTRY OF DEPARTURE OF OBSERVED MOVEMENTS BY TYPE OF MOVEMENT



### NEXT DESTINATIONS OF OBSERVED MOVEMENTS BY TYPE OF MOVEMENT



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### INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

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The Timbuktu Flow Monitoring Point is primarily a migrant exit point for outgoing flows in direction to North Africa.

At this Flow Monitoring Point, data collectors observe migrants who travel through Timbuktu before going on to North Africa and Europe.

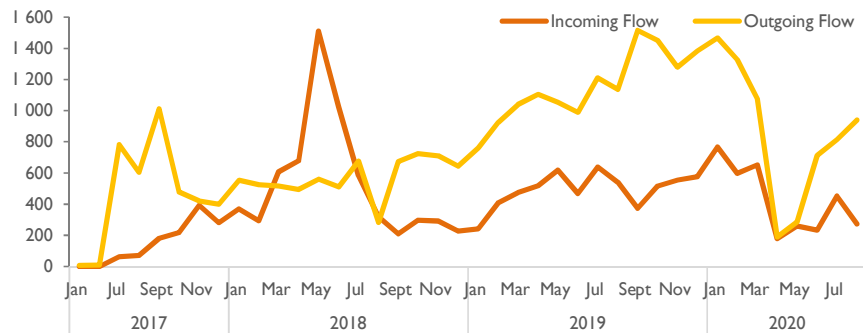
Incoming migrants who transit through Algeria and return to Mali, Guinea-Conakry, Côte d'Ivoire are also identified at this FMP.

During the reporting period, most migrants identified at the Timbuktu FMP were nationals of Guinea-Conakry (44%), Mali (23%), Gambia (10%), Sierra Leone (7%) and Senegal (6%).

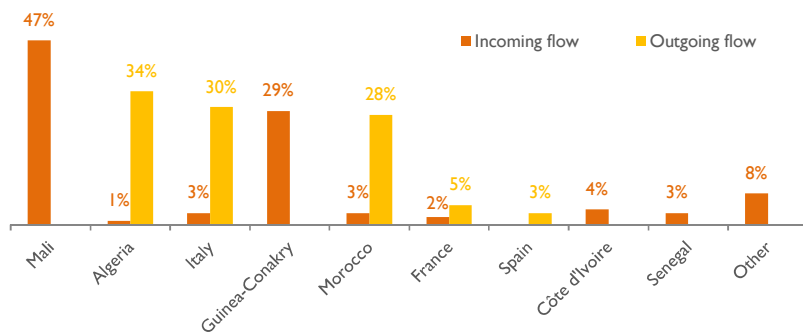
Most outgoing migrants reported either Algeria (34%), Italy (30%), Morocco (28%) France (5%) and Spain (3%) as their intended final destination.

During the reporting period, 1,213 migrants were recorded at this FMP (Incoming flow: 273; Outgoing flow: 940). After having lost a significant part of the volume of its migratory flows due to the COVID-19 pandemic, movements are progressively resuming at this FMP.

### MONTHLY FLOWS OF INDIVIDUALS OBSERVED SINCE THE FMP WAS INSTALLED



### MAIN INTENDED FINAL DESTINATIONS



### TRAVELLERS' PROFILE

(Data obtained through direct observation and during interviews with bus drivers and bus station managers. Variations calculated from previous month's data.)

**39** AVERAGE/DAY **↓ -5%**  
**OBSERVED INDIVIDUALS**

DEMOGRAPHY

	<b>Adults</b>	<b>Minors</b>
<b>Female</b>	5% ↑	0% ▬
<b>Male</b>	82% ↓	13% ↑

VULNERABILITIES

0.1%	CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS	↑ +0.1 pp
0%	ELDERLY PERSONS	↓ -0.1 pp
0%	PERSONS LIVING WITH A MENTAL OR PHYSICAL DISABILITY	↓ -0.2 pp
0%	PREGNANT WOMEN	▬

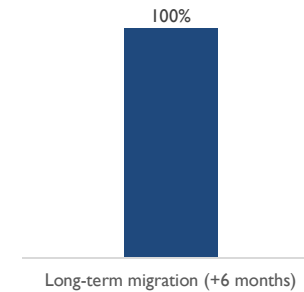
pp: percentage point

ORIGINS AND DESTINATIONS

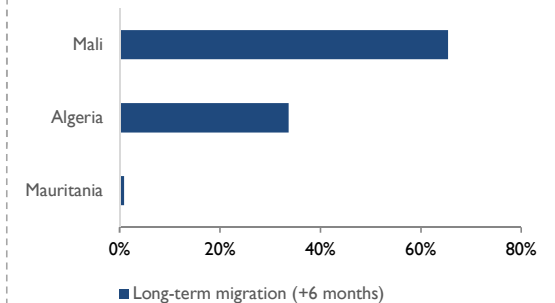
MAIN NATIONALITIES	%	VARIATIONS
Guinea-Conakry	44%	+7 pp
Mali	23%	-11 pp
Gambia	10%	+2 pp
Sierra Leone	7%	+1 pp
Senegal	6%	+1 pp
Other	10%	+2 pp

DESTINATION OF MIGRANTS	%	VARIATIONS
Mali	97%	-1 pp
Algeria	3%	+1 pp

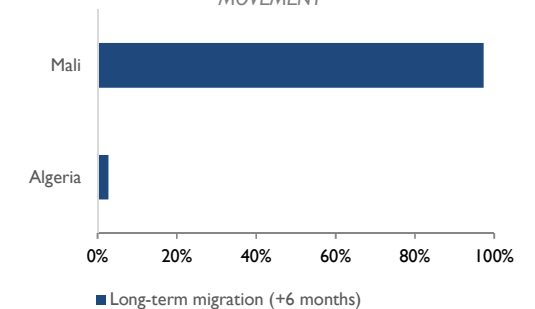
### MAIN TYPES OF MOVEMENT



### COUNTRY OF DEPARTURE OF OBSERVED MOVEMENTS BY TYPE OF MOVEMENT



### NEXT DESTINATIONS OF OBSERVED MOVEMENTS BY TYPE OF MOVEMENT



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The Menaka Flow Monitoring Point is located in the city of Menaka, in the Menaka region.

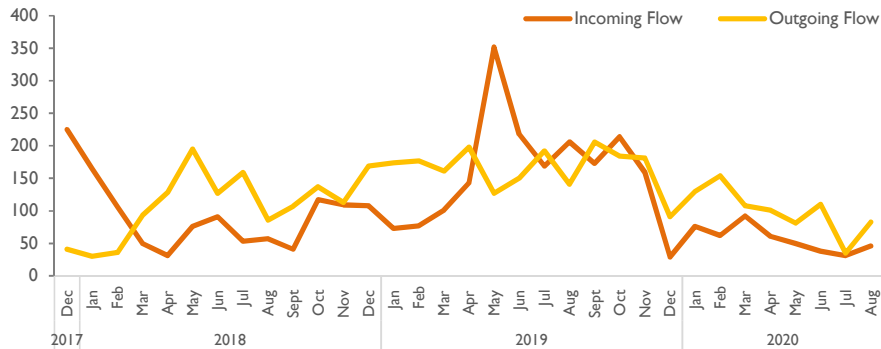
According to information received by data collectors, some migrants, following the reinforcement of security measures in the Niger, cross the Menaka border from the Niger into Mali in order to get to Algeria or Libya. Forced movements due to conflict (2%) were registered.

During the reporting period, most migrants identified at Menaka were Malian nationals (36%), followed by nationals of the Niger (26%), Nigeria (15%), Ghana (11%) and Benin (9%).

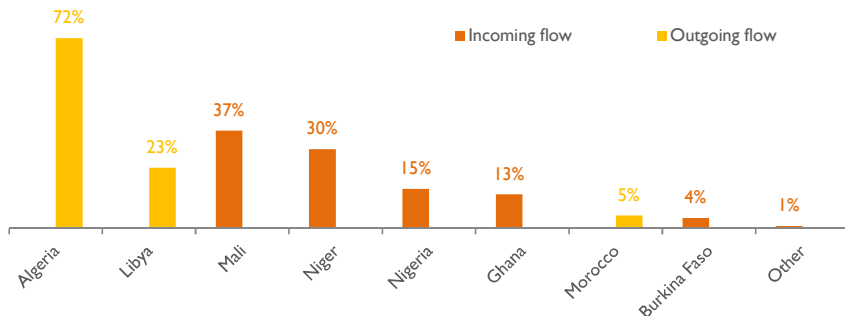
Most outgoing migrants reported Algeria (72%) as their intended final destination, almost a quarter (23%) wanted to go to Libya, the remaining 5 per cent intended to go to Libya.

During the reporting period, 129 migrants were recorded at this FMP (Incoming flow: 46; Outgoing flow: 83). This represents a considerable decrease in the volume of flows.

MONTHLY FLOWS OF INDIVIDUALS OBSERVED SINCE THE FMP WAS INSTALLED

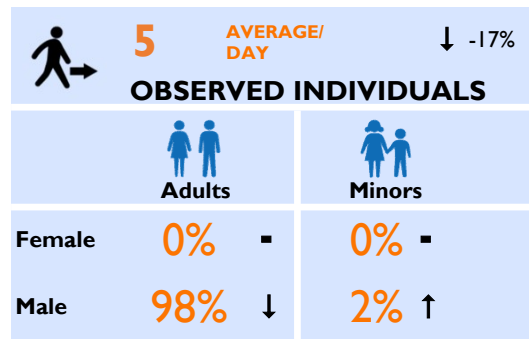


MAIN INTENDED FINAL DESTINATIONS



TRAVELLERS' PROFILE

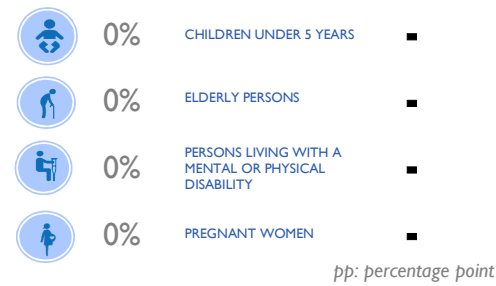
(Data obtained through direct observation and during interviews with bus drivers and bus station managers. Variations calculated from previous month's data.)



DEMOGRAPHY

VULNERABILITIES

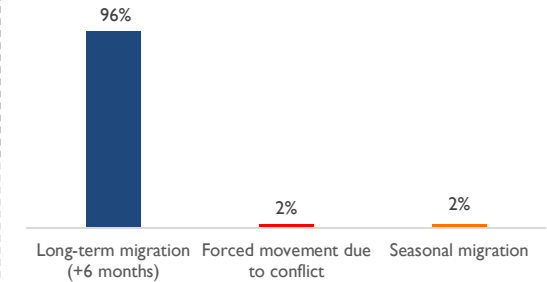
ORIGINS AND DESTINATIONS



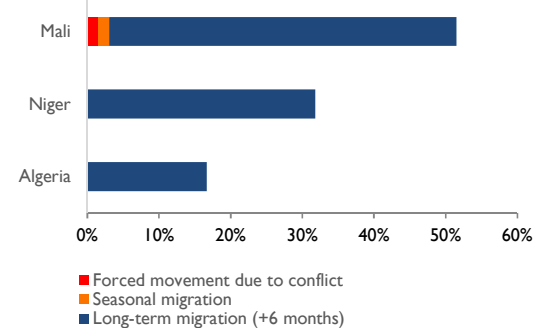
MAIN NATIONALITIES	%	VARIATIONS
Mali	36%	-12 pp
Niger	26%	-1 pp
Nigeria	15%	+4 pp
Ghana	11%	+6 pp
Burkina Faso	9%	+6 pp
Other	3%	-3 pp

DESTINATION OF MIGRANTS	%	VARIATIONS
Algeria	64%	+11 pp
Mali	36%	-11 pp

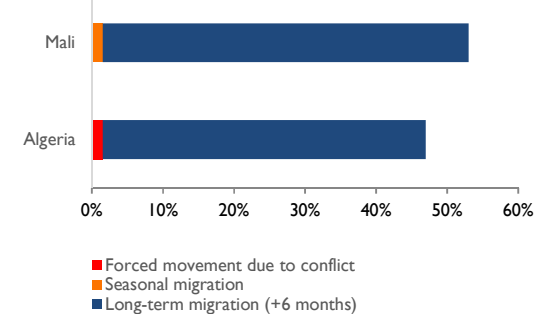
MAIN TYPES OF MOVEMENT



COUNTRY OF DEPARTURE OF OBSERVED MOVEMENTS BY TYPE OF MOVEMENT



NEXT DESTINATIONS OF OBSERVED MOVEMENTS BY TYPE OF MOVEMENT



The FMPs are funded by the EUROPEAN UNION

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

dtmmali@iom.int / rodakarepcteam@iom.int - <https://dtm.iom.int> / <https://migration.iom.int>  
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The Gogui Flow Monitoring Point is located at the border post between Mali and Mauritania.

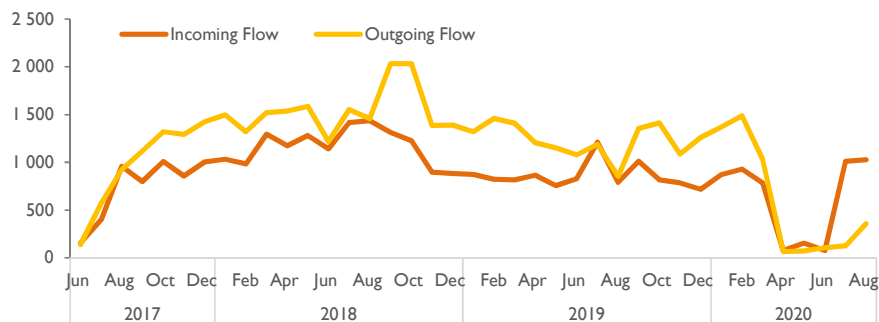
At this Flow Monitoring Point, data collectors identify outgoing flows of migrants travelling to Mauritania or Morocco. Some of them say they want to gather enough savings to continue their journey to Europe.

A large number of incoming migrants who had transited through Mauritania and were returning to Mali, Côte d'Ivoire, Niger were also identified at this FMP.

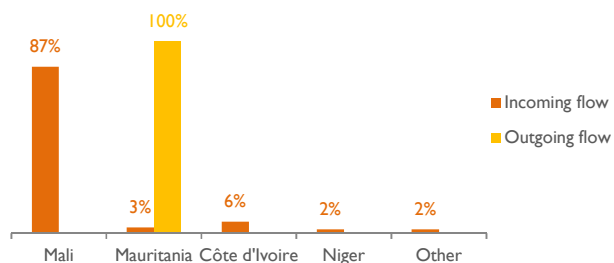
During the reporting period, Migrants identified in Gogui were mostly Malian nationals (89%). Nationals from Côte d'Ivoire (6%), Niger (2%) and Guinea-Conakry (1%) were also observed. All outgoing migrants from Mali (100%) reported Mauritania as the final destination.

During the reporting period, 1,382 migrants were recorded at this FMP (Incoming flow: 1,025; Outgoing flow: 357). This corresponds to an increase in the average daily flow of more than 22 per cent. The average of daily flow raised to almost 50 per cent of its pre-COVID level.

## MONTHLY FLOWS OF INDIVIDUALS OBSERVED SINCE THE FMP WAS INSTALLED

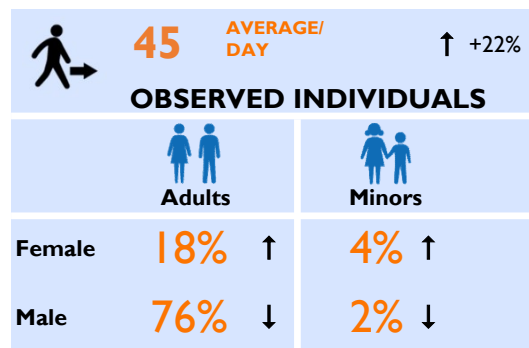


## MAIN INTENDED FINAL DESTINATIONS

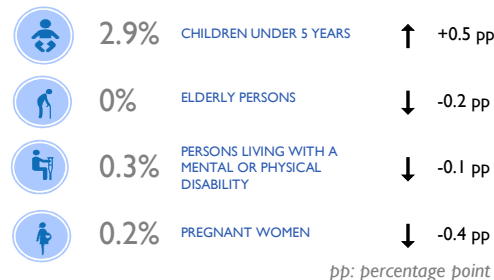


## TRAVELLERS' PROFILE

(Data obtained through direct observation and during interviews with bus drivers and bus station managers. Variations calculated from previous month's data.)



DEMOGRAPHY



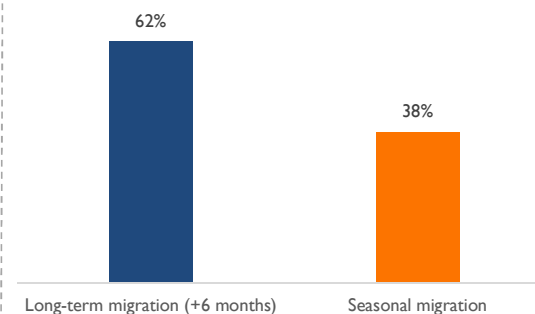
VULNERABILITIES

MAIN NATIONALITIES	%	VARIATIONS
Mali	89%	-6 pp
Côte d'Ivoire	6%	+4 pp
Niger	2%	+1 pp
Guinea-Conakry	1%	+1 pp
Other	2%	+2 pp

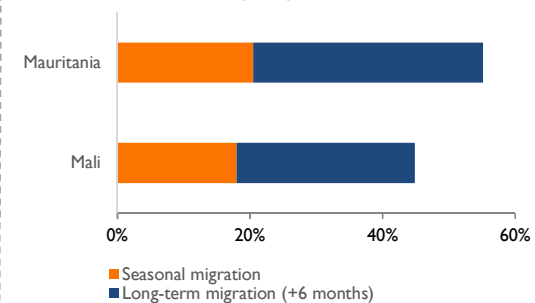
ORIGINS AND DESTINATIONS

DESTINATION OF MIGRANTS	%	VARIATIONS
Mali	74%	-15 pp
Mauritania	26%	+15 pp

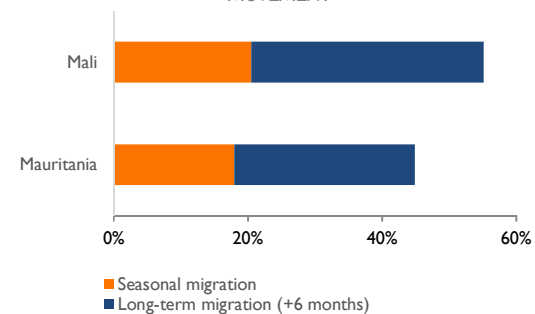
## MAIN TYPES OF MOVEMENT



## COUNTRY OF DEPARTURE OF OBSERVED MOVEMENTS BY TYPE OF MOVEMENT



## NEXT DESTINATIONS OF OBSERVED MOVEMENTS BY TYPE OF MOVEMENT



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The Benena Flow Monitoring Point is located at a border post between Mali and Burkina Faso, in the Segou region.

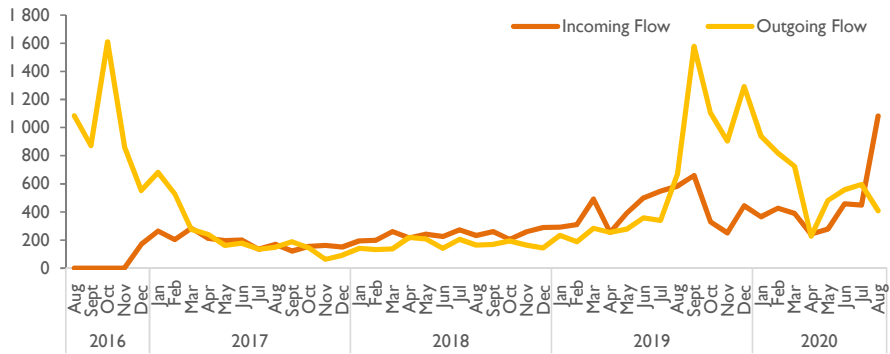
At this Flow Monitoring Point, data collectors observe outgoing flows of migrants who intend to travel to West and Central African, North African and European countries after transiting through Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger, as well as incoming migrants entering Mali after transiting through Burkina Faso.

During the reporting period, most migrants identified at Benena were nationals of Burkina Faso (84%), Nigeria (8%), Togo (3%), Mali (2%) et Benin (1%).

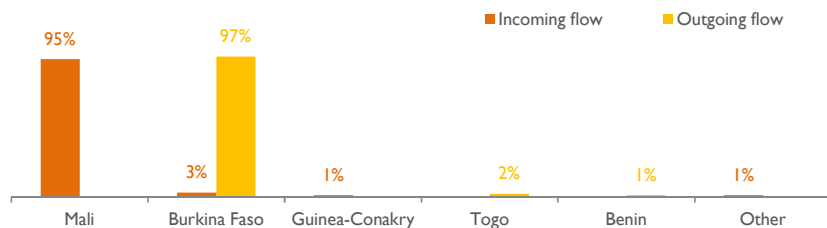
Most outgoing migrants reported either Burkina Faso (90%), Benin (2%), Gabon (2%), Nigeria (2%) or Togo (2%) as their intended final destination.

During the reporting period, 1,493 migrants were recorded at this FMP (Incoming flow: 1,083; Outgoing flow: 410). The increases recorded in May, June and August 2020 permitted the Benena FMP to regain its pre-COVID-19 flows level.

### MONTHLY FLOWS OF INDIVIDUALS OBSERVED SINCE THE FMP WAS INSTALLED

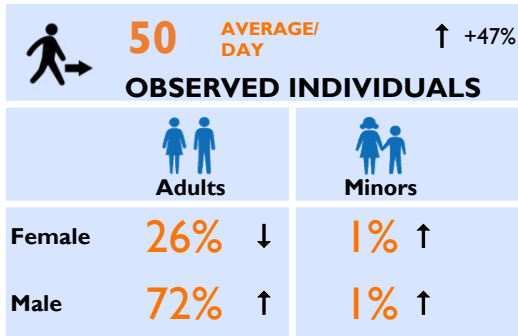


### MAIN INTENDED FINAL DESTINATIONS

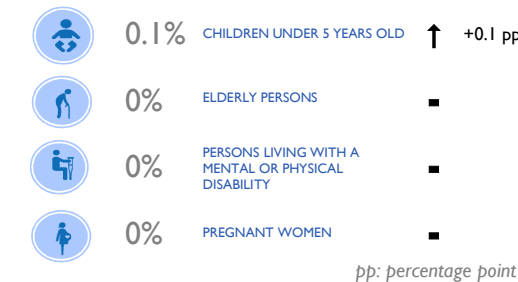


### TRAVELLERS' PROFILE

(Data obtained through direct observation and during interviews with bus drivers and bus station managers. Variations calculated from previous month's data.)



DEMOGRAPHY



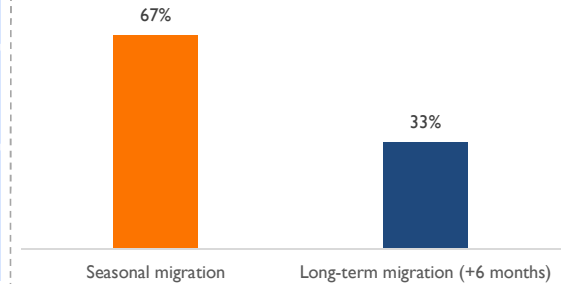
VULNERABILITIES

ORIGINS AND DESTINATIONS

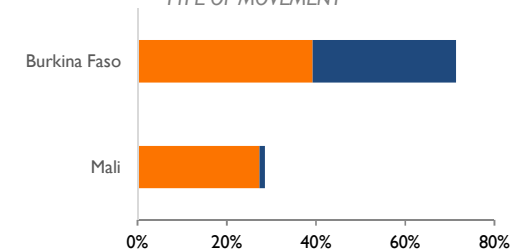
MAIN NATIONALITIES	%	VARIATIONS
Burkina Faso	84%	+7 pp
Nigeria	8%	-4 pp
Togo	3%	+1 pp
Mali	2%	-
Benin	1%	-2 pp
Other	2%	-4 pp

DESTINATION OF MIGRANTS	%	VARIATIONS
Burkina Faso	27%	-30 pp
Mali	73%	+30 pp

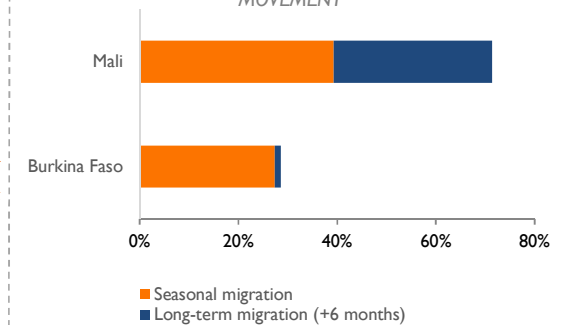
### MAIN TYPES OF MOVEMENT



### COUNTRY OF DEPARTURE OF OBSERVED MOVEMENTS BY TYPE OF MOVEMENT



### NEXT DESTINATIONS OF OBSERVED MOVEMENTS BY TYPE OF MOVEMENT



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The Heremakono Flow Monitoring Point is located at a border post between Mali and Burkina Faso, in the Sikasso region. At this Flow Monitoring Point, data collectors observe outgoing flows of migrants who intend to travel to West African, North African and European countries after transiting through Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger, as well as incoming flows of migrants who enter principally in Mali, Guinea-Conakry or Senegal after transiting through Burkina Faso.

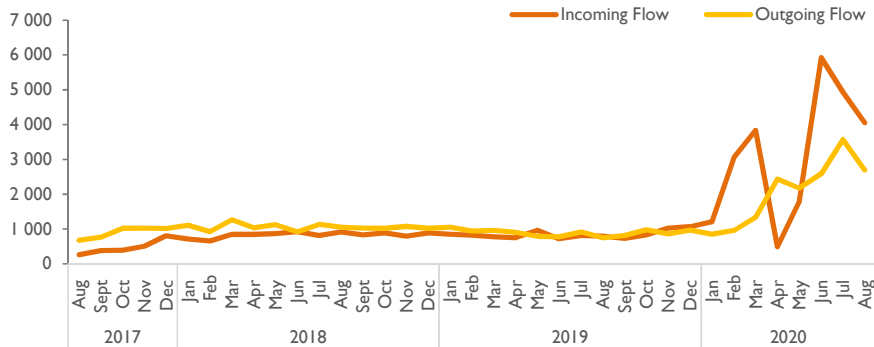
During the reporting period, most migrants identified at Heremakono were nationals of Burkina Faso (85%); Malian (3%), Guinean (2), Senegalese (2%) and Gambian (1%) nationals were also seen.

For outgoing flows, Burkina Faso (77%), Algeria (5%), Libya (5%), Gabon (3%) or Equatorial Guinea (3%) were the main intended final destinations reported.

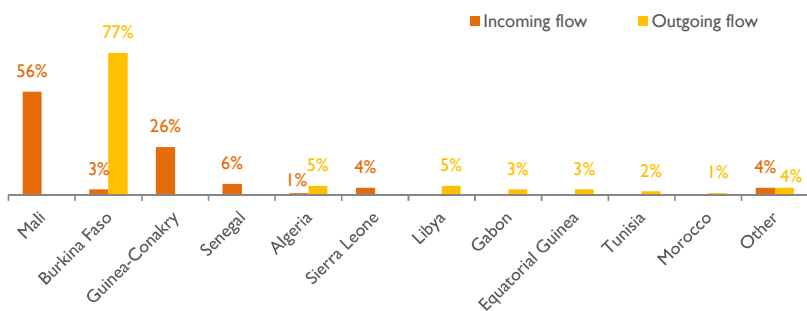
During the reporting period, 6,748 migrants were recorded at this FMP (Incoming flow: 4,054; Outgoing flow: 2,694).

The information collected at this FMP shows a notable number of migrants who declared that they came to Mali to work in the mining and agricultural regions, among other activities. From February 2020, an emphasis was placed on registering seasonal migration flows, hence the large number of seasonal migrants from February 2020. In the circumstances, despite the restrictive movement measures taken by the public authorities to combat the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, the flows recorded at the Heremakono FMP have nearly doubled.

MONTHLY FLOWS OF INDIVIDUALS OBSERVED SINCE THE FMP WAS INSTALLED

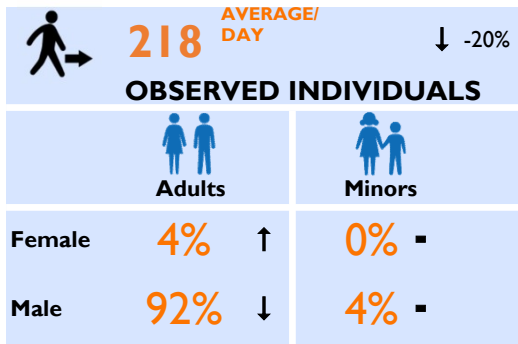


MAIN INTENDED FINAL DESTINATIONS

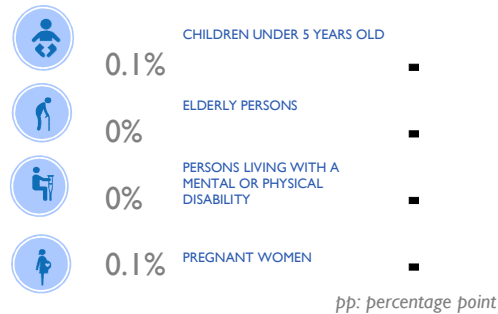


TRAVELLERS' PROFILE

(Data obtained through direct observation and during interviews with bus drivers and bus station managers. Variations calculated from previous month's data.)



DEMOGRAPHY



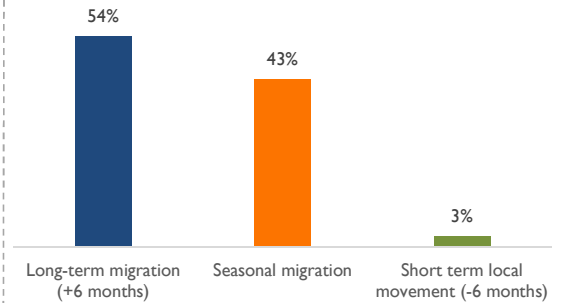
VULNERABILITIES

ORIGINS AND DESTINATIONS

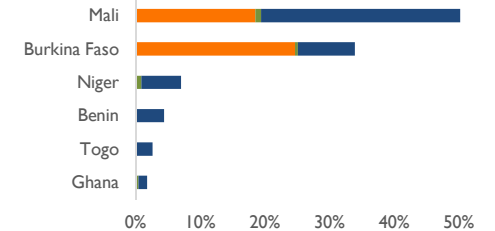
MAIN NATIONALITIES	%	VARIATIONS
Burkina Faso	85%	-1 pp
Mali	3%	-2 pp
Guinea-Conakry	2%	-
Senegal	2%	+1 pp
Gambia	1%	-
Other	7%	+2 pp

DESTINATION OF MIGRANTS	%	VARIATIONS
Mali	59%	+1 pp
Burkina Faso	38%	-3 pp
Niger	2%	+1 pp
Benin	1%	+1 pp

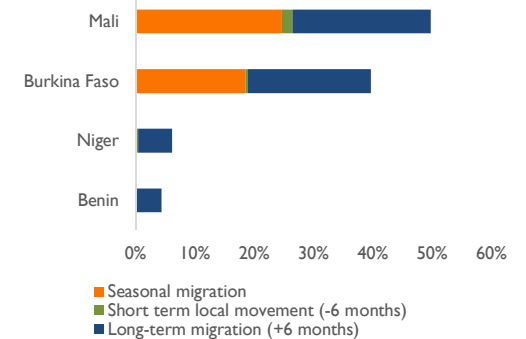
MAIN TYPES OF MOVEMENT



COUNTRY OF DEPARTURE OF OBSERVED MOVEMENTS BY TYPE OF MOVEMENT



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## WHAT IS FLOW MONITORING?

Flow monitoring is a component of IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM). It has been developed to track migrant flows (groups or individuals) through data collection carried out at key points of origin, transit and/or destination. The purpose of flow monitoring is to provide regularly updated information on the scale and profiles of population movements (migrants, internally displaced persons, returnees, etc.) through specific locations. The information and analysis provided through the flow monitoring methodology also helps to better understand and define shortcomings and priorities in the provision of assistance along the displacement/ migration routes. The purpose of flow monitoring is not to replace border monitoring or border surveillance. Data collected by IOM flow monitoring exercises does not replace government border controls and should not be interpreted as such.

## A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF MIGRATION FLOWS - A REGIONAL INITIATIVE IN WEST AFRICA

Monitoring population movements in West and Central Africa represents an important regional initiative. It allows for a better understanding of intentions, trends, routes, and risks as well as demographic and socio-economic profiles of migrants. It serves as a common source of data contributing to inform policymaking by authorities in countries of origin, transit and destination. IOM aims to install over thirty of these flow monitoring points throughout the West and Central African region to assist in reducing the operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

**METHODOLOGY** Flows Monitoring of Populations (FMP) is an investigative work that aims to highlight areas that are particularly vulnerable to cross-border and intraregional migration. Areas of high mobility are identified across the country. DTM teams then work at the local level to identify strategic transit points. Trained agents collect data from key informants at the flow monitoring point: the latter may be bus station staff, police or customs officials, bus drivers or migrants themselves. A basic questionnaire mixed with direct observations allows enumerators to collect disaggregated data by gender and nationality. In Mali, seven data collection points are active in the regions of Gao, Timbuktu, Menaka, Sikasso, Segou and Kayes. Daily data collection is performed in the FMPs.

**LIMITATIONS** The data used in this analysis are estimates and represent only a part of the existing flows in Mali. The geographic and temporal coverage of these surveys is partial insofar as the flow monitoring activities do not cover some private bus stations existing in the various cities including Gao, Timbuktu, Kidal, Menaka, Mopti and Bamako. The data on the final destinations of migrants are obtained based on their declaration and must be taken with caution because they indicate only an intention. The data on the vulnerabilities are based on direct observations of the enumerators and must be taken only for information.

*All data included in this report is based on estimations. IOM expressly disclaims all warranties of any kind, whether express or implied, including, but not limited to, the appropriateness, quality, reliability, timeliness, accuracy or completeness of the data included in this report.*



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