



**DTM**

IOM DISPLACEMENT  
TRACKING MATRIX

## FLOW MONITORING – INDIVIDUAL SURVEYS

Examining the impacts of COVID-19 on travellers across Chad

CHAD

JULY – DECEMBER 2020



## INTRODUCTION

In order to gain a better understanding of mobility flows and trends through West and Central Africa, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) implements the Displacement Tracking Matrix's (DTM) Flow Monitoring (FM) tool at key transit points across the region.

Flow Monitoring activities are conducted in close cooperation with national and local authorities, as well as local partners. The Flow Monitoring tool consists of two main components. The Flow Monitoring Registry (FMR) captures key data on the magnitude, provenance, destination and mode of travel of mobility flows. The Flow Monitoring Survey (FMS) consists of individual surveys conducted with travellers to gather detailed information about the profiles, migration experience and intentions of migrants. In the context of the COVID-19 crisis, additional questions were added in July 2020, in order to better understand travellers' knowledge of COVID-19 and the measures taken to protect themselves from the virus. Through these activities, the Flow Monitoring tool collects data on migration flows and trends, traveller profiles, migration journeys and intentions of migrants, so as to obtain a better understanding of mobility in West and Central Africa.

In Chad, from **July to December 2020**, DTM collected data at **eight Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs)**. Among them, three are located in northern Chad (Faya, Zouaréké and Ounianga Kébir). The remaining five are located at the Cameroonian border (Binder, Fianga, Koutéré, Léré and Pont Bongor), in order to observe travellers' cross-border flows in the context of mobility restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This report presents **key data related to COVID-19**, gathered through the FMS during this period at these eight FMPs. The analyses presented in this report are disaggregated by area when notable differences appear in responses collected. It should be kept in mind that the FMPs considered in this report are rooted in different contexts: the FMPs installed in the north are located in the desert, where access to services can be challenging, while the FMPs at the Cameroonian border are located in an area where the climate poses less of a challenge.

Additional information on the Flow Monitoring methodology is available on the last page of this report.

## KEY FIGURES



8 FMPs active in Chad



3,817 individual surveys conducted



21% are females



1% are minors



96% are aware of the COVID-19 pandemic



86% received information related to COVID-19 through the media



54% took at least one mitigation measure related to COVID-19 during their travel



42% have encountered challenges since the beginning of the pandemic

### METADATA

**3,817**  
SURVEYS

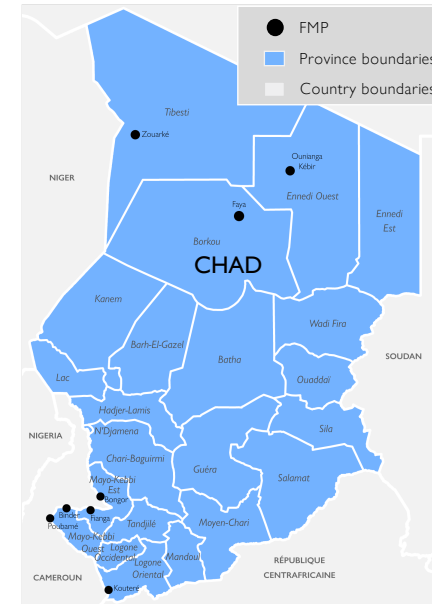
conducted out of **224,092** travellers observed at the 8 FMPs active in Chad from July to December 2020

This report presents key data related to the **COVID-19 pandemic** obtained through individual surveys carried out with **3,817 travellers** aged from 15 to 73 years old, at the eight Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs) active in Chad between July and December 2020.

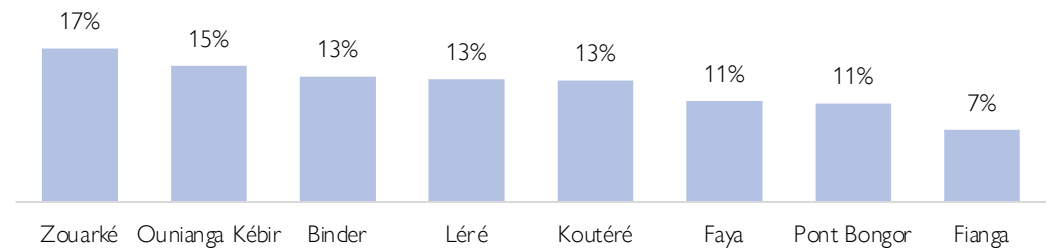
While the Flow Monitoring Reports covering the third and the fourth quarter of 2020 present more broadly the profiles, migration experience and needs of travellers passing through these entry and transit points, the purpose of this report is to **better understand the impacts of COVID-19 on migration flows across Chad**, in order to gain more insight into travellers' knowledge of the virus and its symptoms, the protective measures taken during travel, as well as the challenges faced since the beginning of the pandemic.

The largest number of surveys were carried out at the FMPs of Zouarké (17%) and Ounianga Kébir (15%), both located in northern Chad. It is worth mentioning that travellers respond to individual surveys on a voluntary basis, and their participation is based on consent. Thus, the size of the samples of travellers interviewed at the FMPs does not reflect the proportions of travellers who are registered there through the FMR.

MAP OF FMPs ACTIVE IN CHAD

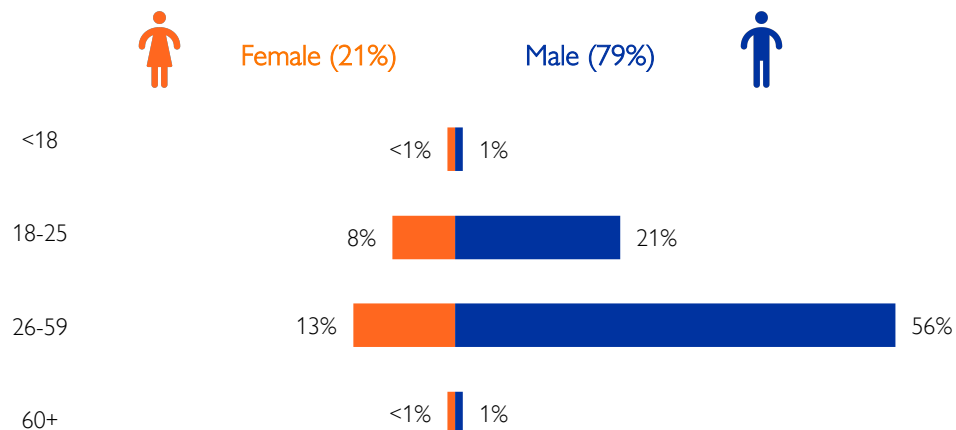


SHARE OF TRAVELLERS INTERVIEWED AT EACH FMP



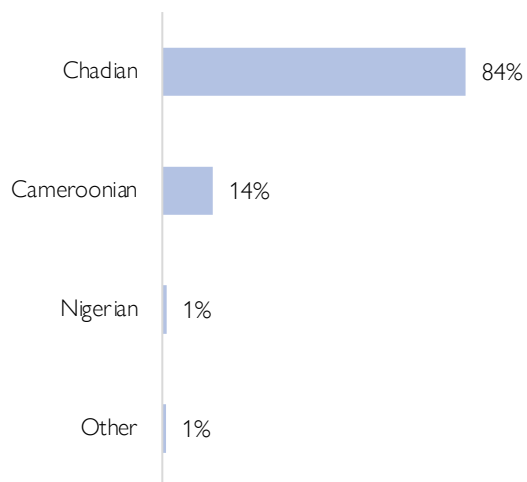
## DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

### SEX AND AGE DISTRIBUTION OF TRAVELLERS

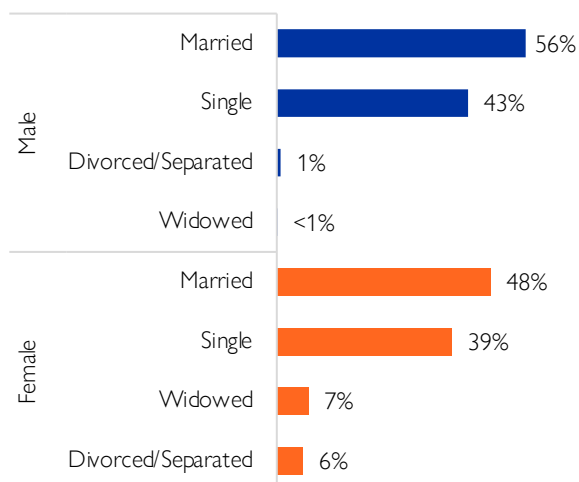


Most of the travellers surveyed (79%) were **males** while 21 per cent were females. The largest share of interviewees (69%) were **between 26 and 59 years old** (including 56% of males and 13% of females), while 29 per cent were in the 18-25 year old age group. Minors and persons 60 years or older, each accounted for 1 per cent of the surveyed population. It is worth mentioning that minors younger than 14 years old are not interviewed in the framework of the FMS.

### NATIONALITY



### MARITAL STATUS, BY SEX



Most of the respondents were **Chadian nationals** (84%) and 14 per cent were Cameroonian nationals. It should be kept in mind that in the framework of this data collection, the nationalities recorded were self-declared by the travellers. No verification of identity documents was carried out to confirm them.

Overall, 54 per cent of travellers reported they were **married** and 42 per cent were single. Analysis disaggregated by sex indicates that the proportion of divorced or separated individuals was higher among females (6%) than among males (1%). Data also show that among the female respondents, 7 per cent were widows, while none of the surveyed males were.

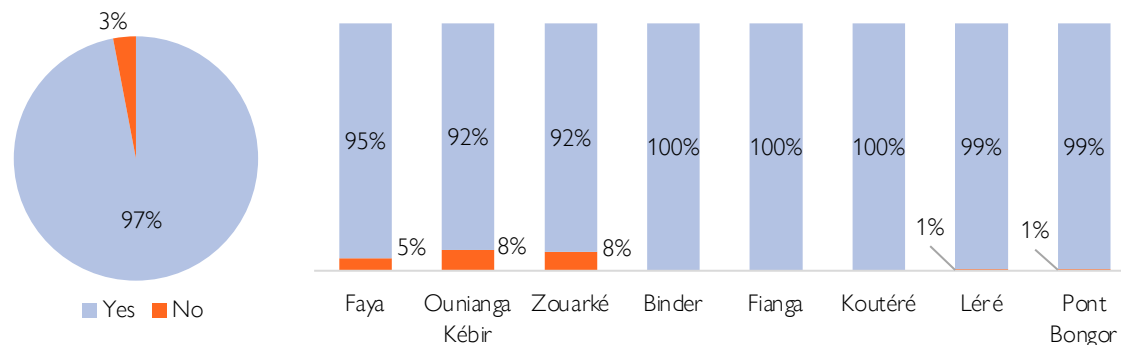
## AWARENESS OF COVID-19 AND ITS SYMPTOMS

The vast majority of respondents (97%) were **aware of the COVID-19 pandemic**. However, almost all (95%) of the travellers who had no awareness of the pandemic were interviewed at the FMPs located in northern Chad. They accounted for 8 per cent of the total population surveyed at Ounianga Kébir and Zouarké, and 5 per cent of the travellers surveyed at Faya.

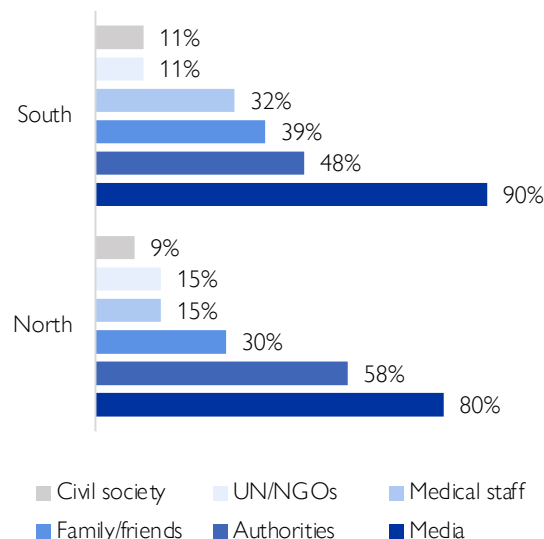
Results indicate that, both in the north and in the south of the country, the main **means through which travellers gained awareness of the existence of COVID-19** were the media (mentioned by 86% of travellers) and local or national authorities (52%). However, results reveal some differences depending on where the FMPs are located. For instance, the share of travellers who received information related to COVID-19 from medical staff was more than twice as high at the FMPs located in the south (32%) than in the north (15%).

The great majority (94%) of interviewees could cite one or more **symptoms associated with COVID-19**, including fever (cited by 74% of individuals surveyed), cough (68%), sore throat (49%) and headache (45%).

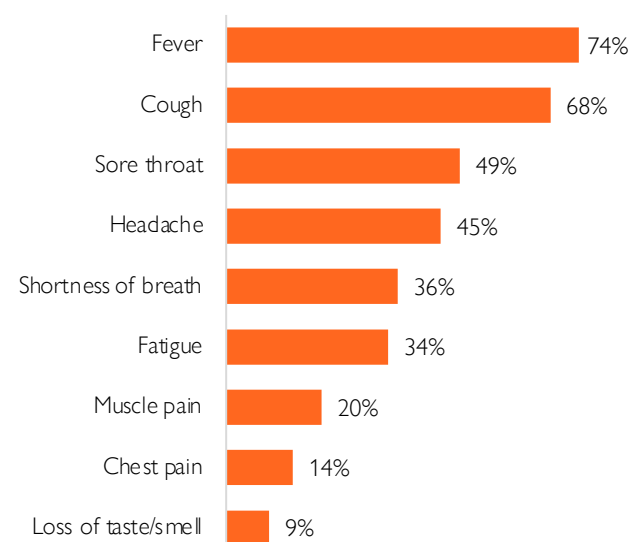
« ARE YOU AWARE OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ? » (BY FMP)



« IF YES, HOW DID YOU GAIN AWARENESS OF IT ? » (BY AREA)

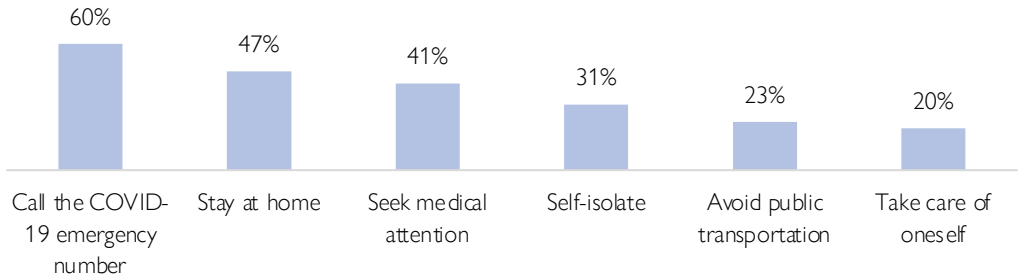


AWARENESS OF COVID-19 SYMPTOMS



## AWARENESS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PREVENTIVE MEASURES

### ACTIONS TO TAKE IN THE EVENT OF COVID-19 SYMPTOMS CITED BY TRAVELLERS



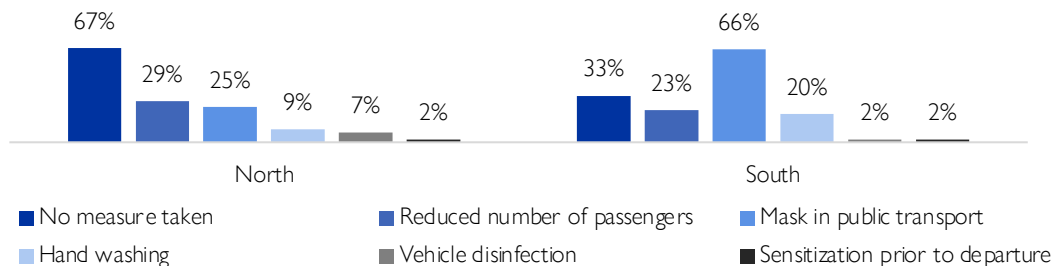
When asked about the **actions to take in the event of COVID-19 symptoms**, 60 per cent of respondents stated that one should call the COVID-19 emergency number, 47 per cent that they should stay at home and 41 per cent that they should seek medical attention.

### PREVENTIVE MEASURES AGAINST COVID-19 CITED BY TRAVELLERS



The great majority (95%) of respondents could cite one or more **preventive measures** against COVID-19, including hand washing (85%), wearing a mask (72%) and social distancing (53%).

### MITIGATION MEASURES OBSERVED DURING TRAVEL (BY AREA)



However, almost half of the travellers (46%) indicated that **no specific mitigation measures had been taken to prevent the spread of the virus** during their travel. This proportion was particularly high among the travellers surveyed at the FMPs located in the north (67%; 33% in the south). Among the 53 per cent of individuals who indicated that such measures had been observed, the most frequent practices were wearing a mask (for 49% of individuals) and reducing the number of passengers in the vehicle (26%). It is worth highlighting that while two-thirds of respondents in the south (66%) stated that they had worn a mask during their travel, only a quarter of those interviewed in the north (25%) had taken this measure.

### CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE PANDEMIC

Of the travellers interviewed, 43 per cent reported that they had encountered one or several **challenge(s)** since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. The most commonly cited challenges were related to **maintaining employment** or continuing economic and commercial activities (22%) and **accessing basic services** such as water and food (14%).

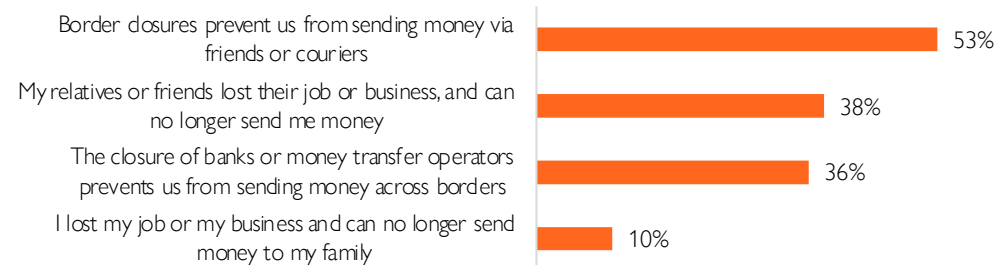
Nine per cent of individuals declared that they had faced **difficulties sending or receiving remittances**. In particular, more than half of them (53%) were unable to send money through friends or couriers following border closures, 38 per cent reported that their relatives or friends lost their job or business, and could therefore no longer send money to the respondent and 36 per cent indicated that they could no longer send remittances due to the closure of banks or money transfer operators. In addition, 10 per cent of these travellers found themselves unable to send money after they lost their job or business.

Among the travellers facing challenges in sending or receiving remittances, two-thirds (67%) declared that they **could no longer afford quality food**, one-third (33%) indicated that they were no longer able to pay for their or their family members' education fees and 31 per cent were unable to repay their loan. Consequences of the decline in remittances mentioned by travellers also include not being able to pay for rent or mortgages (23%) and for stocks (16%).

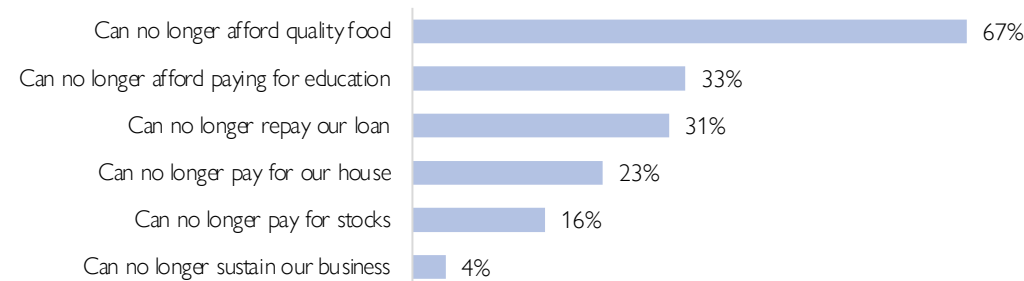
#### CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Challenge encountered	% of travellers
No challenge	58%
Difficulty maintaining employment	22%
Difficulty accessing basic services (water, food)	14%
Difficulty accessing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	8%
Difficulty accessing health services	8%
Decline in food quality	6%
Difficulty sending / receiving remittances	9%
An acquaintance contracted COVID-19 but recovered	4%
An acquaintance has died of COVID-19	3%
Discrimination	2%
Diagnosed with COVID-19 but recovered	1%

#### CHALLENGES RELATED TO REMITTANCES



#### IMPACT OF DECREASED REMITTANCES ON TRAVELLERS



**INTRODUCTION :** The monitoring of flows, implemented by IOM through the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), aims to collect data on the number and characteristics of travellers observed in areas with high mobility, through monitoring points (FMP) installed in these areas.

**METHODOLOGY :** The monitoring of population flows is a data collection work that aims to identify areas subject to cross-border and international migration and to highlight the characteristics and journeys of people passing through these areas. Areas of high mobility are identified nationwide with the help of national authorities. The DTM teams, in partnership with local authorities, then carry out work to identify strategic transit points at the local level. At each of these FMPs, two main data collection methodologies are used: Flow Monitoring Registry (FMR) and Individual Surveys (FMS).

The FMR consists in collecting data at the level of the various crossing points via direct observations and from key informants: they can be the staff of the bus stations, state officials, bus drivers or migrants themselves. The FMR collects information on the number of travelers passing through the crossing points, their nationalities, places of origin and intended

destinations, as well as the means of transport used. At each FMP, data is collected by a team of two to five enumerators. Data collection is carried out daily, between 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., which corresponds to the hours during which the greatest number of travelers pass through FMPs. However, these hours can be adapted according to the period and the context. Data is collected through a form administered to key informants, and direct observation.

FMS allow for more in-depth data collection through interviews with a sample of travellers passing through checkpoints in order to better understand their profiles. Surveys are conducted daily with a sample of travellers, chosen at random, who pass through these points. The main data collected are the traveller's nationality, age, sex, education level, professional status, reasons for travel, origin, destination, as well as their needs and vulnerabilities.

In July 2020, in the context of the COVID-19 crisis, additional indicators were added to the FMS questionnaire administered to travellers, in order to better understand their knowledge of COVID-19 and the measures taken to

protect themselves from the virus.

**LIMITATIONS :** The data used within the framework of this analysis come from surveys carried out among a sample of travelers who passed through the eight aforementioned crossing points, between July and December 2020. They cannot therefore be generalized to the migrant population as a whole, because they only present the situation specific to interviewees. The temporal coverage of these surveys is also limited to working days and a limited time window.

In addition, in the context of the COVID-19 crisis, IOM adapted its strategy and methodology by implementing precautionary and risk mitigation measures during data collection operations at FMP level, as well as during the training of interviewers. Thus, standard operating procedures were put in place to ensure compliance with the risk prevention and mitigation measures decreed by the Government of the Republic of Chad. These measures include the respect for social distancing, the distribution of personal protective equipment for interviewers, the sensitization of field staff and the conduct of training sessions with a limited number of participants.

Upon request, further analysis (e.g., by FMP) can be carried out by the DTM team.

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