

# THE MULTIDIMENSIONAL IMPACTS OF MIGRANT DEBT ON REINTEGRATION

West and Central Africa

February 2021



Reintegration is said to be sustainable “when returnees have reached levels of **economic self-sufficiency, social stability** within their communities, and **psychosocial well-being** that allow them to cope with possible (re)migration drivers. Sustainable reintegration implies that returning migrants are able to make further migration decisions a matter of choice, rather than necessity.”

IOM Glossary 2019



**68%**

of returnees are in debt.

## ECONOMIC IMPACT

**80%**

of returnees earn less than **50 000 FCFA** per month.



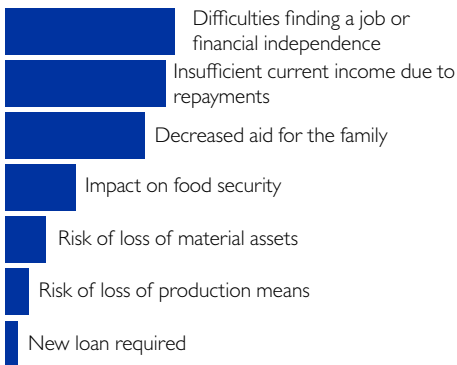
Migratory debts amount to an average of **337 133 FCFA**.

**56%**

of returnees consider that the debt has negatively impacted their economic situation.



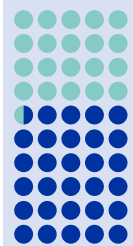
### Negative economic impacts



**BURKINA FASO**

**41%**

of indebted returnees indicate that the debt has a negative impact on their families.



For those people for whom the impact on the family is negative, it affects:

- available food **43%**
- daily expenses **41%**
- access to services **32%**
- lodging **28%**

## SOCIAL IMPACT

**1/4**



returnees in debt said that relationships with their families have been negatively impacted.

**58%**

of returnees in debt believe that relationships with their families have been affected by debt when the family has suffered threats, abuse or violence to repay.



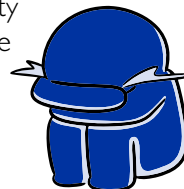
**MALI**

A returnee in debt may be deprived of his or her ability to take part in the collegial decisions of the community. Furthermore, the perception of the indebted returnee by the community will automatically lead to repercussions on her employability due to a loss of esteem and confidence.



**19%**

consider that the debt has negatively impacted their relations with the community citing feelings of shame and judgement.



## PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT

One in five indebted migrants say they have suffered threats, abuse or violence to repay their debts.



**IVORY COAST**

The abuses suffered by returnees are of a different nature depending on the gender of the victims.



**56%** of abused men have been humiliated, insulted or psychologically abused.

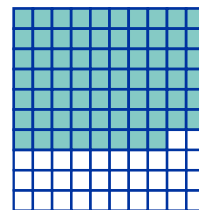


**52%** of abused women who have taken out migration-related credit have had to work without pay or have had their papers confiscated.

**10%**



of returnees in debt reported that their families have been subjected to threats, abuse or violence to repay a debt.



**68%**

of indebted returnees consider that indebtedness has a negative impact on them personally (socially and psychologically). They cite feelings of shame, stress, fear of not being able to repay their debts, a sense of failure and social isolation.

## SUB-REGIONAL STUDY

## Methodology

2483 assisted returnees from Mali (462), Guinea (505), Côte d'Ivoire (360), Burkina Faso (388), Senegal (358) and The Gambia (410) were surveyed during the 1st semester of 2020.

