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FLOW MONITORING REPORT

THE GAMBIA

JUNE — SEPTEMBER 2021

 **IOM**
UN MIGRATION

INTRODUCTION

In order to gain a better understanding of mobility flows and trends throughout West and Central Africa, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) implements the Displacement Tracking Matrix's 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 with local partners. The Flow Monitoring tool consists of two main components: the Flow Monitoring Registry (FMR), which captures key data on the magnitude, origin, destination and mode of travel of mobility flows, and the Flow Monitoring Survey (FMS), for which individual surveys are conducted with travellers to gather detailed information about the profiles, migration experience and intentions of migrants. Through these activities, the Flow Monitoring tool collects data on migration flows and trends, traveller profiles, migration journeys and intentions of migrants in order to obtain a deeper view of mobility in West and Central Africa.

In The Gambia, DTM conducts Flow Monitoring activities at several important transit locations: in 1) **Barra** (FMPs are located at the ferry terminal and the main garage); 2) **Farafenni** (FMPs are located at Farafenni main garage, Farafenni Ballan-Ghar garage, Farafenni McCarthy and Sanjally garage, Farafenni turntable garage and the truck garage); 3) **Basse** (FMPs are situated at the main garage and the bus station in Basse Santa-Su) and 4) **Brikama** (FMPs are located at the main garage and the Bus station). These activities enable DTM to monitor the movements of passenger within The Gambia, out of and towards The Gambia as well as transiting The Gambia.

This report presents the key results from the Flow Monitoring Survey conducted with travellers between **June and September 2021**. The report presents data collected on flows, routes, provenance, destination and demographic profiles of travellers observed at the FMPs.

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

KEY FIGURES



4 FMPs in The Gambia



2,904 travellers observed daily



6,624 individual surveys



48% Male



52% Female



39% of travellers migrated to join family members



50% of travellers were employed at the time of travel



22% of travellers completed secondary school

MIGRATION JOURNEY

Introduction: Between June –September 2021, 6,624 Flow Monitoring Surveys were conducted at the four Flow Monitoring Points (Brikama ,Barra, Farafenni and Basse.)

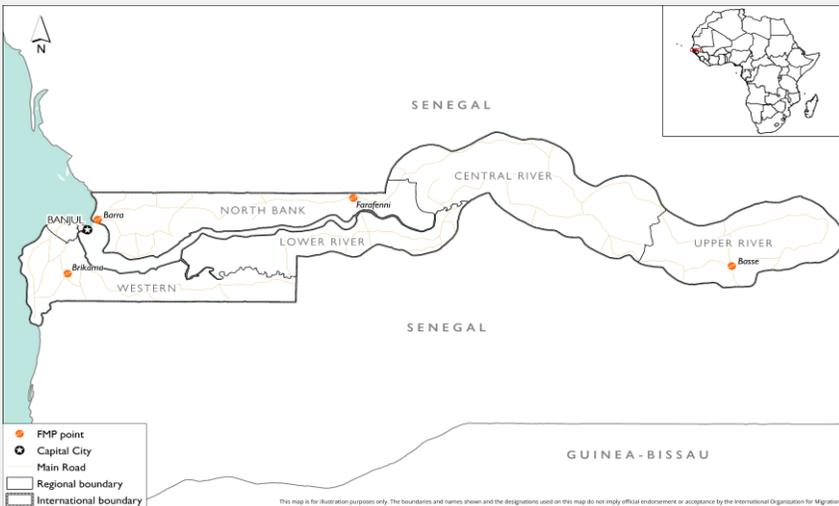
Number of surveys by FMP: The largest number of surveys (33%) were conducted at the Brikama FMP. This is because Brikama is one of the biggest commercial city in The Gambia and the second largest city in terms of population, followed by Farafenni (32%), Basse (24%) and Barra (11%).

Country of departure and destination: The main country of departure and destination at the time of the survey was The Gambia accounting for (98%) and (92%) respectively. This data shows that most of travellers were moving internally within The Gambia with an assumption that most travellers spend some time in an urban area before intending to migrate abroad.

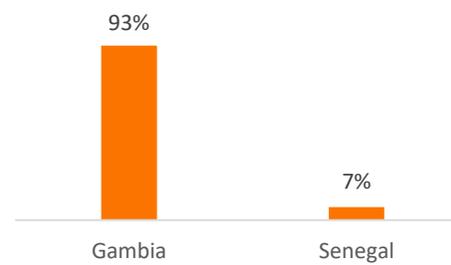
The majority of travellers (93%) began their migration journey from The Gambia, followed by Senegal (7%). These findings reflect the fact that the border points between The Gambia and Senegal reflects the significant commercial activities and linkages between the two countries. Most of the traveller's main countries of intended final destination were The Gambia (93%) and Senegal (7%).

Reasons for travel: The primary reason for travel for the vast majority of surveyed travellers was for marriage and/or to reunite with family (39%), followed by economic migration (36%). Survey results further show that all of the interviewed individuals intended to travel to West Africa as their region of destination. Statistics have shown that most of the travellers go to The Gambia and Senegal for ceremonies (marriage and naming ceremonies, funeral etc.) and for economic activities (petty trading, construction, domestic work, etc.). Meanwhile, 13 per cent of travellers were migrating for educational purposes.

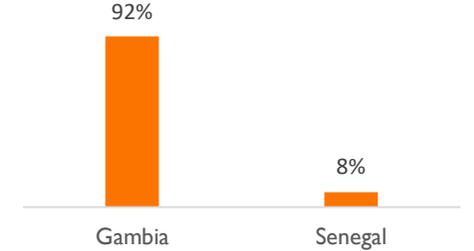
Location of Flow Monitoring Points in The Gambia



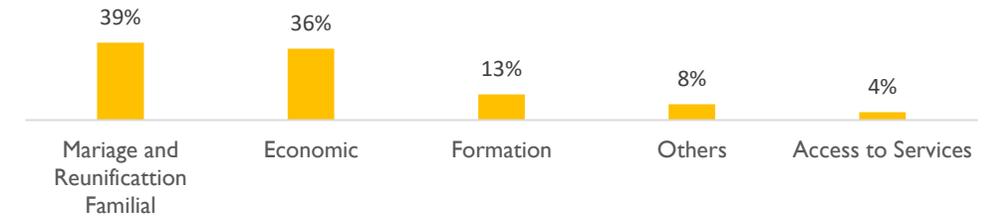
MAIN COUNTRIES OF DEPARTURE



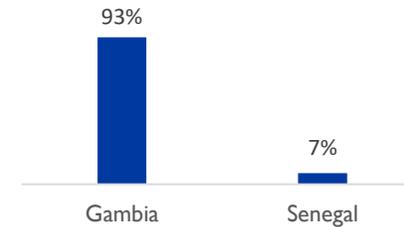
MAIN COUNTRIES OF DESTINATION



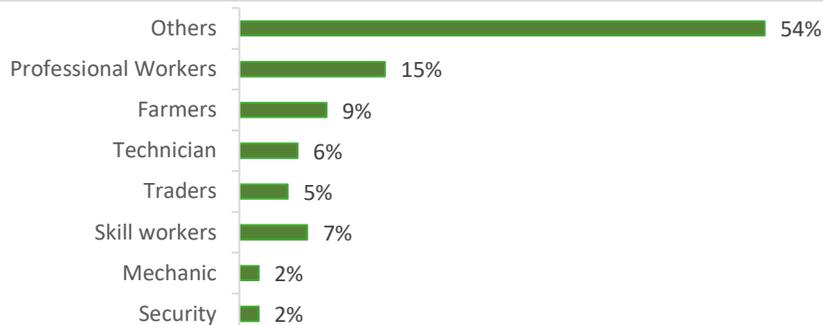
PRIMARY REASONS FOR TRAVEL



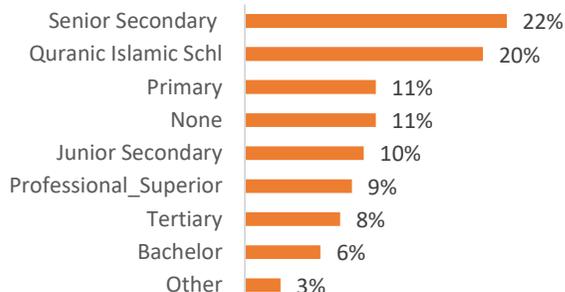
INTENDED DESTINATION COUNTRY AND REGION



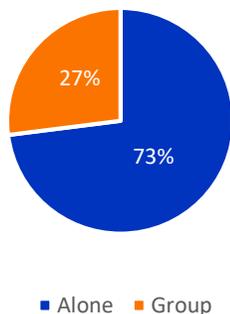
FIELD OF WORK



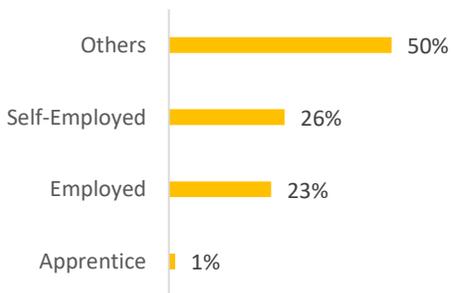
EDUCATION LEVEL



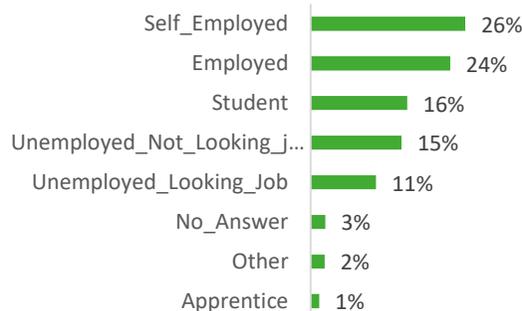
TYPE OF TRAVEL



OCCUPATIONAL STATUS PRIOR TO MIGRATION



CURRENT OCCUPATIONAL STATUS



NATIONALITY



SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE AND NATIONALITY

Nationality: The vast majority of surveyed travellers (86%) were Gambian nationals, followed by Senegalese nationals (10%). The Gambia and Senegal do not only share borders, but their nationals also trade and conduct commercial activities with each other which leads to a greater percentage of movements.

Occupational status (prior to travel and current): Prior to starting their migration journey, half of the travellers did not want to disclose their status (50%), 26 per cent were self-employed, 23 per cent were employed and one per cent were apprentice.

At the time of the survey, however, the most common occupational statuses of travellers were self-employed (26%), employed (24%), student (16%), unemployed and not looking for a job (15%), unemployed and looking for a job (11%). The difference in occupational statuses before travel and at the time of the survey show that half of the travellers were employed in the process of migration. Most travellers prefer self-employment presumably for steady flow of income and are only forced to be contracted by employers for trade because of lack of start-up capital. Since the outbreak of COVID-19, most businesses have been affected.

Field of work: The largest group of those surveyed (15%) worked as professional workers (performing advanced tasks that requires a specific training, typically obtained through a Bachelor's degree). farmers (7 per cent), skilled workers (7 per cent), technician (6 per cent), traders (5 per cent), mechanic (2%) and security (two per cent).

Education level: The largest number of migrants completed secondary school, and (23%) went to university. Nearly equal proportions of respondents have either a secondary school education (22%) or a Quranic Islamic school education (20%). Additionally, 11 per cent have primary school education, 10 per cent have junior secondary school education, 9 per cent hold professional superior (Doctors, Masters etc), 8 per cent hold a tertiary degree (higher diploma graduates and with one year or more of professional training) and 6 per cent hold a university degree. Report showed that ability to travel may be dependent on migrant's educational level.

INTRODUCTION: Flow Monitoring, a tool of IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), was set up to provide a better understanding and an overview of mobility through West and Central Africa, through the collection of key data on the magnitude, provenance and destination and profiles of flows in areas of high mobility throughout the region. In November 2020, IOM The Gambia officially launched DTM through a national consultative process in coordination with The Gambia Bureau of Statistics. During the launching four (4) FMPs were identified, namely: Barra, Basse, Farafenni, and Brikama, which was followed by a regional consultation, in the identified FMPs. In June 2021, IOM The Gambia officially recruited and trained 15 enumerators and deployed them to the respective FMPs.

METHODOLOGY: Flow Monitoring is a data collection activity which seeks to gather key information on mobility. It begins by identifying regions of large mobility flows and highlighting the characteristics and journeys of travellers in these regions. Areas of high mobility are identified with the help of national authorities. DTM teams, with the support of local authorities and partners, then identify strategic points of transit, at which Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs) are set up. At each FMP, DTM conducts two main activities: Flow Monitoring Registry (FMR) and Flow Monitoring Surveys (FMS).

The **FMR** done for this report collects data at FMP through direct observation and interviews with key FMPs informants, including drivers, local authorities, garage chiefs and travellers. The FMR gathered data on the number of travellers crossing FMPs, as well as the provenance, next destination, and means of transport of travellers.

At each of the four FMPs, data was collected by a team of at least three enumerators. Data collection was carried out daily, between 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. This corresponds to the peak hours of mobility. Enumerators collect data via a form filled out using information provided by key informants or gathered through direct observation.

The purpose of the **FMS** is to collect detailed information on the profiles, migration journeys, vulnerabilities and intentions of migrants. Data is collected through interviews with a random sample of travellers. Migrant interviews are conducted daily with a randomly chosen sample of travellers crossing FMPs.

LIMITS: Since data collection under Flow Monitoring activities is conducted by direct observation and between 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, the data are not representative of all migration flows in the country. They only reflect the situation observed or surveyed individuals and cannot be generalized. While data is collected daily, Flow Monitoring activities do not capture all flows transiting through FMPs. Data on vulnerability is based on direct observation and should be understood as mainly indicative. Data collected for these exercises should be understood as estimations only. IOM does not make any warranties or representations as the appropriateness, reliability, timeliness, accuracy or completeness of the data included in this report.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, IOM has adapted its data collection methods in the field by implementing preventing risk mitigation in data collection. The data enumerators have been trained to observe the COVID-19 precautionary protocols given by the World Health Organization (WHO) and Ministry of Health (MoH). The Gambia. These protocols include but are not limited to wearing face masks covering the nose and mouth, physical distancing of at least two metres, washing hands regularly or using of alcohol-based hand sanitizer, etc.

DEFINITIONS:

Flow Monitoring Point: Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs) are points set up by IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix in high mobility areas in each country covered (near borders or main travel routes)

Incoming flow: Refers to migrants who arrive at a Flow Monitoring Point with the intention of travelling further into The Gambia.

Outgoing flow: refers to migrants who arrive at a Flow Monitoring Point with the intention of travelling out of the Gambia

Internal flow: refers to migrants who are conducting a movement within the boundaries of a single country.

Migrant: An umbrella term, not defined under international law, reflecting the common lay understanding of a person who moves away from his or her place of usual residence, whether within a country or across an international border, temporarily or permanently, and for a variety of reasons.

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