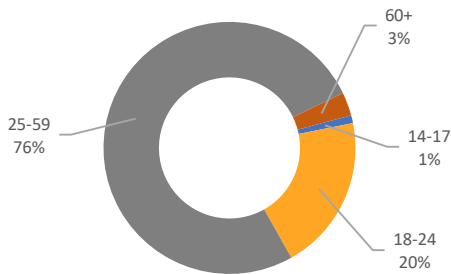**11,947** Female travellers in West and Central Africa surveyed | **8 COUNTRIES** | **33** Data Collection Points
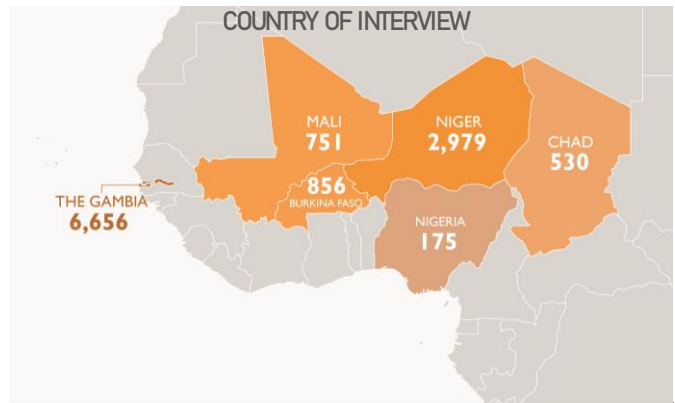
INTRODUCTION: A better understanding of migratory movements in West and Central Africa is critical to support the programmes and decision-making of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Since 2016, IOM collects data at strategic transit points throughout the region to monitor the various intra and interregional movements and migrations trends. This document presents key results from interviews conducted with female travellers in 2021 along migration routes in West and Central Africa.

AGE OF FEMALE TRAVELLERS

- 60+ 3%
- 14-17 1%
- 18-24 20%
- 25-59 76%

Of the 11,947 female travellers interviewed in West and Central Africa, the majority (76%) were aged 25-59 years old. A significant proportion (21%) were youth (aged 14-24 years old). Minors (14-17 years old) made up 1 per cent and another 3 per cent were elderly (ages 60 or older).

COUNTRY OF INTERVIEW

- THE GAMBIA 6,656
- MALI 751
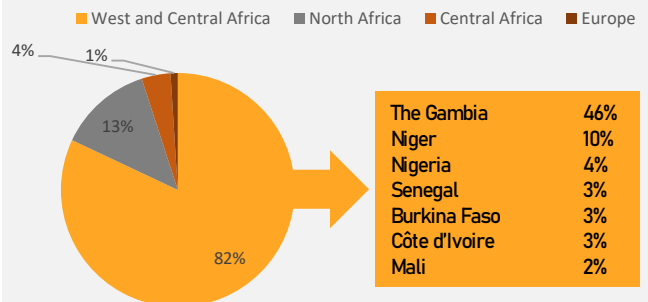- BURKINA FASO 856
- NIGER 2,979
- CHAD 530
- NIGERIA 175

The main country for interviews of female travellers was the Gambia (where 56% of all interviews took place). Niger (25%), Burkina Faso (7%) and Mali (6%) were also significant places of interviews with women and girls.

MAIN COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

| GMB	NER	NGA	BFA	MLI	LBY	SEN	TCD	CIV	DZA	GIN
53%	14%	7%	4%	3%	3%	3%	2%	2%	2%	1%
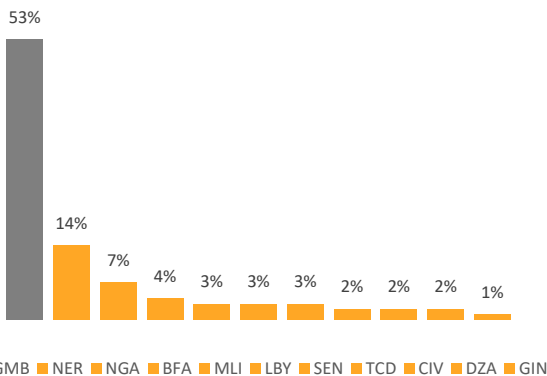
The Gambia, Niger and Nigeria were the main countries of origin of female travellers interviewed in 2021 (53%, 14% and 7% of interviewees were nationals of these countries, respectively).

REGIONS OF FINAL INTENDED DESTINATION

■ West and Central Africa ■ North Africa ■ Central Africa ■ Europe

- 82%
- 13%
- 4%
- 1%

The Gambia	46%
Niger	10%
Nigeria	4%
Senegal	3%
Burkina Faso	3%
Côte d'Ivoire	3%
Mali	2%

Intended destinations declared by female respondents were mainly countries within the West and Central Africa region (82%), notably the Gambia (46%), Niger (10%), Nigeria (4%) and Senegal (3%). Additionally, 13 per cent of interviewees were heading to North Africa.

PRIMARY REASONS OF TRAVEL

Climate Change	46%
Economic	40%
Access to Services	6%
War and Violence	3%
Other	5%
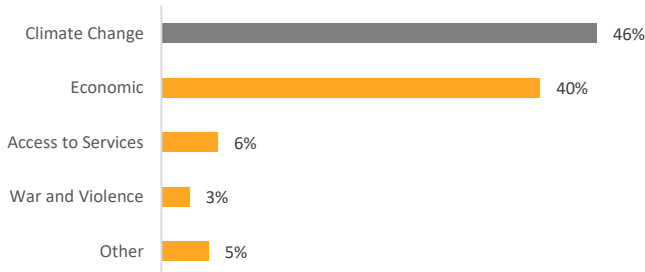
Female travellers interviewed were mainly travelling because of climate change (46%) and for economic purposes (40%), which includes a wide range of reasons from business travel, to trade-related movements, to finding new work opportunities, to re-stocking of merchandise. Access to services (6%) and war and violence (3%) were other significant factors for migration of female travellers.

MAIN REASONS FOR CHOICE OF DESTINATION

- Relatives in Country of Destination, 46%
- Appealing Socio-Economic Conditions, 15%
- Employment Opportunity, 10%
- Returning to Own Country, 6%
- Followed Friends or Family, 6%
- To Study, 6%
- Possibility to Start a Business, 5%
- Access to Services, 3%

The motivation for choosing a particular country of destination was substantially linked to the presence of relatives in that country (46%) as well as driven by the country's appealing socioeconomic conditions (15%). In addition, employment opportunities (10%), the wish to return home (6%) and educational opportunities (6%) were also significant factors.