ASSISTANCE TO VOLUNTARY AND HUMANITARIAN RETURN 2017-2021

Profiles of migrants assisted to return to their country of origin - West and Central Africa

NOTES & DISCLAIMERS

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INTRODUCTION

CONTEXT

This document presents an analysis of interviews conducted with all individuals assisted in their voluntary return by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) between 2017 and 2021 (130,424) to one of the 23 countries covered by the West and Central Africa region (WCA). The analysis combines datasets from both **Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration** (AVRR) and **Voluntary Humanitarian returns (VHR)**.

Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) : Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration is an indispensable part of a comprehensive approach to migration management.

AVRR programmes provide administrative, logistical and financial support, including reintegration assistance, to migrants unable or unwilling to remain in host/transit countries and who decide to return to their country of origin.

The successful implementation of AVRR programmes requires the cooperation and participation of a broad range of actors, including the migrants, civil society and the governments in both host and transit countries and countries of origin. The partnerships created by IOM and a diverse range of national and international stakeholders are essential to the effective implementation of AVRR – from the return preparation to the reintegration stage.

For migrants who need to return home but lack the means to do so, IOM's AVRR programmes are often the only solution to their immediate difficulties and needs. Beneficiaries of IOM's assistance include:

1. individuals whose application for asylum was rejected or withdrawn
2. stranded migrants
3. victims of trafficking, and
4. other vulnerable migrants, including unaccompanied migrant children, or those with health-related needs.

Voluntary Humanitarian returns (VHR) :. In February 2011, civil unrest in Libya rapidly evolved into an armed conflict which led to the crossing of Libyan borders by some 796,000 migrants in 2011. In the aftermath of the conflict, the socio-economic conflict which remained unstable was further fragilized by the Covid 19 pandemic. In fact the loss of livelihood, the lack of financial resources and inadequate housing made the living conditions very difficult. Despite those difficulties, Libya remained among the top 4 host countries for migrants who were nationals of the WCA region from 2017 to 2021. IOM's Voluntary Humanitarians return program was thus necessary to assist the vulnerable migrants, and ensure them a safe and secure return.

Since the onset of the crisis, IOM's strategy is to support Member States protect their nationals by providing evacuation assistance to stranded migrants in Libya through its "Voluntary Humanitarian Returns" programme. IOM deemed necessary to adopt a new terminology from AVR to VHR to stress the humanitarian nature of this operation.

The **objective of this document** is to provide an overview of the profile of those assisted by IOM to return to their country of origin through AVRR and VHR programmes between from January 2017 to December 2021.

Information about the questionnaire and the applied **methodology** and **limitations** can be found at the end of the report.

ACRONYMS
AND COUNTRY CODES

ACRONYMS

AVRR
Assistance to Voluntary Return and Reintegration

IOM
International Organization for Migration

VHR
Voluntary Humanitarian Return

VOT
Victim of trafficking

WCA
West and Central Africa

COUNTRY CODE

Code	Country	Code	Country
BEN	Benin	ITA	Italy
BFA	Burkina Faso	KWT	Kuwait
CHE	Switzerland	LBN	Lebanon
CAF	Central African Republic	LBR	Liberia
		LBY	Libya
CIV	Côte d'Ivoire	MAR	Morocco
CMR	Cameroon	MLI	Mali
DEU	Germany	MRT	Mauritania
DZA	Algeria	NER	Niger
EGY	Egypt	NGA	Nigeria
GAB	Gabon	SDN	Sudan
GHA	Ghana	SEN	Senegal
GIN	Guinea	SLE	Sierra Leone
GMB	The Gambia	TCD	Chad
GNB	Guinea-Bissau	TGO	Togo
GNQ	Equatorial Guinea	TUN	Tunisia

I. TOTAL FOR 2017-2021

I. TOTAL FOR 2017-2021

1.1. TRENDS BY YEAR

Between 2017 and 2021, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has organized the return of 130,424 nationals of West and Central African countries. Though most returns were organized from Niger and Libya, another 104 countries support these operations from Europe, North Africa, West and Central Africa, East Africa and many other regions around the globe

The number of returns during 2021 is higher to the figures from the previous year. This can be partially explained by the re-opening of borders and the easing of Covid 19 health restrictions. In fact, from 2017 to 2019 the number of Assisted Returns were at a peak in the region until the start of the Covid 19 pandemic in 2020, with an increase in 2021. However, only 2,961 WCA nationals returned from Libya since January 2021 compared to a yearly average of 10,000 during the previous four years (2017-2020). The returns from Lybia have decreased from 2020 due to the Covid 19 restrictions which have resulted in the slowdown of AVRR activities in the region.

VOLUNTARY AND HUMANITARIAN RETURNS BY YEAR:

- 2017:   21% (27,910)
- 2018:   27% (35,303)
- 2019:   23% (29,920)
- 2020:   12% (15,001)
- 2021:   17% (22,290)

130,424
ASSISTED IN THEIR RETURN BY IOM TO THEIR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA (2017- 2021)

Total AVR AND VHR TO THEIR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN (2017-2021)
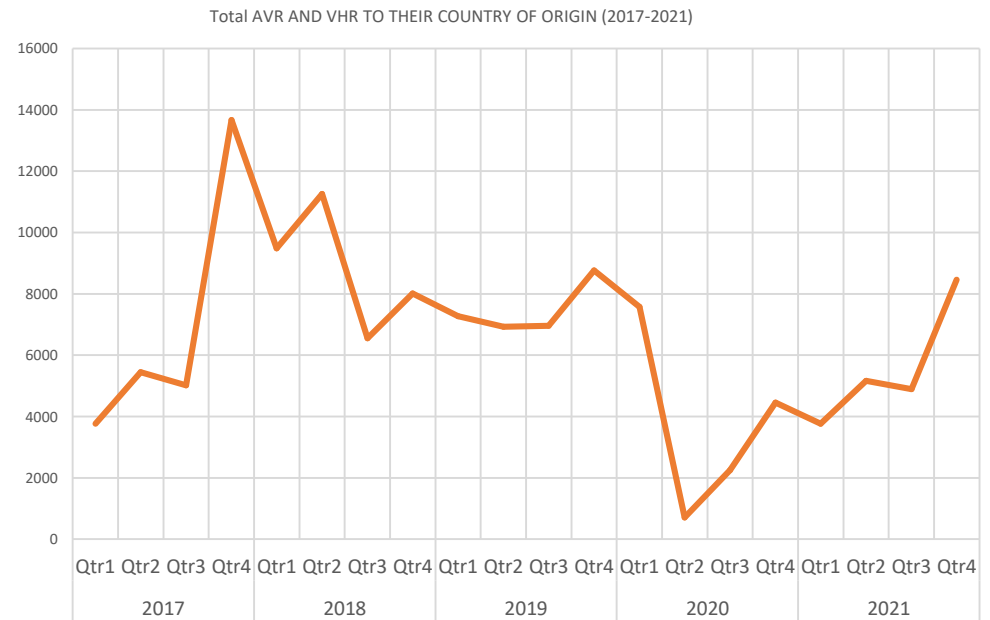
I. TOTAL FOR 2017- 2021

1.2. TRENDS BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

Three countries were the main host countries of 55% of all AVRR and VHR to West and Central Africa in 2017-2021: Guinea (24,416-19%), Mali (24,039-18%), and Nigeria (24,022-18%). AVRR and VHR were organized towards all 23 country offices covered by the IOM Regional Office for West and Central Africa.

TOTAL AVRR AND VHR ASSISTED BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN (2017-2021)
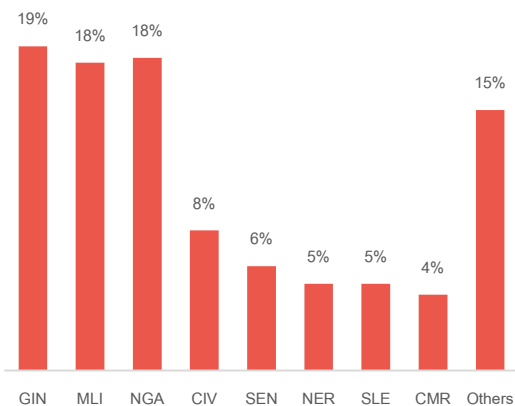
AVRR AND VHR TO WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA 2017 - 2021

Source: International Organization for Migration(IOM)
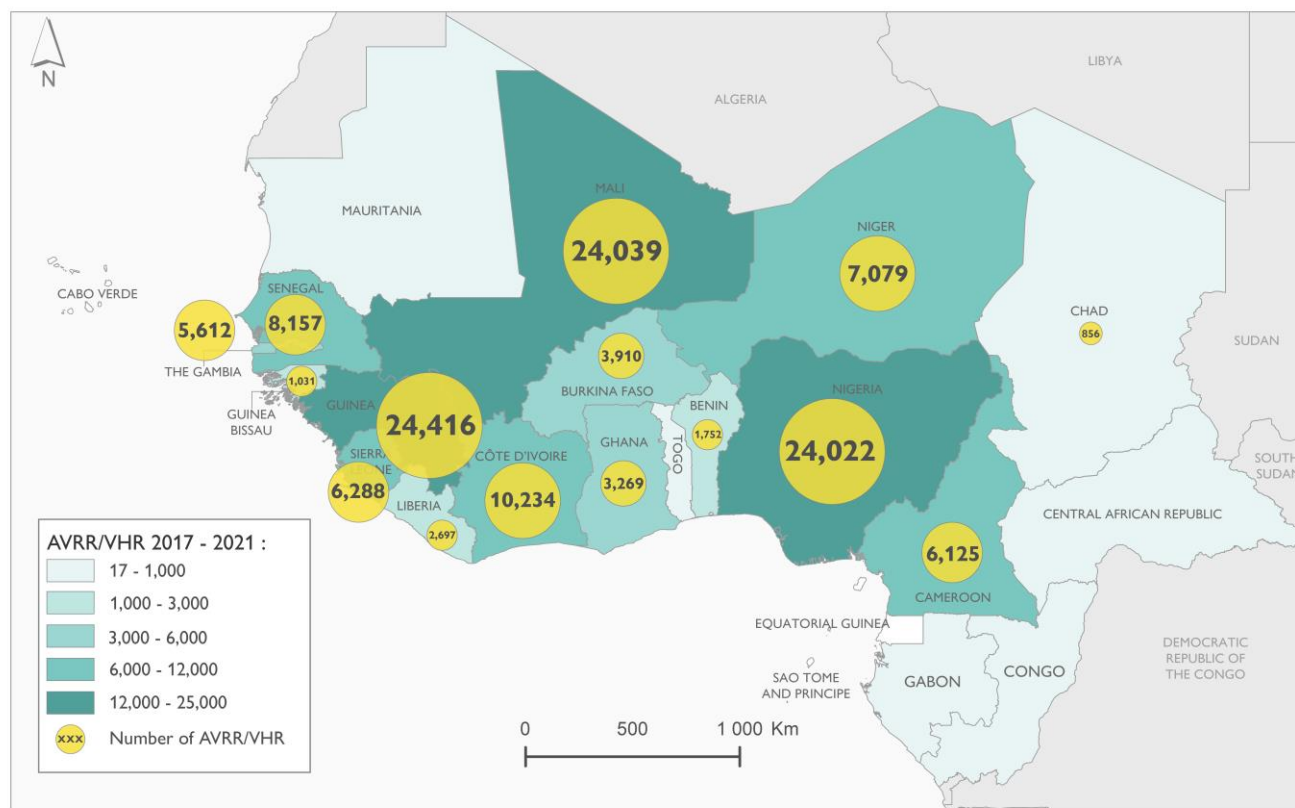
I. TOTAL FOR 2017-2021

1.2.1. BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN - 2017

In 2017, IOM organized the return of 27,910 nationals of West and Central African countries. The map displays the main countries of origin (or in other words, countries of return) of West and Central migrants who were beneficiaries of AVRR and VHR that year. The main country of returns was Nigeria (7,183) followed by Guinea (4,445) and Niger (3,341).

TOTAL AVRR AND VHR BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN (2017)

AVRR AND VHR TO WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA – 2017

Source: International Organization for Migration(IOM)

I. TOTAL FOR 2017-2021

1.2.2. BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN - 2018

In 2018, IOM organized the return of 35,303 nationals of West and Central African countries. The map displays the main countries of origin (and therefore return) of West and Central migrants who were beneficiaries of AVRR and VHR that year. The main country of returns was Mali (8,000) followed by Guinea (7,396) and Nigeria (5,252).

TOTAL AVRR AND VHR BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN (2018)

AVRR AND VHR TO WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA – 2018

Source: International Organization for Migration(IOM)
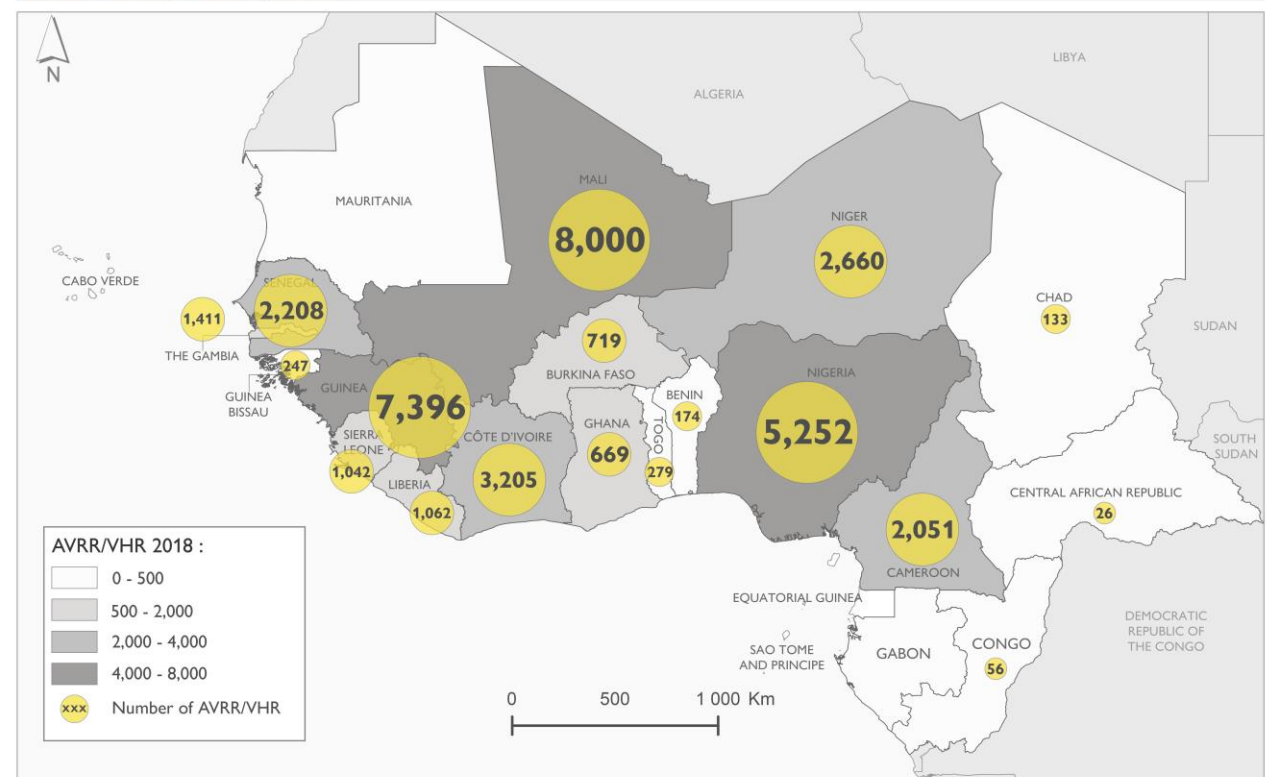
I. TOTAL FOR 2017-2021

1.2.3. BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN - 2019

In 2019, IOM organized the return of 29,920 nationals of West and Central African countries. The map displays the main countries of origin (and therefore return) of West and Central migrants who were beneficiaries of AVRR and VHR that year. The main country of return was Mali (6,940) followed by Nigeria (5,400) and Guinea (4,435).
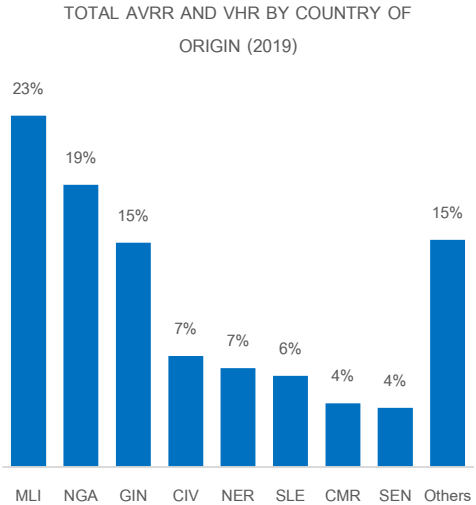
AVRR AND VHR TO WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA – 2019

Source: International Organization for Migration(IOM)

TOTAL AVRR AND VHR BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN (2019)
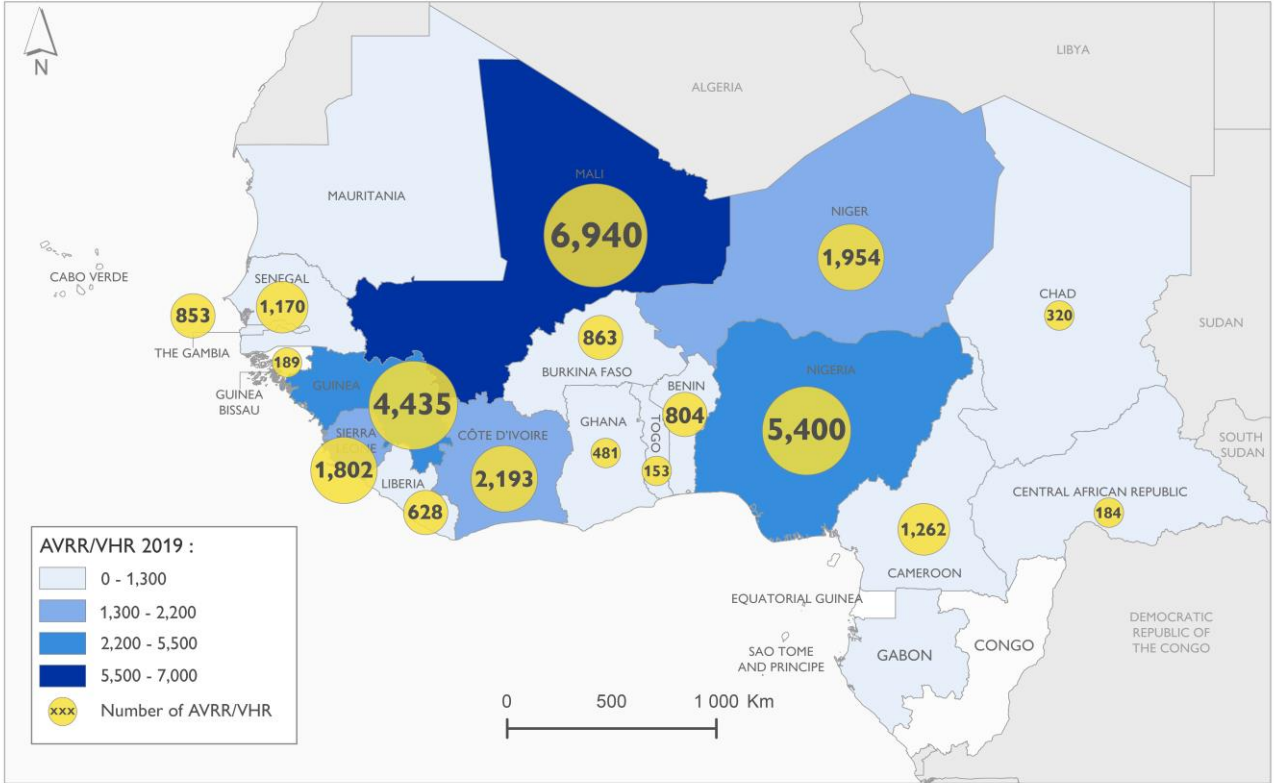
I. TOTAL FOR 2017-2021

1.2.4. BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN - 2020

Two main countries of origin accounted for 43% of all AVRR and VHR to West and Central Africa in 2020: Mali (3,248 or 22%), and Guinea (3,144 or 21%). In total, 23 country offices covered by the IOM Regional Office for West and Central Africa received returning migrants.

TOTAL AVRR AND VHR ASSISTED BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN (2020)
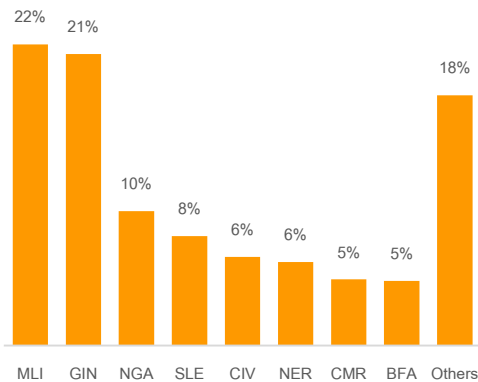
AVRR AND VHR TO WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA – 2020
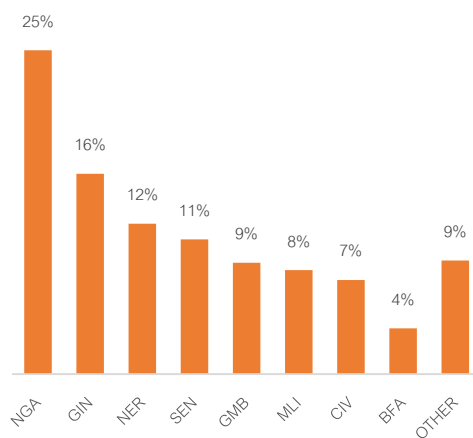
Source: International Organization for Migration(IOM)
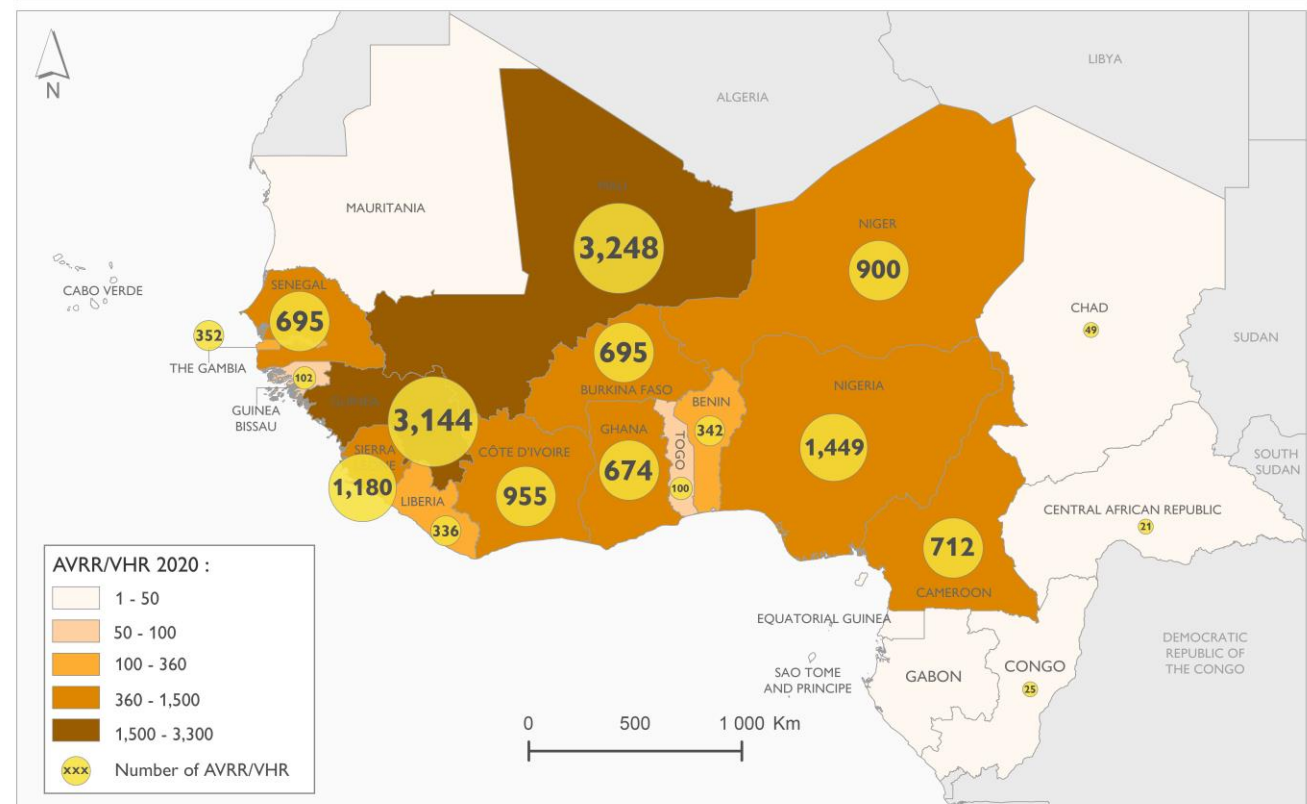
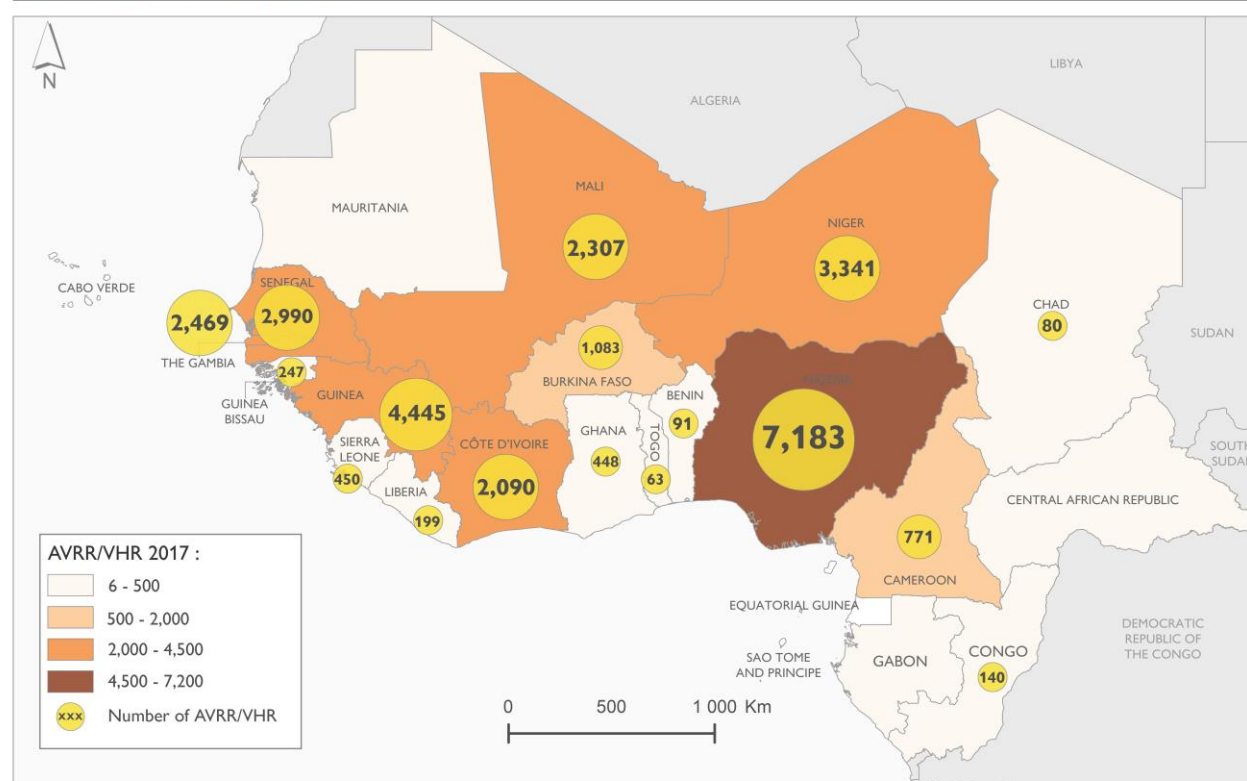# I. TOTAL FOR 2017-2021

1.2.5. BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN – 2021

Three main countries of origin accounted for 59% of all AVRR and VHR from West and Central Africa in 2021: Guinea (5,165 or 23%), Mali (4,672 or 21%) and Nigeria (3,324 or 15%). In total, 21 country offices covered by the IOM Regional Office for West and Central Africa received returning migrants.

TOTAL AVRR AND VHR ASSISTED BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN (2021)
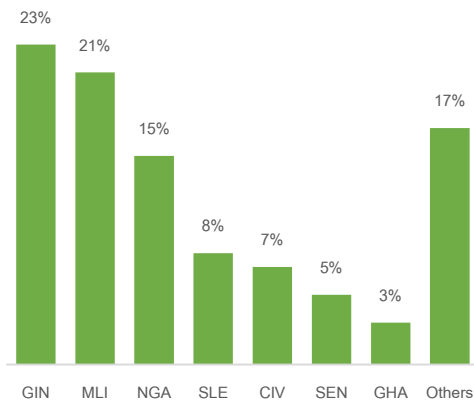
AVRR AND VHR TO WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA – 2021
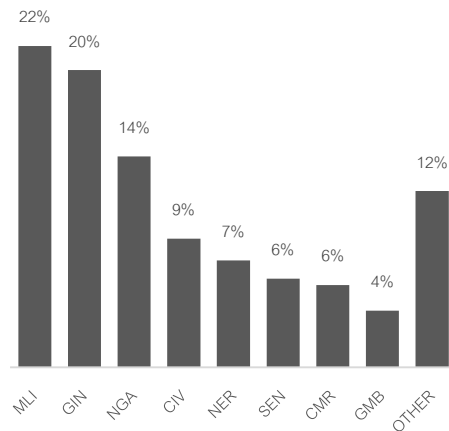
Source: International Organization for Migration(IOM)
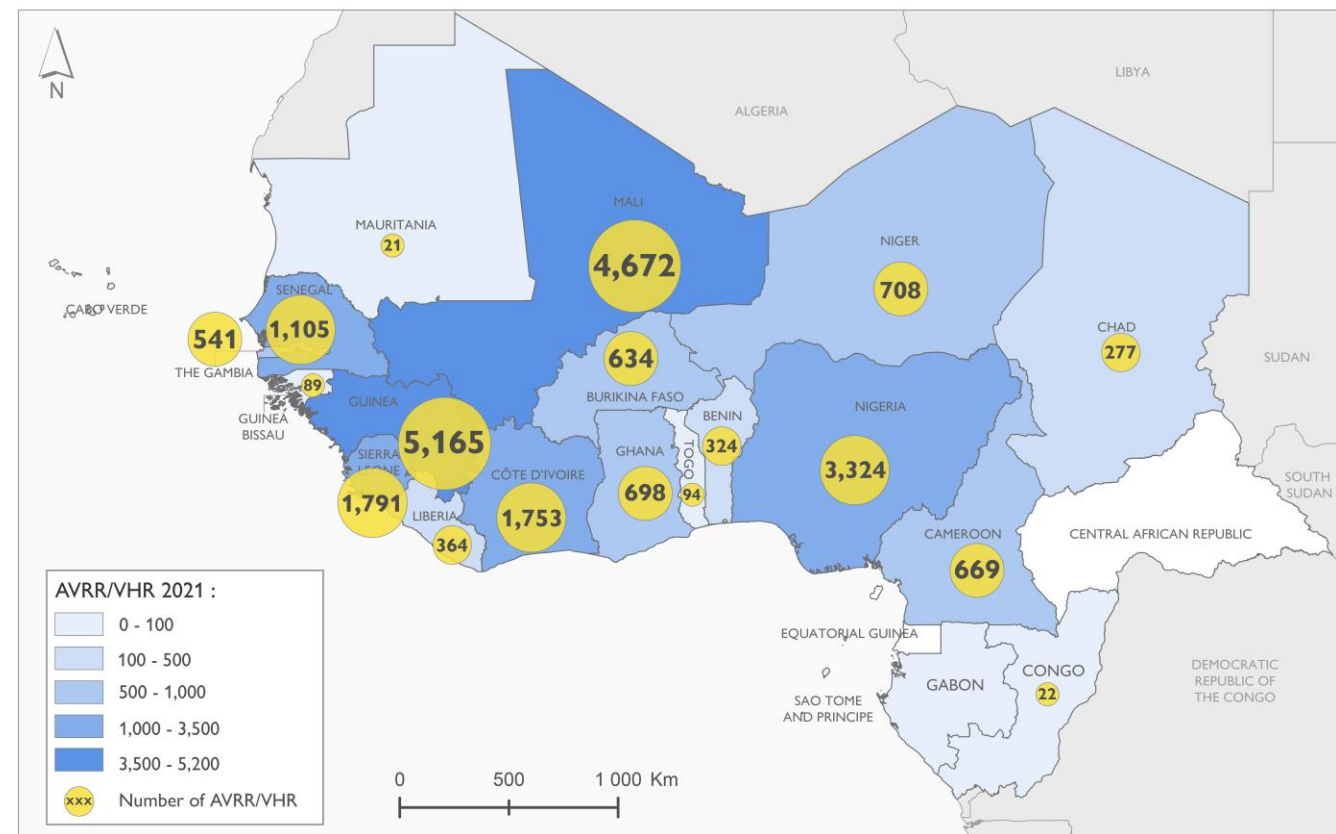
II. HOST COUNTRIES

II. HOST COUNTRIES

2.1. MAIN REGIONS AND HOST COUNTRIES

Of the 130,424 individuals assisted in their return by IOM to their country of origin in WCA, 51% (or 66,094) were assisted to return from a country in West and Central Africa, mainly from Niger.

North Africa was the second main host region for WCA individuals assisted in their return (45%, or 58,695 individuals assisted from a country in the region), mainly from Libya.

The primary regions from which AVRR and VHR movements are organized have shifted in recent years, with West and Central Africa being the region organizing the highest number of returns and thereby overtaking North Africa as the main host region since 2019.

Returns from Europe represent a bit more than 3% of the total number of returns to WCA countries organized by IOM between 2017 and 2021

Main host countries (countries that assisted migrants in the return) from 2017 to 2021 were Niger (56,423, or 43%) followed by Libya (44,489, or 34%) and Morocco (7,177, or 6%).

130,424 INDIVIDUALS ASSISTED IN THEIR RETURN BY IOM TO THEIR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA IN 2017-2021

66,094 ASSISTED FROM WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA (51%)

58,695 ASSISTED FROM NORTH AFRICA (45%)

4,191 ASSISTED FROM EUROPE (3%)

1,444 ASSISTED FROM OTHER CONTINENTS (1%)

TOP COUNTRIES	NIGER	LIBYA	MOROCCO	MALI
	56,423	44,489	7,177	4,399

II. HOST COUNTRIES

2.2. TREND OVER TIME FOR HOST COUNTRIES AND COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

From 2018 to 2020, Mali was the main of country of origin for AVRR and VHR assistances provided by IOM in the WCA region. Since 2021, this trend changed in favour of Guinea which is currently the main country of origin with 23% of all returns, the higher value for the country in the period 2017-2021. Côte d'Ivoire is within the top 5 countries of origin since 2018

TOP COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN 2021	% of AVRR/VHR	TOP COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN 2020	% of AVRR/VHR	TOP COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN 2019	% of AVRR/VHR	TOP COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN 2018	% of AVRR/VHR	TOP COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN 2017	% of AVRR/VHR
GUINEA ⬆	23%	MALI ⬇	22%	MALI ⬆	23%	MALI ⬆	22%	NIGERIA	25%
MALI ⬇	21%	GUINEA ⬆	21%	NIGERIA ⬆	19%	GUINEA ⬆	20%	GUINEA	16%
NIGERIA ⬆	15%	NIGERIA ⬇	10%	GUINEA ⬇	15%	NIGERIA ⬇	14%	NIGER	12%
SIERRA LEONE ⬅	8%	SIERRA LEONE ⬆	8%	COTE D'IVOIRE ⬇	7%	COTE D'IVOIRE ⬆	9%	SENEGAL	11%
COTE D'IVOIRE ⬆	7%	COTE D'IVOIRE ⬇	6%	NIGER ⬅	7%	NIGER ⬇	7%	GAMBIA	9%

Niger has been the main host country for AVRR and VHR assistance since 2018, overtaking Libya which had been the main host country in 2017. After significantly increasing from 2017 to 2020, returns from Niger decrease from 60% (2020) to 47% (2021). In contrast, proportions for Libya have decreased over the years, representing 13% of movements in 2021 versus 69% in 2017. Morocco and Algeria have been amongst the top 5 host countries since 2018 with growing proportions of return assistances in 2021 for both Algeria and Morocco, explained by the reduced number of returns from Niger over the same period.

TOP HOST COUNTRIES 2021	% of AVRR/VHR	TOP HOST COUNTRIES 2020	% of AVRR/VHR	TOP HOST COUNTRIES 2019	% of AVRR/VHR	TOP HOST COUNTRIES 2018	% of AVRR/VHR	TOP HOST COUNTRIES 2017	% of AVRR/VHR
NIGER ⬇	47%	NIGER ⬆	60%	NIGER ⬆	55%	NIGER ⬆	41%	LIBYA	69%
LIBYA ⬆	13%	LIBYA ⬇	11%	LIBYA ⬇	24%	LIBYA ⬇	40%	NIGER	19%
MOROCCO ⬆	10%	MOROCCO ⬆	5%	MALI ⬇	4%	MALI ⬆	5%	MOROCCO	5%
ALGERIA ⬆	9%	ALGERIA ⬆	5%	MOROCCO ⬅	4%	ALGERIA ⬆	4%	TUNISIA	2%
CHAD ⬆	4%	CHAD ⬆	3%	ALGERIA ⬇	3%	MOROCCO ⬇	4%	GERMANY	1%

II. HOST COUNTRIES

2.3. CROSS ANALYSIS OF HOST AND ORIGIN COUNTRIES

Between 2017 and 2021, most return assistance provided from Niger were toward Mali (27%) and Guinea Conakry (26%) while most returns from Libya were toward Nigeria (36%), Mali (17%) and Niger (12%).

Germany, Italy, and Austria were the top 3 host countries for returns from Europe between 2017 and 2021. Most returns from these countries took place toward English speaking countries, Nigeria (49%), Ghana (15%), and the Gambia (10%).

TOP HOST COUNTRIES 2017-2021

- NIGER   56,423
- LIBYA   44,489
- MOROCCO   7,177
- MALI   4,399
- ALGERIA   3,652
- TUNISIA   2,235
- GERMANY   1,804
- MAURITANIA   1,680
- CHAD   1,421

MAIN COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AVRR/VHR FROM WCA (2017- 2021)

Guinea	Mali	Sierra Leone	Nigeria	Senegal	Cote d'Ivoire	Cameroon	Others
25%	23%	8%	7%	6%	7%	6%	18%

MAIN COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AVRR/VHR FROM NORTH AFRICA (2017-2021)

Nigeria	Mali	Guinea	Niger	Cote d'Ivoire	Senegal	Others
28%	14%	13%	10%	10%	6%	31%

MAIN COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AVRR/VHR FROM EUROPE (2017- 2021)

Nigeria	Ghana	Gambia	Senegal	Guinea	Cameroon	Others
42%	15%	9%	8%	5%	4%	15%

II. HOST COUNTRIES

2.4. HOST COUNTRIES BY GENDER AND AGE

Host countries have a very different gender balance in their AVRR and VHR caseload from WCA between 2017 and 2021.

If beneficiaries of AVRR and VHR organized from Niger (95%), Algeria (90%), Germany (87%), Italy (85%), Burkina Faso (79%), and Libya (78%) are in vast majority made up of males, other host countries display high proportions of females among AVRR and VHR beneficiaries, including Ghana (77%), Gabon (73%), Kuwait (72%), Côte d'Ivoire (56%) and Egypt (55%). All individuals returning from countries such as Lebanon, Iran, and Iraq, were women, although this finding should be nuanced by the fact that the total caseload from these countries is relatively low.

The type of migration has a significant impact on gender distribution. Host countries with high level of family and/or domestic work migration (e.g. Arabic Peninsula countries) tend to have higher proportions of female migrants within their AVR beneficiaries.

The age variable also varies significantly from one host country to another. Egypt and Mauritania (both countries with a high proportion of women among the AVRR caseload from West and Central Africa), have, on average, the youngest AVRR beneficiaries from WCA. The average age of the WCA AVRR caseload returning from Egypt and Mauritania is 21 years old. On the contrary, AVRR beneficiaries assisted from Germany or Italy to WCA are on average above 30.

AVRR AND VHR GENDER DISRTIBUTION BY HOST COUNTRY (2017-2021)
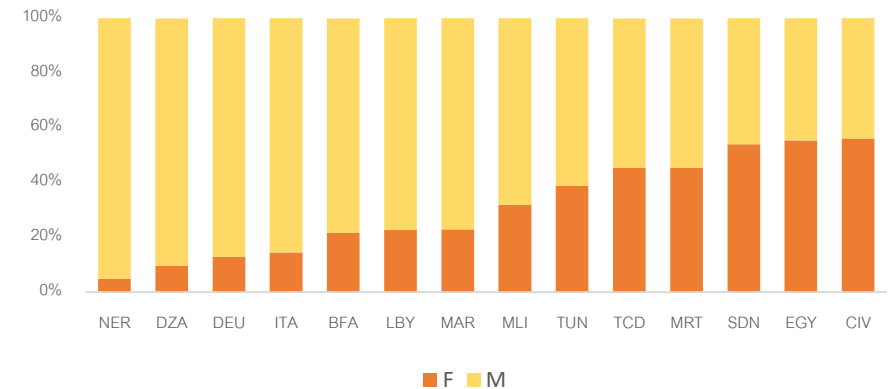
AVERAGE AGE BY HOST COUNTRY (2017-2021)
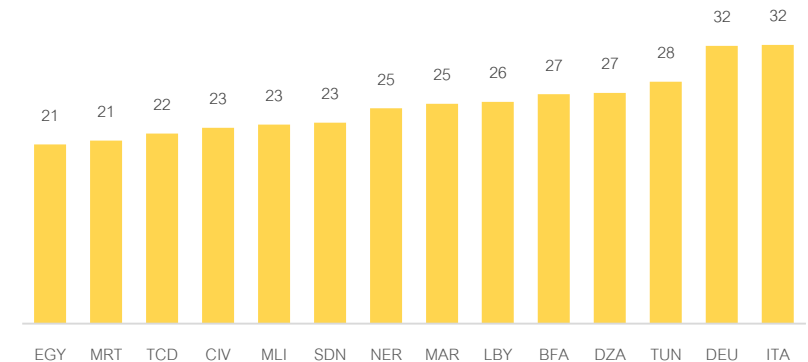
III. GENDER AND AGE

III. GENDER AND AGE

3.1 GENDER

Between 2017 and 2021, more than 20,000 women were assisted by IOM to return to their country of origin in West and Central Africa, representing 16% of the total AVRR and VHR caseload during that period.

The proportion of women returnees reached in 2021 its highest value (19%), and rose by 5 percentage point compared to 2020. As previously mentioned, host countries have diverse gender distribution due to type of migration and migratory routes. Between 2020 and 2021 a decrease in returns from Niger (from 60 to 47%), one of the main host countries with the highest male to female returnee ratio (95%), was observed. In contrast, the fraction of returns from Libya, Morocco, Chad and Tunisia (host countries with over 20% of female returnees assisted) all increased during that period.

16% FEMALE   MALE **84%**

Year	Female		Male
2017	17%	FEMALE MALE	83%
2018	13%	FEMALE MALE	87%
2019	16%	FEMALE MALE	84%
2020	14%	FEMALE MALE	86%
2021	19%	FEMALE MALE	81%
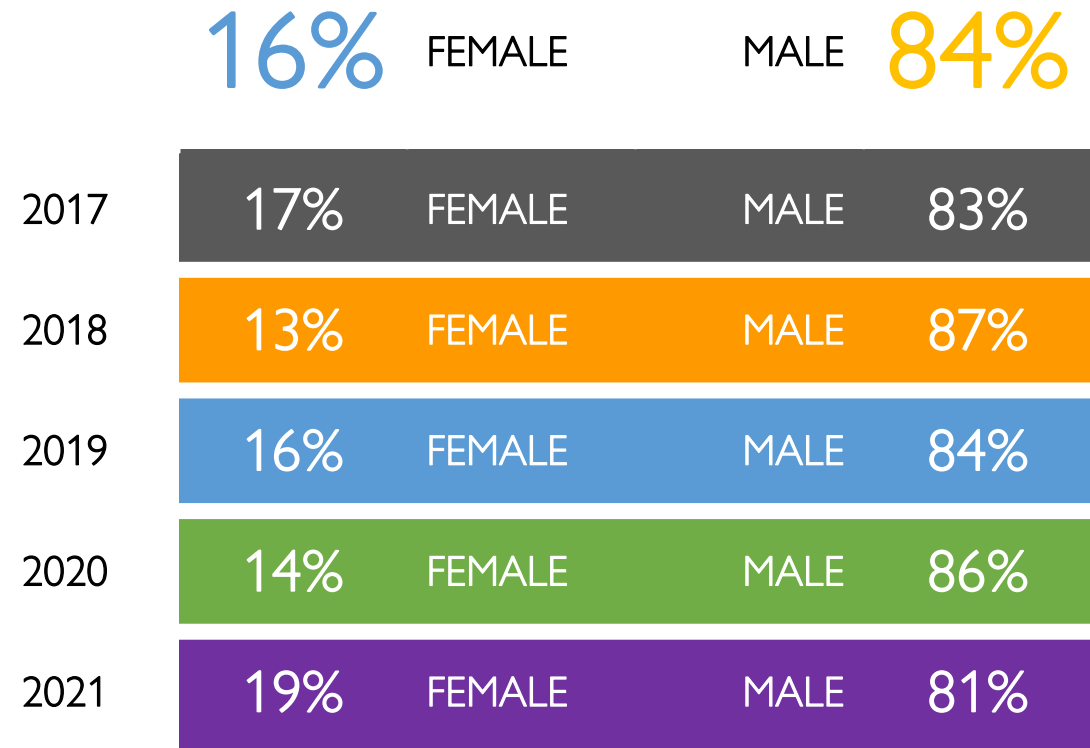
III. GENDER AND AGE

3.2. GENDER BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

Amongst the main countries of origin Nigeria has the highest proportion of women amongst returnees (43%),. Guinea Bissau (3%) and the Gambia (3%) recorded among the lowest proportion of women. In terms of evolution, the proportion of women increased for Niger from 13% during the period 2017-2020 to 41% in 2021.

The high proportion of female migrants in Nigeria may be explained by multiple underlying or conjunctural factors including poverty, cultural approach to migration among the community and the family, trafficking networks, and facility to access certain visa.

PROPORTION OF FEMALES AVRR AND VHR TO WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA – 2017-2021

Source: International Organization for Migration(IOM)

Proportion of Female AVRR by Country (2017 - December 2021):

- 0 - 3%
- 4% - 8%
- 9% - 20%
- 21% - 45%
- 46% - 60%

XXX   Percentage of female migrants
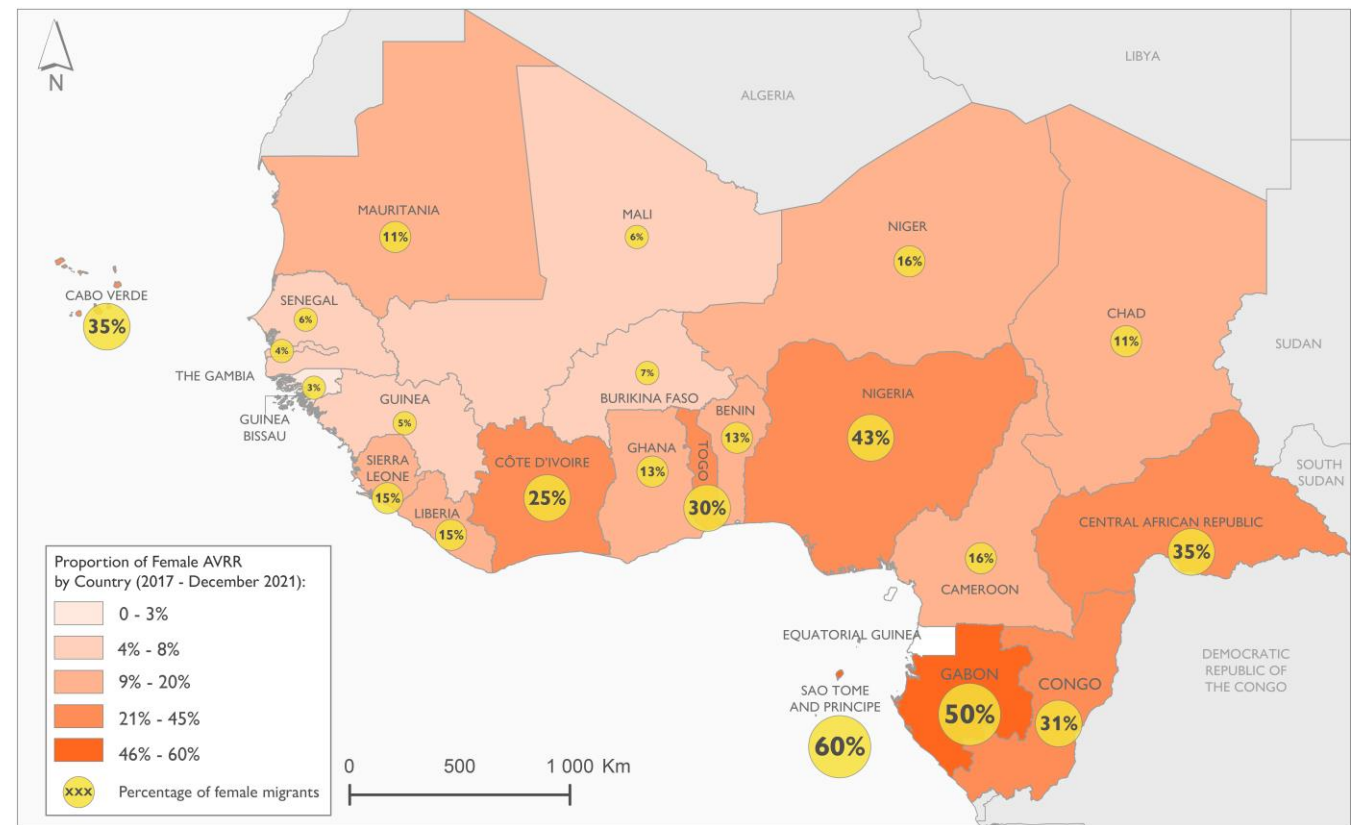
III. GENDER AND AGE

3.3. AVERAGE AGE OF RETURNEES

On average, individuals assisted in their return by IOM between 2017 and 2021, were 25 years old at the time of return. Below chart shows the distribution by age (min: 0, max: 87, mode: 25). 9% of individuals assisted were under 18, 46% between 18 and 25 years old and 35% between 26 and 35 years old. The remaining 11% were 36 years old and above.

25 AVERAGE AGE

DISTRIBUTION OF AVRR AND VHR BY AGE (2017- 2021)
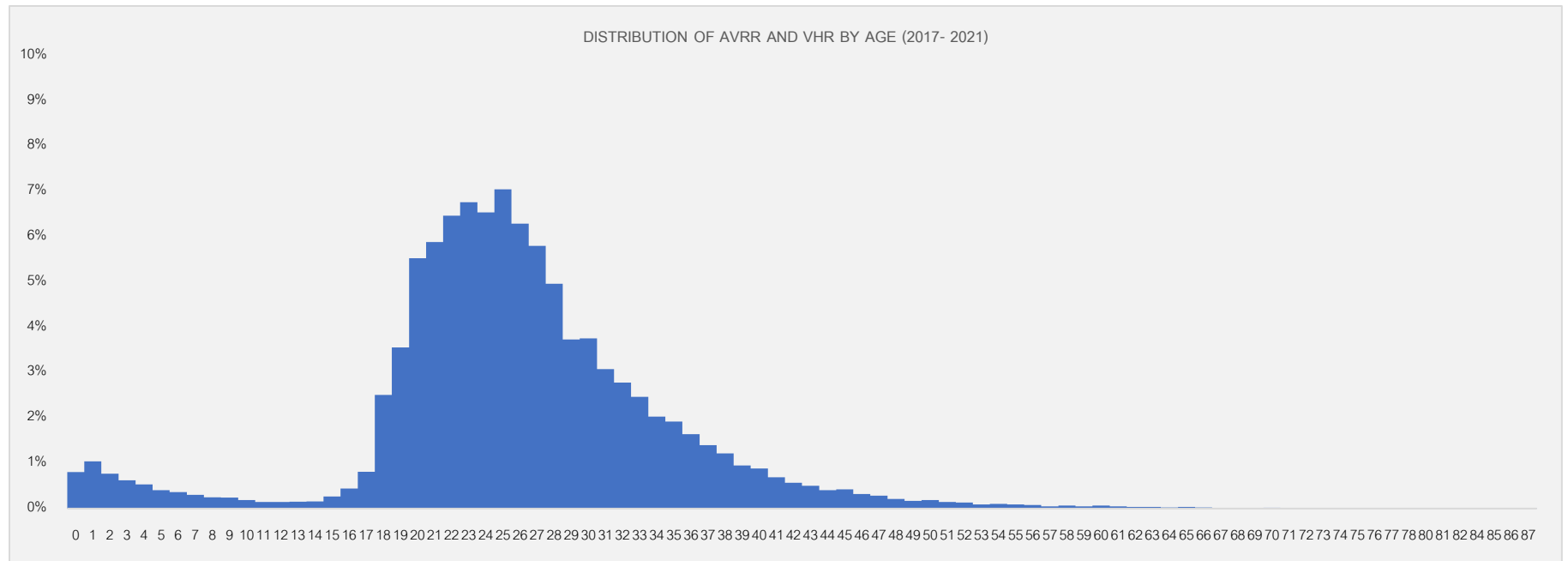
III. GENDER AND AGE

3.4. AGE DISTRIBUTION BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

This page presents the age distribution of the main countries of origin for AVRR and VHR organised by IOM between 2017 and 2021.

The shape of Guinea chart displays a particularly young population (with an average age of 24 years old and the mode, most frequent value, being 20 years old). On the other hand, the shape of the age pyramid in Senegal presents an older population (average age above 27 with the mode at 27 years old).

NIGERIA — Average 25 yo

NIGER — Average 26 yo

GAMBIA — Average 26 yo

GUINEA — Average 24 yo

CÔTE D'IVOIRE — Average 26 yo

CAMEROON — Average 27 yo

MALI — Average 25 yo

SENEGAL — Average 27 yo

BURKINA FASO — Average 26 yo
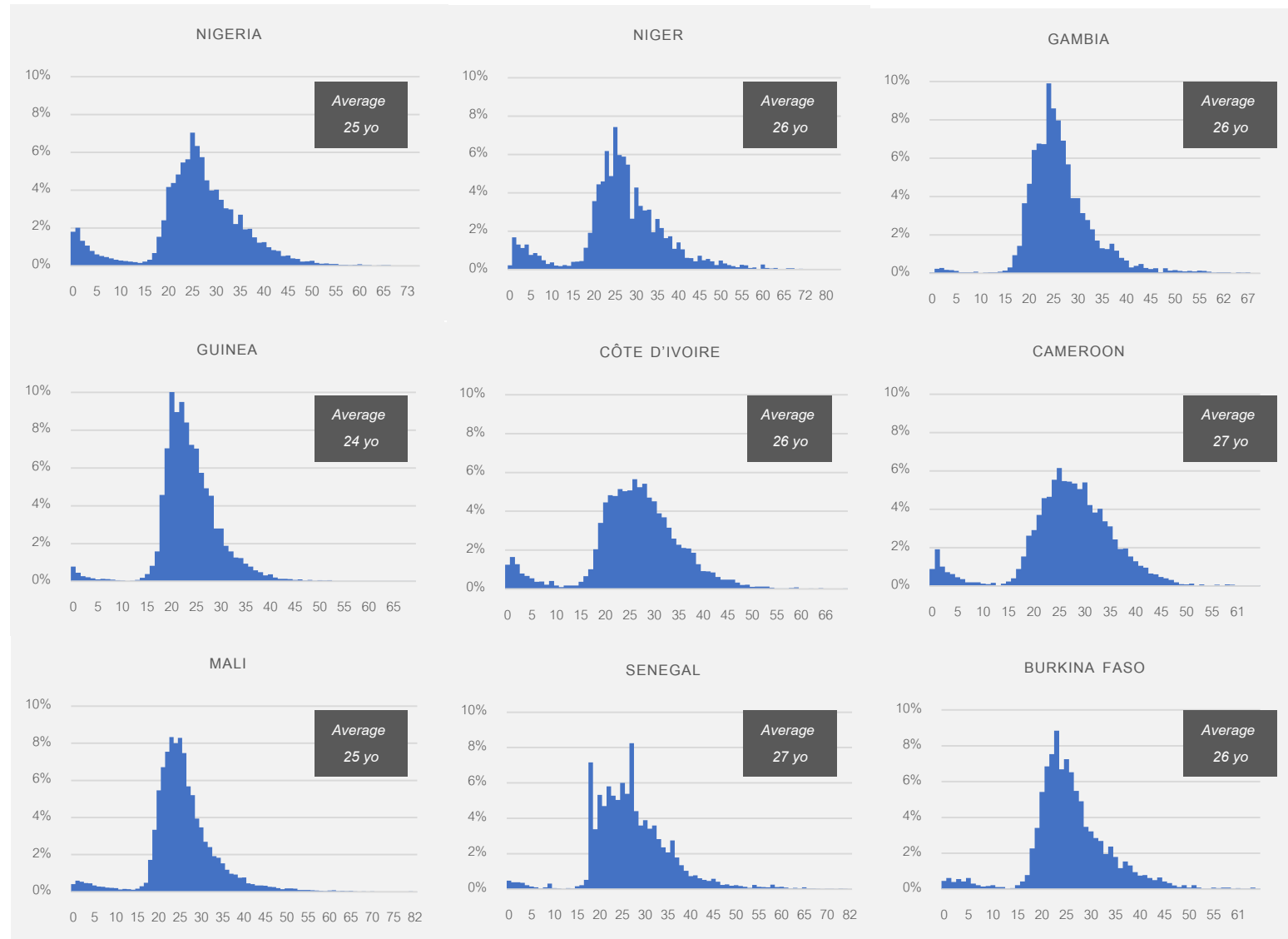
III. GENDER AND AGE

3.5. GENDER & AGE

When crossing age and gender variables together, two main results are visible:

1. Women supported to return are on average younger (23 years old) than men (26 years old).
2. The proportion of minors within women (23%) is higher than the same proportion for men (6%). Minors are mainly nationals from Nigeria (28%), Mali (14%), Guinea (13%), Niger (10%) and Côte d'Ivoire (10%), returning from Niger and Libya

FEMALE **23** years old

MALE **26**

AGE AND GENDER DISTRIBUTION (2017- 2021)

— Female   — Male
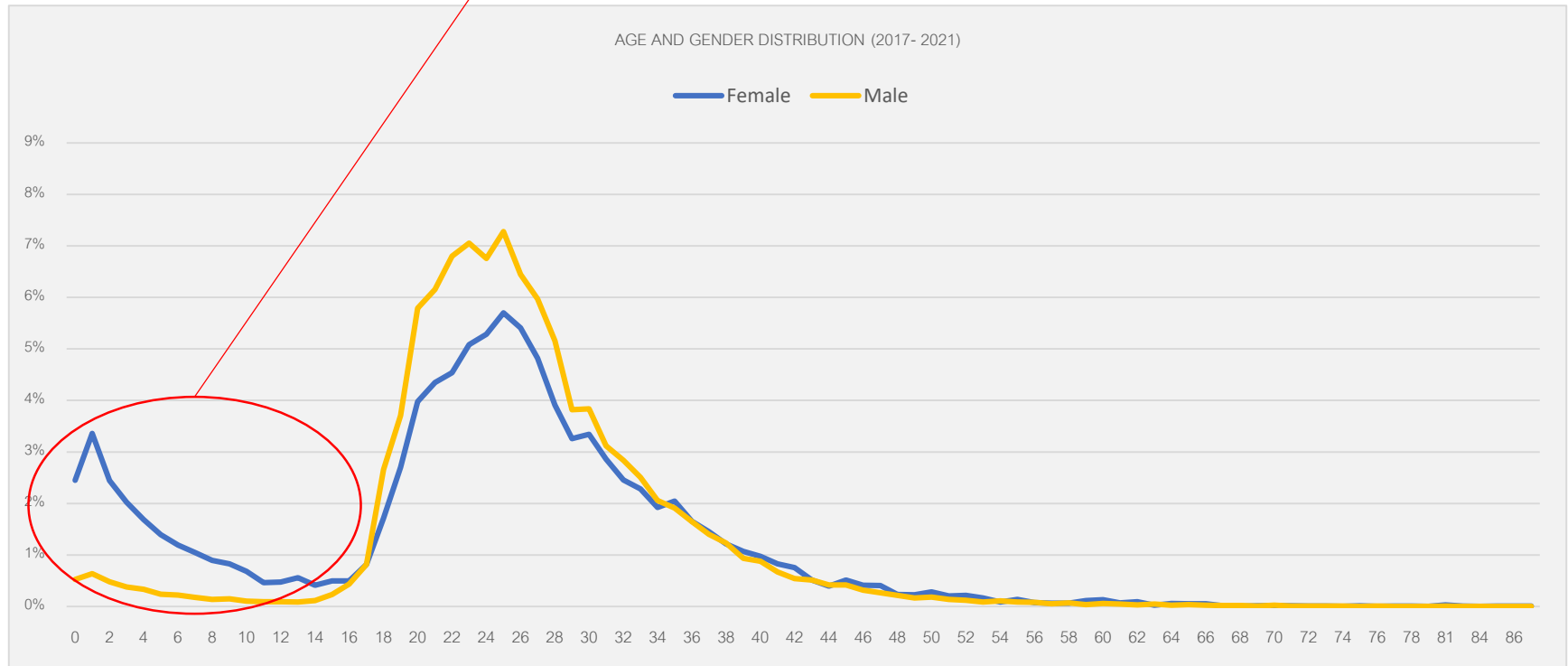
IV. REGIONS OF ORIGIN

IV. REGIONS OF ORIGIN

4.1. REGIONS OF ORIGIN OF ASSISTED INDIVIDUALS

Top regions of origin are based on places of origin as declared by migrants assisted by IOM between 2017 and 2021. For this period, Conakry in Guinea, Bamako in Mali, Edo in Nigeria, Kayes in Mali and Lagunes in Côte d'Ivoire were the five main regions of origin.

Evolution of regions of origin from 2017 to 2021 might be a good indication of changes in migration patterns. In 2017, the top three regions of origin were Edo State (Nigeria), Conakry (Guinea) and Delta State (Nigeria). Bamako (Mali), Conakry (Guinea), and Kayes (Mali) are the top three regions of origin since 2019 and this remained unchanged in 2021. This trend is consistent with the one of host countries considering that Niger became the main host country since 2018, replacing Libya as the main host country and most returns from Libya were toward Nigeria while most returns from Niger were toward Guinea and Mali. A significant number of returnees stay around capital cities for microbusinesses as part of their reintegration activities, explaining why Conakry and Bamako are within the top 2 main regions of origins since 2018.

However, the regions of origin were not documented for a notable number of returnees (mainly humanitarian returns organized from Libya between 2017 and 2018). The number of returnees with no documented information on their region of origin represents 53% of the total number of returns between 2017 and 2021 in the WCA region.

TOP REGIONS 2021	% of AVRR/VHR	TOP REGIONS 2020	% of AVRR/VHR	TOP REGIONS 2019	% of AVRR/VHR	TOP REGIONS 2018	% of AVRR/VHR	TOP REGIONS 2017	% of AVRR/VHR
BAMAKO (MLI)	20%	CONAKRY (GIN)	17%	BAMAKO (MLI)	11%	CONAKRY (GIN)	21%	EDO (NGA)	19%
CONAKRY (GIN)	20%	BAMAKO (MLI)	9%	CONAKRY (GIN)	11%	BAMAKO (MLI)	8%	CONAKRY (GIN)	10%
KAYES (MLI)	7%	KAYES (MLI)	9%	KAYES (MLI)	9%	EDO (NGA)	7%	DELTA (NGA)	5%
LAGUNES (CIV)	6%	KOULIKORO (MLI)	4%	LAGUNES (CIV)	5%	KAYES (MLI)	7%	KOLDA (SEN)	4%
KOULIKORO (MLI)	4%	CENTRE (CMR)	4%	LAGOS (NGA)	5%	LAGUNES (CIV)	6%	BAMAKO (MLI)	4%
LAGOS (NGA)	4%	LAGUNES (CIV)	4%	EDO (NGA)	5%	LITTORAL (CMR)	4%	LAGOS (NGA)	4%
KANO (NGA)	3%	ZINDER (NER)	4%	KOULIKORO (MLI)	4%	CENTRE (CMR)	4%	KAYES (MLI)	4%
THIES (SEN)	3%	LITTORAL (CMR)	3%	LITTORAL (CMR)	3%	LAGOS (NGA)	3%	CENTRE-EST (BFA)	3%
DAKAR (SEN)	3%	LAGOS (NGA)	3%	CENTRE (CMR)	3%	TAHOUA (NER)	3%	WESTERN (GMB)	3%
KOLDA (SEN)	2%	GREAT ACCRA (GHA)	3%	CENTRE-EST (BFA)	3%	KOULIKORO (MLI)	2%	TAHOUA (NER)	3%

IV. REGIONS OF ORIGIN

4.2. REGIONS OF ORIGIN

Main regions of origin are displayed in this map for AVRR and VHR between 2017 and 2021. Top regions by country of origin of migrants are displayed on the tables below.

BURKINA FASO	
Centre-Est	69%
Centre	19%
Centre-Sud	6%

CAMEROON	
Littoral	56%
Centre	41%
Ouest	1%

CHAD	
Ndjamena	98%
Bokou	2%
Kanem	1%

CÔTE D'IVOIRE	
Lagunes	73%
Marahoue	5%
Bas-Sassandra	4%

GAMBIA (The)	
Western	51%
Banjul	32%
Upper River	11%

GHANA	
Brong Ahafo	31%
Ashanti	20%
Greater Accra	17%

GUINEA	
Conakry	75%
Nzerekore	6%
Kankan	5%

GUINEA-BISSAU	
Gabu	58%
Bafata	19%
Oio	11%

MALI	
Bamako	40%
Kayes	32%
Koulikoro	12%

NIGER	
Tahoua	39%
Zinder	21%
Maradi	16%

NIGERIA	
Edo	36%
Lagos	17%
Delta	10%

SENEGAL	
Kolda	30%
Dakar	24%
Tambacounda	14%

DISTRIBUTION OF AVRR AND VHR BY MAIN REGIONS OF ORIGIN (2017-2021)

Source: International Organization for Migration(IOM)

Main region of origin of migrants assisted by IOM:
- 1 - 300
- 300 - 600
- 600 - 1,500
- 1,500 - 5,000
- 5,000 - 13,000
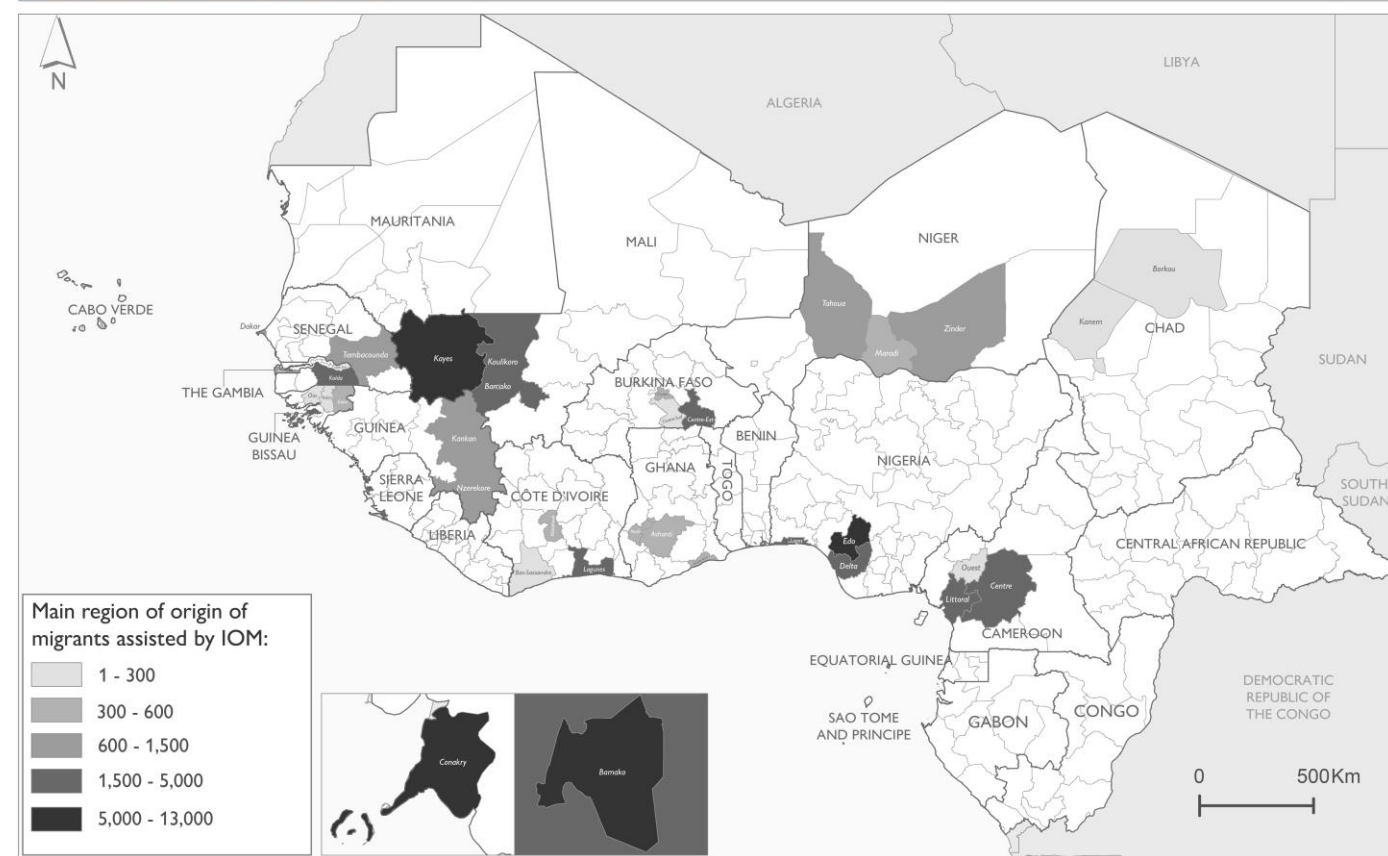
IV. REGIONS OF ORIGIN

4.3. REGIONS OF ORIGIN BY GENDER

Main regions of origins of female migrants assisted to return by IOM are located in Nigeria (Edo, Lagos, Delta, Ogun), Cameroon (Littoral, Centre), Guinea (Conakry), Mali (Bamako), Niger (Tahoua, Zinder) as well as Côte d'Ivoire (Lagunes).

MAIN REGIONS OF ORIGIN AND PROPORTION OF FEMALE AVRR AND VHR (2017-2021)

Source: International Organization for Migration(IOM)

Main region of origin of female migrans assisted by IOM:

- 1 - 25
- 25 - 70
- 70 - 310
- 310 - 800
- 800 - 2,400
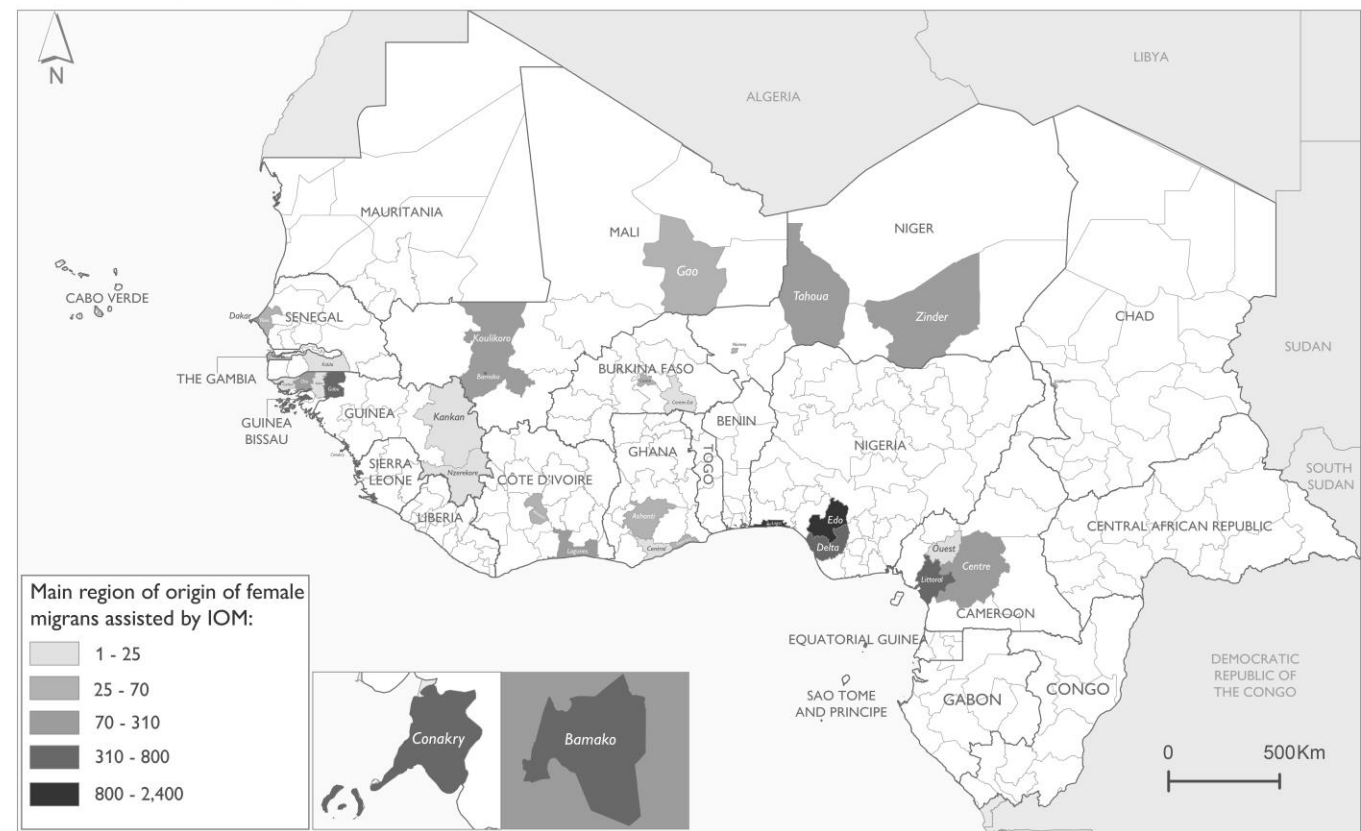
V. PROTECTION CASES

V. PROTECTION CASES

5.1. PROTECTION CASES OVERVIEW

A total of 6,427 protection cases were benefited from AVR/VHR between, 2017 and 2021, which represents 5% of the total number of beneficiaries assisted. Protections cases include unaccompanied children, migrants with health conditions and victims of trafficking.

Data collected based on discussions upon departure or return with assisted migrants shows that nearly 1% of all migrants assisted to return were unaccompanied children. These are mainly nationals from Guinea, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, Nigeria and Cameroon returning from Mali and Niger.

Neary 1% of all migrants assisted to return displayed health conditions at the time of departure. They are mainly nationals from the three main countries of origin: Nigeria, The Gambia, and Côte d'Ivoire. Returnees with health conditions were mainly men (59%) and the majority (66%) are within 18 and 35 years old.

3% of total individuals assisted between 2017 and 2021, indicated being victims of trafficking during their journey or stay. About 84% of reported victims of trafficking are women and nearly 88% are between 18 and 35 years old.

6,427 TOTAL NUMBER OF **PROTECTION CASES (5%)**
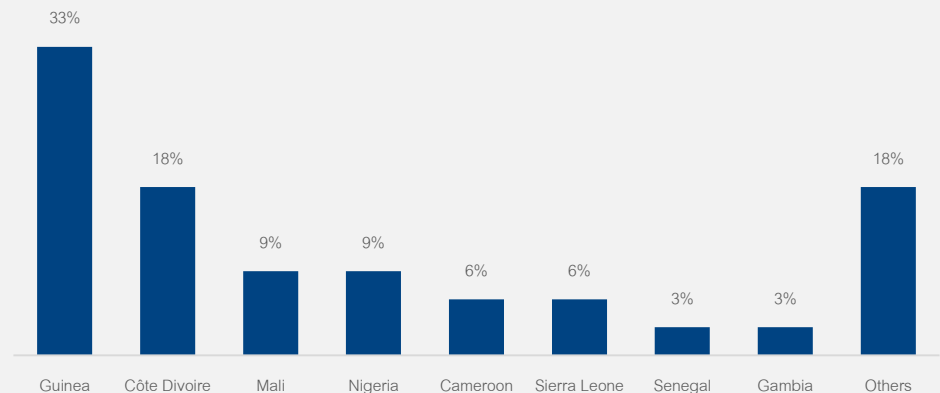
1,383 UNACCOMPANIED **CHILDREN (1%)**

1,803 SIGNIFICANT **HEALTH CONDITIONS (1%)**

3,657 VICTIMS OF **TRAFFICKING (3%)**

UNACCOMPANIED AND SEPARATED CHILDREN BY NATIONALITY (2017-2021)

| Guinea	Côte Divoire	Mali	Nigeria	Cameroon	Sierra Leone	Senegal	Gambia	Others
33%	18%	9%	9%	6%	6%	3%	3%	18%

V. PROTECTION CASES

5.2. UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN OVERVIEW

1,383 unaccompanied children were assisted with AVR and VHR toward WCA countries between 2017 and 2021. Unaccompanied children represent about 12% of the total number of children returnees in the region between 2017 and 2021. 83% of the total number of unaccompanied children are boys and 78% are between 15 and 17 years old,

Niger (50%), Mali (14%), and Libya (9%) represent the main host countries from which AVR and VHR were organised toward WCA countries. Over 16% of the unaccompanied children are girls, mainly returning from Niger to Nigeria.

UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN BY YEAR:

- <u>2017</u>:   13% (179)
- <u>2018</u>:   26% (353)
- <u>2019</u>:   25% (350)
- <u>2020</u>:   14% (190)
- 2021:   22% (311)

GENDER AND AGE DISTRIBUTION OF UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN (2017- 2021)

UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN BY HOST COUNTRY (2017-2021)
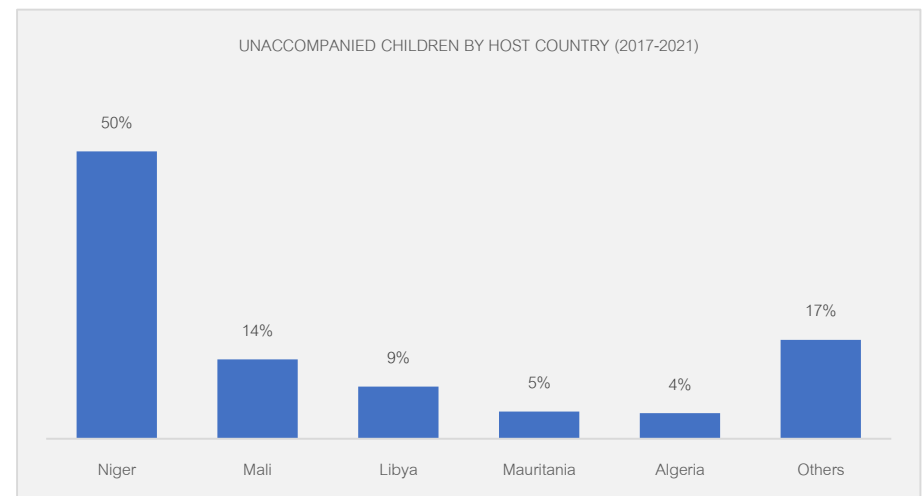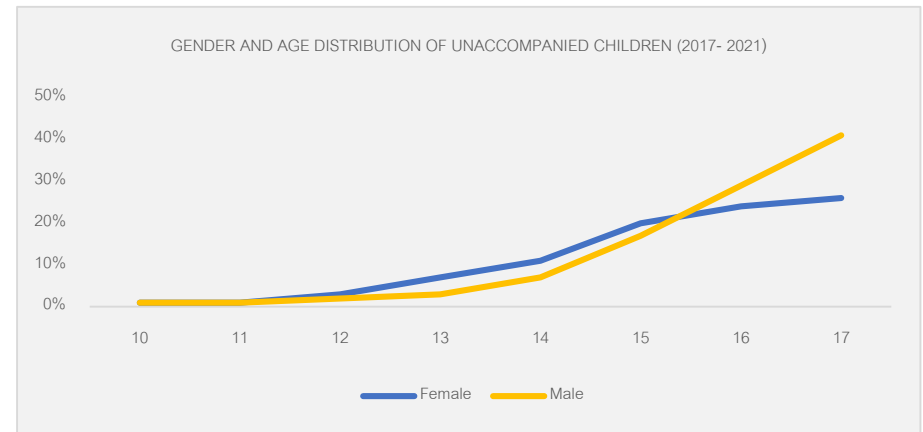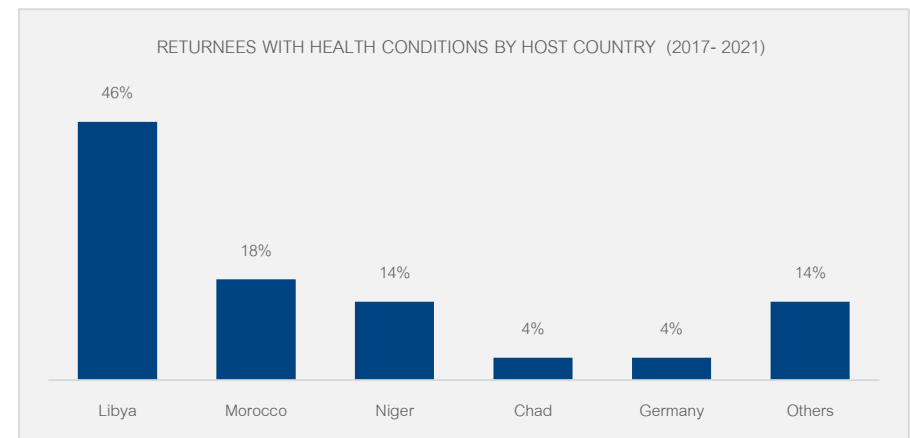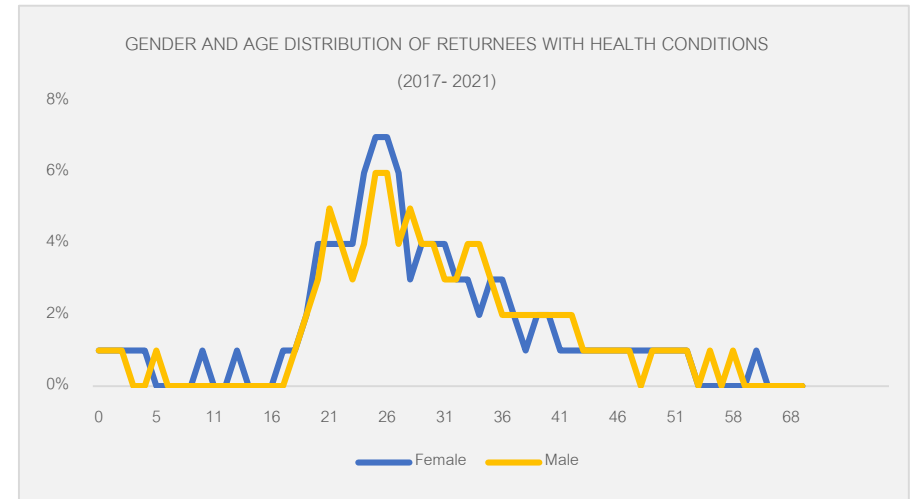
V. PROTECTION CASES

5.3. SIGNIFICANT HEALTH CONDITIONS OVERVIEW

Between 2017 and 2021, over 1,800 returnees had health conditions at the time of departure. Their age range varies from 0 to 80 years old, with a mode (the most common value) at 25 years old. The proportion of women is lower compared to the same proportion for men within all ages. Nearly 41% of women with health conditions are nationals from Nigeria, mainly returning from Libya. It is important to stress that data collection on returnees' health conditions have been strengthened in late 2020, which explains the substantial increase in the number of returnees with health conditions reported in 2021 (995 returnees)

The main host countries of returnees with health conditions are Libya (46%) and Morocco (18%). The North Africa region (mainly Libya, Morocco and Algeria) recorded 68% of WCA returnees with health conditions and around 2% of them were temporally detained during their migration journey

RETURNEES WITH HEALTH CONDITIONS BY YEAR:

- 2017:   4% (69)
- 2018:   5% (98)
- 2019:   15% (271)
- 2020:   21% (370)
- 2021:   55% (995)

GENDER AND AGE DISTRIBUTION OF RETURNEES WITH HEALTH CONDITIONS (2017- 2021)

RETURNEES WITH HEALTH CONDITIONS BY HOST COUNTRY (2017- 2021)

V. PROTECTION CASES

5.4. VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING OVERVIEW

Over 3,600 victims of trafficking (VOTs) were assisted with AVR and VHR toward WCA countries between 2017 and 2021. Their age range varies from 0 to 80 years old, with a mode (the most common value) at 24 years old. 93% of VOTs are adults (above 18) and 86% of them are women. The proportion of VOTs among women between 16 and 25 years old is higher than the proportion of male VOTs in the same age group. Nearly 82% of women are Nigeria nationals returning from Libya and Mali.

The main host countries of victims of trafficking are Libya (43%) and Mali (20%). Most victims of trafficking are recorded in North Africa or on their way to West Africa (VOTs assisted in Libya on their way to Nigeria). A non-negligeable number of VOTs were also assisted in Kuwait which is a major destination for female labour migration.

VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING BY YEAR:

- 2017:   10% (362)
- 2018:   25% (924)
- 2019:   29% (1,060)
- 2020:   13% (465)
- 2021:   23% (846)

GENDER AND AGE DISTRIBUTION OF VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING (2017-2021)

VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING BY HOST COUNTRY (2017-2021)
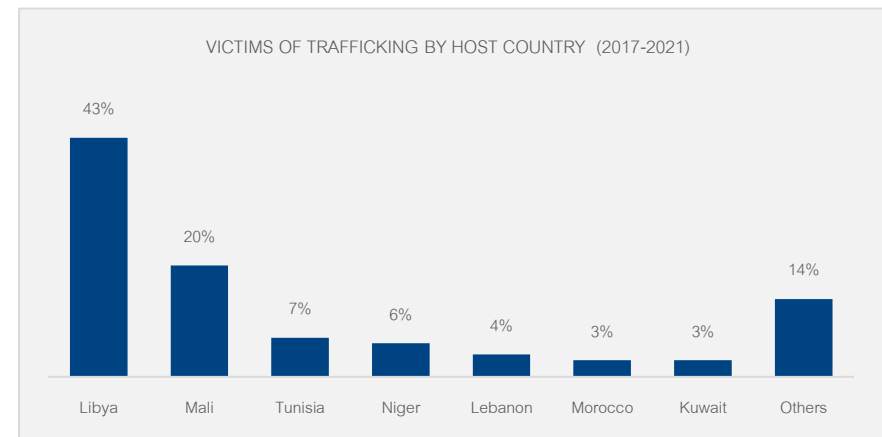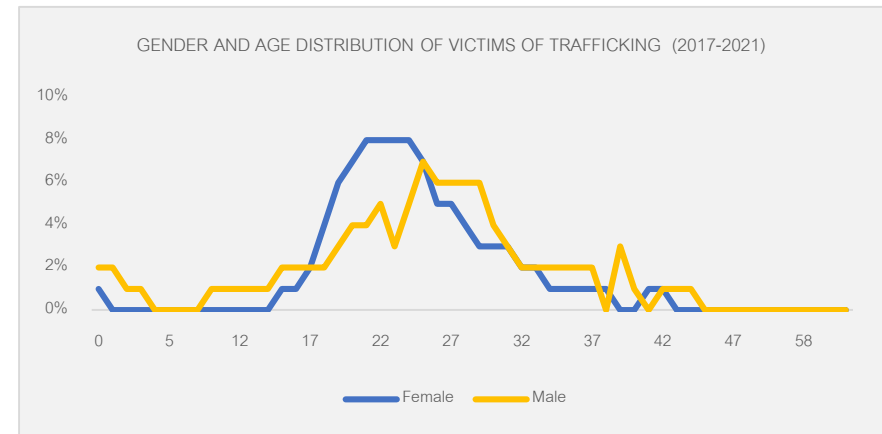
METHODOLOGY

This report displays analysis conducted thanks to data collected from individuals that IOM assisted in their voluntary or humanitarian returns.

METHODOLOGY

Data is being collected by enumerators upon departure and arrival of each individual participating to IOM voluntary or humanitarian return programmes.

All data is then being entered and stocked by each host and origins countries. The regional office for West and Central Africa works on a consolidated overview every month.

In case of protection concerns (victims of trafficking or abuse), returnees are going through specific discussions with medical and psychosocial professionals.

LIMITATIONS

Data displayed in this report presents the result of more than 130,000 migrants assisted in their voluntary/humanitarian return by IOM between 2017 and 2021. It's therefore a particularly strong representation of inter-regional movements.

However, certain limitations should apply to these datasets. It does not represent accurately all movements and migration from the West and Central Africa region, but only represents migration undertaken by those voluntarily assisted to return by

IOM. Therefore, although the dataset allows for a certain confidence in the data given its width, it should not be considered as representative of all migration movements from the region.

AVAILABLE RESOURCES

The framework for assisted voluntary return and reintegration (hereinafter referred to as the Framework) builds on IOM's long-standing contribution in this area and marks an important milestone in the Organization's engagement in AVRR. Designed to guide both policymakers and AVRR practitioners, the scope of the Framework goes beyond IOM's own engagement.

Considering the diversity of AVRR projects' eligibility criteria, available resources, national policies, implementation partners and operational contexts, the Framework proposes a road map to address voluntary return and reintegration in a holistic way – one that responds to the needs of the individual returnees, the needs of the communities to which they return and the priorities of concerned governments, calling for the adoption of coordinated measures, policies, and practices between stakeholders responsible for migration management and development at the international, national and local levels.

https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/our_work/DMM/AVRR/a_framework_for_avrr_online_pdf_optimized_20181112.pdf

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