



**DTM**  
IOM DISPLACEMENT  
TRACKING MATRIX

# REGIONAL MIGRATION REPORT

West and Central Africa

*January – March 2017*

**INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION**

Author: Information Management Unit, Regional Office for West and Central Africa

Contact: [rodakar@iom.int](mailto:rodakar@iom.int)

Website: [www.globaldtm.info](http://www.globaldtm.info) / [www.rodakar.iom.int](http://www.rodakar.iom.int)

**DTM ACTIVITIES IN  
THE REGION ARE  
SUPPORTED BY:**



### IOM DATA COLLECTION ON MIGRATION IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA AND THE CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN ROUTE

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has established **Flow Monitoring Points (FMP)** as part of its Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) in areas of significant migratory transit in West and Central Africa, Libya and Italy. Two tools are used as part of the FMP methodology: 1) the Flow Monitoring Registry (FMR) collects data at the *group level* in order to provide a better understanding of intra and inter-regional migration patterns and trends; 2) the Flow Monitoring Survey (FMS) collects *individual* data on a sample of migrants on their journey. Both tools are implemented in various locations across the Central Mediterranean Route (CMR). The narrative and map on this page provides details on data collection activities for the period of January - March 2017.

**Burkina Faso:** an FMR was established in Burkina's capital city of Ouagadougou in late March 2017 and will start generating data and analysis from Quarterly 2 2017. The March 2017 Dashboard is available [here](#).

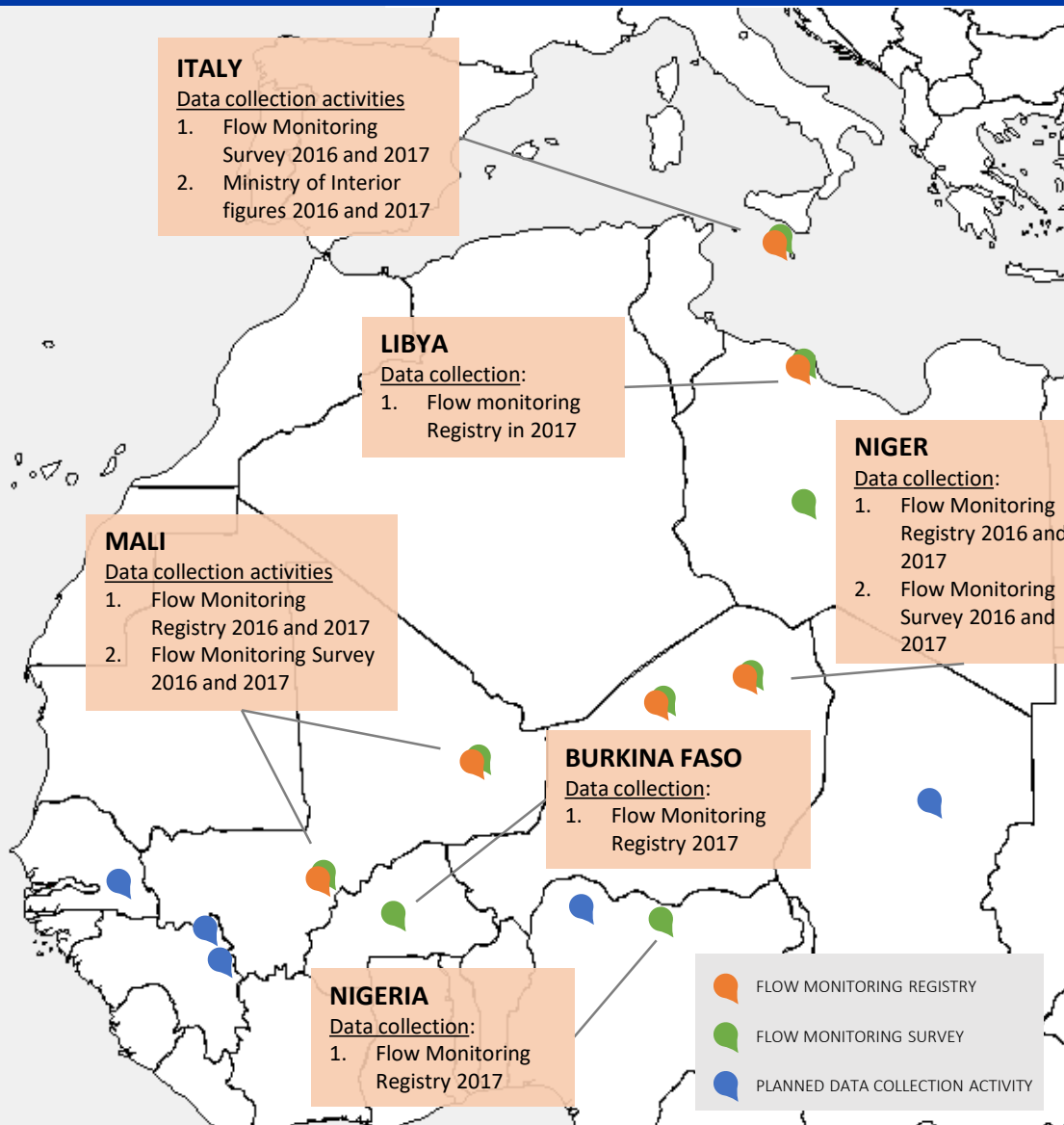
**Libya:** DTM has tracked the number of migrants in Libya since the start of 2016. Data collection has been conducted over the course of the year and the programme provides updates on a regular basis. Data and reports can be found [here](#).

**Italy:** Beginning in October 2015, IOM has conducted FMS in Sicily, Apulia and Calabria with the aim of tracking and monitoring populations on the move through the Mediterranean and Western Balkan routes to Europe. Data and analysis are available [here](#). Other data, gathered by the Ministry of interior of Italy, on migrants from West and Central Africa is available [here](#).

**Mali:** FMR and FMS have been conducted since the start of the year in two main transit areas of Mali. Both trends and individual data are available. Dashboards and analysis are available [here](#).

**Niger:** FMR and FMS have been conducted since the start of the year in Séguédine and Arlit, two main transit point for migrants going or coming back from Libya and Algeria. Both trends and individual data are available. Dashboards and analysis can be found [here](#).

**Nigeria:** Two FMRs were set-up in northern Nigeria in main transit areas in Kano and Sokoto and will start generating data and analysis for Quarterly 2 2017.



### TRENDS AND KEY FIGURES OBSERVED THROUGH ONGOING DATA COLLECTION ON MIGRATION TO AND FROM WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

**20,000**

Approximate number of miners traveling to Agadez after the mine closure

#### Djado mine and intra-regional movements

During the month of February 2017, the Flow Monitoring Registry in Séguédine counted more than 20,000 mine workers of various nationalities leaving the gold mine of Djado in northern Niger and travelling towards Agadez. The Djado mine had been closed by local authorities. After the closure of the mine, and in support of the government of Niger, IOM assisted over 3,000 Nigeriens to return to their place of origin (*Source: Niger FMR 2017*). Please see case study on pg. 5.

#### Women on the move out of Burkina Faso and Nigeria

While on average women represent less than 5% of all individuals transiting through Niger and Mali (Mali and Niger FMP data), approximately 30% of individuals observed at FMPs in Kano, Nigeria and Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso were women. In Nigeria, the vast majority of identified women were heading towards Niger.

Though interesting, these figures cannot be directly linked to the high presence of Nigerians women in Italy in 2017. The economic attractiveness of both Kano and Ouagadougou, where the FMPs are implemented, encourages cross-border movements and economic exchange.

*Source: Burkina Faso and Nigeria FMR 2017*



35% of women identified in Nigeria & 29% in Burkina Faso FMPs



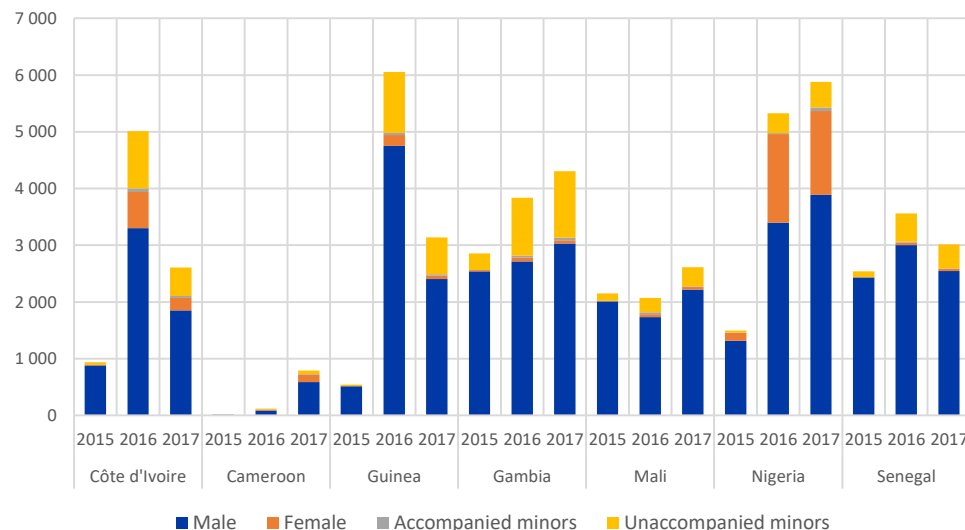
**931**  
unaccompanied or separated minors identified in Mali FMPs

Since January 2017, a significant number of unaccompanied or separated minors have been identified in Mali

From January to March 2017, most unaccompanied and separated minors identified at FMPs in the region were identified in Mali, where they constituted nearly 7% of the total individuals identified. On average, unaccompanied minors represent less than 1% of individuals identified in Burkina Faso and Nigeria, and 2% in Niger. *Source: Mali FMR 2017*

#### Variation of migrants arriving in Italy from 2015 – 2017 by main country of origin, gender and age

The graph below shows the variations in age and gender of migrants arriving in Italy by main country of origins. *Source: Ministry of Interior Italy 2015-2017*



Since February 2016, IOM Niger has conducted flow monitoring of migrants at two locations in the region of Agadez, Niger. This flow monitoring does not replace border monitoring nor does it claim to observe all migratory flows in the Agadez region. Since the beginning of 2017, migration flows in Niger have been comprised of Nigerien, Nigerian, Senegalese and Gambian nationals.

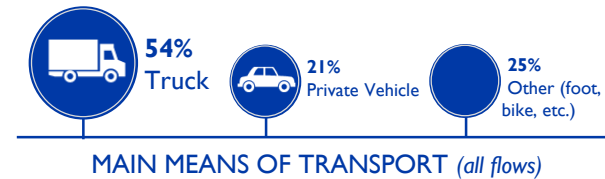
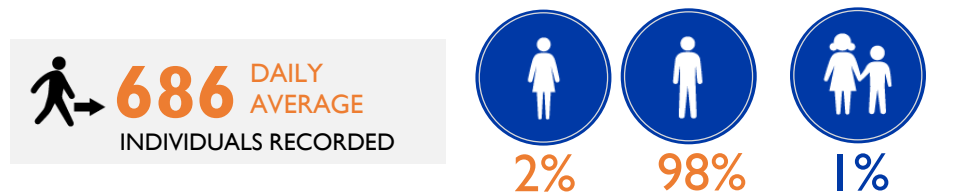
Based on data from the two FMPs in Niger, 65% of migrants are arriving (defined as *incoming flows*) from northern Niger and/or beyond the border (Libya/Algeria), and are traveling south into Niger. The majority of these *incoming flows* are coming from Libya, with 2% recorded as minors and 5% as women.

35% of the migrants identified at the FMPs are leaving Niger (*outgoing flows*), and are traveling from the FMP site toward the border with Libya and Algeria.

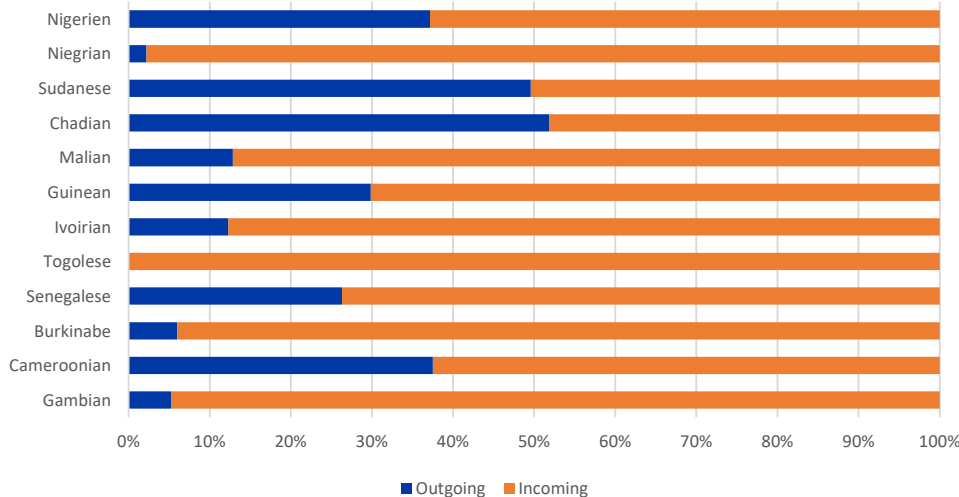
**Incoming individuals observed:** This refers to individuals who arrive in the flow monitoring points (which are not located at borders) with the intention of heading further into Niger.

**Outgoing individuals observed:** This refers to individuals who arrive at the flow monitoring points (which are not located at borders) with the intention of heading outwards, towards the borders of Niger.

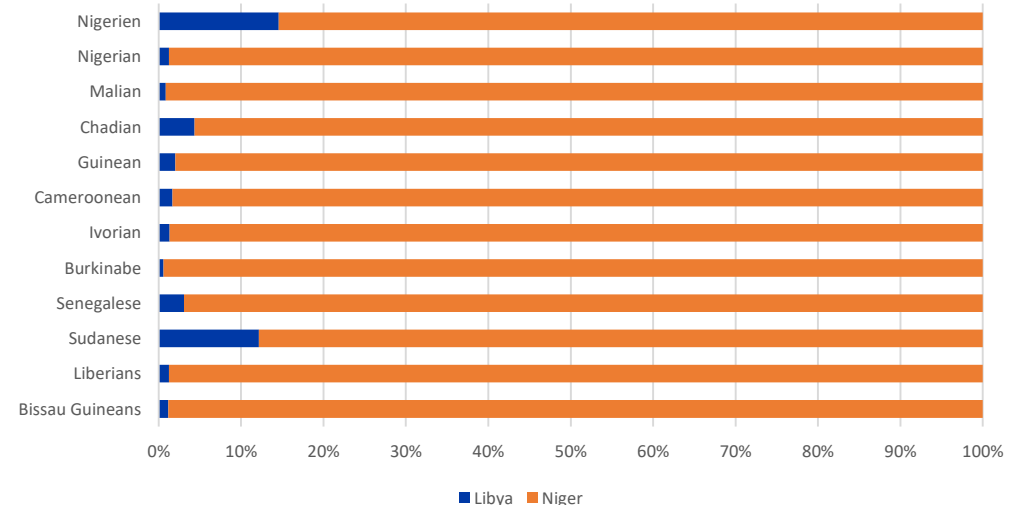
### PROFILE OF PERSONS OBSERVED AT THE FMPs



### INCOMING AND OUTGOING FLOWS BY NATIONALITY\*



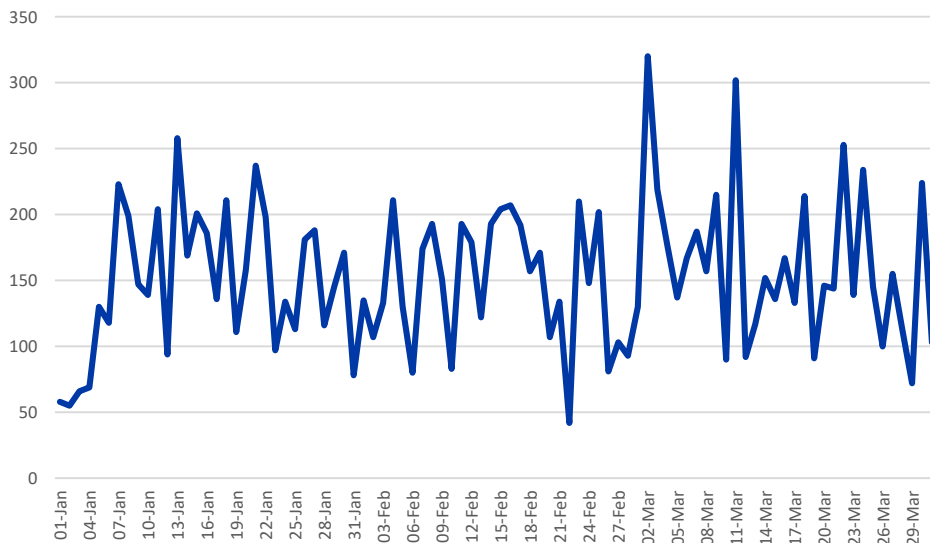
### NATIONALITY AND DESTINATION COUNTRIES



Since June 2016, IOM Mali has tracked the movement of migrants in the regions of Gao and Segou (in Benena). Migrants, predominantly from sub-Saharan countries and West Africa in particular, travel long distances often facing harsh conditions and spending significant amounts of money to reach their final destinations.

The vast majority of recorded migrants at flow monitoring points (FMPs) were young men (direct observation). Among the migrants, several persons under the age of 18 were identified (7% over the three months of the reporting period). Some travelled accompanied by adult legal guardians, while others travelled alone (unaccompanied and separated children). Most migrants identified at the FMP were from Guinea, Mali, Gambia, Senegal and Ivory Coast nationals.

### DAILY INDIVIDUALS RECORDED CROSSING FMPs IN MALI



### PROFILE OF PERSONS OBSERVED AT THE FMPs

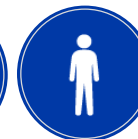
% of minors among individuals recorded



**153** DAILY AVERAGE  
INDIVIDUALS RECORDED



3%



97%



7%



60%  
Bus



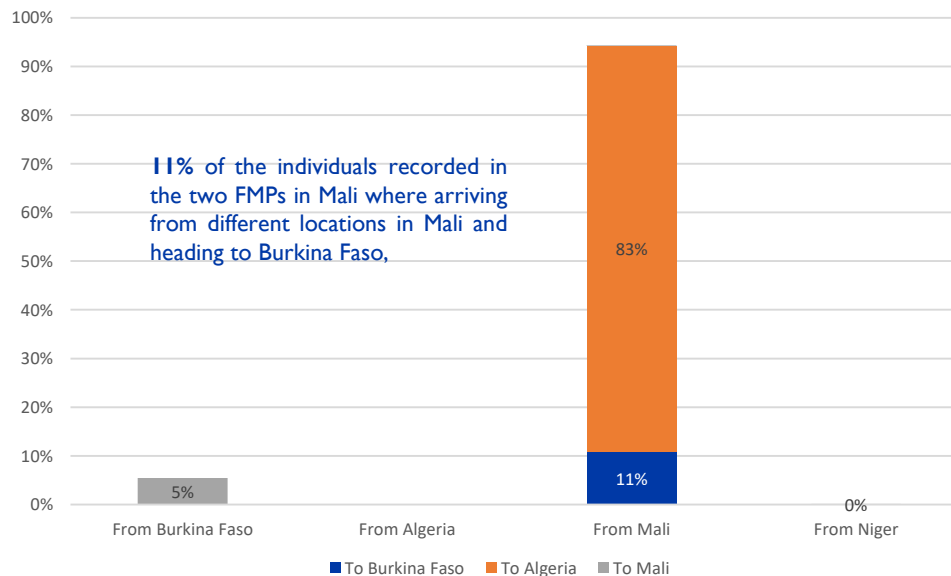
30%  
Truck



10%  
Other (car, foot, bike, etc.)

MAIN MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION (all flows)

### ORIGIN OF THE VEHICLE AND DESTINATION



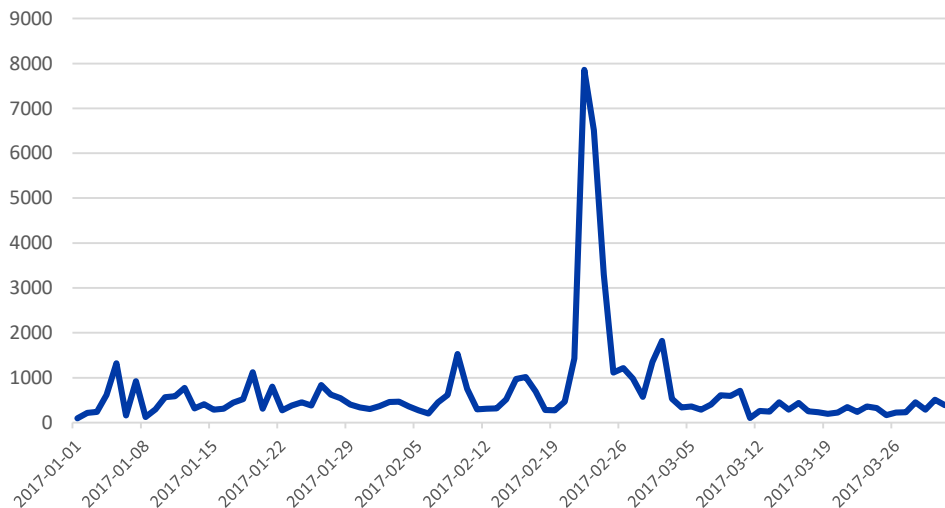
### A CASE STUDY OF INTRAREGIONAL MIGRATION AND THE EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRY IN WEST AFRICA

#### Context

During the month of February 2017, the flow of migrants through Séguédine increased significantly with over 20,000 migrants of various nationalities traveling toward Agadez (*Source: Niger FMR 2017*). Initial reports indicated that in early February, a gold mine in the Djado Plateau in northern Niger had been temporarily closed by Nigerien authorities for security reasons. The result was the movement of hundreds of overloaded vehicles crossing Séguédine toward Agadez.

The movement of migrants, tracked through IOM's Flow Monitoring Registry, from Djado gold mine toward Agadez, Niger illustrates the prevalence of intra-regional migration in the region and the contribution of the extractive industry in fueling those migration flows in West Africa.

**DAILY INDIVIDUALS RECORDED CROSSING FMPs IN NIGER**



#### Intraregional Migration

Intraregional migration in West Africa plays an important role in trade, commerce and cross-regional integration. IOM data demonstrates that West Africa provides the strongest example of intraregional migration flows in sub-Saharan Africa, with 70% of migratory movements mainly linked to employment taking place within the sub-region migration ([source](#)). This is further evidenced by the fact that in seven West African countries, the total amount of money transferred by migrants to their families from within the region exceeds the total amount sent from other countries ([source](#)).

#### The Extractive Industry in Africa

Africa has undergone a boom in extractive commodities since the 2000s. The boom led to an increase in resource exploitation and a surge in mine openings. The result is an African extractive industry that represents two-thirds of Africa's total exports ([source](#)).

This growth has not necessarily translated into the improvement of people's welfare. Questions remain around the role of mining in economic development and how to transform resource wealth into well-being ([source](#)).

The question of the impact of mining on local communities is an important one with some research indicating that on average, the benefits are not uniform and can be positive but limited. There are also potentially negative impacts on community welfare, such as environmental degradation, health risks, pressure on scarce resources and social dislocations ([source](#)).

As the extractive industry in Africa continues to grow, African governments and policy makers will have to determine how best to develop the mining sector to ensure the most benefit for their communities.

A CASE STUDY OF INTRAREGIONAL MIGRATION AND THE EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRY IN WEST AFRICA

Gold Mining in Niger

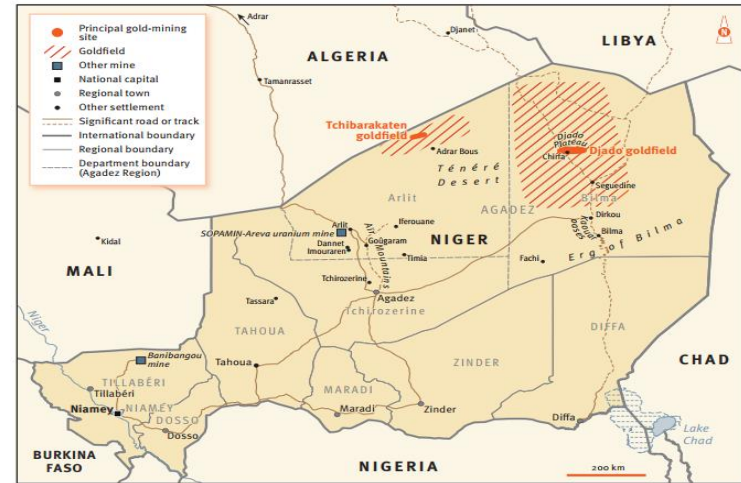
Niger is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest producer of uranium in the world and the mining industry contributes to approximately 40% of the country's total exports (source). Other mineral commodities produced in the country include gold, cement, coal, gypsum, limestone, petroleum, petroleum refinery products, salt, silver, and tin (source).

Historically, the exploitable gold deposits in Niger have been located in the southwest, however, in 2014 two viable gold deposits were discovered in the northern regions. The gold mining sites in the north stretch across Niger, from the Algerian to Chadian border. The main sites are located in the Djado Plateau (containing approximately 60 mining sites) and Tchibarakaten (containing approximately 14 gold mining sites) (source). The surrounding areas of Djado extend over 350 km north to south and 180 km east to west.

The town of Djado is an ancient site containing remnants of a prehistoric civilization (cave art). Tchibarakaten is located close to the Algerian border in the Agadez region (see Map). Upon the discovery of gold deposits in the north, artisanal gold miners (small-scale, non-commercial gold miners) flocked to both areas (source).

Flow Monitoring Registry Data

IOM's FMP data from February 2017 identified significant movement of migrants and vehicles flowing toward Agadez following the mine closure. Due to the remoteness of the northern region and the distance from Agadez, vehicles were required to transport the growing number of miners to the gold fields as well as goods belonging to merchants who were keen to capitalize on the increase in demand for goods and services. In addition to Nigerien miners, the majority of the miners working in the mines in Djado were nationals of surrounding countries: Chad, Sudan, Libya.



Map Source: Beyond the 'Wild West' – The Gold Rush in Niger.

Mine Closure

Gold mining in northern Niger may have helped reinvigorate the economy in an area that had been adversely affected by border closures and the end of uranium mining. However, the benefits were not equally distributed as many artisanal miners struggled to make ends meet. The conditions in Djado were harsh, and with most of the surface gold exhausted by the end of the mine's operation, the work became increasingly difficult (source). Due to the high costs of mining (equipment, housing, transportation etc.), the majority of miners did not make a profit from the gold rush. However, there is some evidence that indirect economies were created (source).

After the closure of the mine, and in support of the government of Niger, IOM assisted over 3,000 Nigeriens to return to their place of origin (Source: IOM Niger FMR 2017). According to reports, the mining operation in Djado will re-open for commercial mining, shifting the emphasis from surface gold mining (more easily accessible to artisanal gold miners) to drilling (requiring commercial equipment and permits)(source).

### Flow Monitoring Methodology

IOM works with national and local authorities as well as community-based organizations to better understand migration movements in West and Central Africa.

Using tools from the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), the flow monitoring registry and survey questionnaires, teams of enumerators work in major transit areas to monitor intra and inter-regional migration movements. The locations of flow monitoring points were defined based on entry, exit and transit point assessments conducted with national and local authorities along main migration routes.

The flow monitoring methodology includes direct observations in places of entry, transit or exit, as well as structured interviews with migrants and key stakeholders in transit points (including transportation workers, housing workers, and migration officials) to assess movement trends, routes, and countries of origin and destination. This methodology has been developed to track movement flows of groups and individuals through key points of origin, transit locations and points of destination.

The purpose of flow monitoring is to provide regularly updated information on the scale and profile of population movements. The information and analysis provided by flow monitoring also aims to better understand and define shortcomings and priorities in the provision of assistance along the displacement/migratory routes.

This tool collects information on the number and frequency of individuals transiting or moving through a particular location. Several techniques of flow monitoring and population movement tracking are available and are deployed depending on the context and volume of flows identified.

*Migrants adjust their routes according to opportunities and obstacles they encounter along their journey, their intended transit and destination locations are often subject to change. This renders the systematic assessment of their mobility throughout West and North Africa more complex. Therefore, data collected in destination locations may not always accurately reflect flows detected in transit locations. Data variations depends on migratory movements, FM methodology and the number of staff deployed in each FMP and their capacity to capture all movements.*

### FOR MORE INFORMATION ON IOM DTM AND FMP IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA:

<http://www.globaldtm.info>

<http://migration.iom.int>

<http://www.nigermigrationresponse.org>

Regional Office - CONTACT:  
[rodakarpcteam@iom.int](mailto:rodakarpcteam@iom.int)