

**15,545** Female travellers in West and Central Africa surveyed



**8 COUNTRIES**

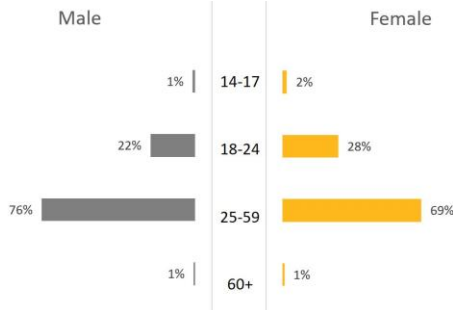


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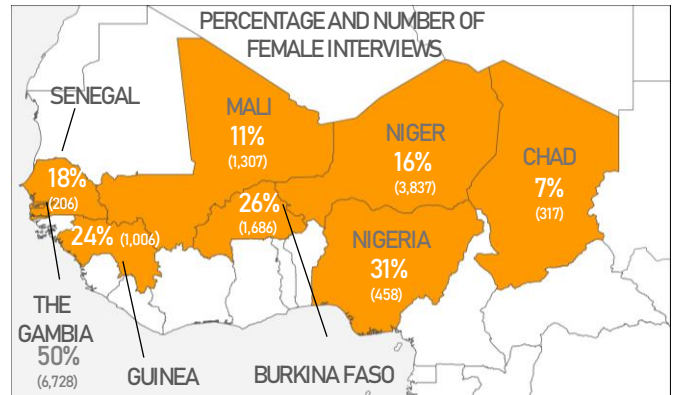
Data Collection Points

**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 2022 along migration routes in West and Central Africa.

### AGE OF TRAVELLERS BY GENDER

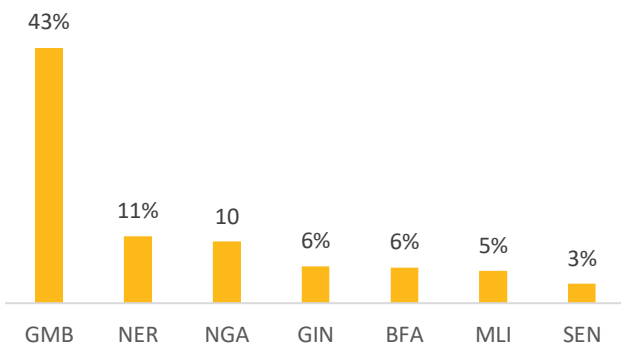


Of the 15,563 female travellers interviewed in West and Central Africa in 2022, the majority (69%) were between 25 and 59 years old. A significant proportion (28%) were youth, aged 18 to 24 years old. Minors between 14 and 17 years old made up 2 per cent, for 1 per cent above 60.



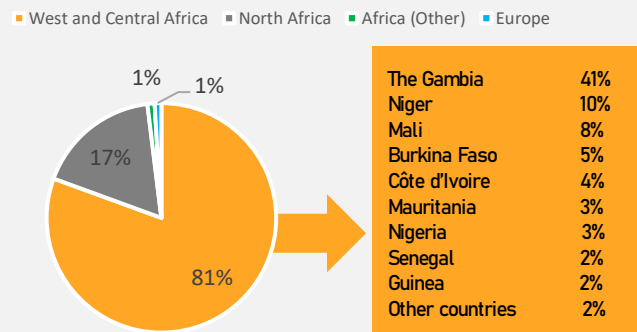
The percentage of female interviews varies widely, from 50 per cent in The Gambia, to 7 per cent in Chad. Most of the interviews with female travellers took place in The Gambia (43%), followed by Niger (25%), Burkina Faso (11%) and Mali (8%) were significant number of interviews with women and girls were held.

### MAIN COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



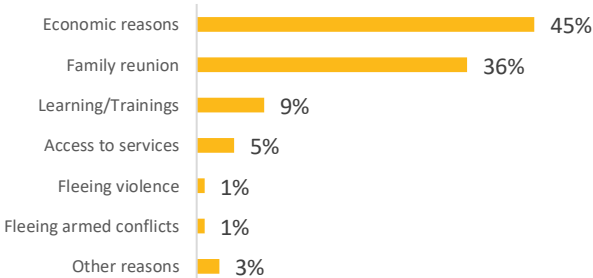
The Gambia, Niger and Nigeria were the main countries of origin of female travellers interviewed in 2022 with respectively 43, 11 and 10 per cent of all female interviewed coming from these three countries.

### REGIONS OF FINAL INTENDED DESTINATION



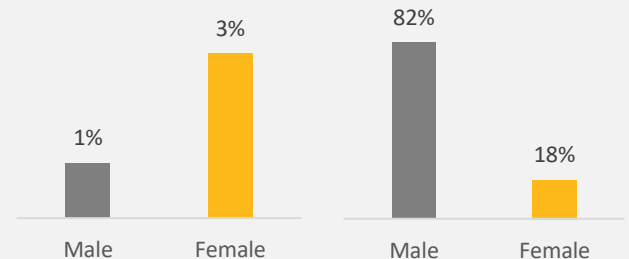
Intended destinations declared by female respondents were mainly countries within the Western and Central African region (81%), notably The Gambia (41%), Niger (10%), and Mali (8%). Additionally, 17 per cent of female interviewees were heading to North African countries.

### PRIMARY REASONS OF TRAVEL



Female travellers interviewed were mainly travelling for economic purposes (45%), which includes a wide range of reasons from business travel, to trade-related movements, through search for work opportunities or re-stocking of merchandises. Family reunion movements (joining family permanently or temporarily) accounted for 36 per cent of the reported reasons to travel.

### PERCENTAGE OF SELF-IDENTIFIED VICTIMS OF FORCED LABOUR



During interviews conducted in Mali and Niger, it was found that 3 per cent of women and 1 per cent of men were victims of forced labour. Of these women, only 18 per cent possessed identification documents. The main reasons given for the lack of documentation among them were that they never had one (35%), they were traveling without any (26%), they had lost them (22%), or they were confiscated from them and not returned (14%).

For more information:

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