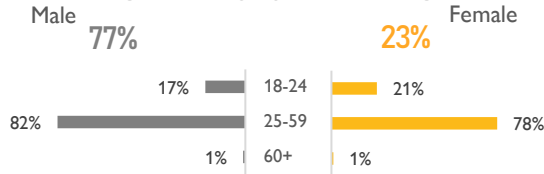


**15,428** Female travellers in West and Central Africa surveyed **7 COUNTRIES** **30** Data Collection Points

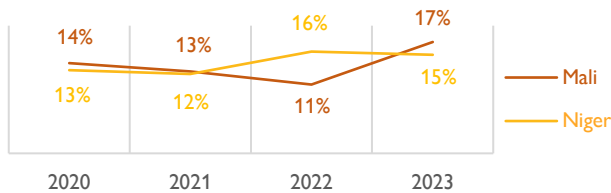
A better understanding of migratory movements in West and Central Africa (WCA) is critical to support the programmes and decision-making of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Since 2016, IOM collects data at strategic transit points throughout the region to monitor the various intra and interregional movements and migrations trends. This document presents key results from interviews conducted with female travellers in 2023 along migration routes in West and Central Africa.



### SEX AND AGE OF TRAVELLERS

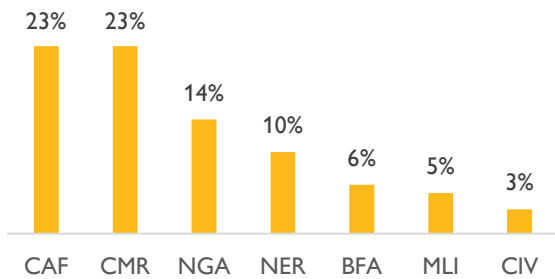


### EVOLUTION OF WOMEN ON THE MOVE (MALI/NIGER)



Of the migrants interviewed in WCA in 2023, 23 per cent were women. Most of them (78%) were between 25 and 59 years old. A significant proportion (21%) were youth, aged 18 to 24 years old. In Mali and Niger, the migration of women has increased over the past years; by 3 per cent in Mali and 2 per cent in Niger since 2020.

### MAIN COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

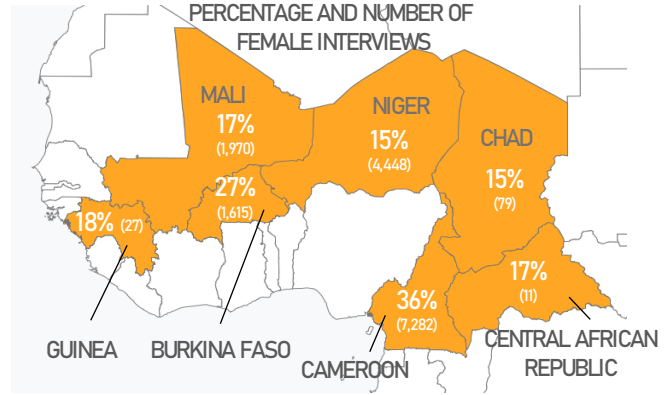


Central African Republic (CAF), Cameroon and Nigeria were the main countries of origin of female travellers interviewed in 2023 with respectively 23, 23 and 14 per cent of all female interviewed coming from these three countries.

### REASONS FOR MIGRATION



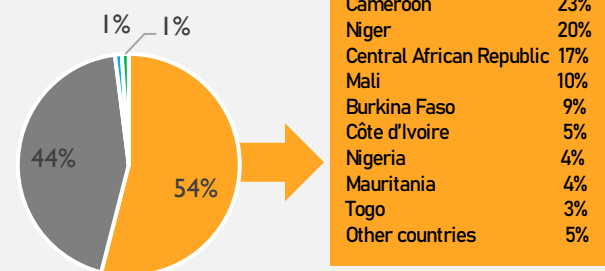
Female travellers interviewed were mainly travelling for economic purposes (61%), which includes a wide range of reasons from business travel, to trade-related movements, through search for work opportunities or re-stocking of merchandises. Family reunion movements (joining family permanently or temporarily) accounted for 20 per cent of the reported reasons to travel.



The percentage of female interviews varies widely, from 36 per cent in Cameroon, to 15 per cent in Chad. Most of the interviews with female travellers took place in Cameroon (36%), followed by Burkina Faso (27%), Guinea (18%) and Mali (17%) were significant number of interviews with women were held.

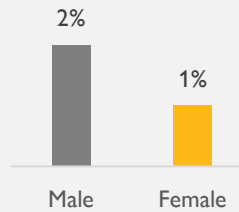
### REGIONS OF FINAL INTENDED DESTINATION

West and Central Africa North Africa Africa (Other) Europe

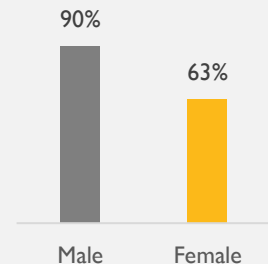


Intended destinations declared by female respondents were mainly countries within the Western and Central African region (54%), notably The Gambia (23%), Niger (20%), and Central African Republic (17%). Additionally, 44 per cent of female interviewees were heading to North African countries.

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



### ID POSSESSION AMONG FORCED WORKERS



During interviews conducted in Mali and Niger, it was found that 1 per cent of women and 2 per cent of men were victims of forced labour. Of these women, only 63 per cent possessed identification documents. The main reasons given for the lack of documentation among them were that they were confiscated from them and not returned (56%), they had lost them (37%), they never had one (3%), or they were kept with another person (2%).