OVERVIEW

2023

MALI NIGER CAMEROON

4,253 (9%) RESPONDENTS FOR WHOM THEIR MIGRATION DECISION HAS BEEN **AFFECTED** BY ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION, CLIMATE CHANGE OR DISASTERS

79% MEN

21% WOMEN

39% WON'T **RETURN** TO THEIR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

INTRODUCTION

Environmental change is increasingly recognized as a central and cross-cutting issue globally and in West and Central Africa (WCA) in particular. However, comprehensive data on environmental migration is lacking, hindering the in-depth understanding of the links between environmental change, disasters, and migration in WCA.

According to the IOM's definition, "environmental migrants are persons or groups of persons who, **predominantly** for reasons of sudden or progressive **change in the environment** that adversely **affects their lives or living conditions**, are obliged to leave their habitual homes, or choose to do so, either temporarily or permanently, and who move either within their country or abroad*" making the essential criterion to identify environmental migrants to require that environmental phenomena play a predominant role in the migration decision. Therefore, environmental migrants can be defined as migrants satisfying two criteria.

- First, the person must be negatively affected by events related to environmental phenomena.

- Second, these events must play a predominant role in their decision to migrate.

Without information on these criteria, environmental migrants can only be partially identified in surveys. This is the exercise that has been done for this report after consultations between IOM Regional Data Hub in WCA, DTM coordinators from IOM Offices in the region and experts.

IOM is among the institutions systematically collecting and analyzing data on population movements at multiple levels, thus placing it in a good position to leverage its data collection tools to address existing data gaps on environmental migration.

IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) gathers and analyzes data to disseminate critical multi layered information on the mobility, vulnerabilities, and needs of displaced and mobile populations that enables decision makers and responders to provide these populations with better context specific assistance.

Through its Flow Monitoring activities, the DTM provides regular and updated information on mobility trends and flows, and on the volume, profile, journey and intentions of mobile populations.

This first dashboard aims at providing detailed information and evidence on people on the move in the context of disasters, climate change, and environmental degradation.

DTM
IOM DISPLACEMENT
TRACKING MATRIX

MIGRATION IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION AND DISASTERS

Dasboard #1
Coverage: January – December 2023
Publication: April 2024

METHODOLOGY

This dashboard provides data on the impact of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters in West and Central Africa using **DTM's Flow Monitoring methodology**.

The Flow Monitoring Survey (FMS) consists of individual interviews with a sample of migrants, chosen randomly amongst travellers crossing Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs, i.e., key high-mobility transit points, such as coach stations, rest stops and border crossing points, located in areas of high mobility). Data is collected at each FMP daily by a team of enumerators.

The FMS collects detailed information on the profile of migrants; their migration journeys, reasons and drivers of migration, their intended final destination, the challenges and obstacles faced in journey, as well as future intentions.

In 2023, for the first time, three questions have been added to the FMS in **Mali**, **Cameroon** and **Niger** to capture the impact of climate change on mobility flows within these three countries.

Questions added to the FMS:

- *Have you noticed in the past 20 years a significant change related to the environment in your place of origin (locality, city, village)?*

- *Did any of the following events impact your place of origin in the 3 months preceding your departure: heavy rain, wildfires, drought, floods, landslides, other sudden-onset disaster?*

- *Thinking about the environmental phenomena you mentioned that took place in your place of origin, would you say that they negatively affected your living conditions and contributed to your decision to migrate?*

A total of **46,980 migrants** were surveyed in these countries during their respective periods of activity in 2023.

LIMITS

- These three questions relate to respondents' **perceptions** regarding the occurrence of climate change, disasters, or environmental degradation. Therefore, the results depend on the statements of the respondents and their accuracy or correspondence to people's actions have not been verified.

- The questions have been developed by thematic experts in accordance with DTM specialists. They have been piloted for the first time in 2023 and could be adjusted further to respond to the needs of the different dynamics in the field.

- The collected data only reflects the characteristics of the flows crossing the FMPs; results are not indicative of movements in other non-monitored transit locations and cannot be generalized to the entire migrant and mobile populations in an area or a country.

- Data is collected daily, but data collection only takes place during hours of peak activity, and some flows may therefore not be captured.

- Only respondents over 18 years old were interviewed, hence the absence of information on children.

Points in green indicate the location of FMPs where information for this study was collected

LIBYA

MAURITANIA

Tombouctou

Kidal

Madama

Seguedine

Agadez

Gao-Place
Kidal

Arlit

NIGER

Tombouctou

Gao
Gao-Wabaria

Menaka

Menaka

Tahoua

Tahoua

Diffa

MALI

Zinder

CHAD

SENEGAL

Gougui
Koulikoro

Mopti

Ayorou
Tera
Tillabéri

Maradi
Dan Issa   Dan Barto
Magaria

Kayes

Kayes

Ségou

Niamey
Makalondi
Dosso

SUDAN

THE GAMBIA

Benena

Gaya

GUINEA-BISSAU

Heremakono
Bamako

BURKINA-FASO

NIGERIA

SOUTH SUDAN

Sikasso

SIERRA LEONE

BENIN

North

GUINEA

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

GHANA

TOGO

Adamawa

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

LIBERIA

North-West
West

Garoua Boulaï

CAMEROON
Centre

Tocktoyo

Far-North

South-West

Kentzou

Littoral

East

South

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

GABON

CONGO

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Legend:
Flow monitoring points
Regional boundary
WCA countries as covered by IOM
Others countries

0   400   800 Km

DTM
IOM DISPLACEMENT
TRACKING MATRIX

MIGRATION IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENTAL
DEGRADATION AND DISASTERS

Dasboard #1
Coverage: January – December 2023
Publication: April 2024

MALI (January to September 2023)

8,682 Migrants → **2,705** (31%)

- Droughts
- Soil degradation
- Desertification
- Floods
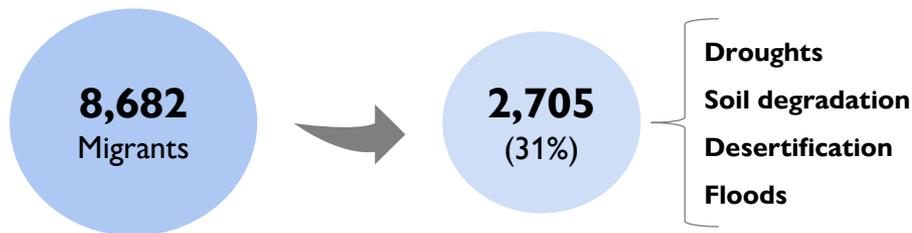
Among 8,682 individuals surveyed in Mali, **2,705 noticed environmental changes** at their place of origin. Yet, less than 1 per cent of them declared environmental changes or disasters as their main reason to travel. Economic reasons are largely put forward (85%). The main environmental changes reported are droughts (30%), soil degradation (19%), desertification (17%), floods (12%), wildfires (5%) and heavy rains (3%).

Impact of environmental change on the migratory decision
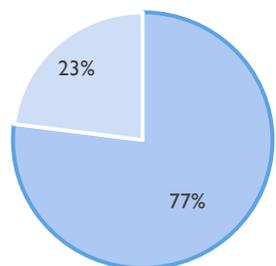
23%
77%

- ☐ Environmental changes have contributed to the decision to migrate among migrants who noticed environmental changes at the place of origin

- ☐ Environmental changes have not contributed to the decision to migrate among migrants who noticed environmental changes at the place of origin

There are **77 per cent** of all migrants who noticed environmental changes at their places of origin –representing approximatively twenty-four (24) per cent of total respondents (2,096 individuals) – who **affirm that these changes have negatively impacted their livelihoods and contributed to their decision to migrate**. Only 608 individuals (23%) who noticed changes do not consider that these have affected their decision to move.
The main countries of departure for migrants who considered that climate changes impacted their decision to migrate were **Mali (35%)**, Burkina Faso (13%), Guinea (10%), Senegal (6%), and Nigeria (6%).

Profile of individuals stating that climate change at their location of origin <u>affected</u> their decision to migrate (2,096 individuals)

Male (87%) / **Female (13%)**

Married (37%) / Single (37%)

Instruction:
primary (40%), secondary lower (19%), none (24%)

Current occupation:
unemployed looking for a job (65%), Self-employed (31%)

Occupation before migration:
self-employed (91%)

Main reason to travel: **economic (95%)**

Traveling alone (53%)

🔍 34% do not know how long they will stay in Mali, 22% less than 2 weeks, 13% will stay 1 day or less, 13% between 2 weeks to 3 months

🔍 When asked if they intend to go back to their usual place of residence, 55% won't return, 21% want to return, and 24% do not know

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Profile of individuals stating that climate change at their location of origin <u>did not affect</u> their decision to migrate

Male (75%) / **Female (25%)**

Married (41%) / Single (58%) / Divorced (1,3%)

Instruction:
primary (57%), secondary lower (8%), none (12%)

Current occupation:
unemployed looking for a job (42%), Self employed (44%)

Occupation before migration:
self-employed (83%)

Main reason to travel: economic (84%)

Traveling alone (55%)

32% do not know how long they'll stay in Mali, **30% state they will stay for more than 12 months**, 15% one day or less, 11% less than 2 weeks

When asked if they intend to go back to their usual place of residence, 66% won't return, 21% want to return, and 13% do not know

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CAMEROON (January to December 2023)

17,972 Migrants → **5,300** (29%)

- **Heavy rains**
- **Wildfires**
- **Floods**
- **Droughts**

Among 17,972 individuals surveyed in Cameroon, **5,300 noticed environmental changes** at their place of origin. Yet, only 6 per cent of them declared environmental changes or disasters as their main reason to travel. Economic reasons are largely put forward (60%). The main environmental changes reported are heavy rains (26%), wildfires (23%), floods (18%), and droughts (16%).

Impact of environmental change on the migratory decision
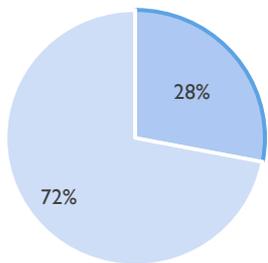
28%

72%

- Environmental changes have contributed to the decision to migrate among migrants who noticed environmental changes at the place of origin

- Environmental changes have not contributed to the decision to migrate among migrants who noticed environmental changes at the place of origin

There are **28 per cent** of all migrants who noticed environmental changes at their places of origin – representing approximatively ten per cent of respondents (1,474 individuals) – who **affirm that these changes have negatively impacted their livelihoods and contributed to their decision to migrate**. A large number of individuals (3,826) who noticed changes do not consider that these have affected their decision to move.

The main countries of departure for migrants who considered that climate changes impacted their decision to migrate were Central Africa Republic (46%), **Cameroon (42%)** or Chad (4%) .

Profile of individuals stating that climate change at their location of origin <u>affected</u> their decision to migrate (1,474 individuals)
Male (67%) / Female (33%)

Married (56%) / Single (29%) / Widowed (6%) / Divorced (4%) / Separated (4%)

Instruction:
primary (21%), secondary (45%), none (13%)

Current occupation:
self-employed (49%)

Occupation before migration:
self-employed (35%), unemployed looking for job (29%)

Main reason to travel: economic (55%), **climate change or disasters (17%)**

Traveling alone (67%)

38% do not know how long they'll stay in Cameroon, 22% less than 2 weeks, 15% are not planning to leave

When asked if they intend to go back to their usual place of residence, 5% won't return, 33% want to return, and **62% do not know**

Profile of individuals stating that climate change at their location of origin <u>did not affect</u> their decision to migrate
Male (64%) / Female (36%)

Married (64%) / Single (27%) / Widowed (4%) / Divorced (2%) / Separated (3%)

Instruction:
primary (25%), secondary (57%), none (7%)

Current occupation:
self-employed (62%)

Occupation before migration:
Unemployed not looking for job (26%), student (25%), unemployed looking for job (24%), self-employed (7%)

Main reason to travel: economic (58%), **climate change and disasters (1%)**

Traveling alone (75%)

35% do not know how long they'll stay in Cameroon, 21% state they will stay less than 2 weeks, 17% do not plan on leaving,, 13% one day or less

When asked if they intend to go back to their usual place of residence, **2**% won't return, **53% want to return**, and 44% do not know

NIGER (April to December 2023)

20,326 Migrants → **2,992** (15%)

Floods
Droughts
Heavy rains

Among 20,326 individuals surveyed in Niger, 2,992 noticed environmental changes at their place of origin. Yet, only 83 respondents (less than 1% of all respondents) declared climate change or disasters as their main reason to travel. Economic reasons are largely put forward (87%). The main environmental changes reported are floods (46%), droughts (41%), heavy rains (8%), and wildfires (3%).

Impact of environmental change on the migratory decision

1%
23%
76%

- ■ Environmental changes have contributed to the decision to migrate among migrants who noticed environmental changes at the place of origin
- ■ Environmental changes have not contributed to the decision to migrate among migrants who noticed environmental changes at the place of origin
- ■ No answer
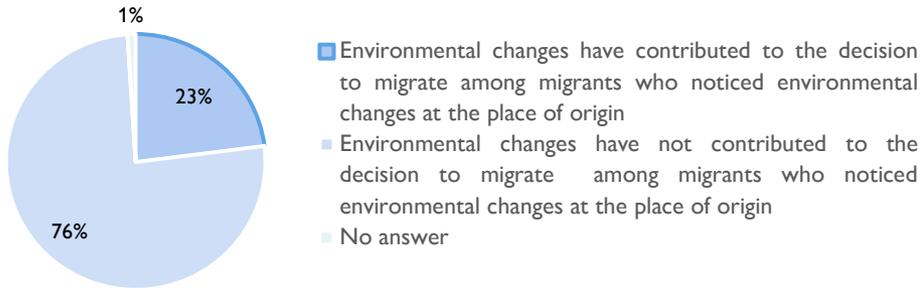
There are 23 per cent of all migrants who noticed environmental changes at their places of origin – representing approximatively five per cent of respondents (683 individuals) – who affirm that these changes have negatively impacted their livelihoods and contributed to their decision to migrate. Seventy-six per cent of individuals (76%) who noticed changes do not consider that these have affected their decision to move. Thirty-three respondents did not provide any information whether they were affected or not in their decision to move.

The main countries of departure for migrants who considered that climate changes impacted their decision to migrate were Niger (57%), Nigeria (15%), and Libya (10%).

Profile of individuals stating that climate change at their location of origin affected their decision to migrate (683 individuals)

Male (78%) / Female (22%)

Married (65%) / Single (28%) / Divorced (6%)

Instruction:
primary (18%), secondary (35%), none (23%), koranic (17%)

Current occupation:
unemployed looking for a job (58%), unemployed not looking for job (15%), employed (12%), self-employed (12%)

Occupation before migration:
employed (49%), self-employed (47%)

Main reason to travel:
economic (69%)

Traveling alone (53%)

47% do not know how long they will stay in Niger,
24% do not plan on leaving,
23% will stay 1 day or less

When asked if they intend to go back to their usual place of residence,
57% won't return,
14% want to return, and
29% do not know

Profile of individuals stating that climate change at their location of origin did not affect their decision to migrate

Male (90%) / Female (10%)

Married (55%) / Single (41%) / Divorced (3%)

Instruction:
primary (28%), secondary (38%), none (13%), koranic (15%)

Current occupation:
unemployed looking for a job (56%), self-employed (18%), employed (16%)

Occupation before migration:
self-employed (49%), employed (46%)

Main reason to travel:
economic (85%)

Traveling alone (71%)

61% do not know how long they will stay in Niger,
33% do not plan on leaving

When asked if they intend to go back to their usual place of residence,
91% won't return,
5% want to return, and 4% do not know

RECOMMENDATIONS

The **first recommendation** of this report is to train enumerators environmental and climatic concepts in order to make sure that they perfectly understand and convey the notions of climate change, environmental degradations, disasters to interviewees, but also the predominant role that such drivers must play on the decision to migrate.

The **second recommendation** is that the questionnaire must be tailored to the context of the survey, country, community and locality to reflect realistic and relevant changes in the environment.

The **third recommendation** is to consistently expand data collection to more countries of the region to allow a regional overview of migration in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters.

READ MORE ON:

DTM activities and products:
https://dtm.iom.int/

MECC activities and products in West and Central Africa:
https://rodakar.iom.int/migration-environment-and-climate-change https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/

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