

REGIONAL MOBILITY MAPPING

WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

November 2018



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IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental organization, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration, advance understanding of migration issues, encourage social and economic development through migration, and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

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INTRODUCTION

ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

The development and implementation of policies and programs in West and Central Africa promoting safe, orderly and humane migration require a better understanding of human mobility in the region.

Human mobility in the region take many different forms. Transhumance, seasonal migration conducted during the harvesting season, travel during religious festivities, tourism, economic migration to North Africa and Europe, the search for employment in the mining industry, forced displacements due to conflict natural disasters or climate change, rural exodus, are all examples of movements observed in West and Central Africa and show the many faceted nature of mobility in the region.

This document is an attempt to provide a dynamic and regularly updated portrait of mobility within and from the West and Central Africa region, using data collected by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) but also from United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The maps contained in this document are not only meant to inform on ongoing mobility patterns, but also provide information to support direct programming (protection of migrants, support to transhumance movements, enhancement of economic opportunities existing in the region, support to safe returns of displaced people, etc.)

METHODOLOGY AND DATA SOURCES

Data sources for the information displayed in the following pages are provided at the bottom of each page. When reference is made to IOM data, the data was collected during: 1) Flow Monitoring Exercises, 2) Mobility Tracking, 3) Data collection exercises with individuals who benefited from voluntary returns and reintegration programs (AVRR), 4) Search and Rescue activities conducted in Niger and 5) individual interviews with IOM key informants.

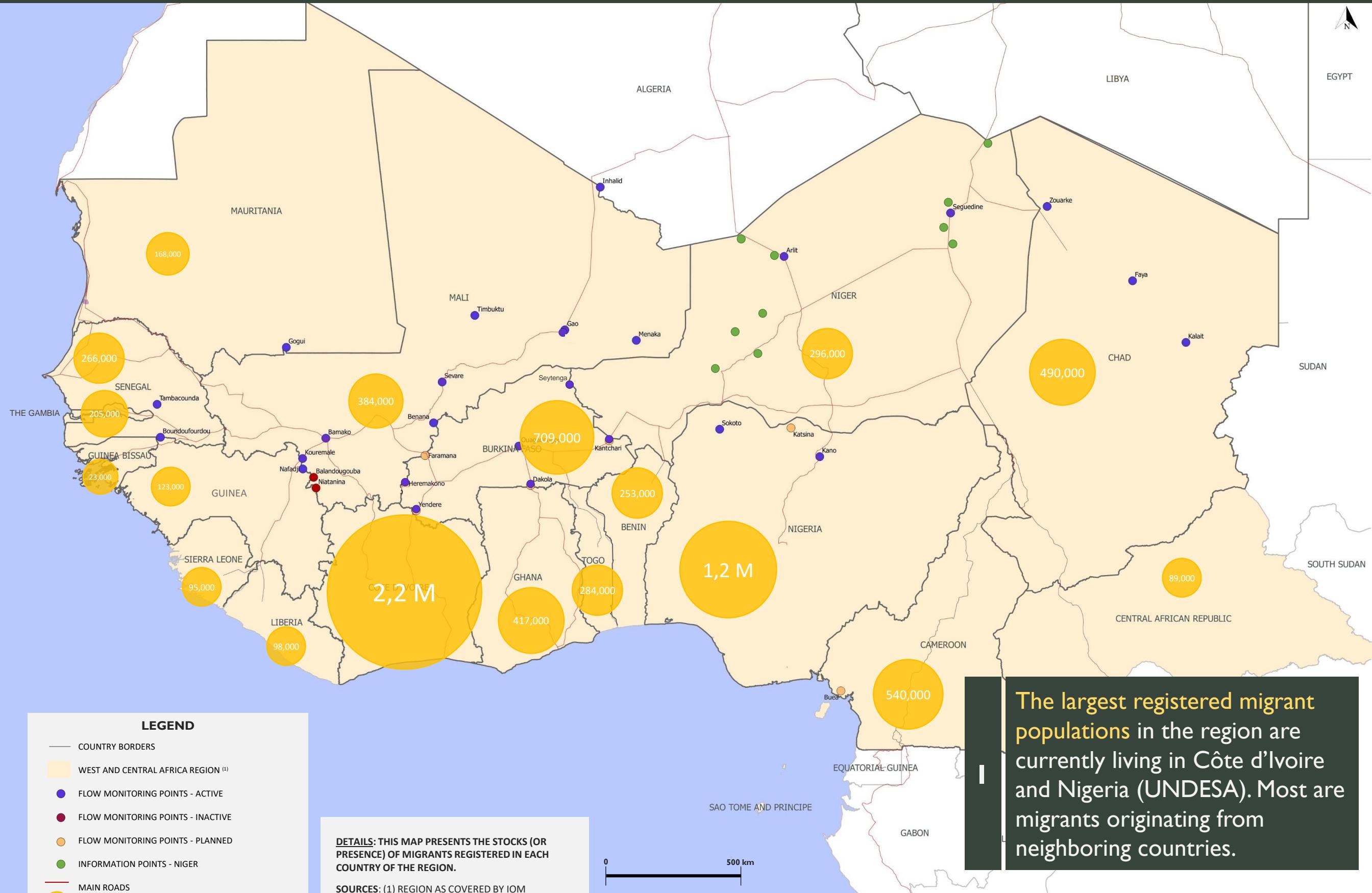
Further information on the data collection methodologies and on the activities referenced throughout the next pages is available in the following documents:

- Flow Monitoring activities in West and Central Africa – [Factsheet](#)
- Mobility Tracking activities in West and Central Africa – [Factsheet](#)
- Assistance to Voluntary Return and Reintegration – [Factsheet](#)
- DTM Quarterly Regional Report - [Report](#)

Other data presented in this document is provided by the Ministries of the Interior of Spain, Italy and Greece, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA).

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- **MIGRATION PRESENCE**
- **MIGRATION FLOWS**
- **PRIMARY ROADS**
- **LABOUR DESTINATION**
- **TRANSHUMANCE**
- **INTER-REGIONAL TRENDS**
- **CROSS-BORDER MONITORING**
(monthly analysis)
- **TRAVELLERS' PROFILES**
- **MEDITERRANEAN ROUTES**
- **REGIONS OF ORIGINS**
- **CONFLICT AREAS**
- **RETURN ASSISTANCE BY IOM**
- **IOM PRESENCE IN THE REGION**
- **NOTE ON DATA**



LEGEND

- COUNTRY BORDERS
- WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA REGION ⁽¹⁾
- FLOW MONITORING POINTS - ACTIVE
- FLOW MONITORING POINTS - INACTIVE
- FLOW MONITORING POINTS - PLANNED
- INFORMATION POINTS - NIGER
- MAIN ROADS
- X M MIGRANTS REGISTERED BY STATES ⁽²⁾

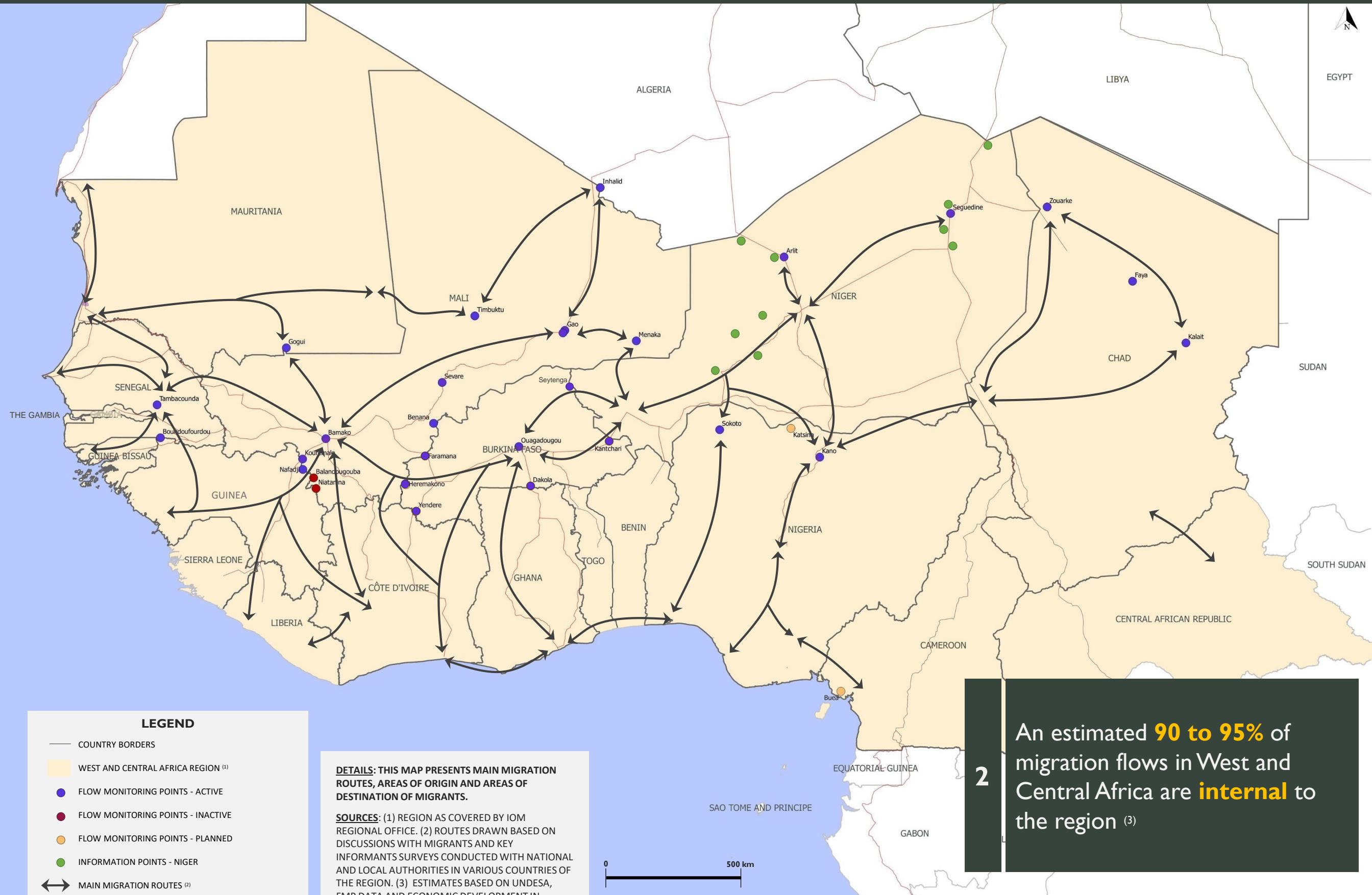
DETAILS: THIS MAP PRESENTS THE STOCKS (OR PRESENCE) OF MIGRANTS REGISTERED IN EACH COUNTRY OF THE REGION.

SOURCES: (1) REGION AS COVERED BY IOM REGIONAL OFFICE. (2) UNDESA MIGRANT DATABASE

The largest registered migrant populations in the region are currently living in Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria (UNDESA). Most are migrants originating from neighboring countries.



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LEGEND

- COUNTRY BORDERS
- WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA REGION ⁽¹⁾
- FLOW MONITORING POINTS - ACTIVE
- FLOW MONITORING POINTS - INACTIVE
- FLOW MONITORING POINTS - PLANNED
- INFORMATION POINTS - NIGER
- ↔ MAIN MIGRATION ROUTES ⁽²⁾
- MAIN ROADS

DETAILS: THIS MAP PRESENTS MAIN MIGRATION ROUTES, AREAS OF ORIGIN AND AREAS OF DESTINATION OF MIGRANTS.

SOURCES: (1) REGION AS COVERED BY IOM REGIONAL OFFICE. (2) ROUTES DRAWN BASED ON DISCUSSIONS WITH MIGRANTS AND KEY INFORMANTS SURVEYS CONDUCTED WITH NATIONAL AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES OF THE REGION. (3) ESTIMATES BASED ON UNDESA, FMP DATA AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA, REPORT 2018 FROM UNCTAD

2 An estimated **90 to 95%** of migration flows in West and Central Africa are **internal** to the region ⁽³⁾



LEGEND

- COUNTRY BORDERS
- WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA REGION ⁽¹⁾
- FLOW MONITORING POINTS - ACTIVE
- FLOW MONITORING POINTS - INACTIVE
- FLOW MONITORING POINTS - PLANNED
- INFORMATION POINTS - NIGER
- ↔ MAIN AXIS ⁽²⁾
- ↔ SECONDARY AXES ⁽²⁾
- ↔ OTHER ROUTES ⁽²⁾
- MAIN ROADS

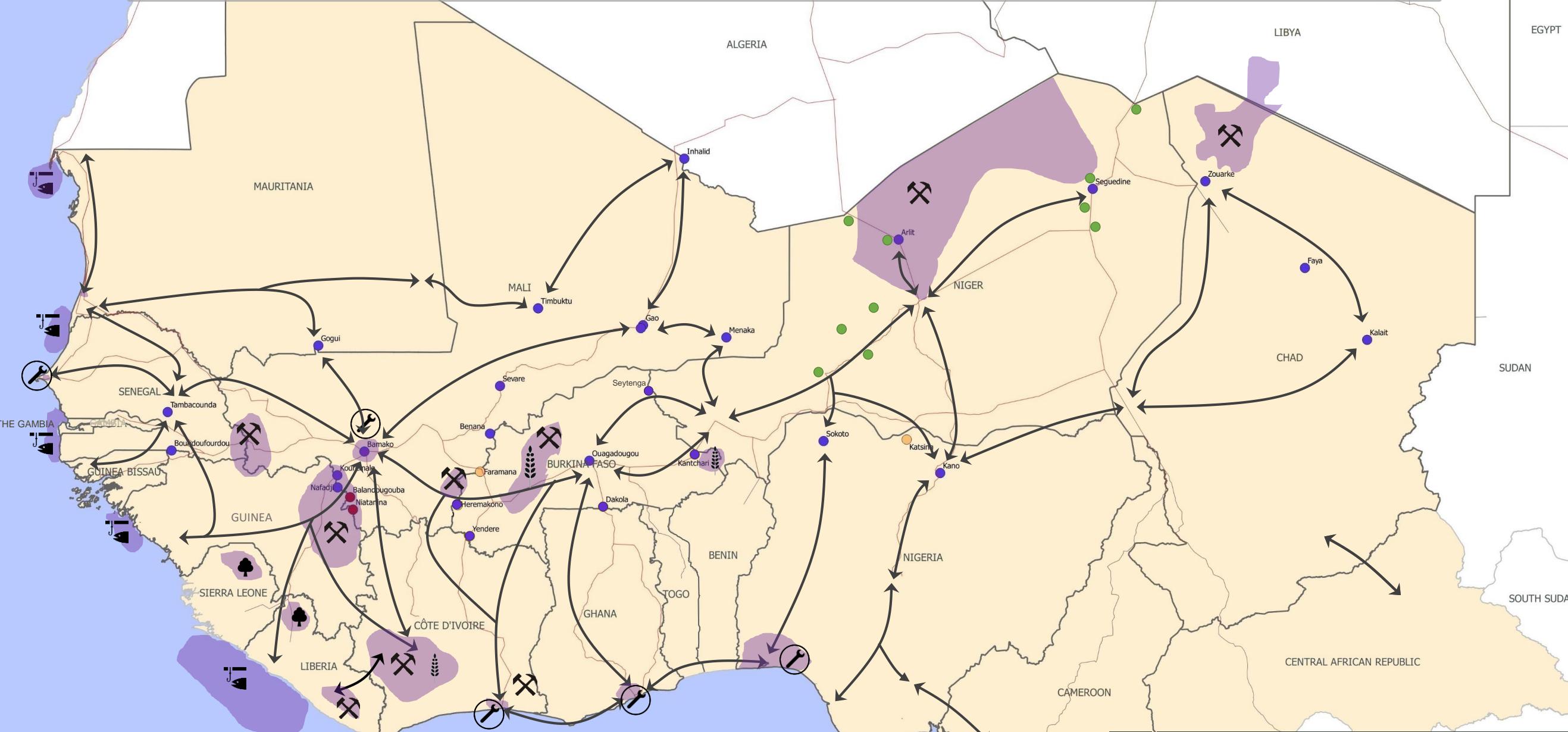
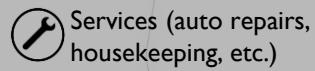
DETAILS: THIS MAP PRESENTS THE MAIN MIGRATION ROUTES IN THE REGION.

SOURCES: (1) REGION AS COVERED BY IOM REGIONAL OFFICE. (2) ROUTES DRAWNS BASED ON DIRECT DISCUSSIONS WITH MIGRANTS AND KEY INFORMANTS SURVEYS CONDUCTED WITH NATIONAL AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES OF THE REGION.

3 Intraregional mobility mainly takes place along one **MAIN EAST-WEST AXIS** and is then distributed north and south by **other routes**



SECTORS ATTRACTING REGIONAL MIGRATION:



LEGEND

- COUNTRY BORDERS
- WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA REGION ⁽¹⁾
- MAIN DESTINATION FOR LABOUR MIGRANTS ⁽²⁾
- FLOW MONITORING POINTS - ACTIVE
- FLOW MONITORING POINTS - INACTIVE
- FLOW MONITORING POINTS - PLANNED
- INFORMATION POINTS - NIGER
- ↔ MAIN MIGRATION ROUTES ⁽³⁾
- MAIN ROADS

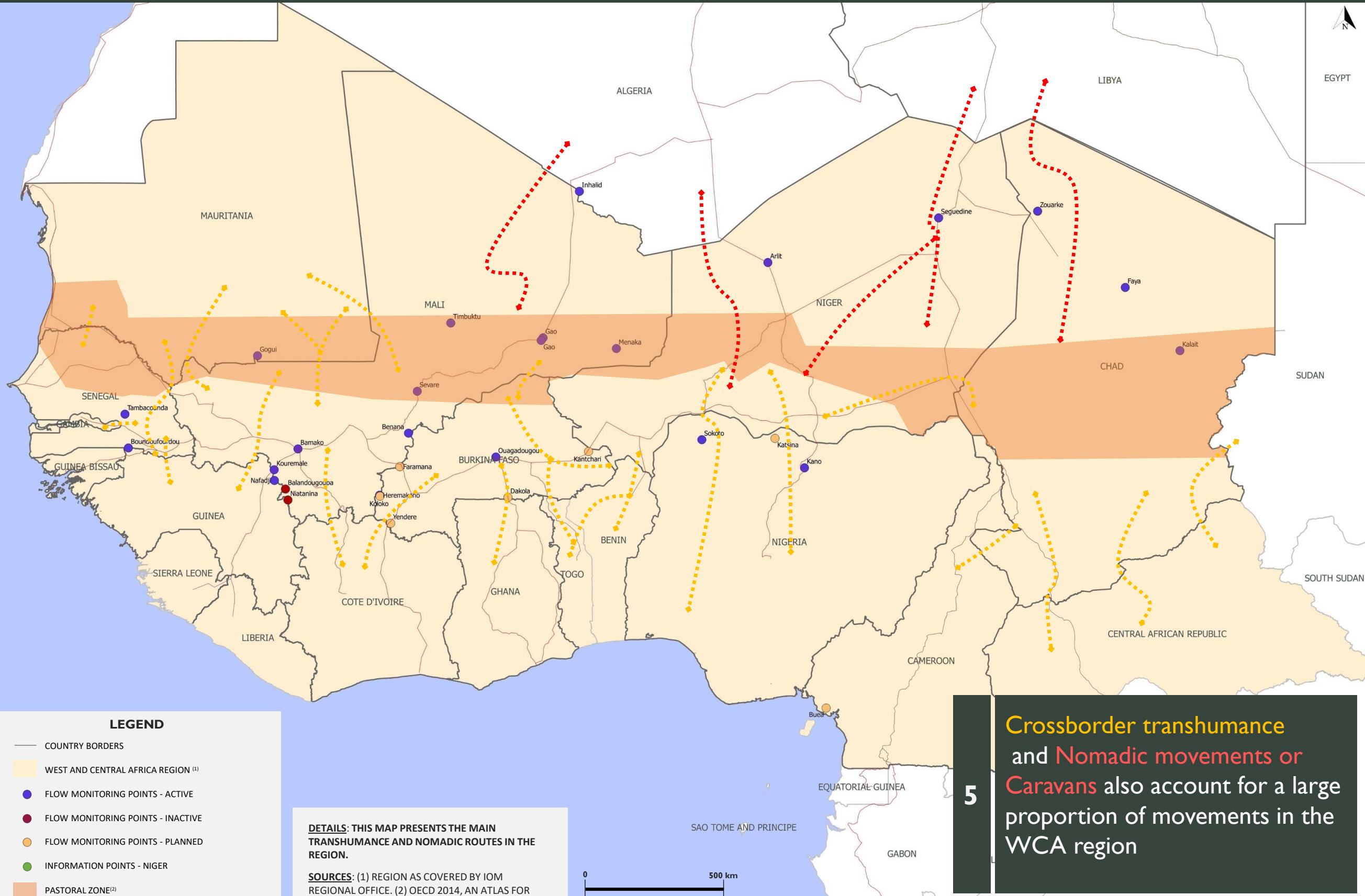
DETAILS: THIS MAP PRESENTS THE MAIN MIGRATION ROUTES AND LABOUR INTENSIVE AREAS ATTRACTING INTRAREGIONAL MIGRATION FLOWS

SOURCES: (1) REGION AS COVERED BY IOM REGIONAL OFFICE. (2) BASED ON DISCUSSION WITH VARIOUS IOM OFFICES. (3) DIRECT DISCUSSIONS WITH MIGRANTS AND KEY INFORMANTS SURVEYS CONDUCTED WITH NATIONAL AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES OF THE REGION



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4 Intraregional mobility is largely driven by employment opportunities to labour intensive areas that may change according to the season(wet/dry)



EGYPT

SUDAN

SOUTH SUDAN

LEGEND

- COUNTRY BORDERS
- WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA REGION ⁽¹⁾
- FLOW MONITORING POINTS - ACTIVE
- FLOW MONITORING POINTS - INACTIVE
- FLOW MONITORING POINTS - PLANNED
- INFORMATION POINTS - NIGER
- PASTORAL ZONE ⁽²⁾
- ◆◆◆◆ CROSS-BORDER TRANSHUMANCE ⁽²⁾
- ◆◆◆◆ CARAVANS ⁽²⁾

DETAILS: THIS MAP PRESENTS THE MAIN TRANSHUMANCE AND NOMADIC ROUTES IN THE REGION.

SOURCES: (1) REGION AS COVERED BY IOM REGIONAL OFFICE. (2) OECD 2014, AN ATLAS FOR SUB-SAHARA SAHEL: GEOGRAPHIC, ECONOMICS AND SECURITY, OECD PUBLISHING, PARIS. FROM: SAHEL AND WEST AFRICA CLUB SECRETARIAT (SWAC/OECD)



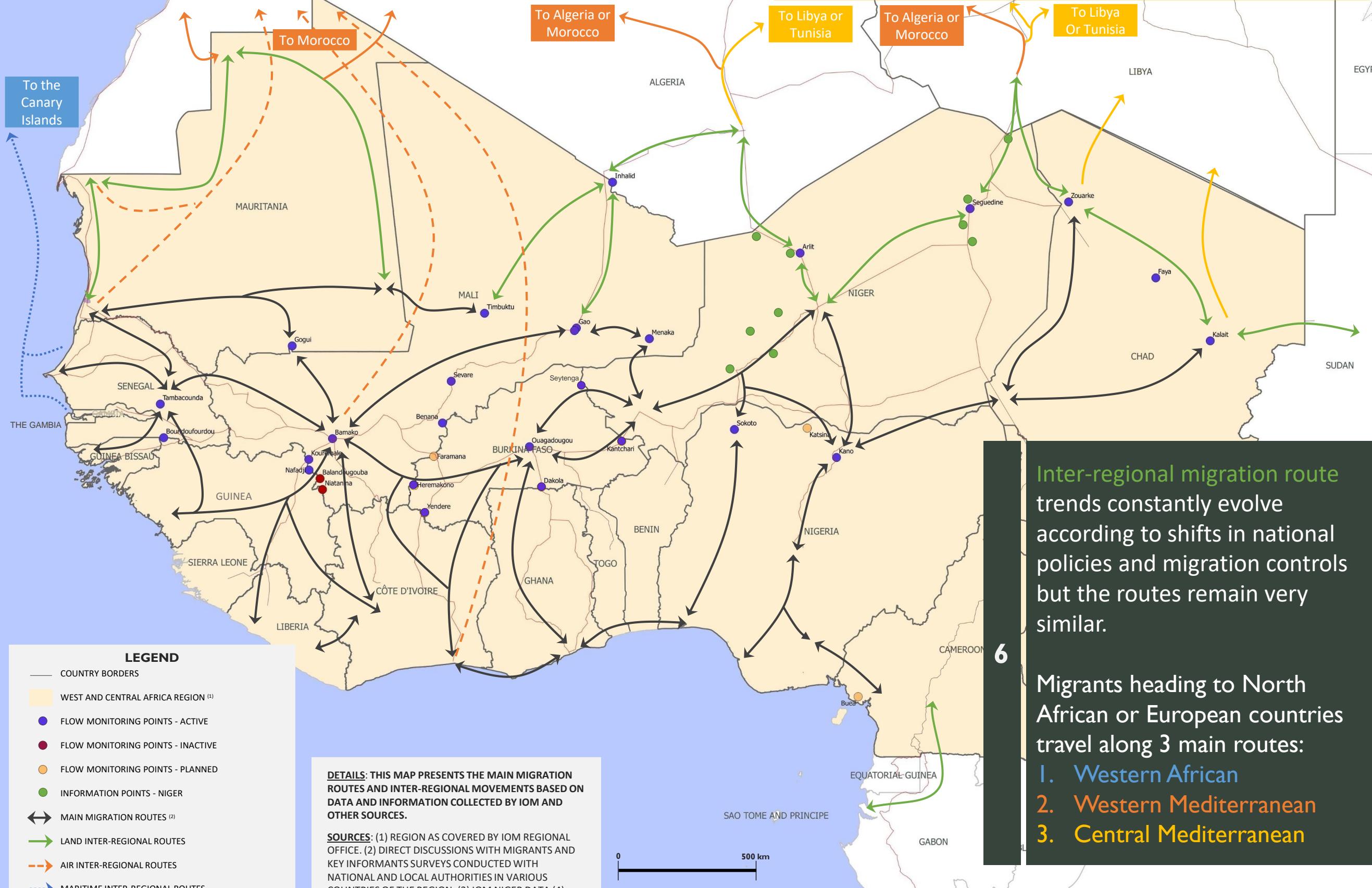
Disclaimer: The maps in this report are for illustrative purposes only. Representations and the use of boundaries and geographical names on these maps may include errors and do not imply judgment of the legal status of a territory, nor official recognition or acceptance of these boundaries by IOM.

5 Crossborder transhumance and Nomadic movements or Caravans also account for a large proportion of movements in the WCA region

WESTERN AFRICAN ROUTE

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN ROUTE

CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN ROUTE



6 Inter-regional migration route trends constantly evolve according to shifts in national policies and migration controls but the routes remain very similar.

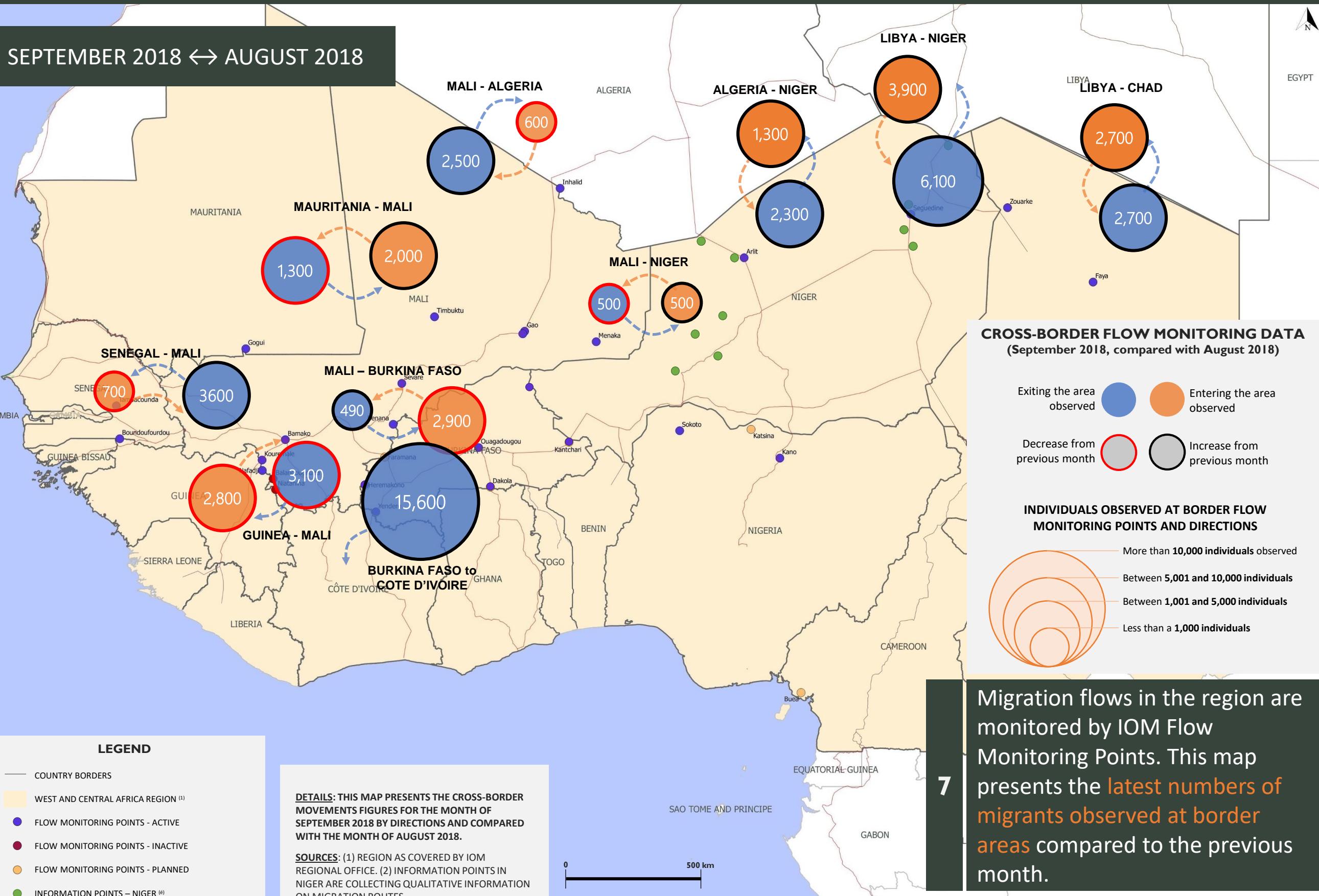
Migrants heading to North African or European countries travel along 3 main routes:

1. Western African
2. Western Mediterranean
3. Central Mediterranean

DETAILS: THIS MAP PRESENTS THE MAIN MIGRATION ROUTES AND INTER-REGIONAL MOVEMENTS BASED ON DATA AND INFORMATION COLLECTED BY IOM AND OTHER SOURCES.

SOURCES: (1) REGION AS COVERED BY IOM REGIONAL OFFICE. (2) DIRECT DISCUSSIONS WITH MIGRANTS AND KEY INFORMANTS SURVEYS CONDUCTED WITH NATIONAL AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES OF THE REGION. (3) IOM NIGER DATA (4) FMP MALI AND NIGER DASHBOARDS

SEPTEMBER 2018 ↔ AUGUST 2018



CROSS-BORDER FLOW MONITORING DATA
(September 2018, compared with August 2018)

Exiting the area observed Entering the area observed

Decrease from previous month Increase from previous month

INDIVIDUALS OBSERVED AT BORDER FLOW MONITORING POINTS AND DIRECTIONS

- More than 10,000 individuals observed
- Between 5,001 and 10,000 individuals
- Between 1,001 and 5,000 individuals
- Less than a 1,000 individuals

7 Migration flows in the region are monitored by IOM Flow Monitoring Points. This map presents the **latest numbers of migrants observed at border areas** compared to the previous month.

LEGEND

- COUNTRY BORDERS
- WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA REGION (1)
- FLOW MONITORING POINTS - ACTIVE
- FLOW MONITORING POINTS - INACTIVE
- FLOW MONITORING POINTS - PLANNED
- INFORMATION POINTS - NIGER (2)
- MAIN ROADS

DETAILS: THIS MAP PRESENTS THE CROSS-BORDER MOVEMENTS FIGURES FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2018 BY DIRECTIONS AND COMPARED WITH THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2018.

SOURCES: (1) REGION AS COVERED BY IOM REGIONAL OFFICE. (2) INFORMATION POINTS IN NIGER ARE COLLECTING QUALITATIVE INFORMATION ON MIGRATION ROUTES.



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INTENDED DESTINATION

EUROPE

AGE (average)

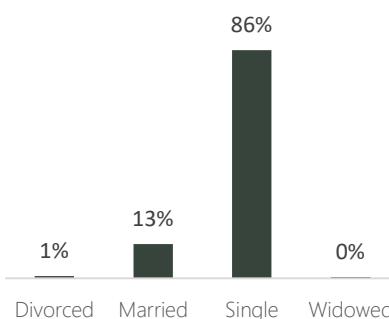
26,2

Gender (distribution)

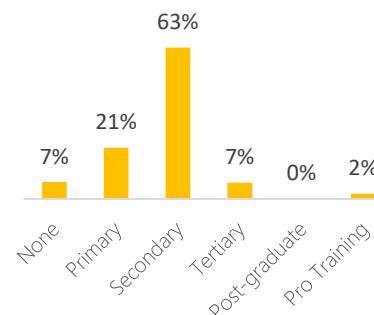
Male: 91%

Female: 9%

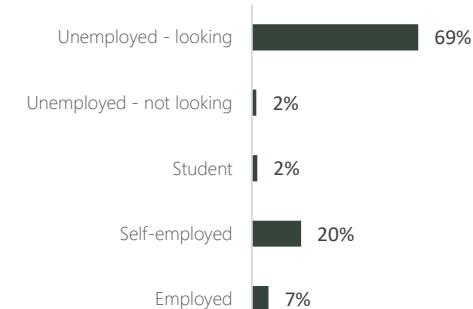
MARITAL STATUS



EDUCATION LEVEL



EMPLOYMENT STATUS



NORTH
AFRICA

AGE (average)

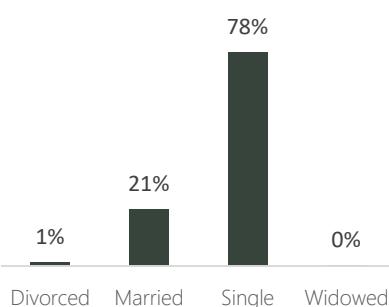
26,4

Gender (distribution)

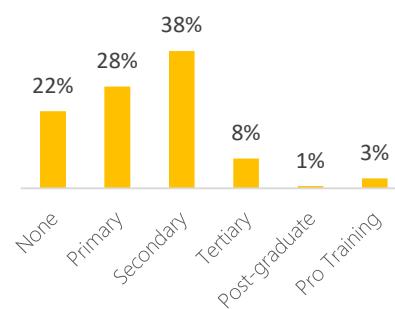
Male: 90%

Female: 10%

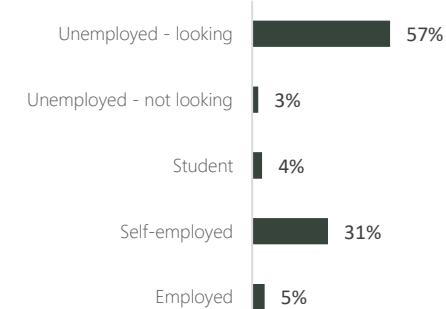
MARITAL STATUS



EDUCATION LEVEL



EMPLOYMENT STATUS



WCA

AGE (average)

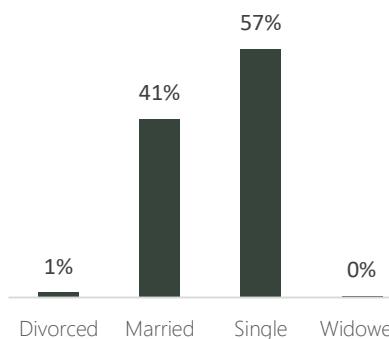
28,6

Gender (distribution)

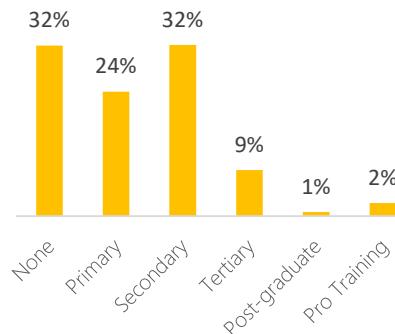
Male: 86%

Female: 14%

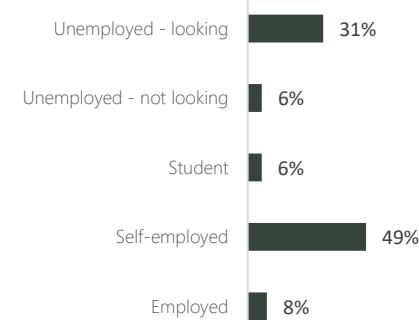
MARITAL STATUS



EDUCATION LEVEL



EMPLOYMENT STATUS



The profile of travellers (individuals moving through IOM FMPs) by intended destination presented on this page is based on the data collected during **Flow Monitoring Surveys conducted with over 17,000 travellers** across the region between **January 2018 and June 2018**. Travellers moving within the region, headed for North Africa, and migrating to Europe showcase significant differences in age, marital status, education level and employment status (in country of habitual residence). The variation of the unemployment rate is also very much linked with the nature and destination of the movement (movements to WCA are more likely to be done for actual job opportunities rather than movements heading to Europe or North Africa). *Further information on methodology is available at the end of the document.*

SPAIN

2014 – XXXX
2015 – 17 165
2016 – 15 230
2017 – 28 707
35,859 January to September 2018

of which:

1. GUINEA 14%
2. MALI 12%
3. COTE D'IVOIRE 6%
4. GAMBIA 4%
5. SENEGAL 2%

Deaths: 362

Main nationality from WCA - data January – August 2018

ITALY

2014 – 170,100
2015 – 153 842
2016 – 181 436
2017 – 119,369
21,024 January to September 2018

of which:

1. NIGERIA : 6%
2. COTE D'IVOIRE : 5%
3. MALI : 4%
4. GUINEA : 4%
5. SENEGAL : 1%

Deaths: 1,260

Main nationality from WCA - data January – August 2018

GREECE

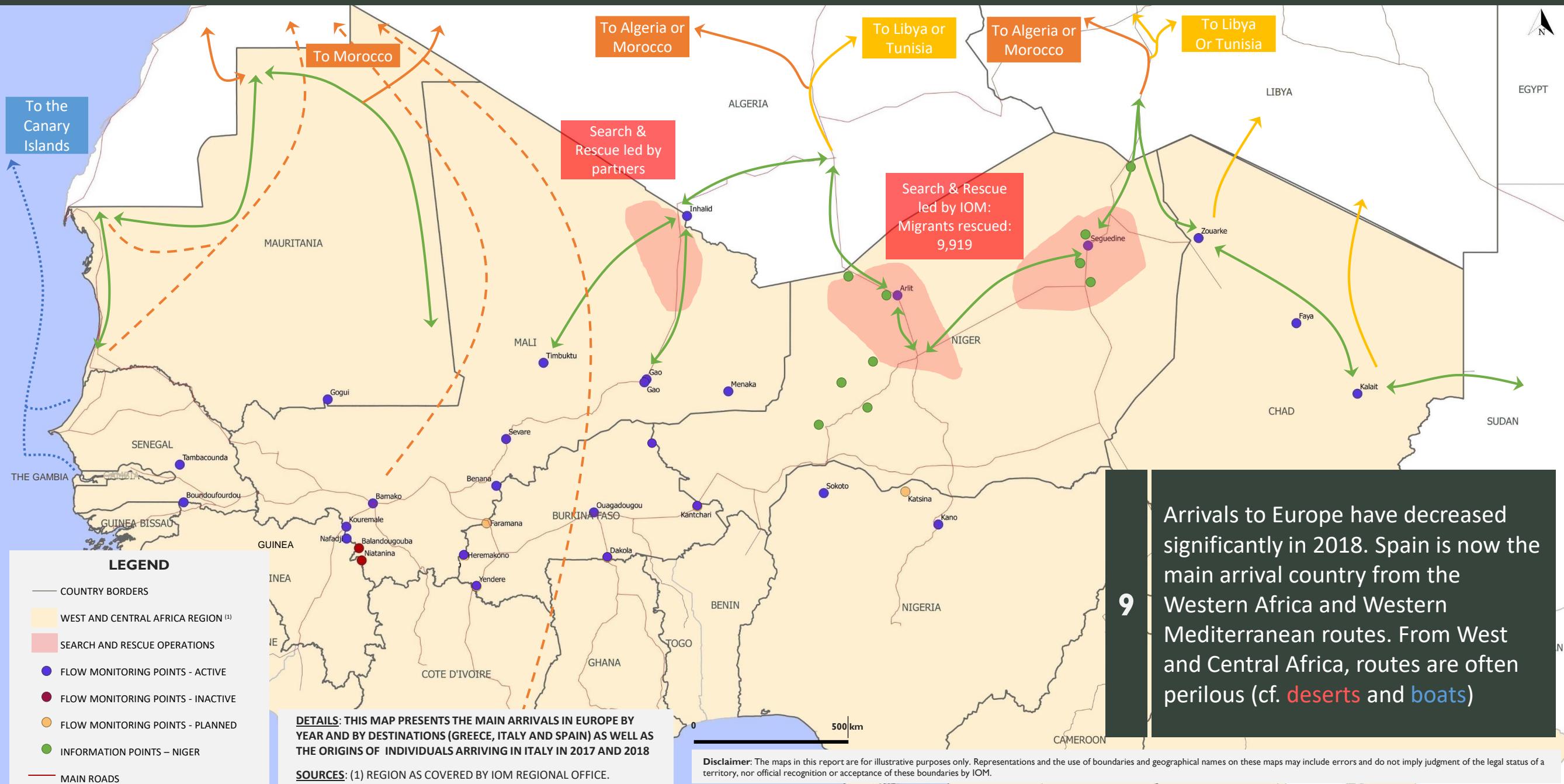
2014 – XX,XXX
2015 – 857 363
2016 – 176,906
2017 – 35 052
23,180 January to September 2018

of which:

1. CAMEROON : 4%
2. DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO : 3%

Deaths: 111

Main nationality from WCA - data January – August 2018

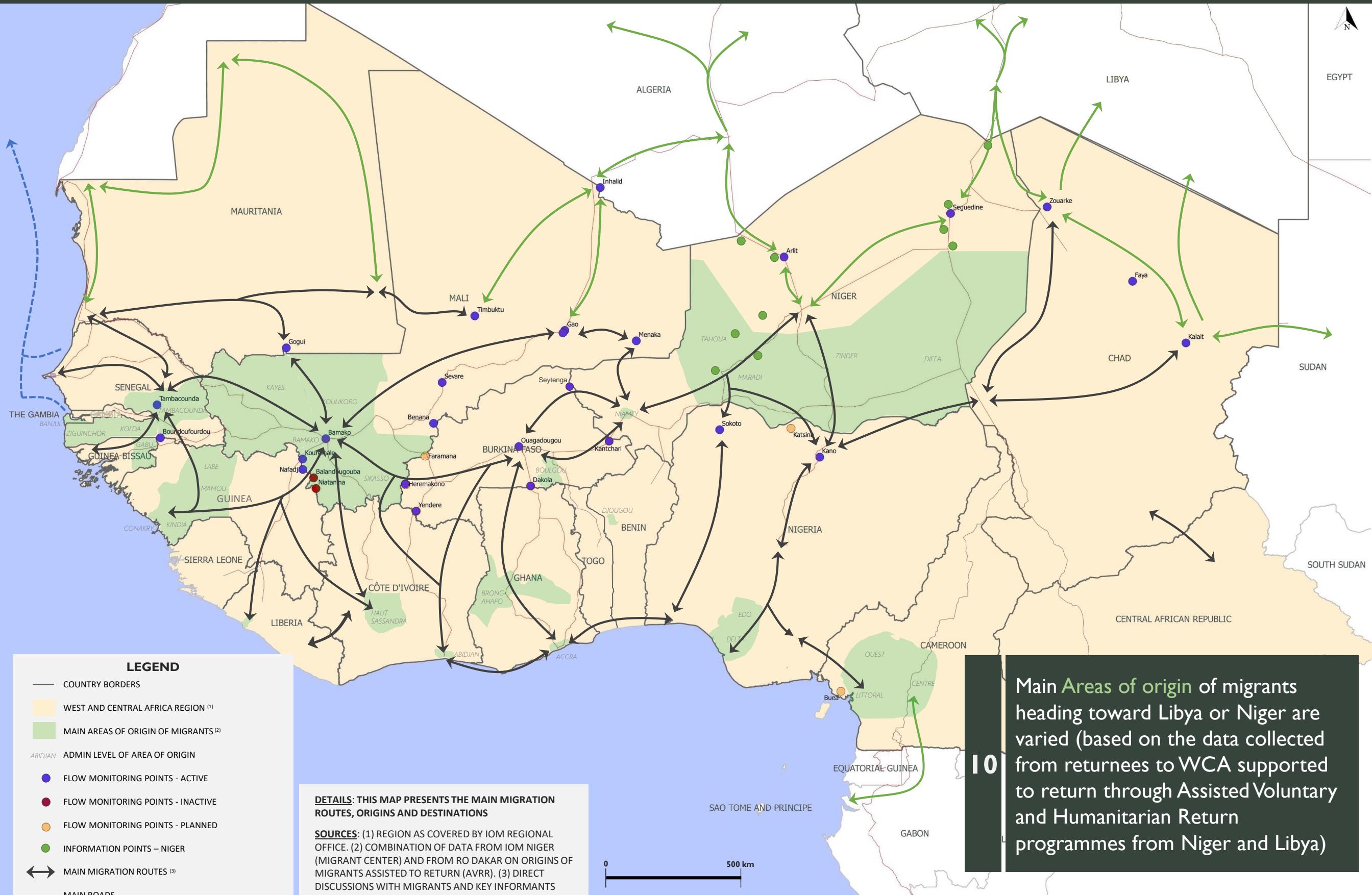


9 Arrivals to Europe have decreased significantly in 2018. Spain is now the main arrival country from the Western Africa and Western Mediterranean routes. From West and Central Africa, routes are often perilous (cf. **deserts** and **boats**)

DETAILS: THIS MAP PRESENTS THE MAIN ARRIVALS IN EUROPE BY YEAR AND BY DESTINATIONS (GREECE, ITALY AND SPAIN) AS WELL AS THE ORIGINS OF INDIVIDUALS ARRIVING IN ITALY IN 2017 AND 2018

SOURCES: (1) REGION AS COVERED BY IOM REGIONAL OFFICE.

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LEGEND

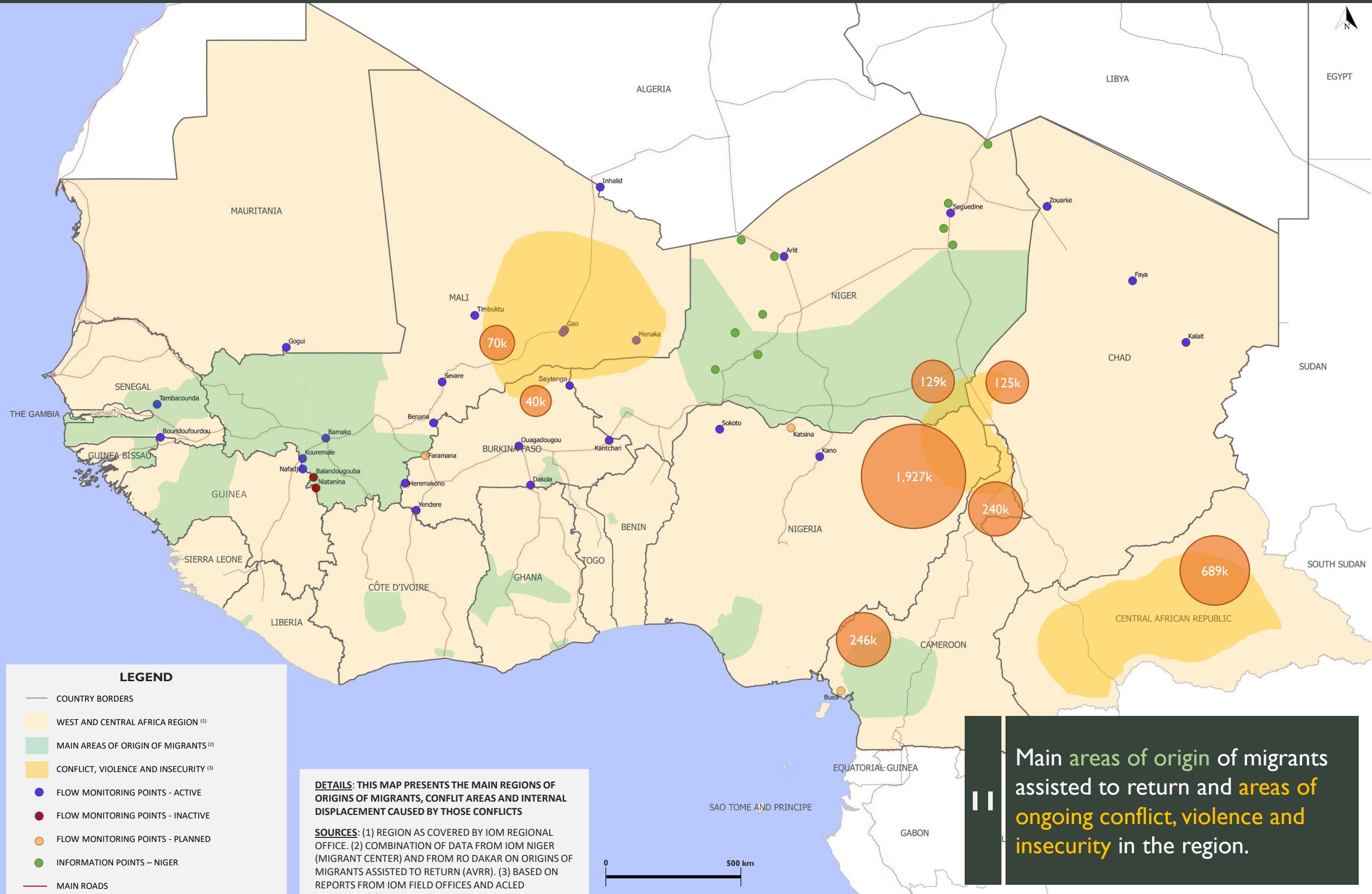
- COUNTRY BORDERS
- WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA REGION ⁽¹⁾
- MAIN AREAS OF ORIGIN OF MIGRANTS ⁽²⁾
- ABIDJAN ADMIN LEVEL OF AREA OF ORIGIN
- FLOW MONITORING POINTS - ACTIVE
- FLOW MONITORING POINTS - INACTIVE
- FLOW MONITORING POINTS - PLANNED
- INFORMATION POINTS - NIGER
- ↔ MAIN MIGRATION ROUTES ⁽³⁾
- MAIN ROADS
- ↔ MAIN INTER-REGIONAL ROUTES

DETAILS: THIS MAP PRESENTS THE MAIN MIGRATION ROUTES, ORIGINS AND DESTINATIONS

SOURCES: (1) REGION AS COVERED BY IOM REGIONAL OFFICE. (2) COMBINATION OF DATA FROM IOM NIGER (MIGRANT CENTER) AND FROM RO DAKAR ON ORIGINS OF MIGRANTS ASSISTED TO RETURN (AVRR). (3) DIRECT DISCUSSIONS WITH MIGRANTS AND KEY INFORMANTS SURVEYS CONDUCTED WITH NATIONAL AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES OF THE REGION.

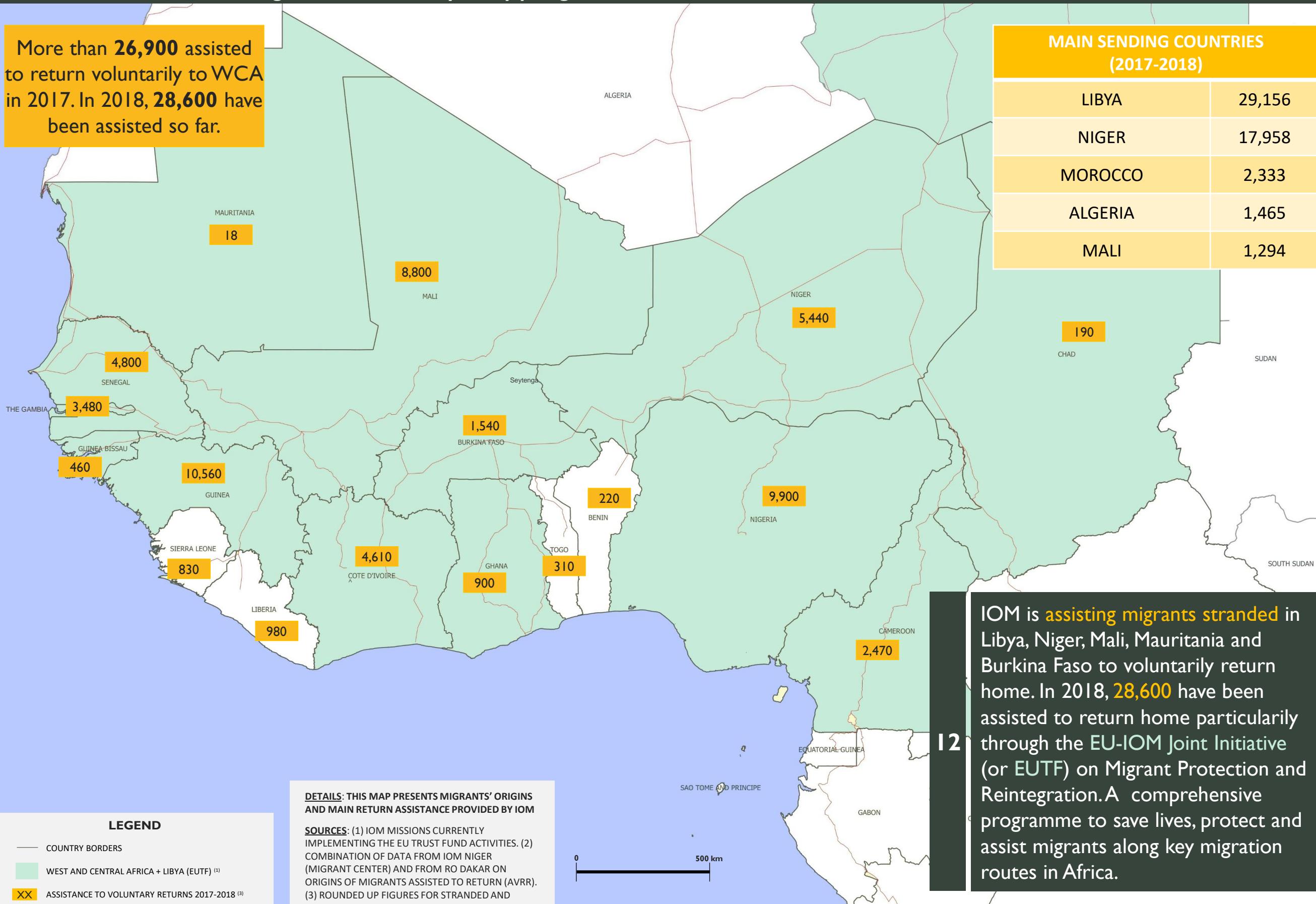
10 Main Areas of origin of migrants heading toward Libya or Niger are varied (based on the data collected from returnees to WCA supported to return through Assisted Voluntary and Humanitarian Return programmes from Niger and Libya)





More than **26,900** assisted to return voluntarily to WCA in 2017. In 2018, **28,600** have been assisted so far.

MAIN SENDING COUNTRIES (2017-2018)	
LIBYA	29,156
NIGER	17,958
MOROCCO	2,333
ALGERIA	1,465
MALI	1,294



IOM is assisting migrants stranded in Libya, Niger, Mali, Mauritania and Burkina Faso to voluntarily return home. In 2018, **28,600** have been assisted to return home particularly through the EU-IOM Joint Initiative (or EUTF) on Migrant Protection and Reintegration. A comprehensive programme to save lives, protect and assist migrants along key migration routes in Africa.

DETAILS: THIS MAP PRESENTS MIGRANTS' ORIGINS AND MAIN RETURN ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY IOM

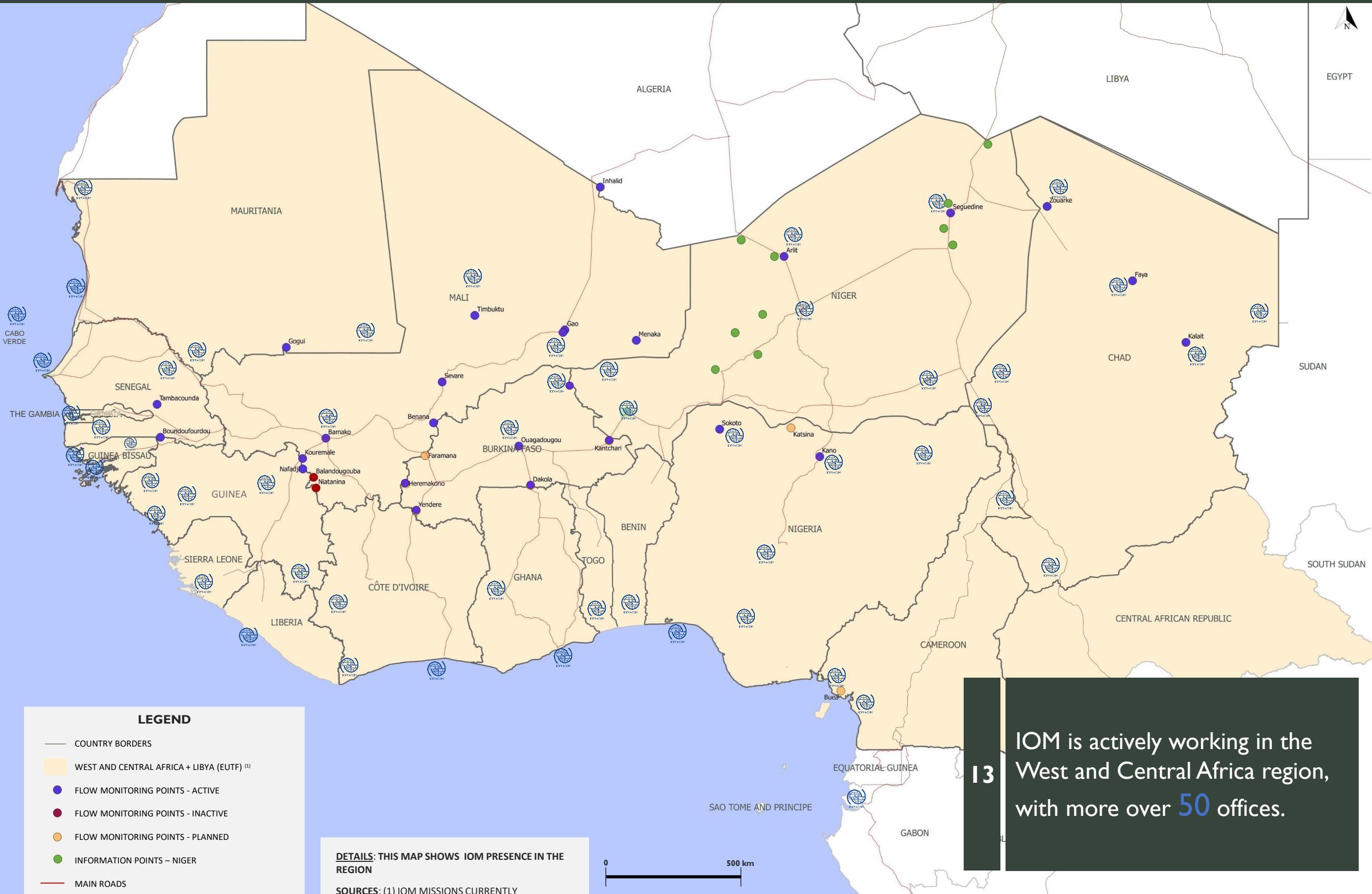
SOURCES: (1) IOM MISSIONS CURRENTLY IMPLEMENTING THE EU TRUST FUND ACTIVITIES. (2) COMBINATION OF DATA FROM IOM NIGER (MIGRANT CENTER) AND FROM RO DAKAR ON ORIGINS OF MIGRANTS ASSISTED TO RETURN (AVRR). (3) ROUNDED UP FIGURES FOR STRANDED AND VULNERABLE MIGRANTS SUPPORTED BY IOM WITH THEIR VOLUNTARY RETURN IN 2017 AND 2018.

LEGEND

- COUNTRY BORDERS
- WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA + LIBYA (EUTF) ⁽¹⁾
- XX ASSISTANCE TO VOLUNTARY RETURNS 2017-2018 ⁽³⁾
- MAIN ROADS



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LEGEND

- COUNTRY BORDERS
- WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA + LIBYA (EUTF) ⁽¹⁾
- FLOW MONITORING POINTS - ACTIVE
- FLOW MONITORING POINTS - INACTIVE
- FLOW MONITORING POINTS - PLANNED
- INFORMATION POINTS – NIGER
- MAIN ROADS
- IOM OFFICES OR SUB-OFFICES

DETAILS: THIS MAP SHOWS IOM PRESENCE IN THE REGION

SOURCES: (1) IOM MISSIONS CURRENTLY IMPLEMENTING THE EU TRUST FUND ACTIVITIES.



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13 IOM is actively working in the West and Central Africa region, with more over **50** offices.

NOTES

This section provides additional details on data sources used on this mobility mapping

FLOW MONITORING METHODOLOGY

This report presents an analysis of 17,628 surveys conducted with mobile populations in the West and Central Africa region between January and June 2018. These surveys are part of IOM DTM's Flow Monitoring activities, which gather information on the numbers and characteristics of travellers observed in high mobility areas of origin, transit and destination. Surveys are conducted at Flow Monitoring Points on a sample of travellers on a daily basis (travellers may or may not be nationals). The purpose of these surveys is to collect more in-depth information on travellers, such as their nationalities, educational and vocational backgrounds, reasons for departure and intended destinations.

The slide 10 present cross-border movements based on the flow monitoring registry and the slide 11 of this report presents a regional analysis by intended destinations indicated by the respondents from the flow monitoring surveys.

METHODOLOGY: A Flow Monitoring Point (FMP) collects information on the number, frequency and defining features of individuals transiting a particular location. Prior to the establishment of an FMP, it is essential to identify key migration-prone areas. These locations are identified based on assessments of main migration routes at national and local levels, conducted in partnership with national and local authorities. To date, more than 30 FMPs are active in seven countries of the West and Central

Africa region (Burkina Faso, Chad, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, and Senegal).

FMPs rely on two main tools: The Flow Monitoring Registry (FMR) and the Flow Monitoring Survey (FMS). The FMR includes direct observations at places of entry, transit or exit, as well as interviews with key informants (including transportation workers, housing workers, and migration officials) to assess movement trends, routes, and countries of origin and destination. The FMS entails more detailed individual surveys to profile people on the move, including education levels and skills/employment; drivers of migrations; and needs, risks and vulnerabilities. This document presents an analysis of surveys conducted using the FMS tool (slide 11). A similar methodology is used in other regions (Horn of Africa and Europe) to allow for comparative analysis of flows and individuals' characteristics.

LIMITATION: The data presented on these two slides (slides 10 and 11) is indicative of surveys conducted with individuals at FMPs in Senegal, Mali, Guinea, Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Niger and Chad during the timeframe indicated. The data should not be generalized and does not represent a full picture of inter and intra-regional migration, but rather a snapshot of migration flows at specific locations. For example, while IOM aims to establish Flow Monitoring Points at locations with high transit flows (based on information from key informants), flows are fluid and FMPs can only provide a partial picture. The monitoring of flows in assessed locations should not lead to assumptions about flows in areas without flow monitoring points.

DATA ON RETURNS THROUGH ASSISTED VOLUNTARY AND HUMANITARIAN RETURN PROGRAMMES

Data collected on the regions of origins of migrants provides details on regions of origins of migrants that have been assisted to voluntary or humanitarian return by IOM. It is based on databases from Libya and Niger that have been aggregated and uses more than 18,000 entries dating from 2016 and 2017. An update for 2018 is currently ongoing.

It does not necessarily presents the origins of all migrants identified through IOM FMP but, given the number of entries in this database, it's a fairly strong data source.

EXTERNAL SOURCES

UNDESA: the United Nations Departement for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) provides regular update on its migrants' stocks. Data presented do not reflect all migration stocks in each country and are likely underestimating total migrants' population in the region. i.e. in Côte d'Ivoire, though the total is at 2,2 million migrants, it's believe that nearly 5,5 million foreigners are living in the country.

ARRIVALS IN ITALY, GREECE AND SPAIN: data presented in the slide 12 are taken from Greece, Italy and Spain national authorities. However, full nationality data is not provided and only presents top 10 nationalities of arrival. Therefore, nationality figures presented are likely underestimated.

DATA SOURCES

IOM Flow Monitoring Points (flow.iom.int)

IOM AVRR data

IOM Niger data of regions of origins

IOM Niger Search & Rescue

IOM Italy, Spain and Greece data compilations

IOM country offices (labour intensive areas)

NATIONAL WORKSHOPS ON CAPTURING DISPLACEMENT AND MOVEMENTS DATA

(Capo Verde, Mauritania, Senegal, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Togo and Benin)

MINISTRIES OF INTERIOR (Spain, Italy,
Greece, Niger)

UNDESA migrant database

ACLED (security incident data)

OECD (transhumance data)



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency

Regional Office for West and Central Africa

Zone 3, Route des Almadies

Dakar BP 16 838

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