

REGIONAL MOBILITY MAPPING

WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA
DECEMBER 2023



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency



REGIONAL MOBILITY MAPPING

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INTRODUCTION

ABOUT THIS REPORT

The development and implementation of policies and programmes 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-related migration, rural exodus, are all examples of movements observes 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, from and to West and Central Africa regionon for Migration (IOM), the 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, management of transhumance flows, support to safe returns of displaced people) and policy.

DATA SOURCES

Data sources for the information displayed in this document are provided at the bottom of each page. When reference is made to IOM data, the data was collected from: 1) Flow Monitoring, 2) Mobility Tracking, 3) Interviews with individuals who benefited from voluntary returns and reintegration programs (AVRR), 4) Search and Rescue operations, 5) Missing Migrants Project, 6) Transhumance Tracking Tool

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), the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC).

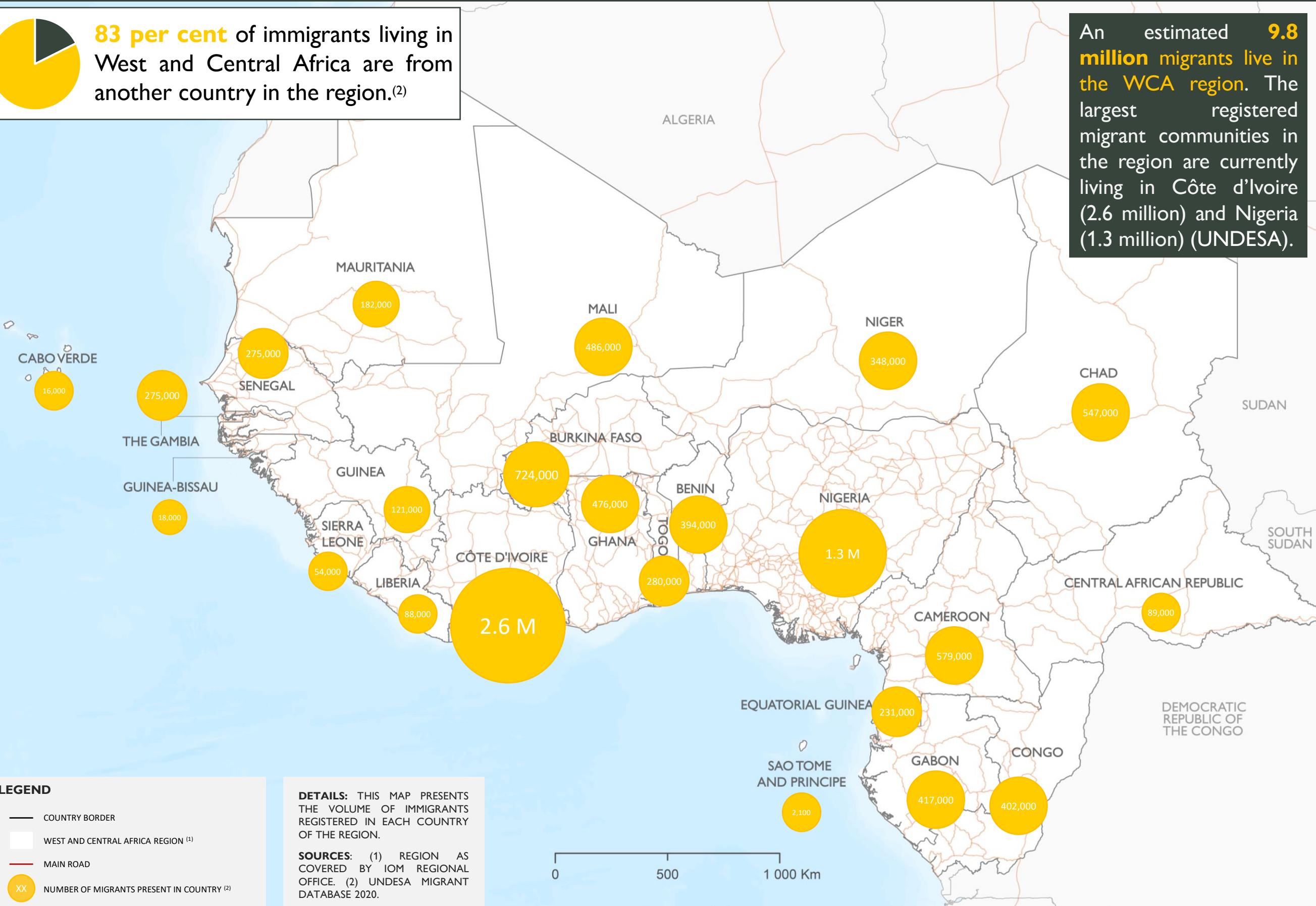
CONTENT

INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS	◦ Page 4
EMIGRATION FROM WCA	◦ Page 5
MIGRATION FLOWS	◦ Page 6
MIGRATION CORRIDORS	◦ Page 7
LABOUR MIGRATION	◦ Page 8
TRANSHUMANCE I	◦ Page 9
TRANSHUMANCE II	◦ Page 10
INTER-REGIONAL ROUTES	◦ Page 11
ARRIVALS TO EUROPE I	◦ Page 12
ARRIVALS TO EUROPE II	◦ Page 13
TRAVELLERS' PROFILES	◦ Page 14
CLIMATE CHANGE AND MIGRATION	◦ Page 15
WOMEN ON THE MOVE IN WCA	◦ Page 16
MISSING MIGRANTS	◦ Page 17
REGIONS OF ORIGIN	◦ Page 18
CONFLICT AND INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT	◦ Page 19
DISASTER AND INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT	◦ Page 20
LAKE CHAD BASIN SITUATION	◦ Page 21
CENTRAL SAHEL AND LIPTAKO GOURMA SITUATION	◦ Page 22
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC SITUATION	◦ Page 23
STABILITY AND DURABLE SOLUTIONS	◦ Page 24
RETURN ASSISTANCE BY IOM	◦ Page 25
DATA AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES	◦ Page 27
IOM PRESENCE	◦ Page 28
NOTES ON METHODOLOGY I	◦ Page 29
NOTES ON METHODOLOGY II	◦ Page 30



83 per cent of immigrants living in West and Central Africa are from another country in the region.⁽²⁾

An estimated **9.8 million** migrants live in the WCA region. The largest registered migrant communities in the region are currently living in Côte d'Ivoire (2.6 million) and Nigeria (1.3 million) (UNDESA).



LEGEND

- COUNTRY BORDER
- WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA REGION ⁽¹⁾
- MAIN ROAD
- XX NUMBER OF MIGRANTS PRESENT IN COUNTRY ⁽²⁾

DETAILS: THIS MAP PRESENTS THE VOLUME OF IMMIGRANTS REGISTERED IN EACH COUNTRY OF THE REGION.

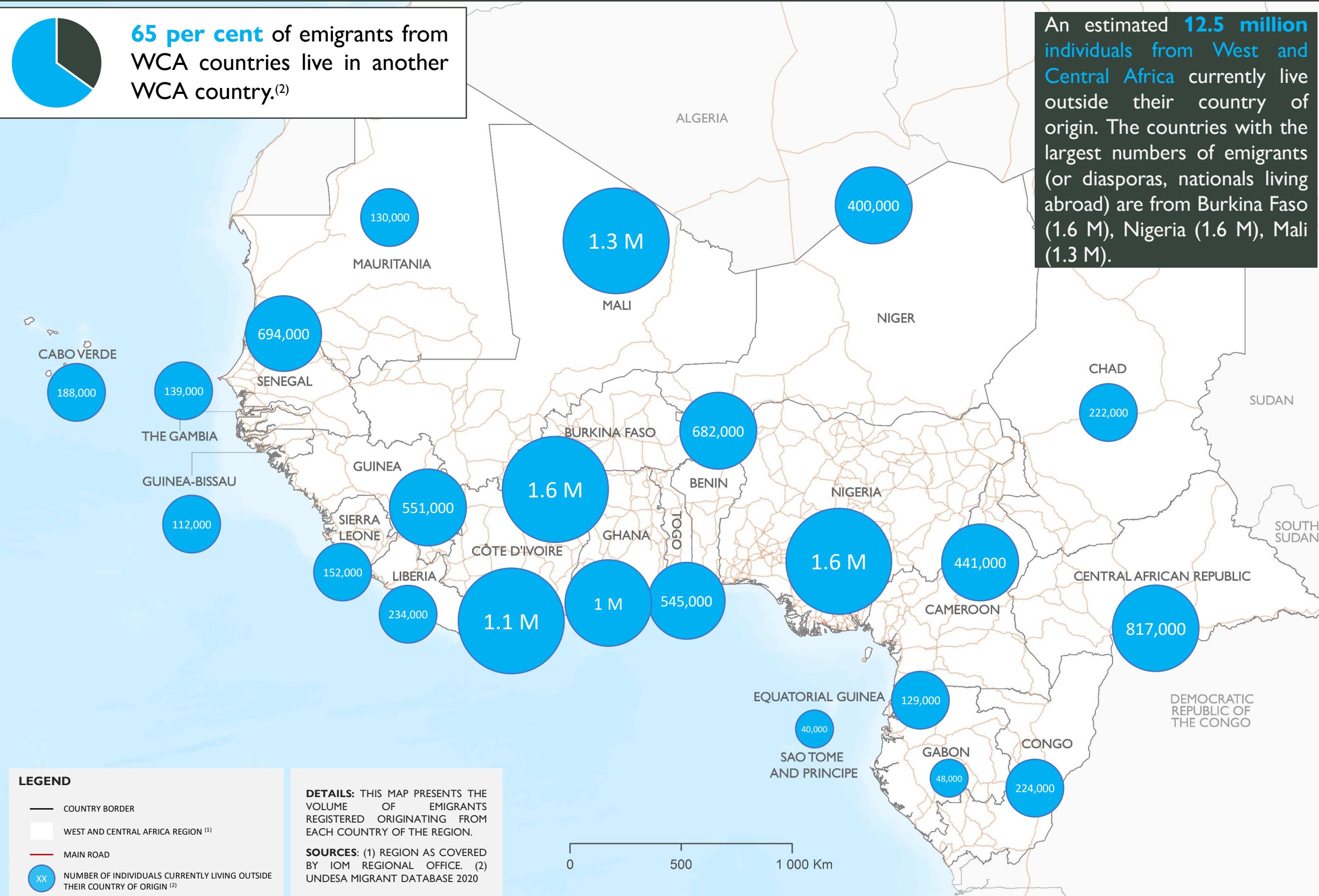
SOURCES: (1) REGION AS COVERED BY IOM REGIONAL OFFICE. (2) UNDESA MIGRANT DATABASE 2020.



This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM

65 per cent of emigrants from WCA countries live in another WCA country.⁽²⁾

An estimated **12.5 million** individuals from West and Central Africa currently live outside their country of origin. The countries with the largest numbers of emigrants (or diasporas, nationals living abroad) are from Burkina Faso (1.6 M), Nigeria (1.6 M), Mali (1.3 M).



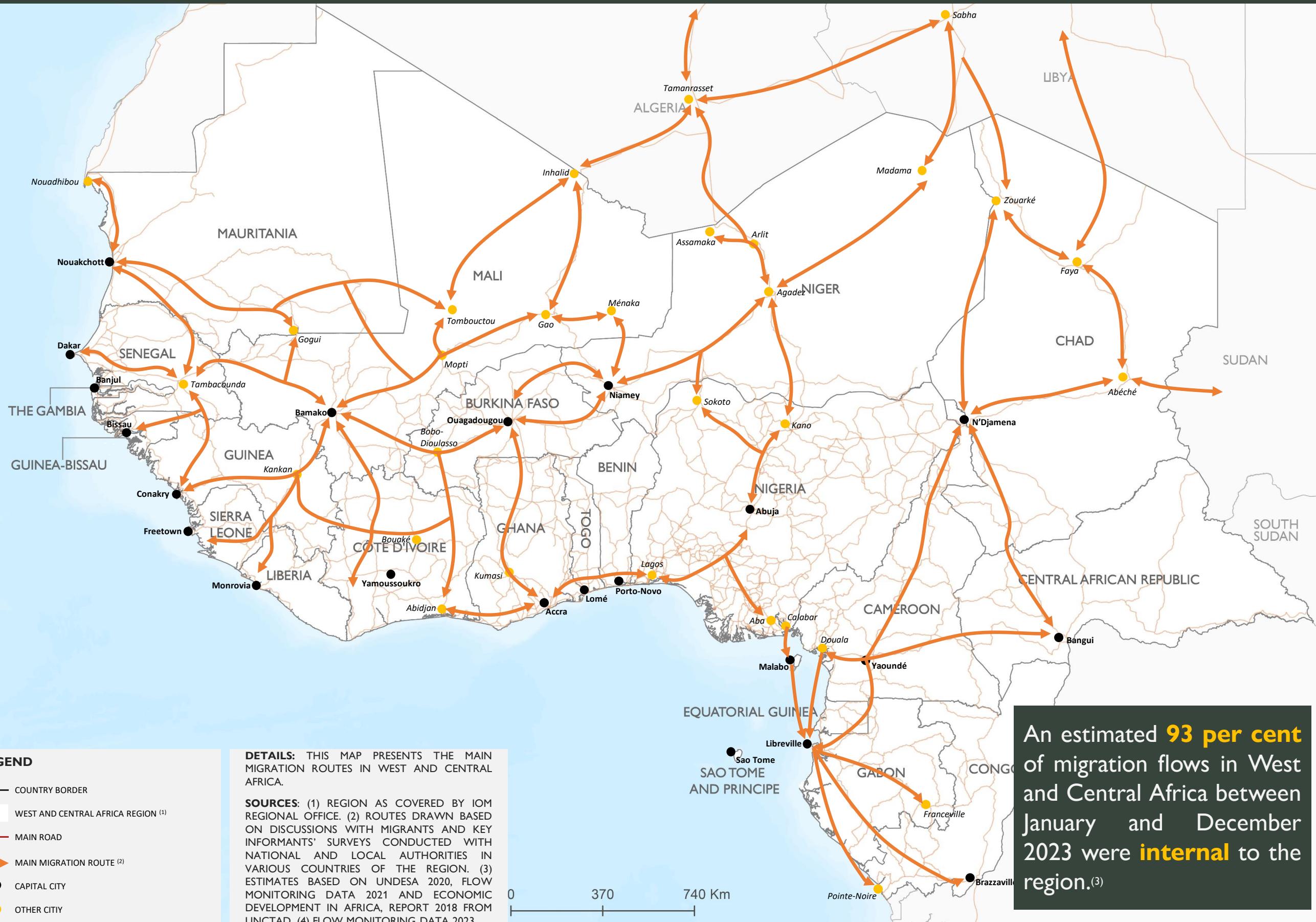
LEGEND

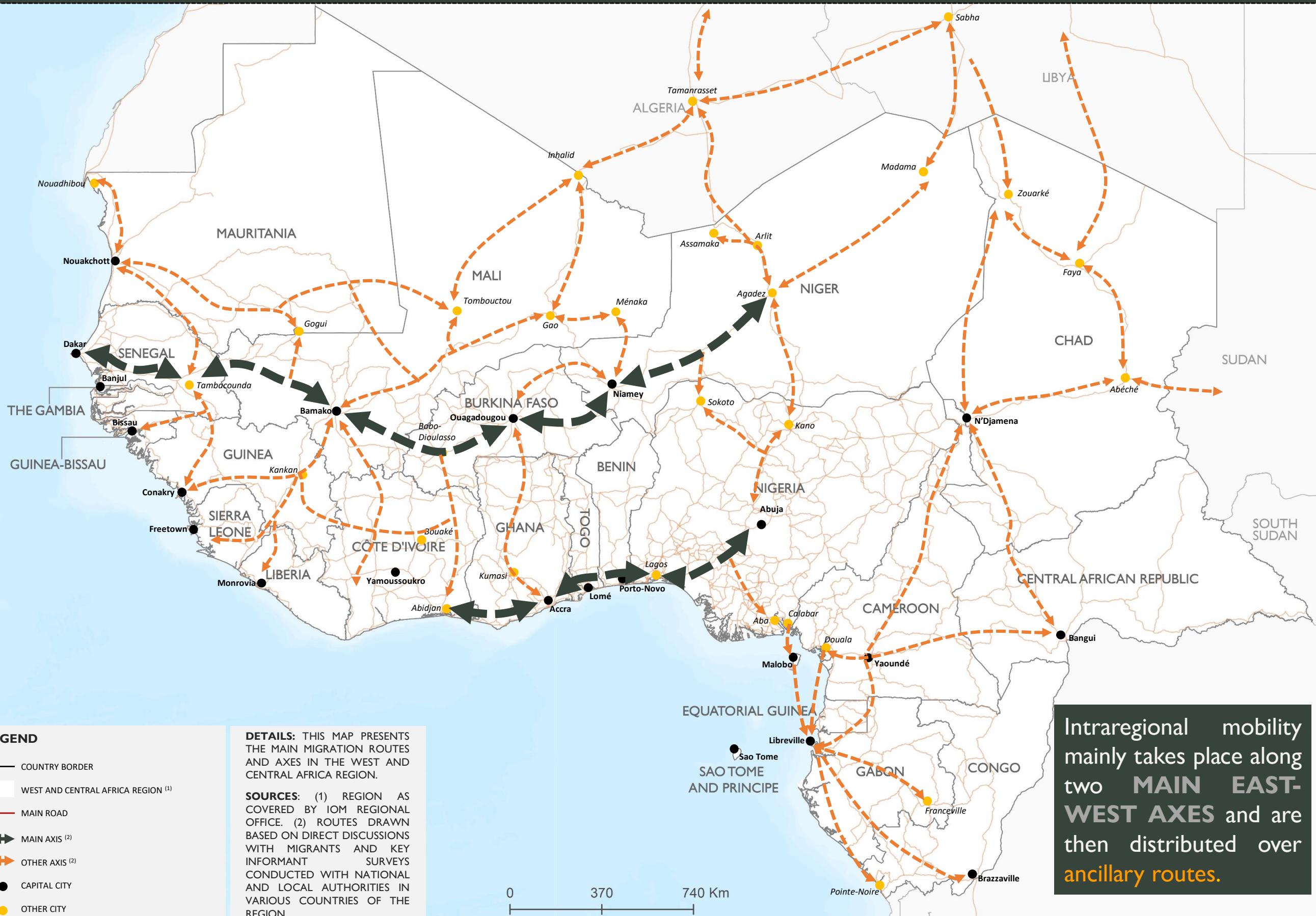
- COUNTRY BORDER
- WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA REGION ⁽¹⁾
- MAIN ROAD
- XX NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS CURRENTLY LIVING OUTSIDE THEIR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN ⁽²⁾

DETAILS: THIS MAP PRESENTS THE VOLUME OF EMIGRANTS REGISTERED ORIGINATING FROM EACH COUNTRY OF THE REGION.

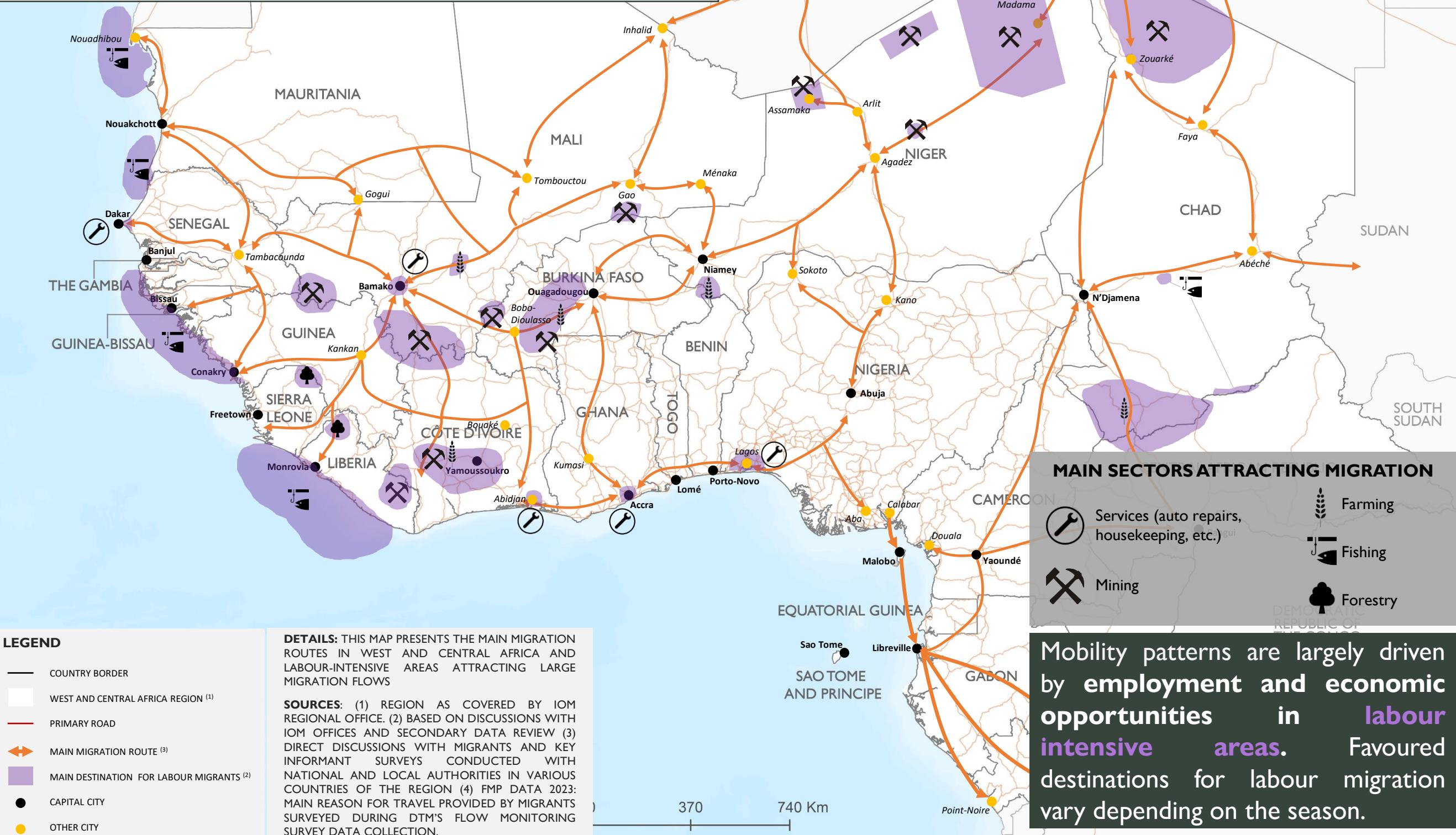
SOURCES: (1) REGION AS COVERED BY IOM REGIONAL OFFICE. (2) UNDESA MIGRANT DATABASE 2020







74 per cent of all individuals surveyed at IOM Flow Monitoring Points in 2023 were travelling for labour or economic reasons.⁽⁴⁾



MAIN SECTORS ATTRACTING MIGRATION

- Services (auto repairs, housekeeping, etc.)
- Farming
- Fishing
- Mining
- Forestry

Mobility patterns are largely driven by **employment and economic opportunities in labour intensive areas.** Favoured destinations for labour migration vary depending on the season.

LEGEND

- COUNTRY BORDER
- WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA REGION ⁽¹⁾
- PRIMARY ROAD
- MAIN MIGRATION ROUTE ⁽³⁾
- MAIN DESTINATION FOR LABOUR MIGRANTS ⁽²⁾
- CAPITAL CITY
- OTHER CITY

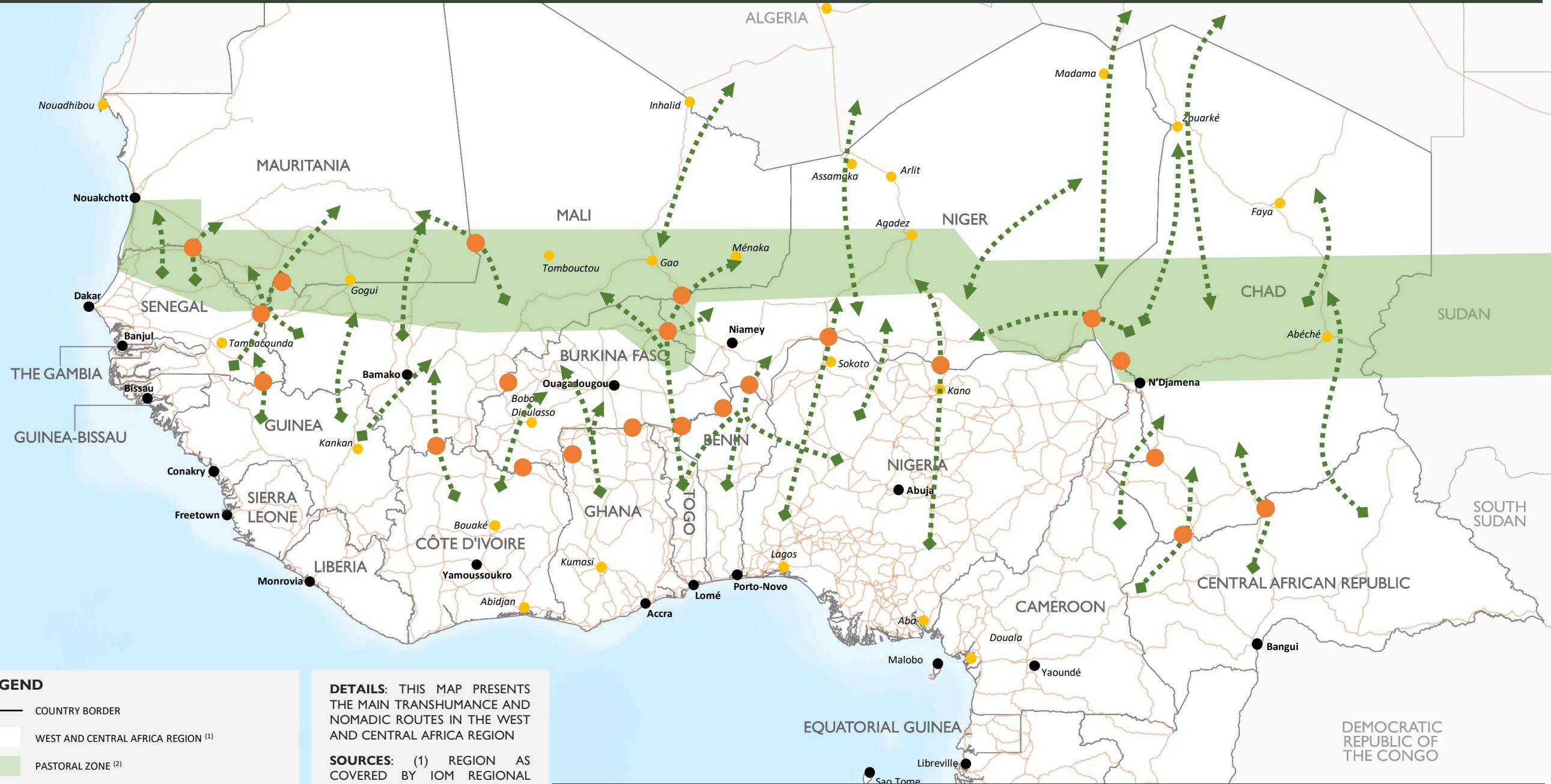
DETAILS: THIS MAP PRESENTS THE MAIN MIGRATION ROUTES IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA AND LABOUR-INTENSIVE AREAS ATTRACTING LARGE MIGRATION FLOWS

SOURCES: (1) REGION AS COVERED BY IOM REGIONAL OFFICE. (2) BASED ON DISCUSSIONS WITH IOM OFFICES AND SECONDARY DATA REVIEW (3) DIRECT DISCUSSIONS WITH MIGRANTS AND KEY INFORMANT SURVEYS CONDUCTED WITH NATIONAL AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES OF THE REGION (4) FMP DATA 2023: MAIN REASON FOR TRAVEL PROVIDED BY MIGRANTS SURVEYED DURING DTM'S FLOW MONITORING SURVEY DATA COLLECTION.

370 740 Km

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Transhumance, a form of pastoralism which sees herders and their livestock migrate on a seasonal basis between complementary ecological areas from areas with scarce grazing lands and water sources to areas with more abundant pastures and water, is a common occupation across West and Central Africa. It contributes significantly to human mobility in the region. The main transhumance routes link Sahelian and coastal countries.



LEGEND

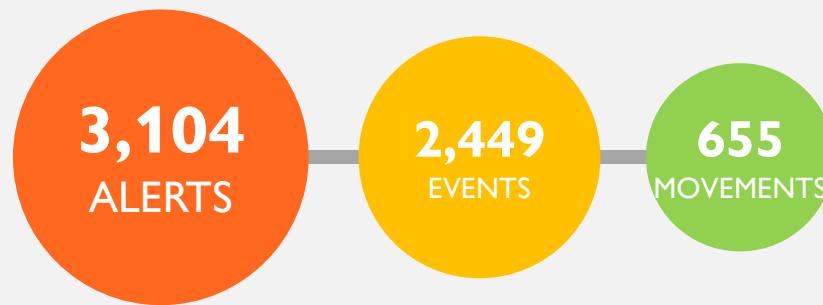
- COUNTRY BORDER
- WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA REGION ⁽¹⁾
- PASTORAL ZONE ⁽²⁾
- TRANSBOUNDARY TRANSHUMANCE ROUTE ⁽²⁾
- ◇ DIRECTION DURING DRY SEASON ⁽³⁾
- ▶ DIRECTION DURING WET SEASON ⁽³⁾
- KEY TRANSIT POINT FOR TRANSHUMANT HERDERS ⁽⁴⁾
- CAPITAL CITY
- OTHER CITY

DETAILS: THIS MAP PRESENTS THE MAIN TRANSHUMANCE AND NOMADIC ROUTES IN THE WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA REGION

SOURCES: (1) REGION AS COVERED BY IOM REGIONAL OFFICE. (2) ROUTES ARE TAKEN FROM FAO-CIRAD, SYSTEME D'INFORMATION SUR LE PASTORALISME AU SAHEL, 2012. (3) IOM TRANSHUMANCE TRACKING TOOL 2021 (BURKINA FASO, CAMEROON, CÔTE D'IVOIRE, GUINEA, MALI, MAURITANIA, NIGER, NIGERIA, SIERRA LEONE). (4) TRANSHUMANCE TRACKING TOOL 2021

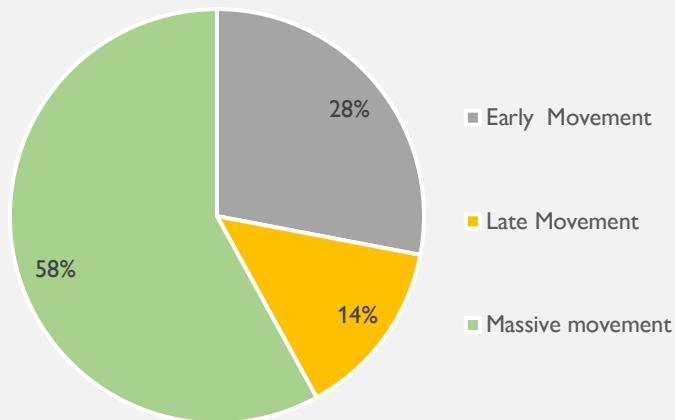
In recent years, climate change, environmental degradation and disasters, exponential population growth, urbanization, land privatization, changes in farming practices, and insecurity have affected transhumance patterns, routes and periods as well as relations with between communities. These changes have resulted in increasing **competition over natural resources** and have exacerbated tensions, generating at times intense **conflicts** between transhumant herders and farmers.

Among the 3,104 alerts reported between January and December 2023 in Chad, Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea, Niger and Nigeria, 2,449 reported events and 655 were related to movements.

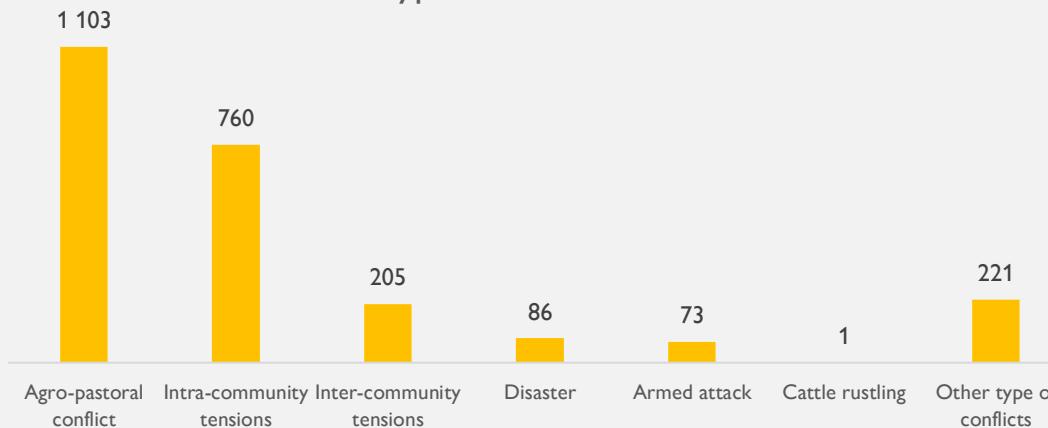


Country	Events	Movements	Total
Nigeria	2,391	646	3,037
Côte d'Ivoire/Guinea	21	5	26
Chad	31	4	35
Niger	6		6
Total	2,449	655	3,104

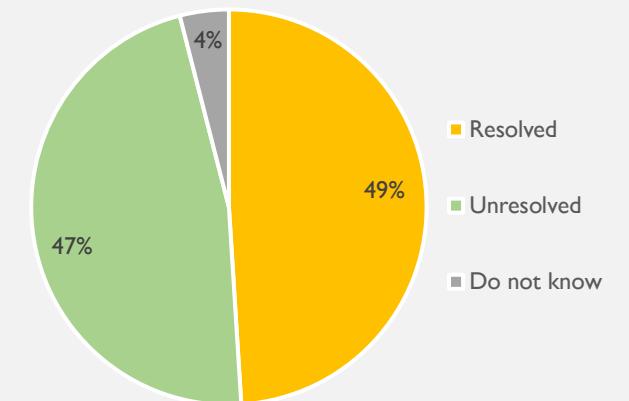
Types of movements



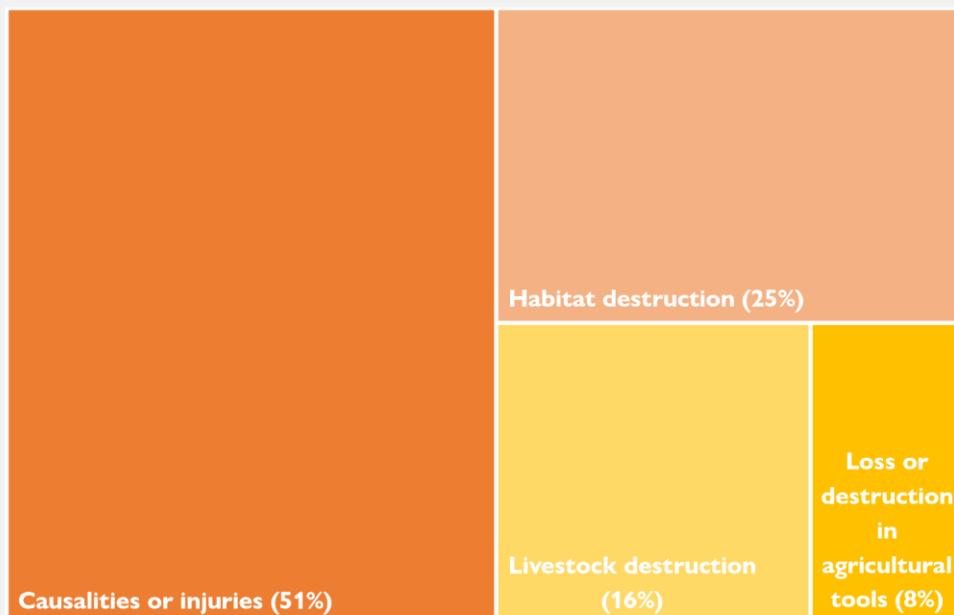
Types of events



Status of events

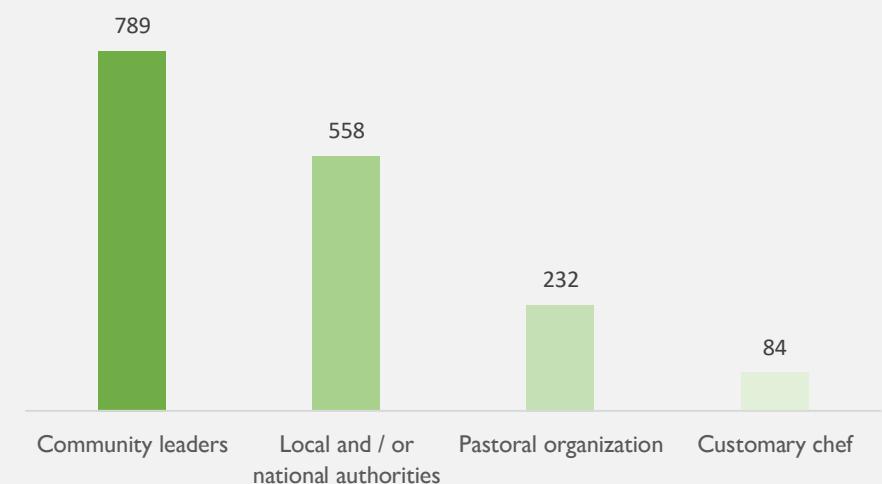


Consequences of events in Nigeria and types of damages



In the reported events in Nigeria, over half led to injuries (51%). Additionally, these events caused habitat destruction (25%), loss or destruction of livestock (16%), and loss or damages to agricultural tools (8%).

Main actors involved in conflict resolution in Nigeria



NIGERIA

WESTERN AFRICAN ROUTE

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN ROUTE

CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN ROUTE

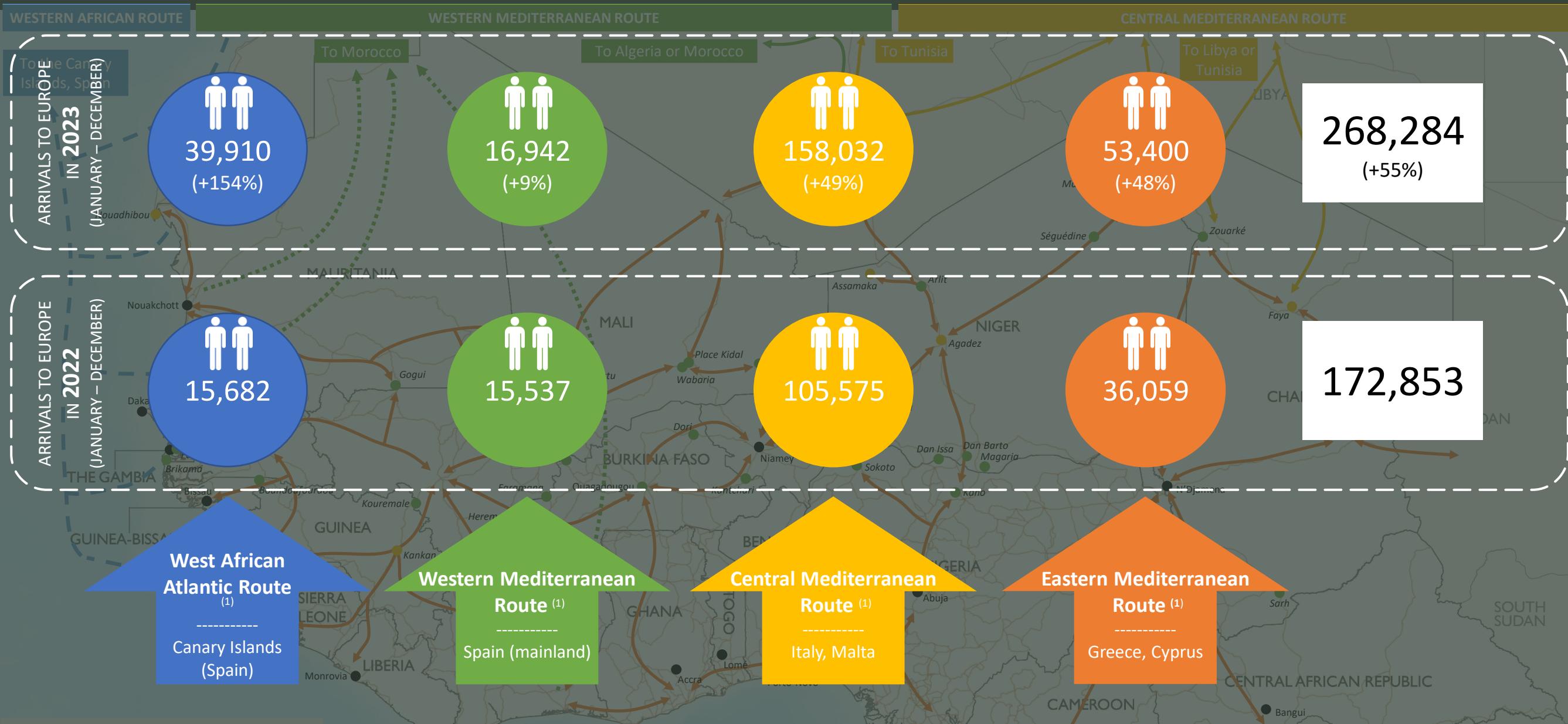


Inter-regional migration routes taken by migrants regularly shift according to changes in migration legislation, policies and controls. However, the routes themselves do not evolve much.

Migrants heading to North Africa or Europe travel along three main migration routes:

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

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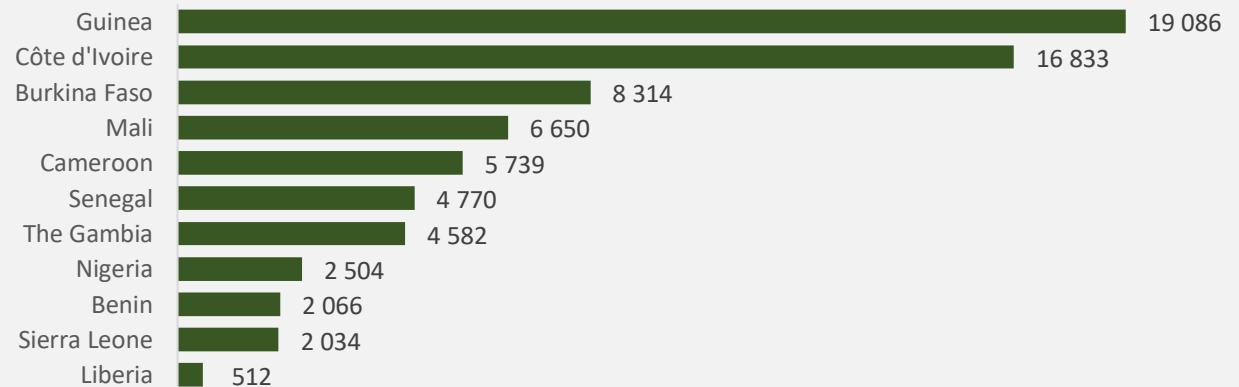


DETAILS: THIS PAGE PRESENTS THE NUMBER OF IRREGULAR MIGRANT ARRIVALS TO EUROPE BETWEEN JANUARY AND DECEMBER 2023 COMPARED TO THE SAME PERIOD IN 2022, BY LAND AND SEA AND BY MAIN MIGRATION ROUTES. NATIONALITIES OF MIGRANTS ARRIVED BETWEEN SEPTEMBER AND DECEMBER 2023 ARE YET UNKNOWN.

SOURCES: (1) FIGURES TAKEN FROM DTM MEDITERRANEAN DATA, BASED ON INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE SPANISH, ITALIAN, MALTESE, CYPRIOT, AND GREEK MINISTRIES OF INTERIOR.

Between January and December 2023, an estimated **268,284 migrants** arrived irregularly in Italy, Spain, Greece, and other countries (Malta and Cyprus) by sea or by land. Out of this total, **172,853** migrants arrived between January and September, from which 55 per cent came from WCA.⁽¹⁾

MAIN COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN OF IRREGULAR MIGRANTS FROM WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA ARRIVING IN EUROPE BETWEEN JANUARY AND SEPTEMBER 2023 ⁽¹⁾





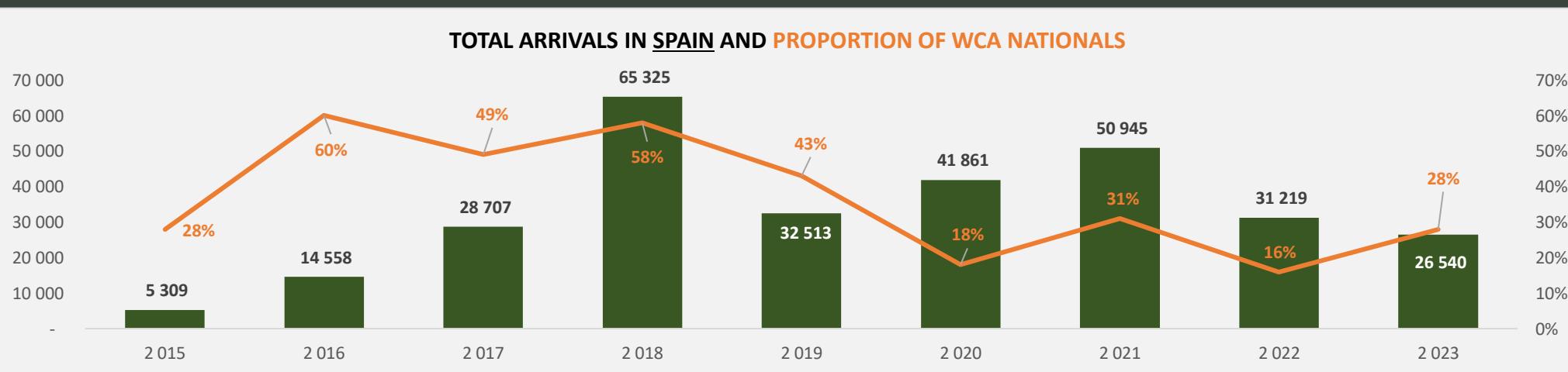
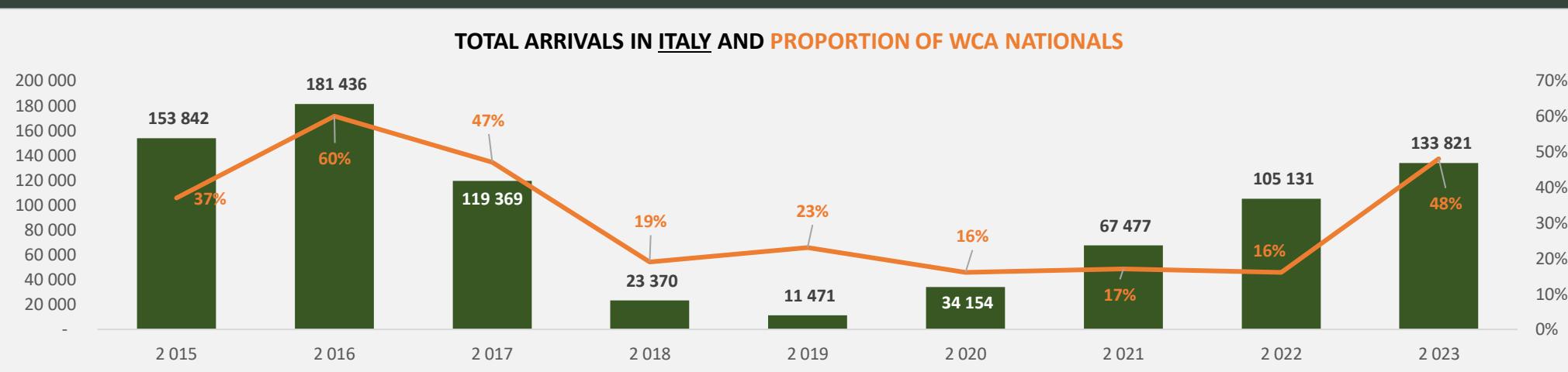
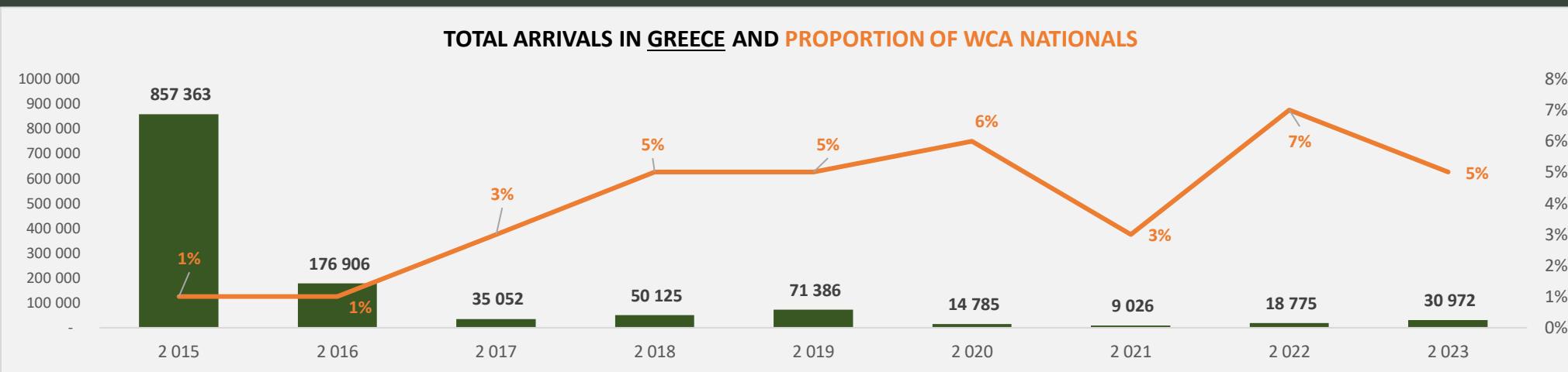
Between January and September 2023, a total of **73,445** individuals from West and Central Africa reached Greece, Italy and Spain irregularly.

LEGEND:

- XX # OF ARRIVALS
- XX% % OF ARRIVALS OF WCA NATIONALS

DETAILS: THIS PAGE PRESENTS THE NUMBER OF ARRIVALS IN EUROPE BY MAIN COUNTRY OF ARRIVAL (GREECE, ITALY, SPAIN), YEAR AND PROPORTION OF NATIONALS FROM WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA. 2023 DATA ONLY INCLUDE FIGURES BETWEEN JANUARY AND SEPTEMBER 2023.

SOURCES: Ministries of Interior of Spain, Italy and Greece; IOM and UNHCR data.



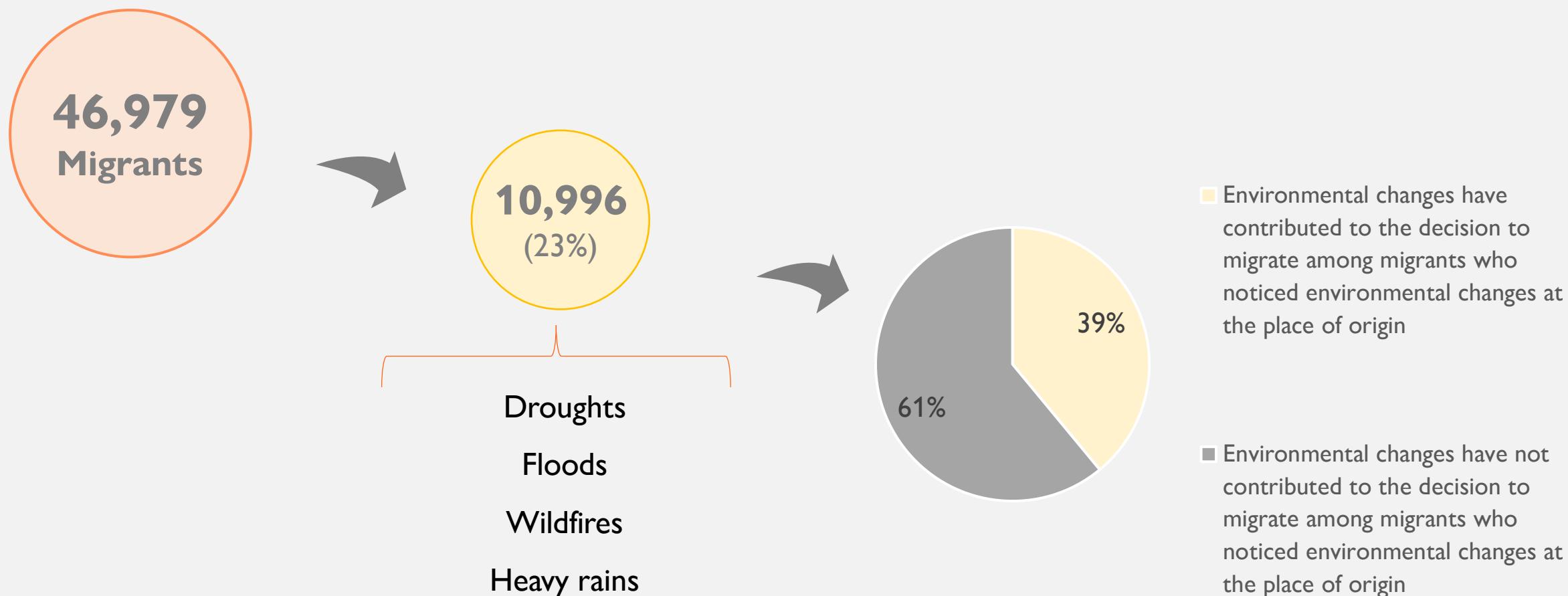
Migrant and refugee arrivals in Europe have changed significantly between 2015 and 2023. In 2015, approximately 857,363 migrants and refugees reached Greece, of which only 1 per cent came from West and Central Africa (WCA). The share of WCA migrants among arrivals in Greece then increased steadily, reaching 5 per cent in 2023. Arrivals of WCA nationals in Italy increased in 2023 to reach 48 per cent of total arrivals in the country. The share of WCA nationals among migrant and refugee arrivals in Spain fluctuated sharply between 2015 and 2023 and increased sharply after 2016 (60% of all arrivals to Spain in 2016 were from WCA, the highest observed). In 2023, the share of WCA nationals has increased to 28 per cent. The drop in the share of WCA nationals arriving in Spain between 2019 and 2020 is partly explained by the lack of data on nationality for the months of October to December 2020. **Between January and September 2023, irregular arrivals in Spain have seen an increase compared to the same period in 2022. In parallel, the number of arrivals of irregular migrants in Italy between January and September 2023 increased by 48 per cent compared to the same period in 2022.**

BY INTENDED DESTINATION

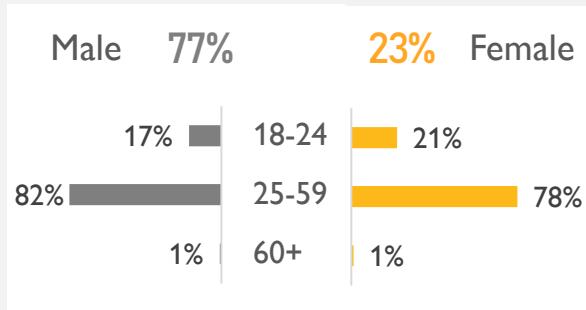
	SEX AND AGE*	SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE**	TRANSPORTATION**	MODALITIES*
EUROPE	 Men 49%	 Married 15%	 None 5%	 Bus 76%
	 Women 24%	 Single 81%	 Primary 26%	 Car/taxi 5%
	 Boys 15%	Unemployed 56%	Secondary lower 24%	 Truck 17%
	 Girls 12%	Self-employed 38%	Secondary upper 28%	
	Employed 6%			 Travel alone 33%
				 With a group 67%
NORTH AFRICA	 Men 68%	 Married 29%	 None 25%	 Bus 7%
	 Women 16%	 Single 66%	 Primary 31%	 Car/taxi 72%
	 Boys 10%	Unemployed 82%	Secondary lower 20%	 Truck 14%
	 Girls 6%	Self-employed 16%	Secondary upper 10%	
	Employed 1%			 Travel alone 40%
				 With a group 60%
WCA	 Men 55%	 Married 59%	 None 30%	 Bus 68%
	 Women 29%	 Single 36%	 Primary 31%	 Car/taxi 23%
	 Boys 8%	Unemployed 33%	Secondary lower 20%	 Truck 6%
	 Girls 8%	Self-employed 34%	Secondary upper 9%	
	Employed 16%			 Travel alone 44%
				 With a group 56%

Travellers moving within West and Central Africa, headed for North Africa, and migrating to Europe showcase significant differences in age, marital status, education level and employment status prior to travel (in their country of habitual residence). The unemployment rate of travellers also varies according to the nature of the movements and the intended destination: migration to a country in West and Central Africa is more likely to be conducted in response to concrete job opportunities than migration to Europe or North Africa. The profile of travellers (individuals crossing IOM Flow Monitoring Points) by intended destination presented on this page is based on data collected during **Flow Monitoring Surveys conducted with over 67,295 travellers** across the region **between January and December 2023**. Further information on the methodology is available at the end of this document (pages 29 and 30).

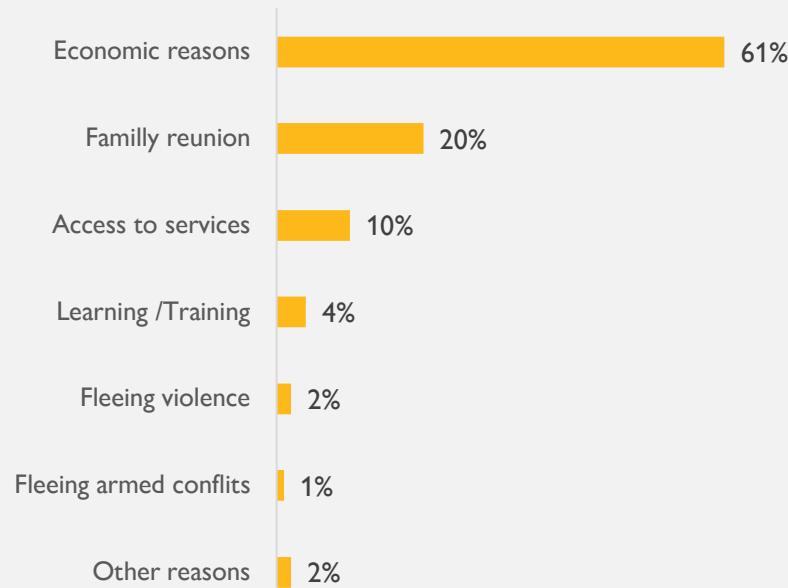
Among 46,979 individuals surveyed in Niger, Mali and Cameroon between January and December 2023, **10,996 (23%) noticed environmental changes and/or disaster at their place of origin.** The main environmental changes reported were droughts (27%), floods (24%), heavy rains (15%) and wildfires (13%). **Of these 10,996 individuals, 39 per cent declared environmental changes or disasters have impacted their decision to migrate.**



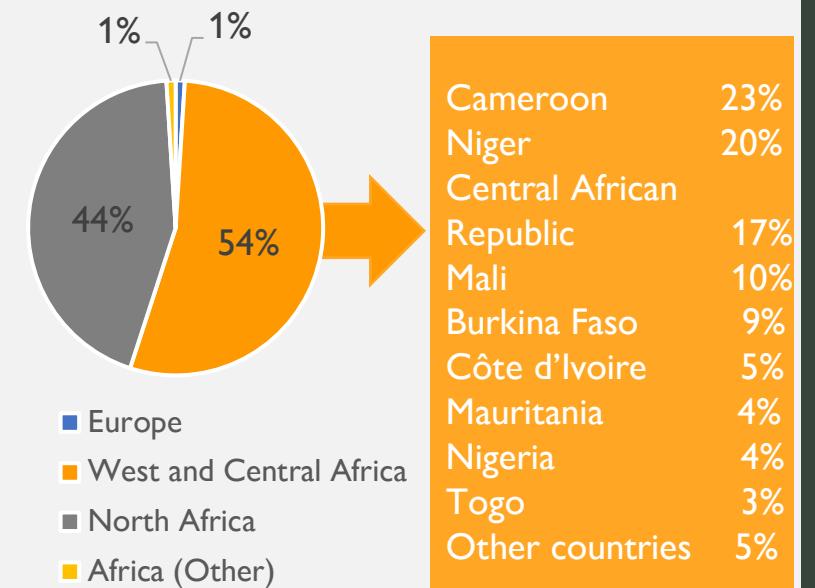
SEX AND AGE OF TRAVELLERS



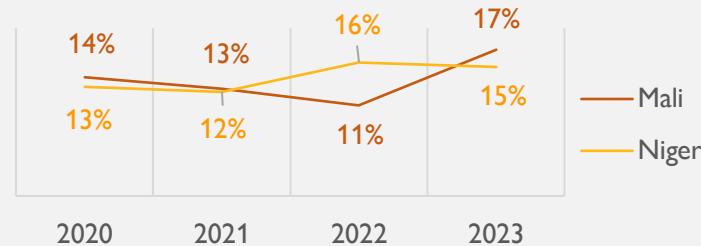
REASONS FOR TRAVEL



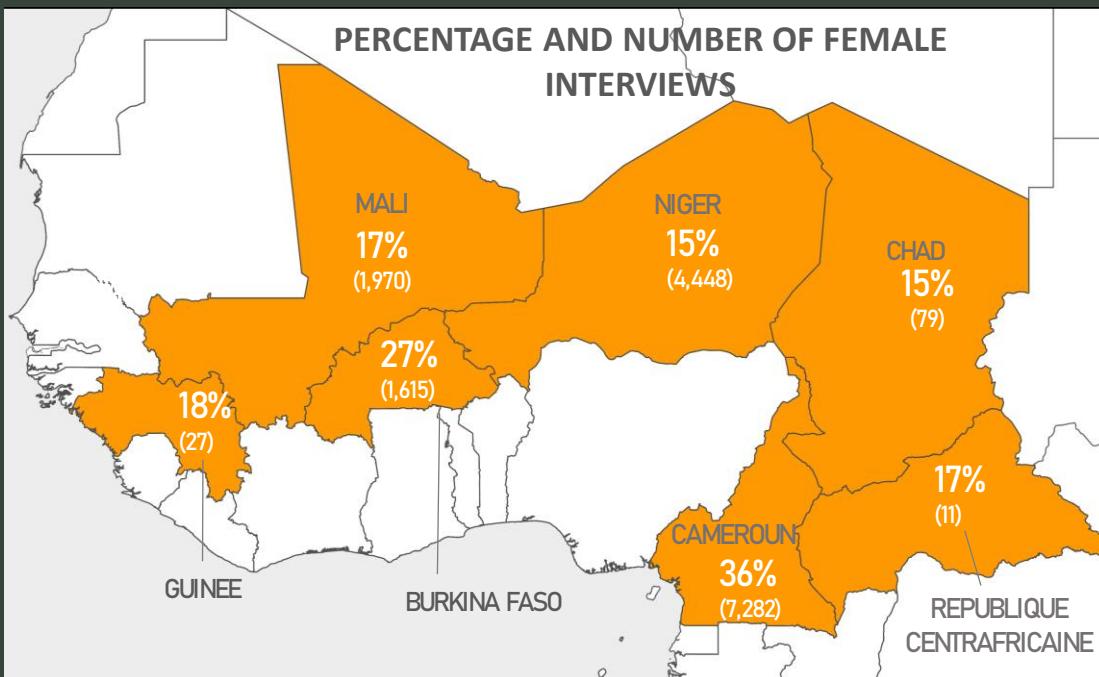
REGIONS OF FINAL INTENDED DESTINATION



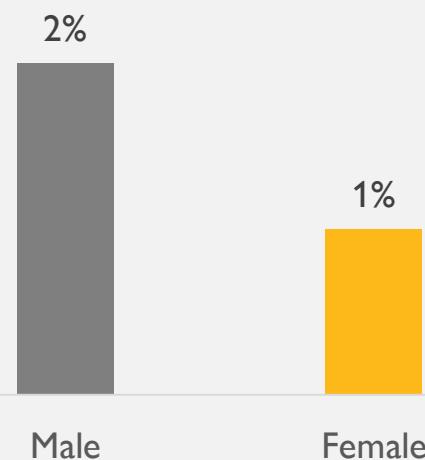
EVOLUTION OF WOMEN ON THE MOVE (MALI/NIGER)



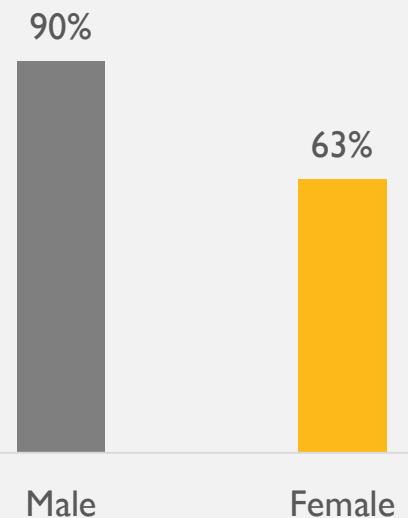
PERCENTAGE AND NUMBER OF FEMALE INTERVIEWS



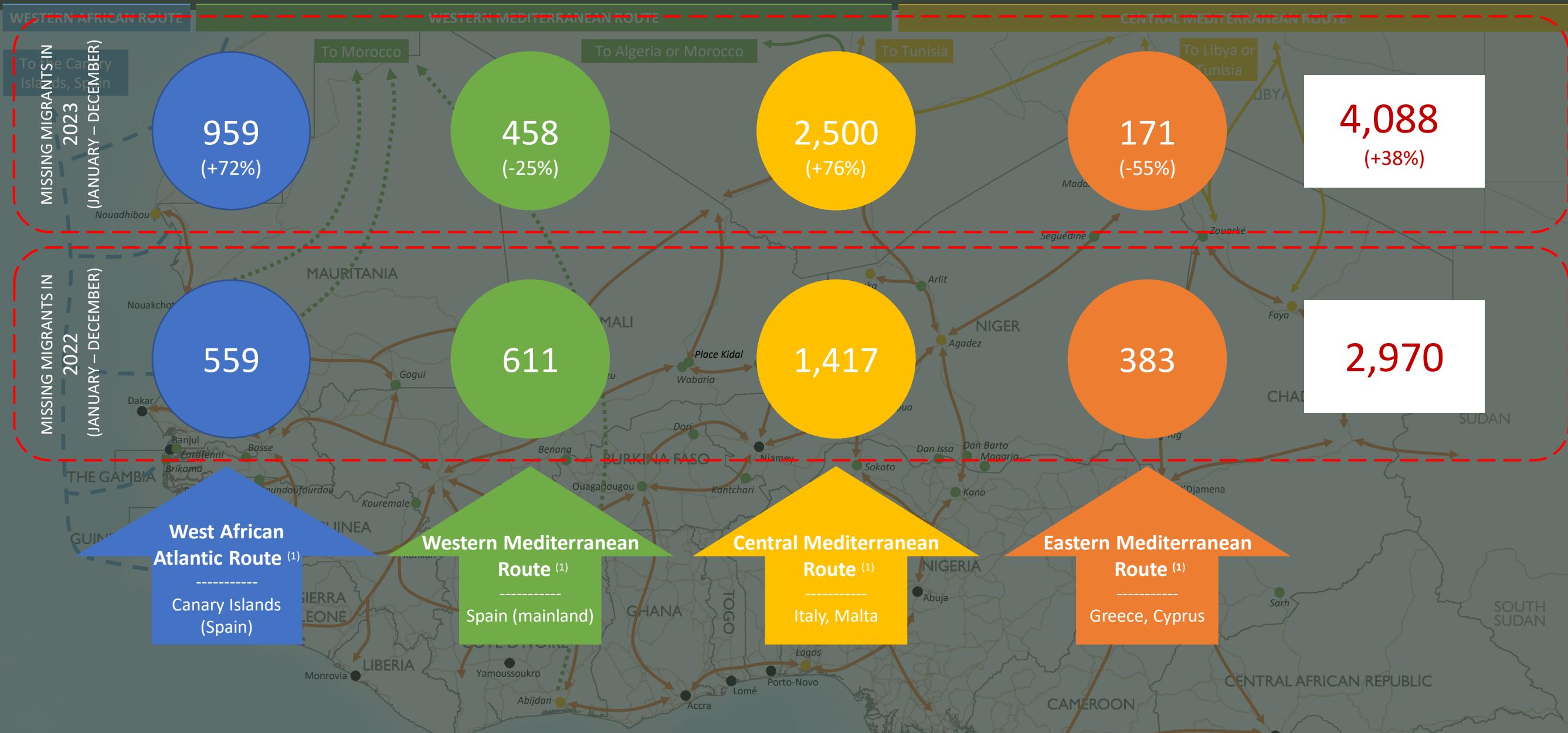
PERCENTAGE OF SELF-IDENTIFIED VICTIMS OF FORCED LABOUR



ID POSSESSION AMONG FORCED WORKERS

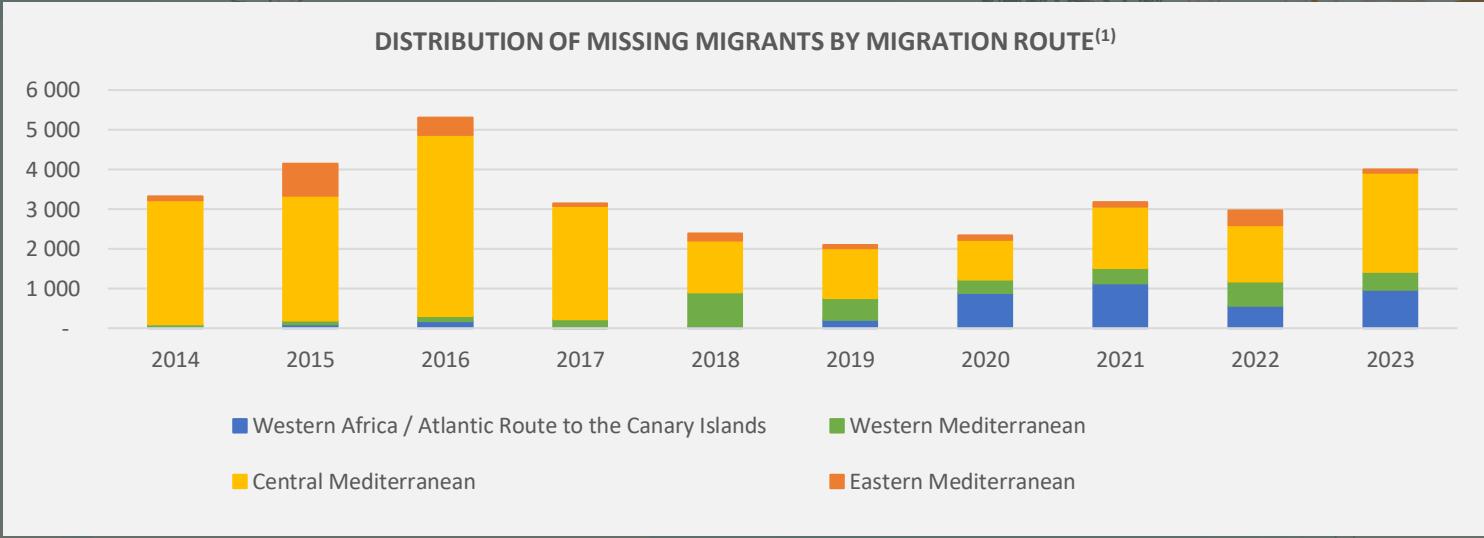


Of the migrants interviewed in WCA in 2023, 23 per cent were women. Most of them (78%) were between 25 and 59 years old. A significant proportion (21%) were youth, aged 18 to 24 years old. In Mali and Niger, the migration of women has increased over the past years; by 3 per cent in Mali and 2 per cent in Niger since 2020. Women travellers moving within WCA are mostly from Cameroon (23%), the Central African Republic (23%), and Nigeria (14%). Most of the interviewed women were heading to countries in WCA (54%), while 45 per cent were traveling to North Africa and Europe. Additionally, 61 per cent of women travellers were moving on account of economic reasons, while 20 per cent were moving for family reunions and 10 per cent for access to services. Three per cent of interviewed women mentioned they were fleeing conflicts or violence as a reason for moving. **The percentage of interviews conducted with women varies widely, from 36 per cent in Cameroon, to 15 per cent in Chad, reflecting the different migrant gender profiles in each WCA country.** During interviews conducted in Chad, 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 who reported being victims of forced labour, only 63 per cent possessed identification documents. The main reasons given for the lack of documentation among women 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%).



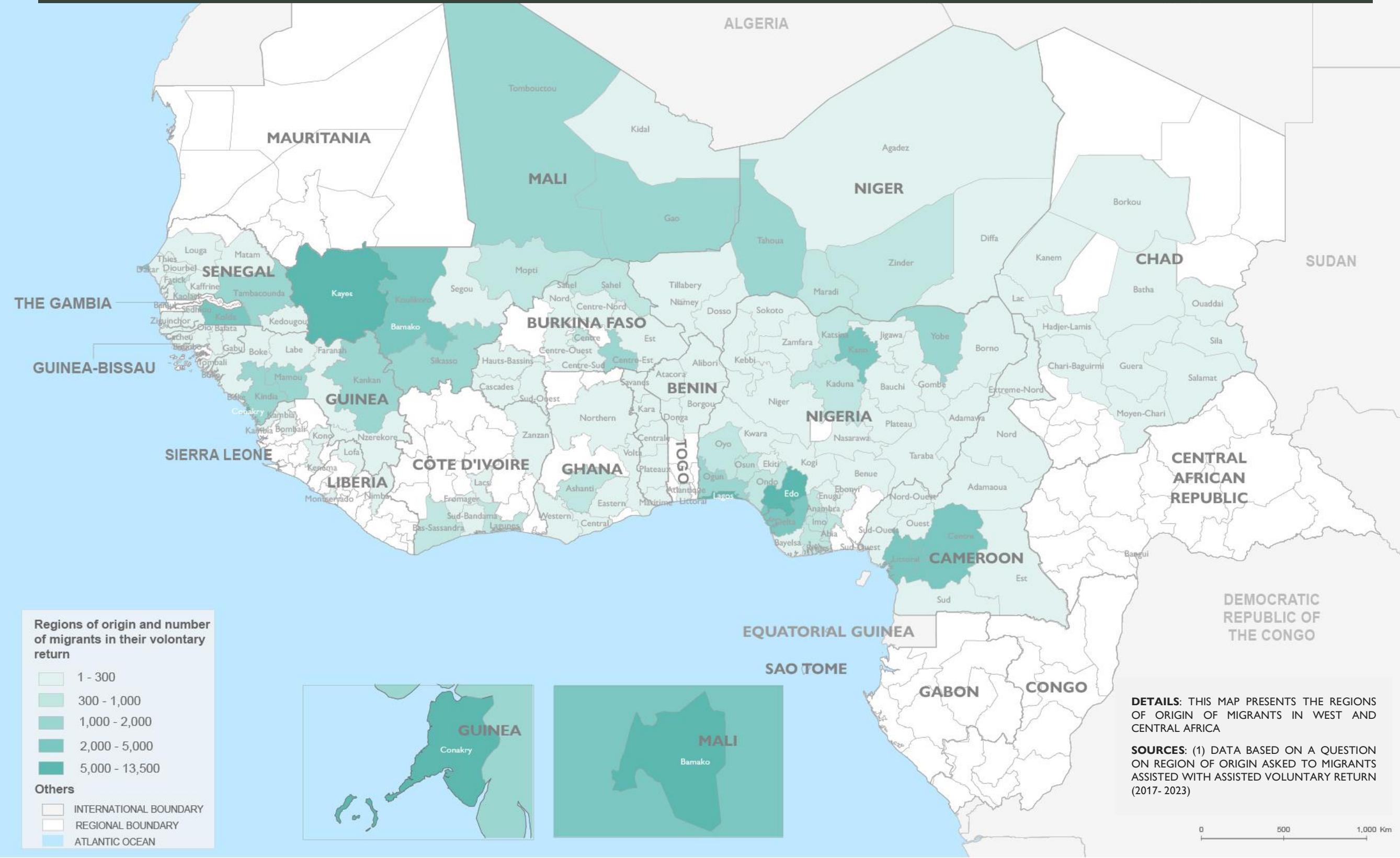
DETAILS: THIS VISUAL PRESENTS THE NUMBERS OF DEAD AND MISSING MIGRANTS RECORDED ALONG THE FOUR MAIN MIGRATION ROUTES TO EUROPE BETWEEN JANUARY AND DECEMBER 2023, COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 2022.

SOURCES: (1) MISSING MIGRANTS PROJECT DATA FOR 2022 AND 2023, GLOBAL MIGRATION DATA ANALYSIS CENTER, IOM.



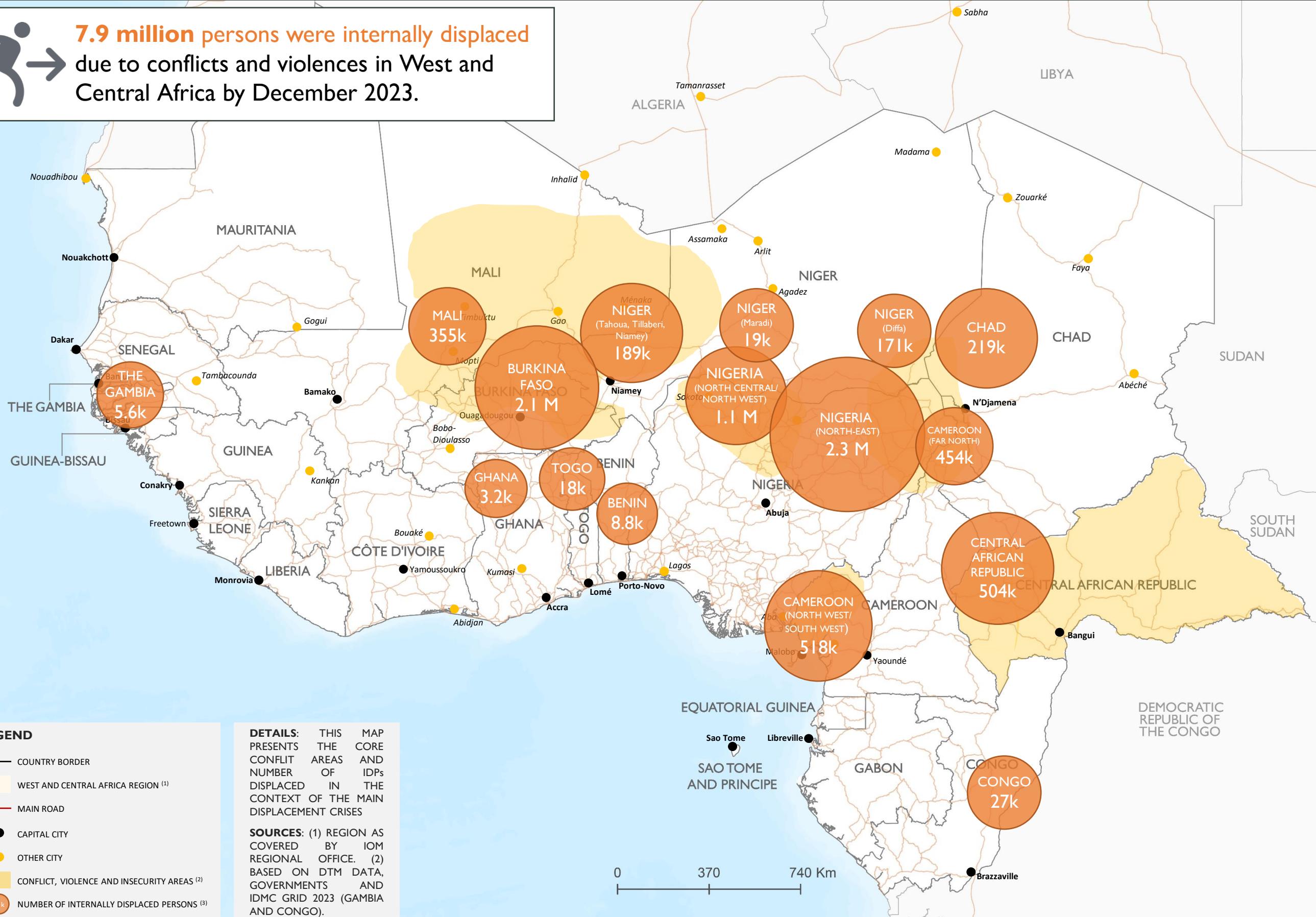
Between January and December 2023, the number of migrants who died or disappeared along the Central Mediterranean, Western Mediterranean, West African Atlantic and Eastern Mediterranean routes **(4,088)** increased compared to the same period in 2022 **(2,970)**.

The main **regions of origin** of stranded migrants assisted in their voluntary return by IOM from 2017 to December 2023 are displayed on this map. A large part of migrants assisted to return by IOM are from **Conakry (Guinea), Bamako (Mali), Lagos (Nigeria), and Kayes (Mali)**.



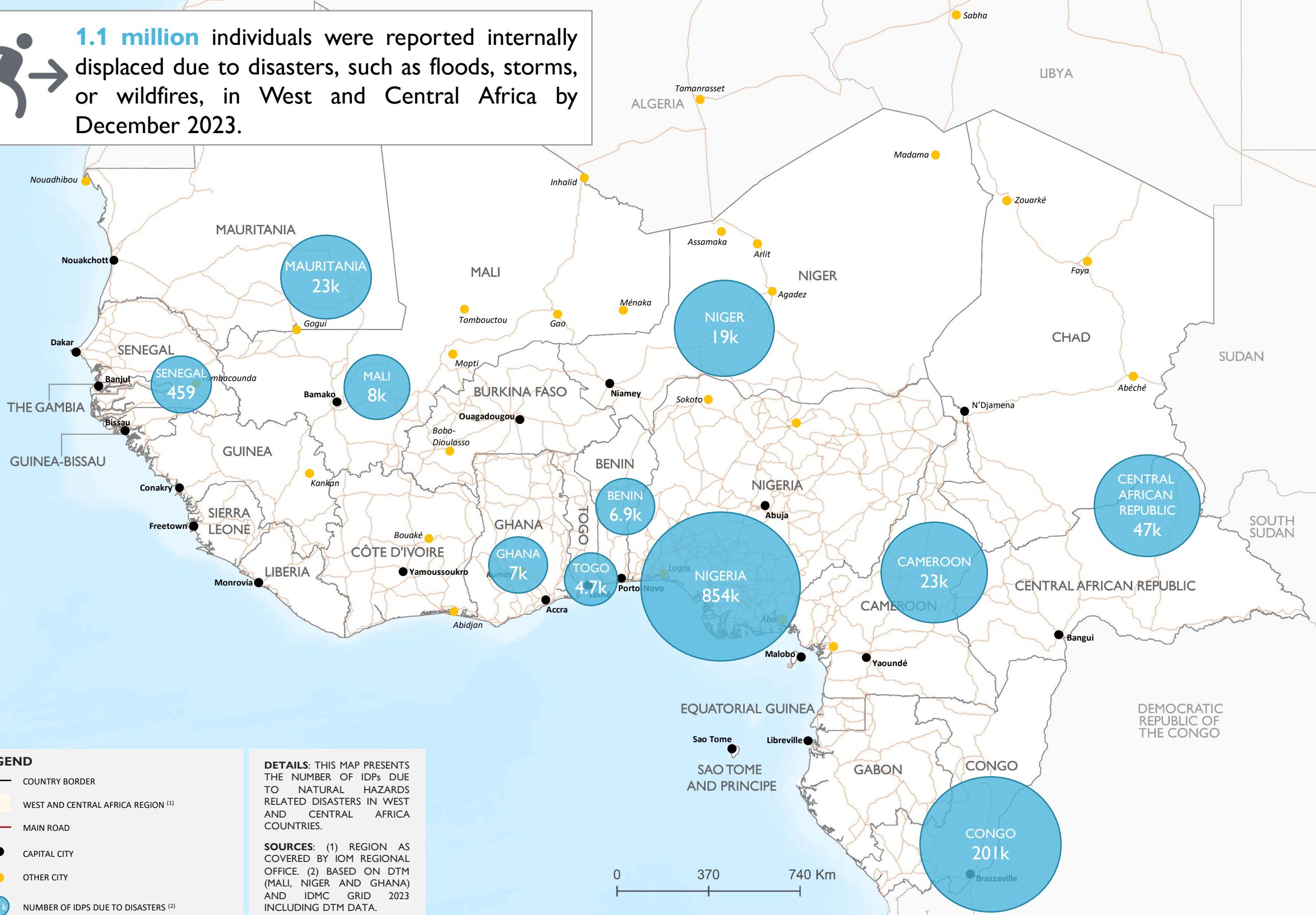


7.9 million persons were internally displaced due to conflicts and violences in West and Central Africa by December 2023.



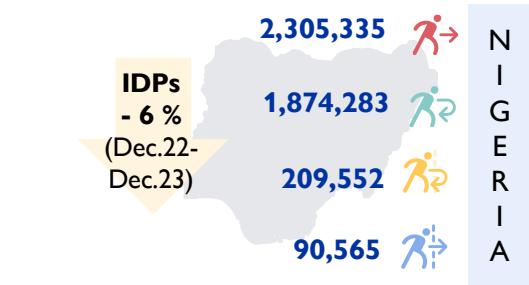
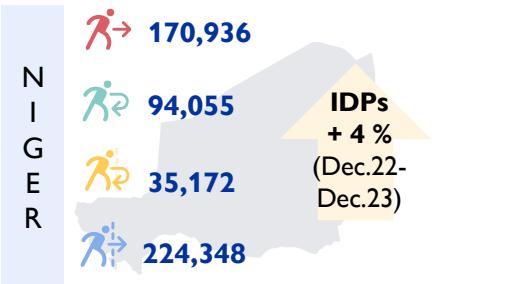
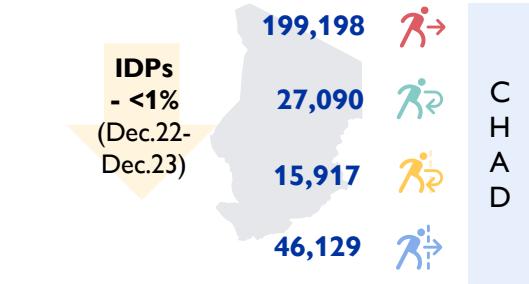
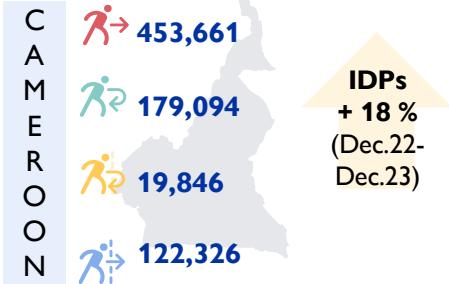


1.1 million individuals were reported internally displaced due to disasters, such as floods, storms, or wildfires, in West and Central Africa by December 2023.



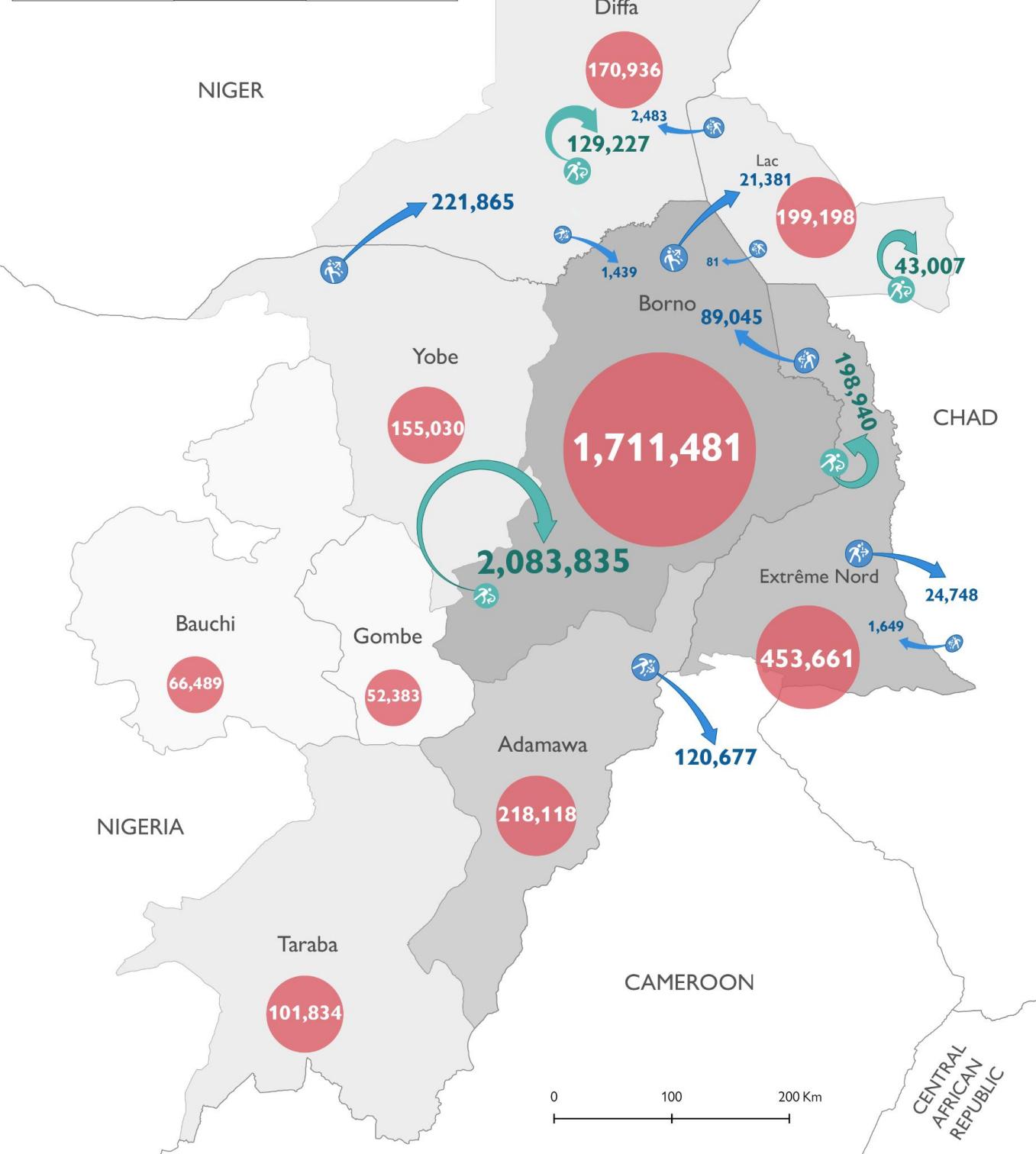
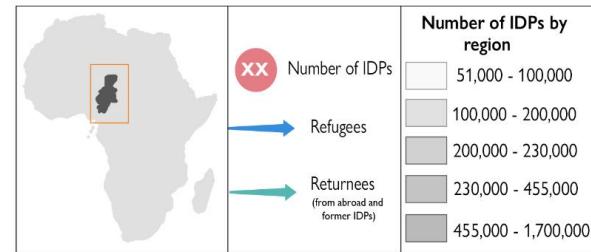


The number of displaced individuals in WCA has overall increased between December 2022 and December 2023 due to the situation in the Lake Chad Basin.



- 3,129,130 IDPs (51%)** - 2 % (Dec.22-Dec.23)
- 2,174,522 Returnees former IDPs (36%)** + 9 % (Dec.22-Dec.23)
- 280,487 Returnees from abroad (5%)** + 16 % (Dec.22-Dec.23)
- 483,368 Refugees (8%)** + 3 % (Dec.22-Dec.23)

The crisis currently affecting the Lake Chad Basin states results from a complex combination of factors, including conflict with non-state armed groups, extreme poverty, underdevelopment and a changing climate, which together have triggered significant displacement of populations. As of December 2023, Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria were hosting an estimated **6,067,507 affected individuals** made up of internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees (former IDPs and returnees from abroad) and refugees (both in- and out-of-camp).



SOURCES : DTM CAMEROON, ROUND 27 (AUGUST 2023). DTM CHAD, ROUND 21 (DEC. 2023). DTM NIGER, VAS (DEC. 2023). DTM NIGERIA, IDP ATLAS (DEC. 2023). UNHCR REFUGEES DATA (DEC. 2023).

BENIN	8,785	1,114
BURKINA FASO	2,062,534	37,596
COTE D'IVOIRE	36,729	
GHANA	3,158	4,021
MALI	354,739	64,729
MAURITANIA	104,324	
NIGER	189,235	98,023
TOGO	18,429	27,876

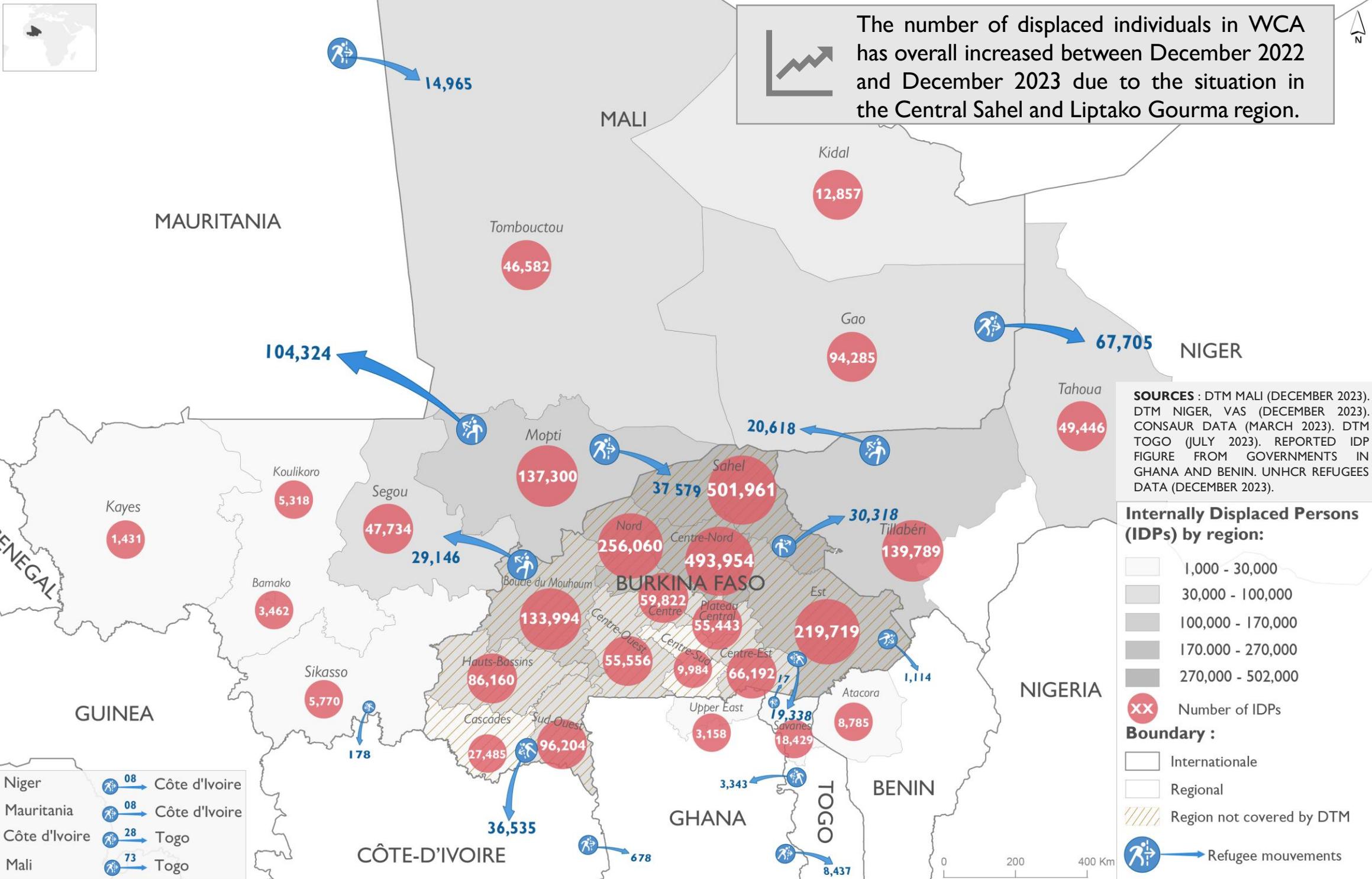
2,636,880
IDPs
(88%)

+ 8 %
(Dec.22-Dec.23)

374,412
Refugees
(12%)

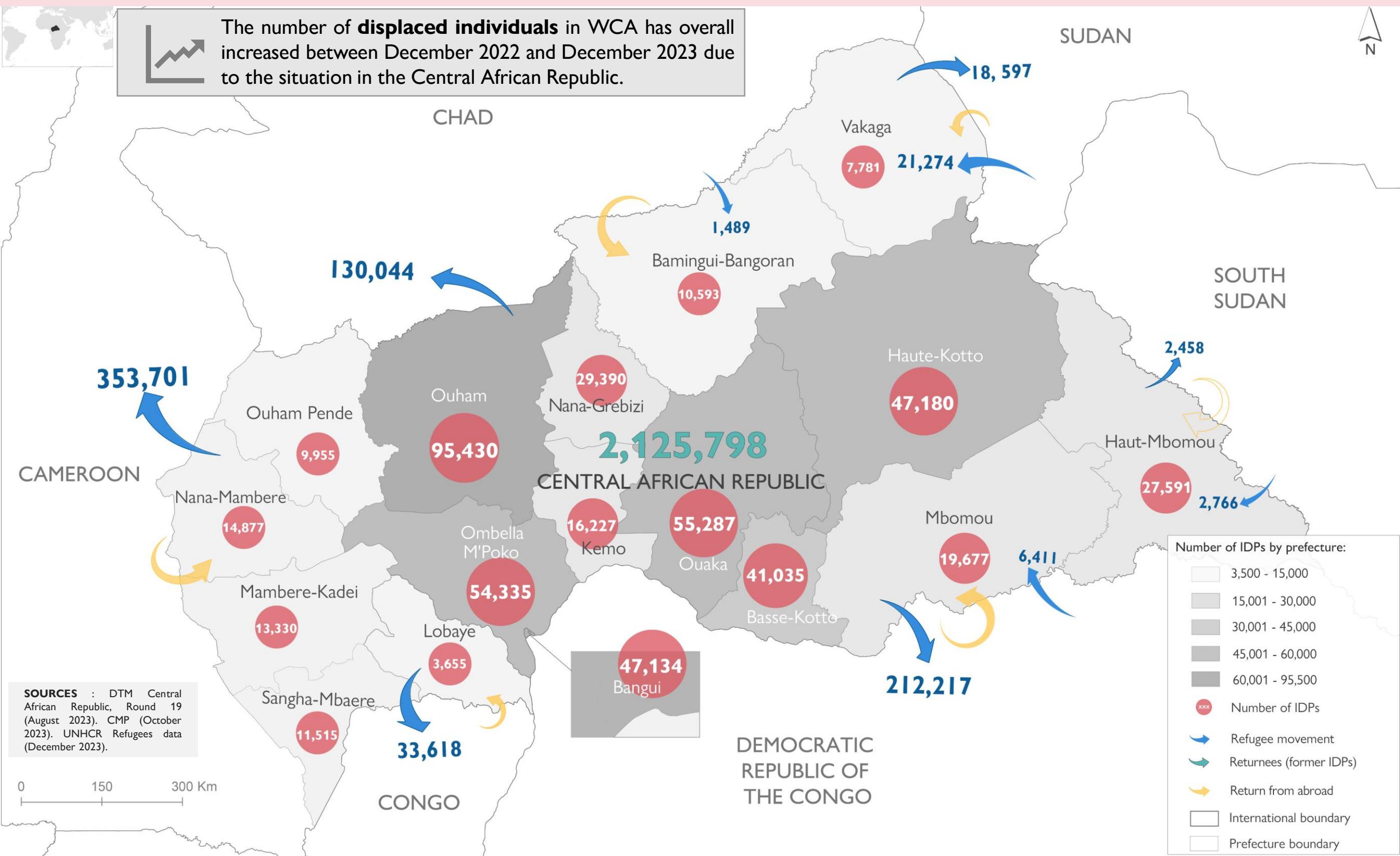
+ 28 %
(Dec.22-Dec.23)

The Central Sahel area, and in particular the Liptako Gourma region, which borders Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, is affected by a complex crisis involving growing competition over dwindling resources; climatic variability; demographic pressure; high levels of poverty; disaffection and a lack of livelihood opportunities; communal tensions; the absence of state institutions and basic services; and violence related to organized crime and non-state armed groups. The crisis has triggered significant displacement of populations in the concerned countries and is affecting neighbouring countries such as Mauritania and the coastal countries, namely Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo and Benin.



 504,992 IDPs (13%)	 2,125,798 Returnees former IDPs (54%)	 513,037 Returnees from abroad (13%)	 782,575 Refugees (20%)
 - 2 % (Dec.22- Dec.23)	 + 13 % (Dec.22- Dec.23)	 + 15 % (Dec.22- Dec.23)	 + 4 % (Dec.22- Dec.23)

The number of **displaced individuals** in WCA has overall increased between December 2022 and December 2023 due to the situation in the Central African Republic.



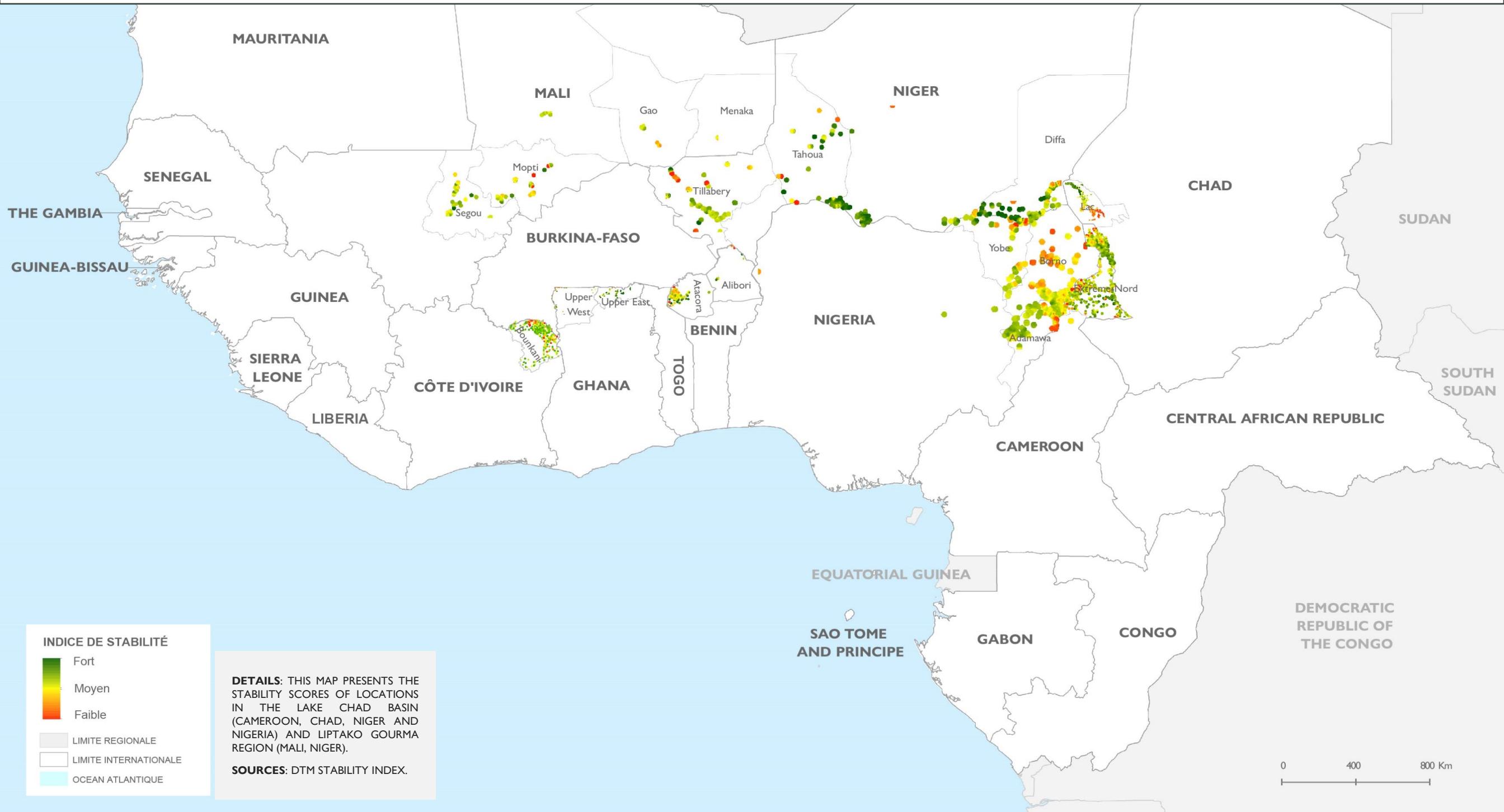
SOURCES : DTM Central African Republic, Round 19 (August 2023). CMP (October 2023). UNHCR Refugees data (December 2023).



Number of IDPs by prefecture:

- 3,500 - 15,000
- 15,001 - 30,000
- 30,001 - 45,000
- 45,001 - 60,000
- 60,001 - 95,500
- Number of IDPs
- Refugee movement
- Returnees (former IDPs)
- Return from abroad
- International boundary
- Prefecture boundary

Durable solutions to forced displacement require **strong, secure and stable security conditions, access to livelihoods and services as well as sustained social cohesion**. IOM implements the Solutions and Mobility Index (SMI) to evaluate the stability of living conditions in regions hosting displaced populations by calculating a **stability score** for each location, identifying pockets of stability and instability and thereby prioritizing humanitarian, development and peacebuilding programmes. As of December 2023, for the locations in the **Lake Chad Basin**, **Cameroon** had an average stability score of **77/100**, **Chad** of **70/100**, **Niger** of **73/100** and **Nigeria** of **90/100**. For the **Central Sahel and Liptako Gourma region**, **Mali** had an average stability score of **64/100**, and **Niger** of **65/100**. In the coastal countries, affected by the spillover of the Central Sahel crisis, **Côte d'Ivoire** had an average stability score of **73/100**, **Ghana** of **93/100** and **Benin** of **54/100**. Additionally, the SMI was implemented in the **Central African Republic**, which had an average stability score of **74/100** for the localities covered, and in the **Maradi region in Niger** with an average score of **88/100** for the covered localities.



INDICE DE STABILITÉ

- Fort
- Moyen
- Faible

LIMITE REGIONALE
 LIMITE INTERNATIONALE
 OCEAN ATLANTIQUE

DETAILS: THIS MAP PRESENTS THE STABILITY SCORES OF LOCATIONS IN THE LAKE CHAD BASIN (CAMEROON, CHAD, NIGER AND NIGERIA) AND LIPTAKO GOURMA REGION (MALI, NIGER).

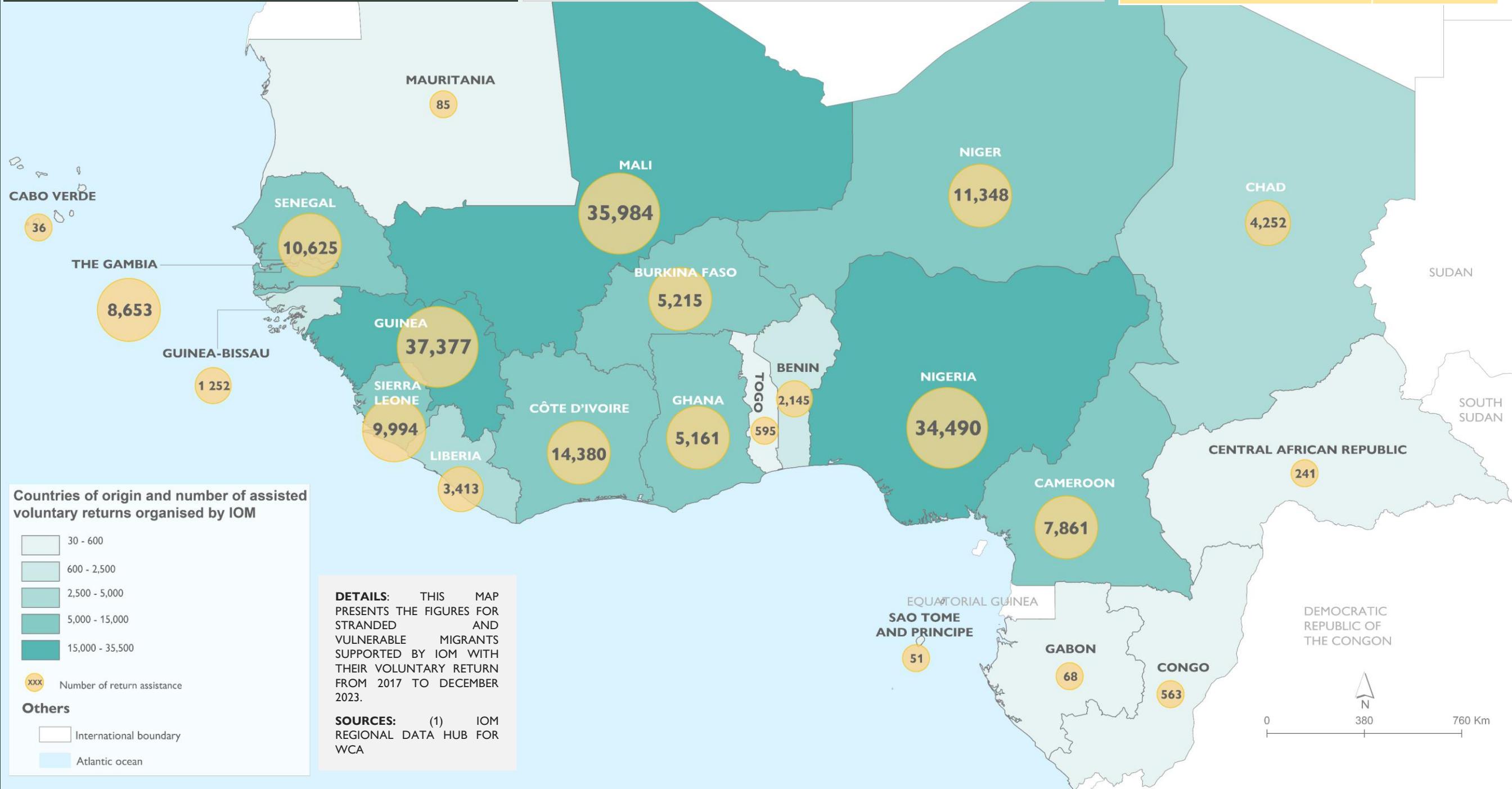
SOURCES: DTM STABILITY INDEX.

IOM is assisting stranded migrants who wish to return to their country of origin. Between January 2017 and December 2023, **193,789** migrants benefited from IOM assistance and comprehensive programmes to save lives, protect and assist migrants along key migration routes in West and Central Africa. A total of **30,247** migrants benefited from this assistance between January and December 2023.



MAIN SENDING COUNTRIES (January 2017 - December 2023)

NIGER	83,784
LIBYA	60,162
MOROCCO	11,657
ALGERIA	7,282
MALI	6,336



VOLUNTARY RETURNS (2023)

25% of assisted unaccompanied or separated children were from Guinea.

67% of assisted victims of trafficking were from Nigeria.

32% of migrants with health-related needs were from Nigeria.

Category	Female	Male	Total
Migrants assisted in their voluntary return	6,229	24,068	30,297
Assisted unaccompanied/separated children	56	155	211
Assisted victims of trafficking	890	195	1,095
Migrants with health-related needs assisted	663	1,038	1,701

EXPELLED MIGRANTS

18,043

is the total number of migrants expelled from Algeria back to the Niger in 2023, with March and October marking pics exceeding 3,000 expulsions each month.

17,278

Nigerien returned to Niger on official convoys from Algeria between January and December 2023.

769

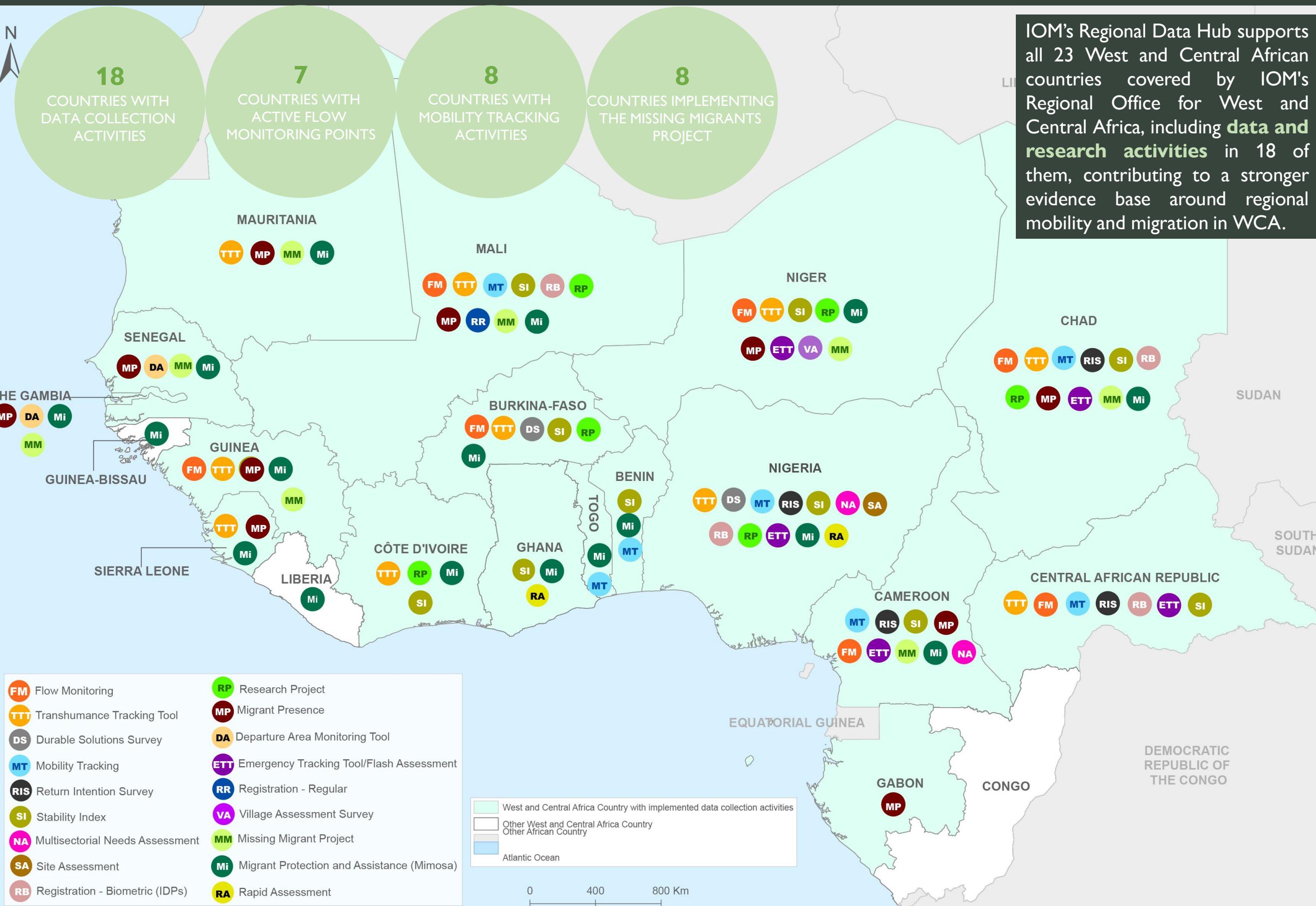
migrants expelled from Libya to Chad between January and December 2023, representing a 91 per cent increase since 2022.

COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

GUINEA	22%
MALI	18%
NIGERIA	16%
OTHERS	44%

RETURNS FROM

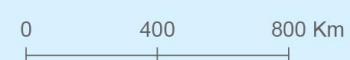
NIGER	43%
LIBYA	24%
ALGERIA	8%
OTHERS	26%



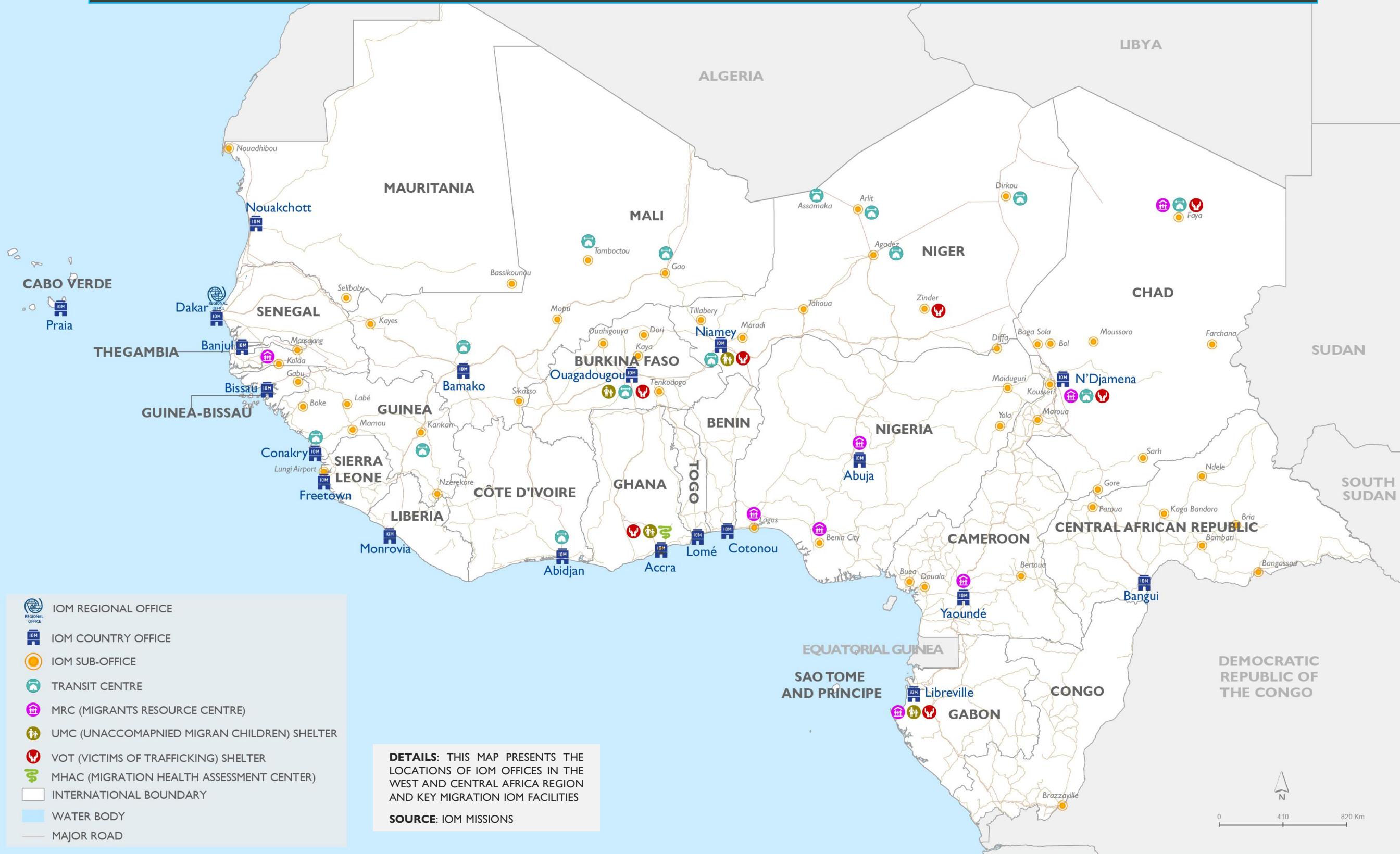
IOM's Regional Data Hub supports all 23 West and Central African countries covered by IOM's Regional Office for West and Central Africa, including **data and research activities** in 18 of them, contributing to a stronger evidence base around regional mobility and migration in WCA.

- | | |
|---|--|
| FM Flow Monitoring | RP Research Project |
| TTT Transhumance Tracking Tool | MP Migrant Presence |
| DS Durable Solutions Survey | DA Departure Area Monitoring Tool |
| MT Mobility Tracking | ETT Emergency Tracking Tool/Flash Assessment |
| RIS Return Intention Survey | RR Registration - Regular |
| SI Stability Index | VA Village Assessment Survey |
| NA Multisectorial Needs Assessment | MM Missing Migrant Project |
| SA Site Assessment | Mi Migrant Protection and Assistance (Mimososa) |
| RB Registration - Biometric (IDPs) | RA Rapid Assessment |

West and Central Africa Country with implemented data collection activities
 Other West and Central Africa Country
 Other African Country
 Atlantic Ocean



IOM counts **20 country offices** in West and Central Africa as well as more than **53 sub-offices**. Transit centers, Migrants Resources Centers and shelter for victims of trafficking and unaccompanied migrant children are active in eleven countries.



- IOM REGIONAL OFFICE
- IOM COUNTRY OFFICE
- IOM SUB-OFFICE
- TRANSIT CENTRE
- MRC (MIGRANTS RESOURCE CENTRE)
- UMC (UNACCOMPANIED MIGRANT CHILDREN) SHELTER
- VOT (VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING) SHELTER
- MHAC (MIGRATION HEALTH ASSESSMENT CENTER)
- INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY
- WATER BODY
- MAJOR ROAD

DETAILS: THIS MAP PRESENTS THE LOCATIONS OF IOM OFFICES IN THE WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA REGION AND KEY MIGRATION IOM FACILITIES

SOURCE: IOM MISSIONS



NOTES ON METHODOLOGY I

This section provides additional details on data sources used in this report.

DATA ON RETURNS THROUGH ASSISTED VOLUNTARY AND HUMANITARIAN RETURN PROGRAMMES

DESCRIPTION: Data collected on the regions of origin of migrants provides details on individuals assisted in voluntary or humanitarian return by IOM. It does not necessarily present the origins of all migrants moving in WCA and focuses on a very specific migrant population (those trying to move to other regions)

FLOW MONITORING

COUNTRIES: BURKINA FASO, CAMEROON, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, CHAD, GUINEA, MALI, NIGER

DESCRIPTION: At Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs), enumerators collect information on the number, frequency and defining features of individuals transiting through a particular location. Before the establishment of an FMP, areas of high mobility are identified following discussions with national and local actors. The locations at which FMPs are set up, key points of transit such as border points or coach stations, are then identified based on participatory mapping of main migration routes conducted in partnership with national and local authorities. Between January and December 2023, 30 FMPs have been active in seven countries of the West and Central Africa region.

Data is collected at FMPs using two main tools: Flow Monitoring Registry (FMR) and 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. A similar methodology is used in other regions (Horn of Africa and Europe) to allow for comparative analysis of flows and individuals' characteristics.

The data should not be generalized and does not present a full picture of inter- and intra-regional migration, but rather a snapshot of migration flows at specific locations during a specific interval of coverage. For instance, while IOM aims to establish Flow Monitoring Points at locations with high transit flows (based on information from key informants), flows are changing, and FMPs can only provide a partial picture.

MOBILITY TRACKING

COUNTRIES: CAMEROON, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, CHAD, MALI, NIGER, NIGERIA

DESCRIPTION: Mobility tracking aims to quantify presence of population categories, reasons for displacement, length of displacement and needs within defined locations, with a frequency that captures mobility dynamics. This component is well suited to quantifying groups of people, whether internally displaced, migrants in transit locations, stranded migrants or other populations of concern. Its approach is highly customizable: it can be light-touch or in-depth depending on the phase and requirements of the response, and often increases in depth and detail over successive rounds. Mobility tracking can be established quickly and is suitable for covering large areas,

including nationwide coverage. It is better suited for populations with some base level of stability and predictability of location, rather than highly mobile populations. However, in and out movement is routinely captured, and the event tracking tool can supplement to mitigate this limitation.

SOLUTIONS AND MOBILITY INDEX

COUNTRIES: BENIN, CAMEROON, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, CÔTE D'IVOIRE, CHAD, GHANA, MALI, NIGER, NIGERIA

DESCRIPTION: The Solutions and Mobility Index combines more than 60 key indicators of stability to calculate a single Stability Score for each covered location. These indicators relate to four key themes crucial to stability: safety and security, livelihoods and basic services, social cohesion and resilience to disasters. Indicators for each of these themes are grouped to create sub-indexes to facilitate the comparison of localities by theme. These indicators, taken in aggregate, highlight areas that are conducive to durable solutions for internal displacement, as well as unstable areas that may require humanitarian intervention. Questions about the perception of stability in the community and whether members of the community plan to leave in the next six months are used to model the relationship between the Stability Score and community perception.

The Stability Index uses the logistic regression analysis to assess the impact of each indicator on stability, generating a score for each location determined within a 0 to 100 range. It includes data collected through key informant interviews at the locality level.

NOTES ON METHODOLOGY II

TRANSHUMANCE TRACKING TOOL

COUNTRIES: BURKINA FASO, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, COTE D'IVOIRE, GUINEA, MALI, MAURITANIA, NIGER, NIGERIA, SIERRA LEONE, CHAD

DESCRIPTION: Transhumance is a traditional practice by which herders accompany their cattle in search of pasture and water points. It can take place within a country or extend over several countries, over large distances. Climate variation, the difficult economic situation prevailing in the region and environmental degradation have pushed transhumant herders to cover longer distances and change both itineraries and calendars to preserve their livelihood.

The Transhumance Tracking Tool (TTT), developed by IOM, whose data is collected through a network of key informants or enumerators, collects key data on transhumance movements in West and Central Africa, with the aim of supporting data driven policy making as well as the implementation of programs and informing stakeholders on the risks of conflicts linked to transhumance.

This methodology aims to support, strengthen, and harmonize transhumance monitoring within the West and Central African region via its collaboration with various pastoral organizations members of the Billital Maroobé Network (RBM).

The methodology used in the context of the TTT has similarities with the monitoring of populations used by IOM (Flow Monitoring) and combines several tools: participatory mappings, a transhumance flow monitoring, a presence and profile tool, an early warning mechanism and individual surveys.

MISSING MIGRANTS PROJECT

COUNTRIES: CAMEROUN, CHAD, GAMBIA, GUINEA, MALI, MAURITANIA, NIGER, SENEGAL

DESCRIPTION: Missing Migrants Project counts migrants who have died at the external borders of states, or in the process of migration towards an international destination, regardless of their legal status. The Project records only those migrants who die during their journey to a country different from their country of residence.

Missing Migrants Project data include the deaths of migrants who die in transportation accidents, shipwrecks, violent attacks, or due to medical complications during their journeys. It also includes the number of corpses found at border crossings that are categorized as the bodies of migrants, on the basis of belongings and/or the characteristics of the death.

The Missing Migrants Project currently gathers information from diverse sources such as official records – including from coast guards and medical examiners – and other sources such as media reports, NGOs, and surveys and interviews of migrants. In the Mediterranean region, data are relayed from relevant national authorities to IOM field missions, who then share it with the Missing Migrants Project team. Data are also obtained by IOM and other organizations that receive survivors at landing points in Italy and Greece. IOM and UNHCR also regularly coordinate to validate data on missing migrants in the Mediterranean.

There are some limitations to the data available on deaths and disappearances during migration in West and Central Africa. The information available is sparse and rarely contains information on sex, age, and places of disappearance or death. Moreover, there is no perfectly

harmonized data on the number of migrants missing, nor information on the families who are still looking for those lost during their migration.

EXTERNAL SOURCES

ARRIVALS IN ITALY, GREECE AND SPAIN: Data presented on arrivals to Europe is taken from figures provided by Greek, Italian and Spanish national authorities. However, the complete nationality breakdown of migrants is not available; only the top 10 nationalities of arriving migrants is provided. Therefore, nationality figures presented are likely fragmented.

IDMC: The Internal Displacement Monitoring Center is the world's definitive source of data and analysis on internal displacement and provides regular data on internal displacement through its Global internal displacement database and annual report.

UNDESA: The United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) provides regular updates on its migrants' stocks. Data presented does not reflect all migration stocks in each country and is likely underestimating total migrants' population in the region.

REGIONAL DATA HUB FACTSHEETS



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The UN Migration Agency

Regional Office for West and Central Africa

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