

# REGIONAL MOBILITY MAPPING

WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

August 2019



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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 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 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.)

## 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 during: 1) Flow Monitoring, 2) Mobility Tracking, 3) Interviews with individuals who benefited from voluntary returns and reintegration programs (AVRR), 4) Search and Rescue activities conducted in Niger and 5) 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:

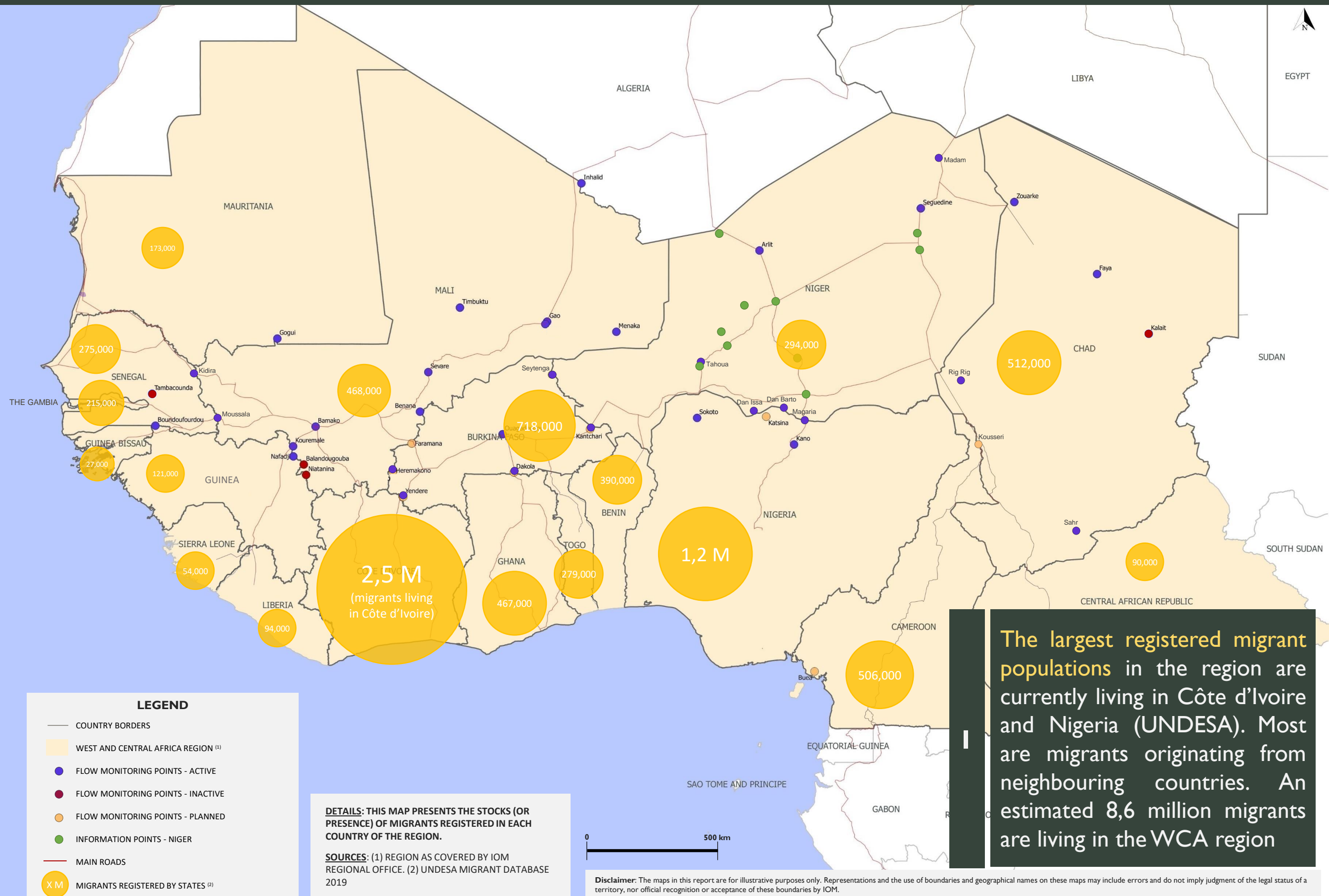
- Flow Monitoring activities in West and Central Africa – [Factsheet](#)
- Mobility Tracking activities in West and Central Africa – [Factsheet](#)
- Assistance to Voluntary Return and Reintegration – [Factsheet](#)
- DTM Quarterly Regional Report - [Report](#)

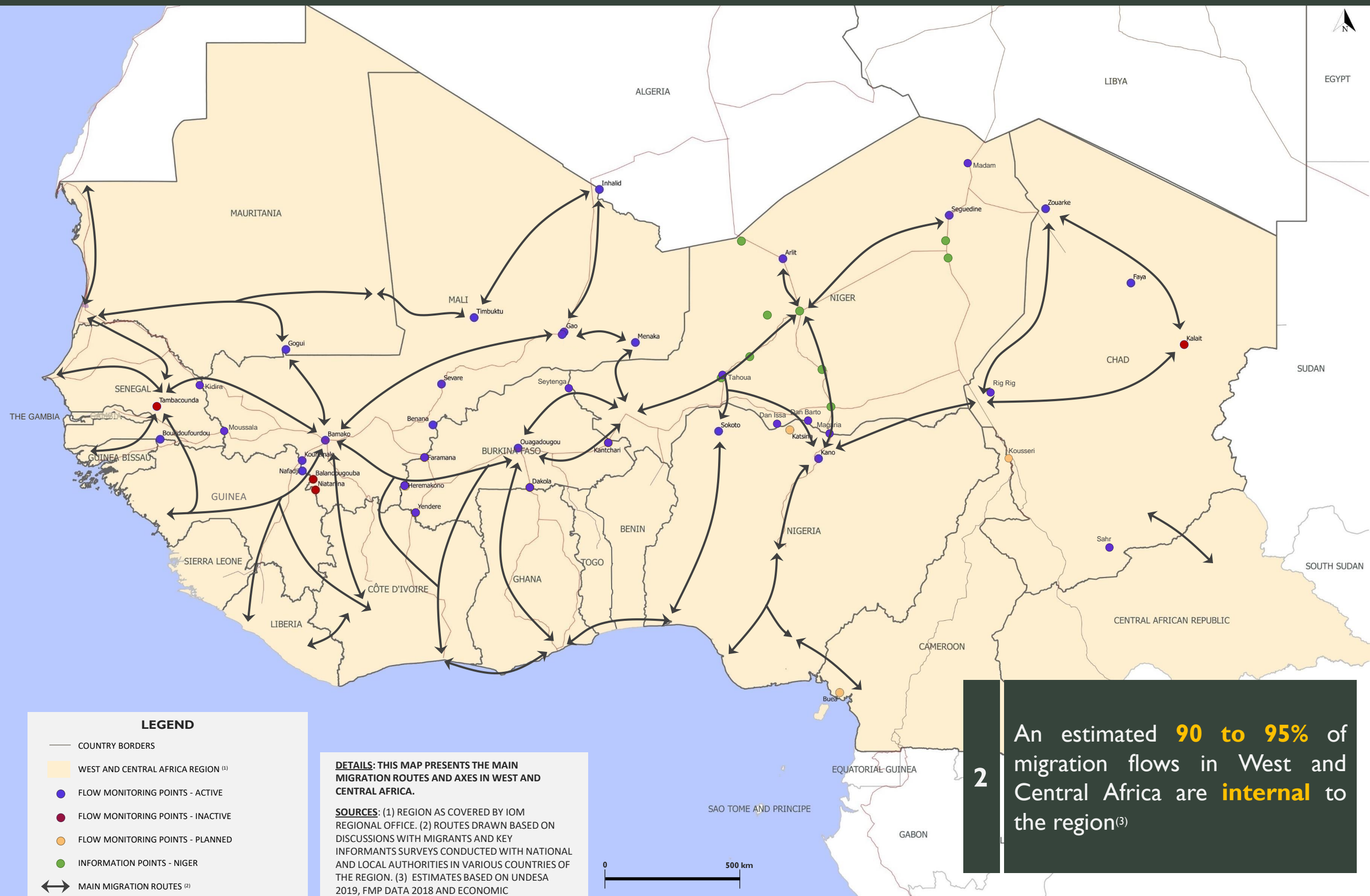
Other data presented in this document is provided by the Ministries of the Interior of Spain, Italy and Greece, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA).

## CONTENT

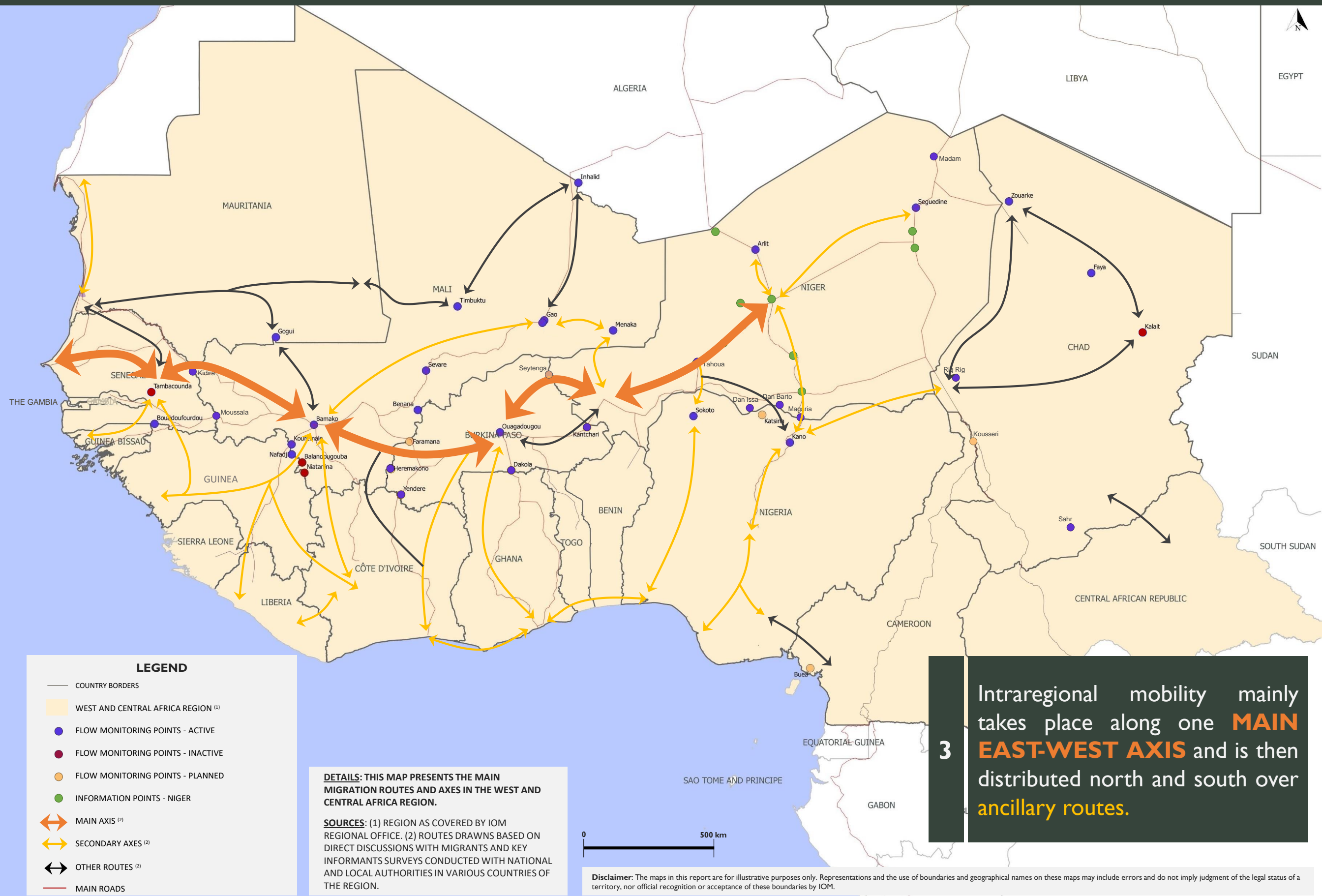
- |                                |                                      |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| • <b>MIGRATION PRESENCE</b>    | • <b>MEDITERRANEAN ROUTES</b>        |
| • <b>MIGRATION FLOWS</b>       | • <b>TRAVELLERS' PROFILES</b>        |
| • <b>MIGRATION ROUTES</b>      | • <b>REGIONS OF ORIGIN</b>           |
| • <b>LABOUR MOBILITY</b>       | • <b>CONFLICT &amp; DISPLACEMENT</b> |
| • <b>TRANSHUMANCE</b>          | • <b>RETURN ASSISTANCE BY IOM</b>    |
| • <b>INTER-REGIONAL TRENDS</b> | • <b>IOM PRESENCE IN THE REGION</b>  |
|                                | • <b>NOTE ON DATA</b>                |

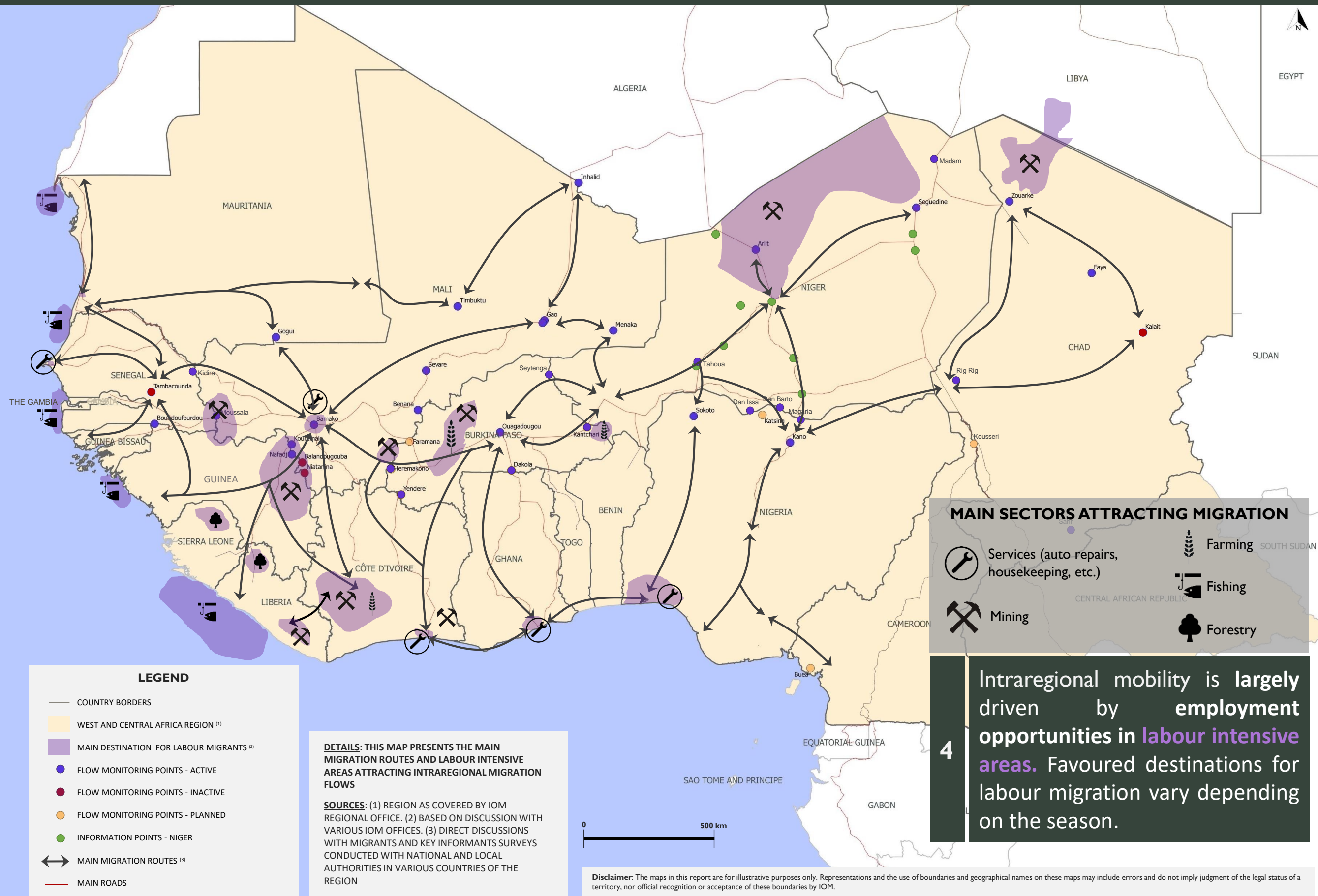




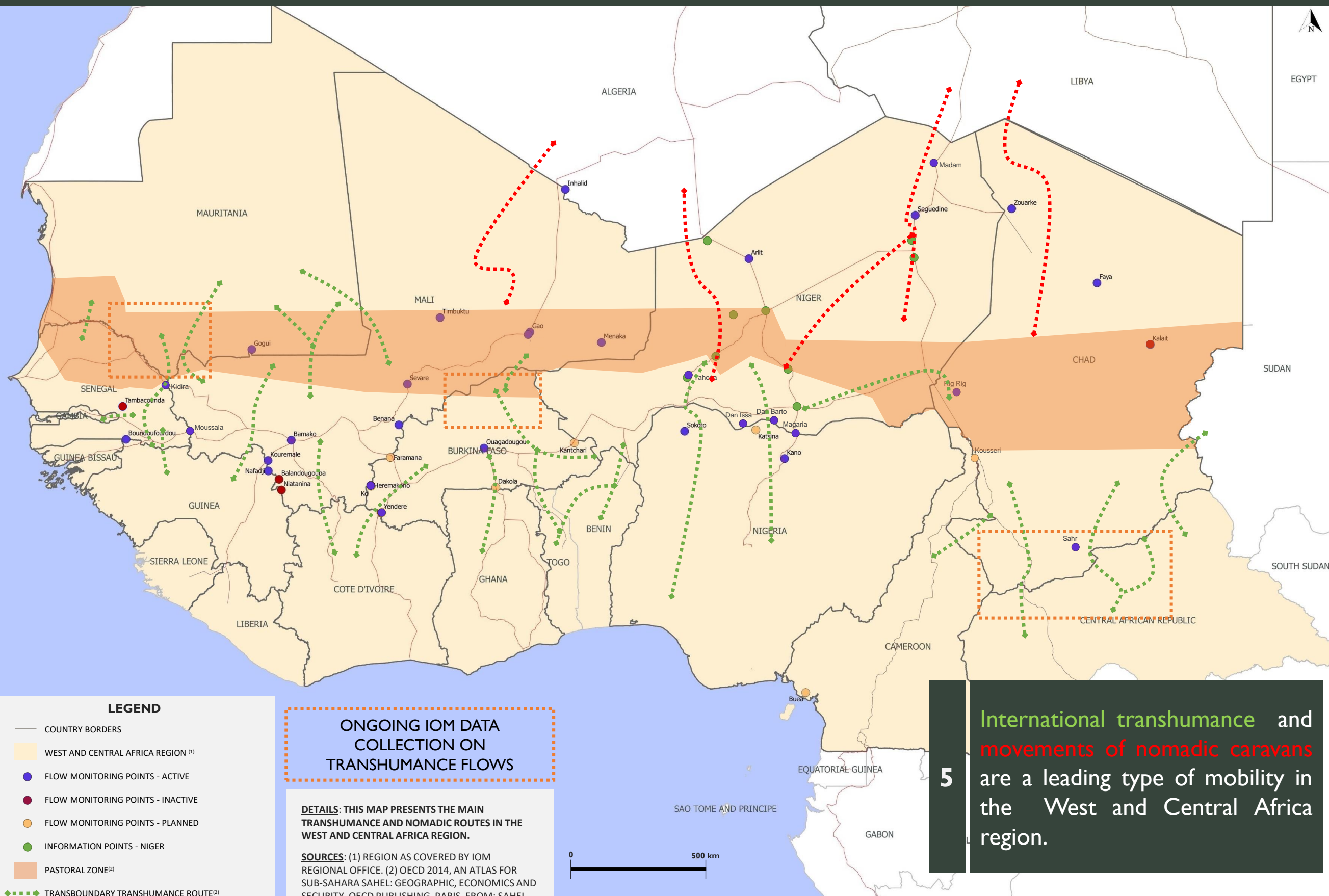












## LEGEND

- COUNTRY BORDERS
- WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA REGION <sup>(1)</sup>
- FLOW MONITORING POINTS - ACTIVE
- FLOW MONITORING POINTS - INACTIVE
- FLOW MONITORING POINTS - PLANNED
- INFORMATION POINTS - NIGER
- PASTORAL ZONE <sup>(2)</sup>
- ◆◆◆◆◆ TRANSBOUNDARY TRANSHUMANCE ROUTE <sup>(2)</sup>
- ◆◆◆◆◆ ROUTE TAKEN BY NOMADIC CARAVANS <sup>(2)</sup>

## ONGOING IOM DATA COLLECTION ON TRANSHUMANCE FLOWS

**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) OECD 2014, AN ATLAS FOR SUB-SAHARA SAHEL: GEOGRAPHIC, ECONOMICS AND SECURITY, OECD PUBLISHING, PARIS. FROM: SAHEL AND WEST AFRICA CLUB SECRETARIAT (SWAC/OECD)

0 500 km

**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

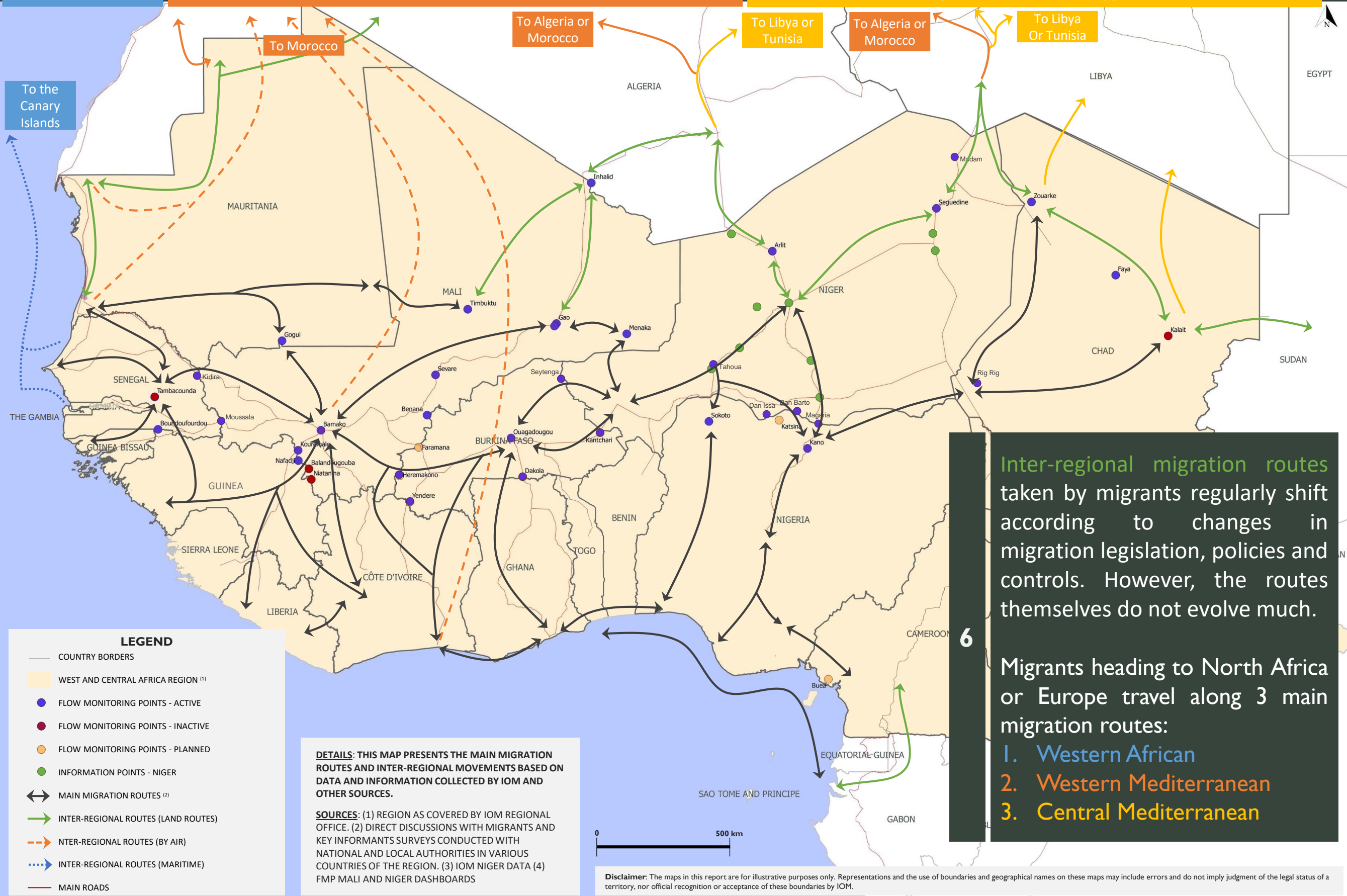
International transhumance and movements of nomadic caravans are a leading type of mobility in the West and Central Africa region.



### WESTERN AFRICAN ROUTE

### WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN ROUTE

### CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN ROUTE



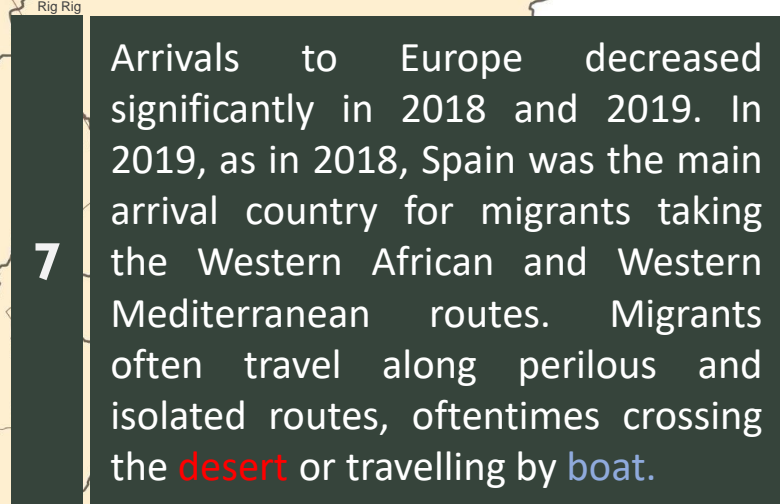
<b>2014</b> – XX,XXX	<b>2017</b> – 35 052
<b>2015</b> – 857 363	<b>2018</b> – 50,125
<b>2016</b> – 176,906	

January to June 2019

Deaths: 57

**24% less arrivals to Greece than in 2018 at the same period**

**An additional 836 individuals arrived in Bulgaria and 3,935 in Cyprus**





INTENDED DESTINATION

EUROPE

AGE (average)

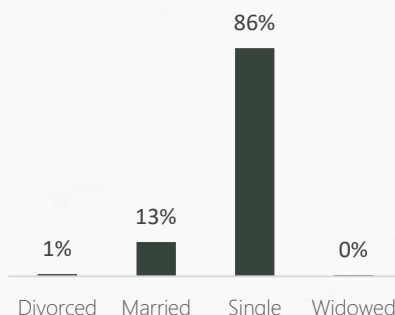
26.6

Gender (distribution)

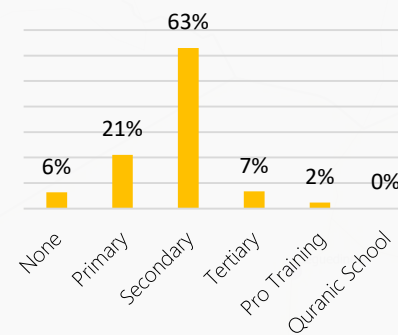
Male: 91%

Female: 9%

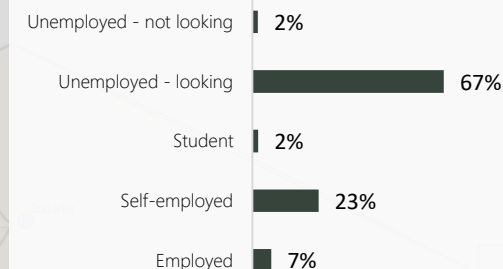
MARITAL STATUS



EDUCATION LEVEL



EMPLOYMENT STATUS



NORTH AFRICA

AGE (average)

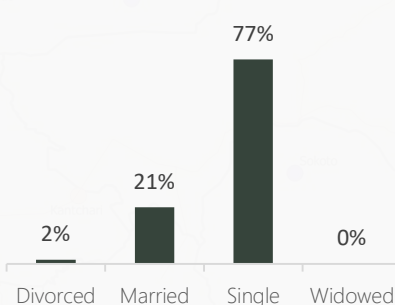
26.8

Gender (distribution)

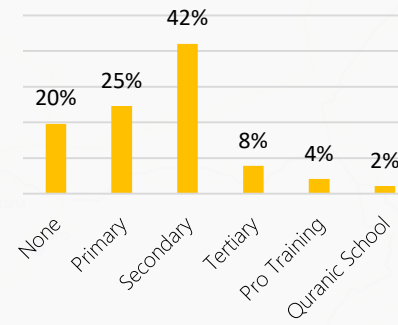
Male: 89%

Female: 11%

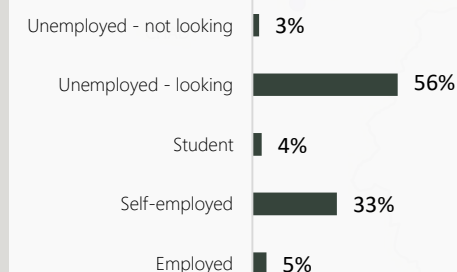
MARITAL STATUS



EDUCATION LEVEL



EMPLOYMENT STATUS



WCA

AGE (average)

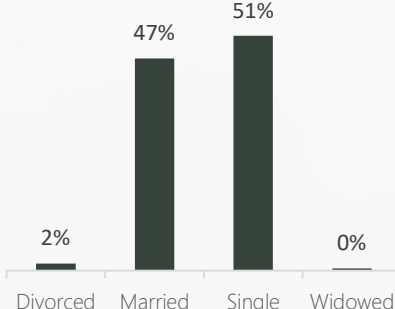
29.2

Gender (distribution)

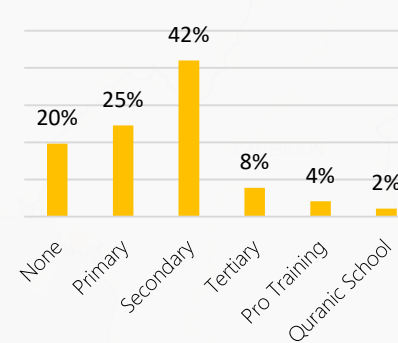
Male: 85%

Female: 15%

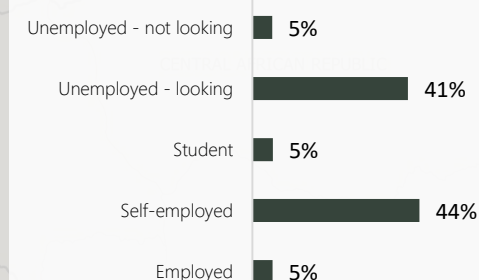
MARITAL STATUS



EDUCATION LEVEL

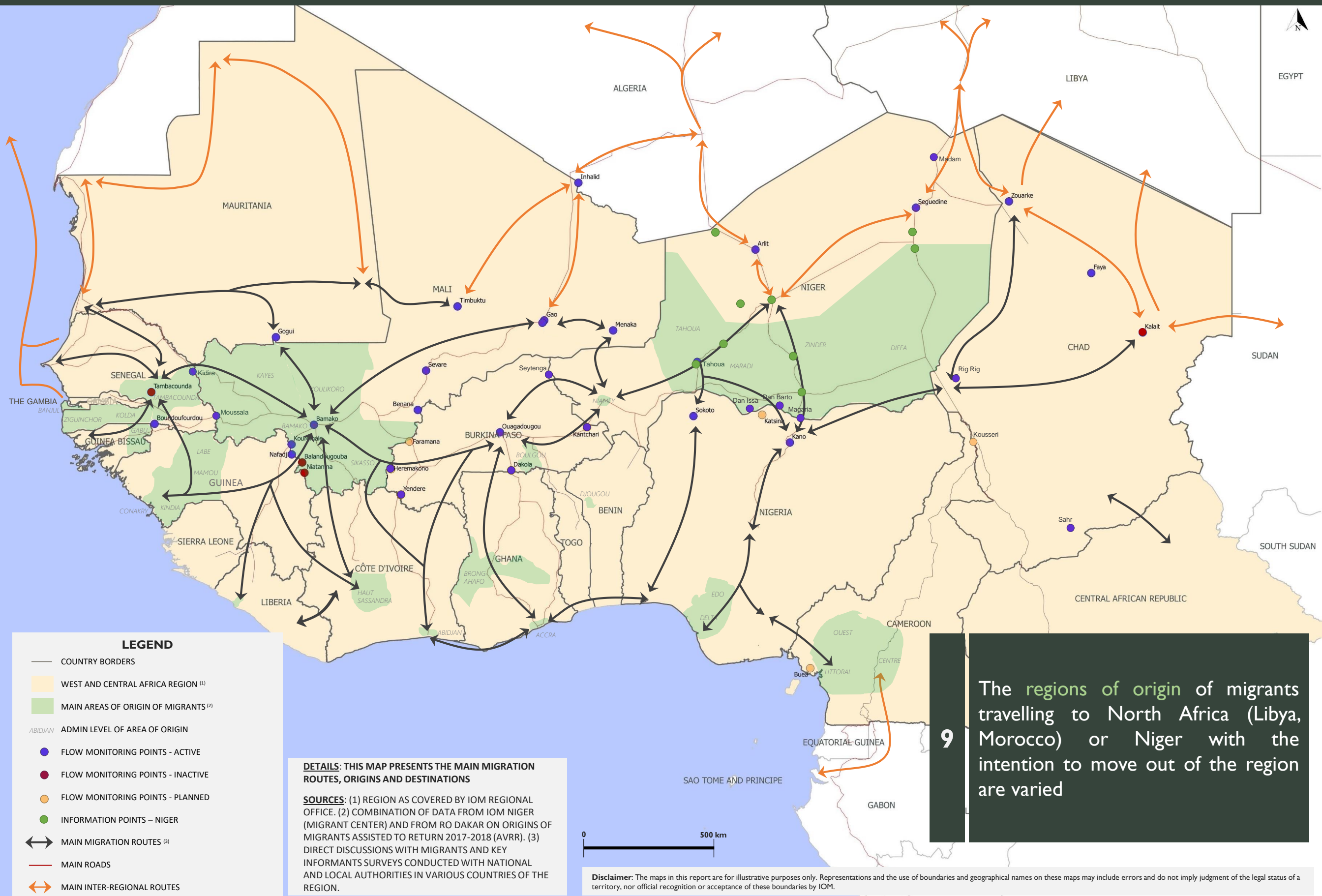


EMPLOYMENT STATUS

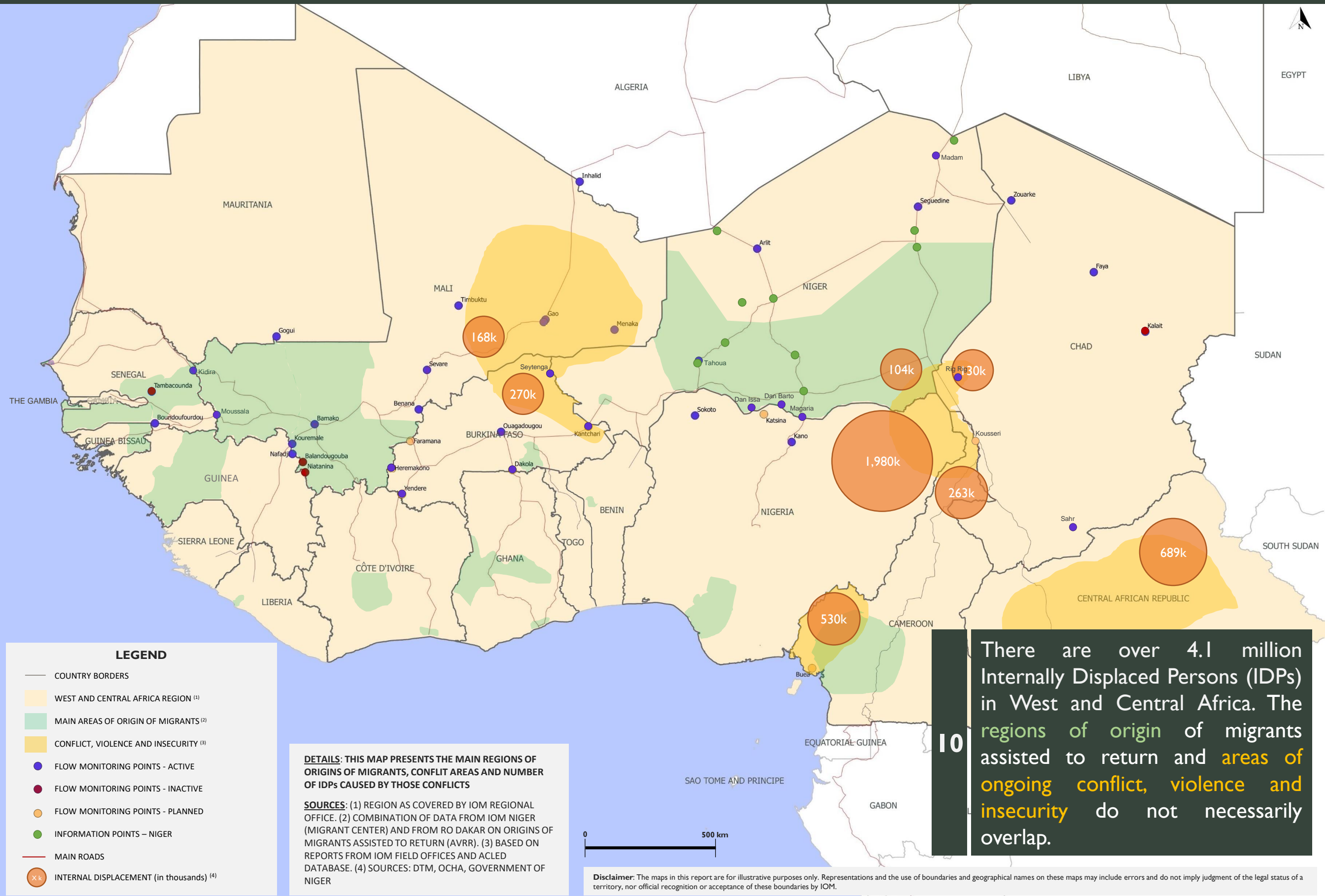


Travellers moving within West and Central Africa, headed for North Africa, and migrating to Europe showcase significant differences in age, marital status, education level and employment status (in country of habitual residence). The unemployment rate of travellers also varies according to the nature of their movements and their 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 FMPs) by intended destination presented on this page is based on data collected during **Flow Monitoring Surveys conducted with over 44,000 travellers across the region in 2018**. Further information on methodology is available at the end of the document.*



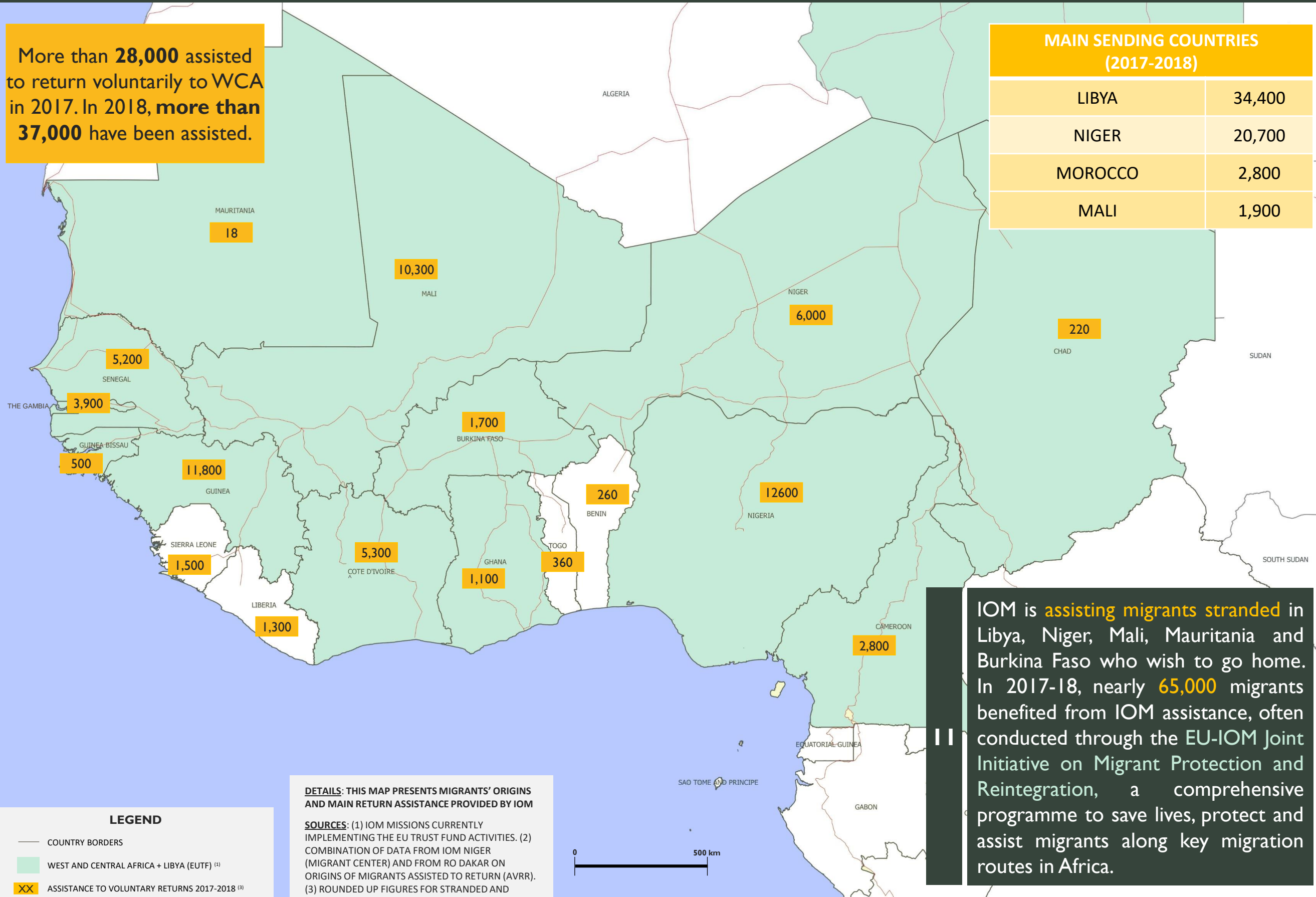




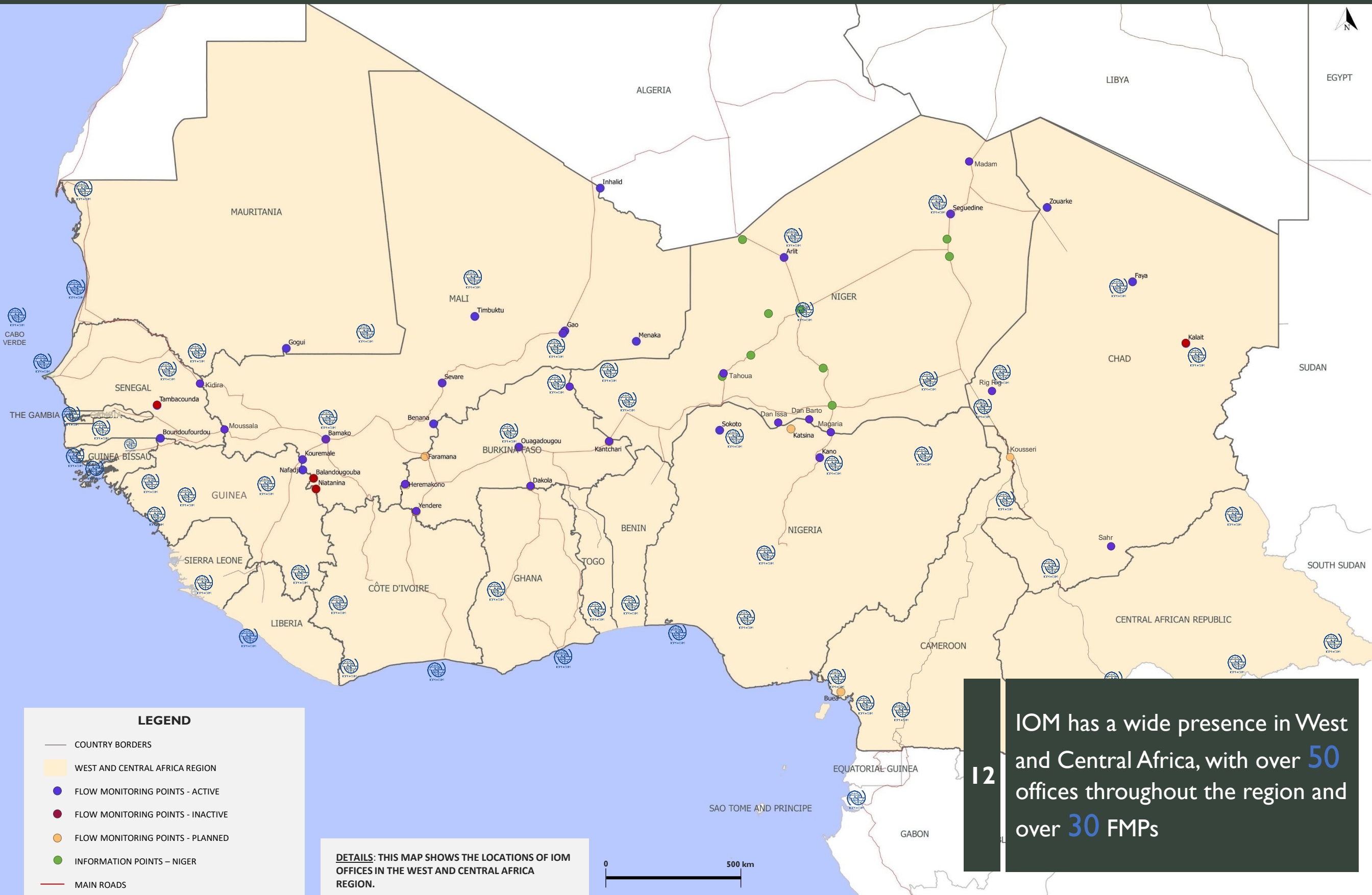
More than **28,000** assisted to return voluntarily to WCA in 2017. In 2018, more than **37,000** have been assisted.

## MAIN SENDING COUNTRIES (2017-2018)

LIBYA	34,400
NIGER	20,700
MOROCCO	2,800
MALI	1,900







# 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](http://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)



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### DATA COLLECTION OVERVIEW & METHODOLOGY

#### MOBILITY TRACKING



#### PUBLICATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS



#### FLOW MONITORING

