

# REGIONAL MOBILITY MAPPING

WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA  
JUNE 2023



**RDH**  
IOM REGIONAL DATA HUB  
West and Central Africa



International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
The UN Migration Agency



# REGIONAL MOBILITY MAPPING

## WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA JUNE 2023

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### FUNDING SUPPORT

This report is produced by DTM Regional Support team for West and Central Africa through funding support from:



This project is funded by the European Union



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



**MiRAC**  
MIGRATION RESOURCE ALLOCATION COMMITTEE



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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 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, from and to West and Central Africa region 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

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

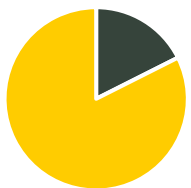
- Regional Data Hub Factsheet
- Displacement Factsheet
- Migration Factsheet
- Transhumance Factsheet
- Missing Migrants Project Factsheet

- Migrant Protection and Assistance/Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Factsheet
- COVID-19 Mobility Restriction Monitoring Factsheet
- Data Protection Factsheet

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).

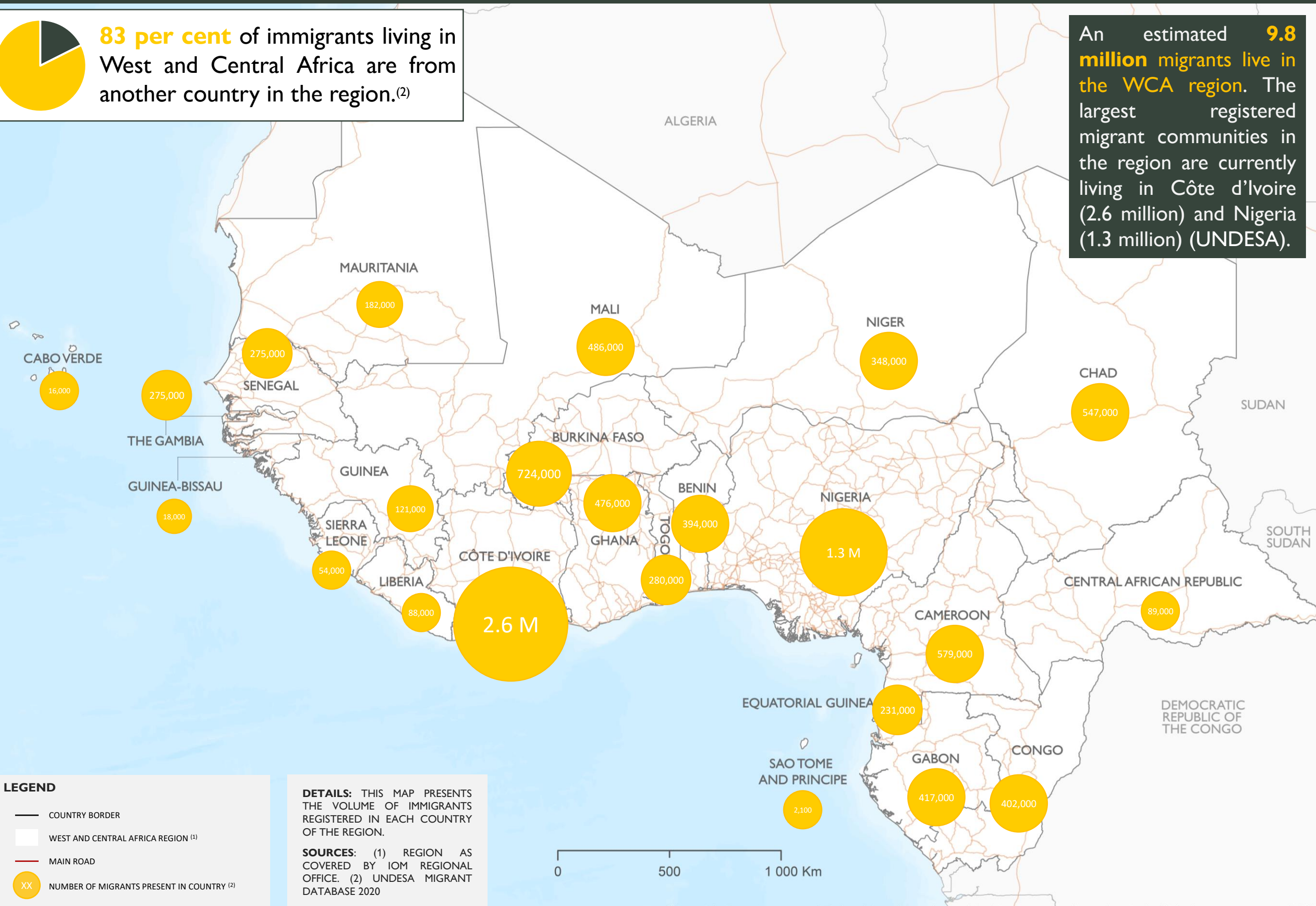
## CONTENT

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
WOMEN ON THE MOVE IN WCA	◦ Page 15
MISSING MIGRANTS	◦ Page 16
REGIONS OF ORIGIN	◦ Page 17
CONFLICT AND INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT	◦ Page 18
DISASTER AND INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT	◦ Page 19
LAKE CHAD BASIN SITUATION	◦ Page 20
CENTRAL SAHEL AND LIPTAKO GOURMA SITUATION	◦ Page 21
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC SITUATION	◦ Page 22
STABILITY AND DURABLE SOLUTIONS	◦ Page 23
RETURN ASSISTANCE BY IOM	◦ Page 24
DATA AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES	◦ Page 25
IOM PRESENCE	◦ Page 26
NOTES ON METHODOLOGY I	◦ Page 27
NOTES ON METHODOLOGY II	◦ Page 28



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

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 <sup>(1)</sup>
- MAIN ROAD
- XX NUMBER OF MIGRANTS PRESENT IN COUNTRY <sup>(2)</sup>

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

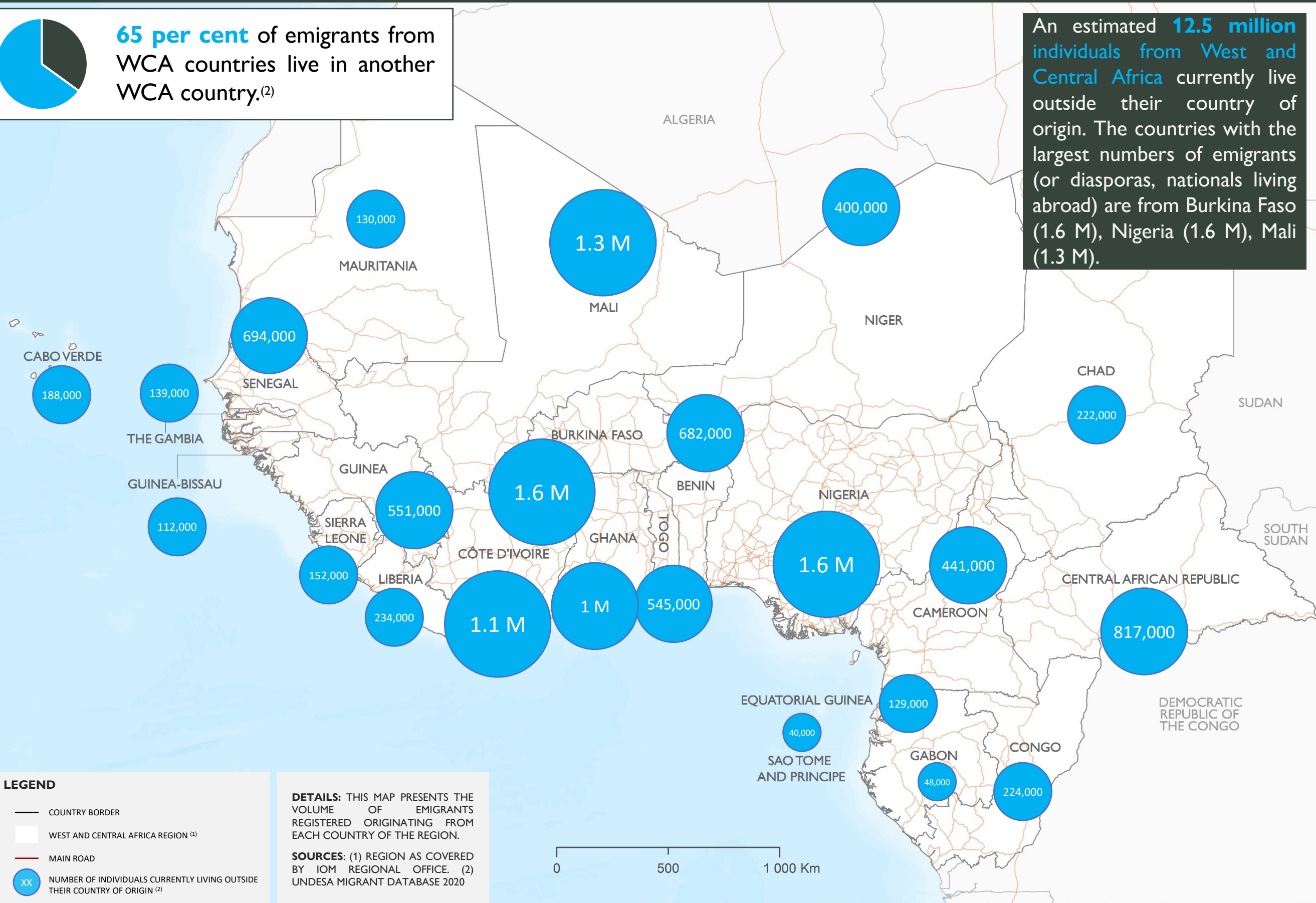
**SOURCES:** (1) REGION AS COVERED BY IOM REGIONAL OFFICE. (2) UNDESA MIGRANT DATABASE 2020





**65 per cent** of emigrants from WCA countries live in another WCA country.<sup>(2)</sup>

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**

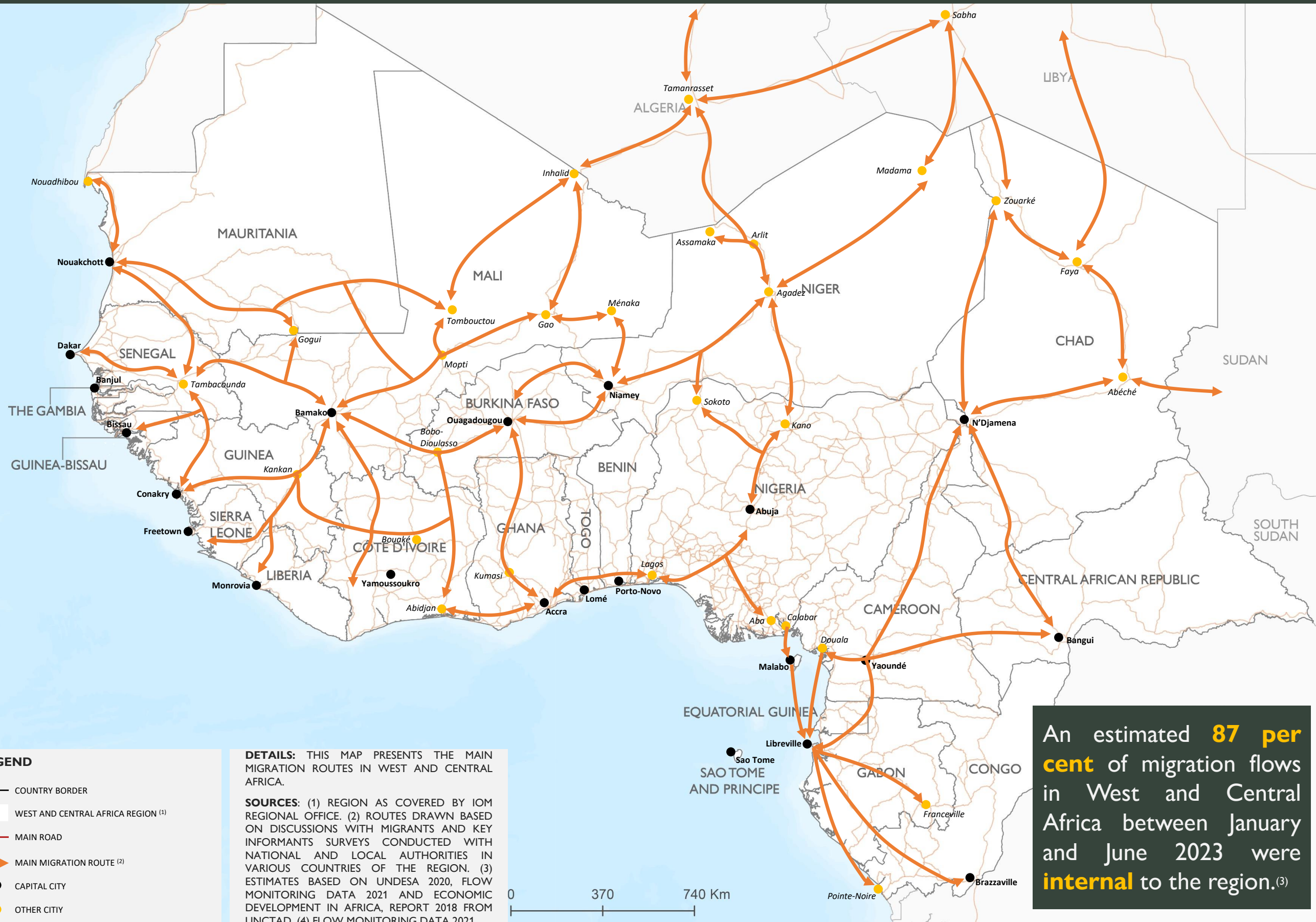
- COUNTRY BORDER
- WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA REGION <sup>(1)</sup>
- MAIN ROAD
- XX NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS CURRENTLY LIVING OUTSIDE THEIR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN <sup>(2)</sup>

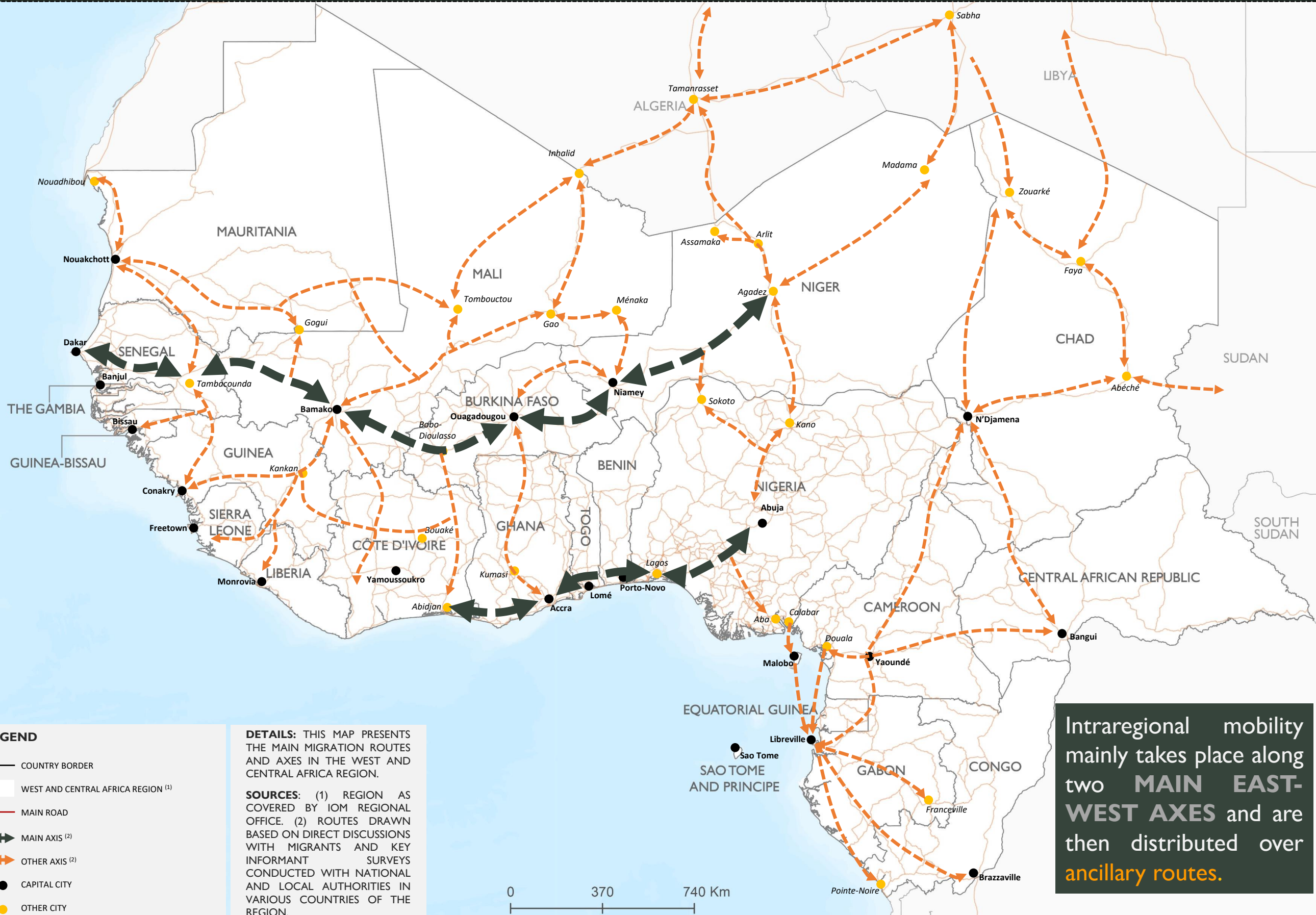
**DETAILS:** THIS MAP PRESENTS THE VOLUME OF EMIGRANTS REGISTERED ORIGINATING FROM EACH COUNTRY OF THE REGION.

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



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



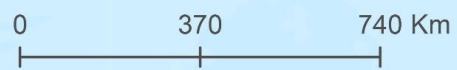


**LEGEND**

- COUNTRY BORDER
- ◻ WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA REGION <sup>(1)</sup>
- MAIN ROAD
- ↔ MAIN AXIS <sup>(2)</sup>
- ⇄ OTHER AXIS <sup>(2)</sup>
- CAPITAL CITY
- OTHER CITY

**DETAILS:** THIS MAP PRESENTS THE MAIN MIGRATION ROUTES AND AXES IN THE WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA REGION.

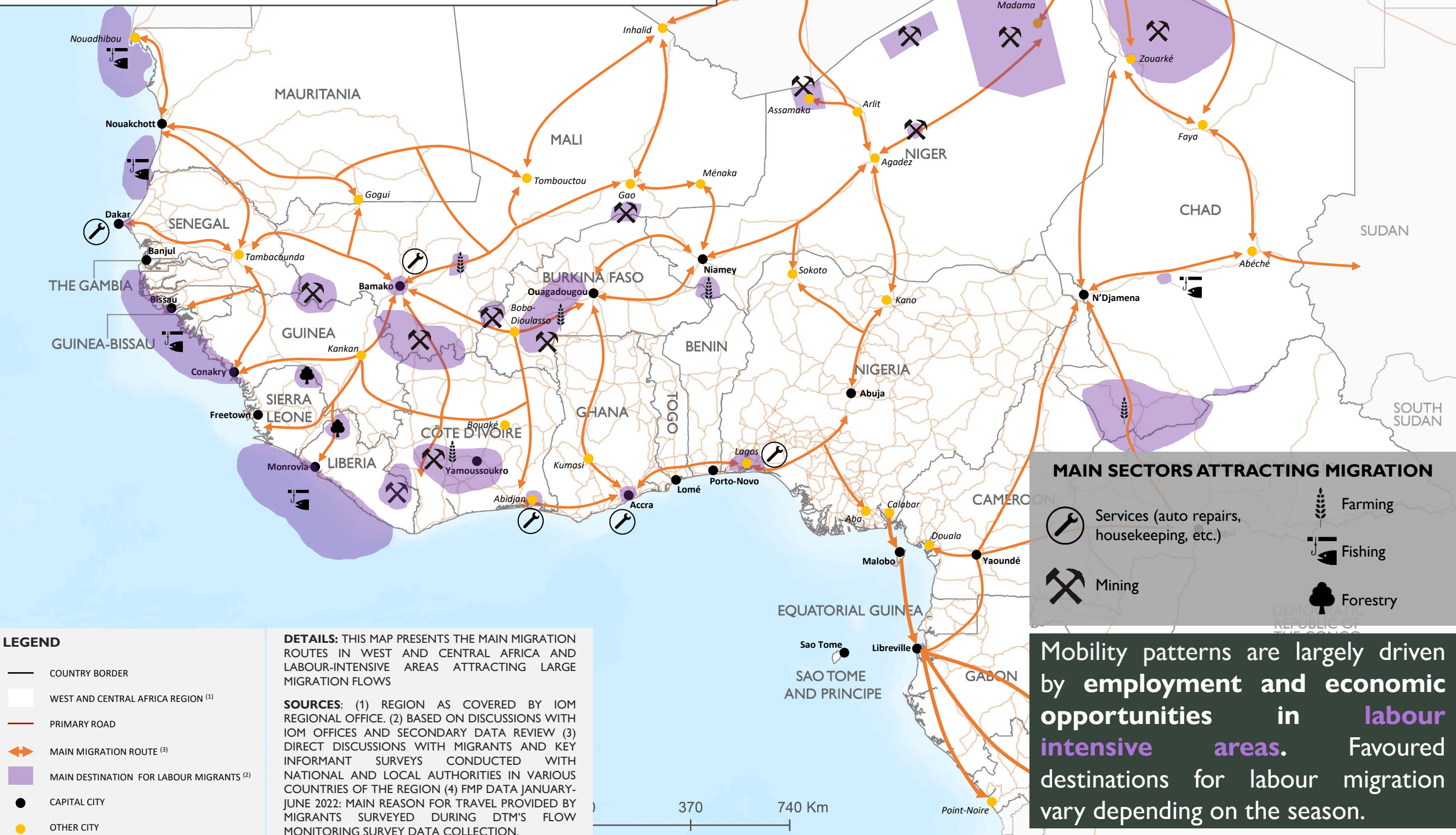
**SOURCES:** (1) REGION AS COVERED BY IOM REGIONAL OFFICE. (2) ROUTES DRAWN BASED ON DIRECT DISCUSSIONS WITH MIGRANTS AND KEY INFORMANT SURVEYS CONDUCTED WITH NATIONAL AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES OF THE REGION.



Intraregional mobility mainly takes place along two **MAIN EAST-WEST AXES** and are then distributed over **ancillary routes**.

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.

**78 per cent** of all individuals surveyed at IOM Flow Monitoring Points in 2022 (67% of individuals moving within West and Central Africa) were travelling for labour or economic reasons.<sup>(4)</sup>



**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 <sup>(1)</sup>
- PRIMARY ROAD
- MAIN MIGRATION ROUTE <sup>(3)</sup>
- MAIN DESTINATION FOR LABOUR MIGRANTS <sup>(2)</sup>
- CAPITAL CITY
- OTHER CITY

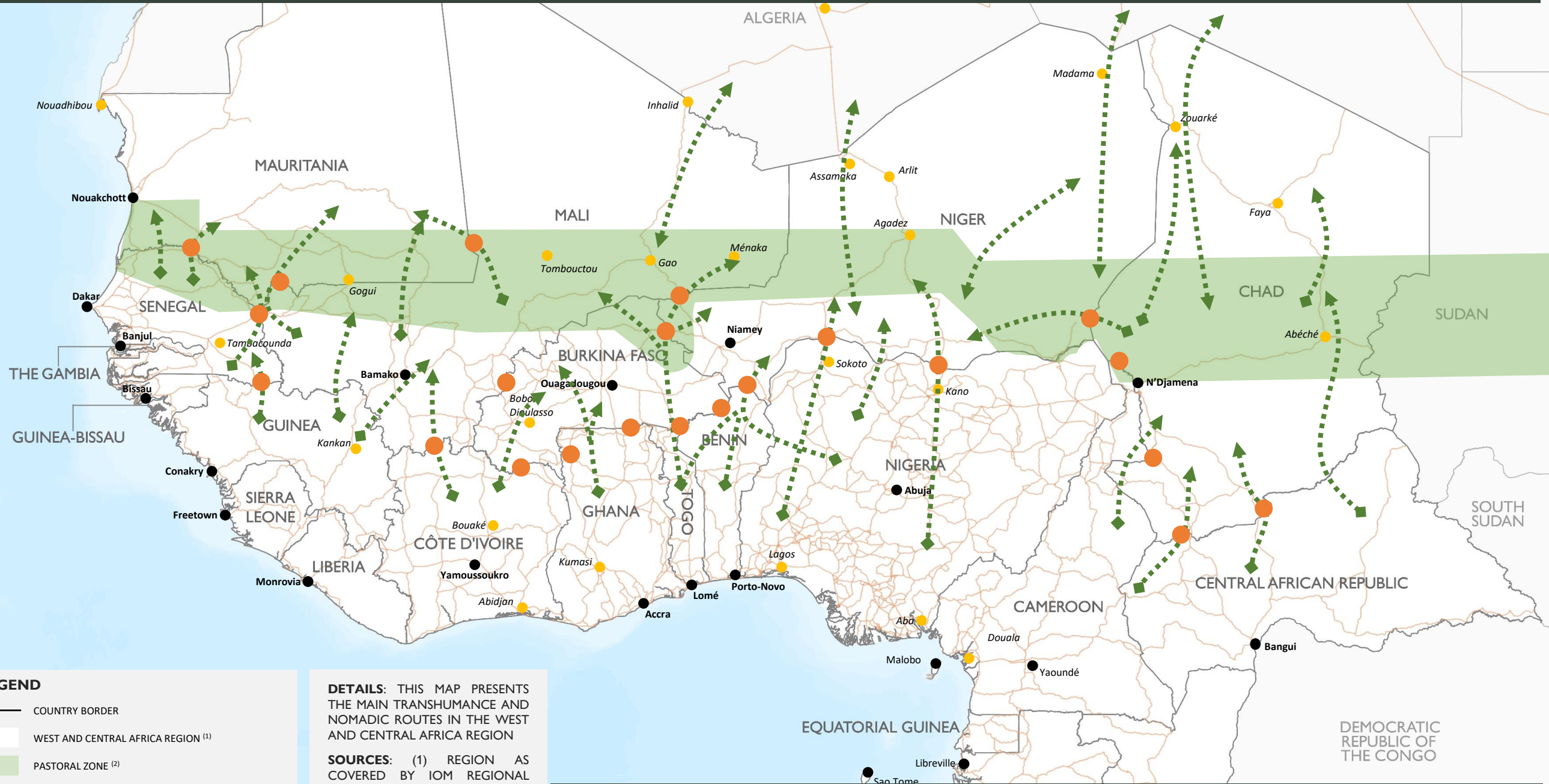
**DETAILS:** THIS MAP PRESENTS THE MAIN MIGRATION ROUTES IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA AND LABOUR-INTENSIVE AREAS ATTRACTING LARGE MIGRATION FLOWS

**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 JANUARY-JUNE 2022: MAIN REASON FOR TRAVEL PROVIDED BY MIGRANTS SURVEYED DURING DTM'S FLOW MONITORING SURVEY DATA COLLECTION.

370 740 Km



**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**

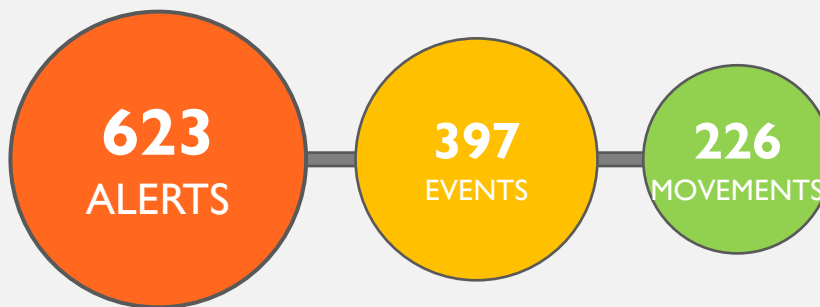
- COUNTRY BORDER
- WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA REGION <sup>(1)</sup>
- PASTORAL ZONE <sup>(2)</sup>
- ⋯ TRANSBOUNDARY TRANSHUMANCE ROUTE <sup>(2)</sup>
- ⋯➤ DIRECTION DURING DRY SEASON <sup>(3)</sup>
- ⋯➤ DIRECTION DURING WET SEASON <sup>(3)</sup>
- KEY TRANSIT POINT FOR TRANSHUMANT HERDERS <sup>(4)</sup>
- 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

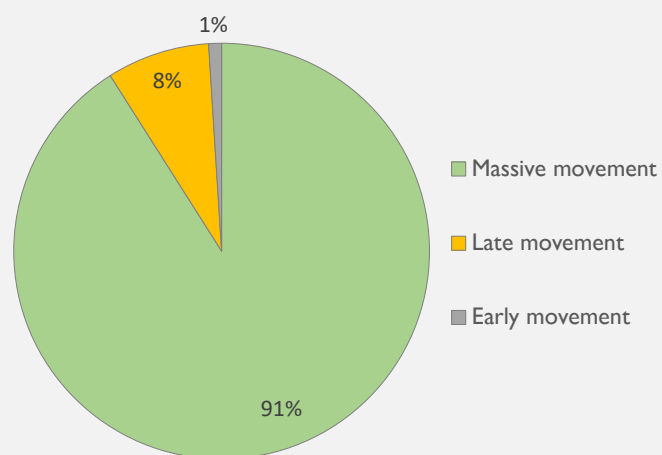
In recent years, climate change, environmental degradation and sometimes disasters, exponential population growth, urbanization, land privatization, changes in farming practices, and insecurity have affected transhumance patterns, routes and periods as well as relations with other communities. These 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 623 alerts reported between January and June 2023 in Chad, Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea, Niger and Nigeria, 397 of them reported events and 226 of them movements.

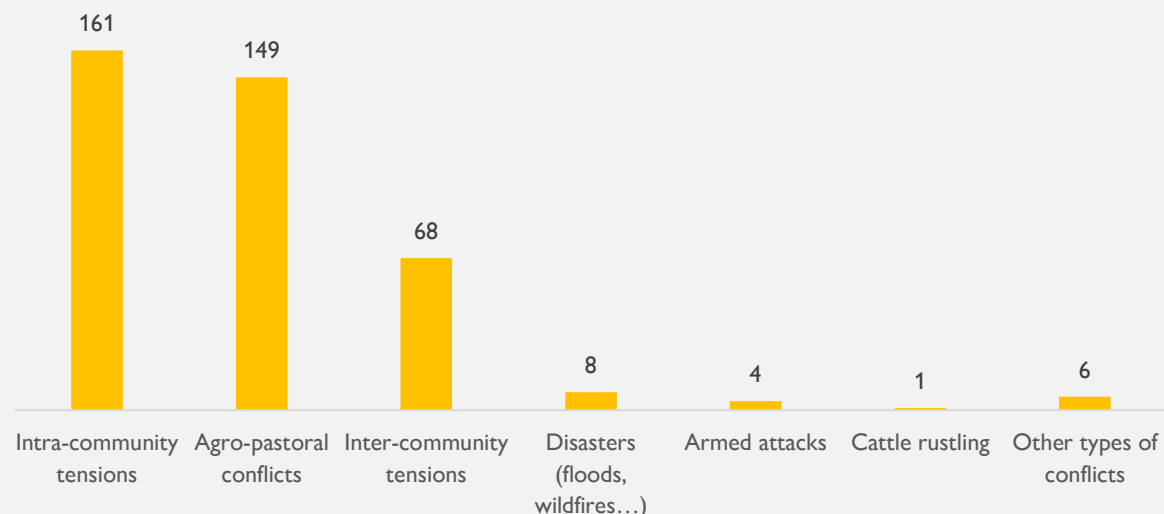


Country	Events	Movements	Total
Nigeria	367	221	588
Côte d'Ivoire/Guinea	14	5	19
Chad	10		10
Niger	6		6
<b>Total</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>623</b>

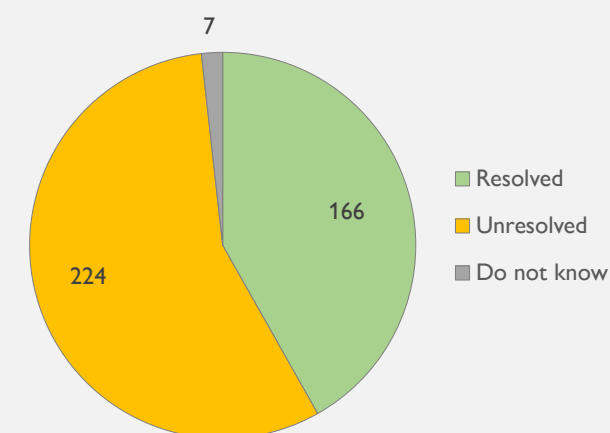
Types of movements



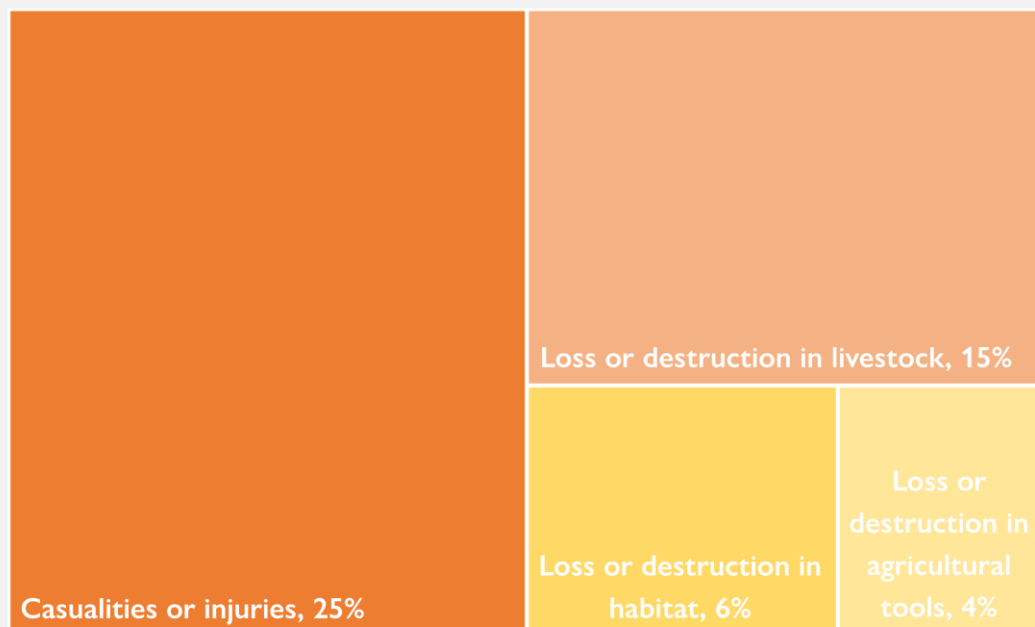
Types of events



Status of events

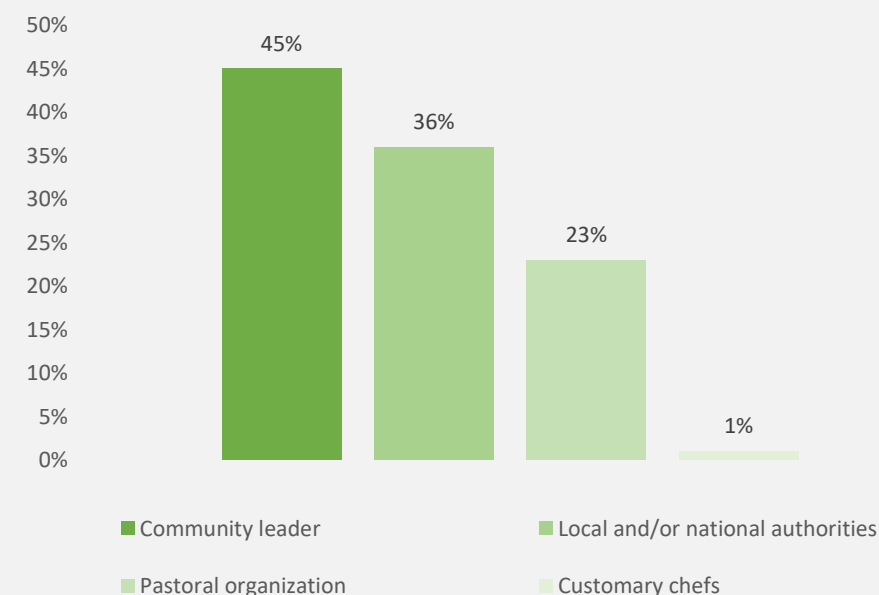


Consequences of events in Nigeria and types of damages



Among the events reported in Nigeria, 50 per cent of them led to consequences, from which half led to human casualties or injuries (25%). They resulted also in the loss or destruction of livestock (15%), habitat (6%) or agricultural tools (4%).

Actors involved in conflict resolution in Nigeria

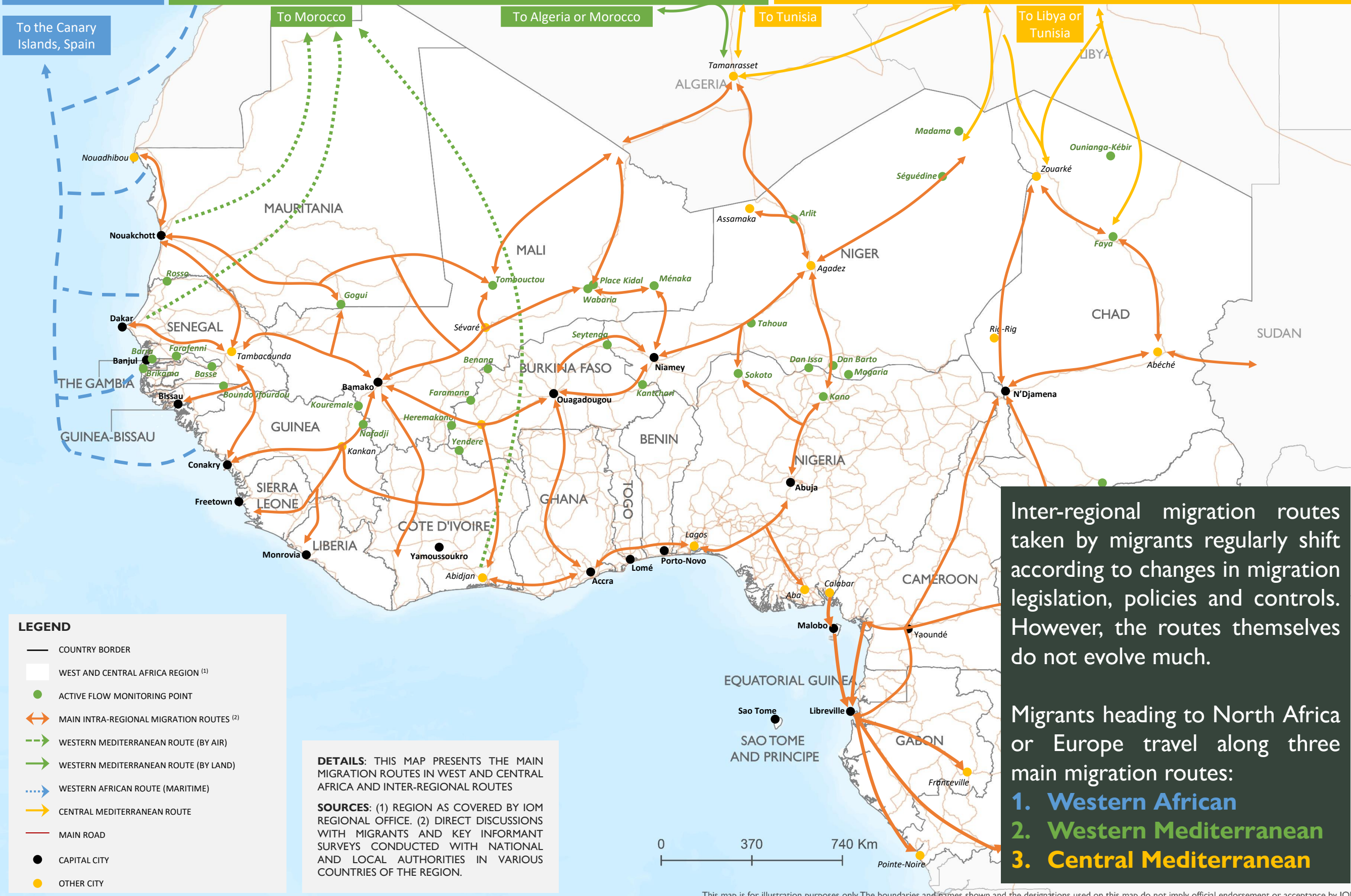


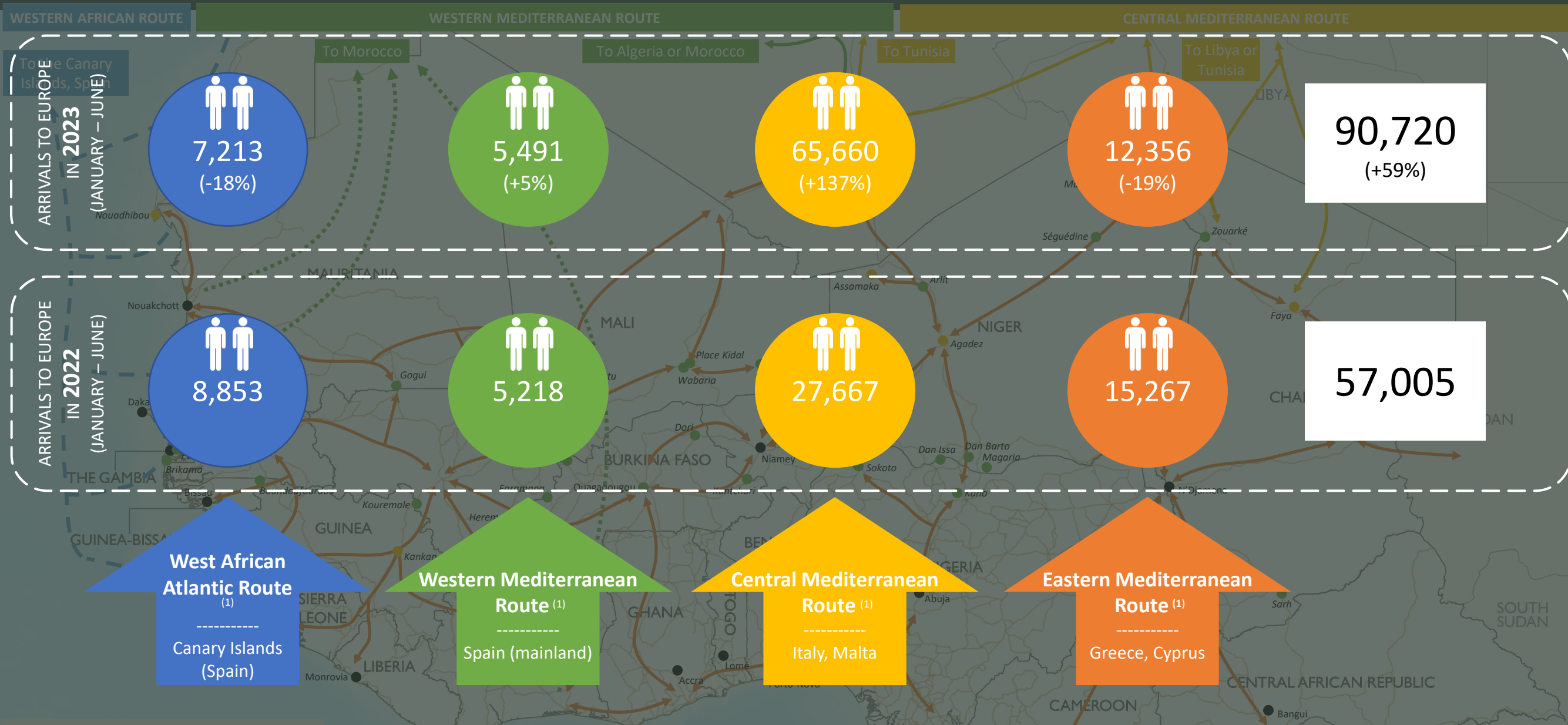
NIGERIA

WESTERN AFRICAN ROUTE

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN ROUTE

CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN ROUTE



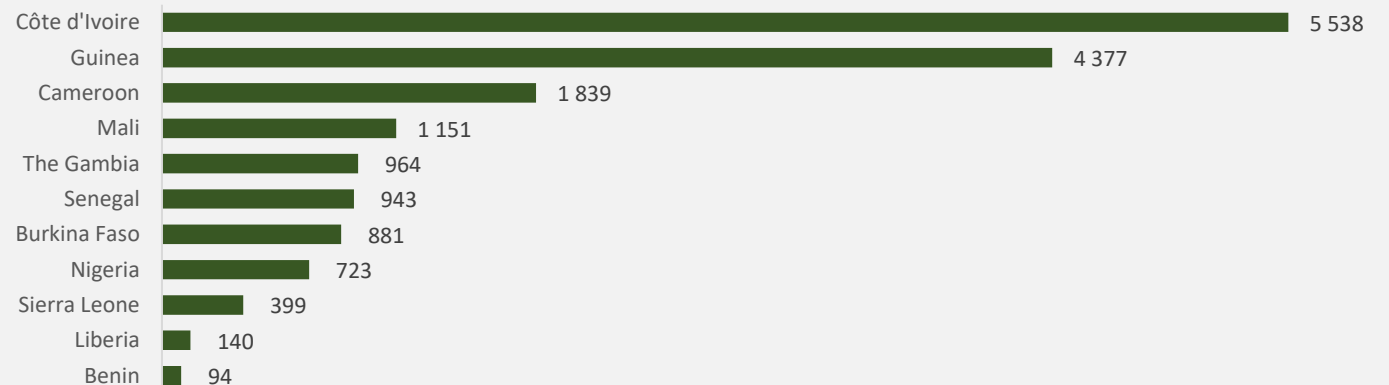


**DETAILS:** THIS PAGE PRESENTS THE NUMBER OF IRREGULAR MIGRANT ARRIVALS TO EUROPE BETWEEN JANUARY AND JUNE 2023 COMPARED TO THE SAME PERIOD IN 2022, BY LAND AND SEA AND BY MAIN MIGRATION ROUTES. NATIONALITIES OF MIGRANTS ARRIVED BETWEEN MARCH AND JUNE 2023 ARE YET UNKNOWN.

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

Between January and June 2023, an estimated **90,720** migrants arrived irregularly in Italy, Spain, Greece and other countries (Malta, Cyprus) by sea or by land. Out of this total, 38 493 migrants arrived between January and March, from which 45 per cent came from WCA.<sup>(1)</sup>

**MAIN NATIONALITY OF IRREGULAR MIGRANTS FROM WEST & CENTRAL AFRICA ARRIVING IN EUROPE - JANUARY TO MARCH 2023 (1)**





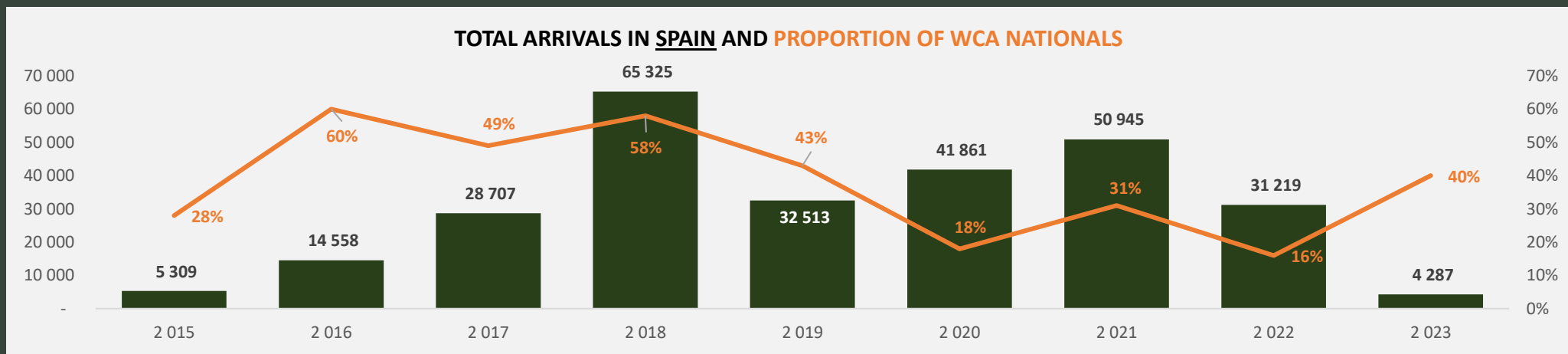
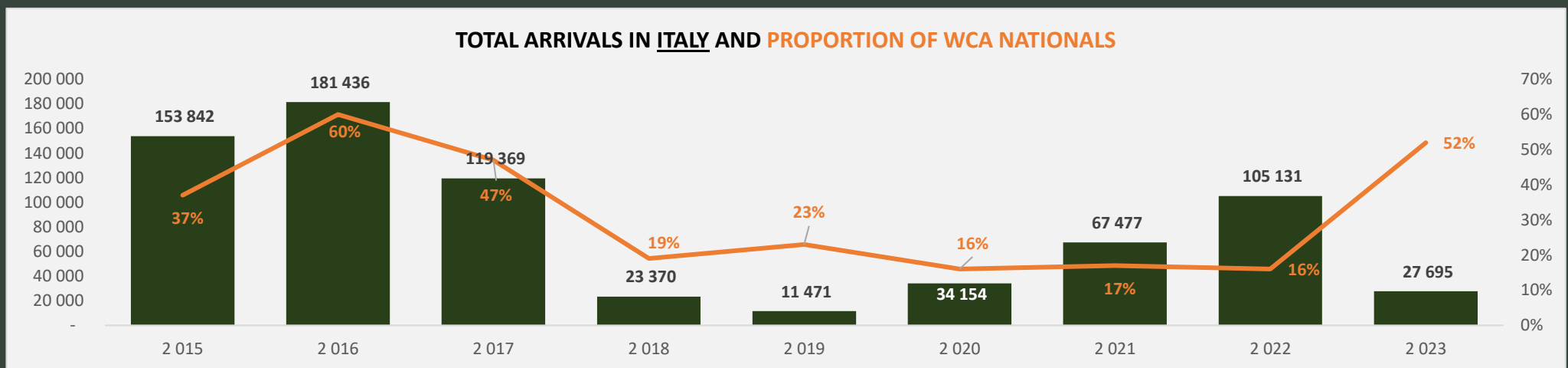
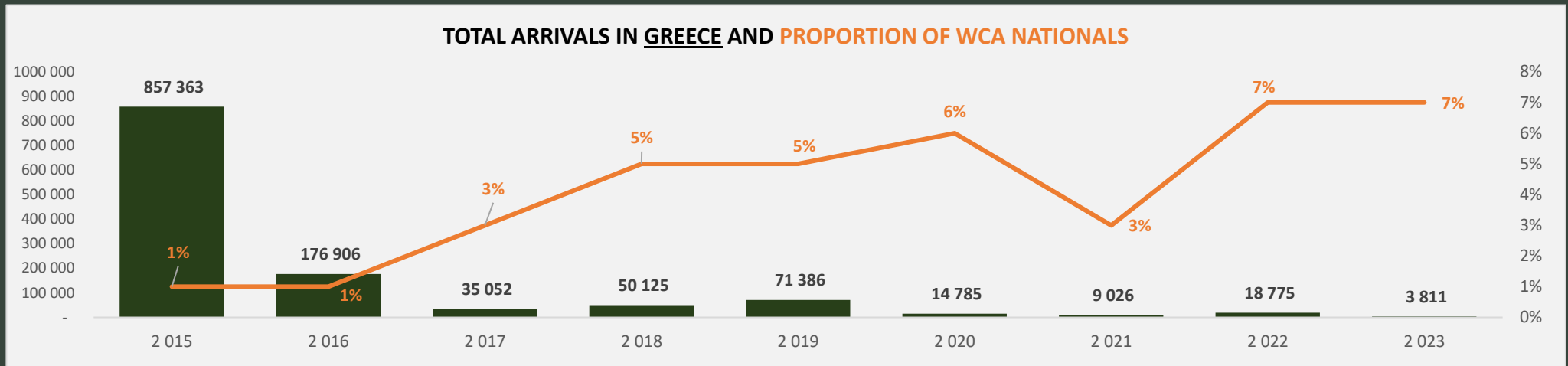
Between January and March 2023, a total of **16,490 individuals** from West and Central Africa reached Greece, Italy and Spain irregularly.

**LEGEND:**

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

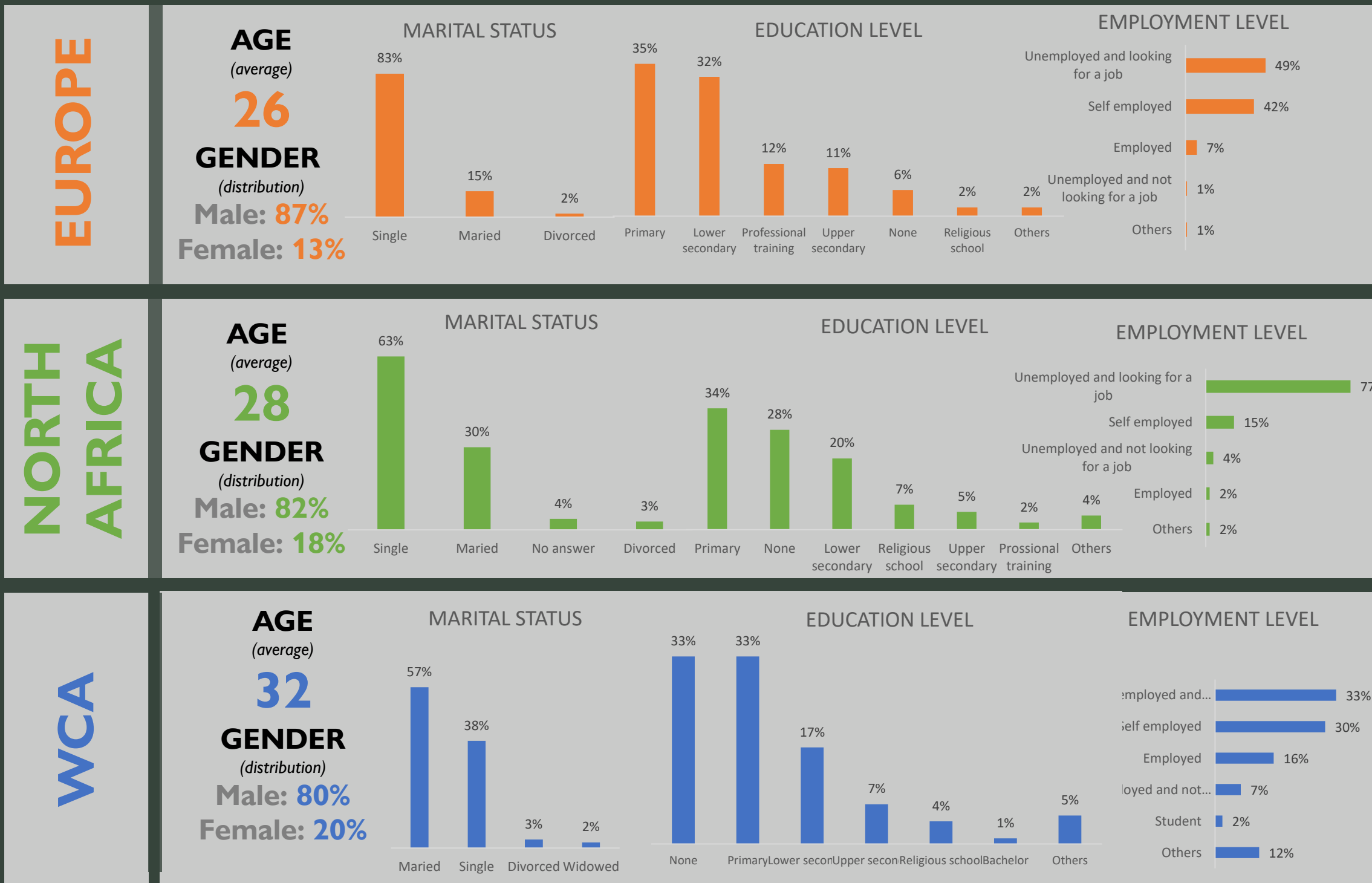
**DETAILS:** THIS PAGE PRESENTS THE NUMBER OF ARRIVALS IN EUROPE BY MAIN COUNTRY OF ARRIVAL (GREECE, ITALY, SPAIN), YEAR AND PROPORTION OF NATIONALS FROM WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA. 2023 DATA ONLY INCLUDE FIGURES BETWEEN JANUARY AND MARCH 2023.

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



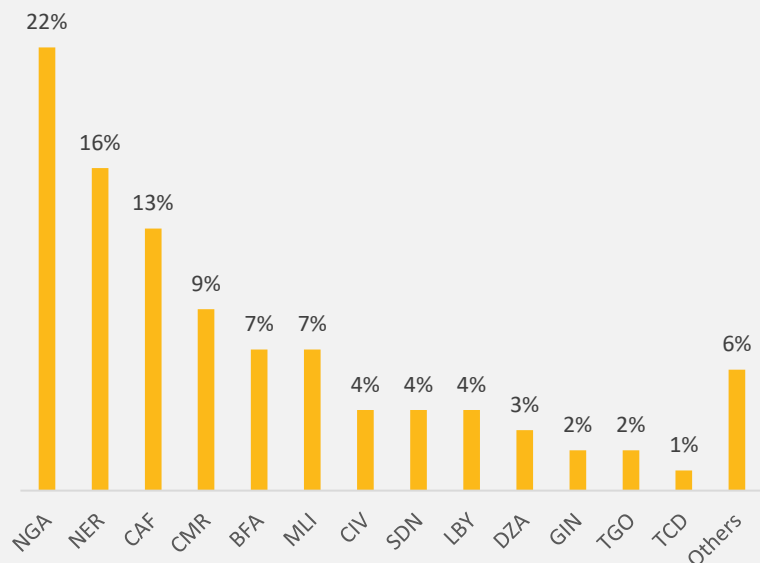
Migrant and refugee arrivals in Europe have changed significantly between 2015 and 2023. In 2015, approximately 857,363 migrants and refugees reached Greece, of which only 1 per cent came from West and Central Africa (WCA). The share of WCA migrants among arrivals in Greece then increased steadily, reaching 7 per cent in 2023. Arrivals of WCA nationals in Italy increased in 2023 to reach 52 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 40 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 October-December 2020. **For January-March 2023, irregular arrivals in Spain have seen a significant drop compared to January-Mars 2022. In parallel, the number of arrivals of irregular migrants in Italy between January and March 2023 increased by 54 per cent compared to the same period in 2022.**

BY INTENDED DESTINATION

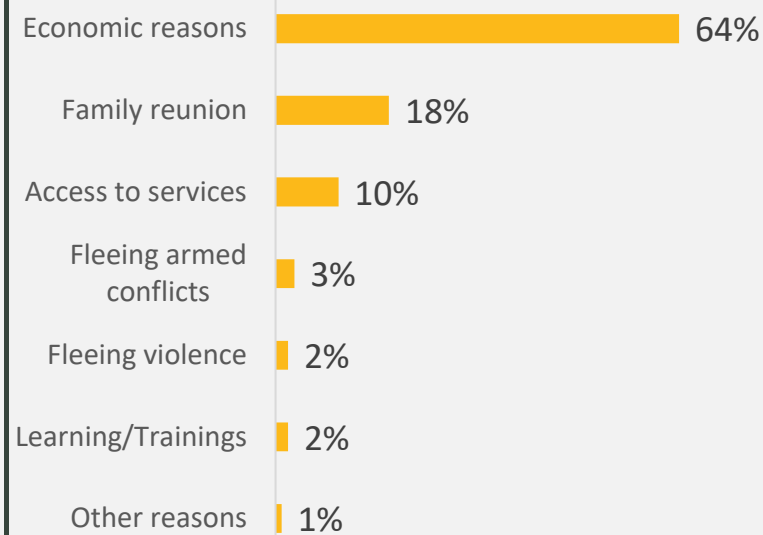


Travellers moving within West and Central Africa, headed for North Africa, and migrating to Europe showcase significant differences in age, marital status, education level and employment status prior to travel (in their country of habitual residence). The unemployment rate of travellers also varies according 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 22,257 travellers** across the region **between January and June 2023**. Further information on the methodology is available at the end of this document (pages 27 and 28).

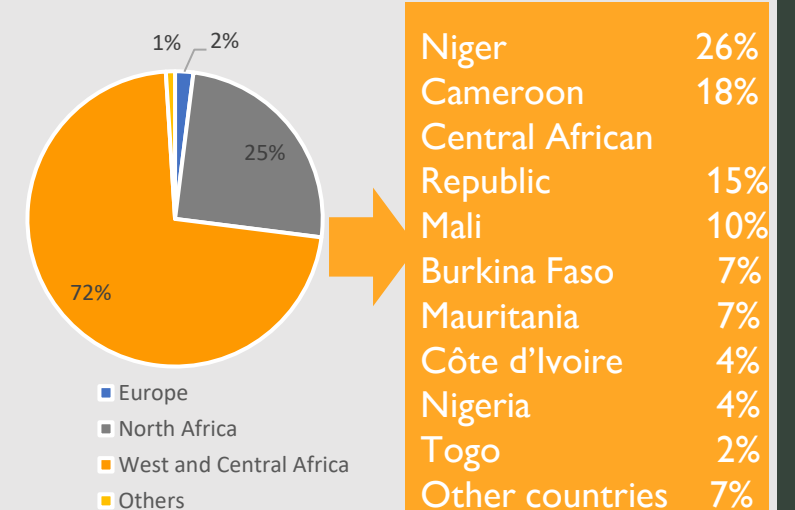
## COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



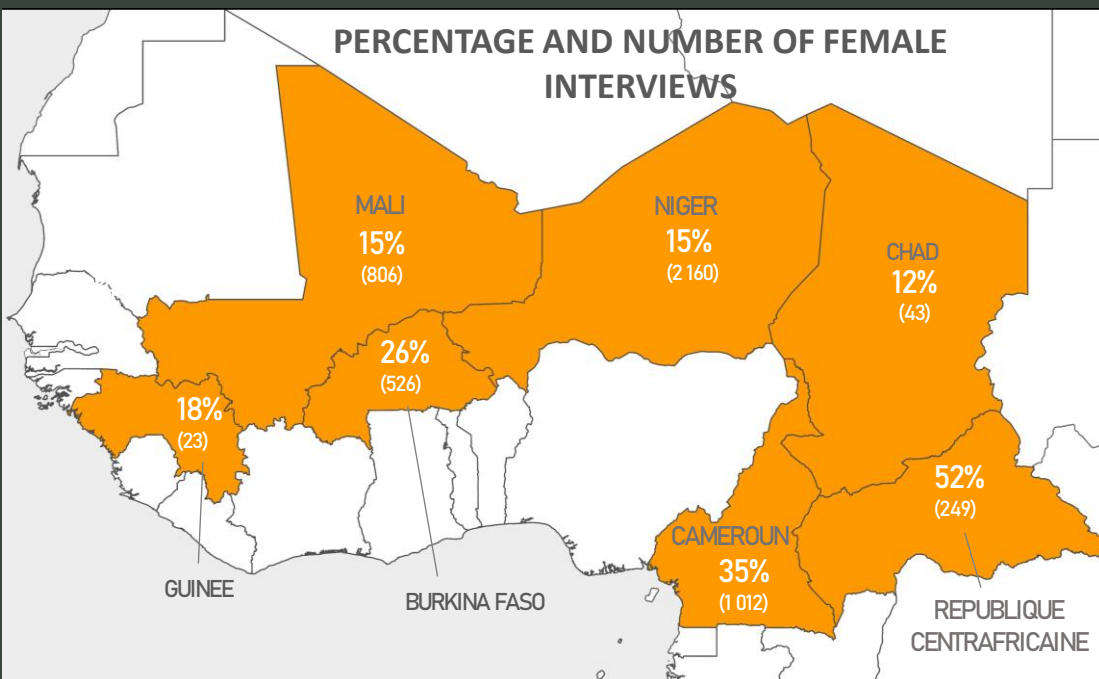
## REASONS FOR TRAVEL



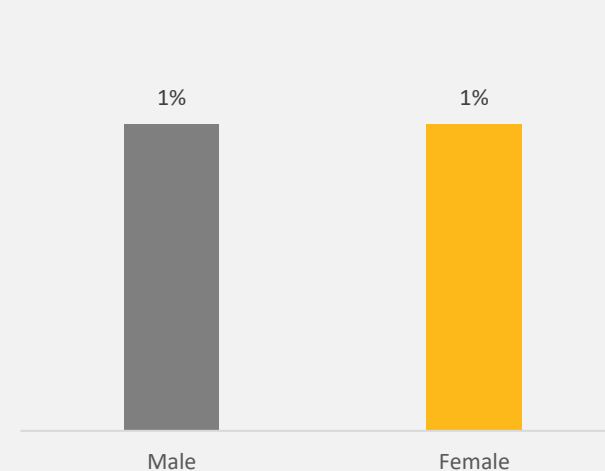
## REGIONS OF FINAL INTENDED DESTINATION



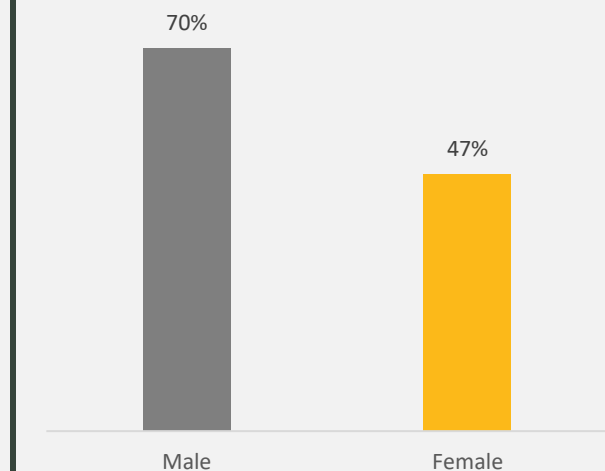
## PERCENTAGE AND NUMBER OF FEMALE INTERVIEWS



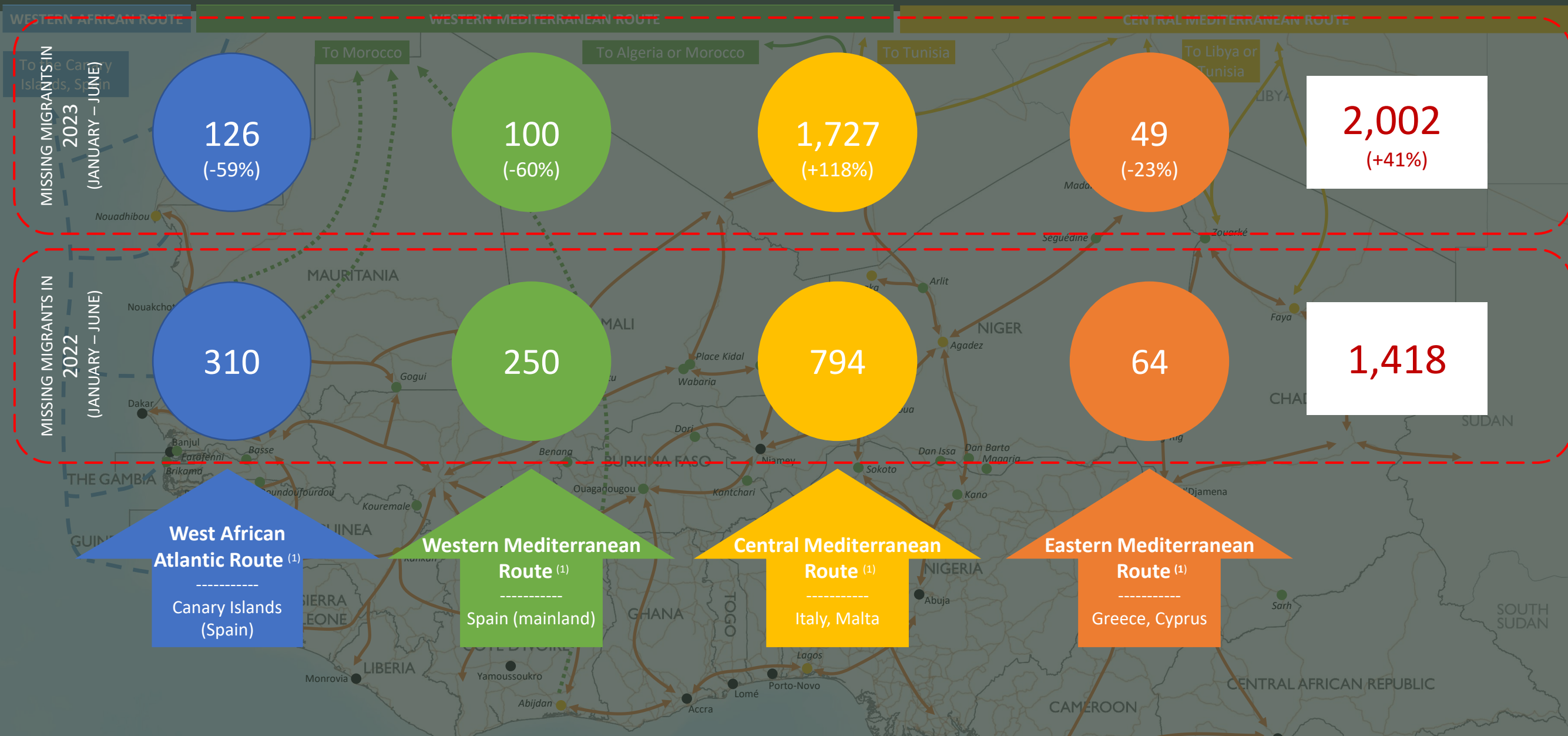
## PERCENTAGE OF SELF-IDENTIFIED VICTIMS OF FORCED LABOUR



## ID POSSESSION AMONG FORCED WORKERS



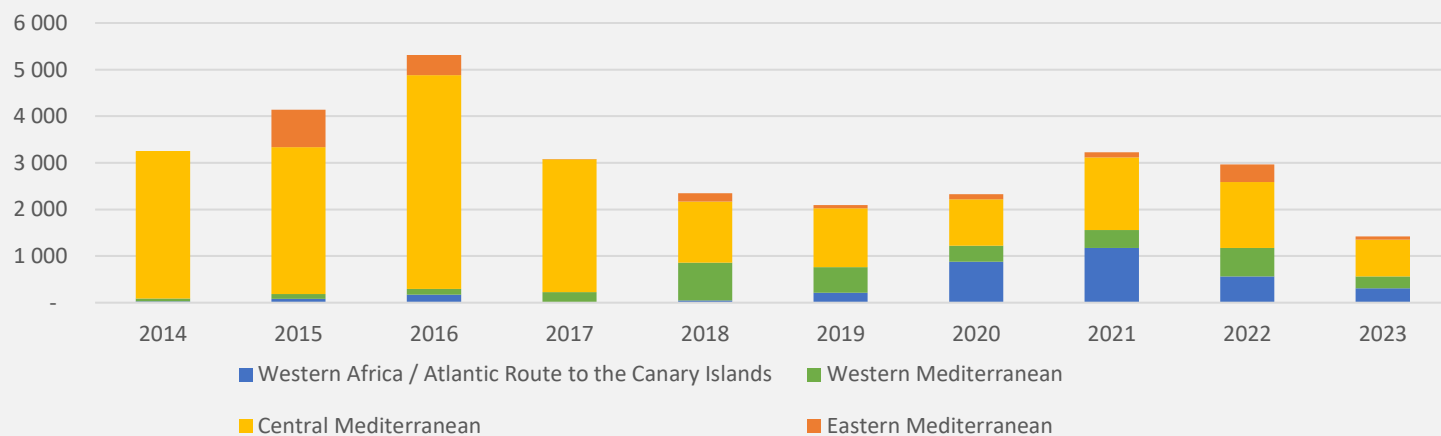
Women travellers moving within West and Central Africa are mostly from Nigeria (22%), Niger (16%), and the Central African Republic (13%). Most of the interviewed women were heading to countries in West and Central Africa (72%), while 25 per cent were traveling to North Africa and Europe. Additionally, 64 per cent of women travellers were moving on account of economic reasons, while 18 per cent were moving for family reunions and 10 per cent for access to services. Five 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 52 per cent in the Central African Republic, to 12 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 1 per cent of men were victims of forced labour.** Of these women who reported being victims of forced labour, only 47 per cent possessed identification documents. The main reasons given for the lack of documentation among women were that they had lost them (50%), their documents were confiscated and never returned to them (33%) or had been stolen (11%).



**DETAILS:** THIS VISUAL PRESENTS THE NUMBERS OF DEAD AND MISSING MIGRANTS RECORDED ALONG THE FOUR MAIN MIGRATIONS ROUTES IN JANUARY – JUNE 2023 AND COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 2022.

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

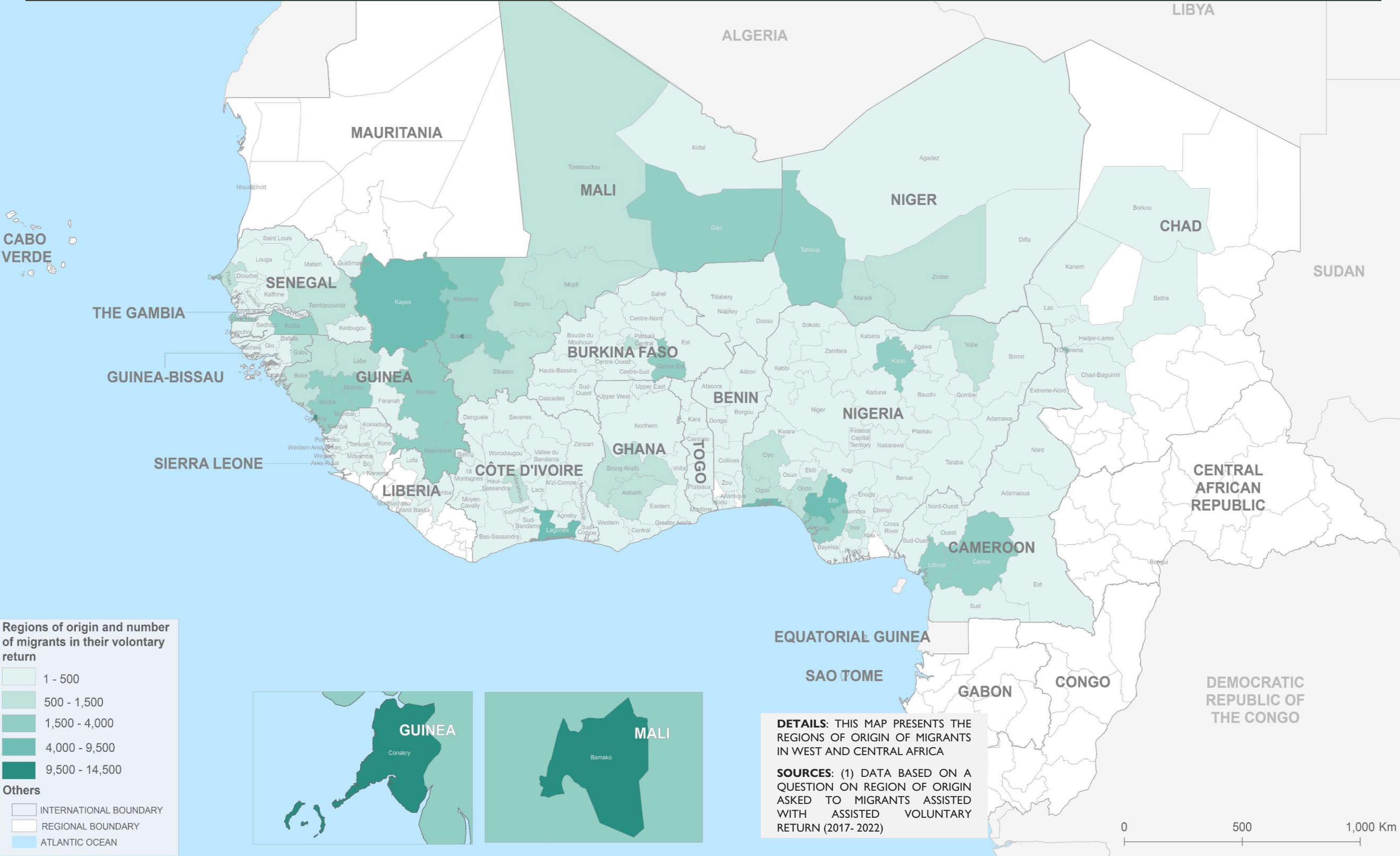
DISTRIBUTION OF MISSING MIGRANTS BY MIGRATION ROUTE<sup>(1)</sup>



Between January and June 2023, the number of migrants who died or disappeared along the Central Mediterranean, Western Mediterranean, West African Atlantic and Eastern Mediterranean routes (**2,002**) increased compared to the same period in 2022 (**1,418**).



The main **regions of origin** of stranded migrants assisted in their voluntary return by IOM from 2017 to June 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)**.

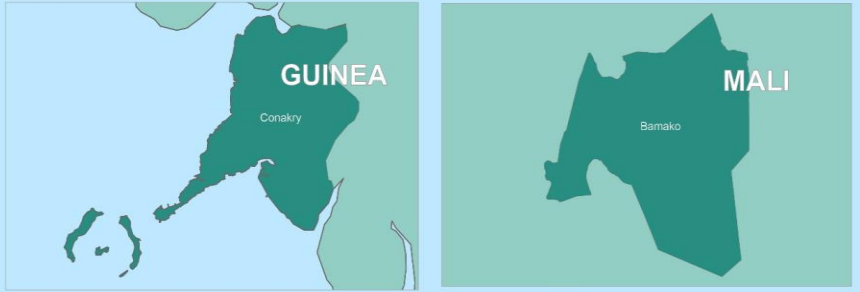


**Regions of origin and number of migrants in their voluntary return**

- 1 - 500
- 500 - 1,500
- 1,500 - 4,000
- 4,000 - 9,500
- 9,500 - 14,500

**Others**

- INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY
- REGIONAL BOUNDARY
- ATLANTIC OCEAN



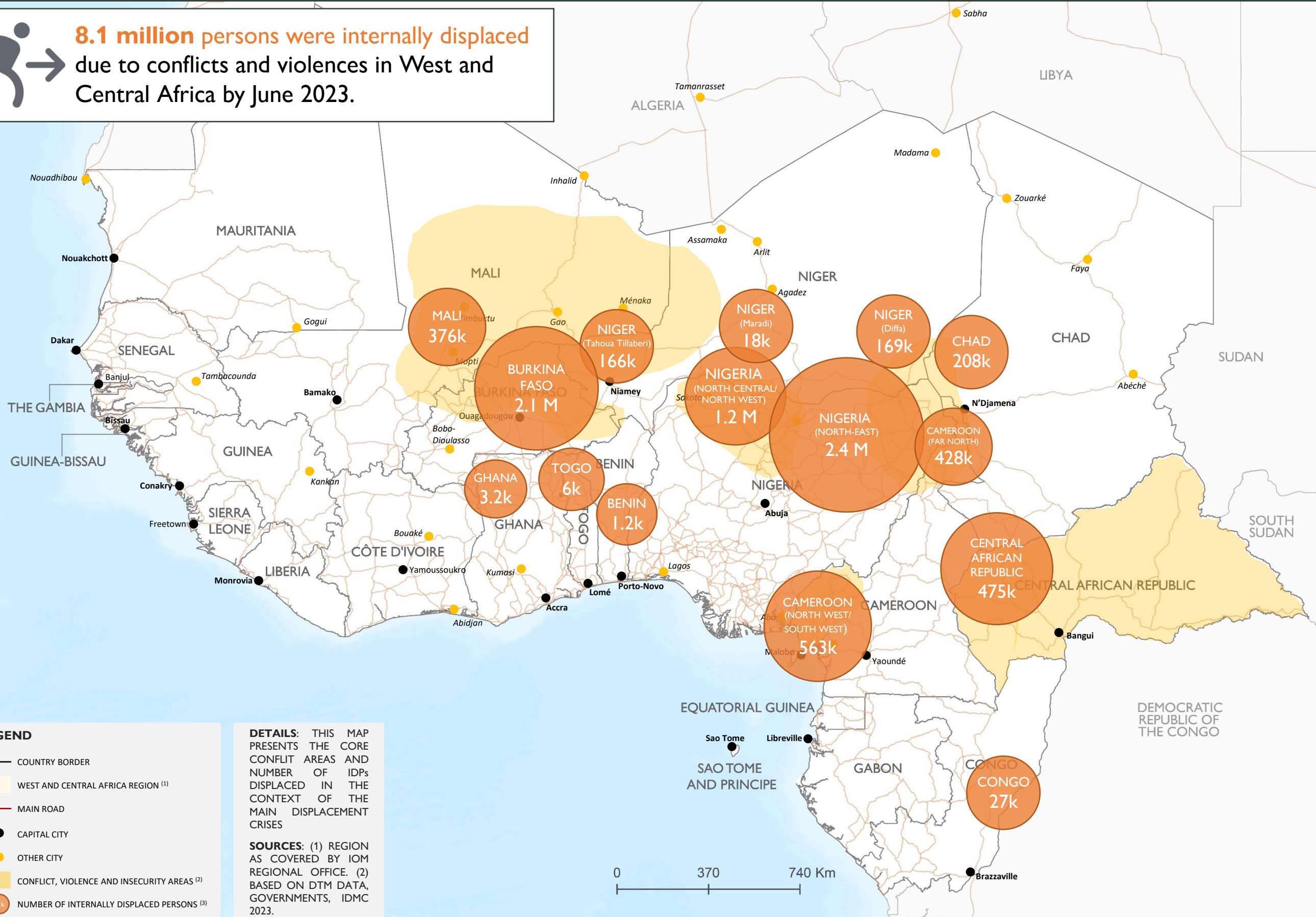
**DETAILS:** THIS MAP PRESENTS THE REGIONS OF ORIGIN OF MIGRANTS IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

**SOURCES:** (1) DATA BASED ON A QUESTION ON REGION OF ORIGIN ASKED TO MIGRANTS ASSISTED WITH ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN (2017- 2022)



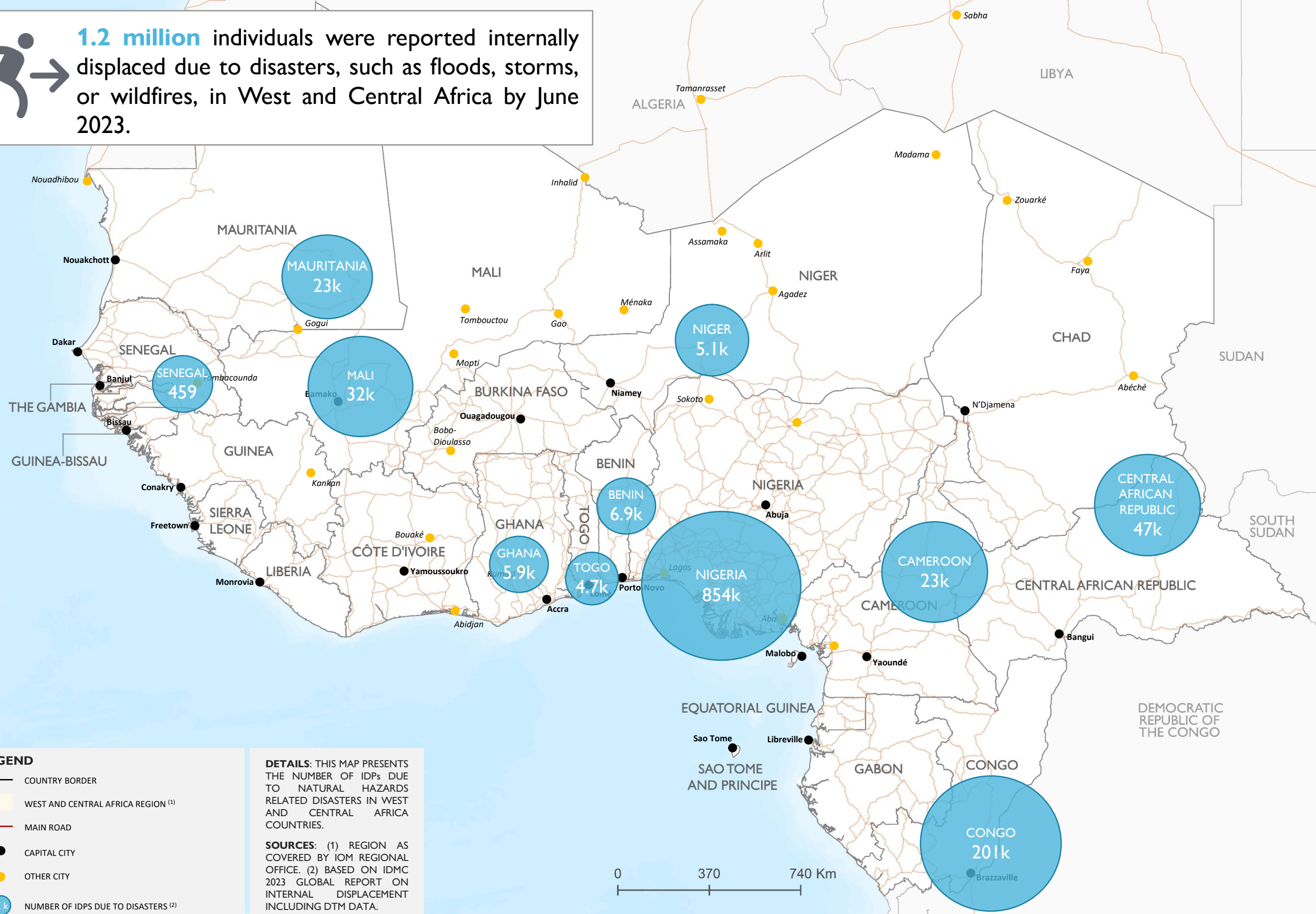


**8.1 million** persons were internally displaced due to conflicts and violences in West and Central Africa by June 2023.



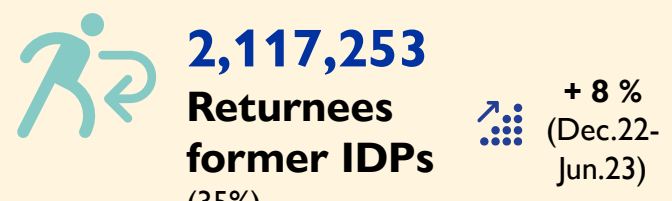
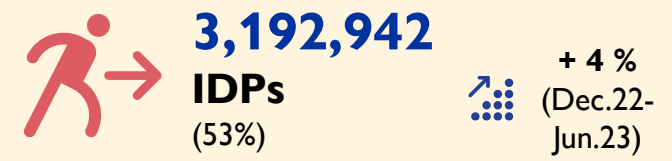
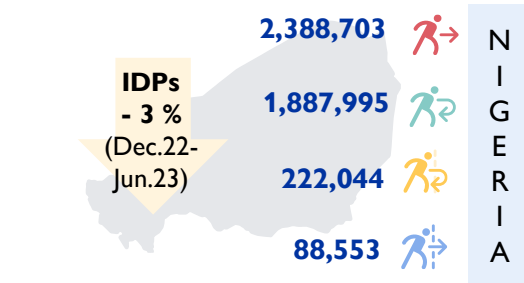
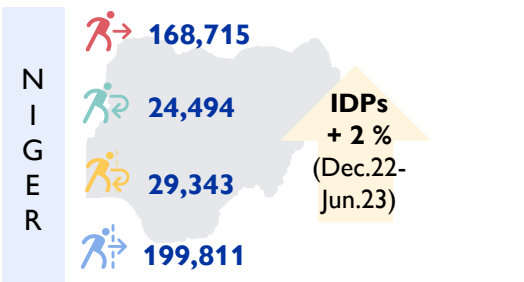
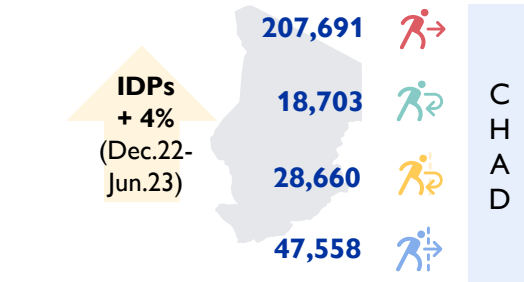
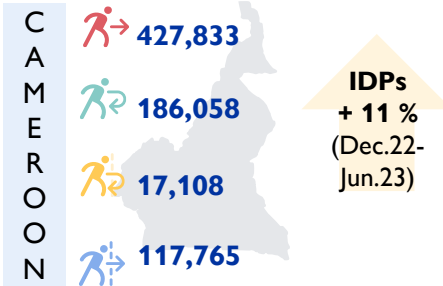


**1.2 million** individuals were reported internally displaced due to disasters, such as floods, storms, or wildfires, in West and Central Africa by June 2023.

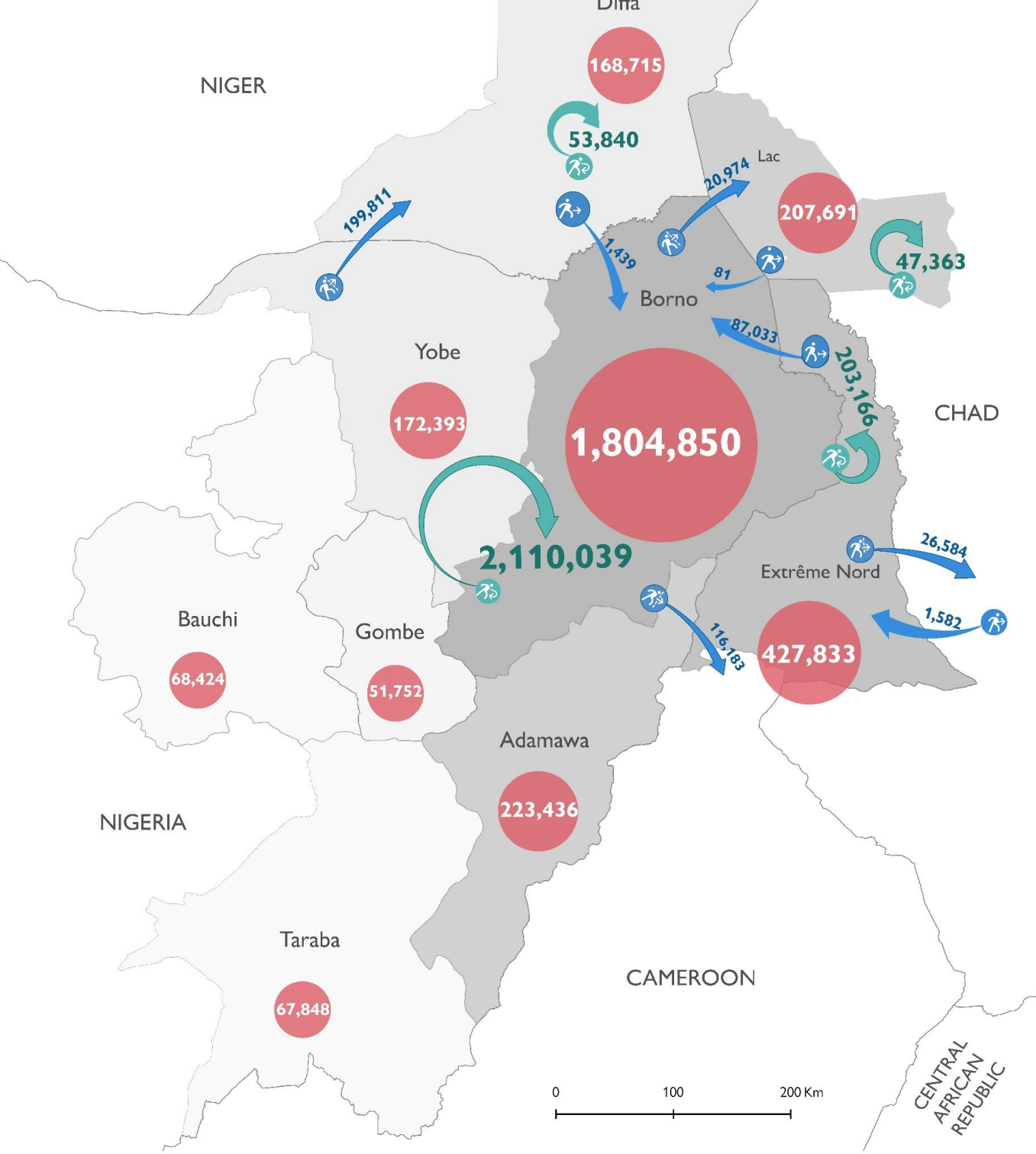
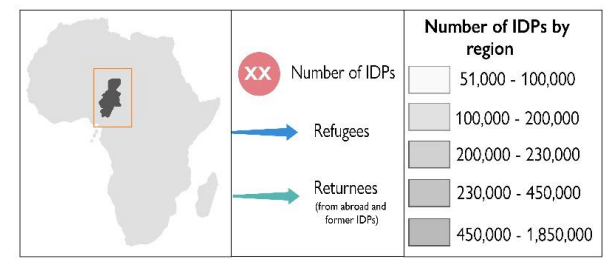




The number of displaced individuals in WCA has overall increased between December 2022 and June 2023 due to the situation in the Lake Chad Basin.



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 June 2023, Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria were hosting an estimated **6,061,037 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 26 (April 2023). DTM Chad, Round 19 (March 2023). DTM Niger, VAS (April 2023). DTM Nigeria, IDP Atlas (April 2023). UNHCR Refugees data (June 2023).

<b>BENIN</b>
1,231
1,063
<b>BURKINA FASO</b>
2,062,534
36,838
<b>COTE D'IVOIRE</b>
6,316
<b>GHANA</b>
3,158
3,153
<b>MALI</b>
375,539
34,500
<b>MAURITANIA</b>
98,474
<b>NIGER</b>
166,239
66,802
<b>TOGO</b>
6,008
8,492

**2,614,709**  
**IDPs**  
(91%)

- 6 %  
(Dec.22-Jun.23)

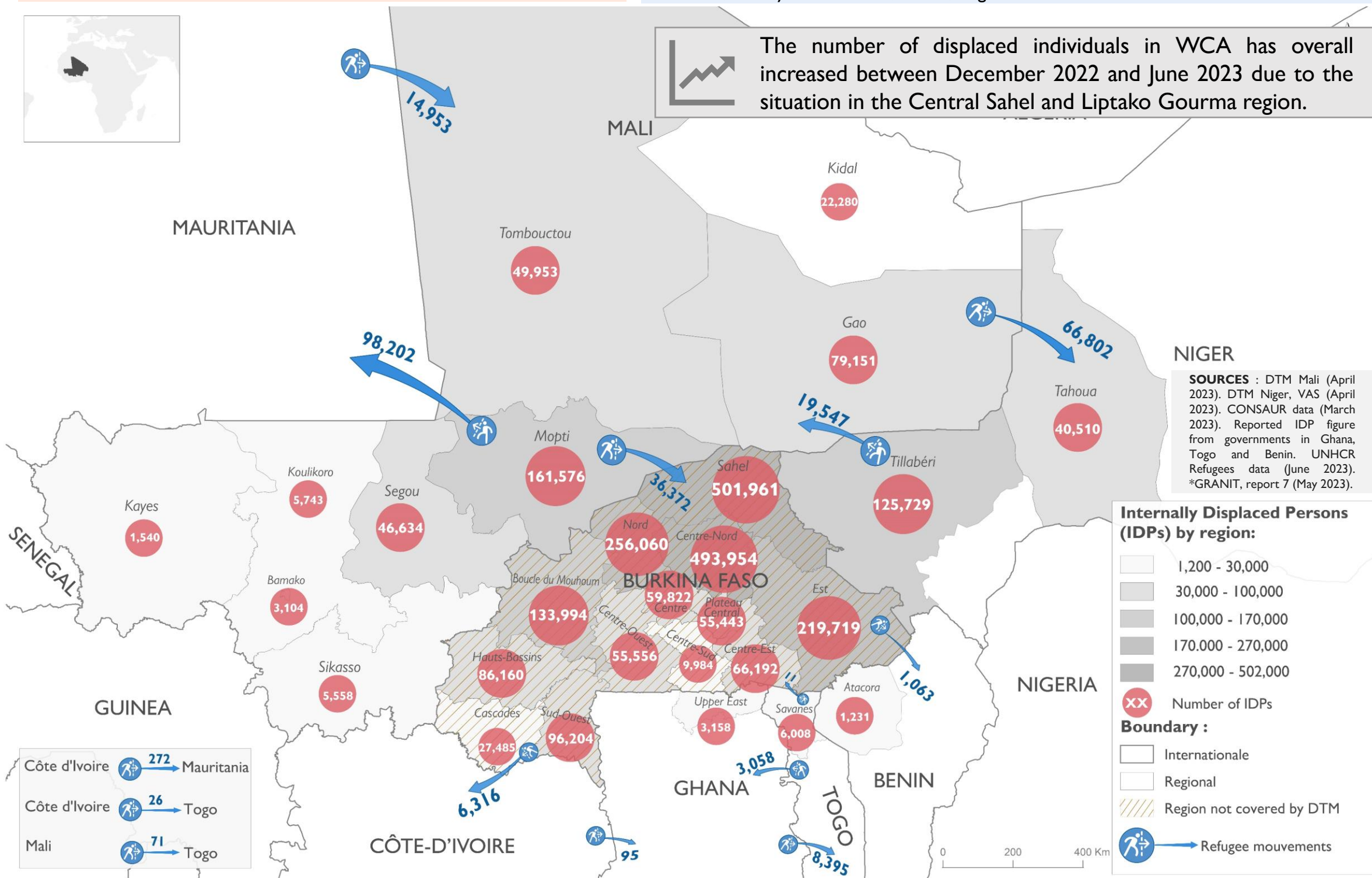
**255,183**  
**Refugees**  
(9%)

- 4 %  
(Dec.22-Jun.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.



The number of displaced individuals in WCA has overall increased between December 2022 and June 2023 due to the situation in the Central Sahel and Liptako Gourma region.



**SOURCES :** DTM Mali (April 2023). DTM Niger, VAS (April 2023). CONSAUR data (March 2023). Reported IDP figure from governments in Ghana, Togo and Benin. UNHCR Refugees data (June 2023). \*GRANIT, report 7 (May 2023).

**Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) by region:**

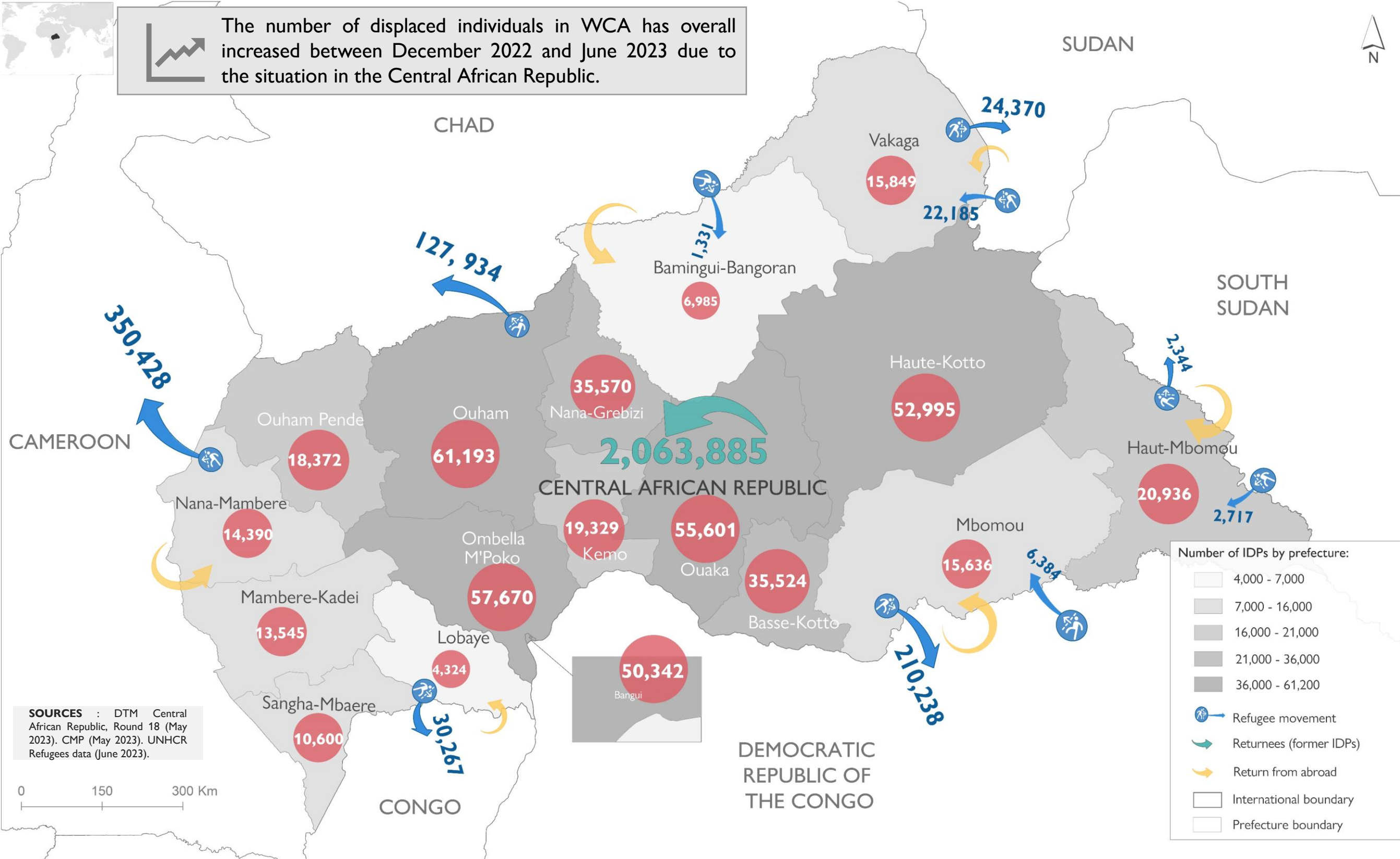
- 1,200 - 30,000
- 30,000 - 100,000
- 100,000 - 170,000
- 170,000 - 270,000
- 270,000 - 502,000

**Boundary :**

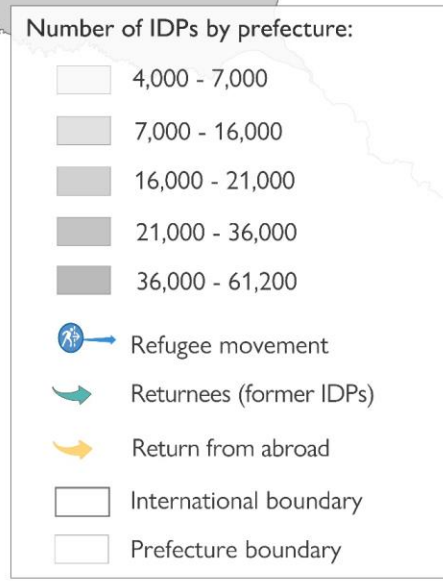
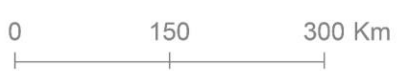
- Internationale
- Regional
- Region not covered by DTM
- Refugee mouvements



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

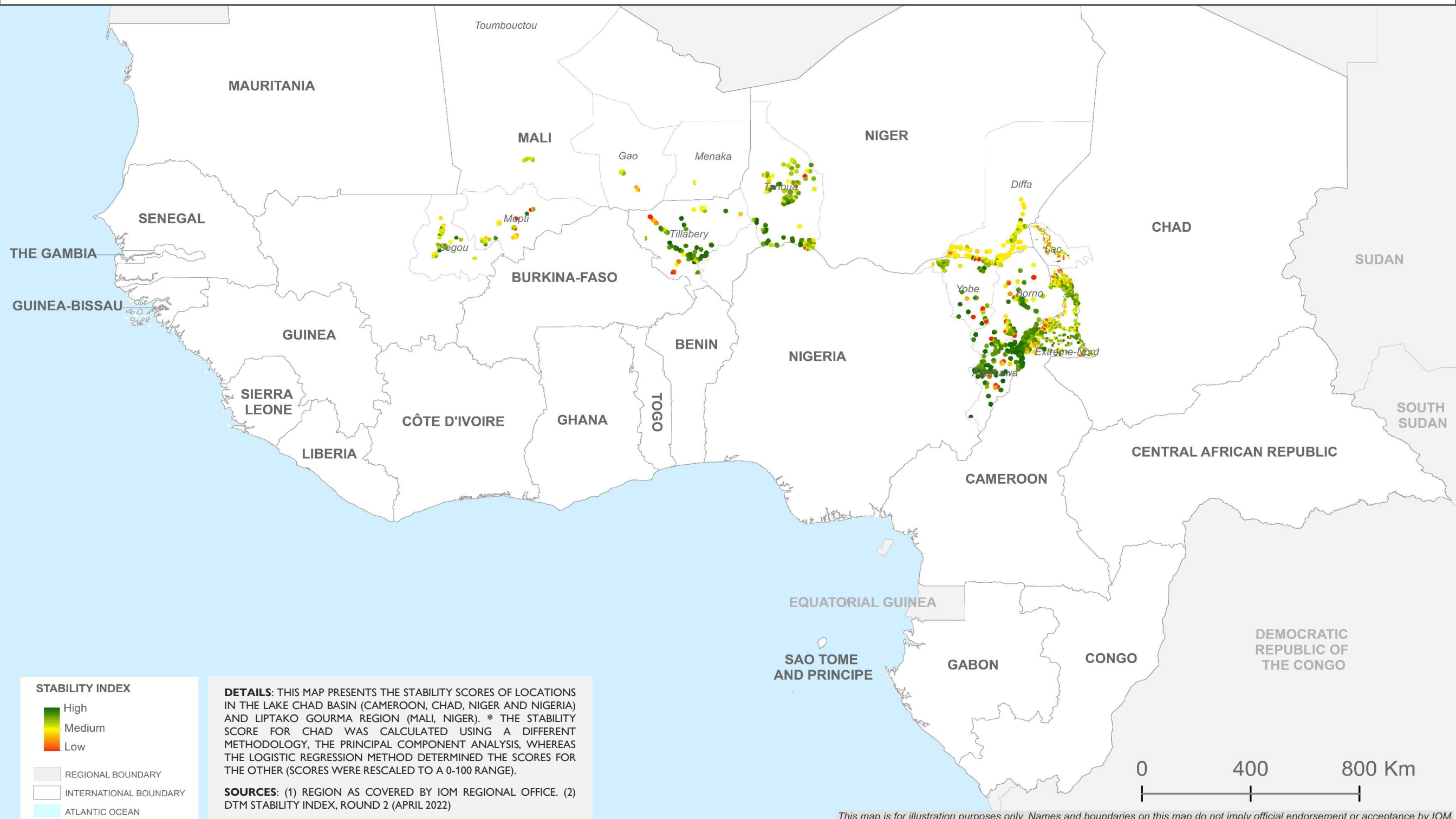


**SOURCES :** DTM Central African Republic, Round 18 (May 2023). CMP (May 2023). UNHCR Refugees data (June 2023).





**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 Stability Index to evaluate the stability of living conditions in the Lake Chad Basin and Liptako Gourma region by calculating a Stability Score for each displacement-hosting location, identifying pockets of stability and instability and thereby prioritizing humanitarian, development and peacebuilding programmes. As of June 2023, for the locations in the **Lake Chad Basin, Cameroon** had an average Stability Score of **77/100**, **Chad** of **48/100\***, **Niger** of **70/100** 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 **78/100**.



**STABILITY INDEX**

- High
- Medium
- Low

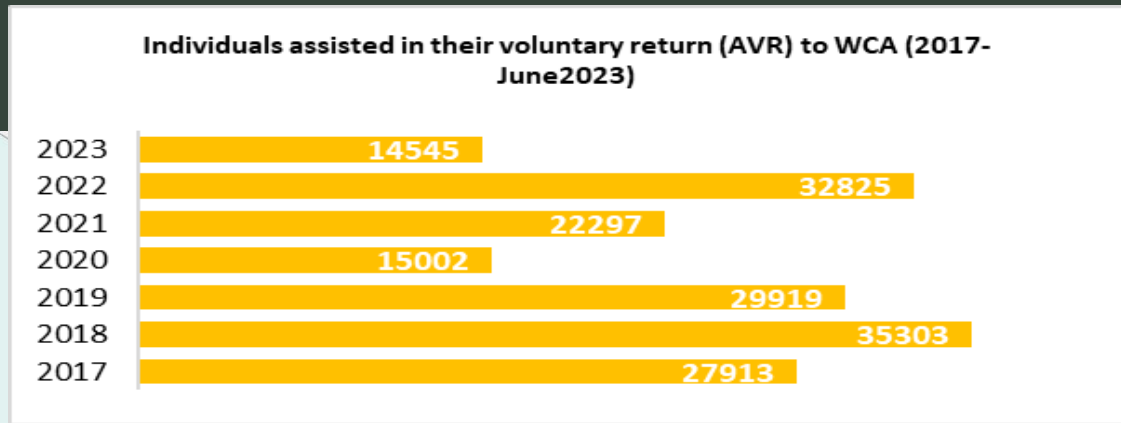
- REGIONAL BOUNDARY
- INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY
- ATLANTIC OCEAN

**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). \* THE STABILITY SCORE FOR CHAD WAS CALCULATED USING A DIFFERENT METHODOLOGY, THE PRINCIPAL COMPONENT ANALYSIS, WHEREAS THE LOGISTIC REGRESSION METHOD DETERMINED THE SCORES FOR THE OTHER (SCORES WERE RESCALED TO A 0-100 RANGE).

**SOURCES:** (1) REGION AS COVERED BY IOM REGIONAL OFFICE. (2) DTM STABILITY INDEX, ROUND 2 (APRIL 2022)

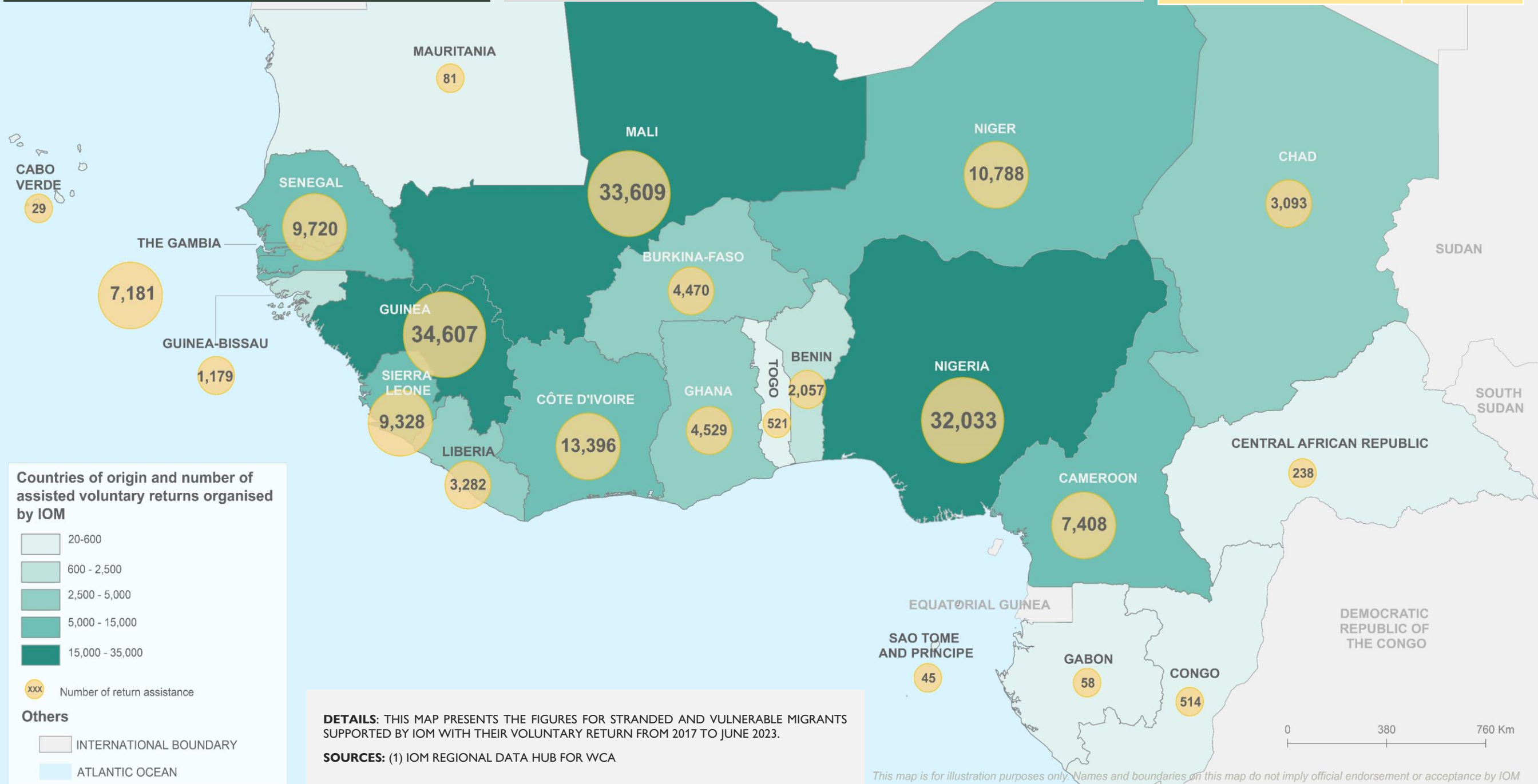
*This map is for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.*

IOM is assisting stranded migrants who wish to return to their country of origin. Between January 2017 and June 2023, **177,804** migrants benefited from IOM assistance and comprehensive programmes to save lives, protect and assist migrants along key migration routes in Africa. A total of **14,545** migrants benefited from this assistance between January and June 2023.

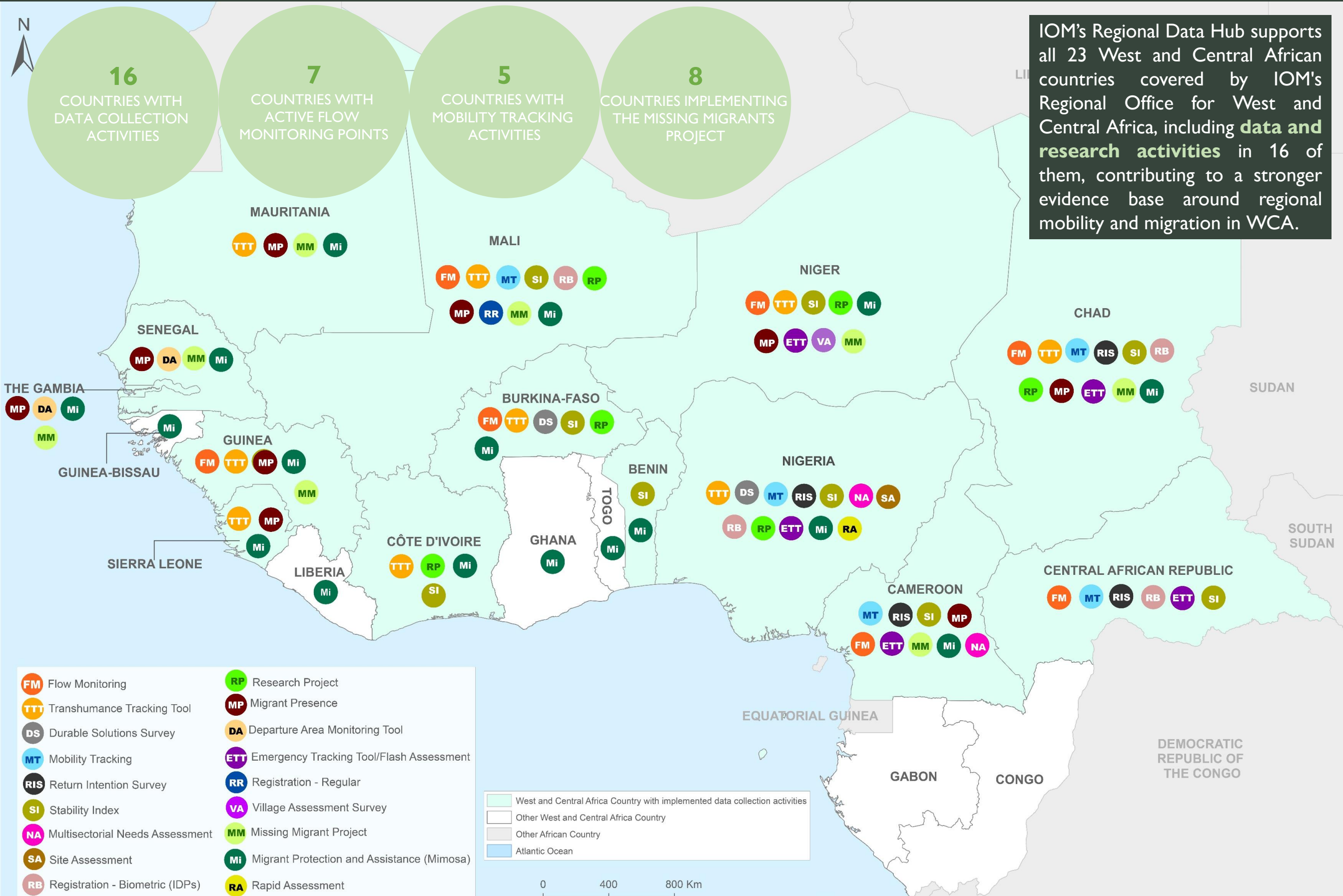


**MAIN SENDING COUNTRIES (January 2017 - June 2023)**

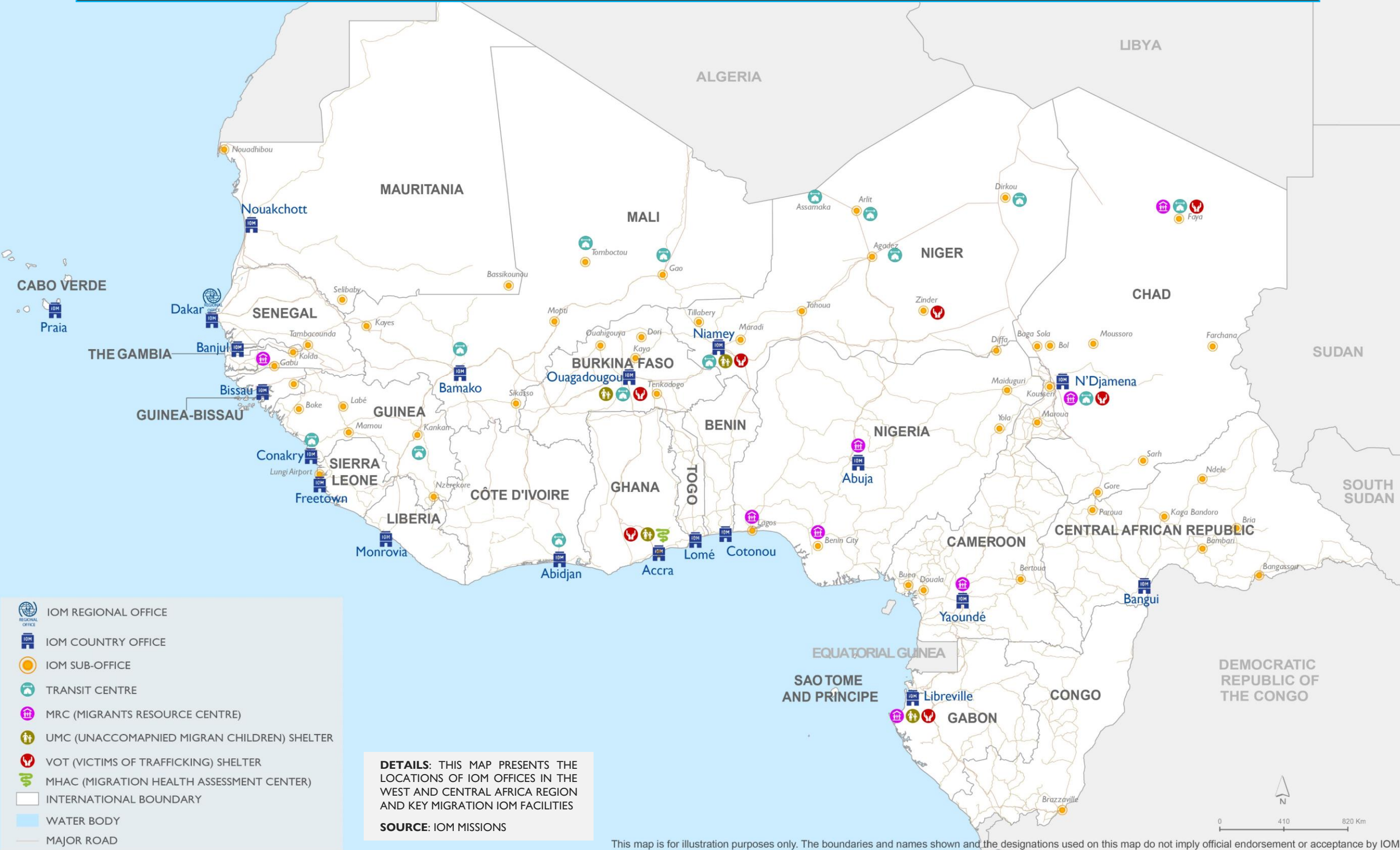
Country	Number of individuals
NIGER	78,288
LIBYA	56,027
MOROCCO	10,211
MALI	5,988
ALGERIA	5,606







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.



# 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 (DTM)

**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. Prior to 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 June 2023, 27 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 (DTM)

**COUNTRIES:** CAMEROON, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, CHAD, MALI, 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 for 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.

## STABILITY INDEX (SMI)

**COUNTRIES:** CAMEROON, CHAD, MALI, NIGER, NIGERIA

**DESCRIPTION:** The Stability Index combines 35 key indicators of stability to calculate a single Stability Score for each covered location. These indicators relate to three key themes crucial to stability: safety and security, livelihoods and basic services, and social cohesion. 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 validate the relationship between the Stability Score and community perception.

The Stability Index uses the logistical regression analysis to assess the impact of each indicator on the variability in the data, in order to generate 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 (DTM)

**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 exacerbated the phenomenon of transhumance, pushing 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 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 three tools: a mapping, a flow monitoring and an early warning mechanism.

## MISSING MIGRANTS PROJECT (GMDAC)

**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 provide 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 update 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



International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The UN Migration Agency

**Regional Office for West and Central Africa**

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