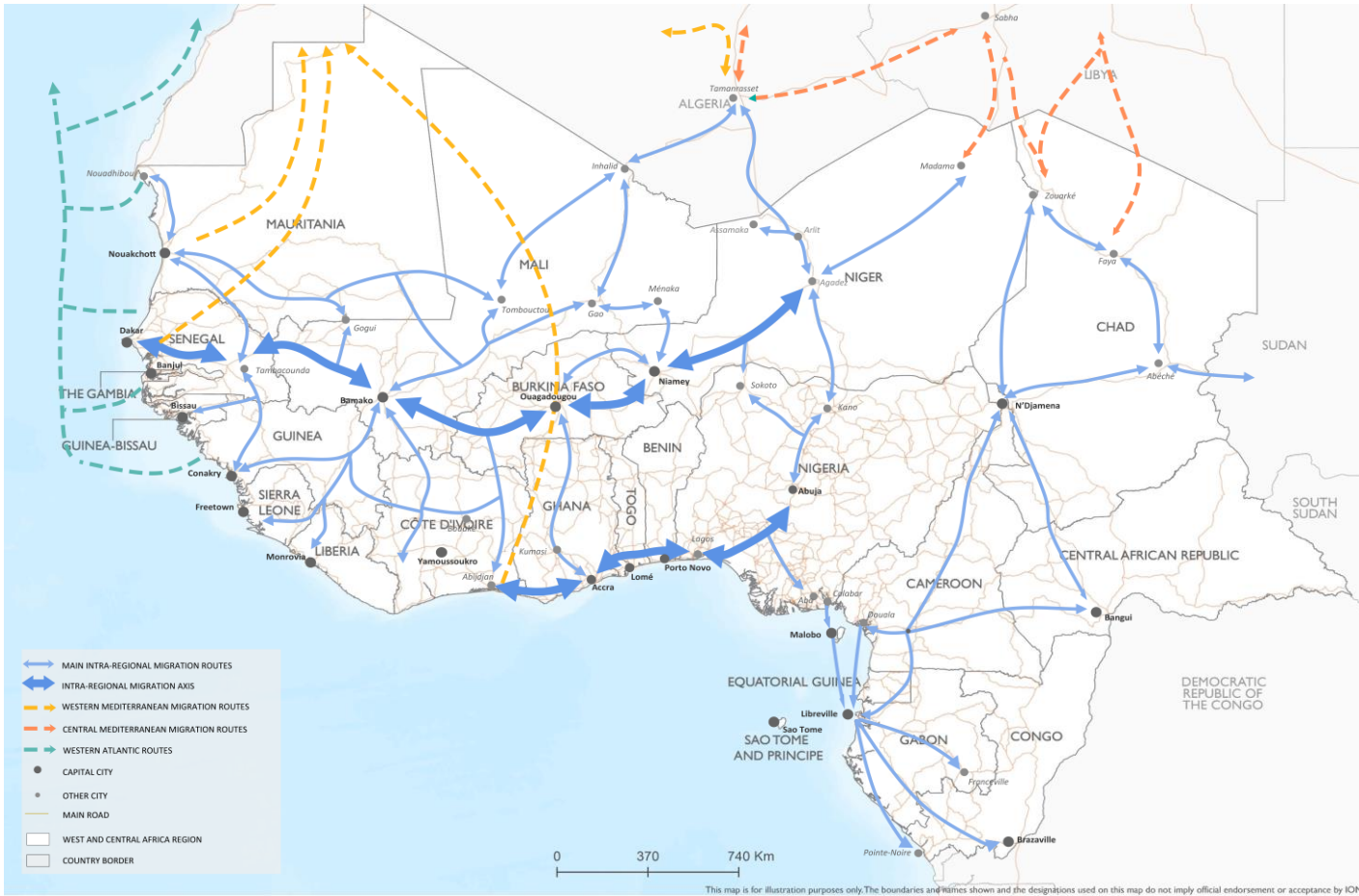


INTRODUCTION

The **Sahel**, within the West and Central Africa (WCA) region, is a stretch of land which spans from Mauritania to Chad, separating the Sahara desert on the North, from tropical coastal countries to the South. Other characterizations define the Sahel as the entire region on the African continent from the Atlantic Ocean on the West to the Red Sea on the East, separating the desert from the savanna. *Either way, migratory routes within the WCA region inevitably cross the Sahel*, and migrants, in search of better opportunities the region has to offer, are facing multiple risks along their journeys on these routes. This report compiles information from different data and research activities held within the region in the objective to highlight the diverse dynamics, profiles and risks migrants are facing while travelling on the WCA routes through the Sahel. This dashboard covers the period until June 2023 and is based on information from (1) Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) data on mobility trends and population flows; (2) Missing Migrants Project (MMP) data on arrivals to Europe and the Canary Islands, migrant deaths and disappearances; (3) Data on migrants seeking Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) to and within the WCA region; (4) Expulsions of migrants from other regions to WCA, especially from Algeria and Libya; (5) Transhumance Tracking Tool (TTT) data on the mobility of transhumant populations throughout the Sahel; and (6) Solutions and Mobility Index (SMI) indicators of stability within the Sahelian region.

MIGRATORY ROUTES THROUGH SAHEL



MIGRATORY ROUTES THROUGH SAHEL TO EUROPE

THE WESTERN ATLANTIC ROUTE

Migrants travel from the region to the coasts of West Africa where they embark on boats to the Canary Islands of Spain. This route, already active in 2006, saw an increasing number of movements in 2023. The risks, deaths and disappearances following shipwrecks are also on the rise along the Atlantic coasts.

THE WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN ROUTE

The Western Mediterranean Route to Europe finds its different origins within sub-Saharan African countries, Northern Africa, and the Middle East. Migrants extremely dangerous path through the Sahel and the Sahara desert leads them to the Algerian coast where they embark on boats towards Spain's mainland.

THE CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN ROUTE

The Central Mediterranean Route finds its roots across different countries in the Sahel and crosses the Sahara desert to the coasts of Libya and Tunisia, towards Italy or Malta. It is mostly chosen by sub-Saharan Africans, whose identified deaths and disappearances are largely observed along this route. It is known as the deadliest route to Europe from the region.

PROFILES AND TRAVEL MODALITIES

Profiles of migrants registered at flow monitoring points within WCA in 2023 *



SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF THE MAJORITY OF SURVEYED MIGRANTS **



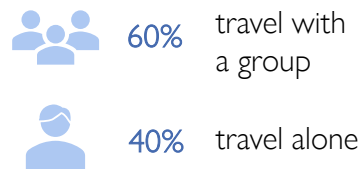
SOCIOECONOMIC PROFILE OF THE MAJORITY OF SURVEYED MIGRANTS **



PRIMARY MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION OF REGISTERED MIGRANTS *



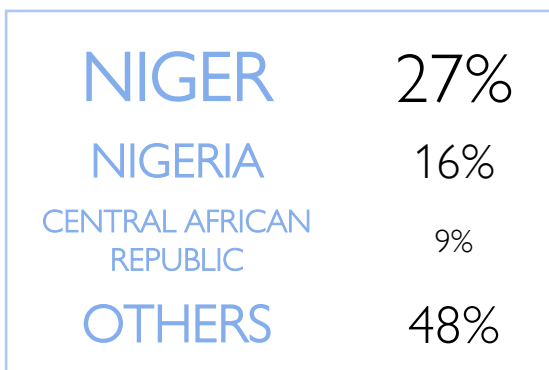
MODALITIES OF TRAVEL **



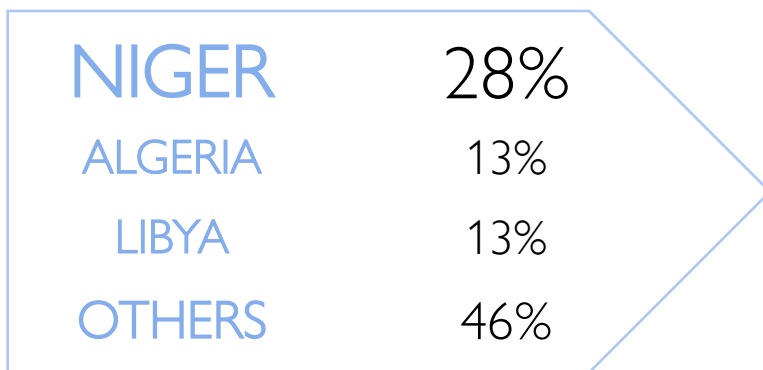
* Analysis based on data collected in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Mali and Niger between January and June 2023.

** Analysis based on data collected through 20 940 interviews in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Guinea, Mali and Niger between January and June 2023.

WHERE FROM? **



WHERE TO? **



ARRIVALS TO EUROPE THROUGH SAHEL

7,213

migrants arrived in the Canary Islands between January and June 2023.

THE WESTERN ATLANTIC ROUTE

5,491

migrants arrived in Spain (mainland) between January and June 2023.

THE WESTERN MEDITERANEAN ROUTE

65,660

migrants arrived in Italy or Malta between January and June 2023.

THE CENTRAL MEDITERANEAN ROUTE

MIGRATORY ASPIRATIONS

The large majority of surveyed migrants at Flow Monitoring Points between January and June 2023 mentioned **travelling for economic reasons (80%)** and 9 per cent for marriages or family reunifications. For those travelling for economic reasons, **58 per cent were looking for a job or another livelihood opportunity**, 23 per cent were travelling to conduct business and 12 per cent were commuting for work or shopping. **Thirty-seven per cent (37%) of the surveyed migrants planned to stay a day or less** in their intended destination, 20 per cent were not planning to return and 19 per cent did not know how long they would stay there.

Analysis based on data collected through 18,014 interviews in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Guinea, Mali and Niger between January and June 2023.

ASSISTED VULNERABLE MIGRANTS *

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

64% of assisted victims of trafficking were from Nigeria.

42% of migrants with health-related needs were from Nigeria.

Category	Female	Male	Total
Migrants assisted in their voluntary return	2,969	11,594	14,564
Assisted unaccompanied/separated children	29	66	95
Assisted victims of trafficking	474	107	581
Migrants with health-related needs assisted	380	436	816

** Analysis based on data from assisted voluntary returns provided between January and June 2023.*

ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURNS *

COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN	
GUINEA	26%
MALI	20%
NIGERIA	16%
OTHERS	38%

RETURNS FROM	
NIGER	49%
LIBYA	22%
TUNISIA	6%
OTHERS	23%

EXPULSIONS OF MIGRANTS

9,111 is the number of migrants expelled from Algeria to the Niger border between January and May 2023, of which 38 per cent were Guineans and 25 per cent Malians.

7,828 Nigerien returned to Niger on official convoys from Algeria between January and May 2023.

633 migrants were expelled from Libya to Chad between January and June 2023.

MISSING OR DECEASED MIGRANTS

1,088 Number of reported **missing** migrants within the region between January and June 2023 on the different routes to Europe or Northern Africa.

865

Number of reported **deceased** migrants within the region between January and June 2023 on the different routes to Europe or Northern Africa.

CRISIS AND DISPLACEMENT

LAKE CHAD BASIN

- 3,192,942 IDPs (53%)
- 2,117,253 Returnees former IDPs (35%)
- 297,155 Returnees from abroad (5%)
- 453,687 Refugees (7%)

The conflict in this region impacts Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria with a total of **6,061,037** individuals affected by June 2023.

LIPTAKO GOURMA, CENTRAL SAHEL AND COASTAL COUNTRIES

- 2,614,709 IDPs (91%)
- 255,183 Refugees (9%)

The region includes Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Togo with a reported total of **2,869,892** individuals affected by June 2023.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

- 474,822 IDPs (13%)
- 2,063,885 Returnees former IDPs (54%)
- 503,019 Returnees from abroad (13%)
- 778,198 Refugees (20%)

The conflict in the region includes the CAR, Chad, the Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan and South Sudan with a total of **3,819,924** individuals affected by June 2023.

NIGERIA NORTH-WEST NORTH-CENTRAL (NW-NC)

- The crisis in NW-NC Nigeria is affecting a reported total of **1,190,293** IDPs in Nigeria and **18,129** IDPs in Niger by June 2023.

CAMEROON NORTH-WEST SOUTH-WEST (NW-SW)

- The crisis in NW-SW Cameroon is affecting a reported total of **980,807** individuals (IDPs and returnees) by August 2022. *

SUDAN CRISIS IMPACT ON CHAD AND CAR BY JUNE 2023

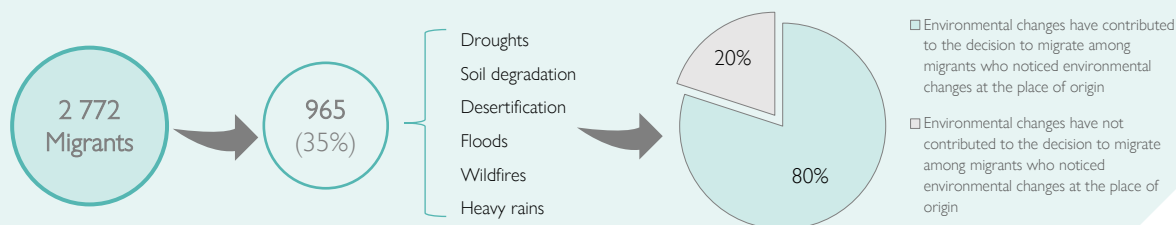
44,710	15,335
individuals returned in Chad	individuals returned or refugees in CAR **

* Figures reported in Cameroon HNO 2023, data collected in August 2022. ** Impacted individuals in CAR by Sudan crisis (15,335) already included in CAR detailed part, not double-counted in the total figure.

THE DIFFERENT CRISES IN WCA ARE AFFECTING A TOTAL OF **14,984,792** INDIVIDUALS BY JUNE 2023, OF WHICH **8,053,702** ARE IDPs.

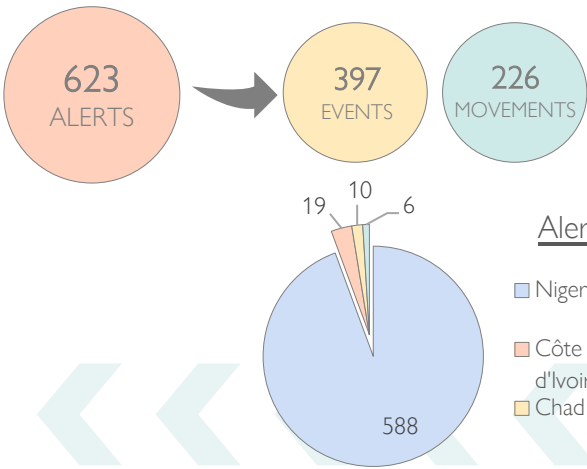
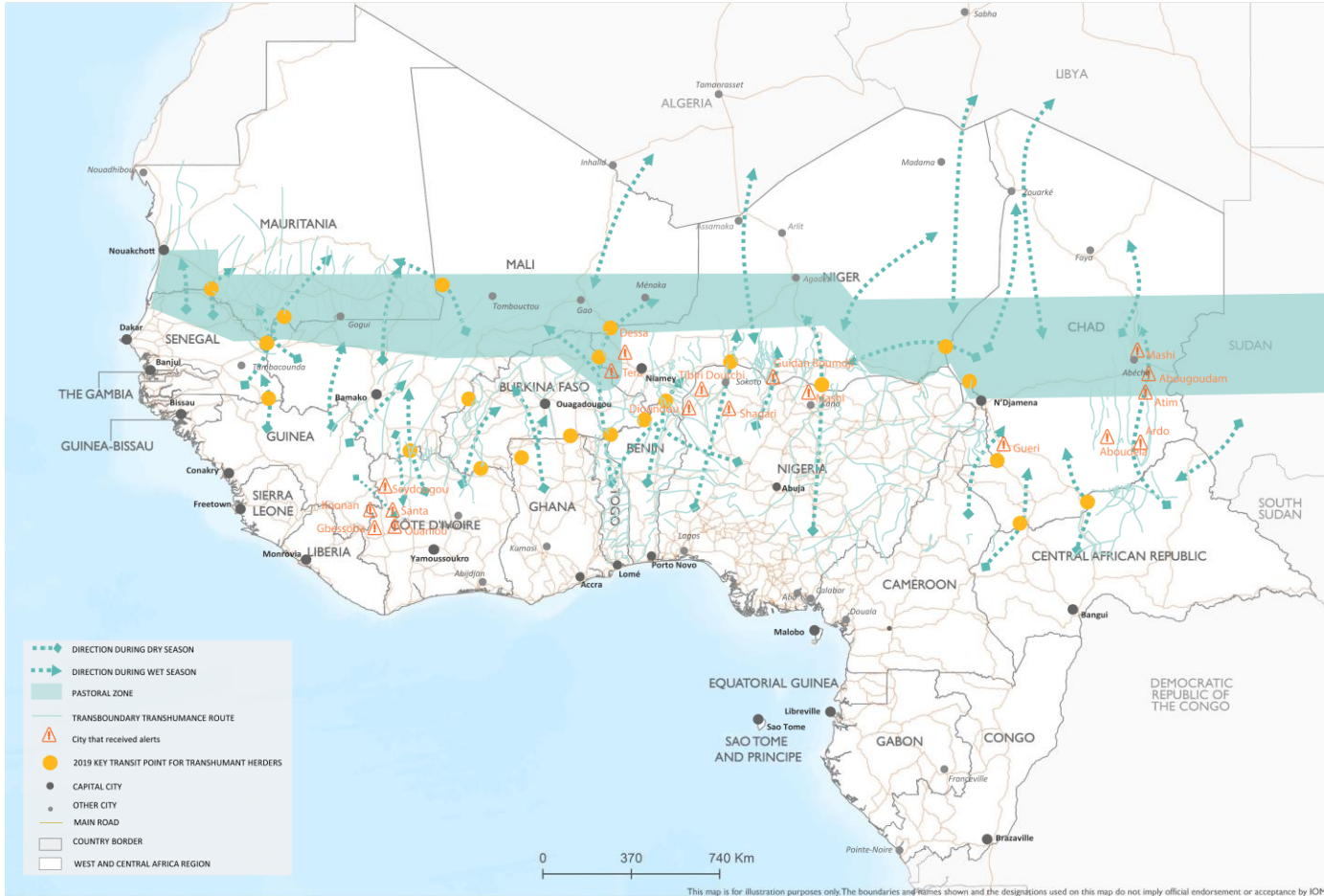
ENVIRONMENT AND DISPLACEMENT

Among 2,772 individuals surveyed in Mali between January and March 2023, 965 noticed environmental changes at their place of origin. Twenty-eight (28) per cent of respondents (772 individuals) – representing approximately 80 per cent of all migrants who noticed environmental changes at their places of origin – affirm that these changes have negatively impacted their livelihoods and contributed to their decision to migrate.



TRANSUMANCE IN THE SAHEL

Cross-border transhumance is a longstanding traditional pastoral practice in Africa where herders migrate seasonally with their livestock in search of grazing land. In the Sahel and coastal countries of West Africa, a region characterized by long dry seasons, livestock mobility is an important livelihood adaptation to increase resilience to climatic and economic vulnerabilities and risks. 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. For instance, a recent IOM study in Mali found that 15 per cent of herders surveyed had to change their initial itinerary, including 8 per cent facing difficulties in accessing water or pasture. Respondents also mentioned wildfires, decrease of pastoral spaces as issues affecting their mobility. Through the **Transhumance Tracking Tool (TTT) Early Warning System**, IOM contributes to the mitigation of conflict over natural resources between farmer and herder communities.

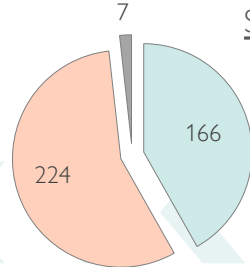


Between January and June 2023, a total of 623 alerts have been reported through IOM's TTT Early Warning mechanism in Chad, Côte d'Ivoire/Guinea, Niger and Nigeria. These alerts included 397 events and 226 movements. Among the reported events, 166 were resolved by local actors.

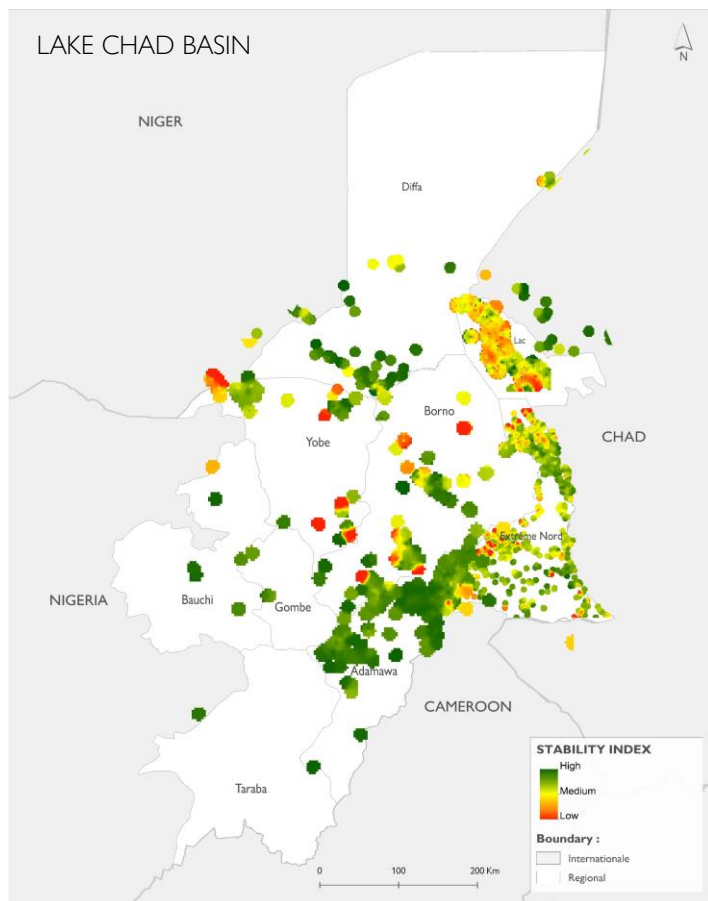
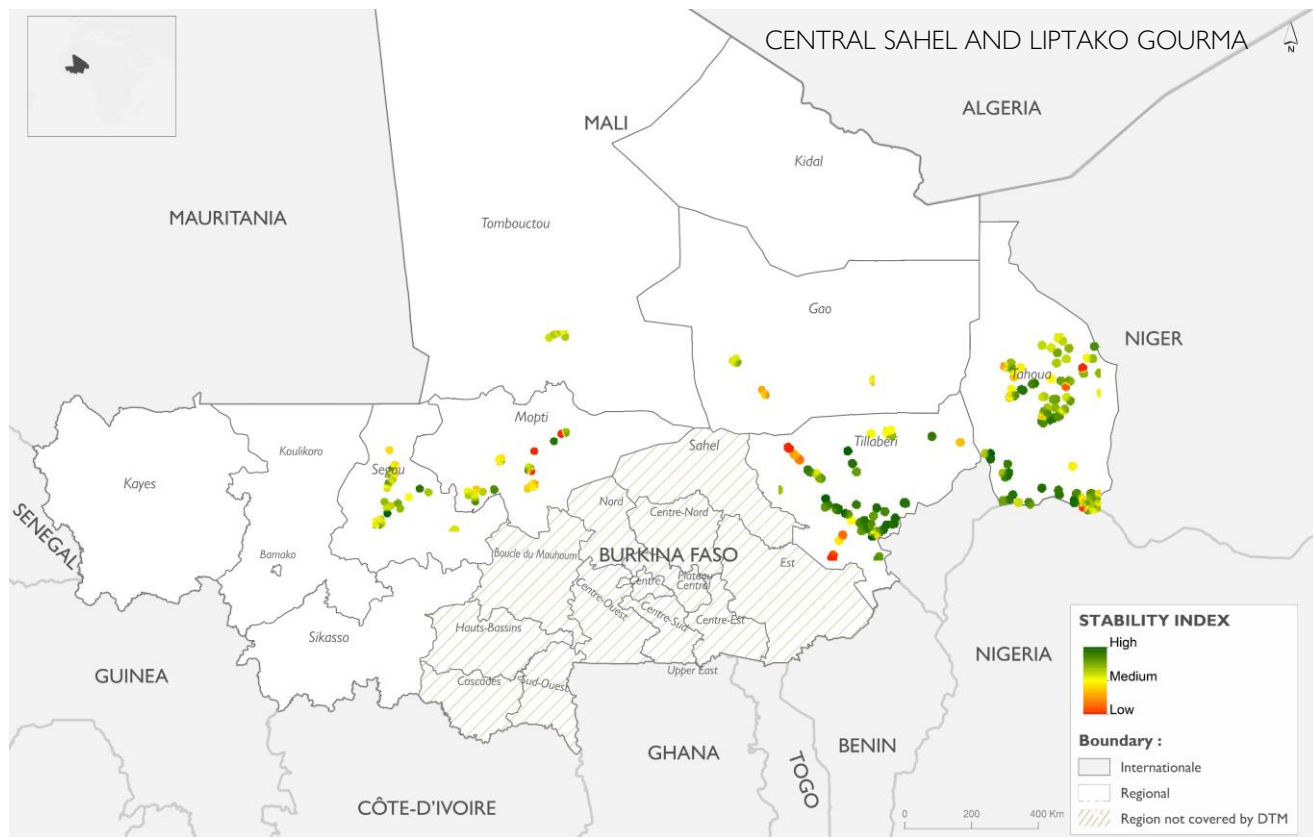
Alerts



Status of events



DURABLE SOLUTIONS AND MOBILITY IN THE SAHEL



IOM implements within Sahelian countries the Solution and Mobility Index. This assessment allows to evaluate the stability of living conditions in the Central Sahel and Liptako Gourma region and the Lake Chad Basin by calculating a **Stability Score** for each displacement-hosting location, identifying **pockets of stability** and instability and thereby prioritizing humanitarian, development and peacebuilding programs.

As of June 2023, for the Central Sahel and Liptako Gourma region, Mali had an average Stability Score of **64/100**, and Niger of **78/100**.

For the locations in the Lake Chad Basin, as of June 2023, Cameroon had an average Stability Score of **77/100**, Chad of **48/100***, Niger of **70/100** and Nigeria of **90/100**.

* The Stability Score for Chad was calculated using a different methodology. For Chad, the principal component analysis was used, whereas the logistic regression method determined the score for the other countries (the scores were rescaled to a 0 to 100 range).