



The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly affected mobility in West and Central Africa in the form of various travel disruptions, restrictions and bans, which often leave migrants stranded. This report provides key information on the magnitude and types of changes to mobility observed in the context of the COVID-19 crisis.

The Flow Monitoring Registry (FMR) is a tool of IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) which records movements crossing areas of high-density mobility (areas of departure, transit and destination). FMR gathers data on the numbers and profiles of travellers crossing these strategic transit points. To better understand the ways and the extent to which the COVID-19 crisis is impacting mobility in the region, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has been working to analyse Flow Monitoring data collected at key transit points in West and Central Africa between January to July 2020 (using 2018 and 2019 data as barometers of comparison). Due to mobility restrictions and the pandemic spread, FMPs in Burkina Faso, Guinea and Senegal have been put on hold. This report focuses on Chad, Mali, Niger and Nigeria data only as these FMPs were open in Mars-July 2020 and compared with 2019 data for these countries.

Volume of flows: The volume of travellers registered across the West and Central Africa region witnessed a **3 per cent decrease** between **2019 and 2020 (Month of July)** in Chad, Mali, Niger and Nigeria. Chart I. illustrates the drop in daily flows observed at FMPs in Chad, Mali, Niger and Nigeria against a daily average taken from daily flows in March and July 2019 and shows a sharp decrease of flows on 21 March 2020. However, compared with April 2020, flows in May, June and July sharply increased (+65% from April to May 2020, +29% from May to June 2020, and +18% from June to July 2020) chart II.

Weekly flows: A weekly analysis (chart II) of registered movements shows a striking acceleration in the decrease in flows over the second half of the month of March: between Week 12 and Week 13, the number of travellers observed weekly dropped by 69 per cent. This coincides with the period during which countries in the region started imposing travel bans and enacting border closure measures. From Week 13 to Week 18 (March, April), the number of individuals observed at Flow Monitoring Points in stabilizes. From Week 19 to 22, the number of individuals observed at FMP rose consistently and from Week 23 to 30 progressively increased.

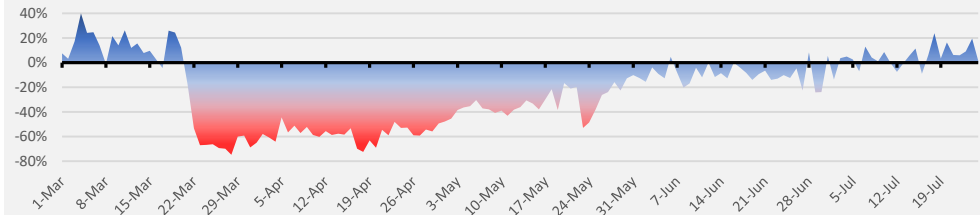
Types of flows: Cross-border movements and internal movements (chart III) observed have been heavily affected by the COVID-19 mobility restriction measures. Data collection in April to June 2020 show a rapid resurgence in internal flows (+153% between April and May 2020 and +33% between May and June 2020) but a small decrease between June and July (-3%) while cross-border movements increased only slightly over the same period (+28%, +25%, +3%). This may be due to the fact that international borders remained shut in June, while restrictions to internal mobility were progressively lifted.

-3%
+18%

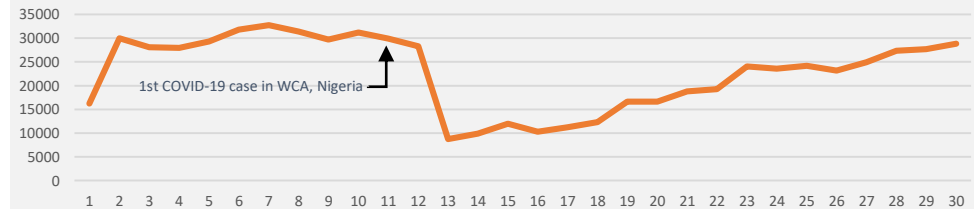
CHANGE IN FLOWS OBSERVED BETWEEN
2019 (JULY) AND 2020 (JULY)

CHANGE IN FLOWS OBSERVED BETWEEN
JUNE 2020 AND JULY 2020

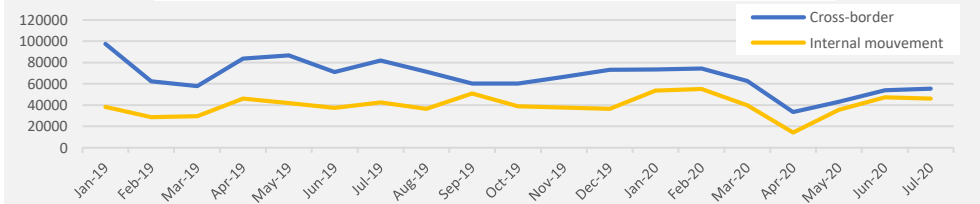
I. MOBILITY TRENDS IN WCA FMPS (BASELINE FROM MAR-JUL 2019)



II. WEEKLY NUMBER OF OBSERVED INDIVIDUALS AT FMPS, by WEEK



III. COMPARISON CROSS-BORDER vs INTERNAL FLOWS, by MONTH 2019-2020





COVID-19 — FLOW MONITORING REGISTRY

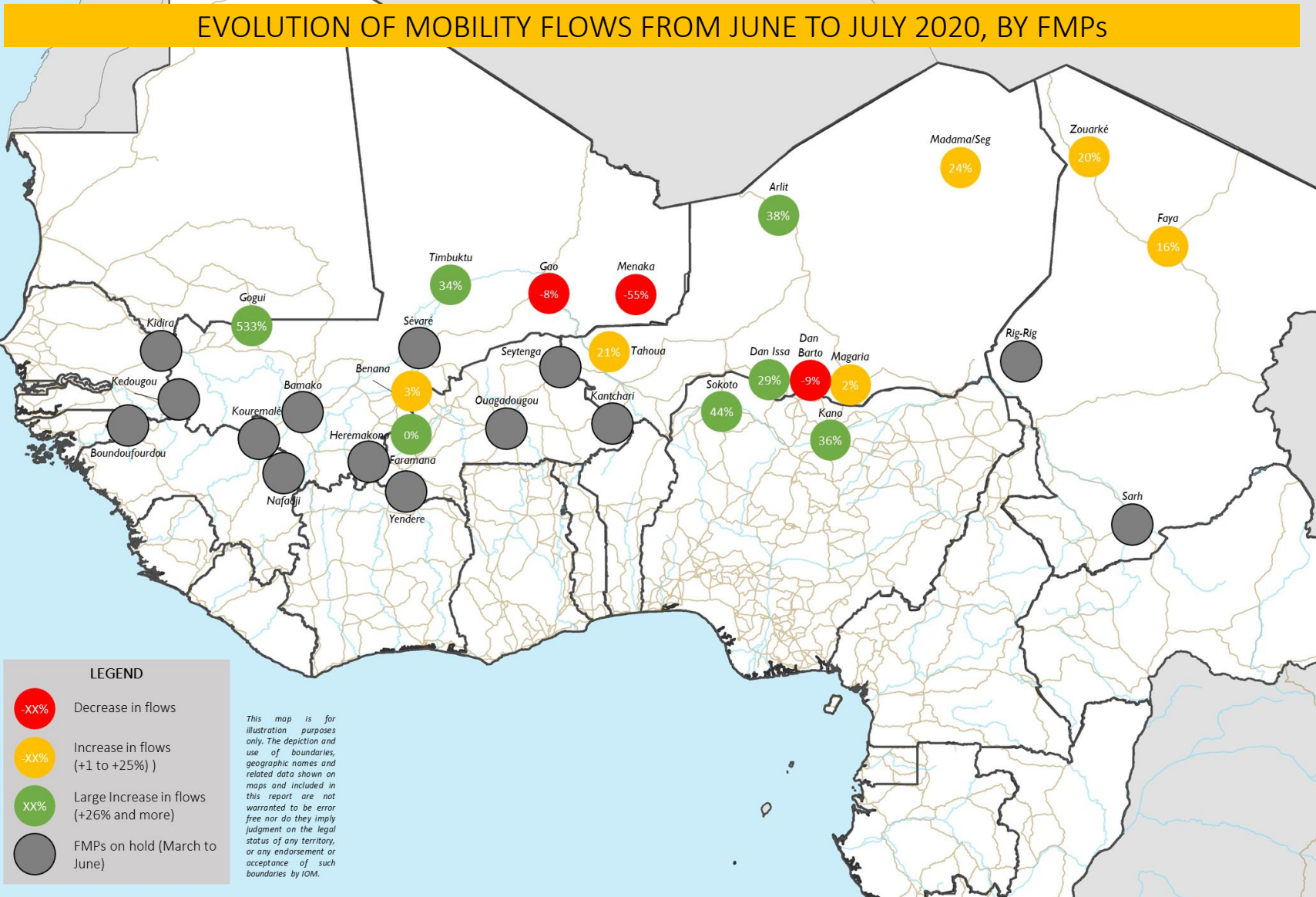
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Mobility Trends – January - July 2020 – West & Central Africa

This map illustrates the variation in volume of flows between June and July 2020 at Flow Monitoring Points across West and Central Africa (WCA).

This map should be reviewed along with the [Mobility Restriction](#) overview provided by DTM on the migration.iom.int website, which provides a daily update of mobility restriction measures. Further decrease in cross-border flows is expected as most countries in WCA have closed their borders and restricted internal movements.

This situation has led to several dozen thousand **migrants being stranded** while attempting to cross borders from one country to another or being quarantined after entering a country. Stranded migrants are in a difficult situation with nowhere to go and anxiously waiting for borders to re-open in order to reach their destination. Events reported by DTM can be found at the following address: migration.iom.int



INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION
Website: <https://migration.iom.int>
<https://displacement.iom.int/>
Contact: RODakar-DataResearch@iom.int

When quoting, paraphrasing, or in any other way using the information mentioned in this report, the source needs to be stated appropriately as follows: "Source: The International Organization for Migration [Month, Year], Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)"

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International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency

This section highlights individual mobility trends at key flow monitoring points still open in March - July 2020 compared with average daily flows over the same period in 2019.

Most Flow Monitoring Points show large variations over the observed period between March

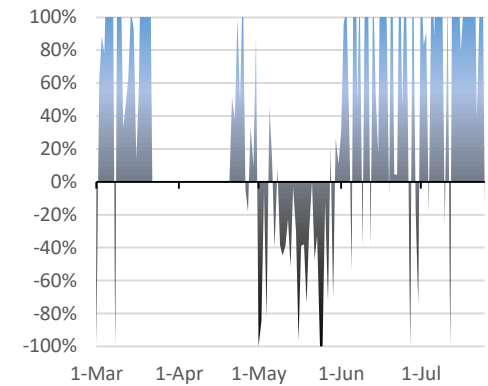
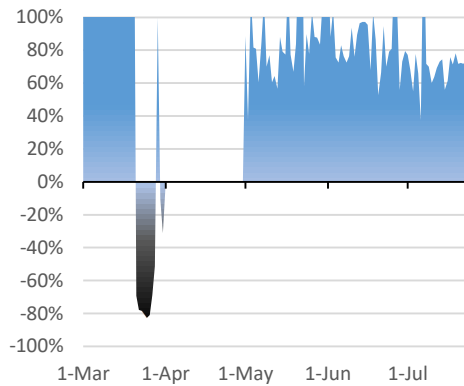
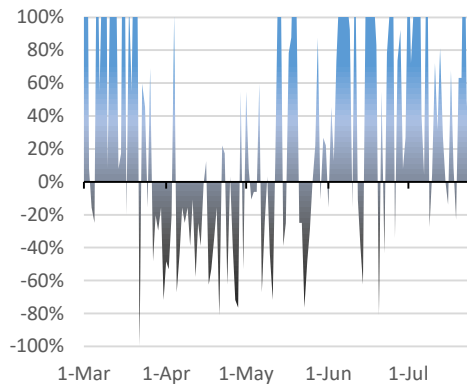
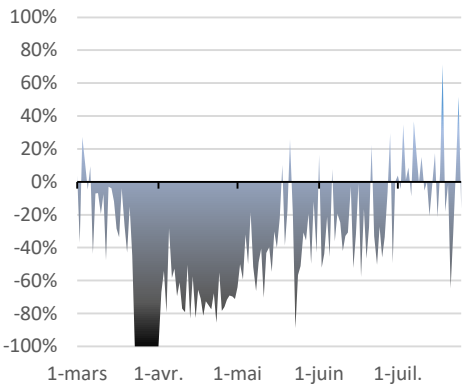
and July 2020 as compared with a baseline figure taken from the average of the volume of flows between March and July 2019). There are clear acceleration and catch-up of flows in May and June 2020, most often due to internal movements, highlighting that mobility restrictions in place are less and less followed but also due to the ease of mobility restrictions.

Mobility Trends **ARLIT, NIGER** (baseline from Mar-Jul 2019)

Mobility Trends in **BENANA, MALI** (baseline from Mar-Jul 2019)

Mobility Trends in **DAN BARTO, NIGER** (baseline from Mar-Jul 2019)

Mobility Trends in **FAYA, CHAD** (baseline from Mar-Jul 2019)

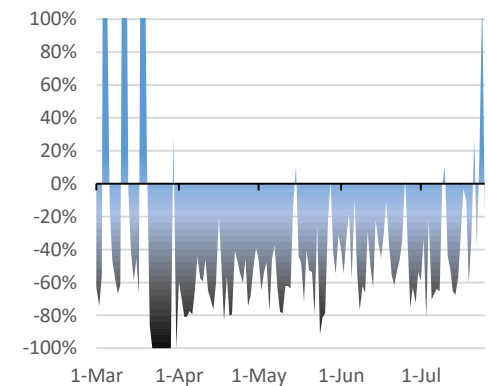
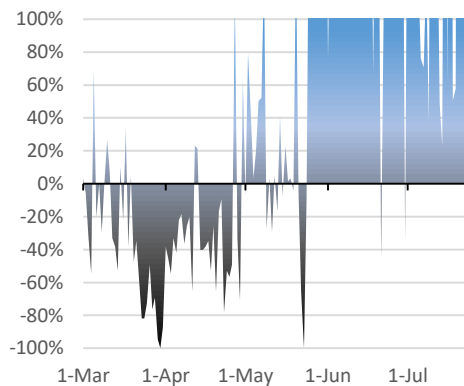
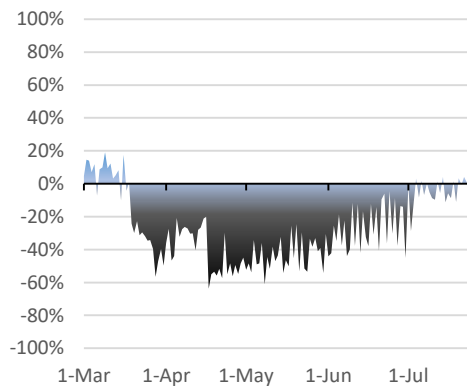
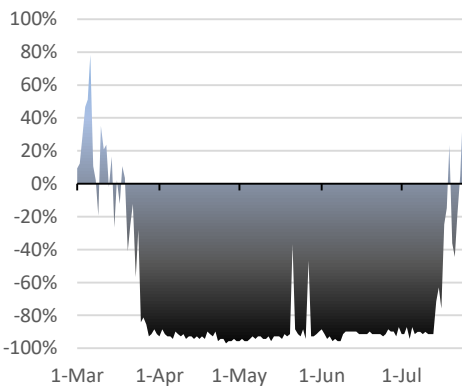


Mobility Trends in **GOGUI, MALI** (baseline from Mar-Jul 2019)

Mobility Trends in **KANO, NIGERIA** (baseline from Mar-Jul 2019)

Mobility Trends in **GAO, MALI** (baseline from Mar-Jul 2019)

Mobility Trends in **SEGUEDINE, NIGER** (baseline from Mar-Jul 2019)



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