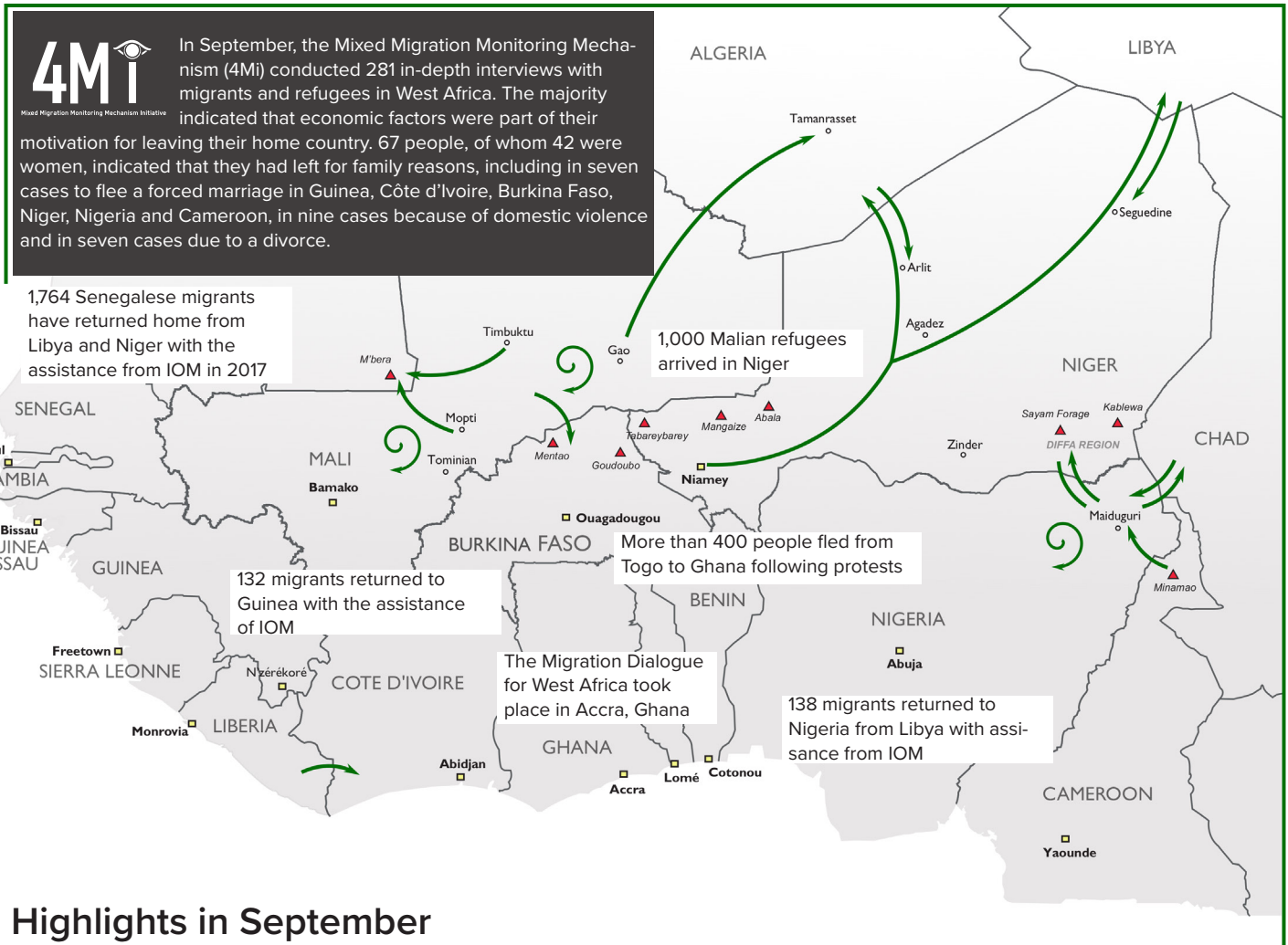


# West Africa

## Monthly Mixed Migration Summary

Covering mixed migration events, incidents, trends and data from the West Africa region.

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### Highlights in September

- In Niger, UNHCR and IOM signed separate agreements with the National Agency for the Fight against Trafficking in Persons, for the identification and referral of asylum seekers to UNHCR and in order to allow IOM to assist in combating human trafficking. IOM reported that between January and September it had assisted 107 victims of trafficking, compared with 46 during the same period in 2016.
- According to an analysis of interviews conducted with migrants and refugees from Nigeria traveling along the central Mediterranean route by IOM, 79% of Nigerians surveyed indicated that they had experienced some form of human trafficking or other exploitative practice while on the move, while 84% reported that they had experienced physical violence during their journey.
- The Migration Dialogue for West Africa took place in Accra, Ghana, with the participation of experts and government officials from ECOWAS member states, the EU, IOM and other international organisations. The dialogue offered an opportunity for those involved to discuss common migration issues and recommendations.
- The EU published the fifth Progress Report on the Partnership Framework with third countries under the European Agenda on Migration. The report highlighted the reduction in the number of people arriving in Italy by sea in July and August 2017 compared with the same time in 2016 and argued that these trends reflect the enhanced efforts carried out jointly by Italy and the EU to step up cooperation with countries of origin and transit along the route.

## Burkina Faso

**Context:** In September the [Danish Institute for International Studies](#) published a book chapter examining the local, regional and international factors that have led to the recent rise of Islamist militancy in Burkina Faso and providing an overview of the different jihadist groups operating in the country.

**Humanitarian repatriation:** In September, [IOM assisted](#) 146 people from Burkina Faso to return home from Libya on a chartered flight.

**Displacement:** In September, more than [3,200 people were displaced](#) from several villages in the province of Soum, northern Burkina Faso, following violent attacks and intimidation in the region. According to ECHO, food security for the 33,000 Malian refugees in Burkina Faso is of great concern, with food assistance not sufficiently covered from October 2017 onwards.

Malian refugees in Burkina Faso:		Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept
	2017	32,017	32,498	32,972	33,056	33,501	33,501	33,501	33,501	33,501

## Cote d'Ivoire

### Arrivals of Ivoirians in Italy

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Total	% Change
2017	839	806	882	1,393	1,737	1,697	551	358	490	8,753	n/a
2016	332	402	807	701	1,444	1,681	1,303	1,006	1,039	8,715	

**Migration Partnership with the EU:** According to the latest [EU Progress Report on the Partnership Framework with third countries](#), no comments have been received from the Ivoirian authorities on proposed practical arrangements with the EU, 'despite several reminders from the EU Delegation in Abidjan'. According to the EU, Cote d'Ivoire has one of the lowest return rates of return at around 5%.

### Ivoirian refugees:

	Aug	Sept
Liberia	11,986	11,937
Ghana	6,656	6,656
Guinea	4,577	4,577
Togo	2,156	2,092
Mali	910	910
Total in the region		28,330

[Source](#)

**Repatriation of Ivoirian refugees:** In September, UNHCR assisted [48 refugees to return](#) from Togo, Ghana and Gambia. Heavy rains in Guiglo, Tabou and Toulepleu in Cote d'Ivoire have degraded road conditions and slowed down the repatriation of Ivoirian refugees from Liberia.

In late August, [UNHCR published](#) a Report on Cote d'Ivoire exploring in detail issues of relevance to refugee status determination for Ivoirian nationals.

## Guinea

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**Humanitarian repatriation:** In September, IOM assisted [132 Guinean migrants](#) to return home from Libya, including ten women, one infant, two children and one unaccompanied child. According to IOM, the migrants requested to return to Guinea after living in Libya as irregular migrants, in some cases working and others in more daunting circumstances. IOM's support to migrants is increasingly comprehensive, with migrants provided with documents and exit visas, as well as clothing and other essentials before departure, assistance on arrival including medical assistance (at a dedicated unit in a medical clinic for returning migrants), accommodation, and 50 Euros for transportation to their final destinations, where they will be provided reintegration support within three months of their return. Migrants are also registered and profiled before leaving Libya and upon arrival in Guinea. In 2017, IOM has organized seven flights for 859 migrants from Guinea.

## Liberia

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**Context:** In September, a [number of organisations](#) and states deployed [election observation missions](#) to Liberia in preparation for the general election in early October, [including the AU](#) and the EU. The Carter Centre [commented](#) on the potentially historic nature of the upcoming election in Liberia and highlighted the significant pressure on the National Election Commission (NEC), given that this election is primarily led by Liberia. According to the [recent survey](#) by the US Institute of Peace respondents were confident in the ability of the NEC to provide free, fair and credible elections.

**Displacement funding:** According to UNHCR, as of August 2017, it had received less than 1% of the funding requested for the Liberia situation. The funding gap is currently around 16 million USD.

## Mali

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**Context:** According to the latest report from the [Secretary-General](#) on the situation in Mali, published in September, the political and security situation in Mali has significantly deteriorated since June. Between June and September, 75 attacks were conducted against security forces, as compared with 37 attacks in the previous four months. In the past quarter, incidences of violence were particularly recorded in and around Kidal, Goa and Timbuktu, with intercommunity violence taking place in the Mopti region. On the 25 September, [unknown assailants attacked](#) a MINUSMA convoy, leading to the deaths of three peacekeepers. On 5 September, the Security Council imposed a travel ban and an assets freeze on individuals or entities designated as threatening the peace, security, or stability of Mali. On 21 September, Coordination for the Azawad Movement (CMA) and GATIA (a pro-government group), [announced a ceasefire](#), building upon the temporary ceasefire that was agreed last month.

[Human Rights Watch](#) released a report in September highlighting the human rights violations which have resulted from the military operations of the armed forces of Mali and Burkina Faso, including extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, torture and the arbitrary arrests of men accused of supporting Islamist armed groups. [Amnesty International](#) published a submission in anticipation of Mali's Universal Periodic Review (Jan 2018), which assesses the national human rights framework and human rights situation on the ground in Mali. Amnesty raises the shortcomings in domestic law and the excessive use of force and extrajudicial executions by Malian security forces and UN peacekeepers, the impunity for serious human rights abuses, poor conditions in prisons, the death penalty, and crimes under international law committed by armed groups, as areas of particular concern. [Amnesty also highlighted](#) that 150,000 children are unable to attend school due to lack of security in northern and central Mali.

[UNICEF reported](#) that acute malnutrition amongst children in Timbuktu and Goa has risen from serious to critical

**Training of border guards:** In September, [IOM](#), in collaboration with the Malian Ministry for Security and Protection, organised a five-day training for ten Malian border officials in Bamako. The training discussed legislative frameworks, different types of border posts and how to conduct body checks with people crossing borders.

#### Malian arrivals in Italy:

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Total	% Change
2017	282	363	496	738	1,271	1,639	737	427	508	6,461	- 8%
2016	393	400	649	472	960	1,156	992	932	1,098	7,052	

**Tripartite Commission on Repatriation:** In September, the Tripartite Commission (Mali, Niger, UNHCR) held its [ninth meeting](#) in Bamako on the situation of the return of Malian refugees. Both countries reiterated their commitment to supporting the return of Malian refugees, however, [according to UNHCR](#), large scale returns of Malian refugees are not expected due to persistent violence in northern Mali.

#### Refugees in neighbouring countries:

	Sept
Niger	57,286
Mauritania	51,649
Burkina Faso	33,501
Total in the region	142,436

#### IDPs in Mali:

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	% Change in 2017
2017	36,690	44,762	45,766	58,985	51,961	n/a	55,382	55,382	58,594	+60%

## Niger

**Identification and referral of asylum seekers:** In September, [UNHCR signed](#) a Standard Operating Procedure with the National Agency for the Fight against Trafficking in Persons for the identification and referral of asylum seekers and other persons of concern to UNHCR.

**Combatting human trafficking:** In September, IOM [signed](#) a two-year agreement with the National Agency Against Trafficking in Persons in order to assist in combating human trafficking in Niger. IOM reported in September that, since January, the Agency had assisted 107 victims of trafficking, compared with 46 during the same period in 2016. According to IOM, more than half of the victims of trafficking assisted in 2017 stated that they had been subjected to exploitative begging and a third indicated that they had been sexually exploited.

**Migration Partnership with the EU:** According to the latest [EU Progress Report on the Partnership Framework with third countries](#), cooperation with Niger continues to be 'good and constructive'. In 2017, 101 people have been brought before court, 79 people have been arrested for smuggling related crimes and 74 vehicles or motorcycles have been confiscated. In addition, some 4,000 migrants have been returned to their countries of origin by IOM with support from the EU. The EU also comments that rerouting of migratory flows needs constant monitoring and

that increased border controls including by Algeria may be needed.

**Forced displacement in the Diffa region:** In September the General Directorate of Civil Registration, Migration and Refugees, [launched a biometric registration](#) operation targeting displaced populations in the Diffa region. The operation will run until the end of the year and aims to complement a wider census of the entire population in the Diffa region, providing the grounding for an effective national registration and identification system.

	April 2017
IDPs	127,299
Refugees	106,146

**Malian refugees in Niger:** In September, UNHCR reported that [the recent deterioration](#) of the security situation in Mali resulted in the displacement of a further 1,000 Malians to Niger. UNHCR expects the arrival of Malian refugees to continue in October.

## Nigeria

**Context:** In September, [Amnesty International](#) reported that at least 381 civilians have been killed by Boko Haram since April 2017, in what they refer to as a 'major resurgence' in Boko Haram attacks and suicide bombings in Cameroon and Nigeria. On 1 September, [an armed group attacked](#) an IDP camp in Borno state, killing **11 people** and injuring a number of others. According to UNOCHA, this is the fifth attack targeting displacement sites in the last two months. [UNHCR released](#) a call for action to increase funding and action towards the prevention and response to incidents of SGBV in the Lake Chad region.

The International Crisis Group published a report in [September examining](#) the escalation of the conflict between nomadic herders and sedentary agrarian communities in central and southern zones of Nigeria. The report highlights the gravity of this conflict and its potential consequences and makes recommendations for remedial actions to prevent its further escalation.

Floods on [4 September](#) reportedly affected 250,000 people in centre-east Nigeria. The floods are considered the most severe in the area since 2012.

**Humanitarian repatriation:** In September, IOM assisted 138 people from Nigeria to return home from Libya on a chartered flight.

### Nigerian arrivals in Italy:

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Total	% Change
2017	483	1,204	1,472	2,094	4,033	4,832	2,199	305	478	17,100	- 37%
2016	905	713	1,797	896	2,921	4,660	6,695	3,742	4,843	27,172	

In September [IOM published an analysis](#) of migrants and refugees from Nigeria traveling along the central Mediterranean route. Based on surveys with Nigerians recently arrived in Italy, the report outlines the experiences of human trafficking and exploitation occurring on Nigerians journeys to Europe. According to IOM, 79% of Nigerians surveyed indicated that they had experienced some form of human trafficking or other exploitative practice, while 84% reported that they had experienced physical violence during their journey. IOM based their findings on 1,759 interviews conducted with Nigerian migrants and refugees in Italy between June and November 2016 (1,175 surveys) and February and August 2017 (584 surveys).

**Humanitarian situation:** In September, UNOCHA [published a humanitarian overview](#) of the situation in Nigeria. The report comments on the significant drop in malnutrition in some IDP camps in Maiduguri as a positive development, but also highlights the significant challenges presented by large numbers of returning refugees and IDPs, with estimates suggesting that over 1.2 million people have returned home to northern Nigeria since August 2015. In some cases returnees are facing situations of secondary displacement. UNOCHA also comments that despite the significant scale-up of humanitarian operations since October 2016, the ability to reach conflict affected people outside of large towns [remains severely constrained](#), and in many areas, there is little indication of a return to normalcy in the near future. In September, [OCHA and the AU](#) organised a high-level event on the humanitarian crisis in the Lake Chad Basin, at the margins of the GA meeting in New York.

**Displacement situation:** According to a [briefing note by ACAPS](#) examining the displacement situation in Monguno State, an estimated 54% of the population of the state is displaced, while the state also hosts a further 122,000 IDPs people from other states and 32,000 returning IDPs. Many IDPs are in dire need of humanitarian support. However, humanitarian access is limited outside the Monguno town.

In September, [REACH published](#) a report based on an assessment of IDP's intentions to return home in Borno State, Nigeria. The assessment, conducted in partnership with the Norwegian Refugee Council and the Danish Refugee Council, shows that a significant proportion of IDP households can be expected to remain at their current locations in the near future.

#### Refugees in neighbouring countries:

	Sept 2017
Chad	9,148
Niger	106,146
Cameroon	90,701
Total	205,995

#### IDPs in Nigeria:

	Jan	March	May	June	August	% Change in 2017
2017	1,899,830	1,832,743	1,884,331	1,825,321	1,757,288	- 7.5%

## Senegal

#### Arrival of Senegalese in Italy:

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Total	% Change
2017	4 31	7 84	700	640	1380	899	532	139	206	5,711	- 17%
2016	493	406	762	324	580	1482	951	886	1,001	6,885	

**Seminar Series on Migration:** In September, the [African Centre for Migration and Society](#) hosted a seminar entitled: 'Mystic motives: Re-evaluating clandestine migration out of Senegal'. The seminar aimed to complicate economic and individualist understandings of motivations for migration by arguing that people's motivations for migrating from Senegal are not simply a response to brute poverty nor a desire for individual status, but that they are linked to spiritual aspiration and the desire to care for kin and community.

**Migration Partnership with the EU:** According to the latest [EU Progress Report on the Partnership Framework](#)

with [third countries](#), more than 1,764 Senegalese migrants have been returned home, including 1,764 from Niger and 671 from Libya. However, the EU notes that 'progress on returns from the EU [to Senegal] has been limited'.

## Other Regional Information

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**Migration Dialogue for West Africa:** In September, the [Migration Dialogue for West Africa](#) took place in Accra, Ghana, with the participation of experts and government officials from ECOWAS member states, the EU, IOM and other international organisations. The dialogue offers an opportunity for those involved to discuss common migration issues and recommendations.

**Displacement in Togo:** In late September, more than [400 people fled to Ghana](#) from northern Togo, following unrest and protests for constitutional reform. According to UNOCHA, tensions have risen in Togo since late August, with security forces clashing with marchers. Aid organisations are providing assistance to those recently arrived in Ghana.

**Migration Partnership Framework:** In September the EU published the fifth [Progress Report on the Partnership Framework with third countries](#) under the European Agenda on Migration. The report highlights the reduction in the number of people arriving in Italy by sea in July and August 2017 compared with the same time in 2016 and argues that these trends reflect the enhanced efforts carried out jointly by Italy and the EU to 'step up cooperation with countries of origin and transit along the route', particularly Libya and 'good collaboration with the Libyan authorities'. However, formal cooperation on readmission with priority countries 'continued to stall', and the EU will explore, 'if necessary, alternative practical arrangements separate from negotiated agreements leading to equivalent results in terms of cooperation on actual returns.'

The European Council on Refugees and Exiles [published a short article](#) reflecting on the report, commenting that 'once more, progress for the EU means how many people were stopped from Africa, and how many were returned to their countries. But this agenda is EU-driven and is not owned by the partner countries themselves.'

**Migration management in Algeria and Morocco:** In September, [ISS published](#) an article exploring the changing roles of Morocco and Algeria in managing migration. The article examines the schemes in which both Morocco and Algeria plan to legalise the stay of sub-Saharan African migrants and comments on their potential benefits to both countries, as well as for migrants. However, while the primary goal of these measures is about limiting migration to Europe, the article argues that the goals of regularisation should not be limited to this, and should focus on managing migration more broadly, including through facilitating lawful entry and stay.

**Arrivals of migrants and refugees by sea in Europe:** In September, [5,961 migrants and refugees](#) arrived in Italy by sea, bringing the total number of people arriving in Italy between January and September 2017 to 104,800. This represents a decrease of some 20% in the number of arrivals in 2017 compared with the same time in 2016.

In Spain, the number of arrivals by sea has increased by 91% in 2017 when compared with the same time last year, with 17,400 migrants and refugees having arrived in Spain between January and September 2017.

## News, Reports, Books

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### **4Mi Libya (2017) 'Hidden Figures: Women on the move in Libya. Insights from the Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism initiative (4Mi) in Libya, Mali and Niger.'**

This briefing paper looks at women and girls travelling in mixed migration movements from West Africa to Libya. Based on data collected by the Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism Initiative (4Mi) in Libya, Mali and Niger, the article examines the journeys of women and girls from West Africa, analyses the ratio of women and girls in these mixed migration movements, and explores whether the currently available data is able to capture this ratio.

### **UNICEF and IOM (2017) 'Harrowing Journeys: Children and youth on the move across the Mediterranean Sea, at risk of trafficking and exploitation'**

This report is based on an analysis of some 11,000 interviews with migrant and refugee children (adolescents) and youth, conducted by IOM along the Central and Eastern Mediterranean routes to Europe in 2016 and 2017. The report finds that while Libya remains the most dangerous place for many migrants and refugees traveling along the central Mediterranean route, those from sub-Saharan Africa faced the greatest risks due to persistent racism, meaning that they are often targeted for exploitation because of the colour of their skin. Underscoring the urgent need act to protect the most vulnerable among those on the move, UNCEFF and IOM call for a multi-pronged strategy that addresses the interplay of factors that expose migrants refugee children and youth to risk.

### **Global Health Advocates (2017) 'Misplaced Trust: Diverting EU aid to stop migration'**

This report, based on original research in Niger and Senegal, looks at the implementation of the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa and the potential implications of this funding instrument on development practices and aid effectiveness principles. The report finds that the EU Trust Find is based on a inherent contradiction, presented as both a development and emergency instrument it aims to deliver results short term, mostly drawing from development funds, which are legally bound to support long-term poverty eradication programmes. Further, its use of ODA is questionable as the Fund does not fully respect aid effectiveness principles and is negatively impacting the quality of the EU-Africa partnership as it is driven by the EUs short-term domestic priorities, with little involvement of local government or civil society actors.

### **Amali Tower (2017) 'Shrinking Options: the nexus between climate change, displacement and security in the Lake Chad Basin'**

This report examines the impact of environmental change in the context of climate change on communities living in the Lake Chad Basin and finds that climate change, in combination with political, social and development challenges has affected people's lives and led to localised displacement, something which Boko Haram has capitalised upon to feed its insurgency. The report argues that climate change must be recognised and addressed as a key factor in displacement and a threat to peace and security.

### **Gautam Bastian et al. (2017) 'Are cash transfers better chunky or smooth? Evidence from an impact evaluation of a cash transfer program in northern Nigeria' Gender Innovation Lab**

This Policy Paper evaluates the impact of cash transfers with various disbursement structures and finds that quarterly transfers cost half as much as monthly transfers to administer but there is very little difference in outcomes. The report also found that women's ability to control the cash transfers is the same under a quarterly payment scheme and monthly payment scheme. Overall, the report argues that cash transfers offered to ultra-



poor households in northern Nigeria had an immediate positive impact on household consumption, female enjoyment and well-being.

**Jonathan Sandy et al (2017) 'The Security Sector's Role in Responding to Health Crisis: lessons from the 2014-2015 Ebola Epidemic' The Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF).**

This report offers a systematic assessment of the role of the security sector, including police, border guards, community militias, customs, immigration and military services in responding to health crisis. The report reflects upon the lessons learnt from the 2014-2015 Ebola Epidemic and makes a series of concrete recommendations to improve the roles of the security sectors in health crisis preparedness and management.

The Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat (RMMS) West Africa is an independent unit hosted by the Danish Refugee Council which aims to enhance the protection of people on the move in mixed migration flows in West Africa, including refugees, asylum seekers and migrants. RMMS West Africa distributes this summary to agencies, academic institutions, donors, embassies, journalists, government officials, international and multinational organisations and related non-government organisations. Data is sourced from a wide variety of collaborators, partners, international and local organisations, media outlets and individuals in the region. RMMS West Africa makes independent editorial decisions as to what sections and what data is included in this summary.

If you would like more information about RMMS West Africa please visit our website at [www.westafrica.regionalmms.org](http://www.westafrica.regionalmms.org)

\*The term migrant/refugee is used to cover all those involved in mixed migration flows (including asylum seekers, trafficked persons, economic migrants, refugees). If the caseload mentioned refers only to refugees or asylum seekers or trafficked persons it will be clearly stated.