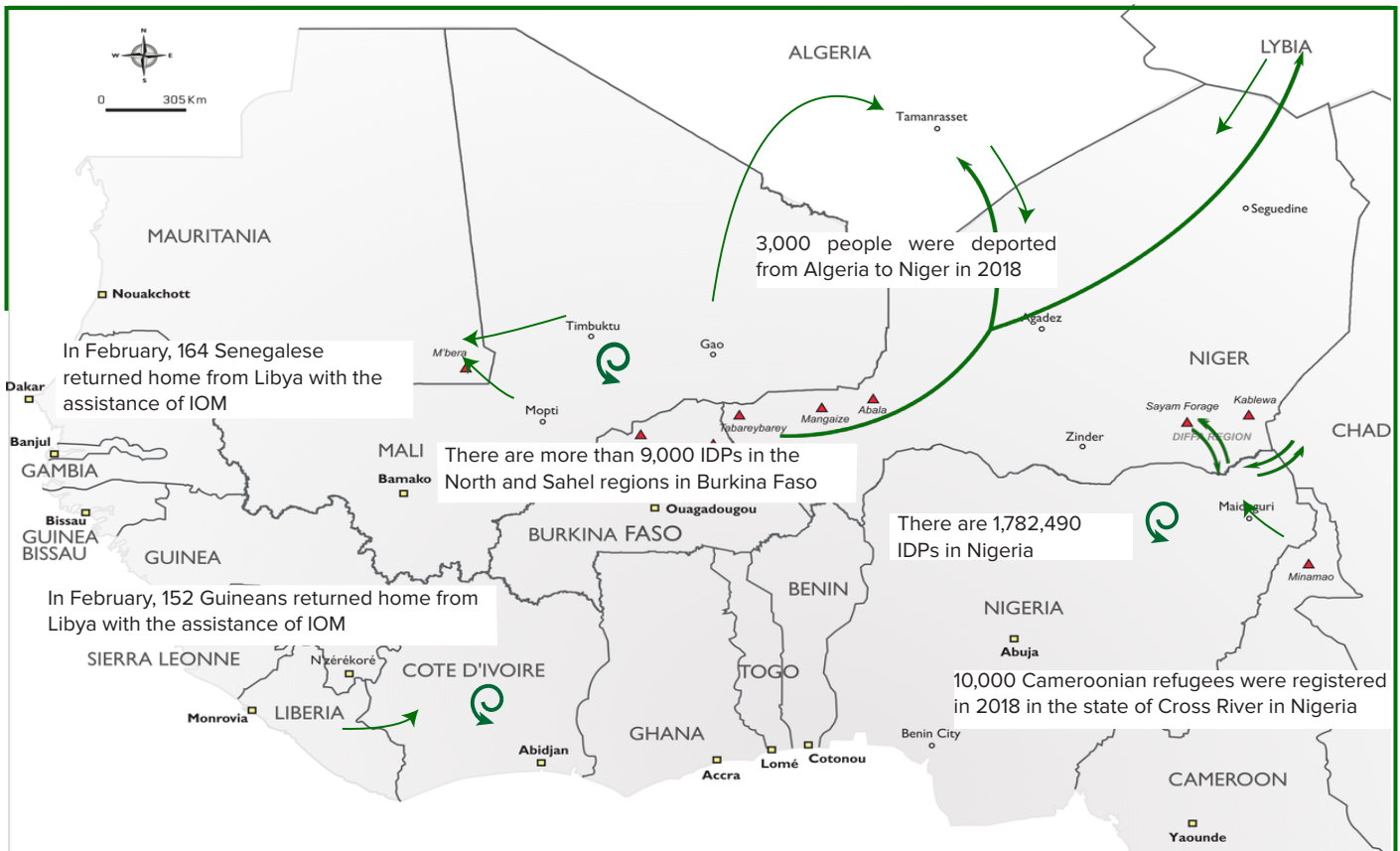


West Africa

Monthly Mixed Migration Summary

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

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Highlights in January and February

- In Niger, increasing insecurity in the Tillabéri region has led to an increase in internal displacement in the region. The number of IDPs tripled in the region in February.
- In January, hundreds of sub-Saharan migrants were deported to the Tamanrasset camp in Algeria and transported to Arlit, then Agadez in Niger. Approximately 3,000 people were deported, mostly Nigerien but also from Nigeria, Cameroon, Mali and Guinea.
- Since the beginning of the year, anti-terror operations and clashes between farmers and herdsmen led to displacement of 80,000 civilians in Nigeria.
- At summit in Brussels in February, donors from 20 EU countries increased pledges for the G5 Sahel joint force from 50 to 100 million euros. In total, 50 countries pledged 414 million euros for the G5 Sahel Joint Force.
- Three years after the adoption of the Abidjan Declaration on the Eradication of Statelessness by the 15 Member states of ECOWAS, 700,000 people are still stateless in West Africa, according to UNHCR.
- The EU adopted three new programmes under the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa, aiming to provide protection and voluntary humanitarian return for migrants stranded in Libya and support reintegration and resettlement for migrants from Niger, Chad, Cameroon and Burkina Faso.

Burkina Faso

Context: Attacks on security forces continue in the Northern Sahel region. Following the increase of acts of armed violence in the province of Soum in the North, more than [800 families](#) (5,000 people) have left their homes since January, according to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

IDPs in Burkina Faso: UN reported more than [9,000 registered internally displaced persons](#) in the North and Sahel regions in February 2018.

Malian refugees in Burkina Faso:

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2017	32,017	32,498	32,972	33,056	33,501	33,501	33,501	33,501	33,501	24,083	23,614	23,614
2018	23,874	23,874										

Cote d'Ivoire

Repatriation of Ivorian Refugees: In January 2018, [130 people](#) from Guinea, Togo and Ghana were assisted by UNHCR in their return to Côte d'Ivoire. In total, [28,776 Ivorians](#) have been assisted by UNHCR in their voluntary return since December 2015.

In January [153 Ivorians](#) and in February [168 Ivoirians](#) were assisted by IOM in their return to Côte d'Ivoire from Libya by chartered flight.

Arrivals of Ivorians in Italy:

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2017	839	806	882	1,393	1,737	1,697	551	358	490	185	384	183	9,505
2018	180	31											211

Ivorian refugees:

	Jan	Feb
Liberia	11,087	11,087
Ghana	6,656	6,656
Guinea	4,577	4,577
Togo	2,058	2,058
Mali	614	614
Total in the region	24,992	24,992

Guinea

Context: On February 4, local elections took place in Guinea leading to violence, after the opposition accused President Condé and the ruling party of manipulating the vote. Clashes took place in the capital and various cities of the country between opposition supporters, security forces, and Condé loyalists. About [10 people have died](#).

Arrivals of Guineans in Italy:

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2017	796	1,296	1,076	1,016	1,776	1,799	872	226	360	144	243	97	9,701
2018	132	45											177

Humanitarian Repatriation: In February, [152 Guineans](#) were assisted by IOM in their return to Guinea from Libya by chartered flight.

Mali

Context: Inter-ethnic conflicts continue in the north and center of the country. In February, [2 French soldiers](#) were killed in the north-east of Indelimane and in February [6 Malian soldiers](#) and [4 UN peacekeepers](#) were killed in the Mopti region.

Death in the Mediterranean Sea: On January 7th, 48 Malians died during the sinking of a boat in the Mediterranean Sea, 69 people were saved in the same incident.

Humanitarian repatriation: In January, [163 Malians](#) in detention centers, including 21 women and 4 minors, were repatriated to Mali from Libya with the support of IOM. Among them, 69 survivors of a sinking in the Mediterranean Sea in early January.

Malian arrivals in Italy:

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2017	282	363	496	738	1,271	1,639	737	427	508	279	306	72	7,118
2018		138											138

Refugees in neighbouring countries:

	Jan	Feb
Niger	57,067	57,067
Mauritania	52,591	52,591
Burkina Faso	23,874	23,614
Total in the region	133,532	133,532

IDPs in Mali:

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2017	36,690	44,762	45,766	58,985	51,961	51,961	55,382	55,382	58,594	58,594	40,743	40,743
2018	47,706	47,706										

Niger

Context: In January and February, the situation in the Tillabery and Tahoua regions continued to deteriorate. In February, violent clashes took place in the Menaka region of Mali, where several extremist groups clashed. In response the government of Niger announced a six-month extension of the state of emergency in various departments of Tillabéri and Tahoua.

Internal displacement: Increasing insecurity in the Tillabéri region has led to an increase in internal displacement in the region. The number of IDPs tripled in the region in February, with more than [1,540 IDPs](#) reported.

Transit Migration through Niger: According to IOM, in January 2018, 1,352 migrants were recorded transiting through Arlit on their way to Algeria, a significant decrease from the 4,660 migrants leaving Niger through Arlit in December. In January, 1,886 migrants were recorded arriving in Arlit from Algeria, 800 fewer migrants than in December. In January, 1,733 people were recorded transiting through Seguedine in Niger on their way to Libya.

Humanitarian repatriation: Between November 2017 and February 2018, [1,020 refugees](#) were evacuated from Libya to Niger.

Expulsion of migrants to Niger: On January 28 2018, hundreds of sub-Saharan migrants were expelled to the border with Niger. Arrested in Algiers and in the city of Blida, the migrants and refugees were deported to the Tamanrasset camp in Algeria. Several hundred were then transported to Arlit, then Agadez in Niger. According to Human Rights Watch, there were women and children among them. International Rescue Committee estimates that approximately [3,000 people](#) were deported, mostly Nigerien but also from Nigeria, Cameroon, Mali and Guinea.

	January	February
IDPs	129,015	129,520
Refugees	n/a	165,972

Nigeria

Context: Attacks and kidnappings continue in the north east of the country. More than 100 female students were kidnapped by Boko Haram in Yobe State on 19 February. The regions of Benue and Adamawa states were marked by military counter-insurgency and pastoral violence this month. On February 26, Nigerian and Cameroonian security forces reportedly killed 35 militants and rescued 906 civilian hostages in a joint operation on the border between the two countries.

Cameroonian refugees in Nigeria: According to UNHCR, the number of Cameroonians from English-speaking areas fleeing to Nigeria has increased significantly. More than [10,000 refugees](#) were registered in early 2018 in the state of Cross River, of which 80% are women and children.

Internal displacement: Since the beginning of the year, anti-terror operations and clashes between farmers and herdsmen led to displacement of [80,000 civilians](#) in Nigeria. According to UNHCR, there were [1,782,490 IDPs](#) in Nigeria in February, representing an increase of 4.5% from the end of last year. [28% of the IDP](#) population are children under 5 years.

Humanitarian repatriation: In January, [180 Nigerians](#) were repatriated to Nigeria from Libya, with assistance from IOM. Since January 2017, around [7,000 Nigerian migrants](#) returned home on chartered flights from Libya.

Arrivals of Nigerians in Italy

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2017	483	1,204	1,472	2,094	4,033	4,832	2,199	305	478	362	587	109	18,158
2018	212	114											326

Refugees in neighbouring countries:

	January	February
Chad	9,541	9,537
Niger	108,470	108,470
Cameroon	90,728	90,728
Total	208,389	208,735

IDPs in Nigeria:

	Jan	February	March	May	June	August	October	November	December
2017	1,899,830	1,899,830	1,832,743	1,884,331	1,825,321	1,757,288	1,713,771	1,713,771	1,713,771
2018	1,782,490	1,782,490							

Senegal

Arrivals of Senegalese in Italy:

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2017	431	784	700	640	1,380	899	532	139	206	75	130	84	6,000
2018	166	n/a											166

Humanitarian repatriation: In early February, [164 Senegalese](#) migrants were repatriated to Senegal from Libya by chartered flight, assisted by IOM.

Other Regional Information

Arrivals in Europe: In January and February 2018, 1,287 migrants and refugees arrived in Spain by land and sea and 4,723 migrants and refugees arrived in Italy.

Deaths at sea: [243 migrants and refugees](#) drowned or went missing in the Mediterranean Sea in January and another [147](#) in February.

Statelessness: Three years after the adoption of the Abidjan Declaration on the Eradication of Statelessness by the 15 Member states of ECOWAS, [700,000 people](#) are still stateless in West Africa, according to UNHCR.

Increase of European Union contribution to G5 Sahel force: At summit in Brussels on February 23, donors from 20 EU countries increased pledges for the G5 Sahel joint force from 50 to 100 million euros. In total, 50 countries pledged 414 million euros for the G5 Sahel Joint Force.

New EU programs for protection and reintegration: The EU adopted [three new programmes](#) worth over 150 million euros under the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa, complementing ongoing programmes. The aim is to protect migrants on the Central Mediterranean Route, in Libya and Ethiopia and provide them with sustainable reintegration options. EU [announced](#) that these new programmes aim to provide protection and voluntary humanitarian return for 15 000 migrants stranded in Libya, and support them with reintegration assistance in their countries of origin. It will also support the resettlement of more than 14 000 people in need of international protection from Niger, Chad, Cameroon and Burkina Faso.

The Mixed Migration Center (MMC) West Africa is a 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. MMC West Africa distributes this summary to agencies, academic institutions, donors, embassies, journalists, government officials, international and multi-national 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. MMC West Africa makes independent editorial decisions as to what sections and what data is included in this summary.

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*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.