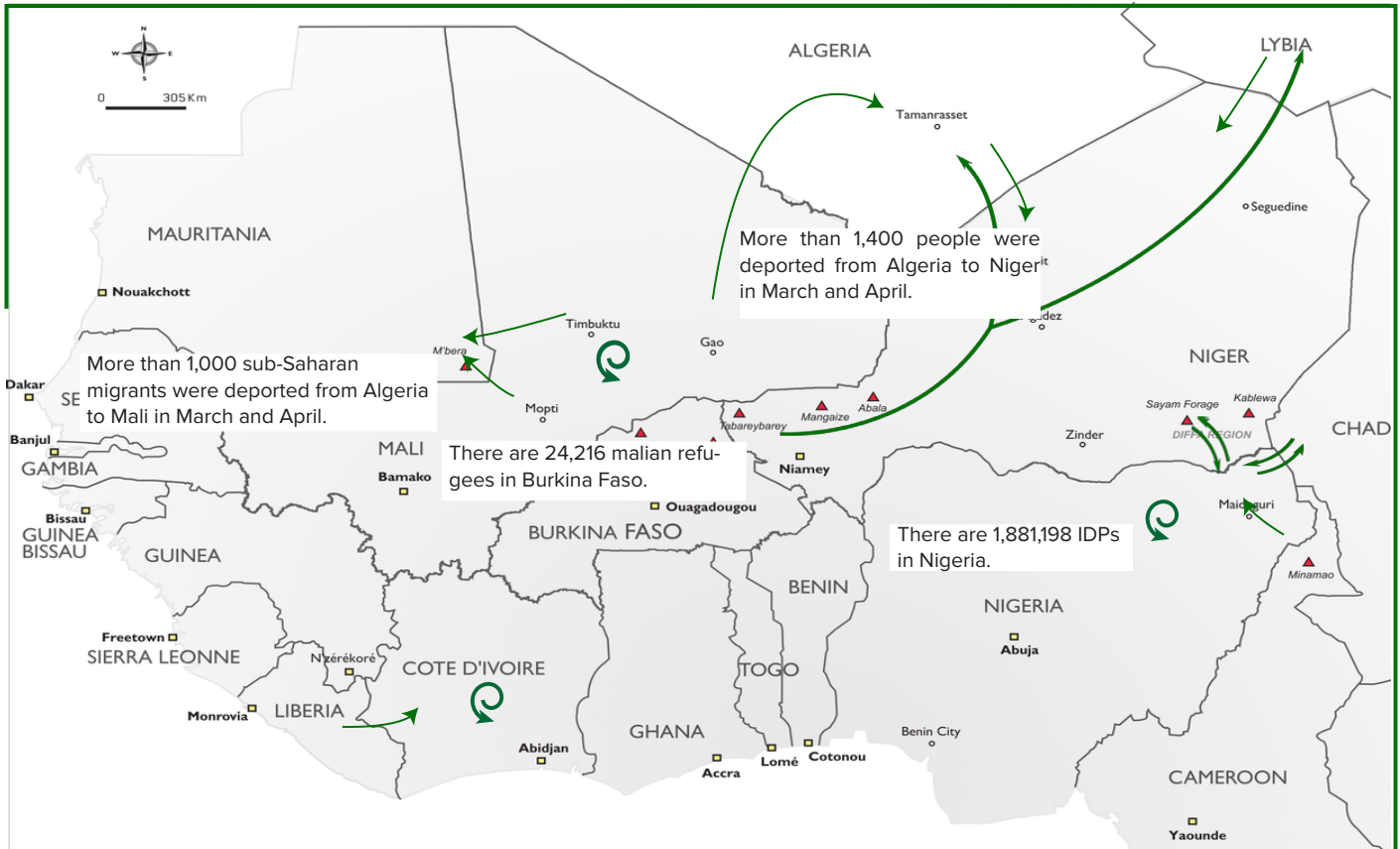


West Africa

Monthly Mixed Migration Summary

Covering mixed migration events, incidents, trends and data from the West Africa region. Please visit our [website](#) or sign up to the mailing list [here](#)



Highlights in March and April

- In March and April, deportations of sub-Saharan migrants and refugees by Algerian authorities increased at the border with Mali and Niger. According to the Algerian Minister of the Interior and local authorities Nourredine Bedaoui, 27,000 Sub-Saharanans have been expelled from Algeria since 2015.
- According to IOM, the number of migrants in transit in Segedine and coming out of Niger increased significantly in March and April, with 4,284 people identified in March and 4,395 in April, compared to 851 in February.
- In March, a meeting was held in Niamey to improve the coordination of the fight against smuggling of migrants and human trafficking between states of origin, transit and arrival of migrants. African and European ministers, UN, EU and G5 representatives, the African Union Commission and the Community of Sahelo-Saharan States agreed to strengthen national legislative frameworks and national tools to combat human trafficking, to improve the judicial cooperation and border control and to protect irregular migrants and victims of trafficking.

Burkina Faso

Context: On March 2nd, [attacks](#) were perpetrated on French embassy and cultural centre and on the national military headquarters in the capital, Ouagadougou. Jihadist coalition Group to Support Islam and Muslims (JNIM) claimed the attacks. Sixteen people were killed, including eight soldiers and eight assailants. In March and April, insecurity persisted in the Soum province in the Sahel region.

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	24,149	24,216								

Cote d'Ivoire

Repatriation of Ivorian Refugees: In March, [103 Ivorians](#) returned to Côte d'Ivoire from Guinea with the assistance of UNHCR.

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	29	286									526

Ivorian refugees:

	Jan	Feb	March	April
Liberia	11,087	11,087	10,793	10,793
Ghana	6,656	6,656	6,656	6,656
Guinea	4,577	4,577	4,577	4,577
Togo	2,058	2,058	1,943	1,943
Mali	614	614	614	614
Total in the region	24,992	24,992	24,583	24,583

Guinea

Context: [Protests and clashes](#) with security forces over teachers' demanding salary raises increased and the results of local elections on February 4th continued in March. At least thirteen people were killed between February and March.

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	53	174									404

Mali

Context: In March, inter-ethnic violence and suspected jihadist attacks escalated in centre Mali. At least [25 people deaths](#) have been reported during the week of March 5 in the circle of Koro. Ethnic militias pursued [operations](#) against jihadists in Mali-Niger border area with the support from the French military. In March and April, government troops, international forces and civilians were repeatedly attacked by armed groups in the centre and north of the country.

Humanitarian repatriation: On March 3rd, [163 Malian migrants](#) voluntarily returned to Mali from Libya by air with the assistance of IOM. This is the sixth flight since January 2018.

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	60	219									417

Refugees in neighbouring countries:

	Jan	Feb	March	April
Niger	57,067	57,067	57,285	57,327
Mauritania	52,591	52,591	55,263	56,221
Burkina Faso	23,874	23,614	24,149	24,149

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	50,311	50,311								

Expulsion of migrants to Mali: According to Human Rights Watch, more than a hundred sub-Saharan migrants were arbitrarily [deported](#) to Mali by the Algerian authorities in early March. Expelled migrants first reached the town of Khalil by foot and then continued to Gao. Some were reportedly robbed by armed groups on the road. In April, deportations increased: 1,135 sub-Saharan migrants in Gao were assisted by IOM, after being expelled by the Algerian authorities.

On March 12th, around fifty young people expelled from Algeria [protested](#) outside the Algerian embassy in Bamako, denouncing the treatment of migrants by the Algerian authorities.

Niger

Context: Malian ethnic militias and French forces conducted [joint operations](#) against suspected jihadists in the Niger-Mali border region. Protests against the 2018 finance bill continued in March. On March 25th, clashes took place between police and protesters. Following the demonstration, six civil society leaders and 13 protesters were arrested. Clashes again took place between protesters and security forces in April.

Transit Migration through Niger: 1,369 migrants in March and 1,661 migrants in April were identified by IOM as transiting through Arlit towards Algeria. The number of migrants in transit to Segedine and coming out of Niger increased significantly in March and April. 4,284 people were identified in March and 4,395 in April, compared to 851 in February.

Expulsion of migrants to Niger: New evictions of sub-Saharan migrants from Algeria to Niger took place in March and April. On March 4th, the NGO International Rescue Committee registered about 1,000 migrants and refugees in Agadez who were expelled from Algeria. In March 15, 369 Guinean and Malian migrants were rescued by IOM at the Niger-Algeria border.

According to the Algerian Minister of the Interior and local collectivities Nourredine Bedaoui, 27,000 Sub-Saharans have been expelled from Algeria since 2015.

Fight against smuggling and human trafficking: On March 16th, a meeting was held in Niamey to improve coordination of the fight against smuggling migrants and human trafficking between migrants' states of origin, of transit and of arrival. African and European ministers, as well as representatives of the United Nations, the African Union Commission, the European Union, the G5 Sahel and the Community of Sahelo-Saharan States were present. In a [joint statement](#), participants agreed to strengthen national legislative frameworks, national tools to combat illicit trafficking and human trafficking, judicial cooperation and border control. They also declared their commitment to protect irregular migrants and victims of trafficking and to ensure sustainable development to address the root causes of migration.

	January	February	March	April
IDPs	129,015	129,015	129,015	129,015
Refugees	n/a	165,972	165,972	165,797

Nigeria

Context: The hundreds of students from Dapchi, mostly girls who were kidnapped in February were released in March. In April, rural banditry continued as well as herder-farmer violence, leading to about 500 killed overall in Benue, Nasarawa, Zamfara and Kaduna states. In Borno State, attacks against Boko Haram by security forces continued in April.

Opening of a migration resource centre in Benin-city: In order to fight against the exploitation of human trafficking, forced labour and smuggling, IOM jointly with the Federal Government in Benin City, Edo state have opened a [Migration Resource Centre](#) in March. According to the Minister of Labour and Employment, Chris Ngige, the centre aims at providing information to migration candidates and returnees on regular migration procedures, risks of irregular migration and advices on how to improve welfare of migrant workers.

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	45	24									395

Refugees in neighbouring countries:

	January	February	March	April
Chad	9,541	9,537	9,537	9,537
Niger	108,470	108,470	108,470	108,470
Cameroon	90,728	90,728	90,728	95,027

IDPs in Nigeria:

	Jan	February	March	April	May	June	August	October	November	Dec
2017	1,899,830	1,899,830	1,832,743	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	1,782,490	1,881,198						

Humanitarian Repatriation: In March, [611 Nigerians](#) returned voluntarily from Libya to Nigeria by air. Since April 2017, IOM helped [8,000 Nigerians](#) to return in their country, including 7,000 from Libya.

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	6	28	79									279

Other Regional Information

Mediterranean rescue operation: 135 Sub-Saharan migrants, including 4 children, [were rescued](#) on March 14th by the Spanish sea rescue services, while attempting to reach the Spanish coast by sea. On March 10, the Libyan Navy rescued [252 migrants](#) seeking to reach Europe in two separate operations. 140 migrants, including 14 women and 4 children were transferred to detention centres.

IOM announced on April 23rd that more than 1,000 migrants have been rescued by Italian and international rescue ships in the Mediterranean Sea during 14 rescue operations. Rescued migrants and refugees were mainly Sub-Saharan fleeing Libya.

Humanitarian repatriation in Ghana: In March, assisted by IOM, [106 Ghanaians](#), including 9 women, were repatriated to Guinea from Libya via charter.

Reports and publications

[Rigaud, Kanta Kumari; de Sherbinin, Alex; Jones, Bryan; Bergmann, Jonas; Clement, Viviane; Ober, Kayly; Schewe, Jacob; Adamo, Susana; McCusker, Brent; Heuser, Silke; Midgley, Amelia. \(2018\). 'Groundswell : Preparing for Internal Climate Migration', World Bank](#)

This study focuses on the impact of climate change on internal migration in three regions of the world by 2050: Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and Latin America. According to this study, the worsening effects of climate change could lead to the displacement of 86 million people in sub-Saharan Africa. The report presents several recommendations. First, increasing climate migration by 2050 requires concerted action on climate and development, including the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, the integration of climatic migration into development planning and investment in the understanding of internal climate migration. The study also states that prudent management of migration could be a climate change adaptation strategy if it is accompanied by effective development policies and targeted investments.

[Nellie Pyton, \(2018\) 'In Niger's desert, Europe's migration crackdown pinches wallets', Thomson Reuters Foundation](#)

This article looks at the impact of the policy of fighting against irregular migration on the local population who was part of the migratory economy in Agadez, Niger. According to Thomson Reuters Foundation, the arrests of smugglers and the positioning of soldiers in the region of Agadez implemented by the Nigerian government and encouraged by the European Union have an impact on the sources of income of the local population. According to Sadou Soloke, governor of Agadez, more than 6,000 people who were employed in the migratory economy lost their source of income. While NGOs provide services to migrants transiting through Agadez, the local population feels marginalized and tensions between local communities and the migrant population increase.

[Aimée-Noël Mbiyozo, \(2018\) 'How Boko Haram specifically targets displaced people', Institute For Security Studies](#)

This policy brief examines why Boko Haram specifically targets IDPs and refugees. Since 2017, direct attacks against displaced persons and Boko Haram infiltration cases in migration flows have increased significantly. This policy brief uses the concept of coercive migration strategy as an explanation for this targeting of IDPs: the increase in attacks on IDPs in Cameroon and Niger could be a consequence of a Boko Haram strategy to turn communities and countries against IDPs to encourage political, military or economic concessions from targeted states.

[Rasmus Alenius Boserup, Luiz Martinez \(2018\) 'Europe and the Sahel-Maghreb crisis', Danish Institute For International Studies](#)

This report analyzes the reasons why European policy-makers consider the Sahel Region as a threat to European security and stability. A chapter is dedicated to the study of European anti-migration policy in the Sahel. The report shows that the militarization of the region may be slowing down migration towards North Africa but will not stop. The harmful effects of this policy are numerous: deterioration of livelihoods, development of new and more dangerous routes. The report denounces the lack of projects aimed at addressing the causes of migration in the Sahel and the countries of departure and the lack of investment in family planning, health, education and work opportunities. Finally, it points out the need to develop ways of integrating the African labour force into receiving countries, particularly in Libya in the coming years.

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.

If you would like more information about MMC West Africa please visit our website at 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.