

**Q2 2018**



**QUARTERLY REGIONAL REPORT**

# WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

**Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)  
April — June 2018**

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**International Organization for Migration**  
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The DTM Quarterly Regional Report is produced and published every 3 months to consolidate and present summary updates and highlights of regional population mobility situation. The report looks into internal displacement, intraregional cross-border movements, as well as interregional flows.

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Cover Photo: Jamal and Ahmed, two Ethiopian migrants, travelling across the border into Djibouti ©IOM (August 2017)/Muse Mohammed

# POPULATION MOBILITY OVERVIEW

Mobility in West and Central Africa is characterized by three major patterns.

The **first** is a pattern of **intra-regional forced internal displacement flows** in the Lake Chad Basin Region. Over 4.3 million persons are directly affected, with more than 2.4 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), 1.5 million returnees (IDPs returned to their location of habitual residence), 175,000 returnees from abroad, and 224,000 refugees in Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad and Niger.

**Intra-regional labour migration** flows form a **second** mobility pattern. These flows mostly follow the region's main transport axis, connecting Senegal to Chad through Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) regulations allow nationals from the Community to travel freely between its member countries. During this reporting period, intra-regional flows, which are the main mobility pattern observed by IOM Flow Monitoring teams based in Senegal, Guinea, Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Chad, have remained relatively unchanged from those observed in the first three months of the year. An analysis of the Flow Monitoring Registry data from April to June 2018 shows that 90% of all flows observed are internal to the region, the proportion having remained constant since the start of the year. Similar trends can be observed in the United Nations

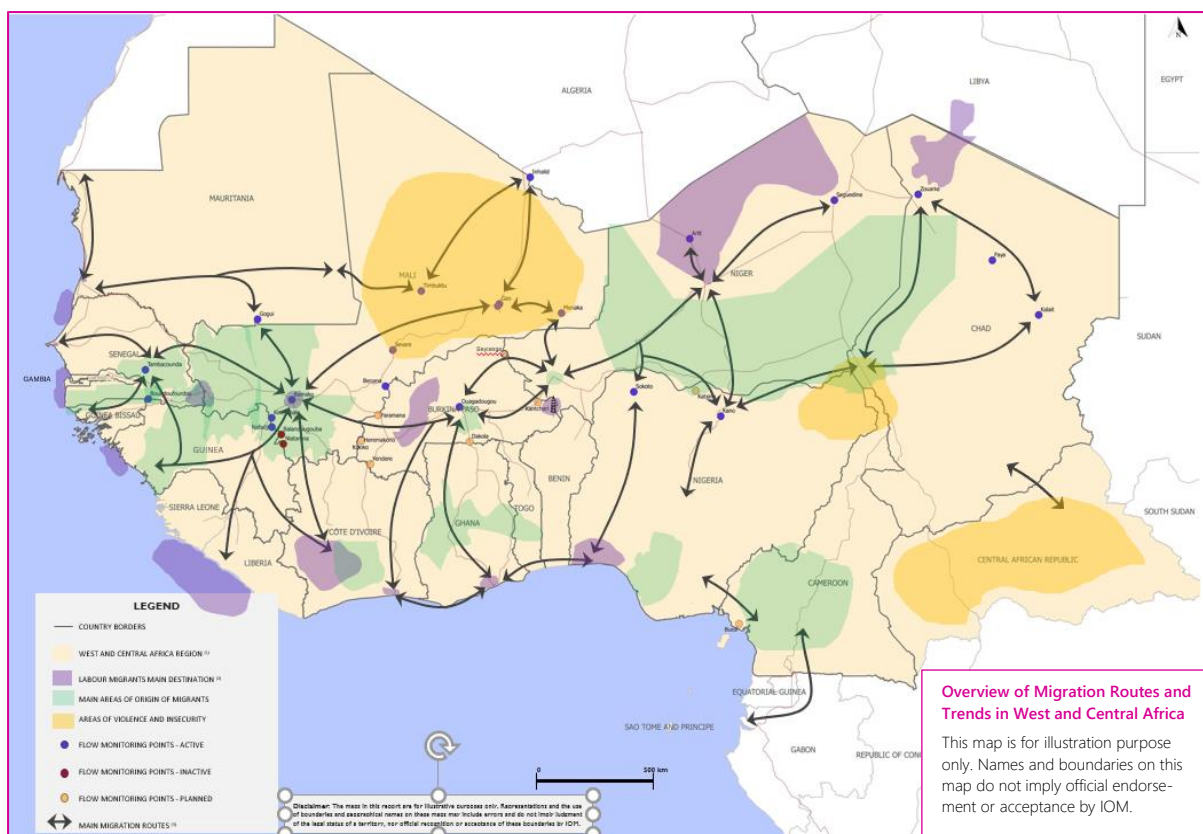
Global Migration Database provided by UNDESA's latest update (2017).

The **third** mobility pattern is made up of **interregional flows between West and Central Africa and North Africa**; specifically, between Mali, Niger and Chad, and Algeria and Libya for the most part, and to a lesser extent Morocco<sup>1</sup> and Tunisia. These flows are where the most significant variations occur in the region from one month to the next. IOM DTM teams located in the north of Mali and Niger have been collecting data on migration movements both arriving to and departing from points near Mali's borders with Algeria, and Niger's borders with Algeria and Libya since 2017. During this reporting period, the most significant change observed was a sharp decrease of flows from Niger towards Algeria in comparison to the first three months of 2018 (a reduction by 61% of individuals observed at Niger Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs) going from Niger toward Algeria). This has coincided with reports of an increased number of returns of third country nationals (TCNs) from Algeria to Niger, due to more stringent policies by Algerian authorities on migrants<sup>2</sup>. While flows from Niger to Libya remained stable over the two quarters of 2018 (+3%), a sharp decrease was witnessed from May to June 2018. The most significant change in interregional flows is an increased inflow of

<sup>1</sup> Movements to Morocco greatly increased over the reporting period, but travel to Morocco is primarily carried out

by air, and not captured by DTM Flow Monitoring Points, which exclusively capture travel by land.

<sup>2</sup> IOM Niger, *Statistical summary of returns from Algeria*.



mainly Malian nationals from Algeria to Mali (increase of 179% between Q1 and Q2).

IOM DTM is active along the main migration routes of the region to capture and report on migration movements (whether they are intra-regional or inter-regional). Flow monitoring activities are ongoing in Senegal, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Chad to collect data on migration movements and develop profiles of mobility patterns.

DTM is also active in all four countries of the Lake Chad Basin<sup>3</sup> and works alongside governments and partners to track and monitor population mobility.

In Nigeria, Cameroon and Chad, IOM DTM provides figures on displacement; this component is complemented by registration exercises in Chad and Nigeria, and household interviews in Cameroon. IOM DTM is also monitoring internal displacement in Mali (both in the country and in the region bordering Niger), and in the Central African Republic.

In addition to the Lake Chad Basin displacement, DTM is also active in various countries affected by significant displacements. In Mali, the DTM is a shared responsibility of the government and IOM. In the Central African Republic, IOM is also covering a large area of hard-to-reach regions to support humanitarian assistance, part of which consists

of collecting data on displacement.

## INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

Three main pockets of internal displacement in the region continued for the past three months to include the Lake Chad Basin Region, Mali and Central African Republic. Other situations of displacement are also being monitored in the South and North-West of Cameroon, in the Tillabéri region of Niger, and in the North of Burkina Faso.

In the **Lake Chad Basin Region**, the latest displacement figures provided by DTM and other partners amount to a total of

<sup>3</sup> DTM conducted by IOM Niger consists only of IDP intention surveys; no displacement data is collected.



4.34 million IDPs, refugees (both in and out of camps), returnees and third country nationals (TCNs). 80% of the affected population (3,468,138 individuals) are currently located in Nigeria, while 10% are located in Cameroon (416,412 individuals), 6% in Niger (248,887 individuals) and 5% in Chad (195,077 individuals)<sup>4</sup>. More information about internal displacement in the Lake Chad Basin Region is available later on in the report.

During the reporting period, **IOM Niger** reported on the profiles, return intentions, and needs of the IDPs in the Diffa region (in Diffa, Mainé-Soroa and N'guimi). 82% of displaced persons interviewed intended to remain in their current location while 18% indicated their intention to leave their current place of displacement, the majority of whom would return to their place of origin if conditions allowed it. Subsistence agriculture made up 45% of livelihood activities among the targeted population, followed by small business (27%). The majority of respondents felt that there were few (48%) or very limited (40%) job opportunities in their area of displacement while at the same time the majority (84%) could no longer pursue their former economic activities due to the

conflict. Just over one third of respondents (36%) were carrying out new activities since their displacement<sup>5</sup>.

In addition to being impacted by events in the Lake Chad Basin Region, **Niger** has also been affected by conflict in neighbouring Mali (see below for more information on Mali), being host as of 31 May 2018, to 57,952 Malian refugees who have been displaced since 2012<sup>6</sup>. In more recent months, Niger has been impacted by an increase in attacks in the areas bordering Mali (Tillabéri), leading to increased internal displacement in the country. As of 30 June 2018, approximately 17,758 IDP individuals (2,537 households) had been displaced since the start of 2018 and registered in Tillabéri<sup>7</sup>.

In **Mali**, since the initial displacement in 2012 resulting from hostilities in the regions of Timbuktu, Gao and Kidal, IOM DTM has been actively working on assessing displacement with its mobility tracking exercise and contributes actively to the *Commission sur les mouvements de populations* (CMP). As of 30 June 2018, 62,627 IDPs have been counted by the CMP in Mali<sup>8</sup>. The largest part of the total IDP caseload is now located in the regions of Timbuktu, Ménaka,

Mopti and Gao. 55% of total displaced are female and 45% are male, and more than half (53%) are minors. As per the January 2018 displacement report published by the Government (through the *Direction Nationale du Développement Social*) and IOM, main needs are food (60% of surveyed households), non-food items (12%) and shelter (11%)<sup>9</sup>. In addition, as the CMP reported, as of 30 June 2018, 526,505 persons have been counted since the start of hostilities in 2012 as returned IDPs as well as 67,268 returnees from abroad (mainly Burkina Faso, Niger, Mauritania, and Algeria)<sup>10</sup>.

The **Central African Republic (CAR)**, continues to experience high levels of insecurity and violence among different armed groups in most parts of the country, causing new and protracted displacement. As of 30 June 2018, the *Commission de mouvement des populations* (CMP) reported that there were 608,028 IDPs in the Central African Republic<sup>11</sup>. This figure includes the results of the recently published fourth round of DTM<sup>12</sup>.

In **Cameroon**, in addition to displacements related to the Lake Chad Basin region, humanitarian conditions have worsened in recent months in the South-West

<sup>4</sup> DTM Cameroon (Round 13 – April 2018), DTM Chad (Round 3 – May 2018), DTM Nigeria (Round 23 – June 2018), Government of Niger (30/06/2018), UNHCR / Government / CNARR Cameroon (30/06/2018), UNHCR / Government / CNARR Chad (30/06/2018).

<sup>5</sup> IOM Niger. *Return Intentions and Socio-Economic Opportunities of Displaced Populations in the Diffa Region* (30 November – 7 December 2017).

<sup>6</sup> UNHCR Data Portal, *Mali Situation*.

<sup>7</sup> UNHCR. *Niger: Country Operation Update, June 2018*.

<sup>8</sup> CMP Mali – *Rapport sur les mouvements de populations* (19 July 2018).

<sup>9</sup> DTM (2018). Mali — *Rapport De Déplacement* (Janvier 2018).

<sup>10</sup> CMP Mali – *Rapport sur les mouvements de populations* (7 juin 2018).

<sup>11</sup> CMP République Centrafricaine. *Personnes Déplacées Internes* (PDIs) (30 June 2018)

<sup>12</sup> IOM DTM République Centrafricaine, *Rapport Sur Les Déplacements 4* (June 2018). Retrieved from <https://displacement.iom.int/reports/r%C3%A9publique-centrafricaine-%E2%80%94-rapport-sur-les-d%C3%A9placements-4-juin-2018?close=true>

and North-West regions of the country, affecting a reported 3.5 million people<sup>13</sup>. IOM is currently monitoring the situation and will provide more information on the numbers, needs, and locations of those displaced through its DTM teams over the coming months.

In **Burkina Faso**, OCHA has reported that 16,841 IDPs had been registered as of May 2018, 57% of whom were children, 26% were female adults and 17% were male adults. An estimated 24,520 individuals are also reported to be displaced, based on information obtained from local authorities. The majority of IDPs are reported to be in Soum<sup>14</sup>.

## INTRAREGIONAL POPULATION MOBILITY

In comparing movements within the region with movements from the region to other locations, data captured by IOM DTM flow monitoring points in 2017 presents patterns with good correspondence with trends observed in the United Nations Global Migration Database provided by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) latest update (2017). UNDESA shows more than 90% international movements taking place within the region. IOM DTM flow monitoring points captured a similar figure on intraregional population mobility in its review of 2017 data with 95% of the more than 880,000 flows accounted for in the countries of West and Central Africa

were internal to the region. UNDESA statistics include movements through other routes and using different means of transportation, but the interesting coincidence in relative trend will be further examined. The flow monitoring methodology uses two tools (a registry based on discussions with key informants to capture general migration trends in certain high transit points in the region and a face-to-face survey conducted with travellers at those high transit points to capture profiles and intentions).

Based on FMP data, Intraregional population mobility mostly follows the main transport axis of the region as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) regulations allow nationals from the community to travel freely between those countries. Main routes for the past three months have therefore barely changed. The most significant route is the axis between Tambacounda (Senegal) and Agadez (Niger), going through Bamako (Mali) Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) and Niamey (Niger).

Other migration routes of relevance in the region are usually in some way connected to the Tambacounda-Agadez route, whether by merging into it or by branching out of it. Those are the cases for the connections between Dakar (Senegal) and Tambacounda (Senegal), Banjul (The Gambia) and Tambacounda, Conakry (Guinea) and Tambacounda, Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)

and Bamako (Mali), Bamako and Gao (Mali), Abidjan and Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso), Accra (Ghana) and Ouagadougou, Kano (Nigeria) and Ouagadougou, Lagos (Nigeria) and Niamey (Niger), and Kano and Agadez (Niger). This main axis, along with its connected routes, represents most of the migration flows in the region and did not change significantly in the past three months.

For example, IOM DTM flow monitoring teams recorded more than 1,600 individuals in Tambacounda moving along the Tambacounda-Bamako axis in the last three months of 2017, and 1,800 individuals in the first Quarter of 2018. IOM DTM in Bamako recorded more than 5,000 individuals moving toward Gao in the last three months of 2017 and 5,100 individuals in the first Quarter of 2018.

Based on the Flow monitoring data collected, the age, sex and nationalities of travellers span a wide range, as do their purposes for travel. In January in Tambacounda, IOM DTM teams observed that 48% of individual flows recorded were short-term movements (market, family visit, etc), 25% of travels were seasonal movements and 20% were long-term economic movements (6 month or more). In Kouremalé (Guinea), at the border with Mali, the flow monitoring is targeting routes and busses where more than 50% of individuals passing this FMP are long-term migrants (both intra and interregional).

<sup>13</sup> CARE, *Monitoring Crisis in Southwest and Northwest Cameroon* (18 July 2018).

<sup>14</sup> OCHA, *Burkina Faso: Situation des personnes déplacées internes* (2 May 2018).

The intraregional population movements caused by the **Lake Chad Basin Crisis** are also significant. UNHCR registered more than 206,000 Nigerian refugees living in the surrounding countries.<sup>15</sup> For the **CAR** crisis, nearly 569,000 Central African refugees living in Chad, Cameroon, and across regional boundaries to Congo and the Democratic Republic of Congo have been accounted for<sup>16</sup>. Finally, the volatile situation in **Mali** has led to nearly 137,000 Malian Refugees living in Niger, Mauritania and Burkina Faso<sup>17</sup>.

## INTERREGIONAL POPULATION MOBILITY

The Flow Monitoring methodology used to track regional migration flows relies on two data collection tools: a registry based on discussions with key informants to capture general migration trends in selected high transit points in the region, and a face-to-face survey conducted with travellers at those high transit points to gather more information about migrant profiles, reasons for movement and intended destinations.

Data gathered from IOM DTM Flow Monitoring Points from April to June 2018 shows that 90% of the 368,000 individuals observed in West and Central Africa were travelling internally within the region. 10% of flows were interregional, with 5%

entering the region and 5% exiting the region in the direction of North Africa. Similar results had been observed over the January-March 2018 timeline. This is confirmed by UNDESA's Global Migration Database in 2017, which stated that out of 7 million registered migrants in West and Central Africa, over 90% had originated from the region, and UNCTAD's recent report on economic development in Africa, which mentions that over 89% of international migrant stock in Western Africa originated from within the region<sup>18</sup>.

Based on IOM's Flow Monitoring data, intraregional population mobility mostly follows the main transport axis of the region as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) regulations allow nationals from the Community to travel freely between member states. Main routes for the past three months have therefore barely changed. The most important route is the axis between Dakar (Senegal) and Agadez (Niger), going through Bamako (Mali) Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) and Niamey (Niger). Other relevant migration routes in the region are usually in some way connected to the Dakar-Agadez route. Indeed, the routes between Dakar (Senegal) and Tambacounda (Senega), Banjul (The Gambia) to Tambacounda, Conakry (Guinea) to Tambacounda, Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) to Bamako (Mali), Bamako to Gao (Mali), Abidjan to

Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso), Accra (Ghana) to Ouagadougou, Kano (Nigeria) to Ouagadougou, Lagos (Nigeria) to Niamey (Niger), and Kano to Agadez are all connected to the Dakar-Agadez axis. This main axis, along with its connected routes, is taken by most of the migration flows in the region and did not change significantly in the past three months.

The level of mobility in the region can experience regular fluctuations due to recurrent events, including seasonal agricultural labour demand, religious holidays, or travel related to school and university academic terms. During the last three months, the occurrence of the month of **Ramadan**, between mid-May and mid-June, followed by the holiday of Eid-ul-Fitr, likely affected both internal and cross-border local movements within the region, as described below.

In June, IOM DTM teams in **Senegal**<sup>19</sup> observed an increase in the number of people crossing the Tambacounda Flow Monitoring Point, around the week of Eid ul Fitr. Travellers were mainly mobile due to seasonal migration (38%) or short-term local movement (36%), in contrast to the previous two months, when the proportion of seasonal migrants was much lower. Cross-border flows observed in Tambacounda were mainly arriving from Mali, and internal flows

<sup>15</sup> UNHCR Data Portal – Nigeria situation

<sup>16</sup> UNHCR Data Portal – CAR situation

<sup>17</sup> UNHCR Data Portal – Mali Situation -

<sup>18</sup> UNCTAD (2018). *Economic Development in Africa Report 2018*, p. 46

<sup>19</sup> IOM Senegal, *Dashboard des points de suivi des flux de population (April, May, 2018)*.



were mainly moving from Tam-bacounda to Dakar.

While most mobility observed in **Mali**<sup>20</sup> is internal to the country, Mali, as the main hub along the ECOWAS transport/travel axis, also forms an important transit country for migrants in the region. As a result, many different types of cross-border flows are observed in the country. In terms of intra-regional flows, Mali connects individuals traveling between Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal, Guinea, Mauritania, Burkina Faso and Niger and to a lesser extent Benin and Togo. Most people observed during the reporting period were travelling for economic reasons, with the expected duration of their travel being over six months.

Similarly to Mali, **Guinea** is a point of departure as well as transit, connecting Mali, Senegal, the Gambia, Côte d'Ivoire and, to a lesser extent, Ghana. Individuals observed travelling through Guinea are more heavily skewed towards economic (both short-term and long-term travels) rather than seasonal migration. Between April and June 2018, there was a general trend of decrease in individuals observed arriving from Mali, Senegal, and the Gambia. Those departing from Guinea and travelling towards Mali also decreased by 27% during the quarter, going down from 1,959 individuals observed

in April to 1,437 individuals observed in June.

In **Burkina Faso**, the addition of Flow Monitoring Points in Dori/Seytenga, Kantcharidi, Faramana and Yendéré during 2018 have helped track a larger volume of flows travelling within the country and to other regional locations. This was reflected in the increase of daily average of individuals observed at Flow Monitoring Points in the month of May 2018<sup>21</sup>. While short-term local movements made up the biggest proportion of observed travel in April, May saw an increase in the proportion of seasonal travellers, from 31% to 37% of all travelers observed, with the most significant flows coming from and heading to **Côte d'Ivoire**. This is the main flow pattern observed across all Flow Monitoring Points in the region, recording the largest number of travellers.

Finally, in **Nigeria** the main intraregional movements observed are those taking place with neighbouring Niger<sup>22</sup>, and to a much lesser extent with Chad and Cameroon. The majority of individuals observed were travelling for long-term economic migration, with some seasonal travel observed. During this quarter, these flows have remained relatively unchanged.

**Mauritania** is also a country of destination and transit for

travellers within the region. Information collected at Flow Monitoring Points in Gogui (Mali) shows that the volume of travel is of equivalent magnitude in both directions between Mauritania and Mali. The main nationalities observed travelling between Mali and Mauritania were Malian nationals, with nationals from Côte d'Ivoire, Niger and Guinea-Conakry making up smaller proportions of observed flows. Flow Monitoring Surveys conducted between January and March at FMPs in region also point to the importance of Mauritania in intraregional movements: 2% of all individuals surveyed in seven countries cited Mauritania as their intended final destination, and 4% (mainly surveyed in Mali and Guinea) had departed from Mauritania to travel to other countries within the region<sup>23</sup>.

The intraregional population movements caused by the situation in the **Lake Chad Basin Region** are also significant. UNHCR registered more than 224,000 Nigerian refugees living in the surrounding countries<sup>24</sup>. For the **CAR**, over 573,000 Central African refugees living in Chad, Cameroon, and even outside the region to Republic of Congo and the Democratic Republic of Congo have been accounted for<sup>25</sup>. Finally, the volatile situation in **Mali** has led to nearly 139,000 Malian Refugees living in Niger, Mauritania and Burkina Faso<sup>26</sup>.

<sup>20</sup> IOM Mali, *Rapport sur les points de suivi des flux de populations 28* (May 2018).

<sup>21</sup> IOM Burkina Faso, *Dashboard des points de suivi des flux de population #14* (May 2018).

<sup>22</sup> IOM Nigeria, *Flow Monitoring Dashboard #14 and #15* (April, May 2018).

<sup>23</sup> IOM West and Central Africa, *Quarterly Regional Migration Report* (January – March 2018).

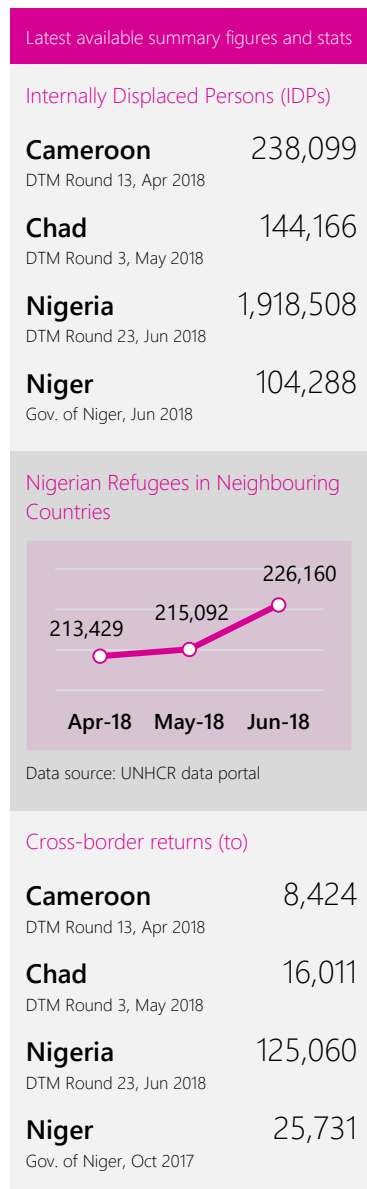
<sup>24</sup> UNHCR Data Portal – Nigeria situation (30 June 2018)

<sup>25</sup> UNHCR Data Portal – CAR situation (30 June 2018)

<sup>26</sup> UNHCR Data Portal – Mali Situation (30 June 2018)

# CRISIS HIGHLIGHTS AND MOBILITY DYNAMIC

## LAKE CHAD BASIN REGION



North-eastern Nigeria has been subject to an insurgency of the group Boko Haram since 2009, with the violence causing grave humanitarian concerns since the beginning of 2014 and the crisis spreading to other countries of the Lake Chad Basin. The group was founded by the Muslim cleric Mohammed Yusuf in 2002 in Maiduguri, the capital of Borno State (North-eastern Nigeria), with the aim of creating an Islamic state with a strict

application of the Sharia law. 2009 marked a shift in Boko Haram's strategy, involving carrying out attacks on police stations and government buildings in Maiduguri. This resulted in the deaths of an important number of Boko Haram militants, including its leader. The group intensified its campaign and has been conducting an increased number of attacks under the leadership of Abubakar Shekau.

The escalation of violence between all parties in 2014 resulted in mass displacement throughout North-eastern Nigeria, and both violence and subsequent displacement expanded to Cameroon, Chad and Niger. This allowed Boko Haram to gain control over large swathes of territory and to declare a caliphate in areas under its control in August 2014. As of January 2015, it was estimated that Boko Haram controlled a territory of 20,000 square miles (or 51,800 square kilometres). In March 2015, Boko Haram pledged allegiance to the Islamic State and became the Islamic State in West Africa. National and Multinational Joint Task Force military operations resulted in a significant loss of territory for Boko Haram, whose militants continue to carry out attacks, and subsequent displacement, in the four affected countries.

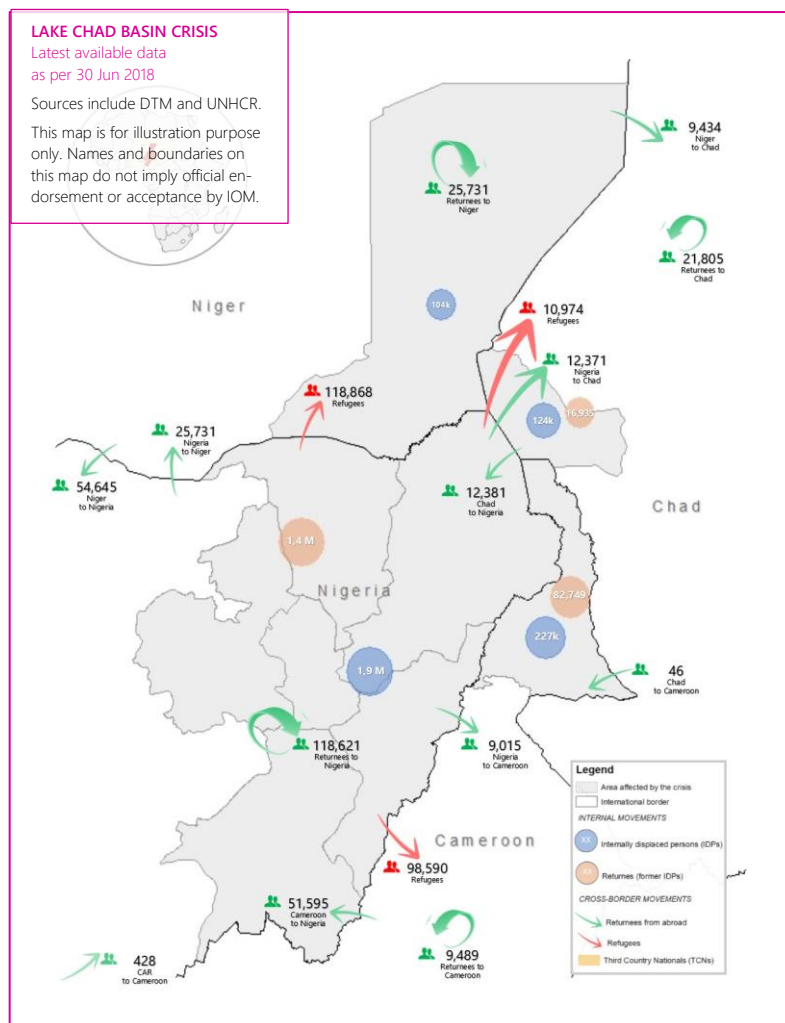
### INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

Based on figures obtained during data collection activities between April and June 2018, internally displaced persons represent 56% (an estimated

2,405,061 individuals) of the entire mobile population<sup>27</sup> identified in the four countries. The overwhelming majority of IDPs are in Nigeria (1,918,508 individuals or 80%; The State of Borno alone in Nigeria hosts 60% of all individuals displaced internally by the crisis<sup>28</sup>), followed by Cameroon (238,099 individuals or 10%), Chad (144,166 individuals or 6%), and Niger (104,288 individuals or 4%)..

The vast majority of IDPs in the four affected countries were displaced by the ongoing conflict with Non-State Armed Groups (2,275,854 individuals or 95%), while the remaining individuals were displaced by intercommunal clashes (112,096 individuals or 4%) and natural disasters (660 individuals or less than 1%). In Niger and Chad, all IDPs identified were displaced by the conflict, but in Cameroon and Nigeria IDPs displaced by either natural disaster or intercommunal clashes were also identified.<sup>29</sup>

While nearly 2.4 million persons remain internally displaced in the four affected countries, significant returns of IDPs have been identified. A total of 1,521,177 former IDPs have already returned to their areas of origin; this represents 35% of the entire mobile population identified. Similar to internal displacement, the overwhelming majority of former IDPs are found in Nigeria (an estimated 1,424,570 or 94% of recorded former IDPs in the region).



Remaining former IDPs are in Cameroon (74,717 individuals) and Chad (21,890 individuals). Information on former IDPs remains unavailable for Niger.

The number of returns has continuously increased since the implementation of DTM return assessments and are explained by the advances made by security forces, as well as potential returns linked to economic and food security reasons (agriculture). Some returns are likely to have been motivated by the

limited availability of basic services, of livelihood opportunities, and of assistance during displacement. Former IDPs, limited in resources, oftentimes return home to their area of origin where their houses and belongings have been damaged or stolen. Significant assistance is likely needed to ensure the durable reintegration of these populations as well as their access to basic services.

Displacement dynamics are complex in the Lake Chad Basin,

<sup>27</sup> This refers to the mobile population tracked by DTM, which includes IDPs, former IDPs, returnees from abroad, refugees and third country nationals

<sup>28</sup> DTM Nigeria (Round 23 – June 2018)

<sup>29</sup> DTM Cameroon (Round 13 – April 2018), DTM Chad (Round 3 – May 2018), DTM Nigeria (Round 23 – June 2018), Government of Niger (30/06/2018),

UNHCR / Government / CNARR Cameroon (30/06/2018), UNHCR / Government / CNARR Chad (30/06/2018).

characterized by multiple displacements, pendular movements, and simultaneous displacement and returns in the same areas. While the general displacement trend remains the same with over 2.4 million IDPs, an increase in returns is clearly becoming a major trend requiring attention.

## CROSS-BORDER MOVEMENTS

Cross-border movements represent an estimated 355,846 individuals (206,033 refugees, 149,133 returned migrants and refugees, and 680 Third Country Nationals).<sup>30</sup> These combined movements represent a mere 9% of all movements identified, highlighting the primary internal nature of displacement in the Lake Chad Basin.

In addition, refugee movements represent 58% of all cross-border movements, while returns represent 42% and Third Country nationals less than 1%.

**Refugees:** A total of 224,334 Nigerian refugees have been identified in Niger, Cameroon, and Chad. Refugees identified and caused by the ongoing conflict in Lake Chad Basin are Nigerian nationals. Main countries of asylum are Niger (118,868 individuals), Cameroon (95,172 individuals), and Chad (10,294 individuals). The numbers of Nigerian refugees remained relatively stable since June 2017, hovering around 205,000 to 226,000 individuals. A tripartite agreement

for the voluntary repatriation of Nigerian refugees living in Cameroon was signed by the Governments of Nigeria and Cameroon and UNHCR in March 2017. The operationalization of this agreement is likely to result in a decrease in the number of refugees living in Cameroon and the subsequent increase of returned refugees to North-eastern Nigeria.

**Returnees:** A total of 175,226 returned migrants and refugees have been identified across Nigeria (125,060 individuals), Chad (16,011 individuals), Niger (25,731 individuals) and Cameroon (8,424 individuals). Countries of origin of those returns are: Niger (51,429 individuals), Cameroon (50,176 individuals), Nigeria (43,217 individuals), Chad (29,971 individuals) and the Central African Republic (433 individuals). These returnees include former refugees as well as individuals who had migrated for various reasons that include economic and education purposes, to find grazing land, to find a spouse, and to settle with family.

## DISPLACEMENT AND MOBILITY DATA

The DTM is implemented in all four countries affected by the Lake Chad Basin Crisis: Cameroon, Chad, Nigeria and Niger<sup>31</sup>. Specifically, the DTM covers the six most affected states in Nigeria (Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba, and Yobe), the Far North region in Cameroon,

and the Lac region in Chad. The only country not covered by a DTM mobility exercise in the framework of this crisis is Niger, where displacement figures for the Diffa region are provided by the Government (in Diffa, DTM conducts survey activities with IDPs).

DTM activities in Cameroon, Chad and Nigeria include Mobility Tracking, through which IOM collects displacement-related data from Key Informants during assessments in all affected areas. This component is complemented by registration exercises in Chad and Nigeria, and household interviews in Cameroon. In addition, the Nigeria DTM also includes an Emergency Tracking Tool (ETT) aimed at identifying new displacement as well as its triggers, data which is then compiled in a weekly update. Finally, both Nigeria and Chad implement the Flow Monitoring component aimed at identifying migration trends.

While basic displacement information is available for the Diffa region of Niger, the lack of DTM activities in this area complicates the regional analysis for this crisis, with core indicators being available for the other three countries only.

In light of the evolving context of the Lake Chad Basin Crisis, as well as the significant and constantly increasing proportion of returns, IOM is currently in the process of piloting DTM

<sup>30</sup> DTM Cameroon (Round 12 – January 2018), DTM Chad (Round 2 – February 2018), DTM Nigeria (Round XXI – January 2018), Government of Niger

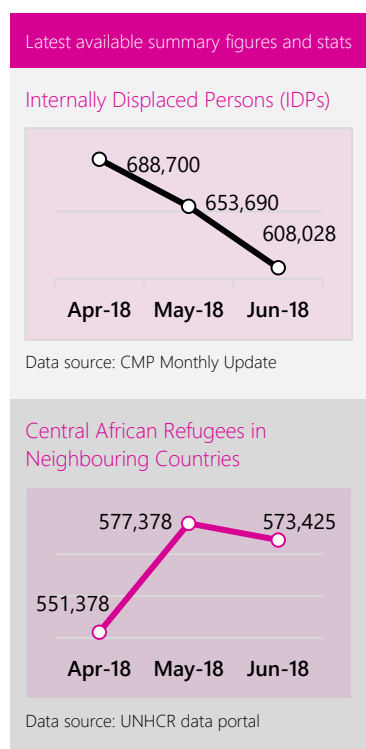
(31/10/2017), DREC/MISP/UNHCR Niger (31/10/2017), UNHCR Cameroon (31/03/2018), CNARR & UNHCR (31/03/2018).

<sup>31</sup> Only return intention surveys are conducted in Niger

assessments incorporating a Humanitarian-Development Nexus component.

A multitude of actors collect displacement-related information in the four affected countries. For example, the crisis resulted in cross-border displacement (refugees), for which data is collected and made available by UNCHR in partnership with the relevant governments. Other initiatives implemented in the region include the inter-Agency Rapid Response Mechanism which aims at, among other things, implementing an early warning system to respond to population displacement.

## CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC



The Central African Republic (CAR) has experienced a continuous situation of volatility and recurring violent clashes since its independence in 1960. However, the most recent crisis in 2013 has developed into an extremely complex protracted state of permanent insecurity and fragility. In late 2012, predominantly Muslim rebel groups that would later become the Seleka started capturing towns in the Northern part of the Central African Republic and descending towards the country capital, Bangui. In reaction to this, predominantly Christian Anti-Balaka armed groups were created, adding to the complexity of the crisis. A ceasefire was signed on 11 January 2013 but was broken as early as 23 January 2013. Hostilities between Seleka and Anti-Balaka groups resurged and resulted in the seizure of Bangui by the Seleka rebels on 24 March 2013. Elected president François Bozize was ousted by Seleka leader Michel Djotodia, who declared himself president (later appointed Head of State of the Transition). Reports of abuses committed by Seleka militias led to their dissolution by Djotodia in September 2013. Opposition by Anti-Balaka militias culminated in coordinated attacks on the Muslim community of Bangui on 5 December 2013.

The escalation in violence led to the deployment of a French military force (Operation Sangaris) to restore peace. President Djotodia resigned on 10 January 2014, and Catherine Samba-

Panza was elected as interim president on 20 January 2014. Despite the resignation of Djotodia and election of a new President, the conflict continued between ex-Seleka and Anti-balaka militias, with the Government having limited control outside of Bangui. On February 2016, Faustin-Archange Touad-éra was elected President and sworn into office on 30 March 2016. On 30 October 2016, France announced the end of Operation Sangaris. Despite the successful elections in late 2016, the conflict continues to affect large swathes of the Central African Republic, with Non-State Armed Groups controlling most of the Central African territory.

## INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

At the time of writing, the Central African Republic is characterized by a lack of data on the return of IDPs. While several actors collect data on former IDPs, including the DTM, no unified nationwide system is implemented to inform humanitarian and government actors on the magnitude of returns mostly due to the difficult access of humanitarian partners in certain regions.

Nonetheless, as of 30 June 2018, the Central African Republic hosts an estimated 608,028 internally displaced persons (IDPs). 58% of IDPs live with host families, 41% are residing in IDP sites and other collective settings, and less than 1% resides in the bush<sup>32</sup>. Causes of internal displacement in the Central African Republic

<sup>32</sup> CMP République Centrafricaine. *Rapport de la Commission Mouvement de populations (juin 2018)*



remain armed conflicts (58%) and inter-community clashes (36%). IDPs have been identified in each of the 16 prefectures and the autonomous commune of Bangui. While IDPs are found nearly all over the country, more than half of them are concentrated in four Préfectures: Ouaka (130,900 individuals or 22%), Bangui (85,431 individuals or 14%), Haute-Kotto (76,943 individuals or 13%), and Basse-Kotto (66,273 individuals or 11%)<sup>33</sup>.

The number of IDPs identified in June decreased by 7% in comparison to the figures gathered in May, mainly as a result of a large number of IDP returns observed in May in the zone of Paoua (prefecture of l’Ouham-Pendé), the city of Kaga-

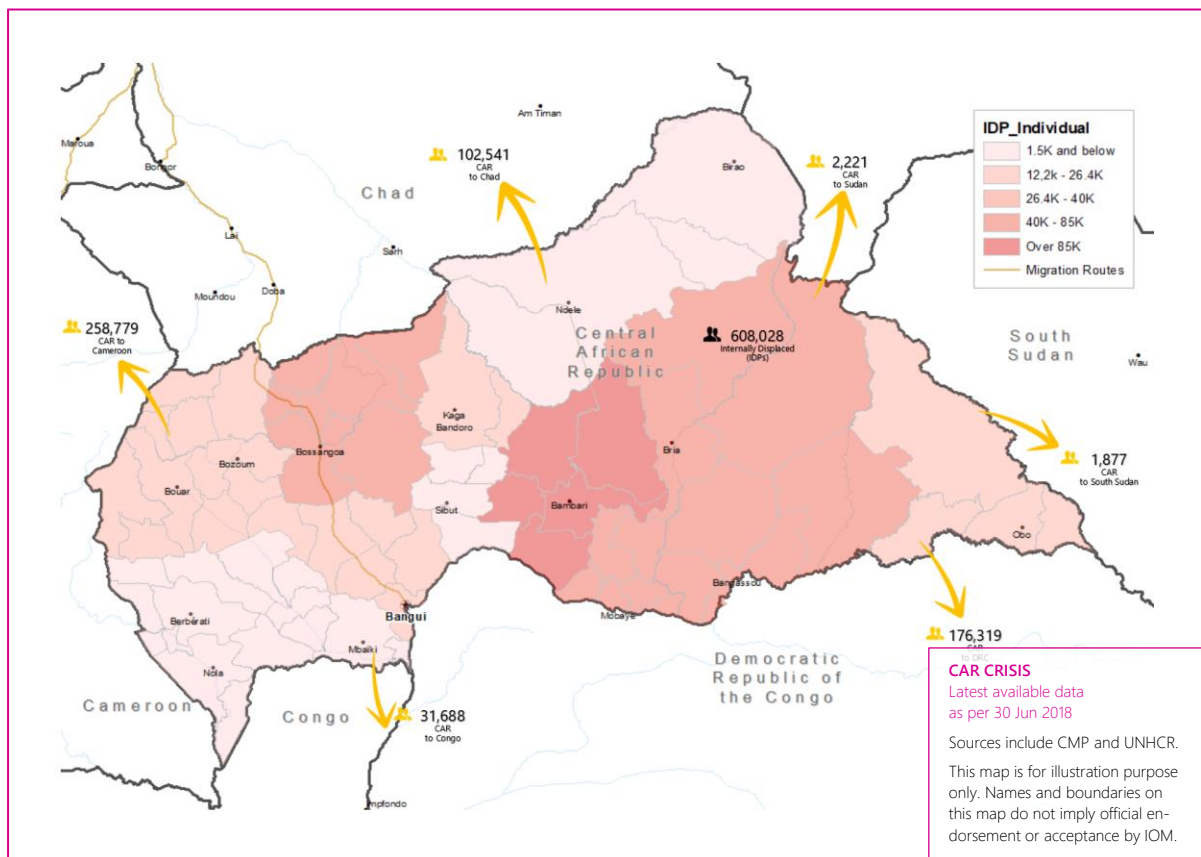
Bandoro, prefecture of Nana-Gribizi and in the city of Bria, prefecture of the Haute-Kotto due to the improvement of the security situation in these areas. At the same time, new displacements of 11,860 individuals in June were observed, most notably in the prefectures of Mambéré-Kadéï, Nana-Gribizi and Ouaka.

Earlier, a relative return to stability in the first half of 2016 facilitated the returns of IDPs and resulted in the lowest number of IDPs in July 2016 (383,314 individuals). However, ensuing resurgence of violence resulted in an upsurge in the number of IDPs, hitting the 600,000 mark in July 2017. This overall trend has not abated since, despite a recent

decrease of 7% from May to June 2018. In light of the continued tensions and clashes, it is expected that displacement, both within and outside the Central African Republic, will remain at high levels in the foreseeable future.

### CROSS-BORDER MOVEMENTS

As of 30 June 2018, a total of 573,425 Central African nationals have found refuge in neighbouring countries. They currently reside in Cameroon (258,779 individuals), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (176,319 individuals), Chad (102,541 individuals), Republic of Congo (31,688 individuals), Sudan (2,221 individuals), and South Sudan (1,877



<sup>33</sup> Ibid.

individuals).<sup>34</sup> The peak in refugee numbers was reached in September 2015, when nearly 691,000 Central African refugees lived in neighbouring countries. While a significant decrease in the number of refugees occurred in mid-2017, the past six months have seen a renewed increase in the number of refugees. The figures for refugees increased from 539,941 individuals as of 31 December 2017 to 573,425 individuals as of 30 June 2018. This highlights and corroborates the impact of renewed violent clashes on displacement, both within and outside the Central African Republic.

The high number of both IDPs and refugees thus remains alarming. As of 30 June, an estimated 1,181,453 Central African nationals were displaced within and outside the Central African Republic, out of a total estimated Central African population of 4,594,621 (World Bank 2016 estimate). This means that an estimated 26% of the Central African population is either internally displaced or has found refuge in a neighbouring country. This high proportion shows that, despite a perceived return to a relatively safer situation, factors and risks causing displacement remain prevalent and displacements show little sign of abating in the near future.

### DISPLACEMENT AND MOBILITY DATA

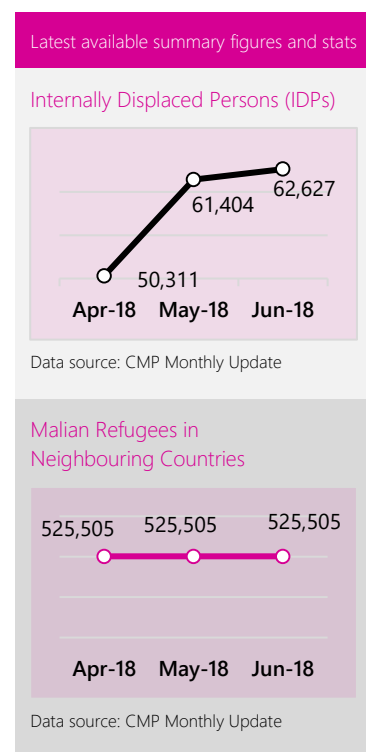
While multiple actors collect displacement-related data, the

mandated entity charged with compiling and validating displacement information is the Population Movement Commission (CMP). Data compiled comes from various sources, including: DTM, The Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM), UNHCR, Danish Refugee Council (DRC), local NGOs, etc. While the CMP is vital in providing overall numbers of IDPs, the lack of a unique system collecting the same data according to the same methodology on the entire territory poses methodological issues as well as limitations in terms of analysis of the crisis and orientations guiding the overall action of humanitarian actors. Further, while there is some data being collected on returns both by DTM and the CMP, there is a lack of comprehensive data or a harmonized methodology for tracking the total number of returns in the country.

In addition, the continued complex security situation further complicates access and operations of humanitarian actors, including DTM assessments. In addition, logistical constraints remain significant, specifically in terms of transportation and telecommunications, which hampers the successful implementation of data collection exercises. Logistical constraints are expected to further worsen during the rainy season. Finally, in light of this continued complex security situation, displacement within and outside the Central African Republic is expected to remain at

high levels in the foreseeable future.

## MALI



Since 2012, Mali has been affected by a civil crisis that has led to many deaths and the displacement of more than 500,000 persons internally, while thousands more have sought refuge in neighboring countries. The crisis has also destroyed basic and communal infrastructure, hindering livelihood opportunities as well as access to basic services. Hospitals, schools and other social services have also been greatly impacted. The number of psychosocial cases from the effects of the war are alarming, and no national mechanism is in place to respond. Over the past six years,

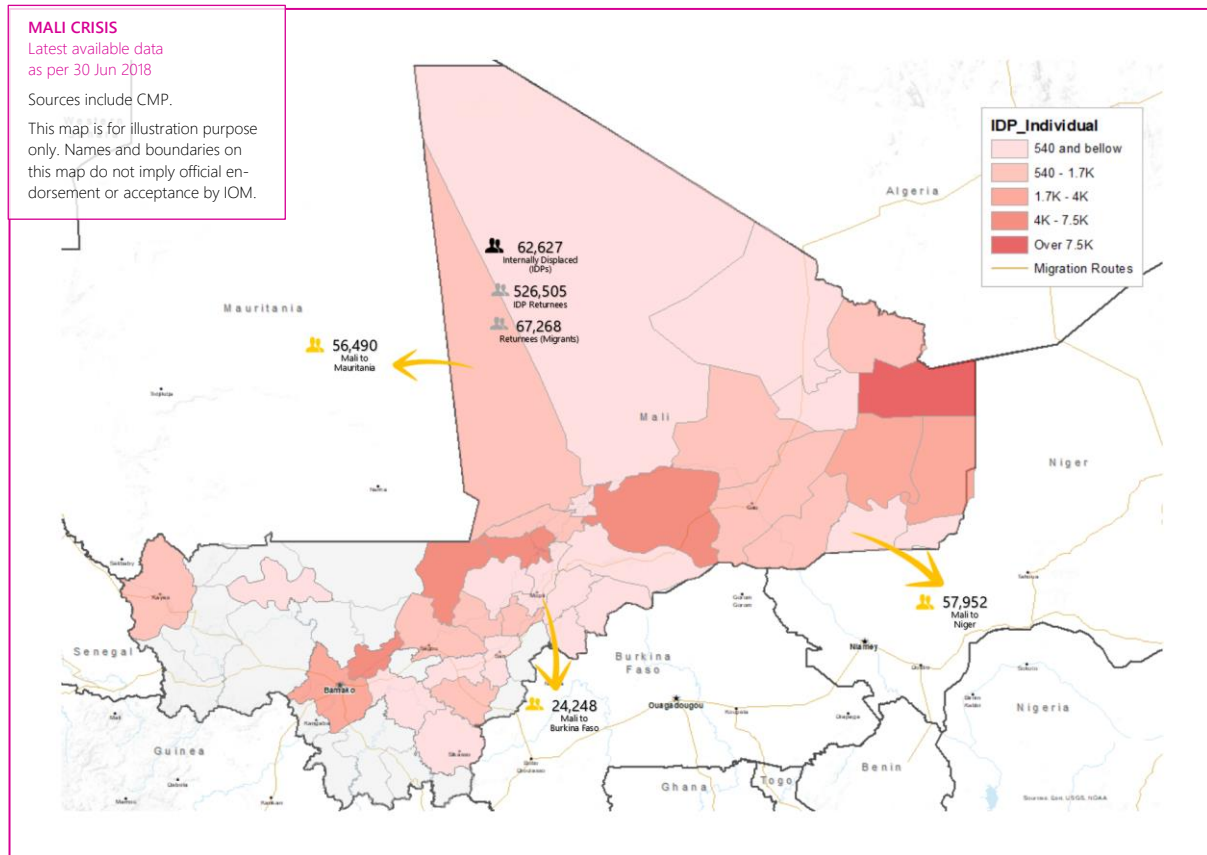
<sup>34</sup> UNHCR, Operational Portal – Refugee Situation <https://data2.unhcr.org/fr/situations/car>

thousands of internally displaced persons (IDPs) have returned, leaving an estimated 60,000 persons still displaced in various communities within the country. However, isolated but fatal inter-communal and inter-tribal vio-

subsequently suspending the Constitution of Mali. The political and leadership vacuum resulted in significant gain of territory by the MNLA, who by April 2012 took control of northern Mali and declared independence.

the Malian military, supported by the international coalition, had re-taken the territory that had been controlled by Islamist groups.

After years of discussions and



lence continues to lead to new displacements with associated humanitarian and longer-term needs.

The crisis currently affecting Mali started in January 2012, when the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA) launched attacks on Ménaka, in the north of the country, and a fighting campaign against the Malian government. The aim of the movement was to obtain independence or greater autonomy for northern Mali. In March 2012, soldiers dissatisfied with President Amadou Toumani Touré's handling of the crisis ousted him in a coup d'état,

The MNLA was backed by other Non-State Armed Groups, including Islamist groups such as Ansar Dine. However, following the seizure of northern Mali, these former allies turned on each other and fighting erupted. By July 2012, Islamist groups had seized most of the territory that was controlled by the MNLA.

Under request of the Government of Mali, the French military intervened in January 2013 to assist the Malian military in re-taking the north. Additional forces from African Union states were deployed shortly after to support the initiative. By February 2013,

failed attempts, a ceasefire agreement was signed on 19 February 2015 in Algiers between the Government of Mali and northern rebels. This was followed by the signature of a peace agreement in Bamako on 15 April 2015, officially ending the conflict.

Despite the peace agreement, Mali continues to face frequent attacks by Non-State Armed Groups.

### INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

As of 30 June 2018, 62,627 IDPs have been counted by the *Commission sur les Mouvements de*

*Populations* (CMP) in Mali<sup>35</sup>. The largest part of the total IDP caseload is now located in the regions of Timbuktu, Ménaka, Mopti and Gao. 55% of total displaced are female and 45% are male, and more than half (53%) are minors.

At the beginning of the crisis in 2012, the number of IDPs continuously increased to reach a peak in June 2013 (353,455 IDPs). Following this peak, the number of IDPs significantly decreased until April 2015 (43,101 IDPs). This was followed by an increase in May 2015 (102,666 IDPs) and a subsequent decrease to hit the lowest mark of 33,042 IDPs in December 2016. Displacement levels have since been fluctuating between 35,000 and 63,000 IDPs. Since 31 December 2017, there has been an increase of 49%, from 38,172 IDPs to 62,627 IDPs in June 2018. The increase is mainly due to the deterioration of the security situation and increased violence. In light of the continued attacks, it is expected that the rates of displacement will remain at similar levels in the foreseeable future.

As per the January 2018 displacement report published by the Government (through the *Direction Nationale du Développement Social*, DNDS) and IOM, main needs are food (60% of surveyed households), non-food items (12%) and shelter (11%)<sup>36</sup>.

In addition, the CMP reported as of 30 June 2018 that 526,505 persons have been counted as returned IDPs since the start of hostilities in 2012<sup>37</sup>. Nevertheless, the number of returned IDPs has continuously increased since 2013; this pattern and current high number of returnees highlights the importance of this trend and the need for reintegration and community-based assistance.

### CROSS-BORDER MOVEMENTS

Cross-border movements represent an estimated 205,958 individuals (138,690 refugees, and 67,268 returned migrants and refugees). These combined cross-border movements represent only 26% of all movements identified, highlighting the primarily internal nature of displacement in Mali.

**Refugees:** A total of 138,690 Malian refugees have been identified in Burkina Faso (24,248 individuals or 17%), Mauritania (56,490 individuals or 41%), and Niger (57,952 individuals or 42%). The refugee caseload has been relatively stable since December 2018, fluctuating between 130,000 and 145,000 individuals.

**Returnees from abroad:** 67,268 returnees from abroad, mainly Burkina Faso (24,392), Niger (18,858), Mauritania (16,234), and Algeria (7,773)<sup>38</sup> have been identified. Remaining returnees come from Togo (6), Guinea (2), Ghana

(1), Nigeria (1), and Tunisia (1). The number of returnees from abroad has steadily increased since July 2013 to reach its peak in June 2018. Since March 2018, the number of returnees from abroad has increased by 4%.

### DISPLACEMENT AND MOBILITY DATA

In Mali, since the initial displacement in 2012 due to hostilities in the regions of Timbuktu, Gao and Kidal, IOM DTM has been actively working on assessing displacement with its mobility tracking exercise and contributes actively to the *Commission sur les Mouvements de Populations* (CMP).

The DTM is active in all ten (10) regions of Mali, through its Mobility Tracking tool collecting information on displacement and return trends. After implementation by IOM since 2012, the DTM was handed over to the Government of Mali in November 2014. In addition, the registration of returnees from abroad was handed over by UNHCR to the *Direction Nationale du Développement Social* (DNDS) in April 2015. This allowed the DNDS to centralize and to better harmonize data collection on mobile persons.

While multiple actors collect displacement-related data, the mandated entity charged with compiling and validating displacement information is the Population Movement

<sup>35</sup> CMP Mali – Rapport sur les mouvements de populations (19 July 2018).

<sup>36</sup> DTM (2018). Mali — *Rapport De Déplacement* (Janvier 2018).

<sup>37</sup> CMP Mali – Rapport sur les mouvements de populations (7 juin 2018).

<sup>38</sup> CMP Mali – Rapport sur les mouvements de populations (19 July 2018).

Commission (CMP). Commission members include: General Direction for Civil Protection, DNDS, IOM, UNHCR, OCHA, WFP, UNICEF, ACTED, NRC, DRC, Handicap International, Solidarités International, and CRS.

The situation in Mali remains volatile, with frequent attacks by Non-State Armed Groups, especially in the northern part of the country. This is likely to keep internal displacement at high levels in the foreseeable future.

The main event that could have a potential impact on displacement levels is the upcoming elections set to take place on 29 July 2018. While this is unlikely, risks that could result in notable displacement are related to an escalation of violence due to the contestation of election results, as well as a potential increase of attacks carried out by Non-State Armed Groups.

Lastly, limited funding is available for the implementation of DTM since December 2017, resulting in the DNDS' limited capacities to conduct verifications and updates when it receives reports of population movements. Such reports are currently mostly received for the center of the country (Mopti, Ségou) as well as Ménaka and other locations of Northern Mali.



# OUTLOOK ON POPULATION MOBILITY

Population mobility trends in West and Central Africa are unlikely to drastically change in the next three months.

In **Niger**, humanitarian actors are projecting that due to ongoing cross-border attacks and violence by Non-State Armed groups from Mali in the Tillabéri region of Niger, 43 villages (around 40,000 individuals) are at risk of displacement over the coming few months. It is expected that this situation may be exacerbated by the incoming rainy season (from June to September), making the needs for shelters and NFI kits more urgent for the most vulnerable affected populations.

In **CAR**, the situation remains hard to predict, and displacements are likely to continue due to the ongoing violence in the country.

The humanitarian situation in the South-West and North-West regions of **Cameroon** is expected to continue, with the risk of increasing internal and cross-border displacement into Nigeria. IOM DTM teams are planning a baseline assessment following which they will provide more updated information over the coming months on the numbers and locations of those displaced.

Internal displacement in **Mali** and the **Lake Chad Basin Region** is expected to remain fairly stable in the coming few months while the trend of ongoing returns of formerly displaced IDPs in **Nigeria** is expected to continue. DTM

teams in Nigeria are currently working on further data collection and analysis on returns and will be able to soon provide a more complete picture of returns.

The events that might impact the intra-regional migration movements are recurrent movements related to seasonal, religious or academic-term related events.

In relation to seasonal movements, the start of the rainy season is predicted to generate usual transhumant movements across the region, and labour demand is expected to increase for weeding and harvesting in preparation for main harvest seasons between September and January<sup>39</sup>, which will likely prompt additional regional movements

Furthermore, religious holidays, including Eid Al Adha, which will occur in August this year, will spur regional mobility as many people may travel to visit family members in countries in the region.

Finally, the dates of academic terms may affect the mobility of school and university students in the region. With the start of the new academic school-year, more movements may be seen towards areas with schools and universities.

Interregional migration movements to North Africa are constantly adapting to a changing context, with Libya becoming less attractive for migrants in

<sup>39</sup> Famine Early Warning Systems Network, *West Africa, Seasonal Calendar*.

contrast to increased attention to Morocco. Cross-border movements between Algeria and Mali or Niger may continue to experience some fluctuation, depending on the evolution of policy developments along the border during this time; however, as Libya, Algeria and Morocco continue to be an important countries of destination for West and Central African nationals migrating for economic reasons, it is unlikely that cross-border movements in this direction will stop completely, even with such changes in policy and security context. It is likely, however, that routes taken by migrants to arrive there will be longer and more perilous.

IOM DTM teams across the region but also in North Africa and Europe are working on monitoring these changes and adapting existing tools to capture these movements.

## **DATA INITIATIVES**

IOM DTM in West and Central Africa continues to expand its activities both on the mobility tracking of internal displacement and on the monitoring of intra and interregional migration movements.

Mobility Tracking exercises will continue in Chad, CAR, Cameroon, and Nigeria with additional rounds expected in all these countries. In the next few months, additional data collection in Niger on the displaced population in Diffa is expected, along with data collection in the southwest and northwest (English speaking) regions of Cameroon. Assessments of certain areas will also be conducted by

IOM Niger at the border regions with Mali (Tillabéri). In addition, government officials in multiple countries in the region will be trained on data collection in displacement situations.

Flow monitoring activities will continue to be refined by adjusting the location of existing points in Senegal and Guinea to better reflect mobility patterns. DTM teams will also be working on refining the flow monitoring survey activities (surveys on a sample of migrants passing through FMPs) to obtain a better understanding of the travelers' profiles.

With the ongoing EUTF, DFID, PRM and Dutch-funded projects, IOM Regional Office in West and Central Africa continue their efforts to improve data quality and analysis.



International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The UN Migration Agency