



Since 2019, a growing number of people have taken the West African Atlantic Route (WAAR). This migratory route, which had been particularly active in the past, and in particular in 2006, has once again become a route used more commonly by migrants. Along this route, migrants generally cross from the coasts of Morocco or Mauritania to the Spanish Canary Islands. However, departures are often prepared from the coasts of Senegal and the journey to the Canary Islands often includes several intermediate stages.

In 2006, more than **32,000** migrants from the West and Central African region had taken this route. In 2019, **2,687** migrants arrived in the Canary Islands, a figure which grew to **23,023** individuals in 2020.

In January and February 2021, **2,341** migrants arrived irregularly in the Canary Islands; in 2020, during the same period, **1,103** people arrived in the Canary Islands. This represents an increase of **112 per cent** in irregular migrant arrivals to the Canary Islands between 2020 and 2021.

Since October 2020, IOM has been monitoring the main areas of departure along the Senegalese coastline of boats leaving for the Canary Islands (Spain). This report presents the main data collected, the methodology used and the other events identified by the investigators along the Senegalese coast.

DEPARTURES FROM SENEGAL - MIGRANT PROFILE

Nationalities

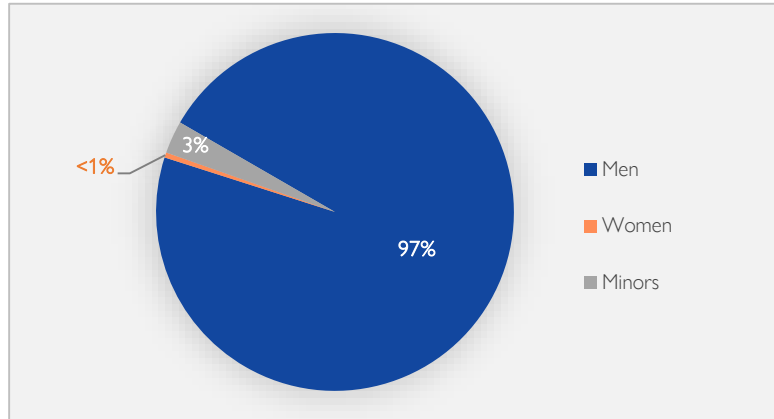
Main nationalities of migrants departing from the coasts of Senegal

Senegal

The Gambia

Mali

Demographic profile



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METHODOLOGY

The Departure Area Monitoring Tool monitors events relating to migratory movements from the coasts of Senegal to the Spanish Canary Islands (which, most frequently, are conducted through several intermediate stages), with the aim of documenting mobility along the West African Atlantic Route (WAAR). The methodology combines three tools: monitoring of departures, mapping of departure areas and counting.

This report presents data collected by the **departure monitoring** tool between 1 January and 28 February 2021 at key departure points along the Senegalese coastline. Information is provided to enumerators by Community Focal Points (CFPs) who provide information on notable events observed in areas of departure used by migrants to travel to Mauritania, Morocco and the Canary Islands. When information is available to the Community Focal Points, they record it in the database using the data collection form. **As part of its monitoring activities for departures from the Senegalese coasts, IOM does not collaborate in any way, shape or form with smuggling and migrant facilitation networks.**

DATA SOURCES AND NOTES:

There are some limitations to the data provided by the CFPs on the movements that take place on the coast in the context of maritime migration in Senegal. The data available is sparse and rarely contains information on the exact date of travel or the list of migrants who embark on boats. Furthermore, there is no perfectly harmonized data with the Spanish government on arrivals to the Canary Islands (Spain) from Senegal.

COLLECTION TOOLS



Design and implementation of data a collection form.



Assessments conducted with CFPs via smartphone.



Total number of CFPs participating in the s project.



From St-Louis to Ziguinchor, CFPs living in their localities cover the Senegalese coast.



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Identifying information: When quoting, paraphrasing, or in any way using information mentioned in this report, the source should be indicated as follows: "Source: International Organization for Migration (IOM), (April, 2021)".





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Number of events identified by Community Focal Points (CFPs) concerning possible departures or preparations for departure from the coasts of Senegal between 1 January and 28 February 2021. This figure represents a decrease of **73 per cent** compared to the **78 events** identified between 1 November and 31 December 2020.

DETAILS OF EVENTS



4 boats left the coasts of Senegal, a decrease of **83 per cent** on the **23 departures** reported between November and December 2020.



154 migrants left on board these boats, a decrease of **91 per cent** compared to the period from November to December 2020.



Most of the boats leaving from Senegal go to the Canary Islands, while some head towards Mauritania.



11 events concern irregular recruitment campaigns with a view to register potential migrants. Almost **455 candidates** were registered on lists during the reporting period. This represents an increase of **64 per cent** compared to the period from November to December 2020.

Potential risks:

- Overcrowded boats and increased risk of shipwrecks and boats disappearing at sea following the upsurge in registered candidates;
- Growing number of vessels going further away from shore, into the high seas, to avoid detection by other vessels;
- Poor quality of boats, increasing the risk of shipwrecks;
- Abuse, extortion and exploitation of migrants due to the isolation of the areas of departure, vulnerability of potential migrants and imbalance of power;



Departure areas (January – February 2021):

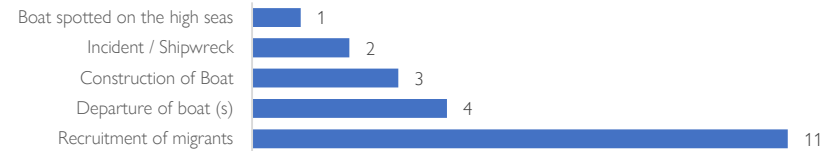
- Along the North and South coasts of the Thiès region.
- Off the islands of the Saloum Delta.



This page presents data collected between 1 January and 28 February 2021 from Community Focal Points (CFPs) along the Senegalese coast. The data collected refer to all types of movements by boat from Senegal to Mauritania or the Canary Islands (Spain) identified as irregular migration.

Between **January 1 and February 28, 2021**, **21 events** were reported by CFPs. **11 events (52 per cent)** were related to **the registration** of potential migrants (with a total of around **455 registered migrants**) for a future departure, **4 events (19 per cent)** related to the departure of boats from the Senegalese coasts, **3 events (14 per cent)** related to boat design and **2 events (10 per cent)** concerned **shipwrecks and incidents** on boats at sea.

Fig. 1- Types of events identified (1 January — 28 February 2021)



Map 1 – Number of reported boat departures from Senegal (January – February 2021)

