



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.

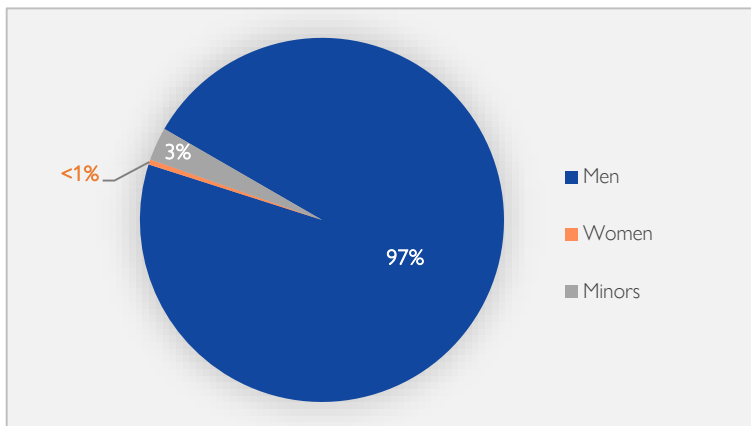
DEPARTURES FROM SENEGAL - MIGRANT PROFILE

Nationalities

Main nationalities of migrants departing from the coasts of Senegal

- Senegal
- The Gambia
- Nigeria
- Mali
- Guinea-Bissau

Demographic profile



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 November and 31 December 2020 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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78

Number of events identified by Community Focal Points (CFPs) concerning possible departures or preparations for departure from the coasts of Senegal between 1 November and 31 December 2020. This figure represents a decrease of **46 per cent** compared to the **144** events identified between 1 Sept and 31 Oct 2020.

DETAILS OF EVENTS



23 boats left the coasts of Senegal, a decrease of **44 per cent** on the **41** departures reported between September and October 2020.



1,725 migrants used these boats, a decrease of **29 per cent** compared to the period from September to October 2020.



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



18 events concern irregular recruitment campaigns with a view to register potential migrants. Almost **1,050** candidates were registered on lists during the reporting period. This represents an increase of **47 per cent** compared to the period from September to October 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;



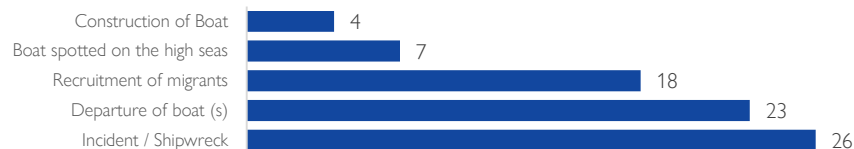
Departure areas (November - December 2020):

- Along the coast of St-Louis,
- Along the North and South coasts of the Thiès region.
- Off the islands of Saloum.

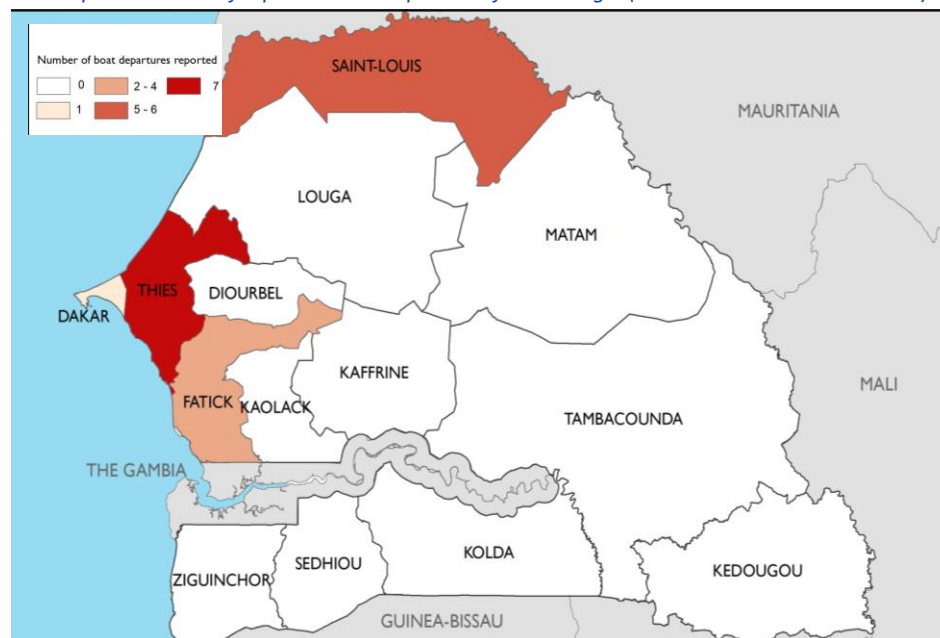
This page presents data collected between 1 November and 31 December 2020 from Community Focal Points (CFPs) along the Senegalese coast. The data collected refer to all types of movements by boat from Senegal to Mauritania or the Canary Islands (Spain) identified as irregular migration.

Between 1 November and 31 December 2020, **78** events were reported by CFPs. **26** events (**33%**) concerned **shipwrecks** and **incidents** on boats at sea, **23** events (**29%**) related to the departure of boats from the coast of Senegal; **18** events (**23%**) were linked to **the registration** of potential migrants (with a total of around **1,050 registered**) for immediate departure.

Fig. 1 - Types of events identified (1 November – 31 December 2020)



Map 1 – Number of reported boat departures from Senegal (November – December 2020)



This map is for illustrative purposes only. Representations and the use of boundaries and geographical names on this map may include errors and do not imply any judgment on the legal status of a territory, nor official recognition or acceptance of these boundaries by IOM.



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