IOM works with national and local authorities to gain a better understanding of population movements throughout West and Central Africa. Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs) allow IOM to quantify and qualify migration flows, trends and routes at entry, exit and transit points (such as border crossing posts, bus stations, rest areas, police checkpoints and reception centres). Since July 2016, several Flow Monitoring Points have been progressively installed in important localities of Mali, particularly in the regions of Gao, Timbuktu, Kidal, Menaka, Mopti, Kayes, Segou, Sikasso and Bamako, to monitor the daily movements of migrants heading to West and North African countries.

In June 2020, the average daily number of individuals observed at the Flow Monitoring Points increased by 100 per cent compared to the previous month. This doubling of migration flows recorded in June 2020 has permitted to increase the number of migrants observed to a level exceeding its pre-COVID volume.

Nationals from Burkina Faso, Mali, Guinea-Conakry, Niger and Côte d’Ivoire accounted for 89 per cent of all the migrants recorded at the Flow Monitoring Points.

Burkina Faso, Algeria, Mauritania, and the Niger are major transit countries for migrants after their stopover in Mali. Economic migration, including long-term migration of more than six months (68% of flows) and seasonal migration (31% of flows), is the main observed type of movement.

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The FMPs are funded by the European Union.

Flows, refers to migrants who arrive at a Flow Monitoring Point with the intention of travelling further from Mali.

Outgoing flows, refers to migrants who arrive at a Flow Monitoring Point with the intention of travelling towards the outer borders of Mali.

In June 2020, economic migration was the dominant type of movement observed in FMPs, with 68% of all migrants recorded at FMPs categorized as long-term migrants (+6 months).

The flows to West African countries accounted for 70% of all migrants observed, with the majority of these flows heading to Conakry, Guinea, and the capital of Burkina Faso, Ouagadougou.

Transportation flows accounted for 24% of the total, with the majority of these flows heading to West African countries, particularly Conakry, Guinea, and Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

The IOM Study: The West African border between Mali and Burkina Faso remains an important gateway for economic migrants heading to the UK, with 70% of the flows observed at FMPs categorized as long-term migrants (+6 months).

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**FLOW MONITORING POINTS**

Most migrants travel through the capital city, Bamako, to the strategically located towns of Gao and Timbuktu, as well as through border areas such as Benena, Gogui and Heremakono, before heading towards Algeria, the Niger, Libya, Mauritania or Morocco. Some will ultimately travel on to Europe. Gao is an important transit point and is commonly favoured by migrants for its accessibility to routes leading to the Mediterranean sea. The majority of outgoing migrants identified at the Gao and Timbuktu FMPs continue through Algeria (primarily through the Algerian towns of Tamanrasset and Bordj). Migrants transiting through Benena and Heremakono travel on to Burkina Faso, while those transiting through Gogui travel on to Mauritania. Mali is also a transit country for incoming migrants, notably those who were unable to cross the Sahara desert and those returning to countries such as Guinea-Conakry, Côte d’Ivoire, Senegal and other countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. With the closure of the borders due to the Coronavirus pandemic, a gradual decline in daily flows is observed from 22 March to reach a very low level (one third of the average daily flows), hence a decrease in monthly flows. However, migrants have still found ways to cross officially closed borders.

Following the appearance of the first cases of COVID-19 in West Africa in March 2020, public authorities chose to restrict mobility, including through the closure of borders. Migrants who do not want to defer their plans to migrate find unofficial ways and means to cross officially closed borders despite the prohibition of people passing through. Therefore, from mid-March 2020, a progressive decrease in migratory flows was observed at the different FMPs of Mali, reaching a very low level in April 2020. However, during the months of May and June, a resumption was observed in movement of migrants. In fact, Mali’s FMPs recorded an increase in flows of 32 percent in May and 100 percent in June 2020. This increase permitted to elevate the volume of flows at a level superior to pre-COVID-19 period.

**TOTAL NUMBER OF INCOMING AND OUTGOING INDIVIDUALS AT MALI FMPs BETWEEN 1 JULY 2016 AND 30 JUNE 2020 (***)

- **Incoming individuals recorded at Mali FMPs (*)**
  - 7,555

- **Outgoing individuals recorded at Mali FMPs (*)**
  - 4,859

- **Individuals observed in total at Mali FMPs**
  - 12,414

- **Active FMPs in Mali**
  - 9

(*) To avoid double counting, migrants recorded at the transit points of Bamako, Sevare and Wabaria are not included in this total. Only those recorded at entry and exit points are considered.

(**) The data collection on incoming flows at FMPs started in December 2016. Due to the new FMP set up since the start of June 2017, any significant deviation observed in the figures provided from that date should not be interpreted as a significant increase in migratory flows but as an increase in data collected.

Since the beginning of 2020, the flows of seasonal migrant from Burkina Faso continue to increase significantly. These migrants most often intend to travel to gold mining sites.

European countries were declared as the final intended destination by 6 per cent of outgoing migrants.

**MAIN NATIONALITIES OF MIGRANTS**

- **Incoming flow**
  - Burkina Faso: 56%
  - Guinea: 12%
  - Mali: 11%
  - Niger: 10%
  - Senegal: 10%
  - Sierra Leone: 9%
  - Sudan: 7%
  - Others: 1%

- **Outgoing flow**
  - Burkina Faso: 39%
  - Guinea: 28%
  - Mali: 17%
  - Niger: 7%
  - Senegal: 6%
  - Others: 1%

**MAIN INTENDED DESTINATIONS**

- **Incoming Flow**
  - Burkina Faso: 63%
  - Guinea: 51%
  - Niger: 24%
  - Senegal: 17%
  - Morocco: 17%
  - Libya: 7%
  - Italy: 4%
  - Sierra Leone: 2%
  - Mauritania: 2%
  - Gabon: 2%
  - Spain: 2%
  - Equatorial Guinea: 4%
  - Others: 1%

- **Outgoing Flow**
  - Burkina Faso: 56%
  - Guinea: 12%
  - Mali: 11%
  - Niger: 10%
  - Senegal: 10%
  - Others: 1%

Credit line: When quoting, paraphrasing or in any way using the information contained in this report, the source needs to be stated appropriately as follows:

"Source: International Organization for Migration (IOM), [month, year], Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)."
The data collected at the FMPs in Gao, Timbuktu and Ménaka permitted to determine the migrants in the direction of Algeria. These regions are localities where migrants headed for Algeria usually begin their journey, reciprocally the migrants who return from Algeria pass there.

In addition, the figures presented in pages one through three of this report do not include the numbers collected from the Bamako FMP, nor do they incorporate the numbers from the Sevare or Wabaria FMPs, which are transit points and not points of entry or exit.

The number of migrants wishing to travel to Europe through Algeria, Libya and Mauritania remained constant. However migrants who want to travel to Europe through Morocco have increased.

The number of migrants wishing to travel to Spain remained constant. In addition, migrants who intend to go to Italy increased.

Yet, it should be noted that these figures indicate the intentions of migrants rather than confirmed destinations.
Wabaria, located at the entrance of the city of Gao, is predominantly a crossing point for migrants travelling to Gao, coming from the South and the Centre of Mali or who have transited through those areas.

At this Flow Monitoring Point, data collectors identify migrants who wish to travel to North African and European countries. Most of them transit through Bamako to reach Gao, where they spend a couple of days before continuing their journey.

During the reporting period, most migrants transiting through the Wabaria FMP were nationals of Niger (52%), Burkina Faso (21%), Sudan (6%), Guinea-Conakry (4%) or Mali (4%).

For outgoing flows, mainly internal seasonal migrants, Mali (58%), Libya (11%), Algeria (9%), Niger (6%), Italy (5%), Morocco (4%) or Spain (3%) are the main destinations for migrants.

The average of daily flows observed in Wabaria FMP increased highly in May and June 2020. This increase is the result of a considerable increase in seasonal migrant flows recorded at this point.

During the reporting period, 3,942 migrants were recorded at this FMP (Incoming flow: 2,029; Outgoing flow: 1,913).

**MONTHLY FLOWS OF INDIVIDUALS OBSERVED SINCE THE FMP WAS INSTALLED**

**MAIN INTENDED FINAL DESTINATIONS**

**ORIGINS AND DESTINATIONS**

The FMPs are funded by the EUROPEAN UNION

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

The FMPs are implemented by IOM

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Credentials: When quoting, paraphrasing or in any way using the information mentioned in this report, the source needs to be stated appropriately as follows:

“Source: International Organization for Migration (IOM), [month, year], Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)”.

pp: percentage point

With the methodology, Mali is indicated as the destination country and Gao as the destination city. Then flows continue to Algeria.
Place Kidal is mainly an exit point for migrants leaving Gao.

At this Flow Monitoring Point, the data collectors identify migrants who have spent a number of days in Gao in transit before travelling onwards, predominantly to North African and European countries. Incoming migrants who transit through Niger or Algeria and return to Mali or their countries of origin (Guinea-Conakry, Côte d’Ivoire), as well as seasonal migrants traveling from one city in Mali to another are also identified at this FMP.

During the reporting period, most migrants identified at Place Kidal FMP were nationals of Mali (23%), Burkina Faso (21%), Guinea-Conakry (11%), Niger (10%) and Sudan (8%).

For outgoing flows, Algeria (28%), Mali (25%), Libya (18%), Morocco (12%), Spain (8%) and Italy (6%) are the main destination destinations for migrants.

During the reporting period, 1,616 migrants were recorded at this FMP (Incoming flow: 824; Outgoing flow: 792). This corresponds to a quasi-doubling (+93%) of the average daily flows compared to last month.

MONTHLY FLOWS OF INDIVIDUALS OBSERVED SINCE THE FMP WAS INSTALLED

MAIN INTENDED FINAL DESTINATIONS

COUNTRY OF DEPARTURE OF OBSERVED MOVEMENTS BY TYPE OF MOVEMENT

VULNERABILITIES

MAIN NATIONALITIES

MAIN TYPES OF MOVEMENT

DEMOGRAPHY

DEMOGRAPHY

DEMOGRAPHY

DESTINATION OF MIGRANTS

DEMOGRAPHY

DEMOGRAPHY

DEMOGRAPHY

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The Timbuktu Flow Monitoring Point is primarily a migrant exit point for outgoing flows in direction to North Africa.

At this Flow Monitoring Point, data collectors observe migrants who travel through Timbuktu before going on to North Africa and Europe.

Incoming migrants who transit through Algeria and return to Mali are also identified at this FMP.

During the reporting period, most migrants identified at the Timbuktu FMP were nationals of Guinea-Conakry (43%), Mali (31%), Gambia (6%), Sierra Leone (5%) and Cote d'Ivoire (3%).

Most outgoing migrants reported either Algeria (48%), Morocco (26%) or Italy (22%) as their intended final destination.

During the reporting period, 947 migrants were recorded at this FMP (Incoming flow: 234; Outgoing flow: 713). After having lost a significant part of the volume of its migratory flows with the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic, movements are progressively resuming at this FMP.

The FMPs are funded by the EUROPEAN UNION

The FMPs are implemented by IOM

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION
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Credentials: When quoting, paraphrasing or in any way using the information mentioned in this report, the source needs to be stated appropriately as follows:

"Source: International Organization for Migration (IOM), [month, year], Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)".
The Menaka Flow Monitoring Point is located in the city of Menaka, in the Menaka region.

According to information received by data collectors, some migrants, following the reinforcement of security measures in the Niger, cross the Menaka border from the Niger into Mali in order to get to Algeria.

During the reporting period, most migrants identified at Menaka were Malians (39%), followed by nationals of the Niger (33%), Nigeria (12%), Ghana (8%) and Burkina Faso (3%).

Most outgoing migrants reported Algeria (83%), followed by Libya (15%) as their intended final destination.

During the reporting period, 148 migrants were recorded at this FMP (Incoming flow: 38; Outgoing flow: 110).
The Sevare Flow Monitoring Point is a transit point located in Sevare town.

At this Flow Monitoring Point, data collectors observed migrants traveling to Gao and Timbuktu.

During the reporting period, most migrants identified at the Sevare FMP were from Guinea-Conakry (31%), Mali (23%), Burkina Faso (11%), Senegal (10%) and Côte d’Ivoire (10%).

For outgoing migrants, Algeria (39%), Spain (19%), Italy (18%), Morocco (17%), and France (7%) are the main final destinations envisaged by migrants.

During the reporting period, 550 migrants were recorded at this FMP (Incoming flow: 0; Outgoing flow: 550). This increase in flows and this one in May 2020 permitted at this FMP to elevate the daily average to almost 60 percent of the pre-COVID-19 period.
The Gogui Flow Monitoring Point is located at the border post between Mali and Mauritania. At this Flow Monitoring Point, data collectors identify outgoing flows of migrants travelling to Mauritania or Morocco. Some of them say they want to gather enough savings to continue their journey to Europe. A large number of incoming migrants who had transited through Mauritania and were returning to Mali were also identified at this FMP.

During the reporting period, the migrants identified at the Gogui FMP were all nationals of Mali (100%). The totality of outgoing migrants reported Mauritania as their intended final destination. During the reporting period, 179 migrants were recorded at this FMP (Incoming flow: 76; Outgoing flow: 103). This reflects a 14 percent decrease in the average of daily flows compared to last month. Gogui remains Mali’s FMP most affected by COVID-19 because it is the only one to have lost nearly 90 percent of its pre-COVID-19 flows.

The FMPs are funded by the EUROPEAN UNION
The FMPs are implemented by IOM

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION
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Credentials: When quoting, paraphrasing or in any way using the information mentioned in this report, the source needs to be stated appropriately as follows: “Source: International Organization for Migration (IOM); [month, year]; Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)”
The Benena Flow Monitoring Point is located at a border post between Mali and Burkina Faso, in the Segou region.

At this Flow Monitoring Point, data collectors observe outgoing flows of migrants who intend to travel to West and Central African, North African and European countries after transiting through Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger, as well as incoming migrants entering Mali after transiting through Burkina Faso.

During the reporting period, most migrants identified at Benena were nationals of Burkina Faso (79%), Nigeria (8%), Mali (5%), Guinea-Conakry (3%) and Benin (2%).

Most outgoing migrants reported either Burkina Faso (84%), Mali (7%), Benin (4%), Togo (2%) or Gabon (2%) as their intended final destination.

During the reporting period, 1,016 migrants were recorded at this FMP (Incoming flow: 459; Outgoing flow: 557). These increases recorded in May and June 2020 permitted the Benena FMP to regain up to 80 percent of its pre-COVID-19 flows.

### Monthly Flows of Individuals Observed Since the FMP Was Installed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Incoming Flow</th>
<th>Outgoing Flow</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Main Intended Final Destinations

- Incoming flow
- Outgoing flow

- Burkina Faso: 79%
- Mali: 8%
- Nigeria: 5%
- Togo: 4%
- Gabon: 2%
- Guinea-Conakry: 2%
- Niger: 1%
- Senegal: 1%
The Heremakono Flow Monitoring Point is located at a border post between Mali and Burkina Faso, in the Sikasso region. At this Flow Monitoring Point, data collectors observe outgoing flows of migrants who intend to travel to West African, North African and European countries after transiting through Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger, as well as incoming flows of migrants who enter principally in Mali, Guinea-Conakry or Senegal after transiting through Burkina Faso.

During the reporting period, most migrants identified at Heremakono were nationals of Burkina Faso (89%), Malians (2%), Guineans (2%), Senegalese (1%) and Bissau-Guineans (1%) were also seen.

For outgoing flows, Burkina Faso (79%), Algeria (6%), Libya (5%), Gabon (3%), Equatorial Guinea (2%) or Morocco (2%) were the main intended final destinations reported.

During the reporting period, 8,508 migrants were recorded at this FMP (Incoming flow: 5,924; Outgoing flow: 2,584).

The information collected at this FMP shows a notable number of migrants who declared that they came to Mali to work in the mining and agricultural regions, among other activities. From February 2020, an emphasis was placed on registration seasonal migration flows, hence the large numerous of seasonal migrants from February 2020. In the circumstances, despite the restrictive movement measures taken by the public authorities to combat the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, the flows recorded at the Heremakono FMP have more than doubled.

The Heremakono Flow Monitoring Point is located at a border post between Mali and Burkina Faso, in the Sikasso region. At this Flow Monitoring Point, data collectors observe outgoing flows of migrants who intend to travel to West African, North African and European countries after transiting through Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger, as well as incoming flows of migrants who enter principally in Mali, Guinea-Conakry or Senegal after transiting through Burkina Faso.

During the reporting period, most migrants identified at Heremakono were nationals of Burkina Faso (89%), Malians (2%), Guineans (2%), Senegalese (1%) and Bissau-Guineans (1%) were also seen.

For outgoing flows, Burkina Faso (79%), Algeria (6%), Libya (5%), Gabon (3%), Equatorial Guinea (2%) or Morocco (2%) were the main intended final destinations reported.

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The FMPs are funded by the European Union.
The capital city of Bamako is a major transit point for migrants travelling to West and North African countries.

In Bamako, migrant flows are recorded at bus stations where data collectors primarily observe migrants travelling to Gao or Timbuktu, as well as to border areas on their way to neighbouring countries such as Mauritania and Burkina Faso.

Most outgoing migrants reported either Algeria (48%), Italy (14%), Spain (11%), Morocco (9%), Mauritania (8%) and France (7%) as their intended final destination.

During the reporting period, most migrants identified at the Bamako FMP were from Mali (33%), Guinea-Conakry (24%), Burkina Faso (10%), Côte d'Ivoire (9%) and Senegal (9%).

According to the information received from data collectors, migrants from Côte d'Ivoire transit through Sikasso, where they then travel to Mopti, bypassing Bamako. This explains the low number of Ivorian nationals observed at the Bamako FMP.

During the reporting period, 1,033 migrants were recorded at this FMP (Incoming flow: 11; Outgoing flow: 1,022). This corresponds to a 13 percent increase in the average of daily flows compared to last month. This increase was not enough to permit the Bamako FMP to have its level of pre-COVID-19 flows.

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FLOW MONITORING POINTS

WHAT IS FLOW MONITORING?

Flow monitoring is a component of IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM). It has been developed to track migrant flows (groups or individuals) through data collection carried out at key points of origin, transit and/or destination. The purpose of flow monitoring is to provide regularly updated information on the scale and profiles of population movements (migrants, internally displaced persons, returnees, etc.) through specific locations. The information and analysis provided through the flow monitoring methodology also helps to better understand and define shortcomings and priorities in the provision of assistance along the displacement/migration routes. The purpose of flow monitoring is not to replace border monitoring or border surveillance. Data collected by IOM flow monitoring exercises does not replace government border controls and should not be interpreted as such.

A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF MIGRATION FLOWS - A REGIONAL INITIATIVE IN WEST AFRICA

Monitoring population movements in West and Central Africa represents an important regional initiative. It allows for a better understanding of intentions, trends, routes, and risks as well as demographic and socio-economic profiles of migrants. It serves as a common source of data contributing to inform policymaking by authorities in countries of origin, transit and destination. IOM aims to install over thirty of these flow monitoring points throughout the West and Central African region to assist in reducing the operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

METHODOLOGY

Flows Monitoring of Populations (FMP) is an investigative work that aims to highlight areas that are particularly vulnerable to cross-border and intraregional migration. Areas of high mobility are identified across the country. DTM teams then work at the local level to identify strategic transit points. Trained agents collect data from key informants at the flow monitoring point: the latter may be bus station staff, police or customs officials, bus drivers or migrants themselves. A basic questionnaire mixed with direct observations allows enumerators to collect disaggregated data by gender and nationality. In Mali, ten data collection points are active in the regions of Gao, Timbuktu, Kidal, Menaka, Mopti, Sikasso, Segou, Kayes and the district of Bamako. Daily data collection is performed in the FMPs.

LIMITATIONS

The data used in this analysis are estimates and represent only a part of the existing flows in Mali. The geographic and temporal coverage of these surveys is partial insofar as the flow monitoring activities do not cover some private bus stations existing in the various cities including Gao, Timbuktu, Kidal, Menaka, Mopti and Bamako. The data on the final destinations of migrants are obtained based on their declaration and must be taken with caution because they indicate only an intention. The data on the vulnerabilities are based on direct observations of the enumerators and must be taken only for information.

All data included in this report is based on estimations. IOM expressly disclaims all warranties of any kind, whether express or implied, including, but not limited to, the appropriateness, quality, reliability, timeliness, accuracy or completeness of the data included in this report.