Data collected in each point is triangulated with key informants and cross-referenced by DTM’s experts. However, considering that migrants adjust their routes according to opportunities and obstacles they find along their journey, their intended transit and destination locations might often change, making the systematic assessment of their mobility throughout West and North Africa more complex. Therefore, data collected in destination locations may not always reflect flows detected in transit locations. All data included in this report is based on estimations. IOM does not make any warranties or representations as to the appropriateness, quality, or accuracy of such data.

Since February 2016, IOM Niger has been carrying out flow monitoring of migrants at two points in Niger in the region of Agadez. This flow monitoring does not replace border monitoring nor does it claim to observe all migratory flows in the Agadez region. Flow monitoring points (FMPs) are active in Séguedine and Arlit, two towns in the Agadez region. Flow monitoring points are placed at known migrant transit points along the Niger migratory route. The data collected provides a snapshot of migrant movements through the region.

DEFINITIONS USED

Incoming individuals observed: This refers to individuals who arrive in the flow monitoring points (which are not located at borders) with the intention of heading further in towards Niger. They are represented by the yellow arrows on the map.

Outgoing individuals observed: This refers to individuals who arrive in the flow monitoring points (which are not located at borders) with the intention of heading outwards towards the borders of Niger. They are represented by orange arrows on the map.

MAIN FINDINGS FOR MARCH 2017

This month, as has been the case for this year, the incoming migrants recorded at the flow monitoring point of Séguedine continue to be significantly higher than the recorded outgoing migrants. This trend is explained by the fact that migrants are using alternative routes to go towards Libya to avoid being intercepted and so when they are leaving Niger they go around the Séguedine flow monitoring point. However when migrants are coming back into Niger from Libya they do not face the same risks if they are intercepted by security forces and so can feel more at ease in going directly through Séguedine. This phenomenon was further recorded during an evaluation mission that IOM carried out in the area surrounding Dikrou and Séguedine in the north-eastern part of the Agadez region were many alternative routes were mapped and visualised.

However at the Arlit flow monitoring point, outgoing flows towards Assamaka and Algeria are higher than incoming flows. Of the 13,000 migrants recorded at the flow monitoring points in the reporting period (March 2017), 9,000 of those were recorded at the Séguedine flow monitoring point with 2,500 migrants recorded as outgoing and 6,500 recorded in the incoming flow. The remaining 4,000 migrants were recorded at the Arlit flow monitoring point with 2,000 in the incoming flow and 1,000 in the outgoing flow.

CUMULATIVE DETECTED FLOWS IN NIGER FLOW MONITORING POINTS SINCE MARCH 2016

This report is for illustration purposes only. The depiction and use of boundaries, geographic names, and related data shown on maps and included in this report are not warranted to be free of error nor do they imply judgment on the legal status of any territory, or any endorsement or acceptance of such boundaries by IOM.
Arlit is located 230 km north of Agadez, on the main road between Agadez and the Algerian city of Tamanrasset. The town grew around the uranium mining industry and serves as a rest point for movements between Algeria and Niger. The main arrivals and departures to and from Arlit are by private vehicle (55%) and public bus (43%).

Séguédine is one of the northernmost towns in Niger, over 600 km from Agadez and 300km from Libya. Due to increased security in the region, government authorities have regulated migrant convoy departures. Departures to Séguédine are now regulated more strictly and migrant movements are taking roads around Séguédine to avoid some of the tighter security controls.

The main nationalities coming into Séguédine from Libya are Nigerians as they are finding it easier to return. In addition migrants from third countries generally stay in Libya due to the difficulties there and find it more difficult to return into Niger.

In parallel, the outgoing flow is representative of nationalities moving out of Niger and towards Libya, with almost exclusively West African nationalities.
FLOW MONITORING METHODOLOGY

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 collections 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/migratory 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 MIGRATORY FLOWS, A REGIONAL INCENTIVE 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, risks as well as demographic and socio-economic profiles of migrants. It serves as a common source of data contributing to informed 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 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.

HOW IS FLOW MONITORING SET UP IN FIELD ENVIRONMENTS?

Flow monitoring is composed of three tools. Assessment of areas with high mobility, regular monitoring of locations with high mobility, indepth surveys done with migrants at these locations. These tools can be deployed simultaneously or separately.

FLOW MONITORING METHODOLOGY

ASSessment of Areas of High Mobility

DTM experts in the field identify strategic locations for the establishment of monitoring locations/points from where data collection will take place. The identification of the flow monitoring points (FMPs) can be done either while conducting baseline assessments, through specific field assessment, or through consultation with key informants and/or desk review of secondary data.

Regular Flow Monitoring in Pre-Defined Locations

This tool consists of collecting information on the number and frequency of individuals transiting or moving through a particular location. Several techniques of flow monitoring and population movement tracking are available and are deployed depending on the context and volume of flows identified.

Flow Monitoring Surveys

DTM teams carry out regular surveys with migrants at flow monitoring point locations (flow monitoring surveys FMS). The purpose of these surveys is to collect individualised data on the demographic and socio economic profile of migrants as well as collecting more specific information related to vulnerabilities, intentions, journeys and risks faced by migrants.

DATA QUALITY CONTROL

The methodology employs multi-layered data collection with various levels of granularity to allow for consistency checks. The team rigorously checks for data quality during the data collection, processing and analysis process.

DATA PROTECTION

Personal data collected by IOM and the protection of such data is subject to IOM’s data protection principles.

A full methodological document is available on request.