



Since 2019, an increasing number of people have taken the West African Atlantic Route (WAAR). This migratory route, which had been particularly active in 2006, has once again become a route frequently used by migrants. Migrants generally leave the coasts of Morocco or Mauritania for the Canary Islands. However, departures are often prepared from the coasts of Senegal and the trip to the Canary Islands often includes several intermediate stages.

In 2019, **2,687** migrants arrived in the Canary Islands, a figure which rose to **23,023** people in 2020.

Between January and April 2021, **4,411** migrants arrived irregularly in the Canary Islands, as compared to 1,886 arrivals over the same period in 2020. This represents an increase of 133 percent.

Since October 2020, IOM has been monitoring the main places where boats leave 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

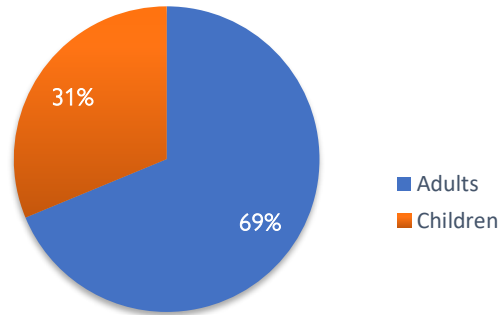
Main nationalities of migrants departing from the coasts of Senegal

Senegal

Mali

Demographic profile

All migrants observed onboard boats departing from Senegalese coasts were male



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METHODOLOGY

The departure areas monitoring tool monitors events related to migratory movements from the coasts of Senegal to the Spanish Canary Islands (which most often take place through several intermediate stages), with the aim of documenting mobility along of the West African Atlantic Route (WAAR). The methodology combines three tools: [monitoring departures](#), [mapping departure areas](#) and [counting](#).

This report presents the data collected by the departure **tracking tool** between March 1 and April 30, 2021 at the main departure points along the Senegalese coast. The information is provided to IOM enumerators by the Community Focal Points (CFPs) who collect information on notable events observed in the departure areas used by migrants to travel to Mauritania, Morocco and the Canary Islands. When the community focal points get relevant information, they enter it into 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 with the smuggling and facilitation networks of migrants.

DATA SOURCES AND NOTES:

There are certain limitations to the data provided by the CFPs on movements that take place on the coast as part of maritime migration in Senegal. The data available are scarce and rarely contain information on the exact date of the trip or the list of migrants who embark on the boats. In addition, 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), (May , 2021)".





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Number of events identified by the Community Focal Points (CFP) concerning possible departures or preparations for departure from the coasts of Senegal between March 1 and April 30, 2021. This figure represents a decrease of 43% compared to the **21** events identified between January 1 and February 28, 2021.

DETAILS OF EVENTS



2 boats left the coast of Senegal, a decrease of 50% compared to the 4 departures reported between January and February 2021.



16 migrants left on board these boats, a decrease of **90 per cent** compared to the period from January to February 2021.



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



7 events concern irregular recruitment campaigns with a view to registering potential migrants. This represents a decrease of 57 per cent compared to the period from January to February 2021.

Potential risks:

- Overloaded boats and increased risk of shipwrecks and disappearances of boats at sea;
- An increase in the number of departures coinciding with the beginning of the warm season and reduced police checks linked to resources being allocated for the security of cultural events;
- Poor quality of boats, increasing the risk of shipwrecks;
- Abuse, extortion and exploitation of migrants due to the isolation of the areas of departure, the vulnerability of potential migrants and the imbalance of power;



Departure areas (March – April 2021):

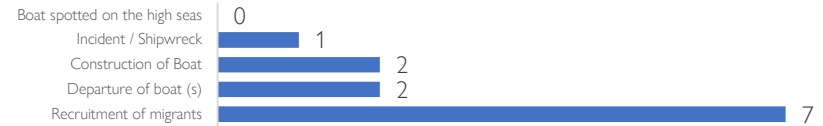
- Off the islands of the Saloum Delta.



This page presents the data collected between 1 March and 30 April, 2021 from Community Focal Points (CFPs) along the Senegalese coast. The data collected concerns all types of movements by boat from Senegal to Mauritania or the Canary Islands (Spain) identified as irregular migration.

Between **1 March and 30 April, 2021**, **12** events were reported by CFPs. **7 events (58 per cent)** were related to the **registration** of potential migrants for a future departure, **2 events (17%)** related to the departure of boats from the Senegalese coast, **2 events (17 per cent)** related to the **design of the boat** and **1 events (8 per cent)** concerned **shipwrecks and incidents** on boats at sea.

Fig. 1- Types of events identified (March – April 2021)



Map 1 – Number of reported boat departures from Senegal (March – April 2021)

