

ANALYSIS: FLOW MONITORING SURVEYS

## TOP FIVE NATIONALITIES INTERVIEWED

### IN SPAIN IN 2019

*November 2020*



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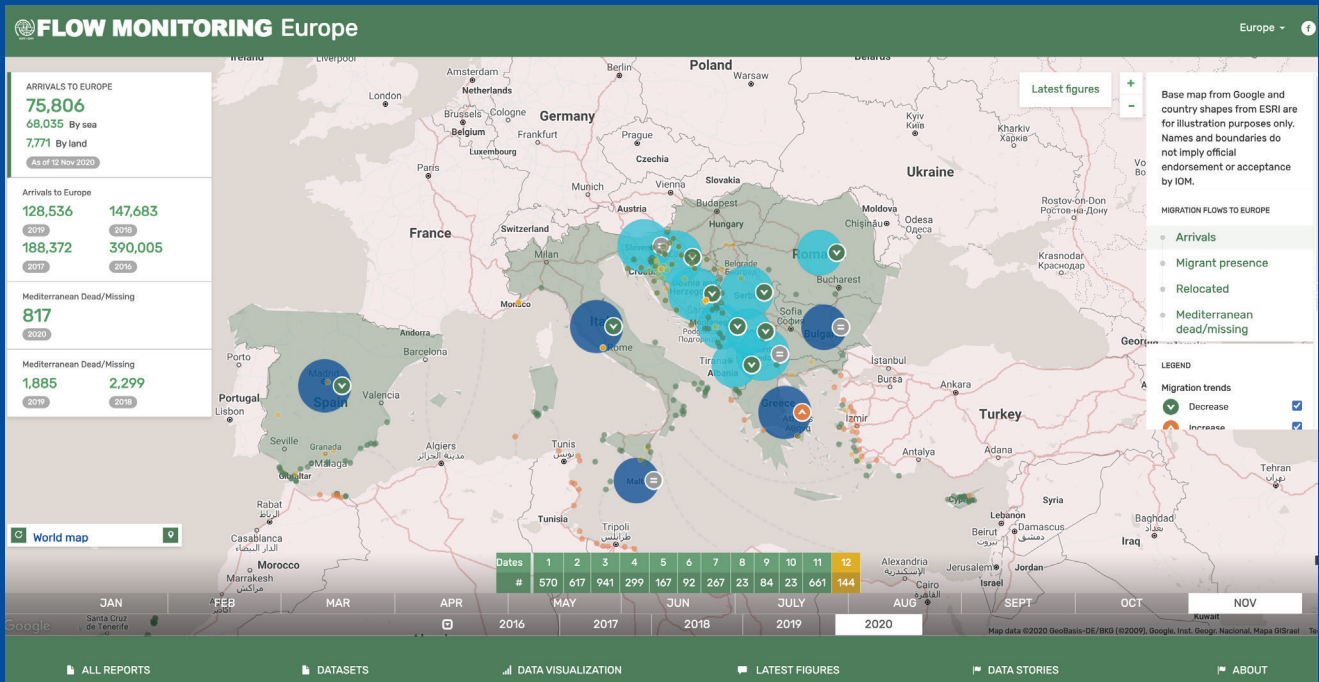
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## INTRODUCTION

### DTM FLOW MONITORING SURVEYS IN EUROPE

The Flow Monitoring Surveys (FMS) are part of IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) activities in the Mediterranean region, which started in October 2015 and were conducted within the framework of IOM's research on populations on the move through the Mediterranean and Western Balkan Routes to Europe. Surveys are analysed to provide information on profiles, transit routes and vulnerabilities of respondents.<sup>1</sup>

All analyses, together with the latest data on arrivals from national authorities and IOM country offices, can be accessed via DTM's [Flow Monitoring Europe Geoport](#).

The FMS gather information on profiles of migrants, including age, sex and gender, areas of origin, levels of education and employment status before migration, key transit points on their route, cost of the journey, reasons for leaving the place of residence, intended destination(s) and expectations from the host government/ network of co-nationals there. The questionnaire also has a module with a set of questions on human trafficking, exploitative practices and abuse, including two indicators on sexual and physical violence. Information about the questionnaire and the applied [Methodology](#) is at the end of the report.

### FLOW MONITORING IN SPAIN IN 2019

This report is based on the Flow Monitoring Surveys carried out by IOM field staff in Spain between July and September 2019. A total 994 interviews were collected in 36 different locations in Madrid, Andalucía, Melilla and Ceuta to provide an insight of the profile of migrants and refugees who had arrived in the country.

This report provides analysis of migrants' demographic profile, transit routes, reasons for leaving countries of origin or habitual residence, and their future travel intentions. Specifically, it focuses on the comparison between top five nationalities surveyed in Spain. The five nationalities include respondents from Côte d'Ivoire (194 individuals), Guinea (155), Mali (145), Algeria (118) and Morocco (113). These five nationalities constitute 73 per cent of all respondents. The remaining 23 per cent were individuals of 30 different nationalities (including nationals of Senegal, Tunisia, Yemen, Cameroon, Mauritania, Nigeria and Bangladesh).

The selected sample of the top five nationality groups consists of 725 interviews.

The top five nationality groups in the sample are also among the top nationalities of arrivals by sea registered by the Spanish authorities between July and September 2019. Morocco was the first country of origin of arrivals by sea in 2019 (32%), followed by Algeria (20%), Côte d'Ivoire (7%), Guinea (5%) and Mali (5%).

### DTM MEDITERRANEAN

Flow Monitoring Survey (FMS) is one of the components implemented under DTM portfolio in Europe. Aside from the primary data collection through direct interviews, it includes also collation of statistical information products, based on secondary data revision. Compilation of available data and information is released on monthly, quarterly and yearly basis, together with a comprehensive dataset. More frequent updates and maps with information on arrivals to Europe and migrants' presence in the Western Balkans are available on the [Flows to Europe Geoport](#). The same platform contains all publications released as part of the DTM Mediterranean activities.

<sup>1</sup> The term "respondents" refers to migrants, refugees and asylum seekers as the reference population is made of mixed migration flows. These terms are used interchangeably throughout the report.

# TOP 5 NATIONALITIES SURVEYED IN SPAIN

## 1. DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

### GENDER AND AGE

The median age of the five main nationalities varied between 20 and 28 years. Median age of the respondents from Algeria was the highest (28 years), while the median age of respondents from Guinea was the lowest (20 years). Male comprised the largest share of respondents (75%).

When asked about their gender, four respondents did not identify themselves as either male or female.

Greatest proportion of male respondents surveyed was among respondents from Mali (94%), while the greatest proportion of female respondents was among respondents from Côte d'Ivoire (42%).

Almost all respondents were adults (the sample included just two respondents of 17 years).

Figure 1: Percentage of male and female respondents, by nationality

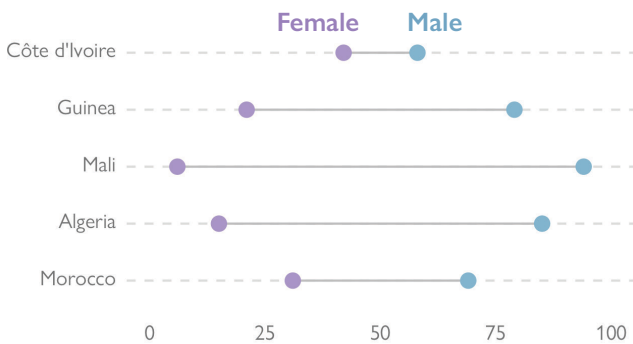


Figure 2: Age distribution of respondents, by nationality

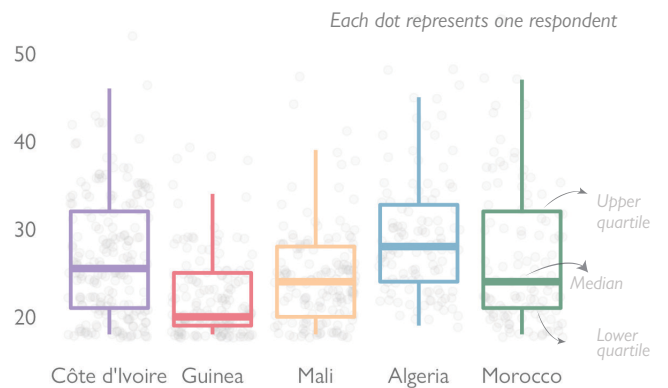
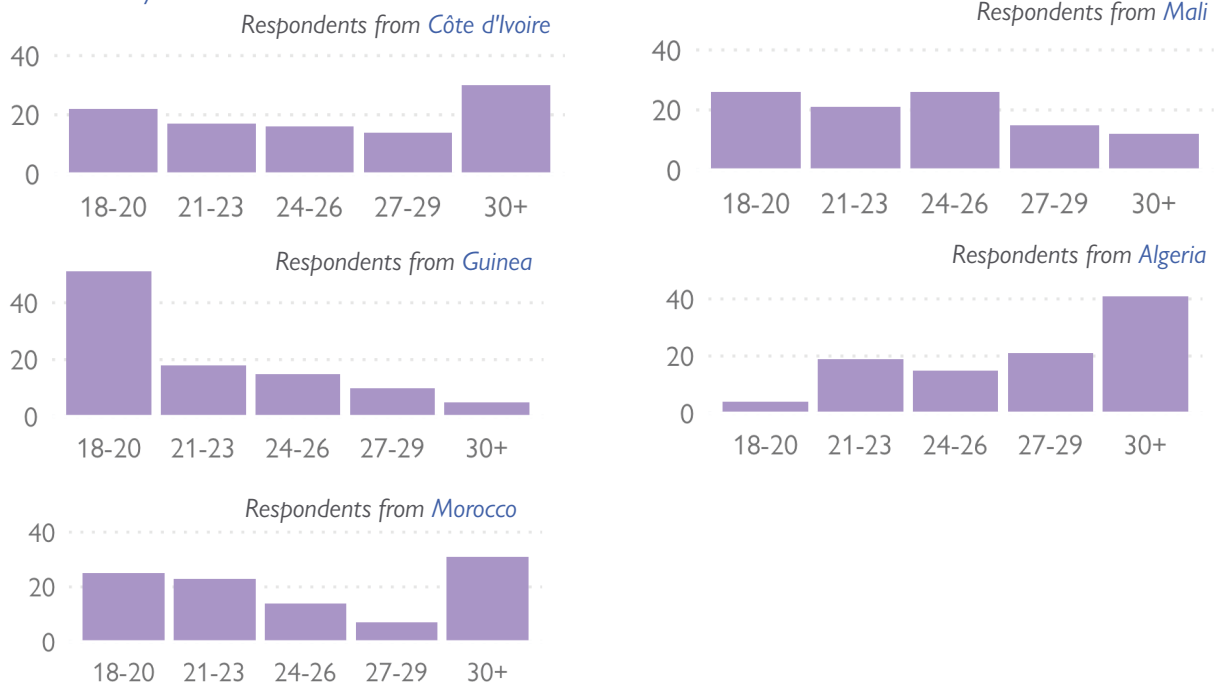


Figure 3: Percentage of respondents by age groups and nationality



## MARITAL STATUS

Over half of all respondents reported that they were single. The largest share of respondents who reported being single was from Guinea (85%), while the lowest was among the respondents from Algeria (69%).

Nationals from Morocco and Algeria had the highest share of respondents who reported to be either divorced or widowed (10% in each nationality).

Male respondents were more likely to be single than female respondents. Eighty-two per cent of all male migrants were single, compared to 53 per cent of female respondents.

Half of all Algerian female respondents reported being married, followed by 34 per cent of Moroccan female respondents, 24 per cent of Guinean female respondents and 23 per cent of Ivorian female respondents. The lowest share of female respondents (11%) who reported that they were married was among Mali nationals. In contrast to the other main nationalities, among respondents from Mali, a higher share of male respondents, in comparison to the female respondents reported that they were married.

The share of respondents who reported that they were divorced or widowed was higher among female respondents than among male respondents.

Approximately three in ten female respondents from Morocco and Algeria reported that they were divorced or widowed (29% and 28%, respectively).

Figure 4: Percentage of respondents by marital status and nationality

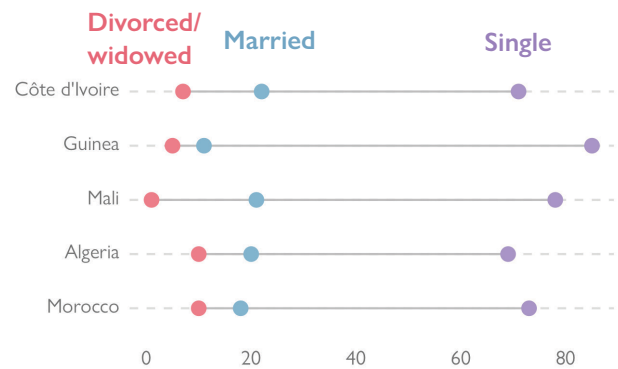
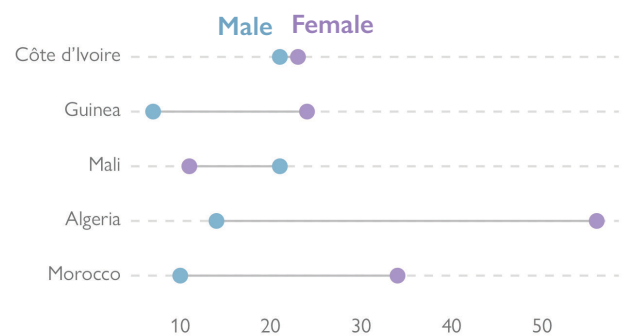


Figure 5: Percentage of respondents who reported that they were married, by sex and nationality



## RESPONDENTS' CHILDREN

Five per cent of all respondents reported that they had children travelling with them and three per cent reported that they had children in the countries of origin or habitual residence.

Seven per cent of respondents from Morocco reported that they had children travelling with them, while six per cent of respondents from Algeria, three per cent of respondents from Guinea and three per cent of respondents from Côte d'Ivoire reported the same. No respondents from Mali reported that children had been travelling with them.

Eight per cent of respondents from Côte d'Ivoire reported that they had children in the countries of their origin or habitual residence, followed by respondents from Algeria (4%), Morocco (4%), Guinea (3%) and Mali (3%).

Seven per cent respondents from Algeria reported they had children in their countries of their intended destination, followed by respondents from Morocco (4%), Côte d'Ivoire (2%) and Guinea (1%). Respondents from Mali reported that they did not have children in the countries of their intended destination.

## EDUCATION

Twenty-nine per cent of respondents belonging to the five main nationalities, reported to have completed lower-secondary education, followed by 27 per cent of respondents who reported having completed primary education, 8 per cent who reported having completed upper-secondary education, 5 per cent who reported having completed tertiary education and 4 per cent who reported having completed religious or non-formal education. Additionally, 27 per cent of all respondents reported not having completed any formal education.

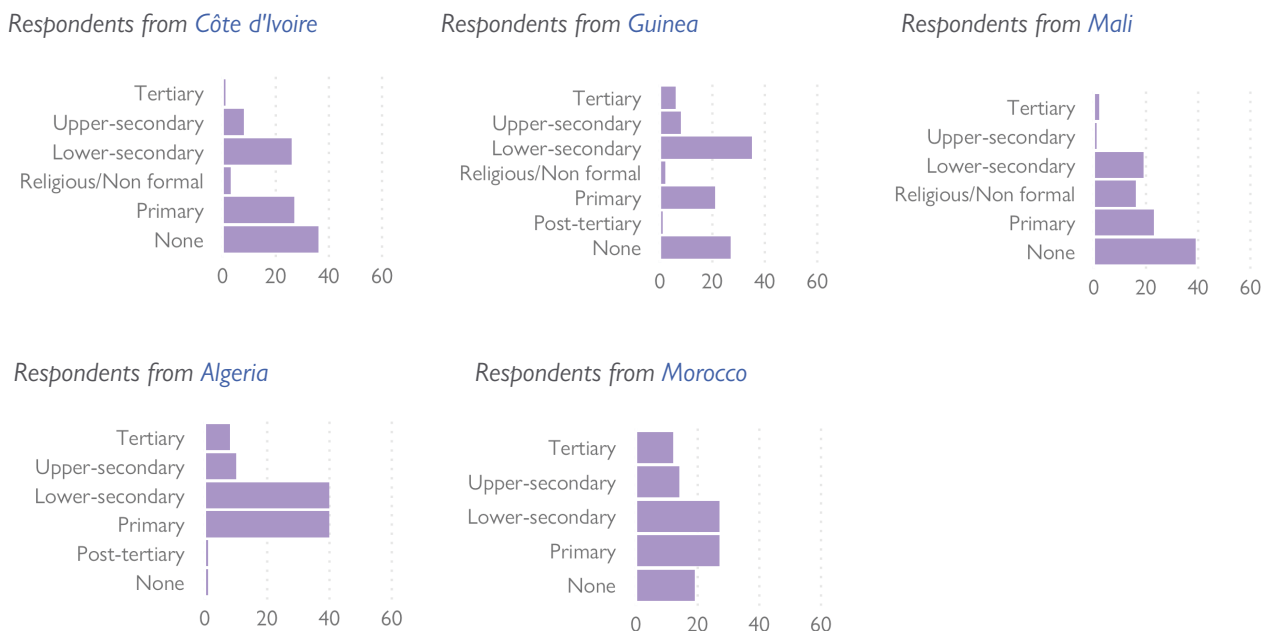
The majority of respondents from Algeria reported having completed either primary or lower-secondary education (40% each). Approximately half of respondents from Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea and Morocco reported having completed either primary or lower-secondary education, while 42 per cent of respondents from Mali reported the same.

The highest share of respondents who reported to have completed tertiary education was among respondents from Morocco.

Four in ten respondents from Côte d'Ivoire and Mali reported not having completed any formal level of education. Twenty-seven per cent of respondent from Guinea, 19 per cent of respondents from Morocco and one per cent of respondent from Algeria reported the same.

Among respondents with upper secondary or tertiary education, the most frequently reported domains of study were arts and humanities, services, business, administration and law, natural sciences, mathematics and statistics, as well as information and communication technologies.

Figure 6: Percentage of respondents by reported completed education level and nationality



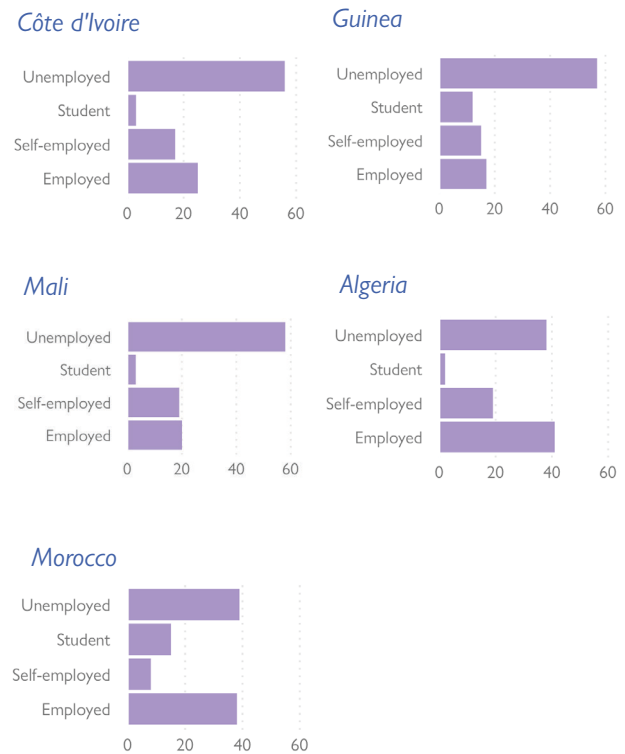
## EMPLOYMENT STATUS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE

Half of respondents belonging to the main five nationalities surveyed reported that they had been unemployed at the time of departure from their countries of origin or habitual residence, while 27 per cent reported to have been employed, 16 per cent reported to have been self-employed and 6 per cent reported that they had been studying at the time of departure.

The country of origin with the highest share of respondents who reported having been unemployed before departure was Mali (58%), followed nationals of Côte d'Ivoire (57%), Guinea (56%), Morocco (38%) and Algeria (37%).

Higher share of female respondents, in comparison to male respondents reported having been unemployed (59% of female and 48% of male respondents), while the share of those who reported having been studying before the departure was the same among males and females (6%).

Figure 7: Percentage of respondents by reported employment status at the time of departure and nationality



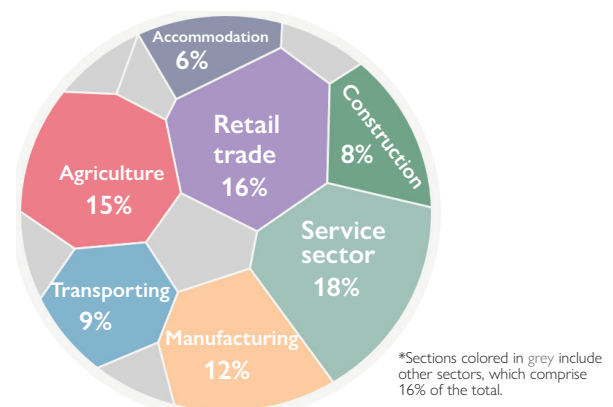
## SECTORS OF EMPLOYMENT PRIOR TO DEPARTURE

Most of those who reported to have been employed or self-employed at the time of departure were occupied in skilled manual labour (22%), as service or sales workers (19%), in elementary occupations (17%) and as clerks (15%). The remaining reported having been employed in managerial and professional occupations, as machine operators, craft workers or reported other occupations.

The main sectors of employment reported by migrants were service sector, which includes arts, sports, washing & cleaning, hairdressing and other beauty treatment (18%), wholesale and retail trade (16%), agriculture (15%) and manufacturing (12%). The rest reported to have been employed in accommodation and food services, domestic work, communications, construction, education or public administration.

A higher share of respondents from Mali reported having been employed in agriculture sector (42%) than other main nationalities surveyed (not higher than 15%). Moroccan nationals had a higher share of respondents who reported having been employed in accommodation and food services (13% vs less than 5% among each of other nationalities).

Figure 8: Percentage of respondents by reported sector of employment at the time of departure



## 2. THE JOURNEY

### TRAVEL MODE

The majority of respondents (88%) were travelling alone, while 9 per cent reported that they were travelling with at least one family member and 3 per cent reported that they were travelling with non-family members.

The country of origin with the highest share of respondents who reported travelling alone was Mali (99%) and Guinea (89%), followed by Algeria and Morocco (80% each).

Male respondents were more likely to travel alone than female respondents (93% vs 72%, respectively). Female migrants reported to be travelling with a family member in one fourth of the cases (24%) compared to 4 per cent of male respondents.

### ROUTES TO REACH SPAIN

Respondents from the top five nationalities interviewed in Spain in 2019 had some differences in the routes they had taken to reach the country.

Half of respondents who departed from Côte d'Ivoire travelled to Spain through Mali, Algeria and Morocco. A smaller share (8%) travelled through Mali, Mauritania and Morocco. The remaining share of respondents did not report clear routes.

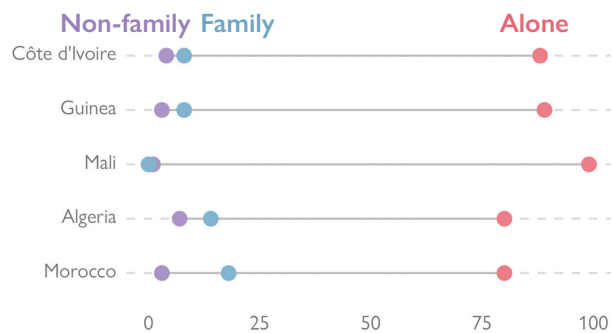
Approximately 75 per cent of respondents from Algeria reported travelling through Morocco to reach Spain, while the rest did not provide clear information regarding their routes.

Approximately half of respondents from Guinea travelled through Mali, Algeria and Morocco, while a smaller share travelled through Senegal, Mauritania, Algeria and Morocco (5%). The rest did not provide clear information regarding their routes.

All respondents from Morocco travelled directly to Spain.

Approximately half of respondents from Mali reported that they had travelled through Algeria and Morocco to reach Spain, while a smaller share reported that they had travelled through Mauritania first, then travelling through Algeria and Morocco (10%).

Figure 9: Percentage of respondents by travel mode and nationality



### ONWARD MIGRATION

Approximately one tenth of respondents belonging to the top 5 nationalities surveyed in Spain reported having spent one year or more in a country other than that of origin before moving again to Spain.

Onward migration has been reported more frequently by respondents from Guinea (18%), followed by 13 per cent of respondents from Mali and 6 per cent of respondents from Côte d'Ivoire. On the other hand, all respondents from Algeria and Morocco reported having departed directly from their respective countries of origin.

About 90 per cent of respondents from Guinea who engaged in secondary migration departed from Morocco, while the rest departed from Algeria and Côte d'Ivoire. The majority of respondents from Mali (63%) reported that they had spent one or more years in Mauritania before moving forward, while the rest reported Algeria and Côte d'Ivoire. Respondents from Côte d'Ivoire reported that they had spent one or more years in Morocco (64%), Algeria (18%), Libya (9%) or Kuwait (9%).



## COST OF THE JOURNEY

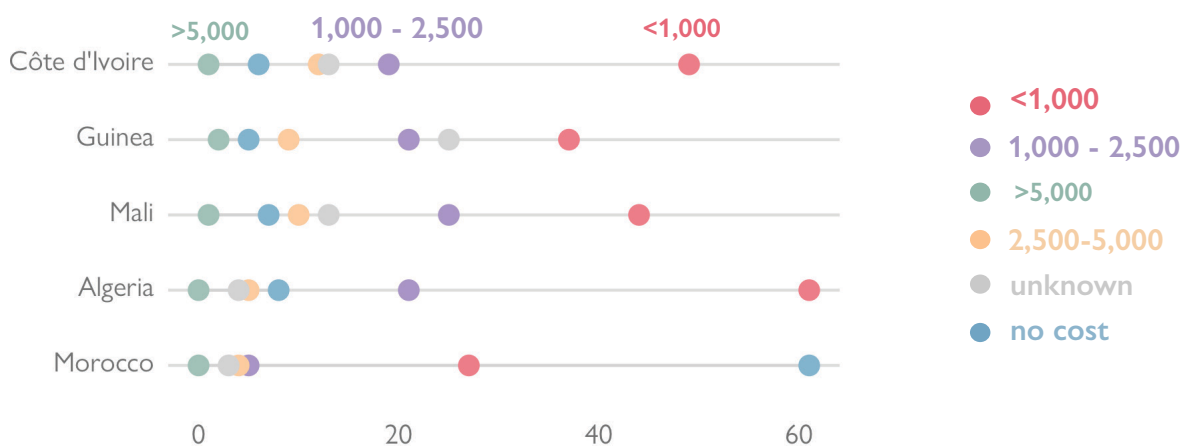
Respondents were asked to estimate the overall amount paid individually since the beginning of the journey.

Overall, 44 per cent of respondents reported that the estimated cost of the journey was less than 1,000 USD. Nineteen per cent of all respondents belonging to the main five nationalities reported that the estimated cost was between 1,000 and 2,500 USD, 9 per cent reported that the estimated cost was between 2,500 and 5,000 USD. Only 1 per cent of all respondents reported that the estimated cost was more than 5,000 USD. Fifteen per cent of respondents reported no cost and the rest could not estimate the cost of the journey.

Respondents from Algeria were more likely than respondents from other nationalities to report that the estimated cost of the journey was less than 1,000 USD (61% vs less than 50% of each of the other nationalities).

Respondents from Morocco had a higher share of respondents who reported no cost (61%), in comparison to respondents from any other nationalities (less than 10% each).

Figure 10: Percentage of respondents by the reported estimated cost of the journey and nationality



## COST OF LAST LEG TO REACH SPAIN

Respondents were also asked about the cost of the journey from the last transit country to Spain.

Overall, 28 per cent of all respondents belonging to the five main nationalities reported that the estimated cost of the last leg was less than 500 USD, followed by those who reported that the estimated cost was between 1,000 and 2,500 USD (16%), between 500 and 1,000 (12%) and between 2,500 and 5,000 (7%). The rest reported to either incurring no cost or did not provide information regarding the cost of the last leg.

Respondents from Algeria and Morocco were slightly less likely than respondents from other nationalities to report that the estimated cost of the journey was between 2,500 and 5,000 USD (3% each vs 10% among respondents from other main nationalities).

Respondents from Algeria had the highest share of respondents who reported that the estimated cost of the last leg was less than 500 USD (43% vs less than 30% among respondents from other nationalities).

## PROBLEMS DURING THE JOURNEY

Migrants were asked about several types of incidents and problems they might have faced during the journey before reaching Spain.

Overall, almost half of those sampled (48%) reported that they had been robbed during the journey, 12 per cent reported that they did not have shelter at some point during their journey, 9 per cent reported having had financial problems and 8 per cent reported that they had experienced hunger during their journey.

Shares of reported experiences varied significantly among the five main nationalities, with respondents from Guinea, Mali, and Côte d'Ivoire (67%, 62% and 61%, respectively) were more likely than respondents from Algeria and Morocco (19% and 12%, respectively) to report having experienced robbery *en route* to Spain.

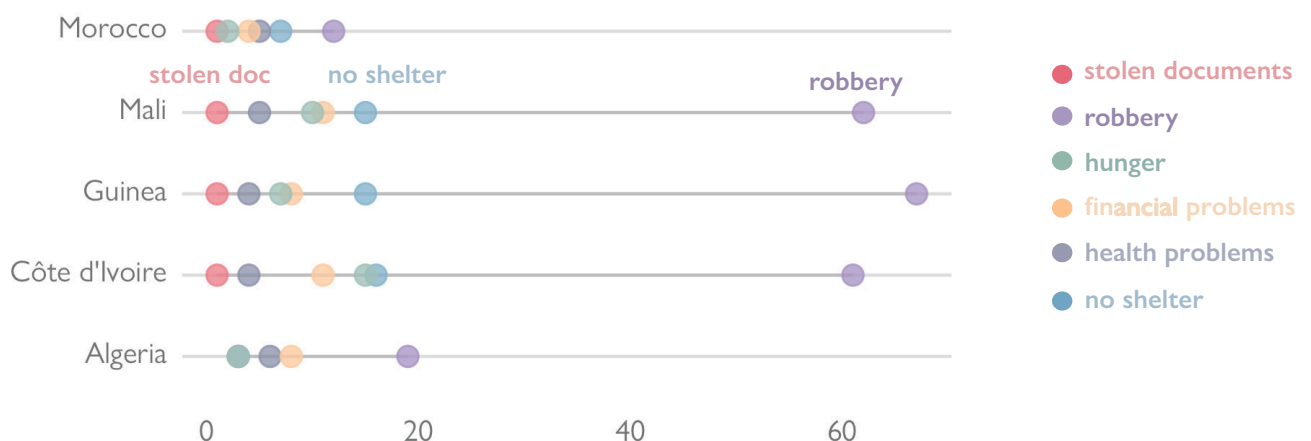
Respondents from Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea and Mali (16%, 15% and 15%, respectively) were also more likely than respondents from Algeria and Morocco (3% and 7%, respectively) to report having had no shelter at some point during their journey.

Respondents from Côte d'Ivoire and Mali (15% and 10%, respectively) were more likely than respondents from other nationalities to have had experienced hunger.

Less than two per cent of respondents across the five main nationalities reported that their documents were stolen during the journey.

Moreover, approximately five per cent of respondents across the five main nationalities reported that they have had health problems on the route to Spain.

Figure 11: Percentage of respondents by the reported problems encountered during the journey, by nationality



### 3. REASONS AND INTENTIONS

#### REASONS FOR LEAVING COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

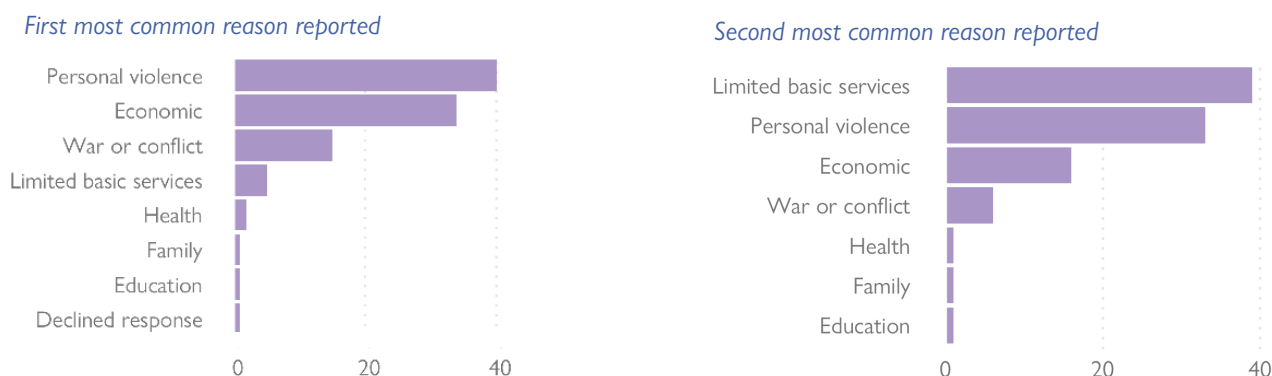
Respondents were asked to self-report their first and second most important reason to leave their origin country.

The largest share of respondents (40%) reported personal violence<sup>2</sup> as their first reason for leaving countries of origin or habitual residence. One third of all respondents reported that they had left their countries of origin or habitual residence because of economic reasons. The rest of respondents reported other reasons, including war or conflict, limited basic services or health problems.

Respondents from Mali were more likely than respondents from the other main nationalities to report economic reasons (44% vs less than 35% among other nationalities).

Limited basic services were reported as a second reason for leaving countries of origin or habitual residence by 40 per cent of all respondents.

Figure 12: Percentage of respondents by main reported reasons for leaving countries of origin



#### REASONS FOR LEAVING WHEN COUNTRY OF DEPARTURE IS DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF ORIGIN

When migrants left again from a country different from the one of origin after having spent there more than one year, they were asked about their main reasons for moving again towards Europe. This was designed to determine whether reasons for migration change in time and in different context of departure.

Economic reasons was the most commonly cited reason for leaving countries of departure, reported by 80 per cent of respondents from Mali, 71 per cent of respondents from Guinea and 45 per cent of respondents from Côte d'Ivoire. The remaining share of respondents reported either violence or persecution or limited basic services.

<sup>2</sup> The “reason for leaving” is a question with a closed set of options: Natural disasters / Climate, War/ conflict, Personal violence, Economic reasons, Limited access to basic services (school, health care, transportation), Limited access to humanitarian services (food, accommodation, hygiene), Education (higher levels), Health (secondary medical assistance), Re-join family. In the case of personal violence, respondents were asked to specify (domestic violence, family disputes, persecution or punishments by the family or extended community due to one’s sexual orientation or gender identity, fights for inheritance eg. land, farming, animal husbandry).

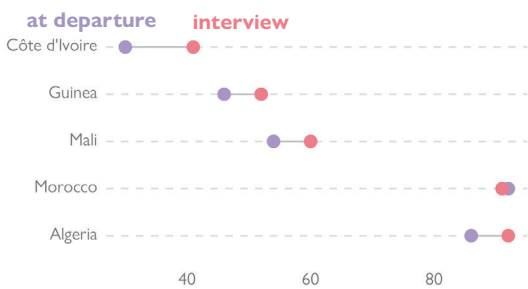
## INTENDED DESTINATION

Migrants' intentions in terms of final destinations can change during the journey, adjusting to the experiences *en route* and to the conditions and possibilities in the country where the survey is carried out.

When asked about the intended country of destination at the time of departure from countries of origin or habitual residence, 57 per cent of respondents belonging to the top 5 nationalities reported Spain as their intended destination. Respondents from Morocco (92%) and Algeria (86%) were more likely than respondents from the other main nationalities to report Spain as their intended destination at the time of departure from countries of origin or habitual residence. Half of respondents from Mali reported Spain as their intended destination at the time of departure, 46 per cent of respondents from Guinea and 30 per cent of respondents from Côte d'Ivoire reported the same.

Respondents from Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Guinea were more likely to report France as their preferred destination at the time of departure (28%, 25% and 21%, respectively), in comparison to Algerian (4%) and Moroccan nationals (none reported France).

Figure 13: Percentage of respondents who chose Spain as their intended destination, at the time of departure and interview



In the survey, respondents were also asked about the intended country of destination at the time of the interview. The share of respondents who reported Spain as the country of intended destination increased to 63 per cent of the sample. The increase in those who reported Spain as their intended destination at the time of the interview was the highest among respondents from Côte d'Ivoire (from 30% to 41%).

Moreover, share of respondents who reported France as their intended destination at the time of the interview also increased (to 27%).

Among the main reasons cited for choosing Spain as the intended destination were socio-economic conditions (55%), safety (15%), that this was their only choice (14%) and ease of access to asylum (11%). The rest reported other reasons.

Among the main reasons cited for choosing France as the intended destination were socio-economic conditions (40%), existing family or relatives (26%) or network of co-nationals in France (20%). The rest reported other reasons.

Figure 14: Percentage of respondents who chose France as their intended destination, at the time of departure and interview

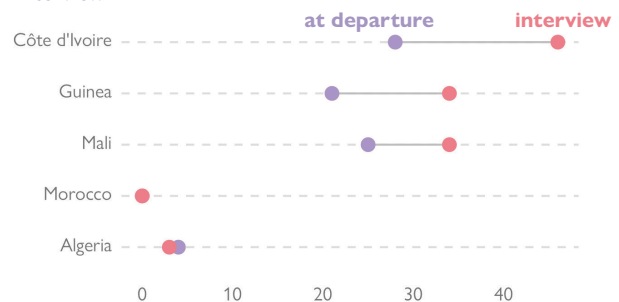
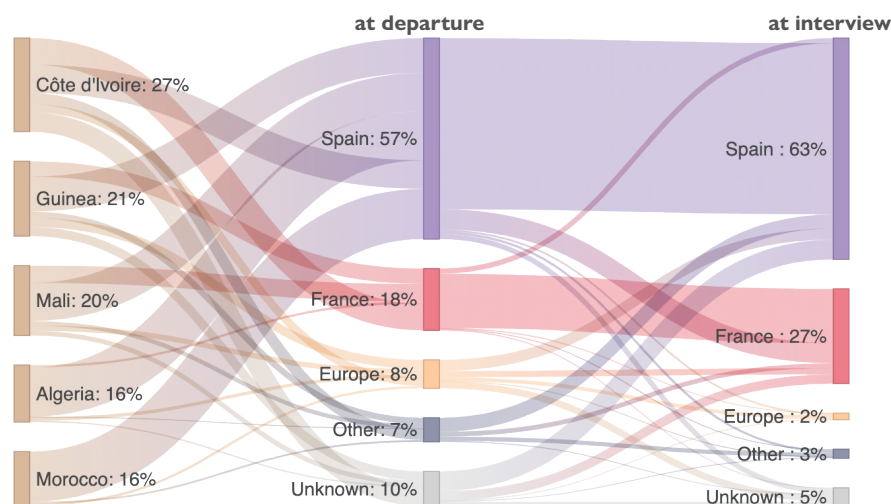


Figure 15: Percentage of respondents by intended destination and nationality



## METHODOLOGY

The surveys are fully anonymous and voluntary. In all cases, respondents are approached in an ad hoc manner by IOM field staff, with those who give their consent to be interviewed proceeding with the remaining questions. The sample is not random and therefore is not representative (due to the fact that there is no sampling frame and the total population of reference is not known). Due to this it can also suffer from selection biases. Those willing to respond to this survey are more likely to be young adult males and this group is therefore overrepresented when compared to available official data on irregular arrivals in Spain.

Migrants can decline to respond to individual questions or to interrupt the interview if they wish to do so. Questions in the human trafficking modules provide evidence of the kind of enabling environment within which trafficking and associated forms of exploitation and abuse thrive, as well as a better picture of the vulnerability of migrant populations and the risks they face. If interviewers come across respondents who are likely to have unmet protection needs, they can refer them to the relevant protection actor upon respondent's consent.

The survey is designed to profile third country (non-European) nationals who are travelling to Europe through the Central, Eastern and Western Mediterranean migration routes. Only migrants aged 14 and above are approached.

The survey is proposed only to migrants and refugees who have arrived in the country of the survey (Spain) no more than one year prior to the interview. The FMS questionnaire was available in e-format in Kobo (English and French) and in paper forms translated into Arabic, English, French, Farsi, Italian, Spanish and Urdu.

## THE FMS QUESTIONNAIRE

DTM's baseline FMS module captures data on the demographic profile of the respondents, the circumstances of their migration journey and migration push factors, their place of origin or their last country of habitual residence, and the existing pull factors in their intended country of destination. The sample structure is intended to be representative of migrants' nationalities, sex and age structures. Nevertheless, flows are constantly changing, and fieldwork conditions depend on the country, location and centre surveyed.

The second FMS module contains questions that indicate human trafficking and exploitation practices. The module is prepared by IOM's Migrant Protection Assistance (MPA) Division and gathers information on events of human trafficking and other exploitative practices, experienced by the respondent or his/her family member(s), or witnessed by the respondent during the journey.

The survey structure has the advantage of facilitating the collection of data that relates to the direct experiences of the primary respondent. This provides more reliable data, improving the estimation of prevalence. In order to capture the experiences of other migrants and refugees en-route, the respondent is further asked a follow-up question about whether that same question applies to any of his or her family members travelling with him or her on the journey.

Map 1: Flow Monitoring Points surveyed in Spain in 2019

