



Introduction and Methodology

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly affected mobility in West and Central Africa in the form of various travel disruptions, restrictions and bans, which often leave migrants stranded. This report provides key information on the magnitude and types of changes to mobility observed in the context of the COVID-19 crisis.

The Flow Monitoring Registry (FMR) is a tool of IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) which records movements crossing areas of high density mobility (areas of departure, transit and destination). FMR gathers data on the numbers, profiles of travellers crossing these strategic transit points. To better understand the ways and the extent to which the COVID-19 crisis is impacting mobility in the region, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has been working to analyse Flow Monitoring data collected at key transit points in West and Central Africa between January and April 2020 (using 2019 data as barometers of comparison). Due to mobility restriction and the pandemic spread, FMPs in Chad, Burkina Faso, Guinea and Senegal have been put on hold. This report focuses on Cameroon, Mali, Niger and Nigeria data only as these FMPs were open throughout 2020.

Volume of flows

The volume of travellers registered across the West and Central Africa region witnessed a **48 per cent decrease** between **January and April 2020**. The decrease registered by the FMR from January to February was of 1%, while the decrease from February to March was of 14% and the decrease from March to April was of 40%. Cameroon FMP witnessed the largest decrease (chart III.) from March to April 2020 (-57%). Chart I. illustrates the drop in individual daily flows observed at FMPs still open in Cameroon, Mali, Niger and Nigeria against a daily average taken from daily flows in March and April 2019 and shows a sharp decrease of flows on March 21st. On March 29th, flows were reduced by nearly 60% compared with the daily average in March and April 2019.

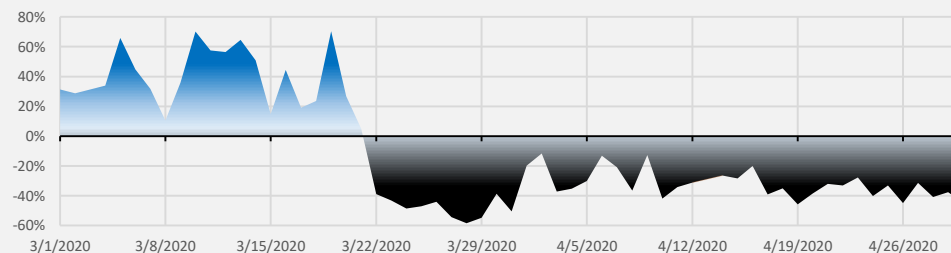
Weekly flows

A weekly analysis of registered movements shows a striking acceleration in the decrease in flows over the second half of the month of March: between Week 12 and Week 13, the number of travellers observed weekly dropped by 60 per cent. This coincides with the period during which countries in the region started imposing travel bans and enacting border closure measures. From Week 13 to Week 17 (March, April), the number of individuals observed at Flow Monitoring Points in Cameroon, Mali, Niger and Nigeria stabilizes.

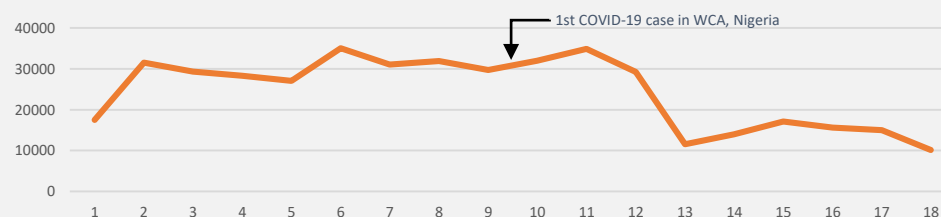
-48% CHANGE IN FLOWS OBSERVED FROM JANUARY TO APRIL 2020

-44% CHANGE IN FLOWS OBSERVED BETWEEN 2019 (APR) AND 2020 (APR)

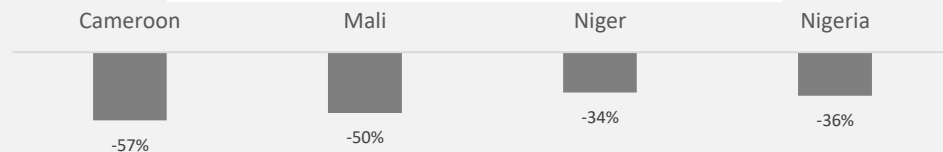
I. MOBILITY TRENDS IN WCA FMPs (BASELINE DAILY AVERAGE MAR-APR 2019)



II. WEEKLY NUMBER OF OBSERVED INDIVIDUALS AT FMPs, by WEEK



III. VARIATIONS IN FLOWS BETWEEN MARCH AND APRIL, BY COUNTRY





COVID-19 — FLOW MONITORING REGISTRY

Publication date: 10 May 2020

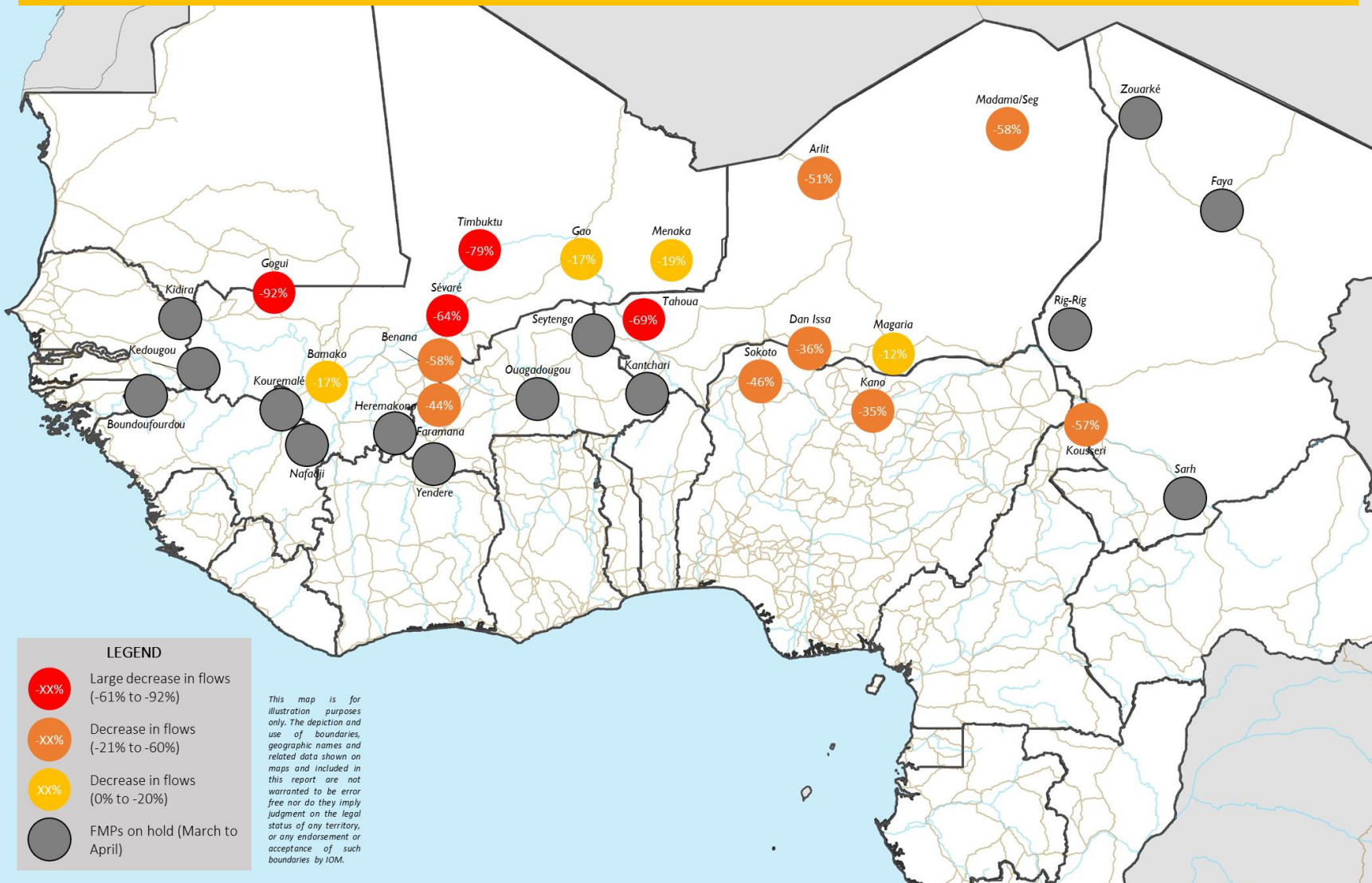
Mobility Trends – January - April 2020 – West & Central Africa

This map illustrates the variation in volume of flows between March and April 2020 at Flow Monitoring Points across West and Central Africa (WCA).

This map should be reviewed along with the [Mobility Restriction](#) overview provided by DTM on the migration.iom.int website, which provides a daily update of mobility restriction measures. Further decrease in cross-border flows is expected as most countries in WCA have closed their borders and restricted internal movements.

This situation has led to an estimated **20,000 migrants being stranded** while attempting to cross borders from one country to another, or being quarantined after entering a country. Stranded migrants are in a difficult situation with nowhere to go and anxiously waiting for borders to re-open in order to go reach their destination. Events reported by DTM can be found at the following address: migration.iom.int

EVOLUTION OF MOBILITY FLOWS FROM JANUARY TO APRIL 2020, BY FMPs



LEGEND

- -XX% Large decrease in flows (-61% to -92%)
- -XX% Decrease in flows (-21% to -60%)
- XX% Decrease in flows (0% to -20%)
- FMPs on hold (March to April)

This map 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 error free nor do they imply judgment on the legal status of any territory, or any endorsement or acceptance of such boundaries by IOM.



INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION
Website: <https://migration.iom.int>
<https://displacement.iom.int/>
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When quoting, paraphrasing, or in any other way using the information mentioned in this report, the source needs to be stated appropriately as follows: "Source: The International Organization for Migration [Month, Year], Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)"

This report is produced by DTM Regional Support team for West and Central Africa through funding support from:





COVID-19 — FLOW MONITORING REGISTRY

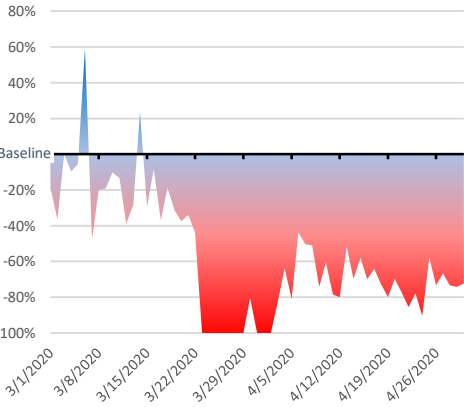
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Mobility Trends – January - April 2020 – West & Central Africa

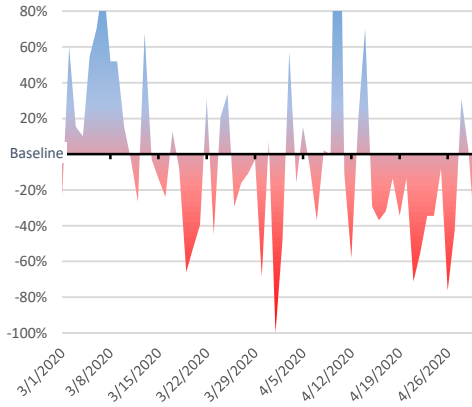
International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency

This section highlights individual mobility trends at key flow monitoring points still open in March and April 2020 compared with average daily flows over the same period in 2019. With the exception of Heremakono (Mali) and Bamako (Mali), where significant movements of seasonal workers crossing the border with Burkina Faso as well as large numbers of foreign migrants returning to their home countries were recorded, every Flow Monitoring Point witnessed large decreases in flows between 2019 and 2020. Most decreases started in mid- to late-March (cf. Kano, Seguedine, Gogui), coinciding with the period during which border closures and mobility restriction measures were imposed.

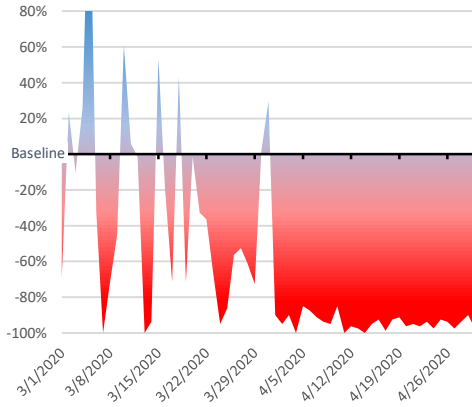
MOBILITY TRENDS IN ARLIT FMP, NIGER



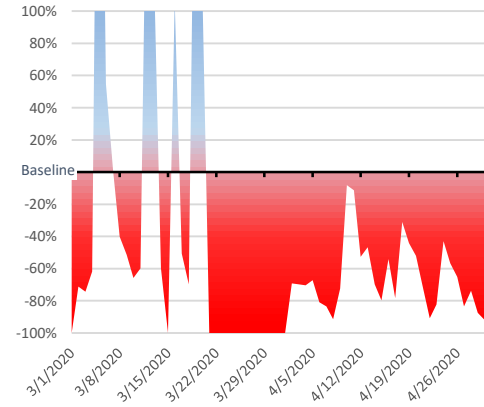
MOBILITY TRENDS IN BAMAKO FMP, MALI



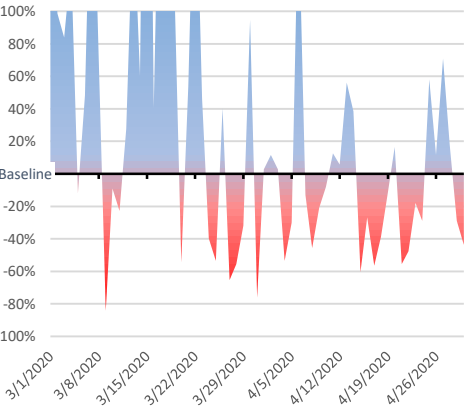
MOBILITY TRENDS IN GOGUI FMP, MALI



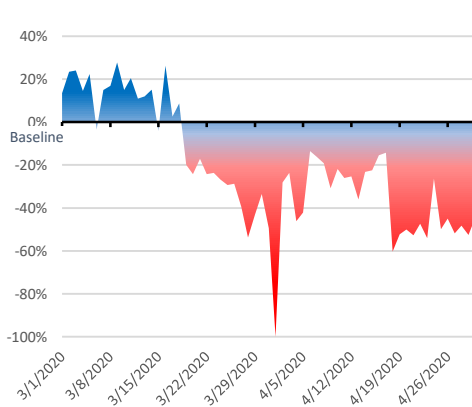
MOBILITY TRENDS IN SEGUEDINE FMP, NIGER



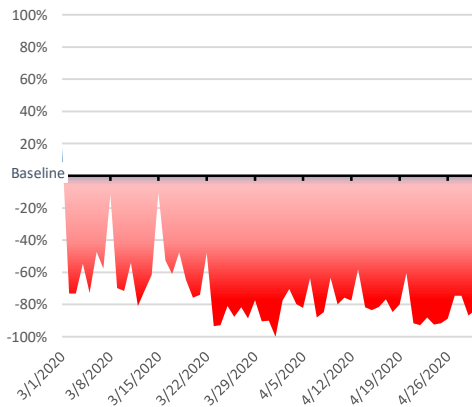
MOBILITY TRENDS IN HEREMAKONO FMP, MALI



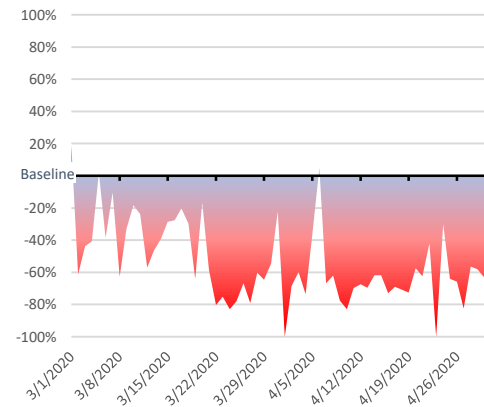
MOBILITY TRENDS IN KANO FMP, NIGERIA



MOBILITY TRENDS IN SOKOTO FMP, NIGERIA



MOBILITY TRENDS IN DAN ISSA FMP, NIGER



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