INTRODUCTION: IOM works with national and local authorities and local partners to identify and understand migration movements in West and Central Africa. Flow monitoring is an activity that quantifies and qualifies flows, migrant profiles, trends and migration routes at a given point of entry, transit or exit. The data collected provides an overview of migration in the region. The information is collected from primary sources. However, this monitoring of migration flows does not replace border surveillance. Similarly, the results presented in this report do not reflect the total flow of migrants through the Agadez region due to the size of the Sahara Desert, which covers more than 700,000 km² and has a large number of roads crisscrossing the region. Since February 2016, IOM Niger has been monitoring migration flows at six points across Niger. Given the immensity of the region of Agadez, a new FMP (Magadia) on the Libyan border was activated in January 2019 to capture the outflows due to the proliferation of by-pass roads. This new FMP complements that of Séguedine which is now only capturing incoming flows. The data collected provides an overview of migratory movements in the region.

NIGER POPULATION FLOW MONITORING POINTS

In addition to the three FMPs (Dan Barto, Magaria and Tahoua) activated in August, a new FMP was also set up in Niger (Dan Issa) in September. The aim was to better understand migration routes along the southern part of the Niger, and to complement the existing FMPs in Arlit and Séguedine. There are now three cross-border FMPs (Dan Issa, Dan Barto and Magaria) on the border between the Niger and Libya, which stretch over 1,000 km. The FMP at Tahoua was set up to understand internal movement flows and its data is located in central Niger. Tahoua region borders Tillabery region in the east, Nigeria in the south and the Agadez region in the north. Magadia FMP is located at the border between Libya and the Niger. The new FMPs will be piloted in the coming months to understand their added value towards a more holistic understanding of migration trends in the Niger. Based on the initial findings from the new FMPs, there may be adjustments to the new FMPs implemented based on migration patterns and routes.

METHODOLOGY: Flow monitoring is an investigative tool that aims to highlight further understanding of internal, cross-border and intraregional migration. Areas of high mobility are identified across the country. DTM teams then conduct assessments at the local level to identify strategic transit points. Enumerators collect data using key informants at the Flow Monitoring Points; they may be staff at bus stations, police or customs officials, bus or truck drivers, or migrants themselves. A basic questionnaire mixed with direct observations makes it possible to collect disaggregated data by gender and nationality. In the Niger, the Flow Monitoring Points were chosen after consultation with national and local stakeholders involved in migration management, and according to the locations and characteristics of the flows transiting through the Sahara Desert. The data collection is done at times when the flows are the most frequent.

LIMITATIONS: The data used in this analysis, including the maps, is an estimate and represents only a part of the existing flows on the route 1: Agadez - Arlit - Assamaka; route 2: Agadez - Séguedine – Sebha; and route 3: and southern routes. The spatial and temporal coverage of these surveys is partial, although the collection is done daily and during periods when flows are significant. Finally, no information is collected on existing flows outside the times covered. Vulnerability data is based on direct observations by the enumerators and should be understood only as an estimate.
### AUGUST 2019 SUMMARY

- **12,825** Individuals entering the Niger
- **17,412** Individuals leaving the Niger
- **18,316** Individuals observed moving internally
- **48,553** Number of individuals observed at the FMP

All data included in this report is based on estimates. IOM makes no guarantees as to the timeliness, suitability, accuracy, reliability, quality or completeness of the data contained in this report.

### FLOWS OBSERVED IN AUGUST 2019

- **Incoming flows** were relatively calm during the month of August with a daily average of about 414 individuals passing through the seven FMPs every day. The most important peak was observed on 15 August, when about individuals entered the Niger through the seven FMPs.
- **The trend of outgoing flows** was constant throughout the month with an average of 562 individuals leaving the Niger across the seven FMPs each day. Three major peaks of more than 1,000 individuals were observed on 1, 4 and 8 August when respectively 1,115; 1,008 and 1,531 individuals were observed leaving the Niger. The internal movements observed throughout August also remained relatively constant with an average of 593 individuals observed each day. However one important peak was observed on 2 August when 1,168 individuals moving internally were observed.

### KEY RESULTS IN AUGUST 2019

- The data in the graph on the left shows the flows observed at the seven active FMPs in the Niger in August 2019. An average of 1,566 individuals per day were recorded at the seven FMPs during this month.
- The majority of observed flows (62%) were cross-border: 41 per cent of these were between the Niger and Nigeria, followed by 13 per cent with Algeria and 8 per cent with Libya.
- The majority of internal movements were observed in Arlit (21%) and Dan Barto (8%). To a lesser extent, internal movements were observed in Magaria (5%) and Tahoua (4%).
- In August 2019, outgoing flows (17,357 individuals) were higher than incoming flows (12,825 individuals). On a daily average, 562 individuals were leaving the country while 414 individuals were entering the Niger.

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**INTERNAL MOVEMENTS**

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IOM Niger conducts search and rescue (SAR) operations and supports the Government of the Niger in the registration process for migrants arriving from Algeria through official convoys organized by Algerian authorities. These two types of incoming flows are not included in the FMP data in order to ensure data quality and avoid double counting. As such, in order to provide a more holistic understanding of incoming flows to the Niger, particularly from Algeria, incoming flows should take into account these two additional figures on top of the figures captured by FMPs.

**Search and rescue operations:** Since October 2016, the IOM, in collaboration with the Direction Générale de la Protection Civile (DGPC), has undertaken search and rescue operations to find and bring migrants in distress to the nearest safe urban center in the Agadez region. Search and rescue operations are performed both proactively and reactively to distress calls received from our teams in the field. The migrants are often in situations of mental and physical distress, suffering from trauma, dehydration and/or injuries. In August 2019, IOM conducted six humanitarian operations to rescue 1,288 migrants who had sent distress signals; 1,211 of which were transported to the nearest urban center in Arlit and Agadez. Forty per cent were from Mali, 18 per cent from Guinea, 8 per cent from Côte d’Ivoire, 6 per cent from Gambia, 5 per cent, from the Niger, Senegal and Cameroon (5% each). Other nationalities accounted for 13 per cent of migrants rescued. *Other SAR operations are conducted in Agadez, Arlit and Dirkou (see monthly SAR Dashboard for more details).*

**Official Algerian convoys:** Each year, thousands of migrants, the majority of whom are from the Niger, are repatriated from Algeria to the Niger within the framework of the agreement between the governments of the Niger and Algeria. The IOM, through the Migrant Response and Resource Mechanism (MRRM), provides humanitarian assistance for these migrants upon arrival to the Niger including support in migrants’ registration. In August 2019, two official Algerian convoys arrived with 417 migrants (94% were Nigerien while 6% or 27 individuals were non-Nigerien).

### Numbers of Migrants Observed at the FMP: February 2016 - August 2019

Note: Three new FMPs (Tahoua, Magaria and Dan Barto) were activated in August 2018 and another one was activated in Dan Issa in September. The FMP of Madama has been active since January 2019.
The Arlit Flow Monitoring Point captures both cross-border flows to and from Algeria, as well as movements internal to Niger. The Arlit FMP has been active since February 2016.

During the reporting month, more outgoing flows (3,175) than incoming flows (2,162) were observed. The main departure cities included Arlit, Agadez, Tchibarakaten and Assamaka (Niger) while the main destination cities included Arlit, Assamaka and Tchibarakaten (Note: the majority of migrants passing through the Arlit FMP choose not to disclose their final destination as it is a sensitive issue). In fact, most migrants transiting through Assamaka intend to travel to cities within Algeria including Inguezzam, Tamanrasset and Tamanghasset. Additionally, FMP figures do not include migrants who were subject to repression or were repatriated from Algeria as these are collected separately (see page 3).

Compared to the previous month, the daily average has decreased by 20% with a daily average of 501 individuals crossing the FMP each day. The impassability of the roads due to the rainy season justifies the 20 per cent decrease observed in the daily average of individuals passing through this FMP.

The main reasons for travel mentioned by the travelers were seasonal migration (38%) followed by economic migration (37%) and short-term local movement (25%).

The main nationalities observed crossing the Arlit FMP this month included Nigerien (82%), Chadian (5%), Nigerian and Malian (2% each) nationals. The Guinean, Cameroonian and Senegalese nationals, among other, represented 7 per cent of observed individuals. Please note that the FMP breakdown of nationalities does not include migrants subject to repression and/or repatriated from Algeria via the official convoys (see page 3).

In terms of predominant destination, 66% of all analysed flows are from Niger and 20% to Algeria. This is followed by Mali (14%) and Chad (6%).

The types of movements observed during the reporting period are seasonal migration (20%), economic migration (+6 months) (50%) and short-term local movement (-6 months) (30%).

The main vulnerabilities observed by the travelers included children under 5 years (1%), elderly persons (1%) and persons with physical or mental disabilities (1%).

The main destinations of the flows observed during the reporting period were to Niger (100%), Chad (17%), Sudan (7%) and Nigeria (5%).

The percentage point (pp) variations in nationalities and flows are calculated based on data from the previous month.
The Séguedine Flow Monitoring Point captures cross-border flows to and from neighbouring countries, mainly Libya. The Séguedine FMP has been active since February 2016. Given the vastness of the Agadez region which spans 703,000 km² (greater than the size of France and 21 times the size of Belgium), a new FMP (Madama) located near the Libyan border was activated in January 2019 to better capture cross-border movements due to the proliferation of bypass roads to avoid border control posts. As such, this new FMP complements the one in Séguedine which only captures incoming flows while Madama captures outgoing flows.

During this month, more outgoing flows (2,651 individuals representing 64% of flows observed) than incoming flows (1,486 or 34% of all flows) were observed. A daily average of 133 individuals were observed crossing through the Séguedine/Madama FMP this month, which represents an increase of 38% per cent compared to the previous month when 216 individuals were crossing the border each day. This decrease may linked to the increased security and defense checks, making it increasingly difficult to travel to Libya but also the renewed insecurity in the area.

During the month of August 2019, the main departure and destination cities included Agadez and Tchinbarakaten (Niger) and Sebha (Libya). The main types of movements observed this month were economic migration (34%) followed by short-term local movement and seasonal migration (33% each).

The main nationalities observed in August were mostly composed of Nigeriens (95%), followed by Chadians (2%), Nigerians and Sudanese (1% each). Other nationalities observed at this FMP (1%) included Mauritanians, Libyans and Ghanaians.

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The Magaria Flow Monitoring Point was established to observe cross-border flows between the Niger and Nigeria, as well as internal flows. Magaria is a town on the border between the Niger and Nigeria, through which high volumes of flows transit, originating from Nigeria which is one of the main points of origin for migrants travelling toward the Mediterranean sea. The Magaria FMP has been active since August 2018. Magaria is used mostly by Nigerien and Nigerian traders who have traditionally maintained an economic exchange. Most essential products towards Diffa and Zinder regions pass through that FMP. All cross-border flows observed were heading towards the Niger or Nigeria and primarily coming from the departure cities of Magaria, Zinder, Dachi, Agadez, Tinkim, Bandé, Dungass, Tanout, Gada and Dogo (Niger); Babura, Garki, kano, Baban Mutum and Daura (Nigeria).

A daily average of 294 individuals passing through the Magaria FMP was observed during this month, which represents a decrease of 27 per cent compared to the previous month. This is due to the closure of the Niger-Nigeria border, which forced a large number of travelers from both countries to return to their country of origin before the implementation of the measure.

This month, there were more incoming flows (44%) than outgoing flows (30%) and a larger proportion of internal movements (26%).

The reasons for migrating for most travellers were short-term local movements (52%) and economic migration (30%). Twelve per cent were doing tourism while 6 per cent were seasonal migrants.

The three nationalities observed passing through this FMP in August 2019 were Nigerien (85%), Nigerian (14%) and Cameroonian (1%) nationals. Migrants transiting through the Magaria FMP travelled mostly in private vehicles (94%), in trucks (5%), and by bus (1%).

### Demographics

(Obtained through direct observation and interviews with migrants, drivers, irregular migration facilitators, border police and bus station managers)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Adults</th>
<th>Minors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>4%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Travellers’ Profile

Types of Movements Observed

- Short-term local movement (- 6 months): 20%
- Economic migration (+ 6 months): 40%
- Tourism: 20%
- Seasonal migration: 20%

### Intended Destination of the Movements Observed

- Niger: 81%
- Nigeria: 19%

Variations calculated based on data from the previous month.

### Nationalities Observed

- Niger: 65%
- Nigeria: 35%
- Cameroon: 100%

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The Dan Barto Flow Monitoring Point captures cross-border flows between the Niger and Nigeria. Dan Barto is a town near the border with Nigeria through which high volumes of flows originating from Nigeria transit, often travelling towards the Mediterranean sea via Agadez and Libya. The Dan Barto FMP has been active since August 2018. Dan Barto is mostly used by Nigerien and Nigerian traders who maintain a close economic relationship. Nigerien nationals travel to Nigeria to purchase goods while Nigerian nationals travel to the Niger to purchase animals and food (millet, beans, etc.).

A daily average of 310 individuals passing through the Dan Barto FMP was observed during this month with more outgoing flows (55%) than incoming flows (5%). Most individuals transiting through the Dan Barto FMP were involved in short-term local movements (40%) around rural markets. During this month, a 103% increase in the daily average was observed compared to the previous month when 153 individuals were crossing the border each day. This is due to the closure of the Niger-Nigeria border, which forced a large number of travelers from both countries to return to their country of origin before the implementation of the measure.

The main reasons cited for migrating were economic migration (40%) followed by seasonal migration (36%) and short-term local movements (24%).

The two nationalities observed crossing the FMP were similar to those of the previous month: Nigeriens (98%) and Nigerians (2%).

More than half of the individuals were observed travelling by bus (60%), followed by private vehicles (38%), by trucks and by motorcycle (1% each).

The Dan Barto Flow Monitoring Point captures cross-border flows between the Niger and Nigeria. Dan Barto is a town near the border with Nigeria through which high volumes of flows originating from Nigeria transit, often travelling towards the Mediterranean sea via Agadez and Libya. The Dan Barto FMP has been active since August 2018. Dan Barto is mostly used by Nigerien and Nigerian traders who maintain a close economic relationship. Nigerien nationals travel to Nigeria to purchase goods while Nigerian nationals travel to the Niger to purchase animals and food (millet, beans, etc.).

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The main reasons cited for migrating were economic migration (40%) followed by seasonal migration (36%) and short-term local movements (24%).

The two nationalities observed crossing the FMP were similar to those of the previous month: Nigeriens (98%) and Nigerians (2%).

More than half of the individuals were observed travelling by bus (60%), followed by private vehicles (38%), by trucks and by motorcycle (1% each).
The Dan Issa Flow Monitoring Point captures cross-border flows between the Niger and Nigeria. Dan Issa is a town near the border with Nigeria through which high flow volumes pass. Migrants are often travelling towards the Mediterranean sea via Agadez and Libya. The Dan Issa FMP has been active since September 2018. Dan Issa is used mostly by Nigeriens and Nigerian traders who have traditionally maintained an economic exchange. Most essential products towards Niamey and Maradi region pass through that FMP.

A daily average of 240 individuals passed through the Dan Issa FMP this month. Incoming flows represented 56 per cent of the total observed flows and outgoing flows accounted for 44 per cent. All flows observed were heading toward the Niger or Nigeria. The main cities of departure were Maradi, Dakoro and Dan Issa (the Niger); Katsina, Kano, Jibia, Magama, Kaduna, Sokoto, Abuja, Jigawa and Zaria (Nigeria). A 26 per cent decrease was observed in the daily average of observed individuals. This is due to the closure of the Niger-Nigeria border, which forced a large number of travelers from both countries to return to their country of origin before the implementation of the measure.

The main reasons cited for migrating were economic migration (42%), short-term local movements (38%), seasonal migration (19%) and tourism (1%).

The three nationalities observed crossing the FMP in August were Nigeriens (80%), Nigerians (19%) and Malians (1%).

Most individuals were observed travelling by private vehicles (63%) and by bus (37%).

**Demographics**

(assigned through direct observation and interviews with migrants, drivers, irregular migration facilitators, border police and bus station managers)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Adults</th>
<th>Minors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Average/Day**

240 INDIVIDUALS RECORDED

- 26%

**Data Variations**

- 2 pp

- 1 pp

- 1%

9% PREGNANT WOMEN

11% CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS

7% ELDERLY PERSONS

1% PERSONS WITH PHYSICAL OR MENTAL DISABILITIES

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The Tahoua Flow Monitoring Point captures both cross-border and internal movements. Tahoua is a city in central Niger, where migrants transit. They mainly originate from Nigeria and other West African countries, such as Mali, Cameroon and Burkina Faso. They tend to take the Agadez route to travel northbound toward Algeria and Libya, while some reach Algeria through Tchintabaraden, about 300 km near the Algerian border. The Tahoua FMP has been active since August 2018.

A daily average of 87 individuals passing through the Tahoua FMP was observed in August 2019. This represents a decrease of 15 per cent in comparison with the previous month when 102 individuals were crossing the FMP each day. Movements originated mainly from Niamey (31%), Tahoua (21%), Agadez (18%), Arlit and Maradi (5% each). Ten per cent of flows originated from Abidjan in Côte d’Ivoire, from Tamanrasset (8%) and Nguezzam (2%) in Algeria.

Most flows observed were internal (70%) this is linked to the fact that the FMP is located in the middle of the Niger. Incoming flows represented 20 per cent of flows, while outgoing flows represented 10 per cent of flows. The main reasons cited for migrating were seasonal migration (42%) followed by short-term local movements (38%) and economic migration (20%).

The main nationalities observed crossing the Tahoua FMP included Nigerien (83%), Beninese (5%), Nigerian (4%), Burkinabe and Ivorian (2% each) nationals. Other observed nationalities included Guineans and Malians amongst others and represented 4 per cent of the total number of individuals observed.

Most of the individuals observed were travelling by bus (87%), followed by trucks (7%) and private vehicles (6%).

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