The IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) has started tracking the movement of irregular migrants in the regions of Gao and Segou (in Benena). Migrants, mostly from different sub-Saharan countries and West Africa in particular, travel long distances often facing harsh conditions and spending lots of money to reach their final destination.

Most of the migrants are believed to travel through the capital city, Bamako, to the strategically located town of Gao and Benena border, before heading towards Algeria, Niger, Burkina Fasso or Libya, and finally reach Europe for some of them. Gao is an important transit point and is often preferred by many irregular migrants due to the relatively easy access of its routes to the Mediterranean. Benena is also an important point through which pass migrants who chose to travel through Burkina Faso to Niger in order to go to Libya.

IOM has deployed trained and experienced staff in data collection and population flow monitoring to undertake field surveys with migrants along key migratory routes. The exercise will also profile migrants, as well as assess their intentions and causes of migration.

Concurrently with data collection and profiling, IOM is also implementing information campaigns in Northern and Central Mali to support migrants in making informed decisions regarding their intention to migrate, providing assistance to migrants wanting to return to their country of origin, and offering referral services to vulnerable migrants that are victims of human trafficking or smuggling, or in need of general psychosocial support.

**GLOBAL DEMOGRAPHY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Woman</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Minors</th>
<th>Adults</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arrived</td>
<td>524</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>540</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>514</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Departed</td>
<td>721</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>761</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>703</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The majority of identified migrants in Gao and Benena were men, representing 97% of all migrants arrived in transit in these locations and 95% departed to other countries, while women represented 3% at arrival and 5% at departure. 5% of minors have been identified at arrival and 8% at departure.

**NATIONALITIES OF MIGRANTS**

- **Gambia**
- **Guinea-Conakry**
- **Mali**
- **Senegal**
- **Sierra Leone**
- **Côte d’Ivoire**
- **Liberia**
- **Mauritania**
- **Other**
- **Congo-Brazzaville**
- **Guinea-Bissau**

During the reporting period, the vast majority of identified irregular migrants were citizens of Guinea (43%), Mali (23%), Gambia (14%) and Senegal (8%). Nationals of other countries including Côte d’Ivoire, Liberia, Congo Brazzaville, Sierra Leone, Guinea Bissau and Mauritania were also identified. The majority of Guineans recorded would constitute a new trend in comparison with recent years where Senegalese and Gambians figured at the top of the list.

**MEANS OF TRANSPORT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Private Vehicle</th>
<th>Public Bus</th>
<th>Taxi</th>
<th>Trucks</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Departed</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>386</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrived</td>
<td>533</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The majority of migrants arrived in Gao and Benena in transit **buses** (99%). However, migrants are mainly transported in **trucks** when departing from Gao while after crossing Benena border, they continue by **bus**.

**FINAL DESTINATIONS OF MIGRANTS**

At this stage of the journey, the final destination is usually not defined yet, however, the following trends emerge. Most migrants mentioned **Algeria** as their final destination, followed by **Niger, Italy, Libya, Spain, France and Morocco**. In Algeria some migrants temporarily stop their travel, work to acquire enough savings to continue their journey. The European continent alone represents 30% of declared intended final destinations.

**COUNTRIES OF TRANSIT AFTER MALI**

Algeria, Burkina Faso and Niger constitute main transit countries for migrants.

While the majority of migrants departing from Gao transit in Algeria mainly in Tamanrasset, those who cross through Benena transit in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) and, for many of them, continue to Niger.

Most of migrants who arrive in Niger from Gao transit in the city of Agadez.
Sources include authorities, direct observations and interviews with migrants en route. Quantitative data on nationalities and places of origin and destination are based on information provided by migrants and convoy drivers in the flow monitoring points established by IOM and must be used as estimates or approximations.

Mobile data collection on electronic tablets is used to gather data. The data is sent daily through 3G internet connection to IOM server in Bamako. This reduces processing time by eliminating data entry errors, delivery time of paper forms and data entry time into the database, while providing a daily and rapid data analysis and report production.
The majority of identified migrants in Gao were men, representing 98% of all migrants arriving in transit in the city and 96% departed from Gao to other countries, while women represented 2% at arrival and 6% at departure. 5% of minors have been identified at arrival and 9% at departure.

During the reporting period, the vast majority of irregular migrants who arrived in Gao or departed from Gao were citizens of Guinea (47%), Mali (24%) and Gambia (14%). Nationals of other countries including Côte d’Ivoire, Senegal, Liberia, Ghana, Sierra Leone and Mauritania… were also identified. The majority of Guineans recorded would constitute a new trend in comparison with recent years where Senegalese and Gambians figured at the top of the list.

At this stage of the journey, the final destination is usually not defined yet, however, the following trends emerge. Most migrants mentioned Algeria as their final destination, followed by Italy, Libya, Spain, France and Morocco. In Algeria some migrants temporarily stop their travel, work to acquire enough savings to continue their journey. The European continent alone represents 17% of declared intended final destinations.

The migrants arrived in Gao by bus are 98% in transit, only 2% arrived by truck. From Gao, 71% of migrants are transported in trucks, 17% in private vehicles and 12% in Taxis.

The majority of migrants arriving in Gao and going to countries in Europe and North Africa transit through Bamako before taking a public bus to Gao. They spend a few days in Gao before being transported by trucks to the town of Tamanrasset in Algeria, where some will continue their journey through the Sahara desert to the Mediterranean Sea, hoping to reach Spain or Italy for the most part.

Some migrants remain in Algeria long enough to gather some savings to be able to pursue their route towards Europe.
The majority of migrants who cross the Benena border post to go in other countries are men representing 96% of all migrants against 4% for women. Among them, 4% of minors have been identified.

During the reporting period, the vast majority of irregular migrants who crossed the Benena border point were citizens of Guinea-Conakry (31%), Senegal (29%), Mali (18%) and Gambia (10%). Nationals of other countries including Sierra Leone, Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea Bissau,... were also identified.

At this stage of the journey, the final destination is usually not defined yet, however, the following trends emerge. Niger is the most mentioned final destination followed by Libya, Italy and Algeria. In Niger some migrants temporarily stop their travel, work to acquire enough savings to continue their journey. The European continent alone represents 4% of declared intended final destinations.

Before proceeding to other countries, migrants crossing Benena border post transit through Bamako before taking a public bus to Benena. This also represents a new trend as result of the construction of an asphalt road on the Benena-Burkina axis.

Several continue to Niger and reach North African countries, including Libya. Some will then cross the Mediterranean to Europe.

The majority of migrants arriving in Benena and going to countries in West Africa, North Africa and Europe transit through Bamako before taking a public bus to Benena. They cross Benena border post before continuing by bus to the main city of Burkina Faso, Ouagadougou, where some will continue their route to Niger mainly in the city of Agadez and cross the Sahara desert to the Mediterranean sea, hoping to reach mainly Spain and Italy.

Unlike Gao, migrants arriving to Benena don't stay but cross the border post the same day and continue their journey to other countries.

Some migrants stay in Niger where they have opportunities to go to Libya to rebuild enough savings to continue the road to Europe.