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 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 migrants going to Burkina Faso, Niger and Libya choose to pass.

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.

### Key Findings

- Most of the migrants are men
- 7% of departed migrants are minors
- 1,931 migrants arrived in Gao and Benena
- 2,111 migrants departed from Gao and Benena
- 20% want to go in Europe, mainly in Spain and Italy
- Algeria, Burkina Faso and Niger are major transit points
- Guineans, Senegalese and Gambians rank first among non Malian migrants transiting through Gao and Segou to the West African countries, North Africa and Europe.

### Global Demography

The majority of identified migrants in Gao and Benena were men, representing 98% of all migrants arrived in transit in these locations and 97% departed to other countries, while women represented 2% at arrival and 3% at departure. 8% of minors have been identified at arrival and 7% at departure.

### Nationalities of Migrants

During the reporting period, the vast majority of identified irregular migrants were citizens of Guinea (40%), Mali (26%), Gambia (10%) and Senegal (10%). Nationals of other countries including Côte d’Ivoire, Sierra Leone, Guinea Bissau, Liberia... 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.

### 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, Libya, Spain, Italy, Morocco and France. In Algeria some migrants temporarily stop their travel, work to acquire enough savings to continue their journey. The European continent alone represents 20% of declared intended final destinations. The assessment has shown a repeated tendency for a majority of migrants to dissimulate their intended final destination.

### 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.

### Means of Transport

The majority of migrants arrived in Gao and Benena in transit buses (94%). However, migrants are mainly transported in trucks when departing from Gao while after crossing Benena border, they continue by bus.

### Conclusion

The IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) provides crucial information for understanding the movement of irregular migrants, informing policies and providing assistance to those in need. Continued monitoring and profiling are essential for addressing the challenges faced by migrants on their journey.
**METHODOLOGY:**

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 arrived in transit in the city and 95% departed from Gao to other countries, while women represented 2% at arrival and 5% at departure. 4% of minors have been identified at arrival and departure.

### NATIONALITIES OF MIGRANTS TRANSITING IN GAO

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>Arrived</th>
<th>Departed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Guinea-Conakry</td>
<td>1556</td>
<td>2435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mali</td>
<td>554</td>
<td>518</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senegal</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Côte d'Ivoire</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congo</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gambia</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1983</td>
<td>2676</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

During the reporting period, the vast majority of irregular migrants who arrived in Gao or departed from Gao were citizens of Guinea (44%), Mali (29%) and Gambia (9%). Nationals of other countries including Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal, Liberia, Sierra Leone... 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>Mode of Transport</th>
<th>Departed</th>
<th>Arrived</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Bus</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trucks</td>
<td>1425</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Vehicle</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxi</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The migrants arrived in Gao by bus were 91% and only 9% arrived by truck. From Gao, 98% of migrants were transported in trucks against 2% in private vehicles.

### MIGRATORY FLOW

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.
All migrants who crossed the Benena border post to other countries used transit buses.

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 Algeria and Libya. In Niger some migrants temporarily stop their travel, work to acquire enough savings to continue their journey. The European continent represents less than 1% of declared intended final destinations.

The assessment has shown a repeated tendency for a majority of migrants to dissimulate their intended final destination.

During the reporting period, the vast majority of irregular migrants who crossed the Benena border post were citizens of Senegal (35%), Guinea Conakry (20%), Gambia (15%), Mali (12%), Sierra Leone (9%) and Guinea Bissau (9%). Nationals of other countries including Sierra Leone, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau, ... were also identified. The assessment has shown that Senegalese cross through Benena border instead of Gao in comparison with recent years.

The majority of identified migrants at the Benena border post were men representing 99% of all migrants while women represented only 1%. Among all of them, 16% of minors have been identified.

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