FLOW MONITORING REPORT

MALI

In July 2019, the average daily number of individuals observed at the Flow Monitoring Points increased by 44 per cent compared to the previous month. Nationals from Mali, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso and Senegal accounted for 76 per cent of all the migrants recorded at the Flow Monitoring Points.

Labour migration, including long-term migration of more than six months (96% of flows) and seasonal migration (4% of flows), is the main observed type of movement.

In July 2019, several Flow Monitoring Points have been progressively installed in important localities of Mali, particularly in the regions of Gao, Timbuktu, Kidal, Menaka, Mopti, Kayes, Segou, Sikasso and Bamako, to monitor the daily movements of migrants heading to West and North African countries.

DEFINITIONS USED

Incoming flows: refers to migrants who arrive at a Flow Monitoring Point with the intention of travelling further into Mali.

Outgoing flows: refers to migrants who arrive at a Flow Monitoring Point with the intention of travelling towards the outer borders of Mali.

(*) To avoid double counting, migrants recorded at the transit points of Bamako, Sevare, Wabaria (Gao) and Inhalid are not included in this total. Only those recorded at entry and exit points are considered.

In July 2019, the average daily number of individuals observed at the Flow Monitoring Points increased by 44 per cent compared to the previous month. Nationals from Mali, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso and Senegal accounted for 76 per cent of all the migrants recorded at the Flow Monitoring Points.

Labour migration, including long-term migration of more than six months (96% of flows) and seasonal migration (4% of flows), is the main observed type of movement.

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FLOW MONITORING POINTS

Most migrants travel through the capital city, Bamako, to the strategically located towns of Gao and Timbuktu, as well as through border areas such as Benena, Gogui, and Heremakono, before heading towards Algeria, Niger, Libya, Mauritania, or Morocco. Some will ultimately travel on to Europe.

Gao is an important transit point and is commonly favoured by migrants for its access to routes leading to the Mediterranean.

The majority of outgoing migrants identified at the Gao and Timbuktu FMPs continue through Algeria (primarily through the Algerian towns of Tamanrasset and Bordj). Migrants transiting through Benena and Heremakono travel on to Burkina Faso, while those transiting through Gogui travel on to Mauritania.

Mali is also a transit country for incoming migrants, notably those who were unable to cross the Sahara desert and those returning to countries such as Guinea, Senegal and other countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

TOTAL NUMBER OF INCOMING AND OUTGOING INDIVIDUALS AT MALI FMPs BETWEEN 1 JULY 2016 AND 31 JULY 2019 (**)

- **Incoming individuals recorded at Mali FMPs (*)**: 3,718
- **Outgoing individuals recorded at Mali FMPs (*)**: 4,419
- **Individuals observed in total at Mali FMPs**: 8,137

9 Active FMPs in Mali

Due to the delay in receiving the data in time, **Inhalid** is not included in this report. The quarterly report will take it into account.

(*) To avoid double counting, migrants recorded at the transit points of Bamako, Sevare, Wabaria, and Inhalid, are not included in this total. Only those recorded at entry and exit points are considered.

(**) The data collection on incoming flows at FMPs started in December 2016. Due to the new FMP set up since the start of June 2017, any significant deviation observed in the figures provided from that date should not be interpreted as a significant increase in migratory flows but as an increase in data collected.

European countries were declared as the final intended destination by 19 per cent of outgoing migrants.

The proportion of Malian, Guinean, and Ivorian nationals in outgoing flows has increased and now constitutes the majority of the flows, compared to previous years in which Senegalese and Gambians were the prevalent nationalities.
Because of the difficulties in accessing entry and exit points in the Kidal region, and because data from the Inhalid FMP alone does not accurately reflect migration flows in the Kidal region, data collected at the Inhalid FMP was not taken into consideration. To determine incoming and outcoming flows to and from Algeria, DTM used the data collected at the Gao, Timbuktu, and Menaka FMPs where migrants headed for Algeria usually begin their journey.

As a result, the figures presented in pages one through three of this report do not include the numbers collected from the Inhalid FMP, nor do they incorporate the numbers from the Bamako, Sevare and Wabaria FMPs, which are transit points and not points of entry or exit.

The increase in the number of migrants attempting to reach Europe through Morocco rather than through Libya and Algeria shows a shift from the Central Mediterranean route to the Western Mediterranean route.

At the same time, we observe a decrease in the number of migrants intending to travel to Spain while the number of those wishing to go to Italy remains constant.

However, it should be noted that these figures indicate migrants’ intentions rather than confirmed destinations.
Wabaria, located at the entrance of the city of Gao, is predominantly a crossing point for migrants travelling to Gao, coming from the South and the Centre of Mali or who have transited through those areas.

At this Flow Monitoring Point, data collectors identify migrants who wish to travel to North African and European countries. Most of them transit through Bamako to reach Gao, where they spend a couple of days before continuing their journey.

During the reporting period, the vast majority of identified migrants transiting through the Wabaria FMP were nationals of Guinea, Mali, Côte d’Ivoire, Senegal and Gambia.

Most outgoing migrants reported Algeria as their final destination, followed by Morocco, Italy, Tunisia, Spain, and France.

During the reporting period, 456 migrants were recorded at this FMP (Incoming flow : 0; Outgoing flow : 456).

MONTHLY FLOWS OF INDIVIDUALS OBSERVED SINCE THE FMP WAS INSTALLED

MAIN INTENDED FINAL DESTINATIONS

TRAVELLERS’ PROFILE

MAIN TYPES OF MOVEMENT

COUNTRY OF DEPARTURE OF OBSERVED MOVEMENTS BY TYPE OF MOVEMENT

NEXT DESTINATIONS OF OBSERVED MOVEMENTS BY TYPE OF MOVEMENT

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

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Credentials: When quoting, paraphrasing or in any way using the information mentioned in this report, the source needs to be stated appropriately as follows:

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The FMPs are funded by the EUROPEAN UNION

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FLOW MONITORING POINT

Place Kidal is mainly an exit point for migrants leaving Gao.

At this Flow Monitoring Point, the data collectors identify migrants who have spent a number of days in Gao in transit before travelling onwards, predominantly North African and European countries. Incoming migrants who transit through Algeria and return to Mali or their countries of origin are also identified at this FMP.

Migrants departing from Place Kidal travel mainly on board private vehicles and trucks.

During the reporting period, the vast majority of migrants identified at Place Kidal FMP were nationals of Mali, Guinea, Côte d’Ivoire, Senegal and Niger.

Most outgoing migrants reported Algeria as their final destination, followed by Morocco, Italy, and Spain.

During the reporting period, 908 migrants were recorded at this FMP (Incoming flow : 336; Outgoing flow : 572).

Gao - PLACE KIDAL

TRAVELLERS’ PROFILE

(Data obtained through direct observation and during interviews with bus drivers and bus station managers. Variations calculated from previous month’s data.)

MONTHLY FLOWS OF INDIVIDUALS OBSERVED SINCE THE FMP WAS INSTALLED

MAIN INTENDED FINAL DESTINATIONS

MAIN NATIONALITIES % VARIATIONS
Mali 40% +6 pp
Guinea-Conakry 18% -6 pp
Côte d’Ivoire 13% +2 pp
Senegal 6% +1 pp
Niger 4% +1 pp
Other 19% -4 pp

NEXT DESTINATIONS VARIATIONS
Algeria -11 pp
Mali +11 pp

Next Destinations of Observed Movements by Type of Movement

The FMPs are implemented by IOM
The Timbuktu Flow Monitoring Point is primarily a migrant exit point for outgoing flows from Timbuktu.

At this Flow Monitoring Point, data collectors observe migrants who travel through Timbuktu before going on to North Africa and Europe.

Incoming migrants who transit through Algeria and return to Mali or their countries of origin are also identified at this FMP. Some identified migrants were also going to or returning from Mauritania.

During the reporting period, the vast majority of migrants identified at the Timbuktu FMP were nationals of Guinea, Mali, Gambia, Senegal, and Sierra Leone.

Most outgoing migrants reported either Algeria, Morocco, or Spain as their intended final destination.

During the reporting period, 1,850 migrants were recorded at this FMP (Incoming flow: 639; Outgoing flow: 1,211).

**MONTHLY FLOWS OF INDIVIDUALS OBSERVED SINCE THE FMP WAS INSTALLED**

**MAIN INTENDED FINAL DESTINATIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>2017 (%)</th>
<th>2018 (%)</th>
<th>2019 (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mali</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algeria</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guinea-Conakry</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**COUNTRY OF DEPARTURE OF OBSERVED MOVEMENTS BY TYPE OF MOVEMENT**

- Long-term migration (+6 months)
- Mali
- Algeria
- Mauritania

**NEXT DESTINATIONS OF OBSERVED MOVEMENTS BY TYPE OF MOVEMENT**

- Long-term migration (+6 months)
- Mali
- Algeria

**DEMOGRAPHY**

- Children under 5 years old: 0%
- Elderly persons: 0.1%
- Persons living with a mental or physical disability: 0%
- Pregnant women: 0%

**VULNERABILITIES**

- 0%
- 0%
- 0%
- 0%

**TRAVELLERS’ PROFILE**

- Average/Day
- 60 Observed Individuals
- Adults
- Female: 4% ↑
- Male: 93% -
- Minors
- Female: 0% =
- Male: 3% ↓

**MAIN NATIONALITIES**

- Guinea-Conakry: 44% -3 pp
- Mali: 30% +2 pp
- Gambia: 7% -1 pp
- Senegal: 4% -1 pp
- Sierra Leone: 4% +1 pp
- Other: 11% +2 pp

**MAIN TYPES OF MOVEMENT**

- Data obtained through direct observation and during interviews with bus drivers and bus station managers. Variations calculated from previous month’s data.

**ORIGINS AND DESTINATIONS**

- Incoming flow
- Outgoing flow

**NEXT DESTINATIONS**

- Mali: 95% +2 pp
- Algeria: 5% -1 pp
- Other: 0% -1 pp

**MAIN TYPES OF MOVEMENT**

- Adult
- Minor
- Long-term migration (+6 months)
The Menaka Flow Monitoring Point is located in the city of Menaka, in the Menaka region.

According to information received by data collectors, some migrants, following the reinforcement of security measures in the Niger, cross the Menaka border from the Niger into Mali in order to get to Algeria. Should this information be confirmed, it will constitute a new trend.

During the reporting period, the vast majority of migrants identified at Menaka were Malians, followed by nationals of the Niger, Burkina Faso, Nigeria and Ghana.

Most outgoing migrants reported either Algeria, Libya or Tunisia as their intended final destination.

During the reporting period, 361 migrants were recorded at this FMP (Incoming flow : 169; Outgoing flow : 192).

**Monthly Flows of Individuals Observed Since the FMP was Installed**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Incoming Flow</th>
<th>Outgoing Flow</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 2017</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 2018</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 2018</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 2018</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2018</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 2018</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 2018</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 2018</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Main Intended Final Destinations**

- **Mali**: 68%
- **Niger**: 46%
- **Nigeria**: 31%
- **Libya**: 20%
- **Burkina Faso**: 7%
- **Tunisia**: 5%
- **Mauritania**: 4%
- **Other**: 1%

**Profile of Travellers**

- **Sex**: Male 99%, Female 1%
- **Children Under 5 Years Old**: 0%
- **Elderly Persons**: 0%
- **Persons Living with a Mental or Physical Disability**: 0%
- **Pregnant Women**: 0%

**Main Nationalities Variations**

- **Mali**: +1 pp
- **Niger**: -8 pp
- **Burkina Faso**: +5 pp
- **Nigeria**: +2 pp
- **Ghana**: -
- **Other**: -

**Next Destinations Variations**

- **Mali**: -12 pp
- **Algeria**: +12 pp
- **Other**: -

**Main Types of Movement Variations**

- **Long-term migration (+6 months)**
  - **Mali**: 39% (+1 pp)
  - **Niger**: 34% (-8 pp)
  - **Burkina Faso**: 9% (-)
  - **Nigeria**: 9% (+5 pp)
  - **Ghana**: 3% (-)
  - **Other**: 6% (+2 pp)
  - **Algeria**: 53% (+12 pp)
  - **Other**: 0% (-)

**Country of Departure of Observed Movements by Type of Movement**

- **Mali**: 39% (+1 pp)
- **Niger**: 34% (-8 pp)
- **Burkina Faso**: 9% (-)
- **Nigeria**: 9% (+5 pp)
- **Ghana**: 3% (-)
- **Other**: 6% (+2 pp)

**Next Destinations of Observed Movements by Type of Movement**

- **Mali**: 47% (-12 pp)
- **Algeria**: 53% (+12 pp)
- **Other**: 0% (-)
The Sevare Flow Monitoring Point is a transit point located in Sevare town. At this Flow Monitoring Point, data collectors observe migrants traveling to Gao and Timbuktu. During the reporting period, the vast majority of migrants identified at the Sevare FMP were Guinean nationals. Nationals of other countries, including Mali, Senegal, Côte d’Ivoire and Gambia, were also recorded. Most outgoing migrants reported Algeria as their final destination, followed by Spain, Italy, Morocco, and France. During the reporting period, 794 migrants were recorded at this FMP (Incoming flow : 101; Outgoing flow : 693).

**MAIN INTENDED FINAL DESTINATIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Variations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Guinea-Conakry</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>+6 pp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mali</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>-2 pp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senegal</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>+1 pp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Côte d’Ivoire</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gambia</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>-2 pp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>-3 pp</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MAIN NATIONALITIES VARIATIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vulnerabilities</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Variations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS OLD</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELDERLY PERSONS</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PERSONS LIVING WITH A MENTAL OR PHYSICAL DISABILITY</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PREGNANT WOMEN</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NEXT DESTINATIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mali</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algeria</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niger</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MONTHLY FLOWS OF INDIVIDUALS OBSERVED SINCE THE FMP WAS INSTALLED**

- **Incoming Flow**
- **Outgoing Flow**

- **COUINY OF DEPARTURE OF OBSERVED MOVEMENTS BY TYPE OF MOVEMENT**

- **NEXT DESTINATIONS OF OBSERVED MOVEMENTS BY TYPE OF MOVEMENT**

- **TRAVELLERS’ PROFILE**

(Data obtained through direct observation and during interviews with bus drivers and bus station managers. Variations calculated from previous month’s data.)

- **26 OBSERVED INDIVIDUALS**
  - Adults
  - Minors

- **DEMOGRAPHY**

- **VULNERABILITIES**

- **ORIGINS AND DESTINATIONS**

- **MAIN TYPES OF MOVEMENT**

- **DTM**

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The FMPs are implemented by IOM

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The Gogui Flow Monitoring Point is located at the border post between Mali and Mauritania.

At this Flow Monitoring Point, data collectors identify outgoing flows of migrants travelling to Mauritania or Morocco. Some of them say they want to gather enough savings to continue their journey to Europe. Many women go to Mauritania, sometimes accompanied by their babies, to work as housekeepers. This explains the high number of women and children under five.

A large number of incoming migrants who had transited through Mauritania, or were deported from Mauritania and were returning to Mali or to their countries of origin, were also identified at this FMP. Most expelled individuals obtain a pass and return to Mauritania.

During the reporting period, the vast majority of migrants identified at the Gogui FMP were from Mali and Côte d’Ivoire.

Most outgoing migrants reported either Mauritania, Morocco or Spain as their intended final destination.

During the reporting period, 2,399 migrants were recorded at this FMP (Incoming flow : 1,212; Outgoing flow : 1,187).

The Gogui Flow Monitoring Point is located at the border post between Mali and Mauritania.

At this Flow Monitoring Point, data collectors identify outgoing flows of migrants travelling to Mauritania or Morocco. Some of them say they want to gather enough savings to continue their journey to Europe. Many women go to Mauritania, sometimes accompanied by their babies, to work as housekeepers. This explains the high number of women and children under five.

A large number of incoming migrants who had transited through Mauritania, or were deported from Mauritania and were returning to Mali or to their countries of origin, were also identified at this FMP. Most expelled individuals obtain a pass and return to Mauritania.

During the reporting period, the vast majority of migrants identified at the Gogui FMP were from Mali and Côte d’Ivoire.

Most outgoing migrants reported either Mauritania, Morocco or Spain as their intended final destination.

During the reporting period, 2,399 migrants were recorded at this FMP (Incoming flow : 1,212; Outgoing flow : 1,187).

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The Benena Flow Monitoring Point is located at a border post between Mali and Burkina Faso, in the Segou region.

At this Flow Monitoring Point, enumerators observe outgoing flows of migrants who intend to travel to West African, North African and European countries after having transited through Mali, Burkina Faso and the Niger, as well as incoming migrants entering Mali after having transited through Burkina Faso.

During the reporting period, the vast majority of migrants identified at Benena were Nigerian nationals, followed by nationals of Mali, Burkina Faso, Togo, and Guinea.

Most outgoing migrants reported either Togo, Burkina Faso, Nigeria or Gabon as their intended final destination.

During the reporting period, 890 migrants were recorded at this FMP (Incoming flow : 549; Outgoing flow : 341).

The information collected at this FMP shows that many of the travellers transiting through this FMP were women and girls. They reported travelling to Mali to work in the mining regions, as well as in other sectors.

MONTHLY FLOWS OF INDIVIDUALS OBSERVED SINCE THE FMP WAS INSTALLED

MAIN INTENDED FINAL DESTINATIONS

COUNTRY OF DEPARTURE OF OBSERVED MOVEMENTS BY TYPE OF MOVEMENT

NEXT DESTINATIONS OF OBSERVED MOVEMENTS BY TYPE OF MOVEMENT

MAIN NATIONALITIES

Nigeria 27% -5 pp
Mali 17% +6 pp
Burkina Faso 13% -2 pp
Togo 9% -3 pp
Guinea-Conakry 7% +1 pp
Other 27% +3 pp

NEXT DESTINATIONS

Mali 63% +5 pp
Burkina Faso 37% -5 pp
Other 0% -
**FLOW MONITORING POINT**

The Heremakono Flow Monitoring Point is located at a border post between Mali and Burkina Faso, in the Sikasso region.

At this Flow Monitoring Point, data collectors observe outgoing flows of migrants who intend to travel to West African, North African and European countries after having transited through Mali, Burkina Faso and the Niger.

During the reporting period, the vast majority of migrants identified at Heremakono were nationals of Mali, Guinea, Senegal, Burkina Faso, and Côte d’Ivoire.

Most outgoing migrants reported either Italy, Algeria, Spain, Libya or France as their intended final destination.

The majority of incoming migrants were returning to their countries of origin.

During the reporting period, 1,729 migrants were recorded at this FMP (Incoming flow: 813; Outgoing flow: 916).

The information collected at this FMP shows a notable number of migrants who declared that they came to Mali to work in the mining or agricultural regions, among others.

**MONTHLY FLOWS OF INDIVIDUALS OBSERVED SINCE THE FMP WAS INSTALLED**

![Graph showing monthly flows of individuals]

**MAIN INTENDED FINAL DESTINATIONS**

![Graph showing main intended final destinations]

**MAIN NATIONALITIES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Variations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mali</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guinea-Conakry</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senegal</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burkina Faso</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>-1 pp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Côte d’Ivoire</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>+1 pp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NEXT DESTINATIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Destination</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Variations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mali</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>-1 pp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burkina Faso</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>+3 pp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niger</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>-2 pp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>-0 pp</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ORIGINS AND DESTINATIONS**

**COUNTRY OF DEPARTURE OF OBSERVED MOVEMENTS BY TYPE OF MOVEMENT**

- Seasonal migration
- Long-term migration (+ 6 months)

**NEXT DESTINATIONS OF OBSERVED MOVEMENTS BY TYPE OF MOVEMENT**

- Seasonal migration
- Long-term migration (+ 6 months)
The capital city of Bamako is a major transit point for migrants travelling to West and North African countries.

In Bamako, migrant flows are recorded at bus stations where data collectors primarily observe migrants travelling to Gao or Timbuktu, as well as to border areas on their way to neighbouring countries such as Mauritania and Burkina Faso.

Most outgoing migrants reported either Algeria, Italy, Spain, Morocco or France as their intended final destination.

During the reporting period, the vast majority of migrants identified at the Bamako FMP were from Guinea, Mali, Senegal, Gambia and Côte d’Ivoire.

According to the information received from data collectors, migrants from Côte d’Ivoire transit through Sikasso, where they then travel to Mopti, bypassing Bamako. This explains the low number of Ivorian nationals observed at the Bamako FMPs.

During the reporting period, 1,204 migrants were recorded at this FMP (Incoming flow : 80; Outgoing flow : 1,124).
**WHAT IS FLOW MONITORING?**

Flow monitoring is a component of IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM). It has been developed to track migrant flows (groups or individuals) through data collection carried out at key points of origin, transit and/or destination. The purpose of flow monitoring is to provide regularly updated information on the scale and profiles of population movements (migrants, internally displaced persons, returnees, etc.) through specific locations. The information and analysis provided through the flow monitoring methodology also helps to better understand and define shortcomings and priorities in the provision of assistance along the displacement/migration routes. The purpose of flow monitoring is not to replace border monitoring or border surveillance. Data collected by IOM flow monitoring exercises does not replace government border controls and should not be interpreted as such.

**A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF MIGRATION FLOWS - A REGIONAL INITIATIVE IN WEST AFRICA**

Monitoring population movements in West and Central Africa represents an important regional initiative. It allows for a better understanding of intentions, trends, routes, and risks as well as demographic and socio-economic profiles of migrants. It serves as a common source of data contributing to inform policymaking by authorities in countries of origin, transit and destination. IOM aims to install over thirty of these flow monitoring points throughout the West and Central African region to assist in reducing the operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

**METHODOLOGY** Flows Monitoring of Populations (FMP) is an investigative work that aims to highlight areas that are particularly vulnerable to cross-border and intraregional migration. Areas of high mobility are identified across the country. DTM teams then work at the local level to identify strategic transit points. Trained agents collect data from key informants at the flow monitoring point: the latter may be bus station staff, police or customs officials, bus drivers or migrants themselves. A basic questionnaire mixed with direct observations allows to collect disaggregated data by gender and nationality. In Mali, ten data collection points are active in the regions of Gao, Timbuktu, Kidal, Menaka, Mopti, Sikasso, Segou, Kayes and the district of Bamako. Daily data collection is performed in the FMPs.

**LIMITATIONS** The data used in this analysis are estimates and represent only a part of the existing flows in Mali. The geographic and temporal coverage of these surveys is partial insofar as the flow monitoring activities do not cover some private bus stations existing in the various cities including Gao, Timbuktu, Kidal, Menaka, Mopti and Bamako. The data on the final destinations of migrants are obtained based on their declaration and must be taken with caution because they indicate only an intention. The data on the vulnerabilities are based on direct observations of the enumerators and must be taken only for information.

All data included in this report is based on estimations. IOM expressly disclaims all warranties of any kind, whether express or implied, including, but not limited to, the appropriateness, quality, reliability, timeliness, accuracy or completeness of the data included in this report.