Since June 2016, IOM Mali is tracking the movement of 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.

### GLOBAL DEMOGRAPHY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEN</th>
<th>WOMEN</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
<th>MINORS</th>
<th>ADULTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$2,420$</td>
<td>$78$</td>
<td>$2,498$</td>
<td>$214$</td>
<td>$2,284$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$3,354$</td>
<td>$90$</td>
<td>$3,444$</td>
<td>$196$</td>
<td>$3,248$</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 or departed to other countries, while women represented 3% at arrival and departure. 9% of minors have been identified at arrival and 6% at departure.

### NATIONALITIES OF MIGRANTS

During the reporting period, the vast majority of identified migrants were citizens of Guinea Conakry, Mali, Gambia, Senegal and Cote d’Ivoire. Nationals of other countries including Syria, Sierra Leone, Guinea Bissau, Liberia... were also identified. During the period, among other nationalities, at least 184 Syrian migrants have been counted in Gao.

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

Almost all migrants arrived in Gao and Benena in transit **buses**. 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 yet defined. However, the following trends emerge: Most migrants mentioned **Algeria** as their final destination, followed by **Libya**, **Italy**, **Spain** and **Morocco** in decreasing order. In **Algeria and Libya**, 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 assessment has shown a repeated tendency for a majority of migrants to dissiplate their intended final destination.

### COUNTRIES OF TRANSIT AFTER MALI

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

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

Most of the migrants who arrive in **Niger** from **Gao** transit in the city of **Agades**.
**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.

Electronic tablets are used for mobile data collection. 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 97% of all migrants arrived in transit in the city and from Gao to other countries, while women represented 3% at arrival and departure. 8% of minors have been identified at arrival and 4% departure.

During the reporting period, the vast majority of migrants who arrived in Gao or departed from Gao were citizens of Guinea, Mali and Gambia. Nationals of other countries including Côte d’Ivoire, Senegal, Syria, Sierra Leone, ... were also identified.

During the assessment period, 184 Syrian migrants have been counted in Gao. According to their testimony, they transited through Mauritania before crossing through Mali towards North African countries and Europe.

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.

The majority of migrants arrived in Gao by bus (99%). However, from Gao, 87% of migrants were transported in trucks while only 6% used buses and 5% private vehicles.

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 or Libya long enough to gather some savings to be able to pursue their route towards Europe.
The majority of identified migrants at the Benena border post were men representing 98% of all migrants while women represented only 2%. Among all of them, 11% of minors have been identified.

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

The assessment has shown that Senegalese cross through Benena border instead of Gao in comparison with recent years.

At this stage of the journey, the final destination is usually not yet defined. However, the following trends emerge: Italy is the most mentioned final destination followed by Spain Libya, Niger, Portugal and France. In Libya and Algeria some migrants temporarily stop their travel, work to acquire enough savings to continue their journey. The European continent represents 69% of declared intended final destinations.

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

Before proceeding to other countries, migrants crossing Benena border post transit through Burkina Faso mainly through the town of Ouagadougou. This also represents a new trend as result of the construction of an asphalt road on the Benena-Burkina axis.

Several migrants 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 City of Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso, 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.