

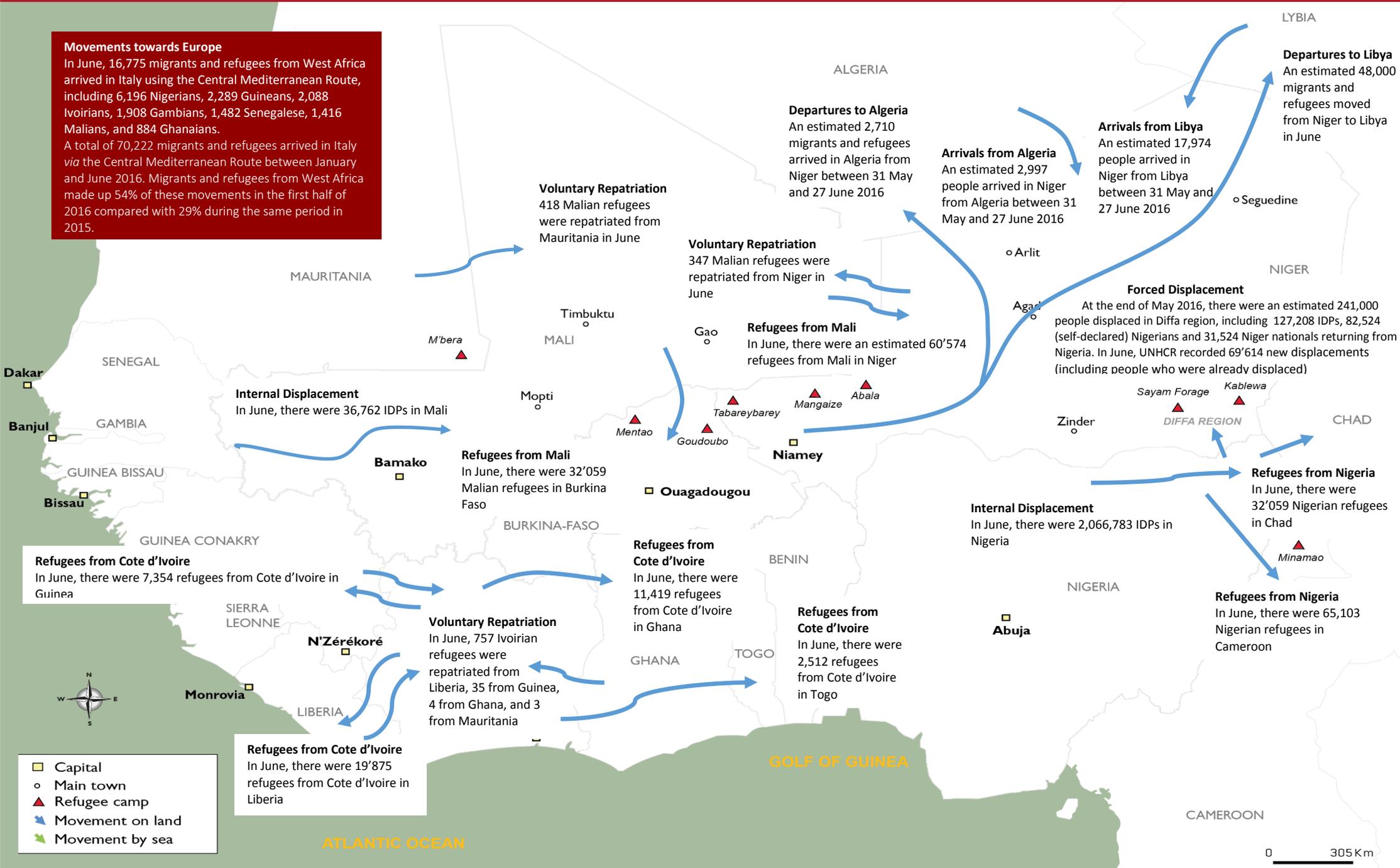


June 2016

Movements towards Europe

In June, 16,775 migrants and refugees from West Africa arrived in Italy using the Central Mediterranean Route, including 6,196 Nigerians, 2,289 Guineans, 2,088 Ivoirians, 1,908 Gambians, 1,482 Senegalese, 1,416 Malians, and 884 Ghanaians.

A total of 70,222 migrants and refugees arrived in Italy via the Central Mediterranean Route between January and June 2016. Migrants and refugees from West Africa made up 54% of these movements in the first half of 2016 compared with 29% during the same period in 2015.



Regional mixed migration summary for June 2016 covering mixed migration events, incidents, trends and data for the West Africa region (in particular Niger, Mali, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Senegal and Liberia).

In this report the term migrant/refugee is used to cover all those involved in the mixed migration flows (including asylum seekers, trafficked persons, economic migrants, refugees). If the caseload mentioned refers only to refugees or asylum seekers or trafficked persons it will be clearly stated.

Country	Events / trends / data / analysis
<p>Niger</p>	<p>Departures from Niger: An estimated 160,533 people moved from Niger to North Africa between February 1st and June 30th 2016. The vast majority of them moved to Libya (47%) and to Algeria (31%), while some of the migrants and refugees (10%) moved onward to Europe, and in particular to Italy. According to IOM, the majority of those moving to Libya or Algeria were moving for economic reasons, with only a small percentage of people leaving for reasons related to war, conflict and insecurity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To Libya: In June 2016, 48,000 migrants and refugees moved from Niger to Libya. The majority of them came from Niger, The Gambia and Nigeria, and passed through Agadez to reach Seguedine (Northern Niger) before crossing into Gatroun (southern Libya). ➤ To Algeria: Between May 31st and June 27th 2016, an estimated 2,710 migrants and refugees departed from Niger to Algeria. These migrants and refugees were primarily coming from Niger, Mali and Cameroon and reached Guezzam in Algeria by way of the Agadez – Arlit – Assamaka corridor in northern Niger. <p>Arrivals to Niger: A total of 58,084 people arrived in Niger from Libya and Algeria between February and June 2016. Of these arrivals, 44,673 transited through Libya and 13,411 transited through Algeria.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ From Libya: Between May 31st and June 27th, IOM recorded 17,974 arrivals into Niger from Libya. While Nigerien returnees formed the majority of those arriving in Niger, there were also people arriving from Nigeria, Mali and The Gambia. Many of those returning to and arriving in Niger travelled through Gatroun (Libya) and were registered in Seguedine in Northern Niger. According to IOM, those moving from Libya to Niger through Seguedine are primarily moving due to insecurity in Libya. ➤ From Algeria: Between May 31st and June 27th, 2,997 persons arrived from Algeria to Niger. The concerned persons passed through Assamaka in Algeria to reach Arlit in Niger. Some of them were Nigerien nationals returning to Niger; others were coming primarily from Mali, Cameroon and Guinea. <p>Migrant Vulnerability: In June 2016, the bodies of 34 migrants were discovered near the Algeria-Niger Border, reportedly having been abandoned by their smugglers while on the Saharan route. In the past 18 months, since the beginning of 2015, IOM's Missing Migrants Project has recorded 95 deaths occurring in Western, Central and Southern Africa, with 70 of the deaths occurring between June 1st and June 17th. While reports about the trafficking of (mostly) women and children continue to emerge, it is difficult to estimate the exact scope of the phenomenon due to lack of data.</p> <p>Refugees in Niger: As of June 2016, there were still 143,000 refugees in Niger, including 60,574 refugees from Mali living primarily in camps in the Tahoua and Tillaberi regions in Western Niger and 82,524 refugees from Nigeria.</p> <p>Forced Displacement in Diffa Region: At the end of May 2016, there were an estimated 241,000 people displaced in Diffa region, including 82,524 (self-declared) Nigerian refugees and 31,524 returnees from Niger (i.e. persons who claim to be Niger citizens). However, the lack of documentation for both refugees and Nigerien returnees makes it difficult to verify their status and nationality. Figures in Diffa region also include 127,208 IDPs in Niger.</p>

	<p>UNHCR recorded 69,614 new displacements in Diffa region in June. However, some of the people concerned were already displaced. This new displacement occurred following Boko Haram assaults against the city of Bosso (Diffa region, Northern Niger) on the 3rd and 6th of June. Since the beginning of 2016, more than 30 attacks by Boko Haram against military or civilians in Diffa region have been recorded, with five attacks occurring in less than four weeks between May and June. The security situation is likely to drive new displacements in the region.</p>
Mali	<p>Malian Arrivals in Europe: In June 2016, 1,416 Malian migrants and refugees arrived in Italy by way of the Central Mediterranean Route. A total of 4,030 Malian migrants and refugees arrived in Italy between January and June 2016, representing a 49% increase from the 2,698 arrivals in Italy during the same period in 2015. As of 30th of June 2016, Malians made up 6% of the total number of arrivals of migrants and refugees in Italy.</p> <p>Malian Refugees in Neighbouring Countries: According to the latest figures from UNHCR, as of June 30th, there were 133,888 registered Malian refugees in neighbouring countries in the region. The majority of refugees are hosted in Niger (45,2%) Mauritania (30,8%) and Burkina Faso (24%).</p> <p>Voluntary Repatriation from Niger: Tripartite meetings between UNHCR and the Governments of Mali and Niger took place in Niamey from the 3rd – 5th of June to discuss voluntary repatriation from Niger. UNHCR assisted 347 Malian refugees living in Niamey to repatriate during the month of June and more will be assisted in the coming months.</p> <p>Voluntary Repatriation from Mauritania: During June 2016, UNHCR recorded 418 cases of assisted repatriation from Mauritania. Between December and June 2016, UNHCR helped some 2,000 refugees to return to Mali, a substantial increase compared with less than five returns in the same period the year before. Banditry and lack of access to basic infrastructure in northern Mali are still preventing refugees in Mauritania (who are mainly hosted in the M'bera Camp) from returning home.</p> <p>Internal Displacement: As of June 2016, UNHCR recorded 36,762 IDPs in Mali. Most of them are located in Timbuktu (44%) and Gao (27%), while others are reported to be located in the regions of Bamako, Koulikoro and Ségou.</p>
Nigeria	<p>Arrivals of Nigerians in Europe: In June 2016, 6,196 Nigerians arrived in Italy by sea by way of the Central Mediterranean Route. Between January and June 2016, a total of 12,163 Nigerian migrants and refugees arrived in Italy, a 54% increase compared with the 9,897 arrivals recorded during the same period in 2015. As of the 30th of June, Nigerians made up 17% of arrivals in Italy via the Central Mediterranean route and, ranked by nationality, represented the highest percentage of arrivals.</p> <p>Refugees in Neighbouring Countries: As of June 30th there were 154,964 Nigerian refugees in neighbouring countries, mainly hosted in Niger (54%), Cameroun (42%) and Chad (4%).</p> <p>Internal Displacement: As of June 2016, there were 2,066,783 IDPs recorded in Nigeria, representing a 4% decrease from the 2,155,618 IDPs recorded in May. This decrease is reportedly due to IDPs returning to their area of origin in Borno States after Nigerian security forces recaptured the main towns and several villages from under the control of Boko Haram in Borno and Yobe States. However, as of June 2016, most of the IDPs are still located in Borno (68%), Adamawa (8%) and Yobe states (6%) in the Northeastern part of the country. The main cause of displacement, particularly in the North-Eastern region, is the insurgency (87%), with other displacements caused by community clashes.</p>
Burkina Faso	<p>Refugees in Burkina Faso: As of June 30th there were 32,059 Malian refugees in Burkina Faso. 21,700 refugees (67%) were living in camps, 8,800 (27%) in local communities, and the rest in urban settings.</p>

Cote d'Ivoire	<p>Arrivals of Ivoirians in Europe: In June 2016, 2,088 Ivoirians arrived in Italy by sea by way of the Central Mediterranean Route. Between January and June, 5,244 Ivoirians arrived in Italy by sea, making up 7% of the total arrivals to Italy in 2016. This represents a significant increase of 324% compared with the 1,616 Ivoirians who arrived in Italy during the same period in 2015.</p> <p>Refugees in Neighboring Countries: In June, there were 41,160 Ivoirian refugees registered in neighboring countries. They were displaced as a result of the political crisis in Cote d'Ivoire in 2011 and, as of June 30th, were mainly hosted in Liberia (48%), Ghana (28%), Guinea (18%) and Togo (6%).</p> <p>Voluntary Repatriation: UNHCR has facilitated the repatriation of Ivoirian refugees from Liberia since the opening of the two humanitarian corridors on the Liberian Border in December 2015. 799 Ivoirian refugees returned in Cote d'Ivoire in June, with 757 assisted to return from Liberia, 35 from Guinea, 4 from Ghana, and 3 from Mauritania. Media reports have emerged claiming that many Ivoirian refugees in Ghana do not want to return home for fear of reprisals.</p>
Liberia	<p>Ivoirian Refugees in Liberia: As of June 30th 2016, there were 19,875 registered Ivoirian refugees in Liberia, a decrease of 4% compared with the 20,647 refugees registered by UNHCR in May.</p>
Guinea	<p>Arrivals of Guineans in Europe: In 2016, there has been a significant increase in the arrivals of migrants and refugees from Guinea in Italy by way of the Central Mediterranean Route, with Guineans now making up 7% of sea arrivals in Italy. In June, an estimated 2,289 Guineans arrived in Italy by sea raising the total number of Guinean arrivals in the first six months of 2016 to 5,125. This represents an increase of 637% from the 804 arrivals recorded during the same period in 2015.</p> <p>Refugees in Guinea: As of June 30th, there were 7,354 Ivoirian refugees in Guinea.</p>
Senegal	<p>Arrivals of Senegalese in Europe: In June 2016, 1,482 migrants and refugees from Senegal reportedly arrived in Italy by way of the Central Mediterranean Route. With 4,047 arrivals recorded between January and June 2016, Senegalese made up 6% of arrivals in Italy by sea. This represents an increase of 42% from the 2,839 arrivals registered by UNHCR during the same period in 2015.</p>
Other Regional Information	<p>Regional Protection Dialogue on the Lake Chad Basin: A regional protection meeting involving the Governments of Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad and Niger was held on 6th – 8th June 2016 in Abuja, Nigeria, to discuss measures to enhance protection and respond to the most urgent needs of refugees, IDPs and other populations affected by the Boko Haram insurgency. The discussions led to the adoption of a set of measures known as the Abuja Action Statement aimed at strengthening the protection of refugees and IDPs affected by the situation while taking into consideration security concerns.</p> <p>Tripartite agreement on voluntary repatriation: On June 9th, a tripartite meeting for the voluntary repatriation of Nigerian refugees was held in Abuja with UNHCR and representatives of the Governments of Nigeria and Cameroon. Contrary to what was announced in the news, the Tripartite Agreement has not yet been signed, however discussions are ongoing.</p> <p>Mid-year trends along the Central Mediterranean Route: A total of 70,222 migrants and refugees arrived in Italy by way of the Central Mediterranean Route between January and June 2016 – on par with the 70,354 people who arrived on the Italian shores during the first six months of 2015. However,</p>

the number of people from West Africa in these flows has considerably increased, representing 54% of the movements in the first half of 2016 compared with 29% during the same period in 2015.

The movements of Nigerians along the Central Mediterranean Route to Italy represent 17% of the current flows (12,163 persons) compared with 11% in the same period in 2015. The movement of people from The Gambia, Côte d'Ivoire, and Guinea has also substantially increased along the Central Mediterranean Route to Italy.

Country of origin	Arrivals Jan.-Jun. 2015	% in 2015	Arrivals Jan.-Jun. 2016	% in 2016
Nigeria	7,897	11%	12,163	17%
Gambia	3,593	5%	5,125	8%
Cote d'Ivoire	1,616	2%	5,244	7%
Guinea	804	1%	5,125	7%
Senegal	2,839	4%	4,047	6%
Mali	2,698	4%	4,030	6%

In addition, [an increasing number of deaths at sea](#) have been reported since the beginning of 2016, with an estimated 2,467 persons having died along the Central Mediterranean route to Italy between January and June 2016.

New articles, reports and books on West African Migrations

- UNHCR, [Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2015](#), 20 June 2016.
- IOM, [Fatal Journeys Volume 2: Identification and Tracing of Dead and Missing Migrants](#), June 2016.
- U.S. Department of State, [2016 Trafficking in Persons Report](#), June 2016.
- Evan Easton Calabria and Naohiko Omata, "[Micro-finance in refugee contexts: current scholarship and research gaps](#)", Oxford Refugee Studies Centre (RSC), *Working Paper Series* No. 116, June 2016.
- Migrants in Countries in Crisis Initiative (MICIC), [Guidelines to protect migrants in countries experiencing conflict or natural disaster](#), June 2016.
- European Asylum Support Office (EASO), [Annual Report on the Situation of Asylum in the European Union 2015](#), July 2016.

This information sheet is distributed to over 200 agencies, academic institutions, donors, embassies, journalists, government officials / departments, international and multinational organisations and related non-government organisations. Sources: Data is sourced from a wide variety of collaborators, partners, international and local organisations, media outlets and individuals in the region. The key refugee agency – UNHCR – and migration agency – IOM – are frequently the origin of specific refugee or migrant return-related data. RMMS is a unit/project within the Danish Refugee Council and also uses data and information generated by DRC activities. RMMS makes its own independent editorial decisions as to what sections and what data is included in this monthly update.