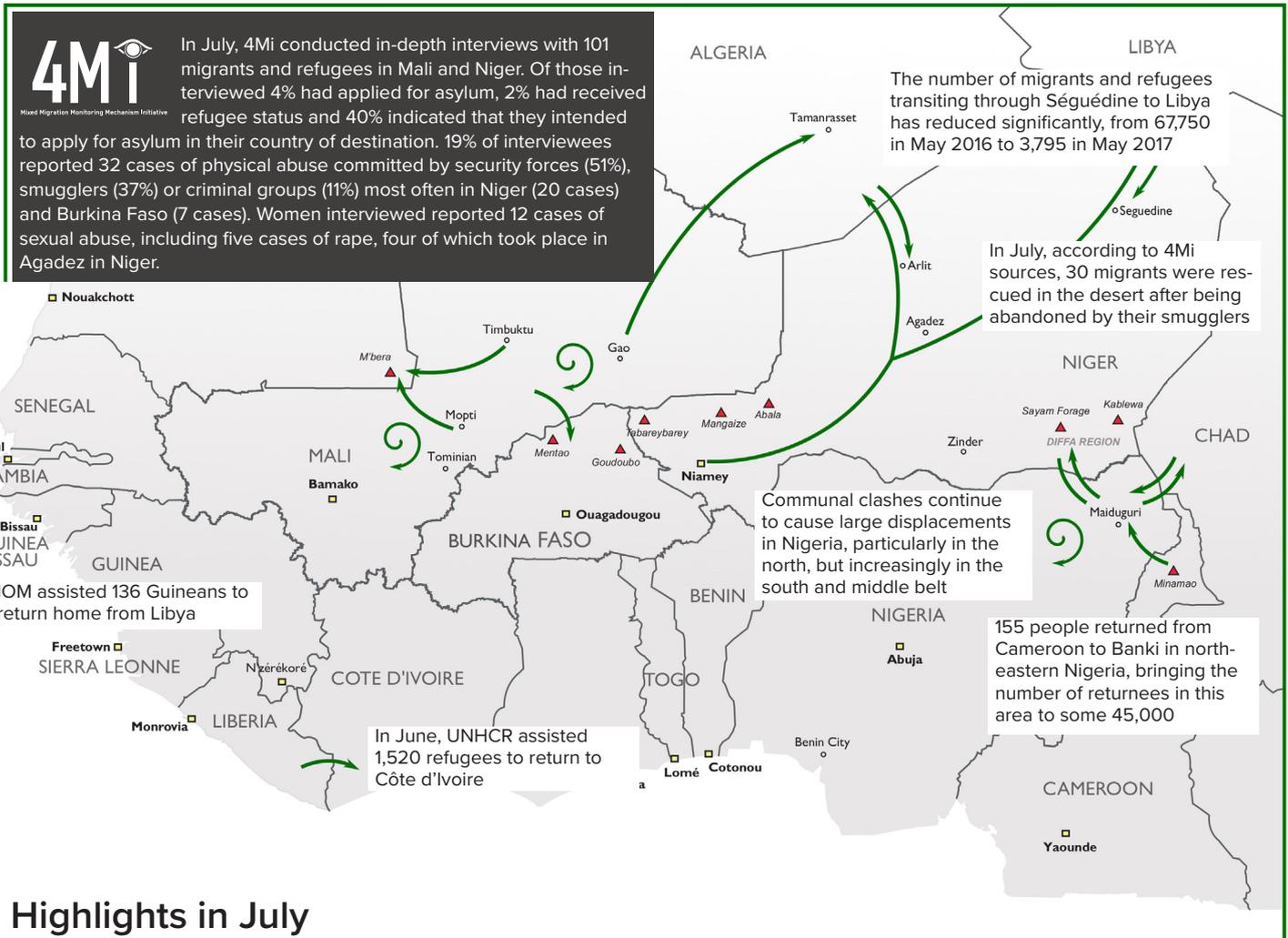


West Africa

Monthly Mixed Migration Summary

Covering mixed migration events, incidents, trends and data from the West Africa region.

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Highlights in July

- The latest information from IOM shows that the number of migrants and refugees transiting through the town of Séguédine in Northern Niger on their way to Libya has reduced significantly in 2017 compared with the same period in 2016. In May 2016, IOM recorded 67,750 people transiting through Séguédine compared to 3,795 in May 2017. According to IOM many migrants are now transiting around Séguédine to avoid the increased security in the town.
- The government of Algeria announced that they will offer residency and work permits to some African migrants residing in Algeria. The unauthorised migrant population currently residing in Algeria is estimated at 100,000 and the Algerian Government is intending to launch a migrant census and begin screening potential candidates for residency. The announcement follows an anonymous online hate campaign against migrants in June, and aims to respond to a shortage of workers in the farming and construction sectors.
- IOM reiterated its statement that up to 80% of Nigerian women and girls arriving in Italy by sea could be victims of sex trafficking. They also claimed that there has been a 600% increase in the number of potential victims of sex trafficking arriving in Italy by sea over the past three years. According to a new report by IOM, sexual exploitation along the central Mediterranean route is increasingly involving younger girls, the majority of whom are from Nigeria.
- In July 2017, 11,461 migrants and refugees arrived in Italy by way of the central Mediterranean route, less than half the number that arrived in July 2016. Between January and July however, the number of arrivals in Italy by sea has increased by 2% from 93,774 to 95,213, when compared with the same period in 2016.

Burkina Faso

Displacement context: As of 30 May 2017, there were [33,501 Malian refugees](#) in Burkina Faso, mostly living in and around two camps in the Sahel Region. Burkina Faso also hosts a relatively small number of urban refugees from the Central African Republic, Chad and Rwanda, amongst others.

Cote d'Ivoire

Arrivals of Ivoirians in Europe: Between January and July 2017, [7,905 migrants and refugees](#) from Cote d'Ivoire arrived in Italy by sea via the central Mediterranean route, with 551 arrivals in July. This marks the lowest number of arrivals from Cote d'Ivoire in a single month since February 2016. However, the number of Ivoirian arrivals to Italy during the first seven months of 2017 has increased overall by 18% when compared with the first seven months of 2016.

The number of Ivoirians arriving in Spain by sea and by land has increased significantly, with [1,281 migrants and refugees](#) from Cote d'Ivoire arriving in Spain between January and May 2017, compared to 387 during the same period in 2016.

Network Against Clandestine Migration in Cote d'Ivoire: The West African Network for the Fight Against Clandestine Migration in Cote d'Ivoire (REALIC) [launched its activities](#) in July. At the opening event speakers highlighted the need for young people to look for opportunities within Cote d'Ivoire and avoid taking unnecessary risks in migrating.

Refugees in neighboring countries: As of 31 July, there were [25,620 Ivoirian refugees](#) living in neighboring countries in the region, including 12,287 in Liberia, 6,656 in Ghana, 4,521 in Guinea and 2,156 in Togo. This marks a decrease of 1,030 Ivorian refugees in Liberia when compared with June.

Repatriation of Ivorian refugees: In June 2017, [UNHCR assisted 1,520 individuals](#) to return to Côte d'Ivoire from Liberia. In total, between January and June 2017, UNHCR has assisted 5,278 Ivorian refugees to return to Cote d'Ivoire from countries around the region. Since 2015, a total of [24,134 Ivorian refugees](#) have returned with support from UNHCR, including 23,417 from Liberia.

Guinea

Arrivals of Guineans in Europe: Between January and July 2017, [8,631 Guineans](#) arrived in Italy by way of the central Mediterranean route, an increase of 37% from the number of Guineans arriving in Italy during the same period in 2016. In July, 872 Guineans arrived in Italy by sea. Guineans accounted for 9% of the total sea arrivals to Italy during the first six months of 2017.

According to the latest available information, between January and May 2017, [1,434 Guineans](#) arrived in Spain by sea and land, a significant increase from the 540 who arrived during the same period in 2016.

Refugees in Guinea: As of 31 July, there were [4,521 Ivoirian refugees](#) in Guinea.

Humanitarian repatriation: On 14 July, [IOM assisted 136 Guineans](#) to return home from Libya, including seven unaccompanied children, three women, and one infant. This was the fifth charter flight from Libya organised by IOM for Guinean migrants in 2017, with a total of 595 migrants assisted to return between January and July.

Liberia

Refugees in Liberia: As of 31 July, there were [12,287 Ivorian refugees](#) in Liberia; a decrease of 1,030 Ivorian refugees in Liberia since June.

Repatriation of Ivorian refugees from Liberia: In June 2017, UNHCR assisted [1,520 individuals](#) to return to Côte d'Ivoire from Liberia. In total, between January and June 2017, UNHCR assisted 5,278 Ivorian refugees to return to Cote d'Ivoire from countries around the region. Since 2015, a total of [23,417 Ivorian refugees](#) have returned with support from UNHCR from Liberia.

Mali

Context: The [security situation](#) in North and Central Mali continued to [deteriorate in July](#), particularly in the regions of Mopti, Menaka and Kidal. In Kidal [renewed clashes](#) occurred between the armed groups CMA (Coordination of Azawad Movements) and GATIA (Imghad and Allies Tuareg Self-Defence Group), leading to [new displacement](#) in these areas.

In July, [Mauritania declared](#) its north-eastern border with Mali a military zone due to security risks posed by cross border trafficking, with the defence ministry warning that '... any individual circulating or transiting in this part of the national territory will be treated as a military target'.

Malian arrivals in Europe: Between January and July 2017, [5,526 Malians](#) arrived in Italy by sea via the central Mediterranean route, including 736 unaccompanied children. Overall the number of Malian arriving in Italy has increased by 10% when compared with the same period in 2016.

Transit Migration through Mali: Between June 2016 and June 2017, Guinean migrants were the majority of those [recorded by IOM](#) transiting through Mali, followed by Malians, Senegalese, Gambian, and Ivorian migrants. Migrants from these five countries represented 92% of migrant recorded by IOM during this period.

Malian Refugees in Neighbouring Countries: As of 31 July 2017, there were 55,545 [Malian refugees in Niger](#), 51,502 [in Mauritania](#) and 33,501 in [Burkina Faso](#). In Mauritania, UNHCR has registered [2,601 new arrivals](#) of Malian refugees in 2017. UNHCR reported in July that due to funding shortfalls refugees in the M'bera camp received a [reduced standard food](#) basket in June, with food assistance rations currently fluctuating between 50 and 90 % of the planned ration.

Internal Displacement: As of 3 August, there were [55,382 IDPs](#) in Mali. This represents an increase of 3,421 displaced persons (7%) since March, following a deterioration of the security situation in the Kidal region. The newly displaced include 99 persons identified by DNDS in late July displaced in the Kidal region, and 731 new IDPs in the Gao region.

The majority of IDPs are located in the regions of Timbuktu (21,032), Segou (10,505) and Menaka (8,044), and are under the age of 18 (56%).

Niger

Migrant vulnerabilities: In July, according to 4Mi sources, 30 migrants were rescued in the desert 350km from Agadez after being abandoned by their smugglers, including 6 women. [IOM reported](#) that between April and August they had rescued 1,000 migrants in the desert north of Agadez.

Transit migration: The [latest information from IOM](#) shows that the number of migrants and refugees transiting through the town of Séguédine in Northern Niger on their way to Libya has reduced significantly compared with 2016, from 67,750 in May 2016 to 3,795 in May 2017. According to IOM many migrants are now transiting around Séguédine to avoid the increased security in the town.

According to 4Mi sources, the number of controls between Agadez and Niamey for migrants is increasing. Despite this being within the ECOWAS free movement zone, migrants reported having to pay at least 10,000 XOF (18 USD) to guards in order to pass through these checkpoints.

Despite the increase in controls, [transit migration](#) to and from Algeria has remained fairly consistent between January and May 2017 when compared with the same period in 2016. The majority of those recorded by IOM transiting through the town of Arlit on their way to and from Algeria are Nigerien, followed by Malians.

Refugees in Niger: As of 31 July, there were [106,146 Nigerian refugees](#) and [55,892 refugees](#) from Mali in Niger.

In the first week of August, [149 refugees from Northern Mali](#) arrived in Niger, following violent clashes in Menaka and Kidal. According to the EU, forced displacement continues despite the unofficial closure of the border in the region, and floods affecting the area in Niger.

Forced Displacement in Diffa Region: As of 31 July, [there were 127,299 IDPs](#), 106,146 Nigerian refugees and 14,546 Nigerien returnees living in the Diffa region of Niger. In early July a number of serious attacks occurred in the region, including one against the village of N’Galewa, in which nine men were killed and 37 people kidnapped (including 24 women and 13 children). The increase in security incidents has led to [significant population movements](#), with the population of Camp Kablewa (over 16,000) fleeing, 50 households returning to Nigeria, and 1,337 households leaving for Chad during the month of July.

[According to UNHCR](#), the protection risks in the Diffa region have increased, including exploitation, SGBV, family separation and lack of humanitarian assistance. UNHCR along with the Protection Working Group and REACH published a ‘[Protection Baseline Evaluation](#)’ for the Diffa region. [The evaluation highlights](#) the insecurity in the lives of the displaced people living in the Diffa region, with the most [commonly reported](#) incidents including clashes between armed groups, thefts and robberies, as well as physical violence, coupled with a lack of access to basic services due to widespread insecurity.

Nigeria

Context: According to [ACAPS](#), a total of 573 security incidents have impacted civilians in Nigeria between 1 January and July 2017, with 12% of incidents taking place in Borno state. In July, a push by the Nigerian military in Borno state led to the liberation of an estimated 680 settlements, the surrender of over 700 BH fighters and the displacement of 19,000 individuals to IDP camps. While the Nigerian military has increasingly liberated territory from BH control, suicide bombing and attacks are persisting, particularly in Borno, with twice the number of suicide bombings recorded in Borno state during the first half of 2017 compared with the same

period in 2016.

Arrivals of Nigerians in Europe: Nigeria remains the most common country of origin of sea arrivals in Italy. However, overall arrivals to Italy in July 2017 were less than half of those recorded in July 2016, with a decline in the number of [Nigerian arrivals](#) in Italy in the first seven months of 2017 when compared with the same period in 2016, from 18,587 to 16,317. However, Nigerians still accounted for 17% of arrivals to Italy between January and July 2017. Consistent with the 2016 trend, in 2017, a comparatively large proportion of Nigerian arrivals to Italy are women, with women accounting for 30% of Nigerian arrivals and 46% of the overall number of women arriving in Italy by sea.

Refugees in Neighbouring Countries: As of 31 July, there were [206,492 Nigerian refugees](#) in countries neighbouring Nigeria, with 92,427 Nigerian refugees in Cameroon, 106,146 refugees in Niger and 7,919 in Chad.

Returns of displaced persons: In July, [155 people returned from Cameroon](#) to Banki in north-eastern Nigeria, bringing the number of returnees in this area to some 45,000. According to UNHCR, the returns to the Banki area have created a further emergency as the returnees are coming back to a situation of internal displacement.

[According to IOM](#), the number of returnees in the six north-eastern states of Nigeria has increased to 1.2 million.

Internal Displacement: According to IOM, as of 30 June, there were [1,825,321 internally displaced persons](#) in the six north-eastern states of Nigeria.

Communal clashes continue to [cause large displacements](#) in Nigeria, particularly in the North, but increasingly in the South and Middle Belt. In July, communal clashes between communities of Wanihem and Wanikade resulted in a large number of fatalities and the displacement of 5,000 people to the neighbouring state of Benue. This follows violence between the same communities in late June that displaced over 14,000 people. In Taraba state, conflict between Mambilas farmers and Mbororo herders displaced over 4,000 people to Cameroon.

IDP Vulnerability: In July, the [security situation](#) in areas of return and IDP settlements in the North-East of Nigeria remained volatile, with a number of suicide attacks against IDP camps, as well as attacks targeting humanitarian convoys. The lack of humanitarian access means that living conditions in IDP camps relying on humanitarian assistance are becoming increasingly dire, with [UNHCR reporting](#) that women and children in particular are vulnerable and are subject to abuse and exploitation in exchange for services.

Senegal

Arrivals of Senegalese in Europe: Between January and July 2017, [5,366 migrants and refugees](#) from Senegal arrived in Italy by sea via the Mediterranean route, a slight increase from the 4,998 who arrived during the same period in 2016. Arrivals during this period in 2017 also included 667 unaccompanied children.

Other Regional Information

Algeria to offer work permits to African Migrants: Algeria will [offer residency and work permits](#) to some African migrants residing in Algeria, the prime minister announced in July. The unauthorised migrant population currently residing in Algeria is estimated at 100,000 and the Algerian Government is intended to launch a migrant census and begin screening potential candidates for residency. [The announcement](#) follows anonymous

online hate campaign against migrants in June, and aims to respond to a shortage of workers in the farming and construction sectors.

Migration in the Mediterranean: In late June, [tensions around](#) the arrival of migrants and refugees in Italy by sea rose as Italy suggested that it could prohibit NGO ships with rescued migrants from docking in its ports and Italy's ambassador to the EU claimed that the situation in the country was 'unsustainable'. While threats to prevent boats from landing may [contravene international law](#) and thus be difficult in practice, the statements may, according to some observers, be designed to press other European member states for increased support. While France and Germany expressed strong solidarity with Italy, they have not offered concrete support, and Austria announced that it would consider deploying troops along the Italian border to prevent any migrants or refugees from crossing the border.

In July, [Italy also raised](#) the possibility of providing visas to migrants and refugees arriving in Italy, thus allowing them to continue to other EU member states. In addition, [Italy released a code-of-conduct](#) for non-government organisations operating in the Mediterranean Sea. While three organisations have agreed to comply with the code, five other groups, including MSF, have refused to sign, [citing concerns](#) over several of the proposals in the current form of the Code of Conduct. [In a joint statement](#), Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch claimed, 'The code of conduct may in some cases hinder rescue operations and delay disembarkations in a safe place within a reasonable amount of time'. Italy has indicated that those who refuse to sign may be denied access to Italian ports. Finally, [Italy announced](#) 34 million Euros in new funding to reduce migrant sea crossings.

[France brokered](#) talks in Paris between leaders of the two rival authorities in Libya, and announced plans to create 'hot spots' in Libya to process asylum claims directly in North Africa.

The EU Foreign Affairs Council on Libya [announced restrictions](#) on the export and supply to Libya of inflatable boats and outboard motors, in cases where there are reasonable grounds to believe that they will be used by people smugglers and human traffickers. These restrictions will not apply to the export or sales of these goods when they are meant for 'legitimate use', for instance for fishermen. The [restrictions have been criticised](#) for not offering any details on how this distinction can be enforced in Libya.

Finally, [UNHCR released an appeal](#) in July for 421.2 million to "help provide meaningful alternatives to refugees and others undertaking dangerous journeys to Europe." UNHCR is intending to implement activities in countries of asylum, origin and transit to mitigate protection issues along routes.

West African arrivals to Europe: In July, [11,461 migrants and refugees](#) arrived in Italy by way of the central Mediterranean route, less than half of those who arrived in July 2016. Between January and July however, the number of arrivals to Italy by sea has increased by 2% when compared with the same period in 2017, from 93,774 to 95,213. Between 1 January and 31 July, West African migrants and refugees made up some 52% of arrivals, with Nigerian's accounting for 17% of overall arrivals.

The [number of people](#) arriving in Spain has more than doubled during the first seven months of 2017 compared with the same period in 2016, from 5,711 to 12,164. However, arrivals to Spain still represent only 13% of arrivals to Italy during this period.

Migrant vulnerabilities: According to [Human Rights Watch](#), asylum seekers and other migrants arriving by sea to the Spanish mainland are held in poor conditions and face obstacles in applying for asylum. Human Rights Watch outlined the conditions for recently arrived migrants in Spain and called for more effective use of alternatives to detention, especially in cases when deportation within a reasonable time is not foreseeable.

In July, IOM [reiterated its statement](#) that up to 80% of Nigerian women and girls arriving in Italy by sea could be victims of sex trafficking. They also claimed that there has been a 600% increase in the number of potential victims of sex trafficking arriving in Italy by sea over the past three years. According to a [new report by IOM](#), and based upon interviews with migrants and refugees at landing sites and reception centres in Italy, sexual exploitation along the central Mediterranean route is increasingly involving younger girls, the majority of whom are from Nigeria.

Children on the Move arriving in Italy: Between January and July 2017, [12,656 unaccompanied or separated children \(UASC\)](#) arrived in Italy by sea representing 13% of sea arrivals during this period. Overall the number of UASC has decreased slightly in 2017, from 13,705 in 2016 to 12,656 in 2017. The ratio of UASC arriving in Italy is particularly high amongst Guinean (20%, 1,686), Ivorian (24%, 1,308) and Gambian (24%, 1,330) arrivals.

Migrant deaths: Between January and July 2017, [2,391 migrants and refugees](#) died or went missing in the Mediterranean Sea, including 132 in July.

In July, it was reported that the bodies of [19 people](#) were found in the Libyan Desert. The deceased were apparently traveling from Egypt by foot before they died in the desert due to dehydration.

News, Reports, Books

[OCDE/CIRES \(2017\) 'Interactions entre politiques publiques, migrations et développement en cote d'ivoire, Les voies de development.'](#) Editions OCDE Paris

According to a new report from the OECD Development Centre, Cote d'Ivoire would benefit from strengthening its current efforts to make migration part of its wider development strategy. The report, based on over four years of field work in Cote d'Ivoire, shows that remittances to Cote d'Ivoire represented only 1% of the GDP in 2015, a very low rate when compared to other countries in the region. The report calls on national authorities to create an environment in which Ivorians do not leave their country for lack of opportunities but by choice, where those who migrate can contribute to the development of their country of origin and where those who immigrate contribute to the development of their host country.

[UNHCR/Altai Consulting/IMPACT Initiatives \(2017\) 'Mixed Migration Trends in Libya: Changing Dynamics and Protection Challenges'](#)

This study tracks the evolution of mixed migration trends and routes to and within Libya and maps refugee and migrant concentrations in southern Libya, in order to determine their vulnerabilities and protection needs. Based on qualitative data collected over three months in late 2016 the report finds that despite the conflict, the number of refugees and migrants in Libya has not decreased in recent years, however, there has been a decrease in the numbers of migrants from East Africa and an increase from West Africa. The report also argues that the smuggling industry in Libya has grown increasingly professional and transnational smuggling organisations have developed, with armed groups increasingly playing a dominant role in the smuggling industry. At the same time, there is less assistance available due to deteriorating security and lack of access for humanitarian agencies.

Connor Joseph Cavangh (2017) 'Enclosure, dispossession, and the green economy: new contours of internal displacement in Liberia and Sierra Leone?' *African Geographical Review*

This article examines the potential impact of the emerging forms of 'green economy' initiatives to catalyse new forms of internal displacement in West Africa, with a specific emphasis on Liberia and Sierra Leone. The article discusses how land acquisitions for both conservation and commercial agriculture could constitute an important additional driver of internal displacement, threatening to map onto the unresolved legacies of previous instances of forced migration in both Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Naohiko Omata (2017) 'Who takes advantage of mobility? Exploring the nexus between refugees' movement, livelihoods and socioeconomic status in West Africa' *African Geographical Review*

This article explores the nexus between mobility, livelihoods and socioeconomic status of refugees in Ghana. The article examines the importance of freedom of movement for livelihood opportunities and shows that due to differing degrees of access to mobility based upon socioeconomic status, with the majority of poorer refugees not having the means to engage in mobility but rather subsisting within the settlements, there is a risk of over-emphasising mobility as a panacea for the economic plights of refugees.

The Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat (RMMS) West Africa is an independent unit hosted by the Danish Refugee Council which aims to enhance the protection of people on the move in mixed migration flows in West Africa, including refugees, asylum seekers and migrants. RMMS West Africa distributes this summary to agencies, academic institutions, donors, embassies, journalists, government officials, international and multinational organisations and related non-government organisations. Data is sourced from a wide variety of collaborators, partners, international and local organisations, media outlets and individuals in the region. RMMS West Africa makes independent editorial decisions as to what sections and what data is included in this summary.

If you would like more information about RMMS West Africa please visit our website at www.westafrica.regionalmms.org

*The term migrant/refugee is used to cover all those involved in 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.