



Data collected by 4Mi in December and January¹ indicates that the **flow of migrants and refugees** using **the Niger route** to Libya, and in particular, the route passing by Agadez, has strongly decreased and almost stopped since the end of November 2017. Algerian and Chadian routes, with the Algerian route being preferred, are now reported to be **the most active routes** and have seen an increase in the mixed migration flow.

Chadian route: Nigerians and other west Africans, such as Togolese, report traveling through Maiduguri in Nigeria to N'Djamena and on to Faya-Largeau and Tibesti in Chad. From there they cross over the Libyan border towards Murzuq.

Malian/Algerian route: Nigerians report crossing the Benin border and traveling through Kidal in Mali, Tamanrasset, and Debdeb in Algeria before entering Libya.

¹ 231 interviews with migrants in Libya and 35 interviews with key informants in Libya, Mali and Niger.

Possible explanations for this shift in the migration route pattern from West Africa to Libya could be linked to the **increase in the costs of travels** through Niger due to the increased patrols and the deployment of security forces at the northern border of Niger (Seguedine) and the northern border of Nigeria. In addition, the active work of the Niger security forces to dismantle smuggling networks in Agadez have pushed smugglers to identify new roads in Niger.

4MI is looking at collecting more information on this situation with increased monitoring in the next weeks to evaluate the temporality of the trend.