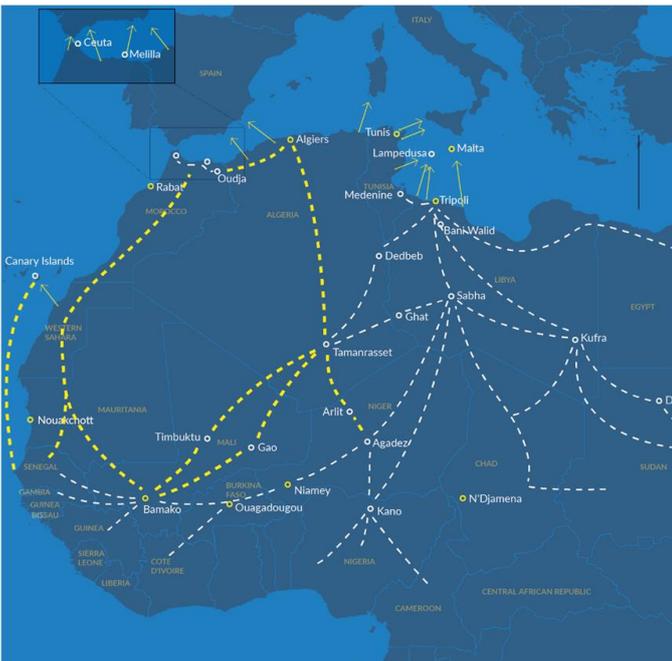


This update covers the period **July-September 2019** and provides an overview of regional and country trends as well as of programming and advocacy work undertaken by UNHCR Operations in the field of Mixed Movements. It includes contributions from: RRWA; Burkina Faso; Chad; Mali; Niger and Nigeria.



## Introduction

The crisis in the Sahel region reached unprecedented levels and continues to compound the magnitude of forced displacement, which impact mixed movement trends in West and Central Africa. The worsening security situation in Mali, intense fighting in Niger, violence and attacks on civilians in Burkina Faso, the precarious situation in Cameroon's Far North and the deteriorating and volatile security situation in North East Nigeria caused large scale forced displacement within and beyond borders and jeopardized safe return.

Documenting the scale and nature of risks and abuses along travel routes in West and Central Africa is challenging. For many, the crossing of the Mediterranean is just a final step of a much longer and often very dangerous journey that has included passing through areas of armed conflict, crossing deserts, and for some, being held for ransom and tortured, or trafficked for sexual or labour exploitation. Evidence

suggests that refugees on the move across West and North Africa are at risk of death, extreme physical abuse, sexual and gender-based violence, kidnapping, robberies and detention. Refugee protection in the context of mixed movements is part of UNHCR's core mandate and should be mainstreamed into the regular activities of the operation.

## Part I: Highlights / Important events

### MALI:

- On 11-12 September, the Government of Mali and UNHCR hosted a **Regional Dialogue on Protection and Solutions in the context of forced displacements in the Sahel region**. The Dialogue gathered Government officials, donors, humanitarian and development partners, diverse civil society actors, refugees, returnees and IDPs from Burkina Faso, Chad, Mauritania and Niger to discuss humanitarian access, access to asylum and mixed movements, civil status documents, solutions and prevention of violent extremism affecting some 1.3m people forced to flee in the region. The UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser for the Prevention of Genocide, Adama Dieng, and the Special Envoy for the Central Mediterranean Situation, Vincent Cochetel, also attended the Dialogue. Conclusions of the Dialogue include the need to establish or reinforce identification procedures of persons in



*Regional Dialogue on Protection and Solutions in the context of forced-displacements in the Sahel region. Bamako, Mali. UNHCR/Y. Kim*

need of international protection at border points, in urban areas, and on main roads used including in the context of mixed movements. A Ministerial Declaration is expected to be adopted in October 2019 during the Executive Committee of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (ExCom) Programme in Geneva to endorse the Bamako conclusions at the ministerial level by the 5 participating States and confirming the political will of governments to implement the respective recommendations.

**NIGER:**

- A joint African Union-Government of Rwanda-UNHCR mission took place on 10-13 July 2019 in Niamey in preparation for the signature of the MoU on 10 September establishing an ETM allowing for the evacuation of refugees and asylum-seekers out of Libya and to safety in Rwanda on a voluntary basis. The main aim of the mission was to learn from the Niger experience through discussions with the Government of Niger, UNHCR and its partners, as well as diplomatic representations of resettlement countries, and a field visit to the ETM transit centre in Hamdallaye.

**Part II: Short Overview****BURKINA FASO:**

Two deadly attacks targeting the Defense and Security Forces (FDS) in the Soum province / Sahel region of Burkina Faso have placed security at the heart of national debate. On 15 August, near Mentao refugee camp, an attack targeting police officers of the camp killed 3 of the 8 policemen on patrol. The second attack against soldiers in Koutougou was reportedly the deadliest against the Burkinabe army so far. The attack near Mentao camp may contribute to tarnishing the image of the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum, as there is a risk of perception that refugees are involved in these attacks and hiding within refugee camps/settlements, therefore reducing safe asylum space in Burkina Faso. The reigning insecurity has resulted in massive displacement of populations, the scale of which is growing particularly in the Sahel and the Centre Nord regions. As of 31 August 2019, the Government reported 288,994 internally displaced persons.

**CHAD:**

Following inter-community violence between herders and farmers, Chad declared a state of emergency on 20 August 2019 for three weeks in three provinces: Ouaddai and Sila, in the western part of Chad, where approximately 200,000 Sudanese refugees are settled; and Tibesti, in the northern part of Chad, where goldmines are located. This comes after a nine-month military standoff between the Chadian army and the self-proclaimed "Self Defence Committee" of Miski town over the control of local gold resources. In March 2019, Chad closed its border with Libya and established an internal mobile force to secure the border. The instable security situation in the Tibesti province and the recurrent flash floods (in the rivers called wadis) due to the rainy season make movements difficult and dangerous across Chad. The state of emergency in the three provinces also restricts movements, including for refugees.

According to key informants in the northern part of Chad, the number of people trying to move up north is increasing despite measures declaring goldmining illegal and restricting movements in the Tibesti province. Humanitarian workers do not have access to the area due to security constraints (IOM is present in Faya, in the Borkou province, south of Tibesti). As the Chadian asylum agency, *Commission Nationale d'Appui pour le Répatriement et la Réinsertion des Réfugiés* (CNARR), is not present in Faya, and in the absence of a standard-compliant transit center, the Chadian Red Cross Society provides temporary accommodation and food assistance to refugees pending transfer back to their respective camps. Assistance is limited by restricted funding and capacities. The Chadian Red Cross is working with informants as part of its monitoring of mixed movements. According to these key informants, thousands of people are sitting under trees in Micheou, in the Miski area, but also in Kouribougoudi, Zouarké and Wour, reportedly waiting to resume goldmining, declared illegal by authorities.

## MALI:

The political context in Mali was marked by the enactment on 24 July of the “Law of National Understanding” (No. 2019/042) in the framework of implementation of the 2015 Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation. This law aims at enforcing the policy of the restoration of peace and national reconciliation, the bedrock of stability and development in Mali.

During the period under review, the security situation in Mali remained unstable, characterized by attacks, community violence, vehicle abductions and explosions caused by Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), criminality, threats and social tension leading to casualties and forced displacement, including of women and children.

On 24 July, Mali enacted a law (No 2019/047) creating an Information and Management Centre of Migrations (*Centre d'Information et de Gestion des Migrations* - CIGEM). The centre acts as the national migration observatory and covers forced displacement. It will conduct studies and research in the field of migration, analyse the impact of legislative and regulatory measures on migration, contribute to the development and / or revision of policies, strategies and programs on migration management in Mali, and to the development of a comprehensive framework for dialogue on migratory issues and local development. It also seeks to update the migration database and strengthen the capacity of relevant actors, while promoting partnerships and productive investment by the Malian diaspora.

## NIGER:

In **Agadez**, 1,593 individuals (1,233 households) were registered as asylum-seekers by the authorities (DREC-M-R) with UNHCR support as of 31 August 2019. UNHCR supports the collection of data on persons moving within mixed flows, and the identification and referencing of those who may fall within the mandate of UNHCR. In view of strengthening protection-sensitive entry mechanisms, UNHCR contributed to the design of a border police training module on international protection with border police capacity building planned for next month, and led a protection needs assessment mission on the Agadez-Arlit-Assamaka-Zero-roundabout axis. The identification of PoCs in mixed flows remains the main challenge.

**Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM):** As of end of August 2019, the total number of individuals evacuated out of Libya to Niger stands at 2,913. Out of this number, 1,760 have departed for resettlement while 1,174 remain in Niger, including 192 unaccompanied and separated children.

## NIGERIA:

The **Telling the Real Story (TRS)** project aired its last radio show episode in Nigeria with a discussion on the dangers of irregular movements and human trafficking. TRS is a UNHCR sensitization campaign reaching out to Somalis, Eritreans, Sudanese and Nigerian women and men in countries of asylum, transit and origin, and centres on community testimonies. Since going live in February 2016 in Ethiopia and Sudan, TRS testimonials have totalled over 24 million visualizations and 5 million comments. UNHCR participated in marking the World Day against Trafficking in Persons on 30 July with a UNHCR Nigeria Goodwill Ambassador joining a school debate event in Benin City, Edo State, followed by awareness raising sessions in six schools in northern Edo State.

## Part III: Activities carried out during the aforementioned period

### Regional Bureau for West and Central Africa (BWCA):

**THE GAMBIA:** During the month of August, UNHCR and The Gambia Red Cross Society (GRCS) conducted a second joint monitoring mission to assess and



UNHCR and the Gambia Red Cross Society meeting with focal points and volunteers during the monitoring mission. UNHCR/Y.Kim

support the ongoing mixed movement monitoring activities and the identification, information and referral of persons of concern to UNHCR within the mixed flows in The Gambia. Over 560 people traveling within mixed flows were interviewed between February and July 2019 and referred to adequate protection services among the 40 protection actors identified along the mixed movement routes. UNHCR is looking to provide further guidance to better address the most urgent needs.

**SENEGAL:** In August, UNHCR's former Regional Representative for West Africa, Liz Ahua, participated in the inauguration of the "**Good Neighbor Cultural Box**" in Touba Trankil, near the southern border with The Gambia. Similar to the "Cultural Boxes" near the Mauritanian border, the project seeks to create physical spaces for cross-border populations to meet in order to participate through continued dialogue in finding solutions to concerns affecting the local communities.

#### Regional level:

UNHCR and IFRC launched in August a joint research on access to essential services in 10 ECOWAS countries. The research analyses the regional and domestic legal and policy frameworks and contingent rights related to persons on the move in Burkina Faso, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Sierra Leone, and seeks to identify the most significant implementation gaps and practical barriers with regards to access to services through field research.

RBWCA conducted a learning needs assessment to identify knowledge and training gaps in terms of asylum & migration nexus related activities and tools. The needs assessment served to develop a joint UNHCR-IFRC training programme to support efficient collaboration between UNHCR and National Red Cross Societies for the protection of persons under UNHCR's mandate moving in mixed flows in the West and Central Africa region.

- RBWCA engaged with relevant UN agencies such as IOM, UNICEF and OHCHR, and INGOs at the regional level seeking synergies in promoting the interlinkage of human trafficking with international protection.
- The Asylum & Migration Unit of UNHCR Dakar took part in the Mixed Migration Seminar on **Exploitative labour practices and human trafficking in West Africa** organised by IOM. The team also gave a presentation on Mixed Movements in a regional workshop organized by the Italian Cooperation and Development Agency in Dakar which seeks to develop operational guidance for the agency's engagement in migration nexus.

#### BURKINA FASO:

##### New partnerships:

UNHCR gathered 47 representatives of international road transport companies, the majority of whom are affiliated to the National Federation of Road Carriers of Burkina Faso, to strengthen the sharing of information on the protection of persons of concern in mixed flows and to agree on the use of the platform of these transporters for the dissemination of messages to people on the move. IOM and civil society also participated in this meeting. A Letter of Agreement has been proposed to transport carriers to formalize a partnership for the dissemination of advertising spots and flyers to raise awareness on asylum and migration issues, as well as on the dangers of irregular migration. The leaders of the road transport companies have indicated their willingness to support UNHCR and its partners in this activity.

##### Monitoring, identification and profiling:

- Three border visits were conducted to the borders with Cote d'Ivoire, Mali and Niger. The visit to the Cote d'Ivoire border focused on the secondary movements of Malian refugees, while those on the borders with Mali and Niger discussed the improvement of the asylum system in Burkina Faso with security authorities and their contribution to the identification and referencing of persons under UNHCR mandate.
- In the Sahel region, 82 people (including 72 men and 10 women) were profiled at the Dori and Seytenga border points (Niger border). Most were from West Africa (Mali, Senegal, Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, Cote d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Niger, Togo, Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia) and two from Central Africa (Cameroon and Congo).
- In the Cascades region, 257 people were identified by community relays and profiled as being on the move (111 men, 79 women, 49 boys and 35 girls). Among them, 166 were internally displaced from Tongomayel and Arbinda in the province of Soum where armed attacks against civilian populations have been regularly recorded.

- In the Hauts-Bassins region, 179 people from Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Senegal were identified in the Bobo-Dioulasso, Faramana, Koloko and Orodara listening points.

**Information and sensitization on Mixed Movements:**

- Altogether 17 outreach activities and two educational talks on "Advantages and Disadvantages of Migration" and "Regular and Irregular Migration" were carried out in Dori's various bus stations. These activities reached 2,339 people (526 men, 346 women and 1467 children).
- In the Cascades region, another educational talk was held for internally displaced people from Arbinda by members of the TON Association. It reached 58 people consisting of 14 women, 9 men, 22 boys and 13 girls.
- In the region of Hauts-Bassins, 5 educational talks on the dangers of mobility, the risks of irregular migration, violence against children and early marriage were conducted in 4 listening points. These talks were attended by 223 people (29 men, 31 women and 163 children).

**Advocacy and capacity building:**

- Capacity building of members of community networks on protection issues for refugees, asylum-seekers, stateless persons and internally displaced persons who find themselves in mixed flows, took place in Bobo-Dioulasso and Banfora. A total of 116 people including 38 women and 78 men took part in these two sessions.
- The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and UNHCR trained the Sahel community network made up of 50 resource persons, including 20 in Dori and 30 in Seytenga, on the protection of PoCs and vulnerable children in situation of forced migration on 20-21 August. In addition, issues such as the identification of existing community protection mechanisms, the elaboration of the protection action plan and the referencing of vulnerable migrants to appropriate care structures were discussed.
- UNHCR undertook capacity building for DRC staff (social actors, community relays) involved in the implementation of the Asylum & Migration project (community relays, 4MI monitor, IOM members, social actors, transit centre managers, manager of the AMIRA Centre for Burkinabe Red Cross) on international protection and on the identification, care and referencing of persons under UNHCR mandate. The HCR-CONAREF-IOM Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) as well as the UNHCR Code of Conduct were shared with the participants.

**CHAD:****Mixed movement monitoring**

A total of 100 relays are monitoring strategic points of entry and exit across Chad to interview people on the move to understand the complexity of the movements, and identify and assist people in need of international protection. During the first six months of 2019, UNHCR's partner monitoring teams interviewed 9,087 people on the move. The "typical profile" of the interviewee is a young man (82%) Chadian (52%) going to Libya (47%) for economic reasons (65%). About 16% of those surveyed are refugees or seek asylum in Chad.

**Raising awareness on the risks of irregular movements**

UNHCR's partner, the Chadian Red Cross Society, produced a film informing on the risks of irregular movements to broadcast it in buses equipped with screens. An average of 444 people use these six buses daily, meaning that an estimated 50,000 people have seen the clip over the last four months.

A program on "Risks of Irregular Movements", broadcasted on the antennas of 7 FM community radio stations and on national radio, reached an estimated 250,000 listeners in 10 districts of N'Djamena, where an estimated 2,000,000 people live. During the broadcast, an urban refugee from the Central African Republic testified about her son's return to Chad after embarking on a risky trip to Libya.

**Education / Scholarships**

As of August 2019, 403 young people, including 145 women, received scholarships to attend university in N'Djamena. Chadians represent 11% of fellows receiving scholarships. Overall, only one third of refugee high school graduates in the past five years received support to continue their studies, and need for additional scholarships remains high. Pursuing education opportunities has been cited as one reason in West Africa for engaging in mixed movements.

**MALI:**

**Workshops:** On 23 August, in the perspective of providing immediate protection and assistance to the most vulnerable people on the move along Bamako-Gao route and to national borders, DRC-led workshop validated the referencing circuit in Bamako. The project is part of a regional program targeting Libya, Mali and Niger.

On 25-26 September, a pilot training was conducted by IOM on protection and assistance to vulnerable migrants as well as their identification, following the implementation of a new manual. It gathered case manager from many organisations and from the administration for practical exercises. The training will also take place in other countries of the region.

Three capacity building sessions for 45 border monitors from the *Comité International pour l'Aide d'Urgence et le Développement* (CIAUD) were organized in Gao, Mopti and Timbuktu to familiarize the monitors with the various tools for collecting information, report incidents, and refer persons. Topics related to mixed border movements, UNHCR's mandate, protection monitoring, SGBVVB, child protection, human rights, MARA (Monitoring Analysis and Reporting Arrangements) and MRM (Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism).

**Monitoring:** In July, August and September, the protection monitoring of persons in mixed movements and the border monitoring in Bamako, Mopti, Tombouctou and Gao identified 4,508 persons in mixed movements (3,402 in outflows and 1,103 inflows).<sup>1</sup> Up to 192 unaccompanied or separated children were identified and registered.<sup>2</sup>

**Sensitization:** In total, 56 sensitization sessions (22 in Mopti, 8 in Gao and 26 in Timbuktu) were conducted in July, August and September with some 640 persons in mixed movements (inflows and outflows), including 534 men and 96 women (Mopti: 206, Timbuktu: 364, Gao 70). The sessions discussed the consequences of irregular mixed movements and statelessness, the causes, risks and consequences of irregular mixed flows, and the consequences of sexual violence linked to irregular mixed movements. In the framework of the partnership with the Ministry of Malians living Abroad (MME), UNHCR also participated in two sensitization sessions organized on 12 July (Koutiala) and on 25 July (Bamako) for information on the risks and dangers of irregular migration and on the opportunities for youth integration in Mali, especially through alternatives to migration proposed by the Malian State and its partners in terms of reintegration of young people. Participation in these sessions enabled UNHCR to avoid duplication in activities and to improve sensitization messages on asylum possibilities in Mali.

**Livelihood:** The alternative solutions to irregular mixed movements (self-reliance and livelihood activities) targeting persons of concern and host communities who are at risk of engaging in irregular mixed flows continue to be implemented in Segou, Mopti, Gao and Timbuktu. Fifty new beneficiaries were identified in Mopti (38) and Ségou (12). In addition, former beneficiaries continue to be monitored. In Timbuktu region, the Souba-Nafa associations (Commune of Niafounke) as well as Benkadi, Gomni Kondey and the Gena breeders (Commune of Timbuktu) have been monitored in order to assess the evolution of their activities in small scale commerce and livestock breeding. The monitoring showed a slight increase for associations engaged in small scale commerce and identified some difficulties related to the scarcity of customers. Recommendations include diversification of activities. In Gao, 3 new groups/associations composed of 61 persons (38 men and 23 women) were identified to be supported.

**Key trends:** Voluntary returns have increased in 2019 with a total of 2,398 persons having returned anticipating arrests, detentions, deportations to the border, human rights violations, and destruction of property as well as physical violence in their places of residence/destination. Others choose to continue their journey by changing mixed migration routes.

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<sup>1</sup> From Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Comoros, Congo, Ivory Coast, Cameroon, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, The Gambia, Ghana, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Chad and Togo, as well as Sri Lanka and Bangladesh

<sup>2</sup> From Benin, Cameroon, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal and Sierra Leone

**NIGER:****Agadez:**

- Four (04) official convoys<sup>3</sup>, and four (04) unofficial convoys<sup>4</sup> to Assamaka were recorded in July-August 2019 carrying a total of 5,048 persons, including 2,141 Nigeriens.

**Protection monitoring at the humanitarian centre and shelters:**

- The monitoring of protection cases continued at the shelters, as well as the Humanitarian Centre. This mainly concerned persons suffering from chronic illnesses, protection interviews, as well as two cases of underage victims of SGBV, including an incident involving an 11-year-old girl at the Humanitarian Centre and another 15-year-old girl in the country of transit, prior to her arrival.
- As part of a follow-up on the implementation of the POMM (Observation Post Project on Mixed Migration Project) by the Agadez Regional Council, with financial support from UNHCR and *Action pour le bien-être* (APBE) a mission was organized 6-8 August to supervise activities and visit the Agadez-Arlit-Assamaka axis, on the border with Algeria. This visit was conducted with a view to capture mixed movement dynamics, as well as assess protection needs for persons of concern under UNHCR's mandate caught up in mixed flows.
- The mission exchanged views with local authorities in Arlit, and visited Assamaka, where it discussed the situation of persons under UNHCR's mandate and migrants expelled from Algeria more generally with the local community, in the presence of various humanitarian actors (IOM and MSF) as well as security and defence officials.
- The mission visited Point Zero at the Nigerian-Algerian border, 18km from Assamaka, where deportees are abandoned into the desert without any reception arrangements in place, creating very acute humanitarian needs.
- Recommendations were made regarding compliance with the principle of non-refoulement on the Assamaka and Dirkou axis, early identification of asylum-seekers as well as refugees in onward movement within mixed flows, with a view to ensure that the rights of such persons are safeguarded, and to facilitate speedy access to asylum procedures and international protection.

**Durable Solutions:**

- As part of the search for durable solutions, a selection process was undertaken for around 200 persons of concern proposed for the humanitarian flight (managed by the Italian MOI) and humanitarian corridor (managed by Caritas). UNHCR organized social panels with partners for the identification of potential cases as well as elaboration of related documents.

**Mixed Movement Project:**

- During the month of July, the project to monitor flows at the borders identified 62 people with the intention to seek asylum in Niger, 39 refugees in secondary movement and 53 people at risk of statelessness. A referral mechanism for persons at risk of statelessness identified in mixed flows between CIAUD Canada and international partner ICHAD has been put in place.
- From 15-16 July, UNHCR, its partner CIAUD Canada and the Police Supervision Branch held a workshop to design training modules on international protection in the context of migration for border police stations in Niger. This activity is part of strengthening border police capacity in order to facilitate the identification of persons who may fall within the mandate of UNHCR in mixed movements. The modules developed revolve around international protection and the mandate of UNHCR, mixed movements, statelessness, protection, and community outreach.
- From 06 to 09 August, UNHCR and the Agadez Regional Council organized a joint mission to supervise the activities of the Observation Post Project on Mixed Migration (POMM) and assess protection needs on the Arlit-Assamaka-Point zero Algerian border. The assessment shows that many people who fall under the mandate of UNHCR continue to be expelled from Algeria having to walk 10 km to reach the police station in

<sup>3</sup> On 27 July, 02 August, 07 August, and 23 August 2019

<sup>4</sup> On 31 July, 07 August, 21 August, and 28 August 2019

Assamaka. These expelled persons are often victims of numerous human rights violations. It is therefore essential to provide a local response through the establishment of reception infrastructure, the provision of protection services and sensitization on the offer of asylum in Niger. It is noteworthy that Syrians, Yemenis and Bangladeshis figure among those expelled.

#### Emergency Transit Mechanism:

- Altogether 230 individuals are pending departure to resettlement countries.
- The most vulnerable refugees remain in guesthouses in the capital city where construction and development of the transit facility is ongoing. The site is already operational, while the construction of permanent facilities continues.<sup>5</sup>
- UNHCR and its partners continued monitoring activities including those in order to identify and assist the SGBV survivors and individuals with specific needs. Medical and psychological counselling was also offered.
- A series of capacity building activities including training sessions were organized in camp management and coordination targeting the Niger authorities, UNHCR partners and refugee community leaders.
- On 22-25 July 2019, the US Regional Refugee Coordinator based in Kampala, Uganda, visited Niger and met with refugee youth attending a small ESL class. One of the outcomes of his mission in Niger was the possibility to expand and improve the quality services offered to the UASC evacuated from Libya to Niger.
- Resettlement country missions also took place in Niamey, including a RSC Africa pre-screening mission for 30 unaccompanied minors (22 July-10 August) and a Canada selection mission for 130 people (26-31 August 2019).

**NIGERIA:** The UNHCR Telling the Real Story (TRS) radio show concluded its 13<sup>th</sup> edition with the topic "Alternative Pathways to Migration and Durable Solutions", reaching an overall estimated 2,800,000 – 4,200,000 people. The TRS radio show raised awareness on the dangers of irregular movements and human trafficking among the Edo community. It served as a reference point for some survivors and family members of survivors who needed to reach the authorities and relevant NGOs. TRS testimonies were screened for an audience of approximately 200 persons at the University of Benin central mosque, with the support of the Chairman of the Edo State Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs. Other screenings and debates were organised in six schools in the Edo North Senatorial District reaching approximately 2,300 students, an area with little access to anti-trafficking organisations.



13th Radio Discussion Session; topic - "Alternative pathways to migration and durable solutions". Mrs. Florence Owie, State Comptroller, Migrant Resource Centre (MRC), Federal Ministry of Labor and Employment; and Unyime Johnson, UNHCR Associate Project Officer, Benin City. UNHCR.

## Part IV: Way Forward / Forthcoming Activities

#### REGIONAL LEVEL:

- A Ministerial Declaration on the Sahel Protection Dialogue will be adopted in October 2019 during ExCom in Geneva to endorse the Bamako conclusions at the ministerial level by the 5 participating States and confirming the political will of governments to implement the respective recommendations.
- RBWCA is seeking to support the implementation of the 2019 IOM-UNHCR Framework Document on the development of standard operating procedures between the two organisations to facilitate the identification and protection of survivors of trafficking in the field, including by disseminating existing tools. The Bureau will also hone and share standard learning material to be included in internal and external capacity-building

<sup>5</sup> The site includes office space, interview rooms and sports facilities, as well as a water drainage system to avoid flooding during rainy season.

initiatives. A short assessment of current UNHCR activities implemented in the region with regard to the protection of survivors of human trafficking will finally be conducted and shared.

**BURKINA FASO:**

- Signing of a Letter of Understanding between UNHCR and the National Federation of Road Carriers of Burkina Faso.
- Organization of the statutory consultation framework of the Working Group on Migration at the UNHCR office in Ouagadougou.
- Organization of a working session with the *Centre d'Information et de Formation en matière de Droits Humains en Afrique* (CIFDHA) on the creation of a legal clinic in the urban centre of Ouagadougou.
- Support to the strengthening of the asylum system in Burkina Faso through raising awareness of the administrative and security authorities of Dori and Seytenga on asylum and migration issues.
- Further awareness-raising activities and activities aimed at preventing irregular migration through the broadcasting of radio spots.

**MALI:**

- Awareness raising activities on the risks related to irregular migration in collaboration with the Ministry of Malians living abroad.
- Improve identification and assistance to associative groups, as well as people with specific needs and individual beneficiaries in income generating activities in Mopti and Gao.

**NIGER:****Agadez****Operational Priorities:**

- Ongoing preparations of the case files proposed for the humanitarian flight and humanitarian corridor.
- Programming very vulnerable cases (UAMs, special needs cases, extreme protection cases, single women) for accelerated RSD for the cases proposed for durable solutions.
- Operationalization of the new food distribution system at the humanitarian centre;
- Provision of emergency psycho-social support.
- Follow-up on cases in detention;
- Monitoring at the reception sites.

**Challenges:**

- Food management of special needs cases, and especially children who are at risk of malnutrition.
- Operationalization of the police station of the Humanitarian Centre of Agadez.
- Lack of interview rooms at the offices of the DRECM-R/CNE for interviews and technical evaluations by the local eligibility officers.
- Insufficient infrastructure at the Humanitarian Centre in Agadez such as lighting, interview space, latrines and showers, as well as community spaces according standards.
- Supply of potable drinking water at the Humanitarian Centre of Agadez.

**Mixed Migration Project:**

As part of CIAUD-Canada's project to monitor border migration flows, the design of booklets and awareness panels on international protection in the context of mixed movements is envisaged. The challenge remains the identification of persons of concern found in mixed flows due to the circumvention of official channels by people on the move. Monitoring must therefore be extended to all border villages.

**ETM:** Another evacuation flight out of Libya to Italy with 98 people on board took place on 12 September 2019. Over September-October 2019, it is expected that Finland, Luxemburg and France will undertake resettlement selection missions to Niamey. As the pace of departures has significantly increased over the past two months (more than 300

pax), this trend is likely to continue thanks to these selection missions and thereby freeing up space to allow for more evacuation flights out of Libya to Niger.

## Part V: Knowledge and Sharing

### RBWCA

- **Guidance on Responding to Irregular Onward Movement of Refugees and Asylum-Seekers – September 2019:** <https://www.refworld.org/docid/5d8a255d4.html>
- **Mixed Migration Centre: A new normal: Evacuations from Libya to Niger and Rwanda** <http://www.mixedmigration.org/articles/a-new-normal-evacuations-from-libya-to-niger-and-rwanda/>
- **Mixed Migration Centre: Everyone’s prey: Kidnapping and extortionate detention in mixed migration** [http://www.mixedmigration.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/068\\_everyones\\_prej.pdf](http://www.mixedmigration.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/068_everyones_prej.pdf)
- **Press release – Regional Dialogue on Protection and Solutions in the context of forced-displacements in the Sahel region** <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/71302>
- **Conclusions de Bamako - Dialogue régional de protection et de solutions dans le cadre des déplacements forcés au Sahel -** <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/71598>
- **Joint Statement: Government of Rwanda, UNHCR and African Union agree to evacuate refugees out of Libya -** [https://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2019/9/5d5d1c9a4/joint-statement-government-rwanda-unhcr-african-union-agree-evacuate-refugees.html?utm\\_source=&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=here&utm\\_campaign=](https://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2019/9/5d5d1c9a4/joint-statement-government-rwanda-unhcr-african-union-agree-evacuate-refugees.html?utm_source=&utm_medium=email&utm_content=here&utm_campaign=)

### Nigeria

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