

Migration Profile

MALI

1. Structural Migration Profile
2. Flash Migration Profile (August - October 2016)

The European Commission's Knowledge Centre on Migration and Demography (KCMD)

<https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/migration-and-demography>



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Title *Migration Profile MALI. Structural Migration Profile and Flash Migration Profile (August – October 2016)*

Abstract

This publication reproduces the first test on the production of Migration Profile. It includes an example for Mali for the Structural Migration Profile (2015) and the Flash Migration Profile for the period August – October 2016.

Contents

1. Structural Migration Profile – 2015 - [Historical baseline]

- **What?** Fundamental information on the country's structural characteristics, with a yearly and historical perspective and with a map of critical areas linked with the international framework (SDGs)
- **Why?** "Must-Know" information for the compact plus relevant derived data (including on aid, strategic relevance for the EU) available in a single, easy to interpret infographic. A strategic overview reproducible as a common framework for any country that will ensure consistency and comparability across countries
- **Where?** **Structural Migration Profile Infographic**_____ p.1
Background table with key indicators for Mali_____ Annex

2. Flash Migration Profile – August/October 2016 – [Quarterly monitoring]

- **What?** Updated information on the latest developments in the country and of crucial importance for migration and development, summarized in few pages and with the support of visualization products (maps, timelines...). It provides detailed information also at sub-national level as well as take-away messages
- **Why?** To fill the knowledge gap on targeted information in the short-term, allowing to follow up on critical situations, progresses in international relation and migration movements. It provides tailored and swift information and analysis useful for the development and monitoring of compacts
- **Where?** Cube - Executive Summary_____ p.5
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Flash Migration Profile Analysis
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MALI



Chief of State
Ibrahim Boubacar KEITA

Capital
Bamako

HDI
179th / 188 - Low

Head of Government
Modibo KEITA

Region
Sub-Saharan Africa

Income level group
Low

Ministre de la Solidarité et de l'Action humanitaire
Hamadou Konaté

Neighbouring countries
Algeria, Niger, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Senegal, and Mauritania.

Religions
Muslim 94.8%, Christian 2.4%, Animist 2%, Others

Ministre des Affaires étrangères, de la Coopération internationale et de l'Intégration africaine
Abdoulaye Diop

Density
14.4 / Km2 (with desertic area)

Languages
French (official), Bambara 46.3%, +12 national languages

Ministre des Maliens de l'extérieur
Abdourhamane Sylla

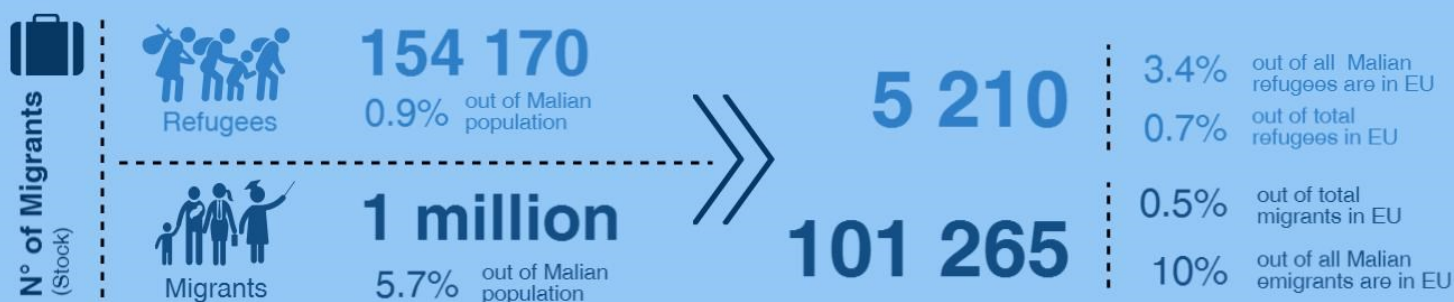
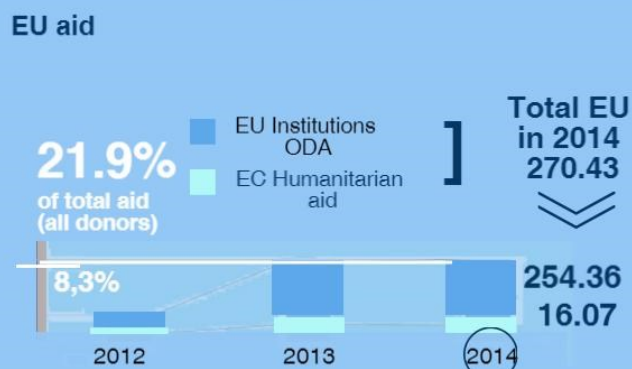
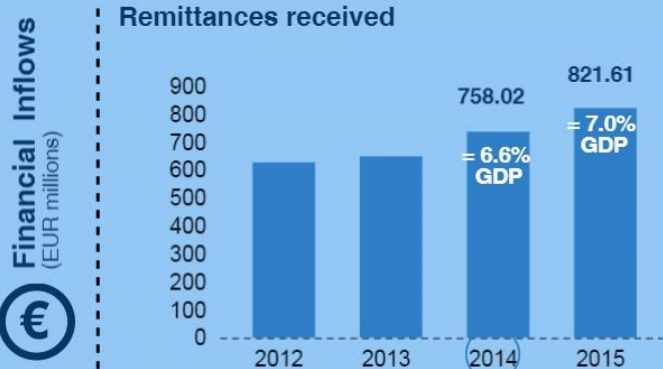
Rural Population
39.9%

Ethnic groups
Bambara 34.1%, Fulani (Peul) 14.7%, Sarakole 10.8%, Senufo 10.5%, Dogon 8.9%, Malinke 8.7%, others



MIGRATION OUTLINE

1. Strategic relevance of migration for Mali and for the EU



2. Demography

Total Population
17.6 million

2015

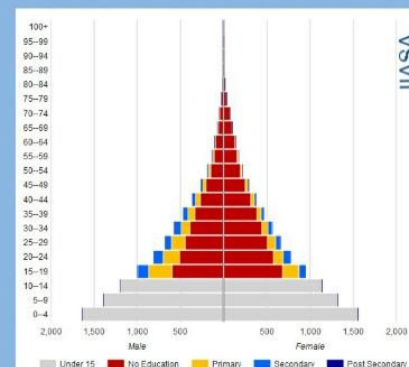
- 49.5% of Female
- Population growth at 3%
- Median age: 16.2 years
- 6.3 children per woman
- Child dependency ratio: 95.14

2050

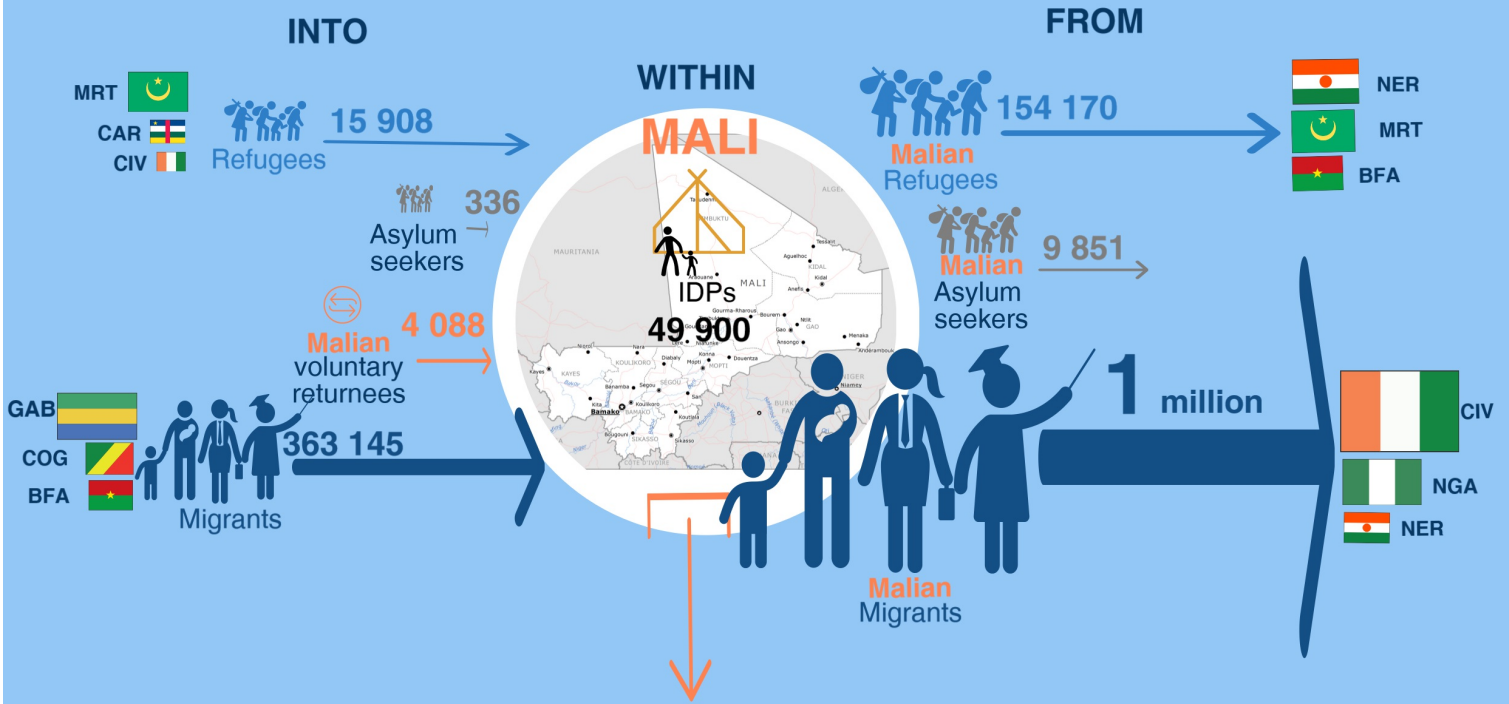
- Total population: 45.4 mill
- Population growth at 2.3%
- Median age: 21.4 years

2015 -3.7 Net migration rate (per 1000)

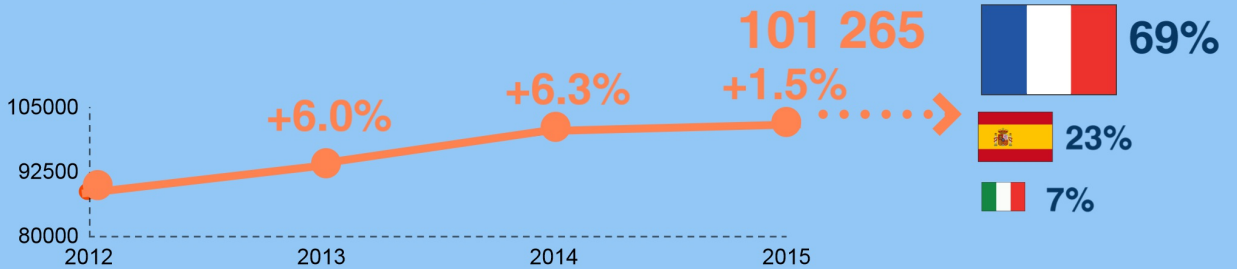
2050 -0.9 Net migration rate (per 1000)



3. Migration Outline the view from Mali



the view from the EU

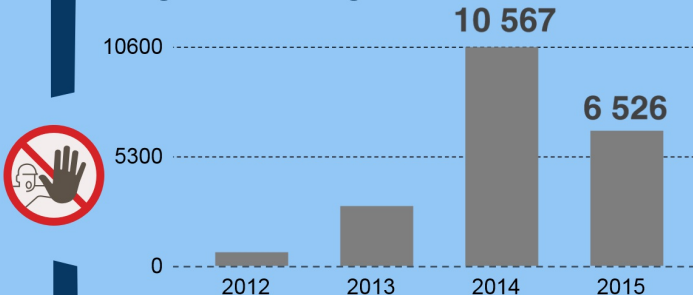


In 2015 Reasons

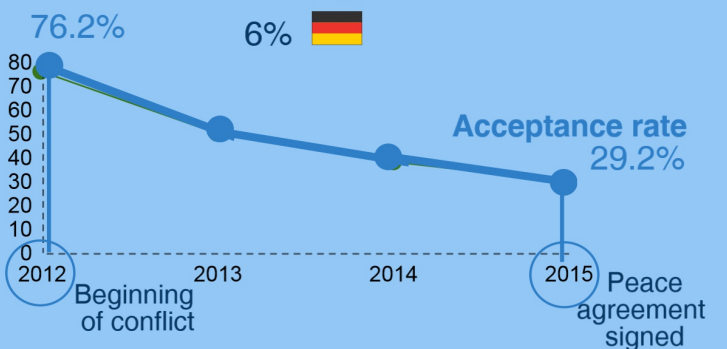


Category	Family reunification	Education	Remunerated activities	Refugee-like protection	Others
Residence Permits (3months +)	32 663	1 939	10 459	5 215	50 989
1st Residence Permits	2 104	686	1 273	/	2 078

Irregular crossings



Year	Return rate
2012	10.3%
2013	14.3%
2014	11.0%
2015	11.4%



Areas

Indicators

EU Funds

Political



Security

- T // Yearly conflict events = 182
- C Political stability = 92.4/100 rank
- C Global Peace Index = 137/162 rank

Governance

- C Government effectiveness = 82.2/100 rank
- C Control of corruption = 70.2/100 rank



Environmental



Degradation

- C Natural resources depletion (% GNI)
- INFORM risk on natural hazards = 3.3 /10 scale



Economic

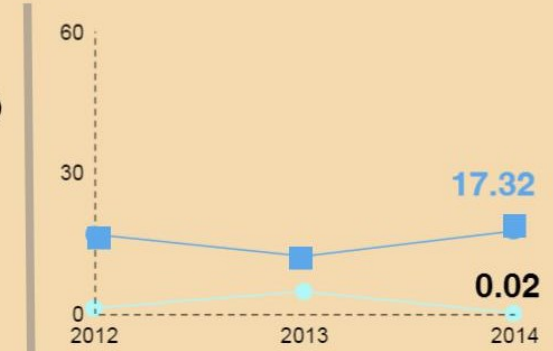


Poverty

- T Income held by lowest 20% = 8.0% (2009)
- C T Under poverty line \$1.90 p.day = 49.3 % (2009)
- T Prevalence of undernourishment = < 5 %

Unemployment

- C T Total UNEMPL = 8.1 % (2014)
- C T Male UNEMPL = 6.2 % (2014)
- C T Youth male UNEMPL = 7.9 % (2014)



Social



Education

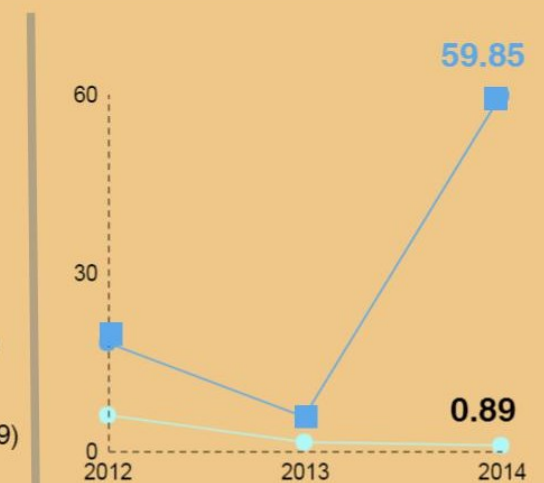
- C Gross enrolment, primary = 77.2 % (2014)
- C T Gross enrolment, tertiary = 6.8 % (2014)
- C T Adult literacy rate = 33.7%

Health

- T Under-5 mortality rate (per 1000) = 114.7
- C T Health expenditure per capita = \$ 47.8
- General Government health expenditure (% total health exp) =28.0% (2014)

Urbanization

- C T Urban pop under nat poverty line = 18.9% (2009)
- //// Living in slum out of urban pop = 56.3% (2014)
- T Rural pop under nat poverty line = 50.6% (2009)



Critical Thresholds

compared to other countries

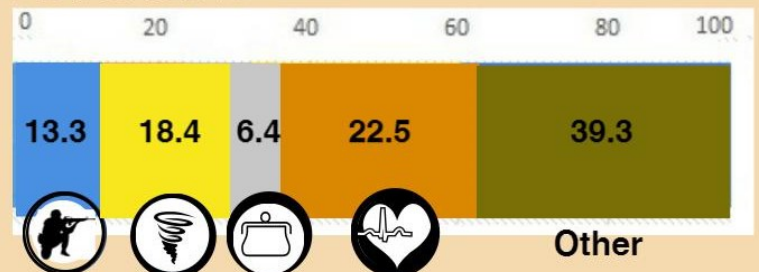


in time



// N/A

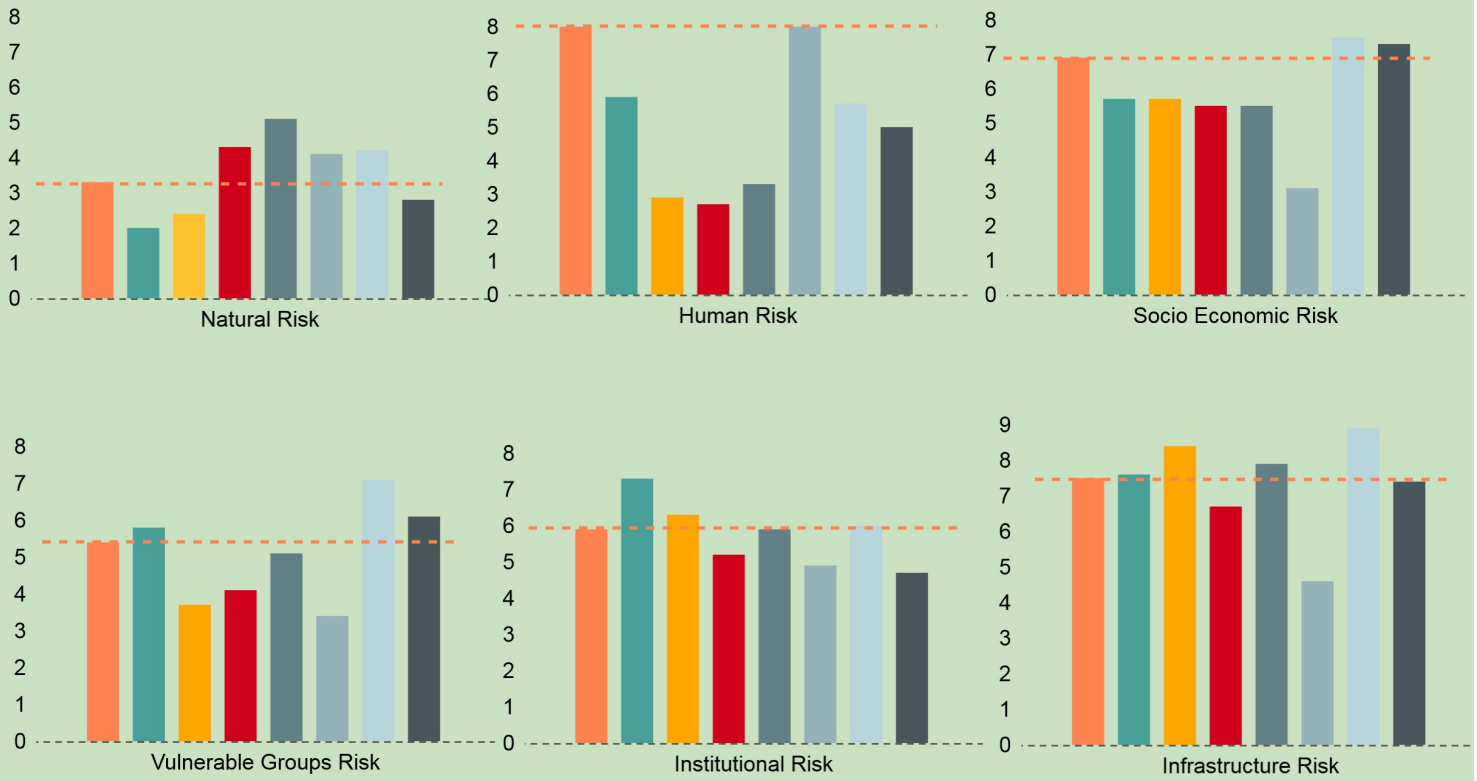
Total 2014 EU FUNDS %



1. INFORM Risk Index



MALI vs neighbouring countries



2. Destinations

For Malian migrants



For Malian in a refugees-like situation



Flash Migration Profile

Cube - Executive Summary

STRESSORS

- ~50% population under extreme poverty
- Family reunification as a reason to migrate (especially for women ~44%)
- On forced migration, slow implementation of 2015 peace agreement
- Security, malnutrition and health alert in the North

IMPORTANCE FOR EU

- Transit country for South West African migrants
- Diplomatic focus on security and migration
- Malians constitute 2% of total arrivals by sea in the EU (Jan-Oct 16)
- ~ 6% of Malians crossing the Mediterranean lost their life (IOM)
- EU institutions (Jan-Oct 16): ~ EUR 118.5 mill in development aid; 41.3 mill in humanitarian aid

CURRENT SITUATION

- Fragile situation: in and out flows of forced migrants
- ~ 135.000 Malian refugees (in Burkina Faso, Mauritania, Niger)
- ~ 37.000 IDPs; significant IDP returns as of 2013
- ~ 1 mill Malian emigrants mainly in Ivory Coast and Nigeria;
- In the EU ~101.000 Malians, with only 5.215 refugees-like

ACTIONS TAKEN SO FAR

- Two national strategies, four regional intervention plans, two protocols with IOM and UNHCR
- G5 Sahel decision to create a joint force for security threats
- Green project to remove incentives to migrate (11 countries)
- Sept 16: Ministerial meeting on implementation of peace agreement
- AIR initiatives on productive use of remittances

POTENTIAL EVOLUTION

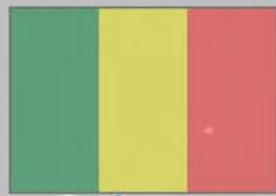
- UN MINUSMA mission warn not to be able to fully implement its mandate
- Population expected to increase by 150% by 2050 (UN projection)
- Net migration rate expected to reduce by 2050 (UN projection)
- Diaspora warned about need for more secure administrative documents

MALI – MP Flash, August/October 2016

IMPACT

- In Gao and Timbuktu regions, ~ 40% population affected by forced movements
- Risks for Malians in refugee camps (early marriage, joining armed groups, competition with cities for natural resources, fatalities)
- ~ EUR 830 mill remittances (Jan-Oct 16)

EU - Mali relations monitoring



Aug
2016

Sept
2016

Oct
2016



Estonian Prime Minister

“By helping to resolve the conflict in this region, we will contribute towards reducing the migratory pressures on Europe”



Mali is the Estonia's 2° largest peacekeeping mission



EU Annual Report on Human Rights and Democracy

“The EU's democracy priorities relate to the reinforcement of the Malian state and its presence on the ground, especially in the north”

In 2015 actions supported transparent electoral processes, gender equality, good governance, justice sector reform, and security sector reform



EU Commissioner – Mimica

6 development projects, for a total amount of EUR 57 million

Focused on 4 main areas: State reform and consolidation of the rule of law, rural development and food security, education and the road sector



Rabat Process: Euro-African Meeting on migration and development



Diaspora engagement strategies: investment and entrepreneurship



Dutch Prime Minister

“The Dutch mission will contribute to peace and stability in the Sahel region, and therefore to security in Europe”



The Netherlands has decided to continue the mission in Mali also in 2017, with reduced staff (290 vs. 400)



German Chancellor

“I believe it is very important, that the countries of Africa do not lose their best brains”



Germany has more than 500 soldiers in Mali



EU First Progress Report on the Partnership Framework

Key challenges and next steps

- Finalise agreement on Standard Operating Procedures and start implementation;
- Carry out planned identification missions in Member States;
- Strengthen EU agencies' involvement on the ground (European Border and Coast Guard and EUROPOL);
- Deployment of the European Migration Liaison Officer;
- Harness opportunities offered for legal migration channels, ERASMUS opportunities and other policies and tools.



EU EEAS – Mogherini

“We are starting to see the very first operational results on ground”



Dutch Foreign Minister

“By investing in investigative and judicial capacity, the countries can address the [smuggling] more effectively”



Joint Consultative Meeting between the AU Peace and Security Council and the EU Political and Security Committee



Deep concern with the increase in terrorist activities on the Sahel/Mali, and commitment to supporting the implementation of the peace agreement

Malian President

“We want our young people to stay in our country and not drown in the Mediterranean”

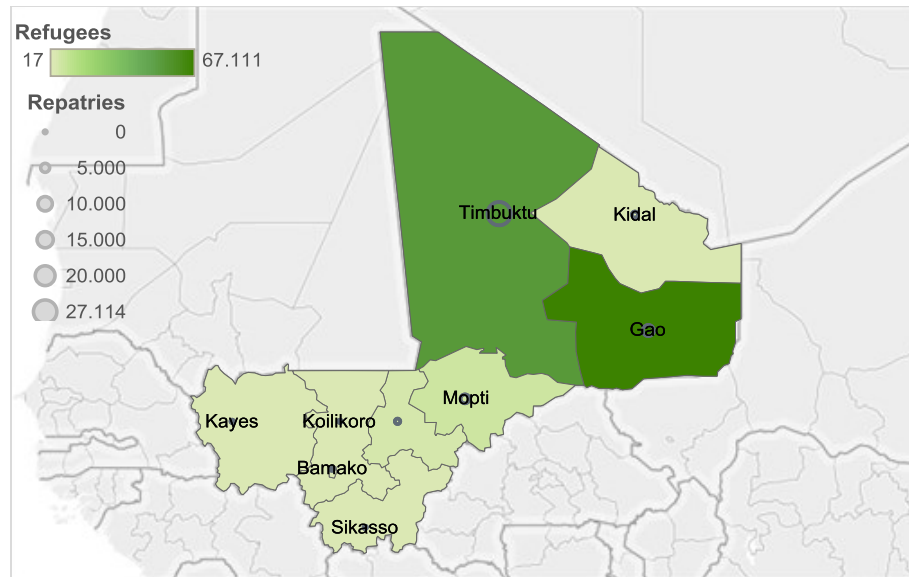


President du Conseil supérieur de la diaspora malienne

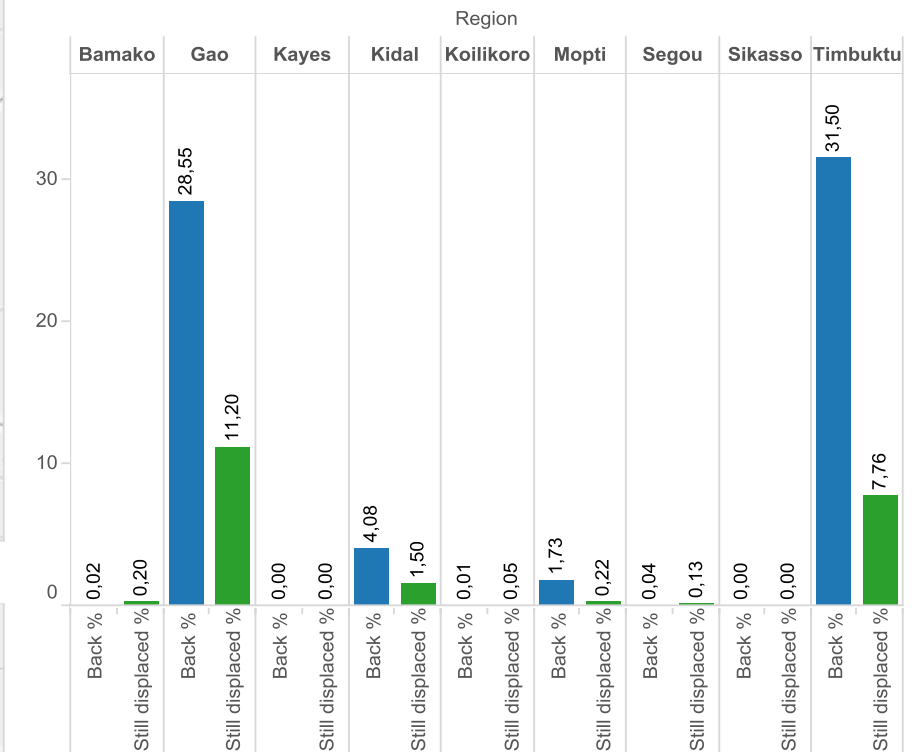
“Il faut investir dans les infrastructures et améliorer les moyens d'existence afin de maintenir les populations sur place et surtout les plus jeunes”

Map1: Forced Migration by region_ October 2016

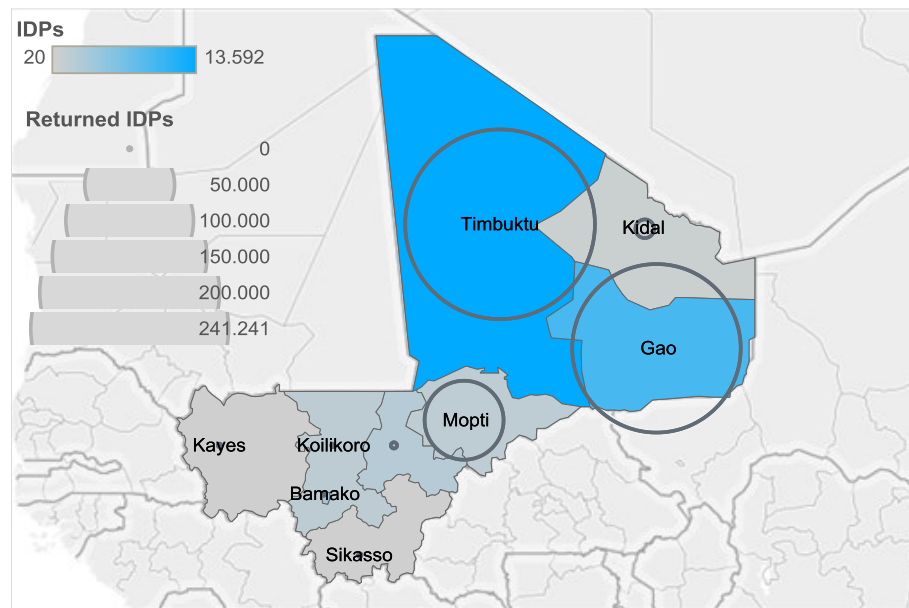
Refugees + returnees (absolute numbers)



Back (returnees, returned IDPs), still displaced (refugees, IDPs), % pop



IDPs + returned IDPs (absolute numbers)



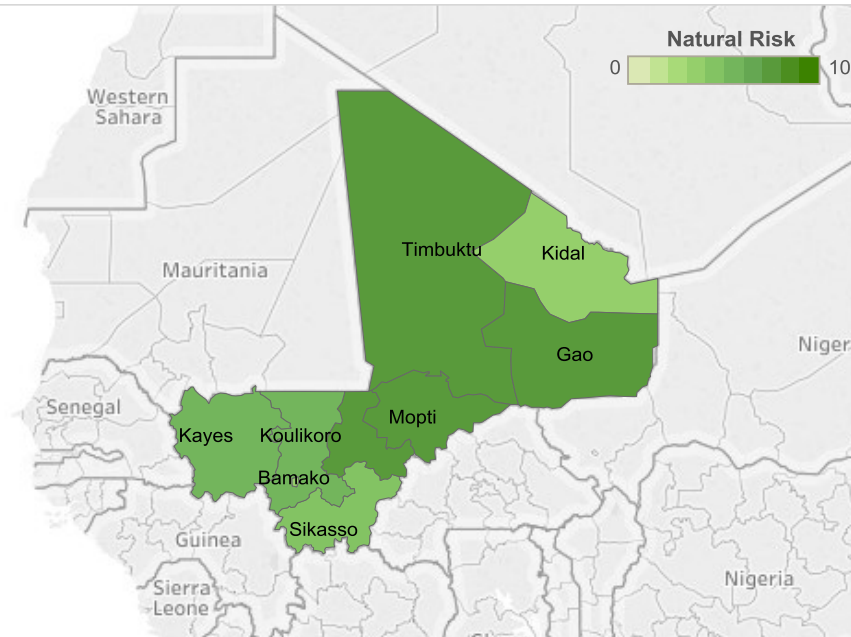
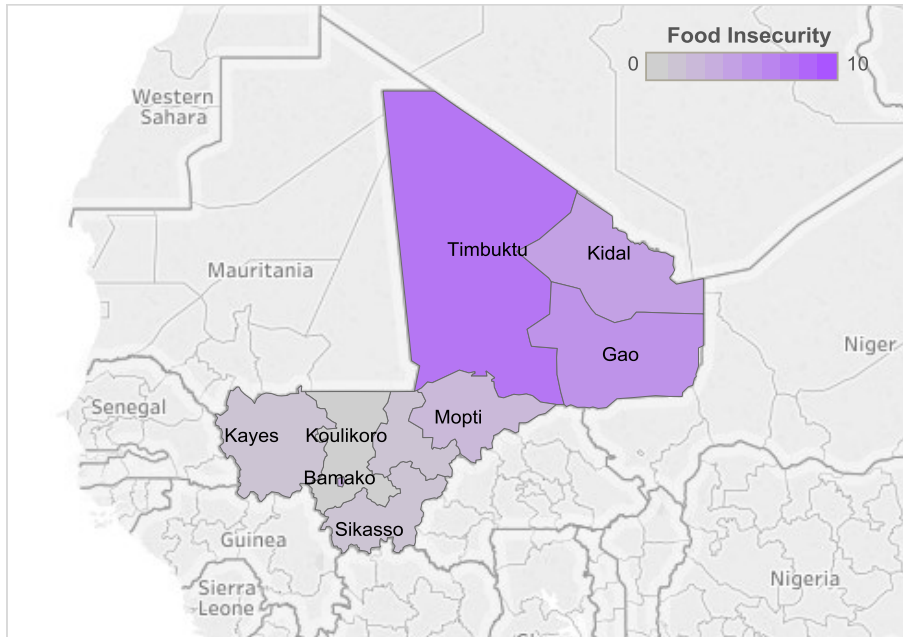
The analysis of those who have left the country or are in a displaced condition (still forced) versus those who have come back to their place (back) allows for a few considerations:

- The most affected regions are Timbuktu and Gao. This is true for the number of the two components of forced migration, meaning refugees and IDPs. It is even more evident if the absolute numbers are compared with the population of the region of origin, checking for the percentage of people involved (graph on the right). The number of people affected in Timbuktu, being partially deserts, acquires even a stronger importance.
- Since the crisis, a number of people have eventually come back. Especially the number of returned IDPs is particularly high.
- However, this doesn't necessarily mean that we assist to a constant decrease of forced migrants, since the data are on stock population. Therefore, if a number of people are coming back, some others are still leaving the country.

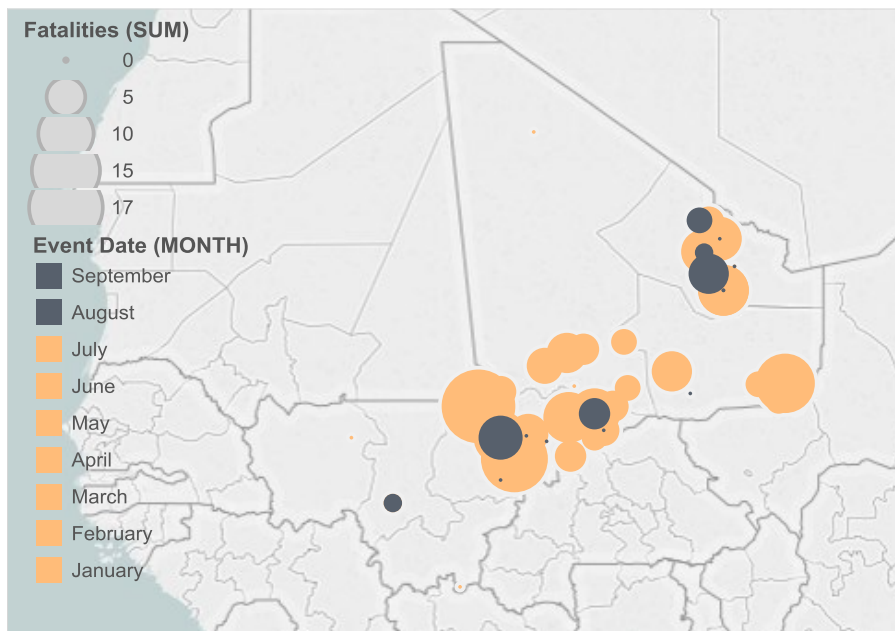
Source: Elaboration on UNHCR and national/IOM data

Map2: Stressors mapping by region

INFORM Index



Conflicts fatalities 2016



Comments:

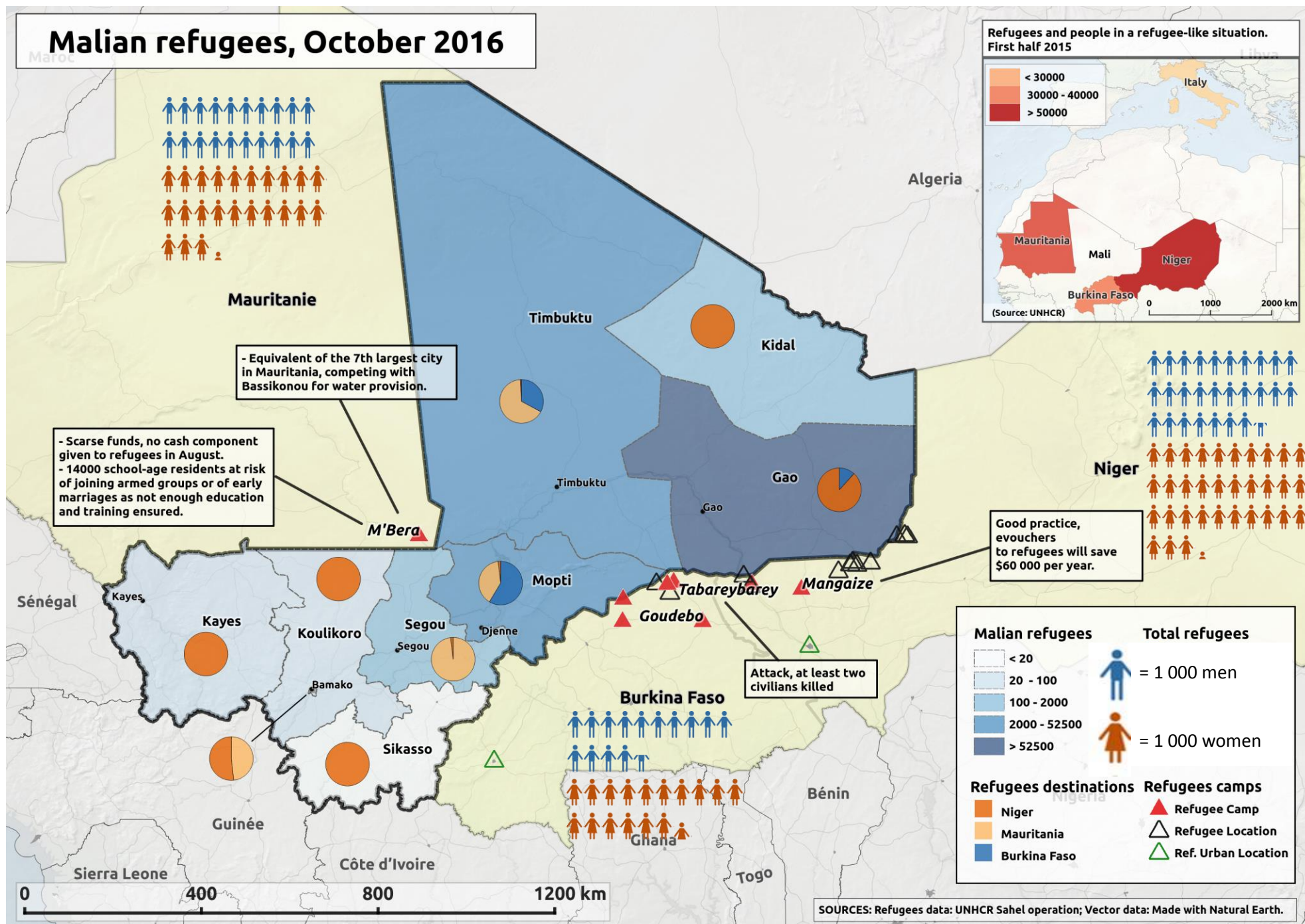
INFORM index maps: Food insecurity is more intense in the areas also affected by forced migration. Other stressors, such as the prolonged conflict situation, can have an impact on food availability. Natural risk is often considered one of the concurrent stressor especially for internal migration; in Mali it has to be noticed that part of the North is desartic.

Sources: The data presented in the two maps on top come from the INFORM index for risk management (2016). The risk ranges from 0 to 10 (10 being high risk). More specifically, food insecurity refers to the Cadre Harmonisé (06-08 2016) and assesses the current risk of food insecurity, while the natural risk index includes four components (food insecurity probability (over a period of 5 years), physical exposure to flood, land degradation, droughts probability and historical impact). More on INFORM at the following link <http://www.inform-index.org/>

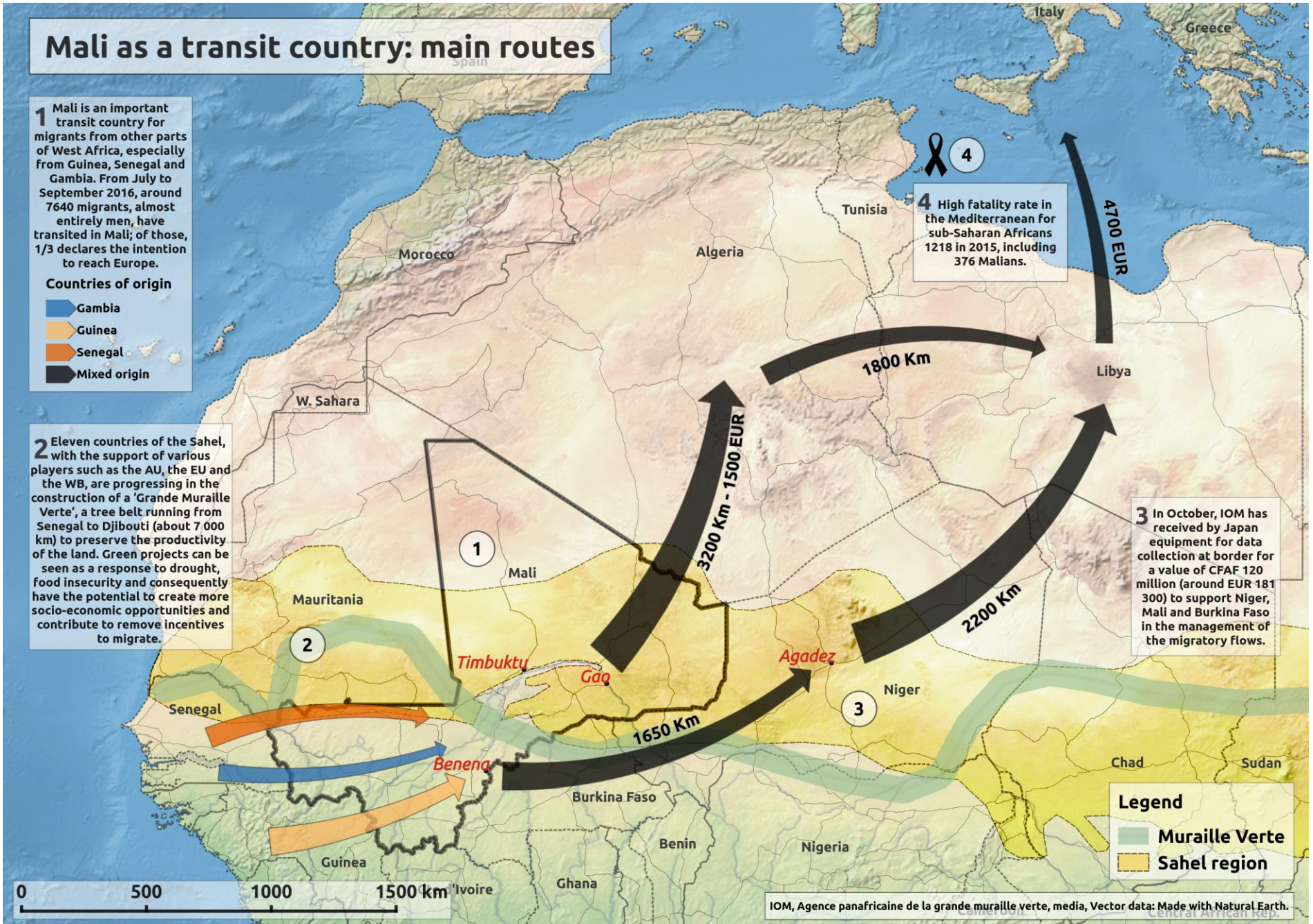
Conflict map: Notwithstanding the peace agreement signed in 2015, conflicts have continued during 2016. Clashes have interested not only the North region of Timbuktu, but also Gao and in the latest months of August and September especially Kidal and the central Mopti (highlighted in grey in the map).

Source: Data on fatalities from ACLED.

Map 3:



Map 4:

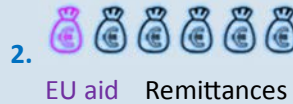


August – October 2016

MALI - Flash Migration Profile

STRATEGIC RELEVANCE

1. Timeline



EU aid Remittances

3. Total Arrivals in EU

Mali

- High level meetings.** As has emerged in several diplomatic missions that took place in September and October 2016¹ (*see Timeline*), migration and peace are considered as strictly linked, security concerns being identified as one of the main drivers for migratory movements. A strong commitment to support the implementation of the peace agreement has been shown by the AU, the EU and various MS.²
- Financial inflows.** Under the EU Emergency Trust Fund, six cooperation projects have been signed at the end of September for a total amount of EUR 57 million for support on economic regeneration and job creation, diaspora investments, security and development in the North and education.³ In 2016 (*until October), a provisional amount of EUR 159.8 million (118.5 in development aid and 41.3 in humanitarian aid) was disbursed by the EC (DEVCO, FPI and ECHO)⁴. In the same period, Malian diaspora has sent home USD 910 million (around **EUR 830 million**) as official recorded remittances, **more than five times the received EC aid**. In 2015, remittances accounted for 7.02% of GDP, and 20% of the total were sent from the EU (15.6% from France alone).⁵ Malian government aims to channel this flow more on productive investments rather than the current trend on social investments. More specifically, the Malian minister for the diaspora indicated some lines of action such as the reduction of the costs of migrants' remittances, the promotion of migrants' saving or the local development.⁶ Along the same line, the African Institute for Remittances (AIR) has launched activities towards improving data reporting, lowering the costs of sending money to and within Africa (currently at 9% vs 3% target in the SDGs), conducting quarterly surveys⁷ and starting consultation with several Central Banks⁸.
- Impact on EU.** UNHCR reported a flow of 7 052 arrivals by sea from Mali to Italy (Jan – September 2016), of which 2 030 between August and September⁹; **around 0.04% of Malian population** or in other words, an equivalent of 0.46% of the young population of 20-24 years.¹⁰ Accounting for **less than 2.2% of total arrivals by sea**,¹¹ Mali does not appear to be one of the first countries of origin in EU. In August 2016, around 1 000 Malians have lodged a first asylum request (total first requests in August around 130 000).¹² Nonetheless, the EU is the destination for 10% of the Malian emigrants,¹³ the Malian refugee-like population (originated from the North of the country) remains for the majority in the neighbouring countries, only around 3% currently lives in the EU.¹⁴

DEMOGRAPHY

1.



+ 150%

2.



- 2.8 per 1 000 in 2050

- Demographic projections.** In the coming years, differences in demographic growth across countries will be increasingly evident. According to UNPD projections, **by the middle of the 21st century, in Mali population will increase by 150%**, fifth in the ranking of the 'growing' countries (passing from 17.6 to 45.5 million). This population increase will have as an effect the enlargement of the population pyramid's base in a country with an already young population (median age of 16 years vs a worldwide average of 30 years). Key areas that could be affected or become under stress are food security, education, health care, housing and employment.¹⁵
- Migration projections.** Nevertheless, the same UNPD projections for net migration rate forecast a reduction from -3.7 to -0.9 per 1,000 persons in 2050. Combined with population growth, the **net number of migrants is still projected to decrease by 100,000 already in the next five years**.¹⁶

MIGRATION

1. Maps Forced Migration



Voluntary return not promoted
Forced return 1 200 in 2016

MIGRATION OUTLINE

1. Numbers & Policies. In 2015, Malian emigrants amount to 1 million, mainly living in Ivory Coast and Nigeria¹⁷. While immigrants in Mali are about 360 000¹⁸. However, the **current focus is on forced migration of Malians**. Data released in August by the Minister of Solidarity and Humanitarian Action (MSAH),¹⁹ and by UNHCR are presented in the boxes²⁰. **Although the stock of refugees does not seem to change**

Minister of Solidarity and Humanitarian Action (MSAH)

UNHCR

As of 2012:

- **500 000 IDPs**
- **150 000 refugees**
 - 66 392 in Mauritania
 - 48 928 in Niger
 - 32 687 in Burkina Faso

Currently:

- **37 000 IDPs**
- **136 000 refugees**
 - 1 600 in Aug / Oct

significantly, in and out flows are still present. New IDPs have been detected in Gao (around 3 600 in September)²¹ while UNHCR warns about new refugees in Niger.²² In the last two years, the MSAH has developed several policy documents such as the national policy on humanitarian assistance and its action plan 2016-2020 (Jan 2015), the management of IDPs and returnees strategy (Apr 2015), four urgent regional intervention plans (July 2015) and two protocols with IOM and UNHCR.²³ Mali is also hosting around 15 000 refugees;²⁴ among them, some from Central African Republic, Ivory Coast and Congo have protested on 19 September for better living conditions.²⁵

2. Significant Return. While some people still leave Mali as refugees or move internally as IDPs, according to governmental figures, more than 470 000 IDPs have returned home after the crisis, while the voluntary return of refugees is progressing at a slower pace²⁶. The most affected regions are **Gao and Timbuktu, where the share of population affected by the crisis (IDPs, refugees or returnees) is as high as 40% (see map 1: Forced Migration by region)**. Due to the recurrent conflicts, according to UNHCR, conditions in parts of **northern Mali** are not yet conducive to returns in safety and dignity, therefore, **voluntary repatriation is currently not promoted**²⁷, although around 4 000 people have returned between August and October.²⁸ **Forced return is viewed as a failure** since migration is considered as an important investment for the family; as a consequence, returnees often remain in Bamako to organize a new departure, said the Ambassador of Mali in Brussels.²⁹ Data provided in August by the Directorate on Social Development highlights the number of 6 000 returnees as of 2013 from around ten African countries. In 2016 (till August), approximately 1 200 forced returnees have been registered; Algeria seems to be one of the top sending countries of Malian returnees in this year.³⁰ The return rate of irregular migrants to Mali from the EU was only 11.4% in 2015³¹ (400 people out of 3 505)³².

STRESSORS

POLITICAL

1. Stressor. Despite the signature of the peace agreement in June 2015, the deterioration of the security situation hampers migration management efforts³³. Clashes continue in northern Mali (Kidal and Timbuktu regions) and have spread also in the center (Mopti region, where a terrorist group took over the town of Boni for few hours) (see map 2: Stressors). From August to October 2016, attacks have caused 54 fatalities³⁴, which have targeted civilians, the Malian Defense and Security Forces, without

sparing UN peacekeepers (69 deaths since MINUSMA establishment in 2013).³⁵ Also aid organizations have been targeted, this impacting the deployment of humanitarian assistance³⁶. These **attacks led to the forced displacement** of civilians,³⁷ while UNHCR reports a constant influx of refugees into Niger, said to be **the highest number since 2012**, with around 5 450 new arrivals from January to July 2016.³⁸

2. **Peace Implementation.** The main difficulties for an incisive action in the North remain dry climate conditions, the identification of terrorist groups and the **limited presence of Mali authorities in the territory**.³⁹ The governor of Mali visited Kidal in October for the first time after two years and only upon green light from the former rebels of the Coordination of Azawad Movement (CMA).⁴⁰ After the fifth ministerial reshuffle in July, in August President Keita designated Soumeylou Boubeye Maiga, former Minister of Defence, as the new Secretary General of the Presidency and in September the Minister of Defence and Veterans was replaced by the Minister of Territorial Administration.⁴¹ The President of Mali stated that hostilities had effectively ceased between the government and signatory groups and that challenges are rather linked to the activities of terrorist groups and asymmetric attacks on civilians and peacekeeping forces.⁴² On the other hand, participants of the Ministerial Meeting on the Implementation of the Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Mali called by the UN on **23rd September, urged the Government of Mali and the signatory parties to translate their commitments under the Agreement into immediate actions**, with concrete and prioritized benchmarks and timelines for implementation. In particular, commitments were related to the establishment of interim authorities, the restoration and extension of State authority (basic social services, accountability, truth and reconciliation),⁴³ joint patrols as well as disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) activities.⁴⁴ On 14 October, the Malian government eventually designated interim authorities, however in the North they have been questioned for being 'non-inclusive'.⁴⁵ UN MINUSMA has thus warned of **not being able to fully implement its mandate**⁴⁶ if cease-fire in Kidal⁴⁷ and the peace agreement will not be implemented by all parties.⁴⁸ To better operate in this fragile security environment, resolution 2295 of June 2016 extended the MINUSMA mandate until June 2017 and increased its force levels to 13 289 military personnel (up from 11 240) and 1 920 police personnel (up from 1 440); however, in September the additional personnel had not been deployed yet.⁴⁹ On the 31st October, Reuters informed that another Islamist militant group – Ansar Dine, alleged author of attacks in Mopti – has agreed to cease attacks in Mali.⁵⁰

3. **Electoral process.** One of the areas supported in 2015 by the EU has been the transparent electoral process as well as the modernization of Malian security forces through security sector reform.⁵¹ It has to be noted that thousands of people have protested against a new electoral law approved in September that raises the fee required to run for president by two and a half times.⁵²

SOCIO ECONOMIC

1. **Development strategy.** A shared opinion among national and international actors is that **security concerns cannot be addressed without a parallel development strategy**. The fight against poverty will also be a deterrent for irregular migration, according to the president of the Supreme Council of Malian Diaspora (Csdm), who suggested to invest in infrastructures and living conditions.⁵³ Ban Ki Moon **stressed the discrepancy between pledge in the humanitarian response plan for 2016 and effective disbursement**, which stands at a ratio of 3:1.⁵⁴ In September the AU convened a conference of Ministers

of Finance to review the annual budget and define self-financing mechanisms of operations and programs in view of the evolution of development programs.⁵⁵

- ▶ 2. **Stressor. Almost half of the population in Mali is living in extreme poverty** (latest data available 2009).⁵⁶ The government has proposed a five-pillar framework to progress on the SDGs, namely strengthening peace and security; reinforcing macroeconomic stability; promoting accelerated growth of sustainable pro-poor policies leading to the creation of jobs; development and access to basic social services; and institutional development and good governance.⁵⁷
- ▶ 3. **North. A grave conjunction of security / health / malnutrition criticalities can be noticed in the North**, where 86 119 cumulated cases of malaria have been confirmed in the first half of 2016 (+ 47% as compared to the previous year)⁵⁸. Preliminary results released in September by the Ministry of Health and its UN partners, point at alarming rates of acute malnutrition, which in the regions of Timbuktu and Gao (important transit in the migratory route) are close to the emergency level of 15%.⁵⁹ Both indicators are considered to be prominent factors of under-five mortality, while children suffer also from the closure of a number of schools in the North. OCHA foresees some 3 million people at risk of food insecurity in 2017.⁶⁰
- ▶ 4. **Socio-cultural.** According to the annual report on human development (September), the main root causes for migration **are economic (degradation of agricultural areas), environmental (climate change) and 'socio-cultural'**.⁶¹ In Mali, almost half of the international migrants are women,⁶² for the vast majority driven by family reunification reasons,⁶³ but who more and more are also leaving in search of a job or to escape conflict or forced marriages⁶⁴; according to UN figures, 55% of girls in Mali are married before the age of 18.⁶⁵ From indications gathered in refugee camps, many were subjected to gender-based violence while in Mali.⁶⁶

ENVIRONMENTAL

- ▶ 1. **Concurrent stressor.** According to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), neither desertification nor drought on its own cause conflict or forced migration, whereas converging factors such as political tension, weak institutions, economic marginalization, and policy interventions create the conditions that make people able or unable to cope with climate change. Worldwide, land degradation will force people to move within their own region or to nearby cities, namely **a push factor for internal migration**. In the case of Mali, previous decreasing rainfalls have caused a decline in the harvest and pushed herders and farmers to move into cities in search for employment. Bamako, as a consequence, in 20 years has grown from 600 000 to around 2 million.⁶⁷
- ▶ 2. **Role of the State.** Of the same opinion Climate Home,⁶⁸ which says **that State intervention can modify the impact of adverse climate conditions** on conflict and migration. What is indicated as crucial is to invest on sustainable land management (unsustainable land use practices cost Mali about 8% of its GDP), to improve land tenure security and access to market and rural services. This needs a strong government involvement in reforms on credit, market access and rural infrastructural development.⁶⁹
- ▶ 3. **Flood alert.** Currently, an alert on flooding of the Inner Niger Delta has been issued by Wetlands International in Mali. According to the source, although flood is needed for rice farming, fishing and cattle herding, people are not prepared for such extent of flooding, this puts lives, homes and animal at risk.⁷⁰ In the last humanitarian bulletin (August-Sept), OCHA stated that in 2016 more than 18 000

people have been affected by floods, 2 400 houses destroyed and nearly 200 hectares of farms flooded by rainwater.⁷¹ In July, floods killed 14 people.⁷²

REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE ON MIGRATION

REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE

1. **Risks at refugee camps:** at **Mbera camp (Mauritania)** funds are scarce, and with recent and the expected arrivals, in August refugees have not received the cash component they were supposed to receive (£3.20).⁷³ Education and training needs are not properly addressed for the 14 000 school-age residents of the camp, this posing them at risk of joining armed groups or of early marriages.⁷⁴ The camp has become so big to be equivalent to the seventh largest town in Mauritania, and it is now competing with nearby Bassikonou for water provision. There is therefore a need to appease Mauritians living nearby.⁷⁵ **Tabareybarey and Tassalit camps (Niger)** have been attacked, with at least 24 people killed, including soldiers. As a good practice, in August WFP and UNHCR have replaced cash with e-vouchers in the **Mangaize camp (Niger)**, to respond to the need of Malian refugees; a change that is estimated will save \$60 000 per year.⁷⁶ (see map 3: Malian refugees).
2. **Smuggling route.** Mali is an important **transit country** for migrants from other parts of West Africa, especially from Guinea (40 %), Senegal (15%) and Gambia (12%)(see map 4: Routes). According to IOM, in three months (July-Sept), around 7 640 migrants, almost entirely men, have **transited in Gao (to go to Algeria) and Benena (to go to Burkina Faso, Niger and Lybia), although a third route through Timbuktu** has been recently detected. Of those, 1/3 declares the intention to reach Europe.⁷⁷ **Agadez (Niger) is considered one of the most important smuggling points in Africa.** From there, migrants from Western African countries who have arrived usually via bus through Mali and Burkina Faso, continue the travel via Algeria or across the Sahara to Libya and from there with smugglers across the Mediterranean. A migrant testifies that from Mali to Algeria he had to pay eight times for a total of 1 070 000 CFA (around EUR 1 500).⁷⁸ Only the last passage by boat it is estimated to cost nearly USD 5 000, while smugglers who ferried migrants across the Sahara take up to USD 500 a time.⁷⁹ However, migrants from Western Africa generally prefer to remain in the West African sub-region.⁸⁰ In addition, **the journey to Europe is perilous:** according to IOM sub-Saharan Africa is a region that has experienced a high fatality rate in the Mediterranean (1 218 in 2015, including 376 Malians = around a rate of 6% of fatalities for Malians crossing the Mediterranean).⁸¹
3. **Malian Documents.** In October, the president of the Supreme Council of Malian Diaspora (Csdm) deplored the fact that many African immigrants seek to obtain a Malian identity card to enter Europe, therefore he **called on the authorities to make Malian administrative documents more secure.**⁸²

REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE ON STRESSORS

1. **Political stressor.** In October, IOM has received from Japan equipment for data collection at border for a value of CFAF 120 million (around EUR 181 300) to support Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso for better management of the migratory flows.⁸³ Security concerns are shared among neighbouring countries of Mali since, especially Burkina Faso, Chad and Niger, have been victims of attacks by jihadist elements from Mali. In addition, the conclusion of the Ministerial Meeting on the Implementation of the

Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Mali stressed that **the stabilization of Mali would only be possible with the strong and effective engagement of the countries of the entire region**. Their role should vary from the strengthening of border control, to the support of Malian defense and the enhancement of cooperation with MINUSMA.⁸⁴ The AU has already set up a regional task force for the elimination of the Lord's Resistance Army and created a Multi-national joint task force (MNJTF) for West Africa in 2015. The G5 Sahel (gathering Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Chad and Burkina Faso) intends to create a joint force to address the security threats in the region.⁸⁵

2. **Environmental stressor.** Regarding the link between environment and migration, **green projects** can be seen as a response to drought, food insecurity and consequently have the potential to **create more socio-economic opportunities and contribute to remove incentives to migrate**. Eleven countries of the Sahel, with the support of various players such as the AU, the EU and the WB, are progressing in the construction of a 'Grande Muraille Verte', a tree belt running from Senegal to Djibouti (about 7 000 km) to restore 50 million hectares of land and reduce CO2 production, and thus to preserve the productivity of the land.⁸⁶

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