About

- MHub is undertaking field surveys with migrants, refugees and asylum seekers along key migratory routes to build up a body of data over time and to map country and regional level mixed migration trends.
- This snapshot presents early survey findings of the profiles, intentions and experiences of those moving in mixed migration flows who have migrated within the last year, either internally or across borders. Malian respondents were located in transit centres in Timbuktu and Nara.
- Even though these findings cannot be considered statistically representative of the migration population, they do provide key insights on the migration process.

Key Findings

*Findings are based on 49 interviews conducted between 4 and 26 April in Timbuktu and Nara in Mali.

Pre-departure Plans

- 93% when leaving their home country did not have the intention to stay in Mali, but rather to pass through to go to its bordering countries (Niger, Algeria, Mauritania and Senegal) or further North.
- Originally, 43% had the intention to go to Algeria, 36% to Mauritania, 13% to Morocco and 9% to Libya.

Motivations

- 67% said that the lack of job opportunities in their country of origin was the main factor in their decision to migrate.

Routes

- Two thirds of respondents noted that the route from Timbuktu to Ber and Ber to In Halli (town on border with Algeria) is safer than the route from Gao (located on the River Niger, east-southeast of Timbuktu) to Kidal (in desert region of northern Mali) and Kidal to Algeria.
- The route from Kidal to Algeria has several informal checkpoints managed by militia who often demand 5000CFA (approx. 8.68USD) per migrant at each checkpoint. Timbuktu to Algeria is said to have less militia checkpoints.
- Some respondents were in transit back to their country of origin after having been refused passage by border security or abandoned by smugglers en route.

Onward Movement

- 64% of respondents said that in the towns they were interviewed (Timbuktu and Nara) they felt there were no job opportunities, and faced social exclusion. 36% said they would be happy for an opportunity to go further north (Algeria, Mauritania, Morocco, Libya, Tunisia and Egypt).

Demographic Breakdown of Interviewees

- 16-19: 10%
- 20-25: 16%
- 26-31: 18%
- 32+: 55%
- Male: 78%
- Female: 22%

Countries of Origin

- TOGO: 2%
- SIERRA LEONE: 2%
- SENEGAL: 2%
- D.R. CONGO: 2%
- NIGERIA: 4%
- NIGER: 4%
- MALI: 10%
- GUINEA: 10%
- GHANA: 8%
- GAMBIA: 4%
- COTE D’IVORE: 4%
- CAMEROON: 2%
- BURKINA Faso: 2%
- GUINEA-BISSAU: 2%
- BENIN: 2%
- Togo: 2%
- D.R. Congo: 2%
- Guinea: 10%
- Senegal: 2%
- Burkina Faso: 2%
- Cameroun: 2%
- Côte d’Ivoire: 2%
- Gambia: 4%
- Ghana: 8%
- Guinea-Bissau: 2%
- Benin: 2%

Quotes from Respondents

*Translated from French

“In my country wages are low and there are no opportunities, so we have to go to countries where the pay is higher. Even if there are no opportunities in the host country, we choose to bear it until we get jobs, because workers here are more rewarded (well paid) than those in our countries of origin.” – Male migrant from Burkina Faso in Nara, Mali heading to Mauritania on 12/4/16

“I have decided to go work in my village. During all this time in Algeria I didn’t earn anything. Even others helped me organize my return transportation.” – Male Malian migrant on voluntary return to Mali, who has arrived in Algeria on his way to Timbuktu on 12/4/16

“I am in trouble because the smugglers tricked me. They took all my money in Dakar saying that they would take care of my transport and food and that everything would be taken care of by other smugglers until we reached Algeria. They did provide transport and food from Dakar to Bamako, as well as from Bamako to Mopti. But then I was asked to pay for the ticket from Sévare lorry station to Douentza. I told him that it had already been paid. When we arrived in Douentza he said I had to pay or get out, so I negotiated with him and he took me to Timbuktu. Since I didn’t have any more money left to go to Algeria, I decided to sell my telephone to buy my way there.” – Male migrant from Gambia in transit to Timbuktu on 15/4/16