FACT SHEET

The gendered impacts of migration in Niger

Introduction

This factsheet offers some insights into migrant women's experiences in Niger, based on the limited data that is available on this topic. It was produced as part of the Making Migration Safe for Women programme which aims to ensure that migration is safe for women migrating from, into and through Niger and that international norms and standards for protecting and promoting migrant women's rights are strengthened.

For additional information and data sources, please see: UN Women. 2021. Rapid Assessment of the Situations of Women Migrating from, into and through Niger, Niamey: UN Women.
Women’s migration from, into and through Niger

Typical profile of women transiting through Niger

Country of origin: Nigeria
Countries of destination: Algeria, Libya

Age range: 18 to 30 years old
Education: Secondary or university level

An estimated 54% of all international migrants to Niger in 2020 were women and girls

46% of Nigerien migrants to the EU in 2020 were women and girls

65 years of age and older

Under 20 years of age

3% of Nigerien migrants to the EU in 2020 were women and girls

62% between 20 and 64 years old

Trafficking in persons

72% of the detected victims of trafficking in Niger in 2018 were women and girls

12% were exploited for begging

2% were exploited for servitude

33% experienced forced prostitution

53% experienced sexual violence
Migrant smuggling

1/3
of smuggled migrants detected in Niger in 2018 were women and girls

36%
of the migrants who were abandoned by smugglers in the Ténéré desert in Niger in October 2013 were women

Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV)

Migrant women in transit through Niger are

$4 \times$
more at risk than men of sexual violence

$1.5 \times$
more at risk than men of physical violence

Almost
$40\%$
of migrant women from Niger and other West African countries experience sexual and gender-based violence during their migration to Algeria, Libya and Niger

Physical abuse against migrant women in the desert from Niger to Libya is reportedly perpetrated by

$27\%$
Others

$51\%$
Security forces/police/military

$10\%$
Immigration officials/border guards

$12\%$
Single unknown individuals
Labour rights violations

In 2020, only 21 women migrant workers were granted work authorizations in Niger.

The most common violations are:
1. Violations of their employment contract or no contracts
2. Health risks, poor safety standards, limited access to social security
3. Forced labour, debt bondage
4. Gender-based violence

Access to social protection

Only 13% of migrants working in the private sector and receiving social protection were women.
Access to information

Migrant women who are transiting through Niger primarily rely on the following sources of information before migrating:

- **Friends and family** in the country of destination: 59%
- **Friends and family** in the country of origin: 42%

COVID-19

**Impact of loss of income related to COVID-19**

- 33% Unable to continue journey
- 22% Worry and anxiety
- 21% Unable to send remittances
- 10% Unable to afford basic goods
- 4% Loss of housing

**Barriers to accessing healthcare**

- 37% Lack of funds
- 15% Unclear advice for testing and treating
- 11% Fear of being reported to authorities
- 9% Don’t know where to go for healthcare
- 2% Lack of documentation to access health services
- 2% Don’t speak the language
Data Sources


Meeting between UN Women and the National Agency for Employment Promotion on 12 April 2021.

Meeting between UN Women and the National Social Security Fund on 28 April 2021.


MMC survey dataset conducted in Niger between 20 April and 20 June 2020 following an Agreement on the Sharing of 4Mi Data Between The Mixed Migration Centre (MMC) on behalf of the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) And UN Women.


United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Mixed Migration Centre (MMC). 2020. On this journey, no one cares if you live or die'. Abuse, protection, and justice along routes between East and West Africa and Africa's Mediterranean coast. July.
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