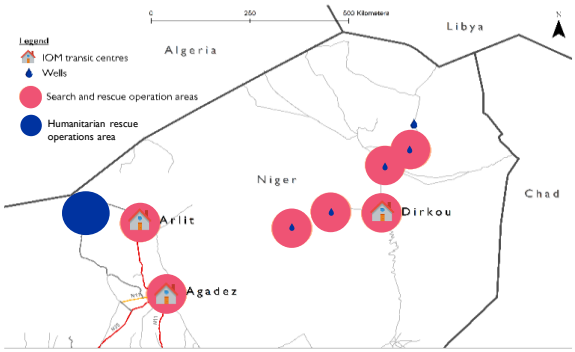
IOM NIGER: HUMANITARIAN RESCUE OPERATIONS SEARCH & RESCUE OPERATIONS | MAY 2019

In the framework of the Migrant Resource and Response Mechanism, IOM Niger assists migrants in distress through humanitarian rescue operations along the border with Algeria and search and rescue (SAR) operations in the Agadez region. The overall main results are summarized below.



Humanitarian rescue operations: In Autumn 2017, a significant new southbound migration flow was observed as the Government of Algeria began to expulse and repatriate Nigeriens and third country nationals into Niger. In response to the expulsions, IOM conducts humanitarian rescue operations which consist of lifesaving transportation, food and water assistance to migrants in distress, starting at "Point Zero" at the border of Algeria and Niger where migrants are dropped off by Algerian authorities. Migrants found around Point Zero are offered transportation to Assamaka where they receive emergency humanitarian relief in the form of water, food, medical and psychosocial support at temporary hangars set up by IOM. Migrants are then sensitized about IOM services available to them, Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) or transportation to the nearest urban center, Arlit.

Search and rescue operations: Since October 2016, IOM, in collaboration with the Direction Générale de la Protection Civile (DGPC), undertakes search and rescue operations to find and bring migrants in distress to the nearest safe urban centre (Agadez, Arlit and Dirkou) in the Agadez region. The migrants are often mentally and physically stressed, suffering from trauma, dehydration and/or physical wounds. Search and Rescue operations are performed both pro-actively and reactively in the areas of Agadez, Arlit and Dirkou/Bilma. For proactive missions, SAR teams are dispatched along pre-defined routes based on the most updated map of migration routes to search for migrants in distress. Reactive missions are conducted in response to calls or information received from various sources (traders, migrants, local authorities, etc.).

MAIN RESULTS OBTAINED IN 2019

48 OPERATIONS

	PROACTIVE	REACTIVE
AGADEZ	05	00
ASSAMAKA*	00	37
DIRKOU	05	01

7,103 MIGRANTS IN DISTRESS SIGNALLED

	PROACTIVE	REACTIVE
AGADEZ	70	00
ASSAMAKA*	00	6,984
DIRKOU	28	21

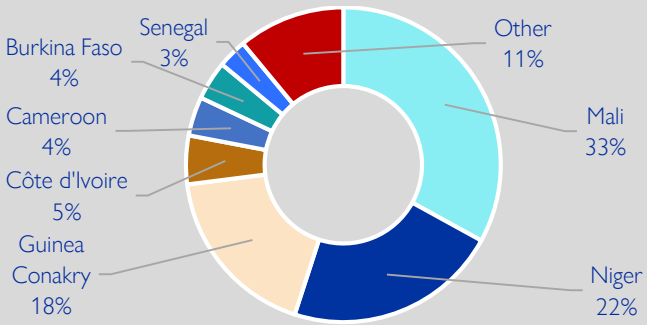
6,053 MIGRANTS RESCUED

	PROACTIVE	REACTIVE
AGADEZ	84	00
ASSAMAKA*	00	5,934
DIRKOU	24	11

5,793 MIGRANTS WHO JOINED IOM TRANSIT CENTER

AGADEZ	84	100%
ARLIT	5,686	99%
DIRKOU	23	66%

MAIN NATIONALITIES OF MIGRANTS RESCUED IN 2019



MAIN NATIONALITIES RESCUED BY LOCATION IN 2019

AGADEZ	ASSAMAKA*	DIRKOU & BILMA
1. NIGER	1. MALI	1. NIGER
2. MALI	2. NIGER	2. CHAD
3. GAMBIE	3. GUINÉE CONAKRY	
4. CÔTE D'IVOIRE	4. CÔTE D'IVOIRE	

DISTRIBUTION OF MIGRANTS RESCUED BY GENDER & VULNERABILITY IN 2019

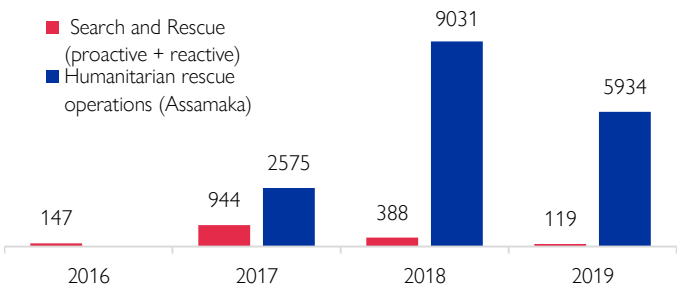
94% MALE

1% FEMALE

3% ACCOMPANIED MINORS

2% UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

NUMBER OF MIGRANTS RESCUED BY TYPE OF OPERATION (APRIL 2016 - MAY 2019)



IOM responds to every distress call received alongside the DGPC. Upon arrival, IOM stands ready to assist all migrants in distress who wish to board IOM transport. However, for various reasons, at times not all migrants who signaled in distress in the original call are transported to the nearest safe urban centre. Of those migrants assisted with transport, most but not all migrants choose to join IOM's AVRR program in the transit center.

IOM Niger's humanitarian rescue operations and search and rescue missions are supported by the European Union and the Department for International Development (DFID).

**These are the results from IOM's humanitarian rescue operations by the border with Algeria. The results under Agadez and Dirkou are from IOM's search and rescue operations.*

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