

CARIM – Consortium for Applied Research on International Migration

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CARIM – Migration Profile

Mali

The Demographic-Economic Framework of Migration

The Legal Framework of Migration

The Socio-Political Framework of Migration

Report written by

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on the basis of CARIM database and publications

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The Demographic-Economic Framework of Migration

Mali is still today characterized by large emigration movements involving all social classes. Poverty¹ and demographic pressure have been the main factors in persistent outward flows. Malian emigration differs according to the choice of destination countries and the type of move envisaged. Long-term emigration prevails in France, which is the main destination in Europe. Despite the absence of accurate statistical data on back-and-forth mobility, circular and temporary migration seem to prevail among outward flows to neighboring countries, directed at covering labor shortages in the cocoa and coffee plantations in the Ivory Coast and Ghana, and the peanut and cotton plantations in Senegal and Gambia, and similar labor shortages in other Sahel countries. Migratory trends vary greatly according to ethnic group. For historical reasons,² France – and Europe in general – have been the main destination for the Soninke population; African countries have instead been preferred by the Peulh and the Toucouleur.

As to immigration patterns, Mali does not host a high number of labor immigrants. But those there have come, for the most part, from other African countries. Refugees and, more recently, transit migrants are an important component of inward flows to Mali.

Outward migration				Inward migration																																																																																																																																																																																													
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<p>According to the <i>Recensement Administratif à Caractère Electoral</i> (RACE), there were, in 2001, 924,497 Malians living abroad, or 8.4% of the Malian resident population. RACE, carried out by the Malian Ministry of Territorial Administration, is probably the only reliable source for measuring Malians abroad. According to the more doubtful figures of the General Delegation of Malians Abroad the number of emigrants was very much higher: 2.7 million (63.0% in the Ivory Coast) in 2001 and 3.8 million in 2005.</p>				<p>In 1998, 63,721 foreign nationals lived in Mali. Immigrants represent a small percentage of the total Malian resident population, and a percentage which has decreased over time (from 1.2% in 1976 to 0.6% in 1998). Unfortunately, data on population by citizenship in the 2009 census is currently not available.</p>																																																																																																																																																																																													
<p>Malians residing abroad by region of residence, 2001</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Region of residence</th> <th colspan="2">Malian statistics (RACE)</th> <th colspan="2">Destination countries' statistics</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Number</th> <th>%</th> <th colspan="2">Number</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>African countries</td> <td>745,503</td> <td>80.6</td> <td colspan="2"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>of which Ivory Coast</td> <td>523,231</td> <td>56.6</td> <td colspan="2">792,258 (1998)</td> </tr> <tr> <td> Senegal (*)</td> <td>50,442</td> <td>5.5</td> <td colspan="2"></td> </tr> <tr> <td> Niger</td> <td>50,317</td> <td>5.4</td> <td colspan="2">30,402 (2001)</td> </tr> <tr> <td> Ghana</td> <td>29,855</td> <td>3.2</td> <td colspan="2"></td> </tr> <tr> <td> Bur. Faso</td> <td>21,316</td> <td>2.3</td> <td colspan="2">18,526 (2006)</td> </tr> <tr> <td> Others</td> <td>70,342</td> <td>7.6</td> <td colspan="2"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Arab countries</td> <td>148,498</td> <td>16.1</td> <td colspan="2"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>of which Sudan</td> <td>100,000</td> <td>10.8</td> <td colspan="2"></td> </tr> <tr> <td> Sau. Arabia</td> <td>26,582</td> <td>2.9</td> <td colspan="2"></td> </tr> <tr> <td> Others</td> <td>21,916</td> <td>2.4</td> <td colspan="2"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>European countries</td> <td>23,281</td> <td>2.5</td> <td colspan="2"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>of which France (**)</td> <td>21,964</td> <td>2.4</td> <td colspan="2">36,091 (1999)</td> </tr> <tr> <td> Others</td> <td>1,317</td> <td>0.1</td> <td colspan="2"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>North America</td> <td>3,605</td> <td>0.4</td> <td colspan="2">3,590 (US'00; CAN'06)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other countries</td> <td>3,610</td> <td>0.4</td> <td colspan="2"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>924,497</td> <td>100.0</td> <td colspan="2"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Notes: (*) Senegal + Gambia and C. Verde; (**) France + Spain and Portugal Source: Recensement Administratif à Caractère Electoral, Mali Sources of destination countries: National census</p>				Region of residence	Malian statistics (RACE)		Destination countries' statistics		Number	%	Number		African countries	745,503	80.6			of which Ivory Coast	523,231	56.6	792,258 (1998)		Senegal (*)	50,442	5.5			Niger	50,317	5.4	30,402 (2001)		Ghana	29,855	3.2			Bur. Faso	21,316	2.3	18,526 (2006)		Others	70,342	7.6			Arab countries	148,498	16.1			of which Sudan	100,000	10.8			Sau. Arabia	26,582	2.9			Others	21,916	2.4			European countries	23,281	2.5			of which France (**)	21,964	2.4	36,091 (1999)		Others	1,317	0.1			North America	3,605	0.4	3,590 (US'00; CAN'06)		Other countries	3,610	0.4			Total	924,497	100.0			<p>Foreign resident population by country of citizenship (years 1976, 1987, 1998)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Country of citizenship</th> <th colspan="2">1976</th> <th colspan="2">1987</th> <th colspan="2">1998</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Number</th> <th>%</th> <th>Number</th> <th>%</th> <th>Number</th> <th>%</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Ivory Coast</td> <td>3,917</td> <td>5.0</td> <td>2,441</td> <td>4.2</td> <td>9,368</td> <td>14.7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Burkina Faso</td> <td>23,259</td> <td>29.6</td> <td>9,974</td> <td>17.1</td> <td>8,468</td> <td>13.3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Guinée</td> <td>19,394</td> <td>24.7</td> <td>13,459</td> <td>23.1</td> <td>6,961</td> <td>10.9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mauritania</td> <td>9,464</td> <td>12.1</td> <td>18,444</td> <td>31.6</td> <td>3,829</td> <td>6.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Senegal</td> <td>3,615</td> <td>4.6</td> <td>3,672</td> <td>6.3</td> <td>3,047</td> <td>4.8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Others Africa</td> <td>12,395</td> <td>15.8</td> <td>4,205</td> <td>7.2</td> <td>5,737</td> <td>9.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>France</td> <td>2,636</td> <td>3.4</td> <td>1,430</td> <td>2.5</td> <td>-</td> <td>0.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Others</td> <td>2,235</td> <td>2.8</td> <td>2,051</td> <td>3.5</td> <td>1,382</td> <td>2.2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Not available</td> <td>1,623</td> <td>2.1</td> <td>2,603</td> <td>4.5</td> <td>24,929</td> <td>39.1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>78,538</td> <td>100.0</td> <td>58,279</td> <td>100.0</td> <td>63,721</td> <td>100.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>% on the total of resident population</td> <td>1.2</td> <td></td> <td>0.8</td> <td></td> <td>0.6</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Source: Recensement Général de la Population et de l'Habitat, 1976, 1987 et 1998</p>						Country of citizenship	1976		1987		1998		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Ivory Coast	3,917	5.0	2,441	4.2	9,368	14.7	Burkina Faso	23,259	29.6	9,974	17.1	8,468	13.3	Guinée	19,394	24.7	13,459	23.1	6,961	10.9	Mauritania	9,464	12.1	18,444	31.6	3,829	6.0	Senegal	3,615	4.6	3,672	6.3	3,047	4.8	Others Africa	12,395	15.8	4,205	7.2	5,737	9.0	France	2,636	3.4	1,430	2.5	-	0.0	Others	2,235	2.8	2,051	3.5	1,382	2.2	Not available	1,623	2.1	2,603	4.5	24,929	39.1	Total	78,538	100.0	58,279	100.0	63,721	100.0	% on the total of resident population	1.2		0.8		0.6	
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¹ According to the Human Development Index, Mali ranked 178th out of 182 countries in 2007.

² After being mobilized in the French Army during the WWII, many Soninke have settled in France, representing today an important pull-factor for Malians at home under a social network perspective.

The majority resided in African countries (80.6%), mainly the Ivory Coast (56.6%), Senegal (5.5%) and Niger (5.4%). Important numbers of Malians were also found in Arab countries (16.1%) especially in Sudan (10.8%). Among European countries, France was the preferred destination hosting 94.3% of Malians residing in Europe, 2.4% of all Malians abroad.

The historical relevance of emigration and its importance socially becomes evident when the figures are examined for households with members abroad. In 1993, 30.8% of all households had at least one emigrant member.

Households by migratory status and ethnicity, 1993

Ethnic groups	Households	Households with at least one emigrant abroad	
		Number	%
Soninke	1,714	758	44.2
Peulh	3,961	1,228	31.0
Malinke	1,526	441	28.9
Others	4,869	1,339	27.5
Total	12,070	3,718	30.8

Source: *Enquête Migration et Urbanisation du Mali 1993, Réseau Migrations et Urbanisation en Afrique de l'Ouest (REMUAO)*

The Soninke and Peulh ethnic groups, considered as the pioneers of Malian emigration, have the highest propensity to emigrate: respectively 44.2% and 31.0% of their households have at least one member abroad.

As to gender, men account for 66.2% of emigrants in OECD countries, 55.0% in the Ivory Coast, 52.1% in Niger and 48.0% in Burkina Faso. According to Docquier et al. (2009), the great majority of emigrants have only a primary educational level (81.3% and 98.5% in OECD and non-OECD countries). Indeed, they show a low occupational profile, varying by destination area. For example, in France they are mainly employed in services to enterprises, education, health and social services, while on the Ivory Coast they tend to be found in the agricultural sector and the retail market (Merabet and Gendreau, 2007)

Flows

Despite data on flows being old and not being distributed according to nationality, it is worth noting that both outward and inward movements between Mali and neighboring western African countries – especially the Ivory Coast – are intense. Given the low foreign population in Mali, this phenomenon probably mirrors the high relevance of circular migration for Malians.

foreign nationals who work in the informal sector, estimated at 70.0% in the Malian labor market.

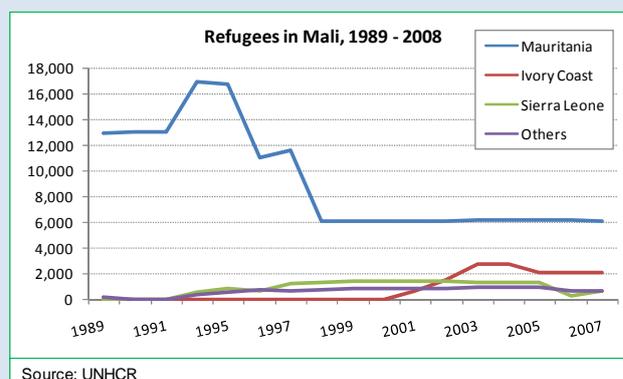
Foreign working age population by activity and employment status, 1998

Region of citizenship	Inactive population		Active population				Total	
			Employed		Unemployed			
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
West Africa	18,025	50.7	17,358	48.8	192	0.5	35,575	100.0
Others Africa	1,216	66.3	602	32.8	17	0.9	1,835	100.0
Others	635	45.9	732	53.0	15	1.1	1,382	100.0
Not available	11,891	47.7	13,000	52.1	38	0.2	24,929	100.0
Total	31,767	49.9	31,692	49.7	262	0.4	63,721	100.0

Source: *Recensement Général de la Population et de l'Habitat, 1998*

Flows

Political instability and internal conflicts have characterized Western Africa and have led to protracted refugee situations. Mali experienced various large inflows of refugees from neighboring countries, especially Mauritania (after the 1989 Mauritanian-Senegal war), the Ivory Coast (after the Civil War started in 2002) and Sierra Leone (with its internal conflicts in the 1990s).



Source: UNHCR

According to UNHCR, in 2008 Mali hosted around 6,000 refugees from Mauritania, mostly in the Kayes region. Recently the Mauritanian government has decided to allow them to return home through an extensive repatriation programme. Around 2,000 refugees and 1,000 refugees come from respectively the Ivory Coast and Sierra Leone.

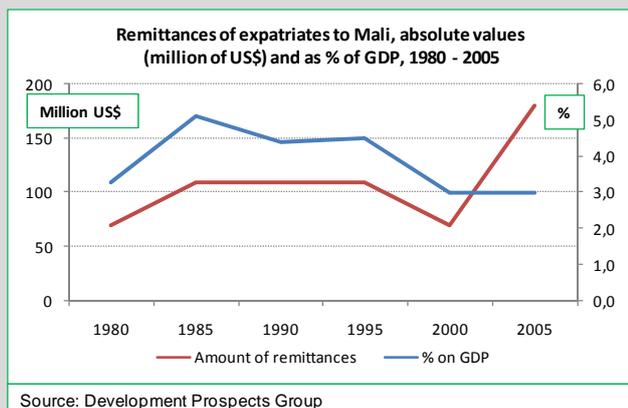
Since the early 2000s, Mali has also evolved into a transit country for those emigrating towards European countries. Gao is today an important city where "land-routing" migrants from Western African countries gather and plan their departure. Unfortunately, no estimates are available not least because current policies do not seem to challenge this phenomenon. In 2006, only 500 persons were sent back to the borders: perhaps a result of the high cost of these operations, estimated at 7,000 euros per person (Merabet and Gendreau, 2007).

CARIM Migration Profile: Mali

Flows to/from Mali by country of origin/destination in the period 1988 – 1992								
Burkina Faso	Ivory Coast	Guinea	Mauritania	Niger	Senegal	Others Africa	World	Total
Outflows								
13,000	166,000	10,000	6,000	10,000	12,000	44,000	49,000	310,000
Inflows								
11,033	116,314	10,846	4,862	7,667	14,025	9,724	12,529	187,000
Migratory balance								
-1,967	-49,686	846	-1,138	-2,333	2,025	-34,276	-36,471	-123,000

Source: Réseau Migrations et Urbanisation en Afrique de l'Ouest

Remittances represent an important resource for Mali, (3.0% of the GDP in 2005) especially for certain regions. According to a recent survey (Ammarrasi, 2005), remittances accounted for 80.0% of household resources in the Kayes Region, which is disproportionately affected by emigration flows. However, no significant positive relationship has been found between numerous remittances and local development; rather Azam and Gubert (2004) noted that the large inflows of money reduced the propensity of those who stayed behind in Kayes to work.



References: Ammassari S. 2005. "Gestion des migrations et politiques de développement: Optimiser les bénéfices de la migration en Afrique de l'Ouest", International Labour Office, Geneva; Azam J. and F. Gubert. 2004. Those in Kayes: "The impact of remittances on their recipients in Africa", University of Toulouse and DIAL, IRD, Paris; Docquier, F., B.L. Lowell and A. Marfouk. 2009. "A gendered assessment of highly skilled emigration", Population and Development Review 35 (2), 297-321. Extended in: Docquier, F. 2009. "New brain drain estimates accounting for South-South Migration", work in progress, Université Catholique de Louvain; Merabet O. and F. Gendreau. 2007. "Les questions migratoires au Mali, valeurs, sens et contresens", CIVI-POL, TRANSTEC; Findley S.E. 2004. "Mali : Seeking Opportunity Abroad", Migration Policy Institute.

The Legal Framework of Migration

In 2004 and 2005, like many other countries in the region, Mali modified its legal framework for the entry and stay of foreign nationals in its territory. In doing so it abrogated the French decree of 12 January 1932 and the French ordinance of 2 November 1945, which used to govern foreign nationals' admission and residence in some colonial territories of French Western Africa, but also the law of 2 March 1966 concerning expulsion. The new regulation sets out some relatively undemanding conditions for entrance into Malian territory and particularly insists on foreign nationals presenting repatriation or departure guarantees. It contains few distinctions and details regarding stay. Penal infringements also appear in general terms, but sanctions may be severe for migrants as well as for the person who assists them.

Such apparent severity might seem incongruous for a country and a region where populations routinely circulate, a fact which may explain the lack of developments in this simple and concise law. As a member of ECOWAS³, Mali accepts the principle of freedom of circulation, residence and establishment for member-state nationals among the 15 member countries. Mali undeniably inclines towards facilitating circulation, especially for its own nationals who, besides the freedom to circulate within the ECOWAS space, hold one of the most privileged Sub-Saharan nationalities in terms of ease of entry into Maghreb countries. The absence of a visa requirement attached to the Malian passport is actually an important factor in trafficking.

Mali has not adopted the principle of emigration penalization and continually resists pressures which might increase its commitment to migration control and readmission. Mali remains opposed to the French idea of "chosen immigration" which is not judged to fit its emigration interests. Unlike Senegal, it has so far refused to sign an agreement with France on the joint management of migratory flows, which would ease readmissions. Still, the agreement concluded with Spain in 2007 represents a progressive acceptance of circulation control, and offers a framework for the return of a large number of Malian emigrants. Mali's recent reconciliation with Mauritania and Algeria also suggests a will to cooperate against terrorism, a will which implies a greater control over the territory.

Mali is a space of mobility, but also of integration. Its citizenship law is open, by the standards of the region. The right of blood has been extended to women since 1995, while the right of soil is exceptionally open and dual citizenship is allowed.

Refugees are governed by a law of July 20, 1998 which lists their rights, according to the 1951 and 1969 Conventions, but which does not mention the residence permit attached to their status. The law partially refers to the UNHCR mandate, while clearly defining refugee-status determination as a discretionary competence of the Malian authorities.

³ Economic Community of West African States.

CARIM Migration Profile: Mali

	Outward migration	Inward migration
General legal references		<i>Law 04-058 of 25 November 2004</i> on entry, stay and establishment of foreign nationals in Mali, <i>Decree 05-322 of 19 July 2005</i> on implementation conditions.
		<i>1990 Convention</i> ⁴ : ratified. <i>ILO</i> : 28 conventions ratified ⁵
		Bilateral agreements : convention of circulation and establishment with Mauritania (1963), Cameroon (1964), Guinea (1964), Niger (1964) and Burkina Faso (1969); agreements with France related to the circulation and the stay of persons (1994), in migration field (1998) and co-development (2000); cooperation agreement with Spain concerning immigration (2007); among others.
		Member State of the <i>African Union</i> , the <i>ECOWAS</i> and the <i>CENSAD</i> ⁶ .
Circulation Entry and Exit	Freedom to leave the territory is not guaranteed in the Constitution. Maliens are exempted from a visa requirement for entrance to several countries including Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Mauritania, as well as ECOWAS countries.	Distinction between non-immigrant (for temporary stay) and immigrant (willing to settle) foreign nationals. Entry dependent on the presentation of a passport and a visa, possibly vaccination certification, repatriation guarantees (return ticket or financial guarantee) and means-of-living guarantees. ECOWAS-country nationals are exempted from visa requirements.
Struggle against irregular migration	<i>Palermo protocols</i> ⁷ : ratified	
	Return program with Switzerland and IOM.	Irregular stay or work are punished with a three-month to three-year prison sentence and a 200,000 to 500,000 FCFA fine, for the migrant or the person who assists him/her. Liability of the carrier. Possible house arrest of foreign nationals awaiting deportation. Return to Mali is prohibited after an expulsion. No specific judicial framework, but also no sanctions.

⁴ Convention on the Protection of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Family.

⁵ Including conventions C111 concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation but excluding conventions C118 Equality of Treatment of Nationals and Non-Nationals in Social Security, C97 concerning Migration for Employment and C143 concerning Migrations in Abusive Conditions and the Promotion of Equality of Opportunity and Treatment of Migrant Workers.

⁶ Community of Sahel-Saharan countries.

⁷ The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children, and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 15 November 2000.

<p>Rights and settlement</p>	<p>Ordinance of 25 September 2000: creation of the General Delegation of Malians abroad, within the Ministry of Malians abroad and African Integration. This body is in charge of looking after expatriate Malian interests, fostering their participation in the country's development and following return aid actions.</p> <p>Maliens abroad are represented in the High Council of the authorities and in the Economic, Social and Cultural Council. They also have parliamentary representation.</p> <p>Expatriates' voting rights in Presidential elections, when elections are organized in the receiving country (according to the importance of the diaspora).</p>	<p>Six-month and longer stay dependent on the presentation of a police record and medical certificate indicating the absence of contagious diseases. The one year stay visa is a right for foreign national parents of Malians (spouse for 3 months, child of a Malian, etc) or in the family reunification of a foreign resident.</p> <p>Five-year residence card.</p> <p>Stay visa and residence card are null and void after a six-month absence from the country.</p> <p>Family reunification: yes (spouse and minor children).</p> <p>Access to Employment: same conditions as for a stay visa and employment contract approved by the National Labour Direction.</p> <p>Civil service reserved for nationals.</p> <p>Access to liberal, artisan, commercial and industrial activities needs authorization.</p> <p>Access to public services: yes.</p> <p>Access to estate ownership: yes.</p>
<p>Refugees</p>	<p>Nationality: Law n°62-18 of 3 February 1962. The last amendment in 1995 has given women the right to transmit their nationality to their children. <i>Jus sanguinis</i> by the descent of father or mother, whatever the birthplace. Discrimination: repudiation right for children born abroad to a Malian mother and a foreign father. <i>Jus soli</i>: simple – optional right for a child born in Mali if he/she lived there at least 5 years before coming of age; double – nationality of origin for the child born in Mali to a parent with African origin who was also born there. Automatic acquisition of nationality through marriage with a male Mauritanian. Easier access to naturalization for a foreign man married to a Malian woman. Dual citizenship is allowed..</p>	<p>1951 Convention⁸: ratified.</p> <p>1969 Convention⁹: ratified.</p> <p>Law n°98-040 of 20 July 1998 on refugee status. Applications for refugee status should be presented by the petitioner or by UNHCR to the Ministry in charge of Territorial Administration.</p>

⁸ Geneva Convention relating to the status of refugees.

⁹ OAU Convention governing specific aspects of refugees in Africa.

The Socio-Political Framework of Migration

Standing between North and West Africa, confronted, despite significant liberalization dating back to the 1990s, with various socio-economic difficulties, Mali faces the challenge of implementing structural developmental reforms.

With a view to incorporating migration in an integrative development strategy, the government has institutionalised its migration apparatus. Numerous initiatives with international stakeholders¹⁰ attempt to valorize the capital of the Malian Diaspora, assisting expelled Malian migrants, fighting human trafficking and reducing irregular emigration. EU-sponsored initiatives have focused on embedding Mali's emigration policies in a co-development perspective, whereas UN-sponsored initiatives focus on spurring Malian expatriates' involvement in the country so as to reform higher education there. Notwithstanding the fact that results are modest, Mali's emigration sector provides an interesting example of multilateral migration governance and an interesting laboratory to see how emigration can boost structural development.

Although Mali is not an immigration country, it is worth noting that the permeable Malian frontiers have acted as a facilitating factor for transit and irregular migration from surrounding African countries such as Burkina Faso, Guinea and Niger. Induced by conflict, environmental and socio-economic problems, refugee movements have come out of Mauritania, Sierra Leone, Liberia and the Ivory Coast. The presence, since 1989, of Mauritanian refugees in Mali, refugees whose return has been partially facilitated since 2008 by the Mauritanian government and by UNHCR has particularly attracted attention. Still, the situation of these refugees, with regard to socioeconomic conditions as well as actual protection and access to rights, is not well-studied. They are thought to be dispersed all over the country and their presence has certainly provoked less contention than that of Mauritanian refugees in Senegal.

Mali's socio-political framework	Outward migration	Inward migration
Governmental Institutions	The High Council of Malians abroad ; the Ministry of Malians Abroad and African Integration, ¹¹ the General Delegation of Malians Abroad (DGME); the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International cooperation; the General Direction of Civil Protection	The National Direction of the Police; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
Governmental Strategy	Design action plans and policies to facilitate and encourage legal Malian emigration; protect Malians abroad and defend their interests; define and put in place action plans to ensure and coordinate their participation in local development and to facilitate their socio-economic reintegration upon their return (under the auspices of the High Council of Malians Abroad); put in place, in cooperation with concerned institutions, a national policy plan for African integration; favour investments from Malian expatriates; establish and finance centres, associations and forums to study migration dynamics in Mali (e.g. CIGEM) and to organise relations with the Diaspora; fight against irregular	Set up rules concerning the entry and residence of foreign nationals; establish action plans with regard to economic immigrants' recruitment (within the ECOWAS); cooperate with other concerned parties so as to fight against illegal and transit immigration; identify refugees and define their status and rights. ¹³

¹⁰ We cite for instance Mali's active role in the ECOWAS as most emigration from Mali is to Africa (Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Senegal, etc.) as well as Mali's cooperation with the EU in the framework of the declaration on "Migration and Development" whose aim is to embed emigration in Mali within the larger context of development.

¹¹ See www.maliensdelexterieur.gov.ml/cgi-bin/index.pl

	emigration; sensitise the local population to the risks of irregular emigration; ensure the protection and rights of expelled Malians and help in their repatriation: i.e. their return and socio-economic reintegration. ¹²	
Civil Society Action	<p>(a) Initiatives of Malian migrant associations as well as professional and student Diaspora networks aimed at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reinforcing ties with Malian expatriates and promoting their political, social and cultural rights as well as local involvement (For instance, the High Council of Malians Abroad has set up offices in 62 countries so as to safeguard the rights of Malian expatriates and boost their involvement in local development; the Maliwatch, a forum facilitating knowledge exchange among Malians abroad organises scientific conferences with a view to consolidating the scientific transfer of knowledge between the Diaspora and the homeland); - Protecting expelled Malian migrants (the Association of Expelled Malians AME that takes in expelled Malians from different countries such as Angola, Saudi Arabia, France...); - Fighting against human trafficking and smuggling (e.g. the cooperation between the Malian association, Action Group Development (GAD) and the international body Save the Children has launched a transborder project so as to curb human trafficking and smuggling) <p>(b) Initiatives of research institutions aimed at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Probing into questions related to the Malian Diaspora: e.g. the National Center for Scientific and Technical Research at the University of Bamako CNRST. 	<p>(a) Civil society networks and initiatives aimed at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assisting refugees to return on an organized rather than on an individual basis: e.g. Coordination of Mauritanian Refugees in Senegal and Mali (e.g. CRMSM); - Assisting immigrants with a precarious status and safeguarding their rights (e.g. CARITAS)
Challenges	<p>The necessity to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adopt an integrated and transversal approach linking migration issues with sustainable socio-economic development in Mali (for instance, embedding migration governance within broader partnerships of co-development so as tackle the root causes of poverty, stimulate economic growth as well as the creation of jobs); - Fight against the causes of irregular emigration (poverty, low salaries, 	<p>The necessity to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Institutionalise and improve the coherence of the framework regulating immigration in Mali by delineating more clearly the different categories of regular and irregular immigrants; - Explore whether and the extent to which labour immigration partnerships with surrounding countries could boost local and regional development;

¹³ Following Mauritania-Senegal border tensions, ethno-political upheavals culminated in the expulsion of Senegalese and Black Mauritians from the country. According to Mauritanian authorities, 10.000 Mauritians have sought refuge in Mali. However, the situation of these refugees is not sufficiently known. This is due to the fact that their presence has provoked less controversy as the conflict was essentially Mauritanian-Senegalese. See Abdelrahmane el Yessa, « le retour des réfugiés mauritaniens au Sénégal et au Mali, vingt ans après la crise de 1989 », *CARIM Research Report* 2009/11, http://cadmus.eui.eu/dspace/bitstream/1814/10794/1/CARIM_RR_2009_11.pdf.

¹² A campaign was launched by the government in 2008 and 2009 in order to sensitise the local population with regards to the risks associated to illegal emigration.

CARIM Migration Profile: Mali

	<p>unemployment);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Find adequate solutions to human trafficking (fight namely against the trafficking of women and children); - Ensure that education programs match and complement job opportunities in the labour market thus encouraging the highly skilled to remain in the country. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fight against transit migration stemming from surrounding countries, sometimes due to the porosity of frontiers;¹⁴ - Collect reliable and representative data on refugees in the country (their distribution and integration); - Develop less politicized and more transparent procedures vis-à-vis the reintegration of Mauritanian refugees; - Cooperate more efficiently with international NGOs so as to improve the status of refugees in Mali (e.g. Mauritanian, Liberian, Ivorian, Sierra Leonean refugees)
<p>International Cooperation</p>	<p>Establishing cooperation frameworks with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and with African countries so as to ensure the free mobility of persons and to abolish visa requirements with countries such as Morocco and the Cameroon; cooperate with international parties and establish agreements with international bodies so as to organise and facilitate emigration and to grasp the causes of irregular emigration (e.g. signing an agreement with IOM in October 2004; launching a political dialogue with the EU with a view to organising circular migration (CIGEM)¹⁵; launching multilateral cooperation programs such as TOKTEN¹⁶ with the UNDP and TALMALI¹⁷ with UNESCO in order to encourage Malian expatriates to contribute to local development); developing action plans (e.g. with IOM, UNESCO and the ECOWAS) with a view to fighting human trafficking and the exploitation of women and children.¹⁸</p>	<p>Developing collaborative mechanisms with international organisations (e.g. UNHCR) so as to deal with refugees' stay and return (particularly Mauritanian refugees in the wake of the 1989 crisis)¹⁹; facilitate and regulate the circulation of nationals within the ECOWAS framework in Mali</p>

¹⁴ As a result of the agreements between Mali and neighbouring countries regarding free mobility, transit migrants may consider Mali as a stopover in their journey to Europe.

¹⁵ In the wake of talks between Mali, the ECOWAS, France, Spain and the European Commission, a declaration on "Migration and Development" was signed in Bamako in 2007. In this declaration, concerned parties commit to establish a Migration Information and Management Center (CIGEM) whose objective is to study and enhance circular migration

¹⁶ The programme TOKTEN, managed by the UNDP, encourages Malian expatriate professionals to come back to their country for a short period (1-6 months) to take up teaching assignments in local institutions or to contribute to the development of sectors in crisis such as health and agriculture.

¹⁷ The TALMALI project (Mali's talents) managed by UNESCO invites the Malian Diaspora to invest its competences in higher education.

¹⁸ See for instance, « Réunion préparatoire du deuxième Forum des Ministres du Développement Social de la CEDEAO », 2006, available at http://portal.unesco.org/shs/en/files/9539/116464121313Forum_des_Ministres_SP.pdf/Forum%2Bdes%2BMinistres%2BSP.pdf

¹⁹ The government has, since 2008, coordinated via the Mauritanian National Agency ANAIR and in conjunction with the UNHCR the return and reintegration of Mauritanian refugees from Senegal and Mali. However, priority is given to the organised return of Mauritanian refugees from Senegal as they are more numerous and as their situation is more complex. It is worthy of note that there is no agreement between Mauritania and Mali that organizes the return and reintegration process. See el Yessa, p.22.