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# **ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE GAO MIGRANT HOUSE**



*Supporting the actions of the Gao Migrant House in the Sahel region means encouraging social inclusion and harmonious coexistence. It is about offering an opportunity to the most vulnerable migrant populations in this region to benefit from concrete assistance and to find a safe refuge. By contributing to this noble cause, we actively participate in the construction of a more just and united society.*

This program is  
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# Thanks

The current document highlights the dedication of the Caritas Mali team in Mopti - Maison du Migrant de Gao, highlighting the hard work and concrete achievements of 2024 thanks to the invaluable support of partners such as Caritas Germany, Secours Catholique Caritas France, Caritas Spain, CCFD Terre Solidaire France. Our partners who have been mobilizing for many years to help people in a situation of mobility through the Migrant House of Gao. Their technical, financial and moral support has made it possible to create a real family where about 5000 people on the move have found comfort and hope at the gates of the Sahara.

Warm thanks are extended to the local authorities for their continued support despite the current challenges, demonstrating a continued commitment to

ensuring the well-being and protection of migrants in transit in Gao, Mali. Their administrative and legal support contributes greatly to the balance of the people welcomed by Caritas Mali/Mopti - Maison du Migrant de Gao.

Gratitude is also expressed to the prosecutor of Gao and the Defense and Security Forces for their support to vulnerable migrants. Our sincere gratitude to our main interlocutor, the immigration police, despite the constraints encountered.

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Gratitude is expressed to the people of Gao who actively support the Migrant House and welcome migrants into their community. The heads of agencies are also thanked for their commitment to minimising risks and ensuring better safety for migrants on the voluntary return route.

Finally, a big thank you is addressed to all the people who, although not mentioned individually, continue to actively support the actions of the Gao Migrant House.



# Introduction

The issue of the mobility of people is a hot topic, and it is essential that the competent authorities adapt to these new realities to ensure adequate protection for migrants. It is not only about providing them with help in an emergency, but also about offering them comprehensive and sustainable support. Political and diplomatic upheavals in the Sahel have had a significant impact on migration flows, leading to a certain mistrust of international organizations to deal with the current tensions.

In 2024, we have observed a major change in migration dynamics in the Sahel, particularly within the Alliance of Sahel States, and due to diplomatic tensions with Algeria. Political changes within the Alliance have profoundly affected migrant populations.

Caritas Mali in Mopti, through its Gao Migrant House, is resolutely committed to going beyond

simple emergency protection to meet the challenges of contemporary migration. Indeed, the organization is convinced that migrant populations in Gao need effective and sustainable support to ensure their well-being.

The harmonious integration of people on the move, whether they come from the region or elsewhere, is at the heart of the concerns of Caritas Mali of Mopti – Maison du Migrant de Gao. It is essential to set up projects to promote the inclusion and reintegration of migrants, in order to prevent risky departures to areas of armed conflict and to create opportunities for local development.

The vision of Caritas Mali of Mopti – Maison du Migrant de Gao is to promote a comprehensive approach that takes into account the specific needs of migrant populations, with an emphasis on their social and economic integration. This approach aims to foster social cohesion, strengthen

links between local communities and migrants, and create an environment conducive to the development of all.

Caritas Mali is committed to supporting the migrant populations of Gao in their integration process, by implementing concrete and sustainable initiatives that contribute to their well-being and that of society as a whole.

The actors involved must work together to develop innovative strategies to address the specific needs of migrants while promoting their social integration. In the face of the ever-changing global migration, we must adopt a proactive approach that places well-being and human dignity at the centre of our actions. The Gao Migrant House is committed to supporting vulnerable people on the move by offering them activities dedicated exclusively to their well-being, without distinction.



# General context of migration in Gao Mali

## Migration, political and security problems

An analysis of the migration situation in the Gao region in northern Mali reveals a strong influence of political and security problems, in particular terrorist attacks. These attacks have led to the implementation of strict measures to control the threat, significantly impacting the mobility of people on the move.

The curfew introduced for seven months subjected the migrant populations to increased control by the FDS defense and security forces. (The curfew is not officially over.). Attacks in Bamako, including at the

gendarmerie camp and Bamako airport (SENOU), led to arrests for various reasons such as night wandering and failure to hold travel documents, as well as other restrictive measures affecting migrants.

In addition, the presence of armed men along the Gao-Bamako axis has led to combing operations by the Malian Armed Forces (FAMAs), resulting in restrictions on the passage of civilians and non-state armed groups present in the region. The Gao-Bamako road section has been closed for more than a year.

The security forces have banned travel on the Gao-Douentza axis and at the same time the armed terrorist groups have also announced the blockade of this section.

Events such as the attack on the Gendarmerie School in Bamako have also disrupted the movement of migrants through Malian territory, leading to increased arrests and controls, thus creating a climate of uncertainty and precariousness for migrant populations in the Gao region and in Mali in general.

## In the aftermath of the exit from ECOWAS and the creation of the AES

*The creation of the Alliance of Sahel States (AES) and the break with ECOWAS have opened the door to various eventualities related to the tensions observed between member states. By analytically examining these developments, we can highlight the potential impacts on human mobility, security, economy and politics in the region and the effect on the actions of the Caritas Mali Migrant House of Gao.*

### Related to Human Mobility

Rising tensions between AES member states and ECOWAS could lead to travel restrictions for citizens of non-member countries, disrupting migration flows, trade and regional integration. The border areas between Mali and Niger, which are key crossings for migrants, could be particularly affected, with consequences for the mobility of populations and on the efforts of humanitarian workers to manage voluntary or forced returns of migrants.

### Related to Economic Impact

Political tensions and inter-organizational rifts between the AES and ECOWAS could have major economic repercussions. Disruptions in trade, such as those observed between Niger

and Benin, could affect the economic stability of regions such as Gao and many other localities. Rising prices and the scarcity of certain food items could be exacerbated, jeopardizing food security and the economic well-being of local populations.

### Related to Security

Tensions between the ESA and ECOWAS could undermine security cooperation and create a vacuum in the fight against terrorism, arms trafficking and organised crime. Regional coalitions, such as the one between Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso, may emerge to counter these threats, but security challenges still persist, such as the attacks in Tenzawaten, (Mali-Algeria border) may remain, highlighting the vulnerabilities of Mali's northern regions..



Un Espace - Un Peuple - Un Destin

### Increased security risks

Political and security tensions stemming from these ruptures could increase the risks of instability and compromise the security of local populations. The erosion of regional security cooperation could weaken the ability of states to ensure regional stability, leaving populations exposed to increasing security threats.





The complex dynamics between the ESA and ECOWAS raise significant challenges in terms of human mobility, security, economics and politics, despite

the good faith of the ESA leaders announcing respect for and free movement of people and goods from other ECOWAS member states. A thorough analysis

of these issues is essential to anticipate and mitigate potential impacts on the stability and well-being of local populations in the region.

## ***Current movement of people on the move in Gao and Northern Mali***

### **Massive arrival of migrants from Assamaka in Niger**

The flagrant violation of the rights of migrants on the move is a worrying reality that manifests itself in various alarming situations. In 2024, draconian restrictions were observed on the movement of individuals and their goods to Gao from Niger bound for Algeria, hindering their freedom of movement and their right to mobility. Several factors are at the origin of the situation, including the coup d'état in Niger and ECOWAS sanctions, insecurity.

In addition, migrants are subjected to the ordeal of commodification, where their situation is exploited for profit, exposing them to increased risks and inhumane conditions. This problem is exacerbated by the increase in migratory activity in Gao, where control and regulation have become almost non-existent.

At the same time, insecurity and internal political tensions contribute to worsening the situation of migrants, exposing them to additional risks and further undermining their fundamental rights. It is imperative to take urgent

measures to protect these vulnerable individuals and ensure respect for their human rights, including in terms of mobility and safety.

It is essential to put in place concrete policies and actions to ensure the safety and protection of migrants in a context of instability and exploitation. National and international authorities must work together to ensure that the human rights of these individuals are respected and to address this humanitarian crisis with compassion and determination.



## ***Paths taken by migrants***

### ***The return movements of migrants and the expulsion of sub-Saharan African nationals from Algerian territory***

The events related to migration and the continuation of departures for Algeria demonstrate once again that the city of Gao is, despite the insecurity, an area of passage par excellence for migrants towards the Maghreb and later Europe. Beyond the outgoing flows, it is also necessary to take into account the inward flows, which are voluntary or forced return migrants (expelled) from Algeria to the borders of Mali. There is also another category that arrives on the side of the borders of Mali with Niger which



are also migrants from the refoulement of Algeria to the city of Assamaka in Niger. The flows returning to Niger are more numerous than those from the

borders with Mali (about 12% of the migrants seen passing through Gao are the result of Algeria's rejection at Mali's borders).

## ***Pushbacks of Migrants at Malian Borders Persons on the Move and Detention***

With regard to the current movements of migratory flows in and out, particularly of people on the move in Gao and northern Mali, routes to the Maghreb are essential for migrants. However, security obstacles and patrols by the armed forces and their military partners make these journeys dangerous, exposing migrants to risks and disappearances.

Smugglers take high-risk routes through areas controlled by non-state armed groups, such as the Timbuktu to In-Afara road and then In-kalil in Algeria, creating a perilous situation for travellers. The region is also the scene of the presence of armed men, as is the case in Tenzawaten in the Kidal region

***whom may be foreign nationals. It should be noted that some migrants, in order to finance their journey, are required to work temporarily in these gold panning sites. These activities serve as a source of funding for their travel to other regions. Testimonies from migrants from Guinea point out that some young migrants are recruited in Algeria to come and work in the gold mines of northern Mali. This situation highlights the difficulties faced by these migrants in search of better opportunities, as well as the risks involved in dangerous environments such as gold mining sites and mines.***

or the risks for migrants crossing the area are becoming increasingly high.

Finally, despite diplomatic tensions and refoulement bans, Algeria continues to deport, in particular through irregular pushbacks of migrants to the Malian and Nigerien borders,

exposing migrants to increased dangers and at the mercy of armed groups (Many migrants having been wounded by bullets, about 08 cases have been admitted to the Maison du Migrant in Gao to receive emergency medical care, They were victims of violent attacks during their journey through the desert. It should be noted that some 4x4 vehicles, not belonging to recognized armed groups, are often targeted by unscrupulous aggressors, thus accentuating the danger faced by these vulnerable people on the move.

More worryingly, it has been found that some members of these unscrupulous armed groups do not hesitate to exploit the plight of migrants by selling them to other armed groups, exposing them to even greater risks.).

***The recent army strikes carried out in the area, particularly in Tenzawaten in the Kidal region, particularly in the gold panning sites, have resulted in a large number of victims, among***



## ***State of play on migration in Gao and northern Mali..***

The nature of the city of Gao means that it occupies a strategic position as a transit zone for those who aspire to reach the Maghreb and then Europe. About 400 migrants pass through Gao each month, with 55% leaving for Algeria and artisanal gold mines, 8% coming from Niger and 37% coming from pushbacks from Algeria and Libya. This geographical reality further complicates the migration issue, thus exacerbating the risks incurred by these already vulnerable people on the move. The irony is not lost when we note that despite all the obstacles encountered on their way to Algeria – whether they are security threats, health threats or related to outsourcing – a significant number of migrants continue to flow in this direction. Currently, movements to the Maghreb and then Europe are abundant on the Timbuktu

side, as for return movements, they are more observed in Gao, especially in terms of people on the move from Assamaka in Niger and In-Khalil on the Malian side. This is due to the clashes between the army (FAMA) and the secessionist jihadist armed groups.

This underlines not only the persistence of migratory flows but also the unwavering determination of people on the move in the face of these hardships linked to the tightening of migration policies, insecurity and natural hazards to continue their migratory journey. People on the move are especially exposed to commodification since the deterioration of relations with Niger since the coup d'état. These include the repeal of Law 2015-36 of 26 May 2015 which criminalized migration-related activities. In Mali, with the departure of foreign forces and the cessation

of certain agencies defending the rights of people, the fighting in certain areas such as in the Kidal region no longer allows for adequate control of migratory movements.

However, it is essential to carefully examine the policies put in place to manage these migratory movements. It seems relevant to question certain policies aimed at externalizing or repressing that claim to be able to slow down or even solve this complex phenomenon. In this environment marked by uncertainty and human distress, it is imperative for all stakeholders involved – local and international governments in particular – to consider more inclusive and rights-respecting solutions in order to improve this situation in the long term.

## ***The Migrant's House in the face of the current situation in the Sahel***

The Maison du Migrant de Gao has had to increase its activities to support people on the move. Political and security crises have increased the presence of people on the move in Gao. Especially the situation related to the coup d'état in Niger, which is causing people on the move to migrate to Gao in search of assistance, which has become

very mixed in recent months. Dealing with the massive arrival of people on the move from the Niger-Algeria, Mali-Algeria, Mali-Mauritania borders, has greatly increased the need for consumer products, so the shortage is felt every day in the Gao market (as a result of the embargo decreed by ECOWAS on Niger. It should be remembered that the

Gao market is mainly supplied by Niger. We can thus see the high cost of living in Gao and its surroundings, which has a strong impact on the activities of the Gao Migrant House. Every week, the Maison du Migrant de Gao welcomes between 35 and 40 people on the move, each with a very specific problem.

## ***Managing migration dynamics in Gao: the challenges of intervening in a complex context.***

In a context of increasing migration in West Africa, the city of Gao has become a major transit point for thousands of people in search of a better future. Unfortunately, this mobility is accompanied by many challenges: illicit trafficking of human beings, exploitation by criminal networks, and lack of sufficient and effective care

for vulnerable people. The Gao Migrant House is on the front line in the face of these complex realities. Every day, its social workers are confronted with emergency situations, where men, women and children, victims of smugglers, arrive in precarious conditions after dangerous migratory journeys. The management of migration

dynamics at the Maison du Migrant in Gao faces many challenges, including the increase in smuggling of people in the Sahel region. Migrants, often young girls, women and entire families, are exploited by unscrupulous smugglers promising them a better life in Europe.

In this article, we look back at



the recent case of a group of Liberian migrants abandoned in the middle of the migration route, illustrating the grandiose challenges related to human trafficking and the need for a coordinated response. Faced with the difficulties encountered by the local authorities and the slowness of the care processes, what solutions can be envisaged to protect the lives and dignity of migrants?

Last December, a group of 70 migrants with 68 Liberian nationals, including 33 children, 23 women and 14 young men, aged between 02 months and 10 years, were abandoned at the border between Mali and Algeria by a smuggler. The latter had extorted \$3,500 each from them by promising them safe passage to Europe. The group, which left Liberia three months ago, passed through Guinea Conakry, Bamako and Gao before being left without assistance in the middle of the desert. Faced with their distress, they decided to return to Gao, where they were taken care of by the Maison du Migrant.

Despite the alerts sent to a local police station and the Protection Cluster by the teams of the Maison du Migrant to facilitate the care of the group, no coordinated action could be put in place.

The agents of the Maison du Migrant therefore had to study the possibilities of sending these people back to Bamako. The slowness in the coordination of rapid actions between different entities demonstrates the inadequacies in inter-institutional collaboration in the management of migration-related emergencies in the Gao region.

The issue of migrant smuggling and commodification, combined with the inaction of organizations, is a major concern requiring an urgent response. This situation has a significant impact on the staff of the Migrant House, increasing their already heavy workload, especially during

the end-of-year period, when migratory flows can be more intense.

The smuggling and commodification of migrants in West Africa represents a growing threat, fuelled by criminal networks exploiting the vulnerability of would-be exiles. Testimonies show that smugglers manipulate migrants with the promise of work and education opportunities, before abandoning them in dangerous areas such as the Sahara Desert. This reality jeopardizes the safety and dignity of migrants, who are left without resources or protection.

In the face of this humanitarian crisis, it is imperative to adopt concrete measures to limit these practices. Increased awareness among at-risk populations could lead them to be aware of the dangers involved and through this information, would probably be able to better protect themselves.

In addition, the strengthening of assistance and integration mechanisms in the countries of origin must be better valued in order to offer viable alternatives at the outset.

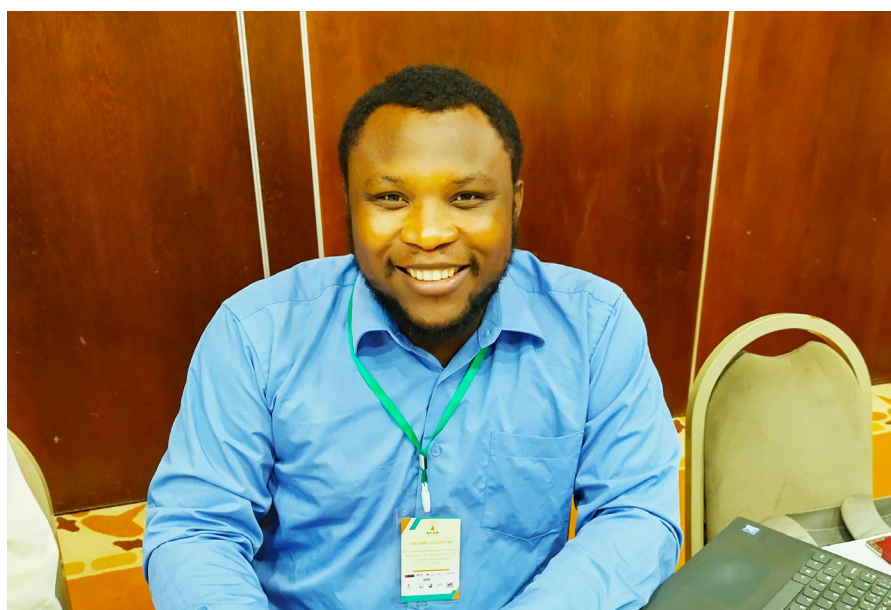
At the Maison du Migrant in Gao, debates were organized between migrants, former migrants and Malian citizens to discuss the reasons for

the departures and possible solutions. These exchanges highlighted differences in perception between those who value local opportunities and those who denounce the lack of economic prospects in their countries of origin. The issue of migration is therefore a major social and political issue, requiring concerted action to guarantee dignified living conditions for vulnerable populations.

In conclusion, the migration crisis in Gao highlights the limits of migration management policies in West Africa. There is an urgent need to act to better protect migrants and fight against the networks of smugglers who exploit their distress. A coordinated response between States, humanitarian organizations and local communities is essential to prevent such situations in the future.

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*The Protection Cluster in Mali is part of a coordinated approach by the UN humanitarian system to address the protection needs of vulnerable populations, particularly those affected by conflict, violence or humanitarian crises*



# What topics echoes the Gao Migrant House in 2024?

## Women and children in migration

Support for women on the move and unaccompanied minors: Specific practices must be put in place to ensure adequate support for women on the move and unaccompanied minors, who are particularly vulnerable to abuse and exploitation.

The topics that aroused interest at the Gao Migrant House in 2024 mainly focused on the support of women on the move and unaccompanied minors. These specific populations face complex and multiple challenges that require special attention and tailored measures to ensure their protection and well-being.

Women on the move and unaccompanied minors are particularly vulnerable to abuse and exploitation, in particular due to their precarious situation and exposure to physical and psychological risks while on the move. Child migrants, in particular, often flee situations of conflict, persecution or economic insecurity, exposing them to considerable dangers along their journey, including when taking dangerous routes through the desert and the Mediterranean Sea.

In an unstable region, such as northern Mali, these young migrants face risks of human trafficking, sexual exploitation and even forced recruitment by armed groups. In 2024, cases such as that of Nigerian girls Faith and Pamela, as well as Burkinabe nationals held captive by terrorist groups, have highlighted the dangers faced by these young migrants in the Sahel.

Underage girls, in particular, are victims of sexual exploitation, while other forms of exploitation, such as forced labour in Malian mines, persist despite official prohibitions. Migrants arriving at the Gao Migrant House from dangerous areas are often



injured, abused or exploited, highlighting the urgency of protecting these vulnerable populations.

To respond to this complex reality, it is imperative that local and international authorities work together to put in place appropriate protection and assistance measures for these young migrants. Access to adequate education, the creation of legal and safe pathways for migration, as well as a compassionate and coordinated approach by all relevant actors are essential to provide a safer and brighter future for these young people on the move.

As for migrant women, they face specific challenges related to insecurity, violence and economic insecurity, which exposes them to increased risks of violence and exploitation. Cases of rape and physical violence in the desert have been

reported. It is important to take a holistic approach that takes into account their specific needs, while offering concrete support adapted to their realities.

Investing in migrant women's empowerment and sustainable integration programmes can not only improve their own situation, but also contribute to the well-being of their host families and communities. It is therefore essential to support these women in their migratory journey by offering them concrete solutions and strengthening their autonomy and dignity throughout their journey.

The care of migrant women and minors requires a comprehensive and concerted approach, involving political, social and economic actions to guarantee their protection, safety and well-being throughout their migratory journey;

## What public policies in favor of women and minors on the move in Mali?

Public policies in favor of women and minors on the move in Mali are of paramount importance to guarantee the protection and rights of these vulnerable groups. As Nelson Mandela so aptly said, "The true measure of a society is found in the way it treats its most vulnerable members." Thus, the Malian government must put in place concrete measures to protect women and children who are often victims of violence, exploitation and trafficking when they are in a situation of mobility.

These policies must take into account not only prevention but also access to justice for victims. Inspired by the words of Audrey Hepburn: "Helping one person will not change the whole world, but it will change the world for that person", it is imperative that these policies are designed with empathy and compassion in order to improve the daily lives of the women and minors concerned.

In addition, an educational component should also be considered in these public policies in order to raise awareness among both local communities and the actors involved in their implementation

of the fundamental importance of respect for human rights. As Malala Yousafzai so rightly points out : "A child, a teacher, a book and a pen can change the world". Education therefore plays a crucial role in empowering women and effectively protecting children from any form of abuse or discrimination while on the move within the country.

In sum, developing and effectively implementing policies represents a decisive step towards a more just Malian society where each individual can live freely without fear or be exposed to the risks inherent in their mobility.

## Grief: Working together to restore dignity to the dead and missing migrants in Gao and the Sahara.

Restoring dignity to dead and missing migrants is a universal moral imperative, transcending national borders and shining a light on our shared common

du Migrant de Gao is constantly committed with its partners of Caritas Germany, CCFD Terre Solidaire France, Caritas Spain and Secours Catholique Caritas

disappeared migrants. In 2024 alone, no less than 08 cases of migrants who died in Gao were taken care of by Caritas Mali in Mopti – The Migrant House in Gao.



In 2024, the Gao Migrant House implemented various actions to support deceased or missing migrants, with the support of its technical and financial partners mentioned above. Here is an overview of the initiatives undertaken :

✦ **Burial of deceased migrants:** Thanks to the Gao Migrant House, many cases of deceased migrants have been taken care of for burial, highlighting the importance of this support in tragic situations.

✦ **Support of bereaved families :** The agents of the Migrant House have played a crucial role in supporting bereaved families in Mali and Niger following the death or disappearance of migrants in Gao. Emergency measures have been taken in response to this delicate situation, with close monitoring of the deaths that have occurred.

humanity. As the philosopher Albert Camus so aptly put it, "Every man bears the whole form of the human condition." Recognizing the dignity of dead or missing migrants is thus tantamount to recognizing our own humanity.

Caritas Mali of Mopti – Maison

France to restore this humanity by carrying out actions aimed at restoring dignity to migrants who are often neglected, not only in Gao but also elsewhere. For at least four years, the agents of the Maison du Migrant have undertaken admirable actions to restore a certain dignity to the



- + Identification of graves and commemorative ceremonies : A careful identification of 62 graves in different cemeteries was carried out, allowing for the organization of religious prayer ceremonies to honor the memory of the deceased. These actions have helped to pay respectfully to the deceased.

**As for good practices to share:**

- + Collaboration with local authorities: Close collaboration has been established to collect and capitalize on information on the circumstances of deaths, highlighting the importance of working in

partnership with authorities to ensure adequate support for bereaved families.

- + Registration of information and celebration of Commemorative Action Day : The provision of an updatable register to municipal authorities and the celebration of Commemorative Action Day have made it possible to raise awareness among foreign communities and authorities on the issues related to the deaths of migrants.
- + Involvement of families in burial procedures: The involvement of family members of the deceased in burial procedures has made it possible to

respect the traditions and customary practices of the deceased's community, promoting appropriate and respectful mourning.

These initiatives deserve recognition and expansion in most transit countries, particularly in the Sahel region. In the same way that efforts are being made in the Maghreb and Mediterranean regions to restore dignity to migrants who have died at sea, it is crucial that this approach is also adopted in the Sahel region. In this environment, where many individuals die due to the extremely difficult conditions and violence perpetrated by armed groups.

***Civil status: Facilitate the granting of civil status documents to migrants in transit in Gao, in particular those deported from Algeria and people on the move residing in Gao.***

It is imperative for civil society organizations, especially NGOs, to take an interest in the civil status of migrants for several reasons. The resurgence of children passing through Gao without birth certificates raises crucial questions in the region. Apart from families returning from Algeria, many women heads of households travel with children who do not have civil status documents, exposing these families (children) to criminal risks. In Mali, the absence of civil status documents can lead to questions about the identity of children, which can lead to serious legal consequences.

the local authorities to facilitate the obtaining of civil status documents and suppletive judgments for migrants, especially since Mali recognizes the right of birth.

well as the National Human Rights Commission (CNDH), was organized to support the actions of the Gao Migrant House. The objective is to raise awareness on the importance of civil status and related legal procedures

To remedy this situation, concrete actions must be taken. It is essential to raise awareness among migrants on the importance of travelling with civil status documents in the Sahel region in order to limit the risk of arrest. The Maison du Migrant de Gao has already initiated a collaboration with



A workshop bringing together civil society actors, judicial and administrative authorities, as

in the Republic of Mali, thus strengthening the protection of the rights of migrants and their children.



## ***Migration and incarceration***

Here are some of the activities carried out in connection with the support of migrants in detention at the Gao Detention and Correction Centre:

The assistance provided to people on the move in conflict with the law at the Gao Detention and Correction Prison, in the absence of family visits, is of crucial importance for the well-being and rehabilitation of these individuals. Various forms of assistance have been put in place, including social, legal and psychosocial support, to fill gaps within the prison and ensure fair treatment for migrants in conflict with the law.

Social support, materialized by distribution, food, coverage of some health care, as well as the Restoration of Family Links, is an essential pillar to meet the needs of people on the move in conflict with the law. Similarly, the legal assistance provided by lawyers helps to ensure a fair trial for these detained individuals.

In addition, psychosocial support is of paramount importance in the mental reconstruction of detainees, who are isolated from their families in a difficult environment such as Gao. Listening sessions and exchanges offer beneficiaries a space to free themselves mentally and promote their future reintegration into society. Knowing that they are not alone and that there are people who care about their fate is crucial to their psychological well-being.

Finally, it is worth highlighting the continuous action of the Gao Migrant House, which strives to legally accompany migrants through advocacy with the competent authorities. These actions help to lighten sentences and secure the release of people on the move arrested for minor offenses such as night vagrancy. This promotion of migrants' rights

is an essential value defended by the Gao Migrant House.

### ***Results achieved in 2024***

In total, the Gao migrant's house made 49 visits. The main purpose of these visits was to establish initial contact with the inmates and to discuss the reasons for incarceration with a view to intervening with the judicial authorities.

Cases of crimes other than nocturnal vagrancy have not been neglected, with the aim of guaranteeing a fair trial for all. However, it is mandatory to defend people arrested for nocturnal vagrancy.

Several pleas have taken place before the judicial authorities, in particular at the Gao High Court and with the forces of law and order such as the police and the gendarmerie. All these actors facilitated access to beneficiaries in places of detention for the agents of the Gao migrant house.

Thanks to the combined actions of the migrant's house and his lawyer, also with the support received from several relevant authorities, 46 people arrested for night wandering have been released or have benefited from either family help or have reached the end of their sentence.

### ***Reasons for incarceration, lessons learned***

The incarceration of migrants in Gao may be motivated by several factors, including non-compliance with immigration laws. These include attempting to enter Mali illegally or participating in criminal activities. Indeed, the authorities can

arrest and incarcerate irregular migrants who do not respect the migration laws in force in Mali, with reference to laws 180, 181, 182 of the penal code.

On the other hand, some migrants may also be incarcerated for committing offences or crimes once they arrive in the country. These offences can range from simple traffic violations to more serious acts such as drug trafficking or criminal violence.

It is important to note that some policies, including hardening policies often linked to security, also impose the mandatory incarceration of specific groups of migrants deported from Algeria or simply in transit in Gao. This can lead to their detention even without having committed a criminal offence.

In short, the reasons for incarcerating migrants are multiple and varied. For the year 2024, the Gao migrant house was able to count different cases: the reasons for nocturnal wandering were varied, with 84 cases recorded for all nationalities combined, representing 09 different nationalities. Complicity in theft mainly concerns Sudanese, Nigerian, Burkinabe and Beninese nationals. Possession of illicit substances is also reported among Nigeriens, Nigerians and Cameroonians. Cases of rape affect Nigerien and Nigerian nationals in particular. The scam concerns all nationalities. Physical attacks largely concern Cameroonian nationals, while breach of trust is also reported and affects Burkinabe and Beninese nationals.

Supporting migrants in conflict with the law is a delicate issue that requires both compassion and respect for the legal framework.



## *Role of religious in accompanying people on the move*



*A shared narrative about migration*

*Breaking stereotypes*

*Supporting the integration and inclusion of migrants in host communities*

Religious play a crucial role in accompanying people on the move, whether they are migrants, refugees or other individuals facing the need to leave their place of origin. Their commitment is based on universal values such as compassion, solidarity and respect for human dignity. By creating the Migrant House in Gao, the Congregation of the White Missionary Fathers of Africa, shows the commitment of the Catholic Church of Mali to the promotion of universal values, including compassion and

respect for human dignity. Even today, this house continues to live in this fraternal spirit, opening its door to migrants without distinction of category. It goes further in its proactive approach through the introduction of a development component to help integrate people into local communities and support concerted and multicultural development.

In his encyclical "Fratelli tutti", Pope Francis stresses the importance for believers to welcome and accompany migrants with generosity and empathy. It also insists on the need to break with the negative stereotypes associated with migration, inviting everyone to look beyond prejudices to recognize the richness brought by these new encounters. Beyond these letters from Pope Francis, it is undeniable that Muslim and Protestant religious leaders also call out to the importance of life in society and in community. It is commendable to feel a communion of garments for

support to migrants in the host communities.

Indeed, it is essential that religious contribute to spreading a positive common narrative on migration, highlighting not only the challenges faced by these people on the move but also their talents, aspirations and enriching potentials for the societies that host them. Making all this possible can only be done through the awareness of the populations in places of worship, to the acceptance of the other despite the differences. In Gao, it is remarkable to see the intervention of religious people in the defense of migrants with the authorities and communities. It should be recalled that it is through the intervention of religious leaders that the people who died in Gao were able to benefit from a place at the cemetery of Djidara or the migrant's house to contribute to the construction of the barrier to protect the graves from any desecration. This involvement of the migrant's house in such an



action goes from the fact that many graves of migrants have been vandalized at the level of the Castle cemetery in Gao.

To foster a smooth integration of migrants into host communities, an inclusive approach should also be promoted where each individual is encouraged to

participate fully in social life while preserving his or her own cultural identity. Religious have a key role here in psychological and spiritual support as well as in intercultural education aimed at building bridges between different traditions.

Thus, in the face of the current

challenges linked to global migratory movements, the concerted action of religious leaders is of paramount importance from both the humanitarian and social points of view in order to create together a more just and united world.

## Interviews

### **Dieudonné ARAMA, Acting Diocesan Coordinator – Caritas Mali of Mopti**

The vision of the Catholic Church in Mali on the accompaniment of people on the move is deeply rooted in the values of solidarity and welcome advocated by the Catholic faith/the social pastoral care of the Church. In the Diocese of Mopti, migrants occupy a central place in the actions carried out by the Church, thus demonstrating its commitment to these people in a situation of mobility. This altruistic orientation is encouraged by the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, who has always shown unwavering

support for the most vulnerable in the face of adversity.

The Bishop of the Diocese of Mopti, in the person of Monsignor Jean Baptiste Tiama, like the Holy Father, is sensitizing the faithful on the importance of accompanying and supporting migrants. In 2024, meetings organised by Caritas Mali brought together migration stakeholders in Mali to discuss the protection and support of these people, going beyond the basic needs of housing and food. Guidelines have been issued to emphasize the importance of moral support and access to justice for migrants.

Migrants are not just travellers, they are human beings who deserve to be treated as such. Their journey is often strewn with pitfalls and challenges. Helping them means respecting the biblical precepts that call for helping the most disadvantaged. This approach of the Catholic Church in Mali towards people on the move reflects its compassion and commitment to its neighbour, thus embodying the values of welcome and solidarity advocated by Catholic doctrine.



***Monsieur Anyè SOMBORO, as coordinator of the Gao Migrant House, shares with us his valuable experience at the Gao Migrant House.***

Having come to this company after tragic events because of the effect of trust that Caritas Mali/Mopti has placed in my modest person, I work with the entire team of the Maison du Migrant in Gao, closely with the migrants. With the support and professionalism of the team I found on site, I very quickly acquired and understood the various challenges faced by migrants. It was necessary to quickly identify strategies to better support and very effectively find solutions to better serve the migrants received at the Gao Migrant House. With commitment, love and passion to be able to help migrants integrate and find their place in society; were my first concerns in the implementation of each of my actions. With courage, dedication, and experiences



helping; I have been able to contribute significantly to restoring the Migrant's House to its image as a pilot house for

migrants and to promoting a more humane and supportive approach towards those in need of help and support.

***“Of course, let's talk about the experience as a humanitarian and the assessment of the actions of the Maison du Migrant de Gao for the year 2024.***

The experience I received in accompanying the Migrant House as a coordinator allowed me to understand the importance of accompanying people on the move, a complex job requiring considerable effort and great self-control in the face of the various behaviors that can be encountered every day.

As for the Gao Migrant House for the year 2024, despite the unfortunate events it experienced during the 2nd half of 2022, the agents have been able to face these challenges and maintain their vocation to help and support people in a situation of

mobility. The year was marked by challenges related to the diversity of cultures encountered during displacement, as well as situations of marginalization.

With the support of people on the move, I have understood that patience, self-control, acceptance and understanding are essential qualities to work effectively with migrants. It is essential to behave in a respectful and empathetic manner in the face of the difficulties and traumas experienced during the journey by migrants. Most of them come from regions plagued by political instability

and poverty. They are resilient and adapt to the different cultures they encounter, even if they are not always favourable.

It is crucial to recognise the dignity of every individual, regardless of their migration status, and to combat the stereotypes and discrimination that migrants often face. As a social worker, it is necessary to act with compassion and professionalism to offer adequate support to people on the move, taking into account their specific needs and their often difficult journey. »



## My experience

As part of the assistance to people on the move at the Gao migrant house, the regional hospital or the CSREF, a large number of cases (716) have benefited from medical follow-up at the Gao migrant house. It was essential to recognize the importance of a proactive and adaptive approach. Indeed, to better support migrants, I had to adjust to the divergent behaviors of the migrants I met while making them aware of the fact that they are their own healers.

Faced with many accidents involving migrants during their journey, particularly on the Gao-Borg Badi Mochtar Axis in Algeria, I had to adapt to the circumstances because the follow-up was done almost daily. You find yourself faced with an individual in a hurry to find his family while you are concerned about his health. He only wants to go back. I have been confronted with many cases of this kind where I have had to be very rigorous with them. For a nurse working in a reception centre like the Maison du Migrant in Gao, it is essential to always be available, whether during the day or in the middle of the night, because you can be called in case of emergency and you must be present immediately. Sometimes, my absences and hasty departures for the center cause problems in my home. I thank God that my husband has been able to understand me since he accompanied me for the care of a migrant in the hospital in Gao. As for the cases recorded during the consultations of migrants, it is mainly general fatigue due to difficult travel conditions, infections and others. It is important to note that many migrants also suffer from HIV, although this information is not



disclosed for fear of rejection by their peers.

To ensure optimal support for people with vulnerable mobility, it is essential that healthcare professionals take into account mobility-related challenges such as restricted access to local medical services and increased risks associated with travel. It is essential that social services, in particular those of social development within the regional hospital of Gao, set up an assistance system for people in vulnerable mobility situations. Without the existence of the Maison du Migrant and the ICRC, the number of registered migrant deaths could be higher. It is important to ensure effective medical follow-up of people on the move by adopting a holistic approach that integrates not only conventional care but also continuous adaptation to the changing needs of patients

throughout their journeys. I will also place particular emphasis on the vulnerability of women and children who require careful medical monitoring because of their extreme frailty. In 2023, the death of a Sierra Leonean woman was attributed to a late diagnosis of her illness and several days spent in the city with her children without any support, until the intervention of the Maison du Migrant de Gao.

I would like to thank the head of the emergency department at Gao Hospital for his constant compassion towards migrants and for his continued collaboration with the Maison du Migrant to support these people.

***Adizatou Babacar Sene,  
nurse and health and  
support manager for women  
and children at the Maison  
du Migrant in Gao***

## Success Story

My story affected me a lot and I asked myself deep questions about my life, my family, my mistakes and the desire to find a better life. Am I not the master of my destiny? Wouldn't my quest for a better future in case I succeed make my family proud?

I recognize that I made mistakes in selling my father's herd to go on adventures in Europe, but everyone has to recognize that we all make mistakes in life, but that shouldn't make us rejected by the family to the point of abandoning us to

death. I escaped death in Chad, Sudan, Libya and Egypt, before managing to return to Algeria where I was thrown into the desert. When I was turned away, I called my father, he told me in our mother tongue Fulani :

**“Don't ever call me again, if you do it again, I'll curse you. Forget me and my family, if you come back here again, I'm going to kill you.”**

My life is turned upside down and my father is right. I sold everything he did but I thought I was going to succeed. Unfortunately, I find myself in Gao and I can no longer return home, to the land of my ancestors. I can never live happily ever again.

He must understand that it was hard for me to sell the cows from the family farm, I also had dreams of a better life in Europe when I saw my friends posting such beautiful images while waiting to talk about the easy life and the work at hand. I no longer felt good living in the countryside. I also wanted to be fashionable

like all my friends.

I pray to ALLAH every day to touch my father's heart. Fortunately, the migrant house in Gao supported me in the creation of my business. Thank God I won a little today and I intend to make up for my mistakes. That's why I save money. I'm going to pay my father for the cows one day and I hope he'll understand me and forgive me.

What I have learned is that I have made a first mistake and that behind this mistake, man must grow. I grew up and I regret my mistake of having imagined my

life differently. If I had to start all over again, I wouldn't have made this mistake. If only my father could understand the hardships I went through after being locked up in Libya and beaten to death. My heart really hurts, thank you to the Maison du Migrant, without them where would I be today? I'm going to fight and I'm going to try to make amends. Glory to GOD, may the agents of the Gao migrant house continue to call my father, who for a few weeks has begun to understand and change his words towards me.





***From tears to smiles,  
NGA Cameroonian Migrant***

Crying !!  
They are not liquid,  
Do not drip from the eyes  
They are only the expression of  
the place where we are.  
They flow in the soul, they flow  
in the consciousness, if I never  
see them, it is because they flow  
inside me because the greatest  
pains are silent.  
Who is to blame?  
To myself! Especially to me.  
To my parents,  
To my teachers,

To my country and to those  
around us. The fault of me who  
confused: making one's dreams  
come true and dreaming of  
reality. Yes, I spent my time  
dreaming of reality believing  
that happiness is elsewhere

than where I am. That the other is  
better than me, to appear rather  
than to be. A situation that, on  
December 20, 2024, separates  
me from my country, my family,  
my little angel who is only two  
years and six months old, from all  
those I love unconditionally. Just  
after a phone call from a foreign  
country (West Africa: Ghana) to  
the number +233264483453,  
informing me that I had been  
selected after studying the file I  
had sent two days earlier to study  
in an international school located  
in Ghana (Africa World Ghana)  
which trains in a field of my choice  
in pre-employment. He offered  
me academic internships in the  
country of my choice depending  
on my performance and a year  
later, put me in collaboration with  
NGOs, working in the chosen field  
for a minimum salary of 600,000  
FCFA per month. The interview is

scheduled for 27/12/2024.

***Who am I not to deserve happiness?***

Happiness? Who am I not to  
deserve this trip? But I am worried  
about it; How am I going to make  
this trip when I have no money  
or papers? I contacted my friend  
who had left two weeks earlier to  
ask him what he thought. He said  
to me: "Life is like that, your hour  
of glory has come. Find a sum  
of 300,000 and that's it, the rest  
mom will send you when you get  
here. It's the men and as long as  
there are men, everything can  
be managed. And know that  
everyone has their own story,  
sometimes you have to touch  
reality before drawing a personal  
conclusion."

It was 10:06 p.m. when I called  
my mother to tell her that I was  
traveling to Ghana tomorrow  
night but I didn't have the money,



I needed 300,000 FCFA to start. Only she knows the miracle she performed all night, but in the morning, she presented my father, my uncle, to me, in front of me, thus leading me to the bank of the place where they took 300,000 CFA francs and gave it to me, blessing me: "Go ahead, save us and may the Almighty accompany you."

Picking up my bags, my clothes, my diplomas, never without my legal documents. Direction Nvan, no vehicles from 11am to 10pm, I didn't buy any tickets... Phew, I'm going back. An idea comes to mind: hitchhiking at 3 a.m., I got up, at the taxi-depot in Nkoabang, phew, I found a car going directly to Bertoua. There was only one place missing, thank God! At 6 a.m., I was in Abong Bang. At 9 a.m., I was in Bertoua, arrived in Ngaoundere at 5 p.m., no vehicle, I spent the night at the agency. The next morning, I headed to the Ngaoundéré passenger station. Small cars at 10,000 Ngongo or nothing instead of 3500 FCFA, I took the other one? I go upstairs. Everything changes, and he heads for Nigeria. Hmm!! Here, the English I learned at Sambo High School, no one understands it, so you have to travel without speaking Adamawa, Lagos, 3 days drive. Thin!! I arrive in Lagos, I spend the night in the interchange with the bandits who protect you from the other bandits. You have to leave Nigeria for Benin, they put you in the canoe, damn, 2 hours in the water, it's December 25th, it's my family's turn to say Merry Christmas, only tears flow. When I arrived in Benin, my phone went bad, no more contact with anyone. But on the right, a young man receives a call, his English resembles that of Mr. Njoya, he is a Cameroonian who goes to the same school as me, thank

God!! I am saved, this school is real, so I tell myself that all those who asked me to turn back were only enemies and jealous of my prosperity. Oh my God, my life will soon change.

Corruption was born in West Africa and has taken up residence in Nigeria, Benin, Togo, Ghana, you just have to present a tiny 1000 F note to the gendarmerie station, 2000 FCFA to the police and plan 10,000 FCFA for each border, you travel without papers, even the birth certificate on the way is not important. There is a chain of people who master the locality, the security and above all the language of the territory, these people calling themselves the guides take you through the most rigorous posts without being noticed, whether on foot, by motorcycle or by canoe, but you send money to the guide above them, whom you will never see, he is the one who knows who to contact. Real corrupt machines, pif, my problem is Ghana. On December 26, 2024, I am in Ghana, it is 4 a.m. when I am woken up and told that I am in Koumassi. Oh Lord, thank you for your protection. Head to the hotel. My friend doesn't live in the housing estate as he made me believe, he lives with another in a hotel room. Hmm!! Once in Ghana, I already need the money to go through my interview at the company, but curiously neither my friend nor his counterpart, no one goes to school. Worried, they answer me with riddles.

I had just fallen for a scam. My god! How will I react, what will I say to my family? Especially to my mother who did so much for me. Despite the difficulties, I decided to continue my adventure and go to Europe. So I took the road towards Gao to reach Algeria,

but due to lack of means, I finally stopped in Gao. Adventure. Is there control over the many sites on the internet, I'm not sure. Regrets, but also lessons learned.

I'm smiling today because I passed a contest, I didn't get in, I didn't receive the most beautiful engagement ring either, no!!

I smile because I see that there are still sensitive souls in the world, humanistic beings, serious organizations with altruistic people who do not aim to save humanity. Yes, I received hospitality in the city of Gao through the large Traoré family living in the 4th district, not far from the health center. Yes, I felt at home, yes, there are serious people like "Yah Papa", this gentleman faithful to his deontology, to professional ethics, who denied himself the pleasure of extorting money from us like these gendarmes, policemen, customs officers in the face of our vulnerability, our financial failure, our moral handicap to save one of our own suffering from an intestinal obstruction. Yah Papa" contacted a local organization, "La Maison du Migrant de Gao", which reacted immediately. Oh!! A structure that knew how to reconcile altruism and hospitality, they paid all the remaining bills, hosted us until the end of our stay in Gao. They guided us, advised us on the dangerousness of the journey in the desert. Yes, I find my smile again because I am finally going home. I smile because I understand that I made a bad decision, "the adventure", what if our defense forces were really doing their job? Because if instead of being satisfied with tiny bills, they rigorously applied the law, I would not have advanced so far.





## The 2024 successes

In 2024, the Gao Migrant House has had several remarkable successes:

### Dignified hospitality for migrants

The Gao Migrant House continues its Holistic mission of welcoming migrants with dignity. In 2024, more than 971 migrants benefited from accommodation and were entitled to three meals a day. In addition, about 12 serious cases received quality medical care thanks to the assistance of the Maison du Migrant in Gao with the support of the ICRC.

### Strengthened collaboration with local authorities

Despite the challenges faced by the organisations, the Maison du Migrant has consolidated its role as a leader in welcoming and supporting migrants. The local authorities expressed their gratitude for the quality work carried out in favour of these vulnerable people.

The strengthening of the links between Caritas Mali of Mopti-Maison du Migrant de Gao and the Gao penal chain; in particular with the regional and Bamako authorities, has made it possible to maintain the actions of the Maison du Migrant. Because of its credibility, Caritas Mali in Mopti-Maison du Migrant de Gao is the only structure authorized by the authorities to issue travel documents to travel from the north to the south of the country.

### Health regained

Mané, a young Senegalese migrant, was attacked by armed men in the desert on his way to Algeria. In a desperate state, Mané was able to regain his health thanks to the support of the Maison du Migrant in Gao. Despite the amputation of his

left foot, he was smiling again after his return to his country, Senegal. Mané maintains regular contact with the agents of the Migrant House and expresses his gratitude on a daily basis.

### Justice done

As part of its activities to ensure access to justice for migrants, Faith and Pamela were able to file a complaint with the High Court of Gao. This led to the arrest of 09 migrant women of 02 nationalities, including 07 Nigerians and 02 Burkinabès pimping minors, exploiting young girls in Gao. This action has made it possible to deter pimps from the exploitation of migrant children and to strengthen protection actions.



**A parliamentary group for women has been created**

Les femmes en situation de Women on the move living in Gao have obtained official recognition from their association and are now able to defend themselves while benefiting from the support of the office of the Regional Directorate for the Promotion of

Women, Children and the Family (DRFEF) in Gao. This initiative enables migrant women to organize, assert their rights and benefit from institutional support that is essential for their protection and empowerment..

**Strengthened partnerships**

The strengthening and

regularization of relations between Caritas Mali of Mopti-Maison du Migrant de Gao and other local structures working in the field of migration, such as the Mediator of the Republic, the CNDH, Direy-Ben and other actors, have made it possible to be more effective in providing better care for migrants..

## Results obtained

**Table 1: Total migrants by nationality welcomed at the Gao Migrant House in 2024**

No.	Nationalities	Total
1	Algeria	3
2	Benin	21
3	Bissau -Guinea	2
4	Burkina Faso	41
5	Cameroon	33
6	Congo	8
7	Ivory Coast	42
8	Ethiopia	1
9	Gabon	1
10	Gambia	47
11	Ghana	15
12	Guinée Conakry	128
13	Unknown	1
14	Libéria	92
15	Mali	116
16	Mauritania	1
17	Nigeria	112
18	Niger	65
19	Senegal	37
20	Sierra Leone	161
21	Somali	1
22	Sudan	16
23	Chad	10
24	Togo	17
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>971</b>

**Table 2: Table of migrants welcomed by Age in 2024**

No	By age	Qty/Se- mester1	Qty/Se- mester2	Total
1	Adults 18 - 60 years old	307	462	769
2	Minors 12 - 17 years old	74	51	125
3	Children 2 - 11 years old	17	33	50
4	Infants 0 - 2 years	11	16	27
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>409</b>	<b>562</b>	<b>971</b>

**Tableau 3 : Tableau des migrants accueillis par sexe 2024**

No	By age	Qty/Se- mester1	Qty/ Semester2	Total
1	Adults 18 - 60 years old	307	462	769
2	Minors 12 - 17 years old	74	51	125
3	Children 2 - 11 years old	17	33	50
4	Infants 0 - 2 years	11	16	27
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>409</b>	<b>562</b>	<b>971</b>

**Tableau 4 : Tableau des migrants accueillis par sexe 2024**

No	By Gender	Quantity
1	Man	797
2	Woman	174
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>971</b>



# Challenges faced by the Gao Migrant House in 2024

Beyond the moments of soothing the pain of the migrants welcomed and cared for, the agents experienced great difficulties

It is crucial to review cooperation with partners for a renewed approach to migration management and improving migrant protection in Gao, Africa, in order to attract new collaborators and financial partners. Here are the key recommendations :

- + Improve the project management structure by strengthening human resources through advanced training and learning courses, including on transition funding mobilization methodologies in emergency project areas and international tools;
- + Train agents in psychological support;
- + Strengthen staff skills in capitalizing and documenting data on people on the move;
- + Strengthen the skills of agents in large-scale outreach, including TV and radio debates, as well as in organizing relevant and targeted public meetings.

## ***It is also recommended to:***

- + Establish an inter-community conflict management committee for all migrant communities in Gao;
- + Reorganize the strategy for supporting women on the move in Gao;
- + Support the Maison du Migrant's campaign to improve access to justice for migrants in transit in Gao.

## ***For better protection of people on the move, it is essential to:***

- + - Continue to raise awareness among the authorities to fight against the racketeering of migrants during their voluntary return;
- + - Train agents to write alternative reports to influence decision-makers based on lived testimonies.
- + - Thinking about the construction of a building for the Gao Migrant House

In addition, the relationship between IOM and the Gao Migrant House needs to be reviewed to better assist the most vulnerable migrants.

## ***In connection with the meetings organized for the promotion of rights, here are several recommendations :***

- + Organize meetings between foreign communities in Gao and IOM to discuss eligibility criteria for support for voluntary return and socio-economic reintegration;
- + Setting up joint workshops between state and non-state actors to discuss the evolution of national migration policy;
- + Establish a framework with the authorities to protect migrants in security crisis situations and in the face of arrests;
- + Promote the sharing of information between organizations to avoid duplication of individual support;
- + Involve more International Human Rights Organizations to fight against abuses and violations of the rights of people on the move.

# Recommandations

It is necessary to reassess cooperation with partner networks for a new orientation of reflections related to the migration theme and the optimization of capacities in terms of migrant protection in West Africa and Mali, in particular: In addition, in order to improve their care :

- + ***Put all regional actors dealing with the migration issue around the same table to avoid conflicts of interest up to the breaking of collaborations;***
- + ***Create a platform for sharing/exchanges between different diocesan reception centres of Caritas Mali;***

Increase the participation of the migrant's house in the networks to ensure the visibility of these actions throughout the world. To share its experiences in supporting people on the move but also to benefit from the experiences of other structures to improve its services to these vulnerable people..



### ***The organization of parliamentary groups for migrant women:***

The creation of parliamentary groups dedicated to migrant women will make it possible to make their voices heard and defend their rights, even in situations of mobility. This initiative is crucial to promote gender equality and protect the rights of women on the move. These groups offer migrant women the opportunity to come together, share their experiences and work together on specific topics such as equality, access to education, training or the fight against violence against women during their migration journey and in host countries..

### ***The search for partnerships with other structures for better support for migrants in Gao:***

Collaboration with other local actors, such as associations, NGOs or public institutions, is essential to provide comprehensive and effective support to migrants in Gao. By establishing strong partnerships, it is possible to set up reception, guidance and professional integration programmes adapted to the specific needs of migrants, thus promoting their integration and autonomy. This collaboration will also make it possible to develop a partnership with several actors in the West African sub-region and beyond, to support the social and economic reintegration of migrants, and to enable communities to benefit from the skills of returning migrants. Other initiatives will be put in place to support the development of migrants in Gao and Mali, in particular through the search for partnerships to organize a youth forum on human rights and

migrants' rights. Supporting the Maison du Migrant in this process will help ensure the continuity of actions and strengthen support for people on vulnerable mobility in Gao..

### ***Participation in professional exchanges between migration actors for optimal support for migrants :***

Engaging in professional exchanges with other actors involved in migration management and in the involvement of activities related to human mobility will allow for the sharing of good practices, exchange knowledge and strengthen the skills needed to offer quality support to migrants. These exchanges will promote the coordination of actions, the coherence of interventions and the implementation of concerted strategies to respond to migration-related challenges. The support of technical and financial partners, our networks of RAEMH, RMSM, Loujna Tounkaranke are strongly requested to support the Maison du Migrant de Gao in this process..

### ***Openness to the new partner for concerted work:***

The synergy of action in the support of people on the move is crucial. To mitigate the initial action and promote local development through the talent of these people who take the road of adventure, the Maison du Migrant de Gao will devote itself to the search for partnerships to better support migrants. Opening up to new partners, whether from the public, private or associative sectors, is an opportunity to enrich the actions carried out in favour of migrants. The diversification

of collaborations will make it possible to provide complementary expertise, pool resources and innovate in support approaches. Working in a concerted manner with new partners strengthens the reach and impact of initiatives in favour of migrants in Gao. At this level, the intervention of the networks of the Gao Migrant House is strongly solicited to expand the technical and financial partners of the Gao Migrant House.

### ***Organization of a youth social forum on migration and migrants' rights in Gao***

The scale of the current migratory phenomenon and the stakes it raises shows us the importance of setting up broad-spectrum exchange zones. Thus, the Maison du Migrant de Gao sees the importance of going beyond simply raising awareness among young people in schools but of organizing spaces for public exchanges, which can have an impact on the entire territory and beyond. To achieve this feat, the migrant's house intends to work with the CRJ - MALI (Regional Youth Council of Gao).





*Welcoming, listening, guiding, raising awareness and supporting  
all migrants of all nationalities*

## ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE GAO MIGRANT HOUSE | MARCH 2025

*This magazine is proudly written by Anyè SOMBORO, the dynamic coordinator of Caritas Mali in Mopti-Maison du Migrant de Gao, as well as by Isamël Isaac Pangoup, the Administrative and Financial Manager of the same institution. They are supported by a talented steering team, always guided by the diocesan coordinator of Caritas Mali in Mopti, Father Noël SOMBORO.*

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