



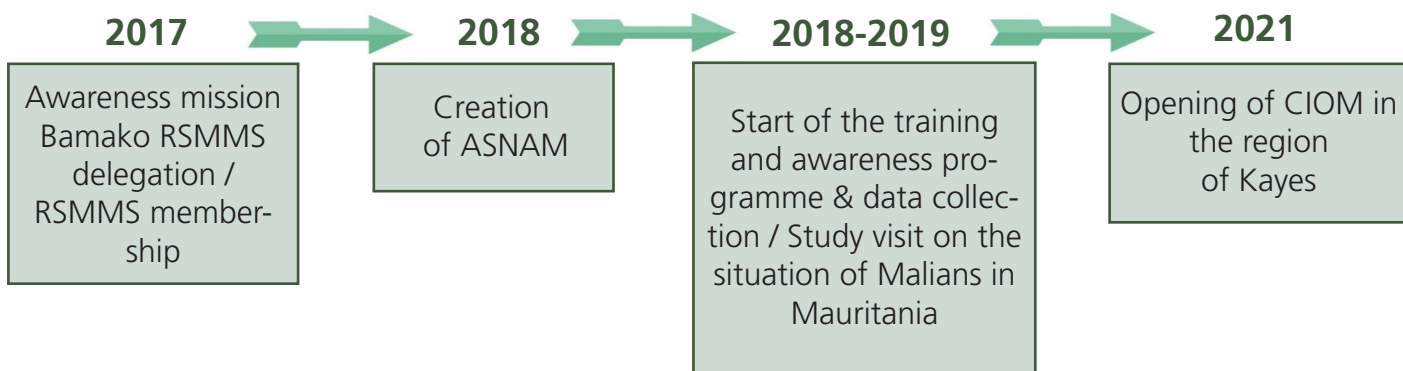
OPENING OF THE MIGRANT INFORMATION AND ORIENTATION CENTRE (CIOM)

Mali's trade unions mobilise for migrant workers in the mining towns of Kayes, Keniéba and Sadiola

Nov 2021



KEY MILESTONES PER YEAR



In 2018, Mali's two main trade union centres, the Union Nationale des Travailleurs du Mali (UNTM) and the Confédération Syndicale des Travailleurs du Mali (CSTM), established a co-ordination framework called the Alliance Syndicale Nationale Migration Mali (ASNAM).

In November 2021, the two centres are jointly opening an information centre for migrant workers in the Kayes mining region, which is affected by the massive influx of migrants to the mines in search of work or income.

UNITY OF ACTION, FOR EFFECTIVE SOLIDARITY WITH MIGRANT WORKERS IN MALI

The creation of the Migrant Information and Counselling Centre is both an achievement and a starting point.

Traditionally, the two trade union centres in Mali have always fought their trade union battles separately, each according to its own vision and strategy. It took their involvement at the sub-regional level on the issue of migrant workers to bring together the conditions for a common trade union front. **It was precisely the membership of the two centres in the Réseau Syndical Migrations Méditerranéennes Subsahariennes (RSMMS) in September 2017 that made the creation of ASNAM possible in 2018.** The platform has brought about a change in the very structure of the two trade union centres, which at their last congress each created a department in charge of migration and set up a network of trade unionists within the central and

regional structures. **Eighteen focal points cover the country's eight regions and the district of Bamako.**

The operational structure has made it possible to start an ambitious two-year (2018-2019) internal awareness-raising and capacity-building programme for trade union officials, involving around one hundred participants. This programme was also complemented by **trade union research** on violations of the rights of migrant workers in the informal sector, **putting into perspective the needs and assistance that could be covered by the workers' trade union organisations¹.**

The vision: *"to strengthen trade union synergy for decent work in the migration sector in a context of freedom, equality, dignity and social justice for migrant workers and their families²".*

The objectives:

- To monitor the working and living conditions of migrant workers in Mali,
- Coordinate national trade union action with the regional level within the framework of the RSMMS trade union network,
- Raising awareness at national level for the ratification and application of international conventions on migration.

¹ Final report of the study "Needs of migrant workers and services to be rendered to migrant labour by workers' unions". Friedrich Ebert Foundation - Mali Office, October 2019

² Declaration of creation of ASNAM, Koulikoro, 9 and 10 May 2018, p. 3

A BETTER KNOWLEDGE OF THE REALITY, FOR MORE PROXIMITY

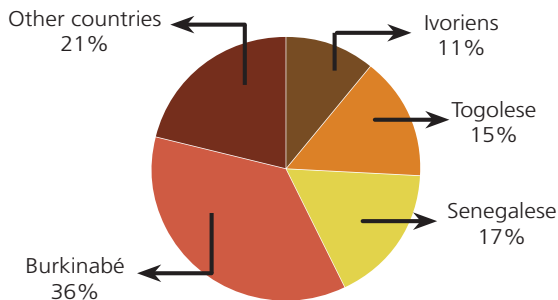
ASNAM has undertaken analysis and surveys to gain a better understanding of the needs of migrants in the Kayes region, particularly in the Sadiola and Keniéba areas, where migrants settle in search of income from the gold mines. The mobilisation of trade unionists in the region made it possible to approach 174 people and to draw up for the first time a trade union analysis of the labour issues relating to nonMalian nationals.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE STUDY CARRIED OUT IN JUNE 2021

Profiles surveyed:

- **203** surveys submitted to natural persons (migrant workers) and legal entities (administration, company, association and trade union)
- **174** surveys were completed by the different target groups
- **150** migrant workers, 93% of whom are men, divided between the formal sector (50) and the informal sector (100)
- **4** regional trade union structures (2 central and 2 local)
- **6** associations of migrants of different nationalities

Nationalities represented:



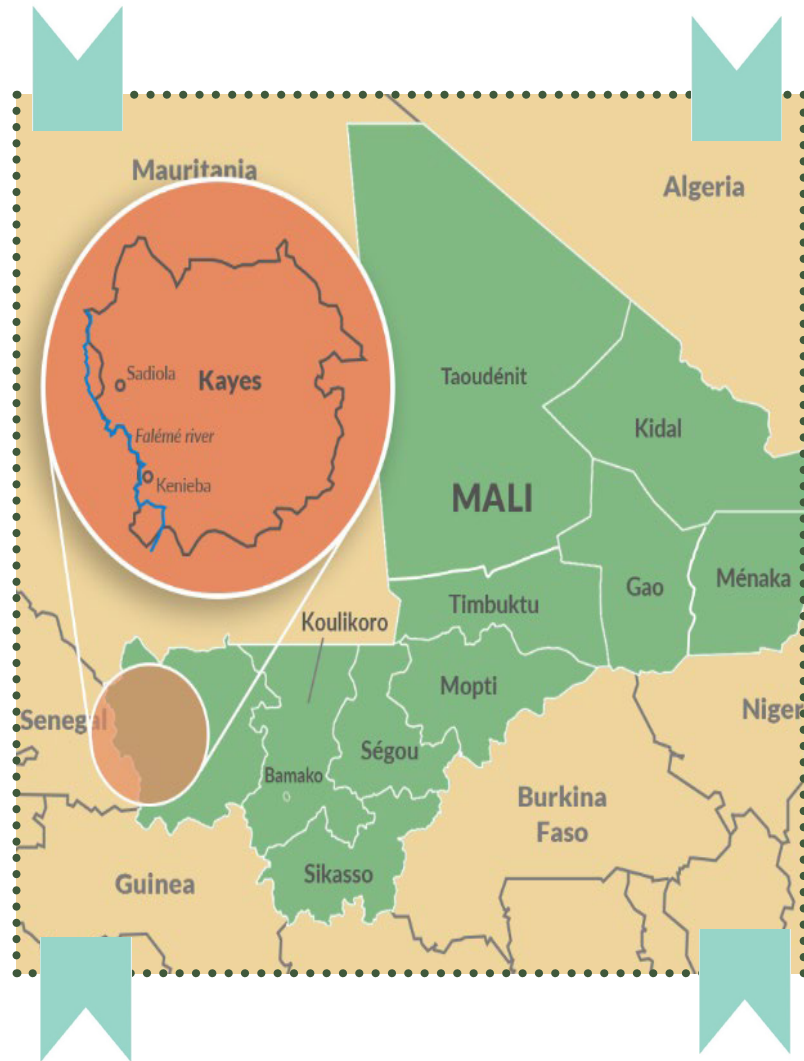
Activities:

In the informal sector

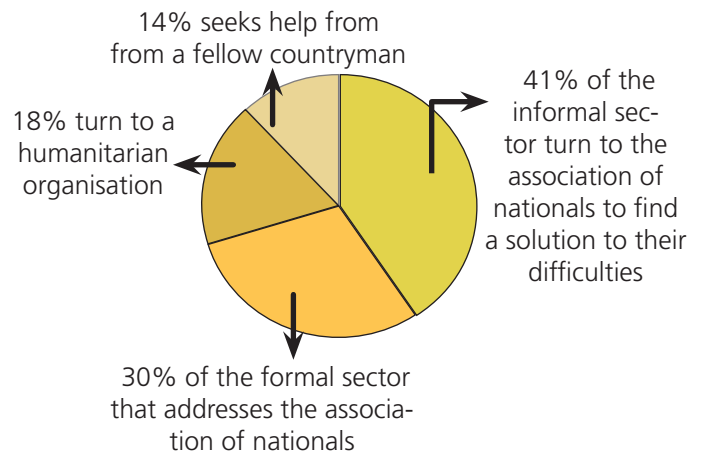
- Women: catering, hairdressing and trade.
- People: gold panning and trade.

In the formal sector

- Migrants: skilled jobs as teachers, foresters, electricians in companies.



The main issues identified:



The familiarity and similarity of the economic and social realities of the countries in the region generally leads migrants not to adopt a protest stance. The fear of reprisals is also an obstacle to more formal recourse through a trade union or by addressing the public administration. In the event of difficulties, it is mainly the associations of nationals of the country of origin that activate community solidarity mechanisms.

CIOM, FOR A SPACE OF CONVERGENCE

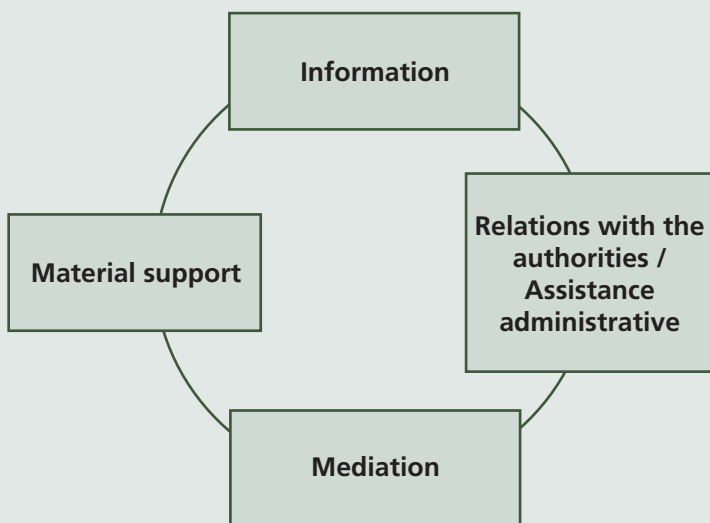
The various actions carried out provided an opportunity to establish contacts with the associations in the different localities. The consultations enabled the unions to hear in a formal way the concerns of the migrants' representatives and to become familiar with the different associative mechanisms of community solidarity.

In this sense, the CIOM constitutes a challenge of proximity and **multi-actor dialogue** to break down mistrust, strengthen solidarity mechanisms, federate the highly dispersed migrant associations and respond to **local development challenges**. Interviews with trade unionists from the four local and regional structures emphasise that in the case of community conflicts, the trade union is also able to play a role of mediator and social peacemaker

All target groups confirm that the creation of CIOM is a good initiative for migrants and that the involvement of trade unions can effectively complement community solidarity mechanisms. Migrant associations, trade unions and local administrations and authorities all confirmed their willingness to collaborate with ASNAM to make the centre work.

Objectives:

- Bringing trade unions closer to migrants, and raising awareness among trade union officers at works council/trade union competence centre level.
- Informing migrants of their right to voluntary insurance and making employers aware of the need to enrol foreign workers in the schemes provided by the INPS under the AMO (Mandatory Health Insurance).
- Supporting migrant women by developing specific actions.
- Mobilising partners (authorities, companies, NGOs, press) around CIOM, strengthening the dialogue and developing the resources necessary for its proper functioning.
- Using the lever of transnational and international cooperation to share good practices and strengthen trade union dialogue on mobility and co-development issues.



TRANSNATIONAL TRADE UNION COOPERATION, FOR RIGHTS REGARDLESS OF STATUS

Joining the **Mediterranean Sub-Saharan Migration Trade Union Network (RSMMS)** in 2017 was the important **catalyst** to boost the national dynamic. **The creation of the RSMMS in 2014** allowed the convergence of three trade union families under the impulse of the CGIL from Italy and the UGTT from Tunisia. **The 30 trade union organisations from West Africa, North Africa and Europe** have thus created a platform for consultation, coordination and sharing of experiences between trade unions from countries of origin and settlement, and have increased the number of partnership agreements on migrant workers' issues. These efforts are part of the unity of trade union action promoted by the continental network ATUMNET (African Trade Union Migration Network) of the **International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)**.

The experiences carried out have shown that the migration issue, due to the transversality it imposes and the central place it occupies in relations between States, makes it possible to strengthen **the trade union power of organisations that act as a trade union front and social partner**.

It is in this context that the **Friedrich Ebert Foundation** has committed itself alongside the Malian trade unions to support the process. In addition to the actions carried out at national level, a study visit was also made to Mauritania in 2019 to assess the situation of Malian workers settled in Mauritania and to learn from the experience of the **Confédération Générale des Travailleurs de Mauritanie (CGTM)**, in particular its "Centre Guide pour la Migration", which constituted a reference base for the establishment of the CIOM.



THE GLOBAL COMPACT FOR SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION



The majority of international migration today is motivated by the search for decent work. This places the question of work at the heart of the PMM's issues.

The Global Compact is a **toolbox** for concrete action and continued advocacy. Its real application depends essentially on the **mobilisation of local actors to bring public authorities to integrate migration issues into national development strategies and plans and to improve the legislative and regulatory framework**. In this perspective, it is important that trade union organisations in the North and South of the Mediterranean integrate the measures of the pact concerning labour and social rights and those that promote the integration of migrants through work into their **national demands**.

The global governance of international migration must incorporate **the progressive principle of tripartite social dialogue in all areas dealing with migration in the context of an employment relationship**, including access to work, skills/training matching, international recognition of skills, portability of social rights, combating forced labour and modern slavery.

The global pact is based on **10 principles** that set out both the basic principles to be respected, such as non-discrimination of migrants, and the frameworks for the project, such as respect for the sovereignty of each signatory country. On this basis, it defines **23 objectives**, each of which is accompanied by commitments and concrete measures.

Among the objectives of the WMP, several are particularly **relevant to the workers' movement**:

- 2** Tackling the negative factors and structural problems that push people to leave their country of origin
- 5** Making regular migration channels accessible and more flexible
- 10** Preventing, combating and eliminating trafficking in persons in the context of international migration
- 19** Invest in skills development and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competencies
- 3** Provide accurate information at all stages of the migration
- 6** Promote fair and ethical recruitment practices and ensure decent working conditions
- 17** Eliminate all forms of discrimination and encourage evidence-based public debate to change perceptions of migration
- 22** Establish mechanisms for the portability of social security rights and acquired benefits

ONDATION
FORUM DE BAMAKO

19ÈME ÉDITION
LES 21, 22, ET 23 FÉVRIER 2019

IMMIGRATION

QUELLE DYNAMIQUE ENTRE L'EUROPE ET L'AFRIQUE ?
OPPORTUNITÉ OU MENACE POUR LES PAYS D'ACCUEIL ?
CONSTRUIRE DES PONTS OU CONSTRUIRE DES MURS ?
NATIONALISME OU MÉTISSAGE ?
QUE FAIRE ENSEMBLE ?

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