

# West and Central Africa

October - December 2022

## Highlights

As of December 2022, and since the Emergency Transit Center was launched in 2017, **5,096 refugees**, have left **Niger** to third countries under **resettlement** or through **complementary pathways**.

The **16 Days of Activism** campaign, calling for the **elimination of violence against women**, took place from 25 November to 10 December across the region.

The **voluntary repatriation** exercise for **Ivorians** linked to the cessation of their refugee status, was completed in December 2022, bringing the total number of **returnees to 316,000**.



Repatriation of Ivorian refugees officially ended in December 2022 © UNHCR/Sulaiman Momodu

## Between October and December 2022:



**41,119** civil status and identity documents distributed in **Burkina Faso** and **Cameroon**



**608** refugees departed on **resettlement from the region** to the United States of America, Canada, France, Australia and Sweden, bringing to **2,056** departures in 2022



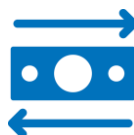
**2,736** school kits distributed in **Mali** (Bandiagara, Douentza and Kayes regions) and **CAR** (Haut Mbomou prefecture)



**67,895** refugees and IDPs provided with core relief items (CRIs) in **Burkina Faso, Mali** and **Niger**



**126** refugees' and IDPs' business projects, including small trading, farming and poultry, supported in **Liberia**



**40,000+** Cameroonian refugees received cash assistance to cover their food needs in **Nigeria**

# Forcibly displaced and stateless people in West and Central Africa

UNHCR is mandated to protect and assist **13 million\*** people in West and Central Africa, including:



**1.6 million** refugees and asylum-seekers

**7.7 million** internally displaced persons (IDPs)

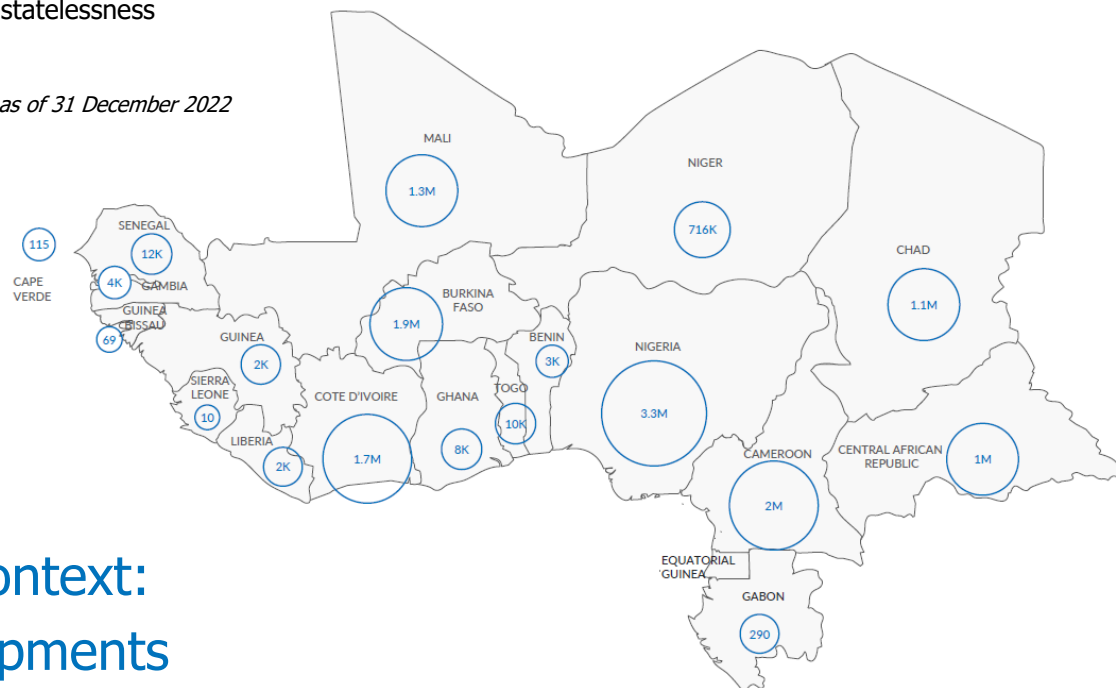
**1.6 million** stateless and at risk of statelessness



**1.7 million** returned IDPs and refugees

**0.1 million** refugees returnees

(\* the figures provided are as of 31 December 2022 and are all rounded)



## Regional context: Key developments

- Cameroonian arrivals to Nigeria:** Cameroonian asylum seekers continued to arrive to Nigeria, from the Far North Region of Cameroon, escaping violent attacks of non-state armed groups. Between June, when the attacks started, and mid-December 2022 over 10,000 asylum seekers sought refuge in Madagali, Michika, Maiha and Mubi Local Government Areas (LGAs) in the Adamawa State, Nigeria. On 15-16 December, UNHCR participated in a multisectoral rapid needs assessment, together with the Nigerian authorities and partners, to assess the situation and inform the response. Several focus groups discussions and interviews with key informants were conducted. Among the main challenges identified were the lack of access to basic services, including health and education for children, food, livelihood, and shelter. Children engaged in menial jobs with their parents or caregivers to buy staple food and non-food items for household use. In Madagali, Michika and Mubi, the majority of the new arrivals live in dilapidated buildings and abandoned uncompleted shelters; some rented apartments and fewer are hosted by relatives in overcrowded lodgings. UNHCR, local authorities and partners, supported approximately 30% of the affected population through the provision of basic health services, core relief items and WASH kits. The situation is closely monitored.
- Food security in Chad:** WFP and UNHCR have called for urgent support to continue providing food assistance to over 500,000 Central African and Sudanese refugees in Chad. Due to limited access to fertile land and livelihood opportunities, refugees largely depend on humanitarian

assistance. Funding shortfalls may lead to further cuts in food assistance in Chad, further exacerbating the already difficult conditions forcibly displaced persons live in.

- **Cholera outbreak in Far North Cameroon:** At the end of October 2022 the Cameroonian authorities declared a cholera outbreak, which particularly affected the [Minawao refugee camp](#), located in the Far North region of the country. Three refugee deaths were registered in the camp. UNHCR has been closely working with the Cameroon Government and other partners to provide medical assistance to those infected and break the chain of transmission by improving hygiene and sanitation condition.
- **Fuel crisis - CAR:** An acute fuel crisis, resulting in increased prices of gasoline and oil, has been affecting the Central African Republic and impacting internally displaced persons, refugees and host communities, as well as the humanitarian response. The need to ration available fuel will impact UNHCR's ongoing return activities for internally displaced persons in Bria, as well as the planned returned operations for refugees from Chad, Cameroon the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Republic of Congo. UNHCR and its partners will have to reduce their visits to camps and villages, possibly affecting protection, cash-based interventions and project monitoring activities. UNHCR will continue to monitor the situation and readjust its activities accordingly.
- **New asylum law in Benin:** In November 2022, a new asylum law was adopted in Benin. Replacing a 1975 decree, the new law in Benin includes the broad definition of refugee in line with Article I(2) of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Convention, governing refugee protection in Africa. The law also requires to explicitly motivate the decisions on refugee status and foresees group-based refugee status determination procedures in case of influx. The operationalization of the law will positively impact the life of hundreds of refugees and asylum seekers.

## Operational highlights

### Burkina Faso

- **Protection monitoring – Project 21 (P21):** The inter-agency protection monitoring project, P21, has contributed to identifying protection needs and informing the humanitarian community's multi-sectoral responses. During the reporting period 1,154 families were interviewed in 141 communes. A total of 823 protection incidents were identified, including violations of the right to freedom, gender-based violence, violations to physical and psychological integrity. Two thousand four hundred forty-eight persons were supported through cash-based interventions (CBI), psychosocial support and referrals to relevant services. Within the framework of the P21, UNHCR trained 37 volunteers, from civil society organizations that joined the project, on protection principles and protection monitoring in the Boucle du Mouhoun, North, Centre-West, Centre-East and East regions, were 12 protection committees were established.
- **Documentation and statelessness:** From October to December 2022, UNHCR facilitated the distribution of 39,619 civil status and identity documents to the most vulnerable groups, particularly women and children, as part of the efforts, spelled out in the [#IBelong campaign](#), to end statelessness by 2024. These documents are crucial to enable individuals to exercise their rights and access essential social services. Additionally, 240 governmental employees were trained on the issuance of birth certificates. UNHCR continues to support the Government in the efforts to adopt a revised legal framework, free from provisions that could increase the risks of statelessness.

- Gender-based violence (GBV):** UNHCR and its partners continued to implement prevention, case management, response, and risk mitigation activities. Community mobilization activities such as mass awareness-raising sessions, radio broadcasts, theatre performances, and home visits, were intensified during the 16 Days of Activism campaign, calling for the elimination of violence against women, which took place from 25 November to 10 December. UNHCR continued to build



*Awareness raising on GBV in a school through theatre, Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso, December 2022 © UNHCR/Ali SAWADOGO*

- the capacity of its partners to ensure that GBV preventions and risk mitigation principles are applied across sectors. During the reporting period 12,631 women and girls at risk benefited from the distribution of dignity kits or multipurpose cash across the country, aiming at enabling them to meet their basic needs and prevent engagement in harmful coping mechanisms.
- Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA):** In November, UNHCR participated to the Evaluation Workshop of the 2022 Action Plan and 2023 Planning of the PSEA Network in Burkina Faso. UNHCR facilitated a session on how to assess UN implementing partners' organizational capacities in the field of PSEA and emphasized the importance for close collaboration between the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) members in all PSEA related matters. UNHCR is committed to taking all the necessary actions to prevent, mitigate the risks of and respond to sexual misconduct and to put the protection, rights, and dignity of survivors at the forefront of its interventions.
- Shelter and core relief items (CRIs):** UNHCR continues to provide shelter assistance ranging from the provision of emergency shelter to semi-durable and durable shelter, combined with the distribution of CRIs throughout the country, to improve the living conditions, the physical safety, and the dignity of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and of host communities. Between the months of October and December, 1,447 emergency shelters and 1,477 permanent shelters have been distributed to the benefit of 20,941 vulnerable members of the IDP and host communities. In addition, 45,814 people were assisted with 5,571 CRI kits.

## Cameroon Multi-Country Office (Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, São Tomé and Príncipe)

### Cameroon

- Partnerships and collaborations:** On 25 November, the first biannual [multi-stakeholder dialogue](#) on the management, coordination and inclusion of refugees in Cameroon was held in Yaoundé. The meeting was co-chaired by the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MINREX) of Cameroon and the Director of the UNHCR Regional Bureau for West and Central Africa; it included UN sister agencies and donor countries and institutions. This forum provides an opportunity to exchange information, assess ongoing activities and strengthen partnership and cooperation.
- Protection:** UNHCR, jointly with GIZ, IOM, and UNODC, facilitated the training of trainers "A human rights-based border governance: implementing protection sensitive entry measures". The training was organized under the patronage of the Comité des Chefs de Police de l'Afrique

Centrale (CCPCA). It targeted the chiefs of police academies and heads of gendarmerie of Cameroon, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea and Sao Tome and Principe.

- **Resettlement:** On 13 October 2022, UNHCR and IOM jointly organized the transfer of 44 refugees accepted for resettlement to the capital to conduct cultural orientation prior to their departure to Canada in the same month. Among those travelling were refugees with critical protection needs, including women and girls at risk and survivors of violence and torture.
- **Health:** UNHCR facilitated a mass vaccination campaign against cholera in Minawao refugee camp in November, following an outbreak in some of the districts in the Far North region. A total of 79,937 people were vaccinated, of which approximately 10% were host community members. UNHCR, the Ministry of Public Health, and the health and WASH partners' emergency response included treatment of cases, disinfection, increasing access to safe water, awareness raising and hygiene promotion campaigns.
- **Voluntary repatriation:** A Nigerian delegation composed by members of parliament and representatives from the Federal Government and of the Borno State, conducted a mission to the Far North Region, from 2-6 November. They met with the Cameroonian authorities, UNHCR, and refugee representatives to discuss on the conditions prevailing in the areas of origin in Nigeria, including the availability of basic social services. While the conditions are not yet conducive to durable return in safety and in dignity and based on the objective information shared during the individual counselling, some refugees expressed their willingness to return home. As of December 2022, a total of 1,720 candidates registered for voluntary repatriation to Banki, Bama and Gwoza, in Borno State.

### Gabon:

- **Documentation:** In the framework of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) the issuance of biometric passports for refugees has started. The initiative, supported by the Government of Gabon since May 2022, will enhance free movement of displaced people within the sub-region. Currently five biometric passports are being issued for refugees, to test practicalities and potentially revise the issuance procedures.
- **Livelihood:** Three projects presented by refugees, out a total of 26 initiatives, evaluated by the National Centre for the Promotion of Employment (PNPE), were approved to benefit from governmental funding. The projects include a leisure centre for adults and children, a printing service, and a street fast food restaurant. Through the possibility of running their own businesses the refugees will be able to provide for their families and live in dignity.

### Sao Tome & Principe:

- **Partnerships and collaboration:** Aiming at strengthening cooperation and enhancing the protection space for the forcibly displaced, UNHCR signed the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2027 together with the Prime Minister, the Resident Coordinator, and several resident and non-resident agencies, as well with as the African Development Bank and the World Bank. UNHCR's work towards inclusion of forcibly displaced persons in national development plans continues.

### Central African Republic

- **Education:** 952 refugee and asylum-seeking students received cash assistance for the current school year. UNHCR supported 208 girls and 223 boys at the primary school level in Bangui, 226 girls and 222 boys at the secondary level and 33 girls and 40 boys at the university level. In the Obo subprefecture, Haut Mbomou prefecture, 896 primary school students and 86 secondary school students received school kits, including exercise books, pens and pencils.
- **Support for Voluntary Return:** As of December 2022, UNHCR facilitated the return of 1,802 households, comprising of 5,597 individuals, who voluntarily repatriated mainly from Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The former refugees arrived by plane and boat to

Bangui, the capital, and Mongoumba, prefecture of Lobaye, or by road to Berberati, prefecture of Mambéré-Kadéï, and Beloko, prefecture of Nana-Mambere.



*Distribution of non-food items to returnees from Cameroon in the commune of Niem Yelewa, prefecture of Nana Mambere, CAR, during an inter-agency needs assessment and response mission © OCHA/Prosper MANGOBE,*

- **Documentation:** As part of the reintegration programme of Central African returnees, UNHCR facilitated the issuance of 1,466 birth certificates, received by 945 returnees residing in the sub-prefectures of Berbérati and Carnot, prefecture de Mambere-Kadei, and by 521 living in the prefecture of Nana-Mambéré. The birth certificates will allow returnees to benefit from all the rights associated to Central African citizenship, including access to national services, and will protect them from the risk of statelessness.

## Chad

- **Resettlement:** Between October and December, 250 refugees from CAR and Sudan left Chad to Australia, Canada, France and Sweden as part of UNHCR's resettlement programme. Among those who departed were female headed-households, survivors of GBV, and people with medical needs. In 2022, UNHCR helped over 780 Central African and Sudanese refugees with heightened protection needs with resettlement to third countries, where they have the possibility to live in safety and dignity and enjoy their fundamental rights.
- **Cash-based interventions (CBIs):** UNHCR distributed nearly USD 480,000 in cash assistance to help refugees and displaced persons pay for food, education, shelter, and essential household items. The assistance helped 2,117 urban refugees pursue their education. Over 8,200 refugees from Cameroon and 1,190 internally displaced persons in the Lac Region also received cash to help pay for core relief items. Almost 1,200 refugees with specific needs living out of camps in N'Djamena and Mayo Kebi Est received a quarterly payment to help them meet their food needs.
- **Floods response:** UNHCR distributed core relief items to 158 refugee families (636 individuals) affected by the flood in Békan I and II, Doumou, Bengondana, Bembaidji, Bengakara, Don and Beakoro sites. Refugees received tarpaulins, blankets, mosquito nets, kitchen sets, clothes, buckets, mats and jerry cans to replace those washed away in the floods. Over 900 camp-based refugees affected by floods in Goz Beida received a first conditional instalment to start the construction of their shelter.
- **Protection:** The UNHCR-led protection cluster conducted a two-day assessment mission in eight sites in the Kaya and Mamdi departments in the Lac region to assess the needs of displaced populations affected by floods in the Lac province. The most urgent needs identified included the lack of documentation for children, the absence of specialized services for survivors of gender-based violence and people living with a disability, as well as health, education, water and sanitation services. The cluster will use the findings to inform its

strategy. It is estimated that over 1.2 million people across 19 provinces have been affected by the 2022 floods.

## Côte d'Ivoire

- **Protection:** Arrivals from Burkina Faso continued in the last quarter of 2022. In November the interagency protection monitoring project P21's tools and methodologies were introduced in northern Côte d'Ivoire to assess the protection situation of new arrivals. UNHCR conducted two trainings for a total of 22 monitors working for the International Committee for Emergency Relief and Development (CIAUD-Canada), one of its partners, working in the north of the country, bordering Burkina Faso. The trainings took place in Ounagolo and in Tehini and focused on protection and border monitoring, as well as on the use of relevant data collection tools.



Reintegration programme for Ivorian returnees © UNHCR/Lath Divia Kibangou

### Voluntary repatriation:

- The repatriation exercise of Ivorians, linked to the cessation of their refugee status, was completed at the end of December, with over 20,000 people returning in 2022 to rebuild their lives in their home country. UNHCR handed over to the Ivorian authorities the transit centres of Tabou and of Toulepleu and plans to close the sub-office of Guiglo by 30 June 2023.

- **Asylum legal framework:** UNHCR regularly assists States in enhancing their national legal framework related to access to territory and asylum.

Following approval of the first draft asylum law in Côte d'Ivoire by the Council of Ministers on 7 June 2022, the Social and Cultural Affairs Committee of the National Assembly approved it on 9 December 2022. The National Assembly will have to discuss and endorse it before it will reach the Senate.

- **Statelessness:** To raise awareness of civil society on the #IBelong Campaign to end statelessness by 2024, a two-day workshop was organized in Soubré, Nawa Region. UNHCR facilitated a session on the concept of statelessness, its causes and consequences. Participants included personnel from the *Direction d'Aide et d'Assistance des Réfugiés et Apatrides* (DAARA), the governmental agency responsible for refugees and stateless people, the *Association des Femmes Juristes de Côte d'Ivoire* (AFJCI), leaders of associations, local authorities, religious leaders, members of the Regional Human Rights Commission.
- From 5 to 9 December, UNHCR and its government partner DAARA organized a sensitization and information campaign on statelessness in Boundiali. Civil society organizations, religious and local community leaders participated. The aim of the campaign was to sensitize key members of the society, who would the subsequently raise awareness among their communities.
- **Core relief items (CRIs):** Relief items such as blankets, mats and kitchen utensils were distributed to 14 Burkinabe refugee households (43 individuals) and two host families. Registration activities were carried out by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire and UNHCR in December. As of the end of December 2022 over 4,000 Burkinabe arrivals have been registered.

## Ghana

- **Registration of arrivals from Burkina Faso:** In December, UNHCR supported the Ghana Refugee Board (GRB) to register 1,118 refugees who arrived in the Upper East Region of

Ghana due to the deteriorating security situation in the south of Burkina Faso. The registration exercise will continue in January 2023.

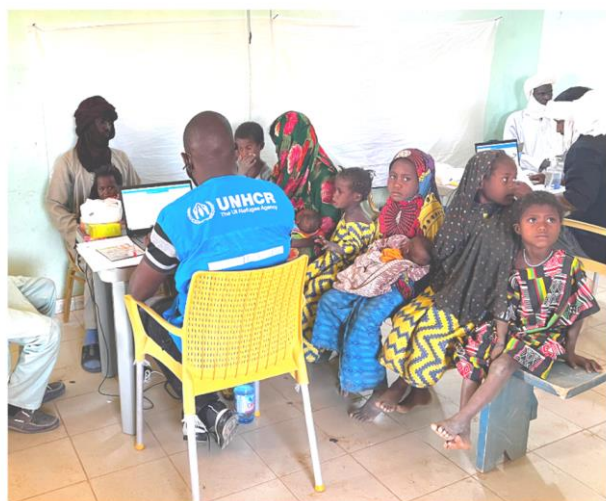
- **Documentation:** The National Identification Authority (NIA) is currently registering refugees in Ghana for the issuance of the Ghana card. The card is a verification document which will grant refugees access to basic social services, as well as to financial ones, in the country. The cost of the card for refugees and asylum seekers is subsidized by the Government. As of December, approximately 540 refugees received the Ghana Card.
- **Solutions:** UNHCR, the Ghana Immigration Service, and the Ghana Refugee Board supported a mission of the Ivorian *Direction D'Aide et d'Assistance aux Refugies et aux Apatrides* (DAARA) who, following the cessation of the refugees status of Ivorians, , processed passport requests from those who opted to remain in their hosting country. By the end of the mission 511 requests were approved and passports will be issued shortly. A second mission will be required to complete the exercise. Once the passports will be ready, the Ghana Immigration Service will be in the position to issue residency permits for Ivorians remaining on their territory.

## Liberia

- **Voluntary repatriation:** Eight households, who were not able to return to Côte d'Ivoire during the voluntarily repatriation exercise carried out in August 2022, mainly due to medical reasons, were assisted to return during the reporting period and received cash assistance as part of a voluntary repatriation package to support them upon arrival.
- **Burkinabe Arrivals:** UNHCR conducted a joint mission with the Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Committee (LRRRC) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to Nimba, Grand Gedeh and Maryland counties. Approximately 7800 Burkinabe in Liberia, including about 2,500 new arrivals since August 2022. Given the long-standing presence of Burkinabe nationals, traditionally working in the country, UNHCR will continue to monitor the situation to ensure that access to asylum is guaranteed for those seeking international protection
- **Livelihoods:** As of December, UNHCR disbursed cash grants to support 126 refugee's and host community's business projects, aiming at enhancing their ability to provide for their families' basic need.

## Mali

- **Solutions:** From 18 to 21 December, UNHCR conducted a mission to Kayes to meet and discuss with the local authorities, partners and representatives from the Mauritanian refugee community, prospects for solutions in relation to the protracted situation of Mauritanian refugees in Mali.
- **Registration:** 5,562 individuals were registered in December 2022, including 3,055 Nigeriens (1,110 households) in Asongo, Gao region, and 2,507 Burkinabe in Koro in the Bandiagara region. In late December UNHCR and its Government partner the *Commission Nationale Chargée des Réfugiés au Mali* (CNCR) launched a second registration phase of Nigerien refugees in the Ménaka region.
- **Education:** In October and November, UNHCR distributed 1,100 school kits to Burkinabe refugees and internally displaced students in 20 schools in the Bandiagara and Douentza regions. In the Kayes region, 654 school kits were distributed to Mauritanian refugee students, including 347 girls and 307 boys.



Registration of Nigerian refugees in Ansongo, Mali, December 2022 © UNHCR/A Maiga



- **Resettlement:** In November, UNHCR facilitated the departure of seven Rwandan refugees being resettled to Canada, where they will be able to rebuild new lives.
- **Shelter and core relief items:** Between October and December, UNHCR conducted several distributions in the Ménaka, Gao and Kidal regions. In Ménaka core relief items were distributed to 2,927 refugee households (14,635 individuals) and 498 IDP households (2,490 individuals); dignity kits were delivered to 2,260 young girls and women; and shelter and core relief items vouchers reached 1,128 refugee households and 372 IDP households, for a total of 7,500 individuals. In addition, core relief vouchers were distributed to 2,544 refugees; vouchers for the purchase of shelter materials reached 226 refugee and IDP households; and coupons for purchasing dignity kits were delivered to 863 refugee and IDP women aged between 13 and 49 years.
- In Gao region, 781 refugee households (3,905 individuals) benefited from multi-purpose cash distribution. In Kidal, 541 IDP households, who fled insecurity in Talataye village last September received shelter and core relief items, including family tents, mats, mosquito nets, buckets, jerrycans, kitchen sets, solar lamps, tarpaulins, and blankets.

## Niger

- **Durable Solutions:** As of December 2022, and since the Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM) was launched in 2017, a total of 5,096 refugees have left Niger to third countries under resettlement or through complementary pathways. This number comprises of 3,526 persons, who have been evacuated from Libya through the ETM, and 1,570 refugees that have been registered in the national asylum system in Niger. Out of the 4,063 evacuees from Libya to Niger since November 2017, 636 evacuees are still in Niamey, of whom 38 refugees are awaiting departure, and 270 are awaiting interviews and decisions by third countries.
- **Statelessness:** In December, the Ministry of Interior and the General Secretary of the Governorate of the Tahoua region organized a three-day workshop in Tahoua on the legal framework and the draft institutional mechanisms, tools and actions to support refugees and persons at risk of statelessness. UNHCR participated along with the Directorates of Refugee Status Determination of Tahoua and Agadez, the Courts of Tahoua and Agadez, the University of Tahoua, the Police, the President of the Regional Council of Tahoua, the mayors of Tillia and Agadez.
- **Core Relief Items (CRI):** CRI kits including mats, blankets, jerry cans, kitchen kits, mosquito nets, buckets and soap were distributed to new arrivals at the Sayam Forage camp in the Diffa region in Niger. New arrivals continue to be recorded in Sayam Forage camp and are either from the spontaneous sites along the national road N° 1 or from Nigeria, fleeing violence and searching for protection and assistance. The kits were distributed to a total of 1,000 households, 4,956 individuals. Another 300 emergency shelter kits were distributed to 300 newly registered households in Sayam Forage camp in Diffa.

## Nigeria

- **Protection and documentation:** During the reporting period, UNHCR and its partners sensitized more than 104,400 IDPs, IDP returnees, refugee returnees, and host community members on protection-related issues in the Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States, aiming at increasing awareness on where and when to report incidents and find the necessary support. Meanwhile, UNHCR supported the Nigeria Bar Association issued 62,000 certificates of indigeneity to IDPs, and returnees in Borno State. The certificates prove the individuals' place of origin, and it is required to apply for civil service positions, government scholarships, participate in elections to public office, and obtain a passport.

- Voluntary Repatriation:** The Technical Committee of the Tripartite committee is working to resume the voluntary repatriation of approximately 1,200 Nigerian Refugees to Banki from the Minawao camp in the Far North Region of Cameroon. UNHCR supported a joint visit, including Nigerian refugees based in Far North Cameroon, Nigerian and Cameroonian authorities, and partners, to assess the potential for return to Banki, Nigeria.



Cameroonian government officials and Nigerian refugees based in the Far North Cameroon region conducted a "Go and See, Go and Tell Visit" at the border town of Banki in Borno State, accompanied by Nigerian government officials, UNHCR, and partners © UNHCR/Kater Amah

- Registration and documentation:** Over 11,000 Cameroonian refugees were registered during the ongoing comprehensive registration and verification of Cameroonian refugees in Nigeria. Seven thousand received proof of registration issued by the Nigerian Government and UNHCR. With the support of UNHCR and its partners, the National Population Commission issued birth certificates to approximately 1,400 Cameroonian refugee and IDP children in Akwa Ibom, Benue, Cross River, and Taraba (ABCT) States.
- Gender-based violence (GBV):** As part of the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV Campaign, taking place from 25 November to 10 December, UNHCR, the Ministry of Women Affairs, and partners organized a series of events and awareness sessions focused on this year's theme: "UNITE! Activism to End Violence Against Women and Girls". Twenty thousand refugees and host community members were reached across Akwa Ibom, Benue, Borno, Cross River, Lagos, and Taraba States, through sport competitions, seminars, debate and poems competitions, and art exhibitions.
- Core relief item (CRIs)s:** To support IDPs and refugee returnees in the flood affected locations UNHCR distributed 550 core relief items kits and 4,000 plastic sheets to IDPs in 13 different Local Government Areas in Adamawa State. Additionally, UNHCR and its partners distributed 3,500 dignity kits to IDP and host community women and girls in reproductive age, including survivors of gender based violence, in the villages of Maiduguri, Bama, Banki, and Ngala, Borno State; in Yola North, Yola South, Mubi North, Mubi South and Fufore, Adamawa State; and in Gujba and Geidam, Yobe State.
- Complementary pathways:** Six Cameroonian refugees received scholarships to attend master's degree programmes in Italian universities through the University Corridors for Refugees Programme (UNICORE) and departed to Italy on 12 December to commence their studies. UNHCR supported the refugees in processing their visas, purchasing tickets, and organizing reception activities.

## STORIES FROM THE FIELD - NIGERIA

### Smiles of hope for the women of Sabara

Confusion reigned in Sabara, Damaturu Local Government Area Yobe State, after members of a non-state armed group raided the village. Villagers, dispersed in all directions to escape violence. Among them were Jummai, Halima, and Amina who sought safety in Gadaka village in Potiskum Local Government Area, leaving everything they owned behind.

As her husband died of a heart attack while fleeing Sabara, Jummai, 40 years old, was left alone, away from home, to raise and cater for her eight children for five years. She struggled every day to provide her children with food, shelter, medication, or pay the school fees and was heavily depended on the generosity of their hosts, who would share their food and let them sleep in their verandas.

Halima's story was not very different. She and her family, walked for over four hours to escape violence. "My children were so scared and asked me where we were running to, but I could not answer them because I was as confused as they were" says Halima.

Amina considered herself to be very lucky as she and her children were unharmed, but her sister was not as fortunate. "My sister was shot and died immediately at Dikumari village before we could escape. The rest of us hid in the bushes for two days. When the shooters had left, the Dikumari villagers helped me to bury my sister before we proceeded to Gadaka village," she recounts.



*Jummai, Halima, and Amina are leaders of a woman Cooperative Union in Sabara © UNHCR/Francis Garriba*

After five years of living a destitute life in exile, many of the women of the Sabara community, including Jummai, Halima, and Amina, returned home; but having lost their livestock, crops, and household possessions, being back was not easy.

UNHCR, in collaboration with the American University of Nigeria (AUN), embarked on training the women of the village in different vocational skills. Amina, Halima, Jummai, and 10 other women, all members of the cooperative they had joined, benefitted from the training and received multipurpose grinding machines as part of their start-up kits.

"When we received the grinding mills from UNHCR and AUN, we were overwhelmed with joy. As a cooperative, we take the project seriously and work relentlessly to earn money and serve the whole community," says Amina.

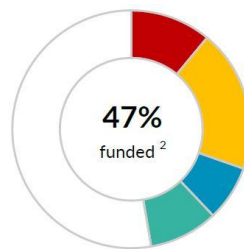
Every month, the group makes a profit of ten thousand Naira. They have also invested in other businesses, such as selling condiments and grains to community members. These sales help boost their business and also enable them to meet the needs of the family.

"Savings are deposited in a local bank and are used to support members of the cooperative who find themselves in difficult situations" Amina says. She added that many were assisted to rebuild or relocate to other places, where they built new homes, after losing their dwelling during the recent floods.

Amina, Halima, Jummai, and their fellow women, are now committed more than ever to a bright future and wish for the successful education of their children. While several challenges remain, they smile with hope for a brighter future.

## Funding Update

UNHCR's financial requirements for the West and Central Africa region in 2022 total **USD 884.1 million**. As of 29 December, only **47 per cent** of needs were funded. UNHCR is grateful to donors who have supported operations in West and Central Africa in 2022, including:



**WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA**  
as of 29 December 2022

- Tightly earmarked
- Earmarked
- Softly earmarked (indicative allocation)
- Unearmarked (indicative allocation)
- Funding gap (indicative)

**United States of America** 184.5 million | **USA for UNHCR** 25.9 million | **Germany** 19 million | **Italy** 13.6 million | **CERF** 9.1 million | **France** 8.9 million | **Country-based Pooled Funds** 6.1 million | **Education Cannot Wait** 6.1 million | **Canada** 4.8 million | **Denmark** 4.5 million | **Japan** 4.3 million | **Belgium** 4 million | **Hanesbrands Inc.** 3.6 million | **Sweden** 3.5 million | **Finland** 3.4 million | **The Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives** 2.9 million | **Qatar** 2.2 million | **African Development Bank Group** 2.2 million | **United Kingdom** 2 million | **European Union** 1.7 million | **Spain** 1.3 million | **Switzerland** 1.3 million

**Flexible financial support** greatly facilitates UNHCR being able to kick-start an emergency response, bolster forgotten or under-resourced crises, and enable the fullest possible implementation of programmes. They enable UNHCR to plan and manage its resources efficiently and effectively, contributing to the collective success in every life that is transformed and saved. UNHCR is grateful to the donors that have provided unearmarked and softly earmarked contributions in 2022, including:

### OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

**United States of America** 29.3 million | **Private donors Germany** 23 million | **Private donors USA** 15 million | **Japan** 13.6 million | **Private donors Australia** 12.2 million | **Canada** 7.8 million | **Private donors Spain** 2.7 million | **Private donors Denmark** 2.3 million | **Private donors Republic of Korea** 2.2 million

### UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

**Sweden** 99.3 million | **Norway** 72.5 million | **Private donors Spain** 72.1 million | **Private donors Japan** 59.1 million | **United Kingdom** 40.1 million | **Netherlands** 37.2 million | **Denmark** 35.6 million | **Private donors Republic of Korea** 34.4 | **Private donors USA** 26.2 million 29.9 | **Germany** 24.4 million n million | **Japan** 21.7 million | **Private donors Italy** 19.2 million | **France** 18.5 million | **Switzerland** 18.4 million | **Private donors Canada** 13.6 | **Private donors Sweden** 13.3 million | **Belgium** 11.9 million | **Ireland** 11.8 million | **Italy** 10 million

UNHCR Global Appeal for 2023 can be found [here](#).

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