13.2 MILLION
FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS PEOPLE

Refugees: 1.7M
Asylum-Seekers: 113K
Refugees Returnees: 118K
Returned IDPs: 1.9M
Stateless: 931K
Others of Concern: 139K
Internally Displaced People: 8.3M

General Trends
2018 - 2023

Source: Geographic data: UNHCR. Population statistics: UNHCR Monthly Statistical Reports or latest available. IDP statistics from OCHA, ICRC.
13.2 MILLION FORCIBLY DISPLACED POPULATION

The total forcibly displaced and stateless population to UNHCR in West and Central Africa (WCA) relates to the people UNHCR is mandated to protect and assist. It includes those who have been forcibly displaced; those who have returned home within recent years; those who are stateless or at risk of statelessness; and other groups to whom UNHCR has extended its protection or assisted on a humanitarian basis.

REGIONAL BUREAU FOR WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA
FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS POPULATION
MAY 2023

POPULATION TRENDS

- 1.7 MILLION REFUGEES & ASYLUM-SEEKERS
- 8.3 MILLION INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS
- 931 K. STATELESS & AT RISK OF STATELESSNESS
- 1.9 MILLION RETURNED INTERNALLY DISPLACED
- 0.1 MILLION REFUGEES RETURNED
- 0.1 MILLION OTHERS OF CONCERN

The total of 1.7 million refugees represents an 10% increase from May 2022. Chad hosts the largest number of refugees in the region with 39%. Cameroon is the second largest refugee-hosting country in the region with 27%. Sudan, Chad, and Nigeria are the main countries of origin together 77% of the region’s refugees with a contribution of 30%, 28%, and 1% respectively.

The number of internally displaced rose to an estimated 8.3 million. Nigeria hosts 43% of IDP population in the region. Burkina Faso is the second largest country in terms of IDPs (25%) with the majority being Internally Displaced Persons in Burkina Faso (64%).

The Lake Chad Basin hosts 32% of forcibly displaced population in West and Central Africa. Central Sahel hosts the second largest number (25%) with the majority being Internally Displaced Persons in Burkina Faso (64%).

INTERNATIONAL DISPLACED PERSONS

- 3,566,139 in makeshift camps
- 2,062,534 in settlements

Main countries of origin:
- Sudan
- CAR
- Cameroon
- Nigeria
- Chad
- Mali
- Burkina Faso
- Togo

Main countries of asylum:
- Chad
- Cameroon
- Burkina Faso
- Nigeria
- Mali
- Togo

PERSONS OF CONCERN BY COUNTRY

- 1,684 in Chad
- 2,062,534 in Burkina Faso
- 699,157 in Nigeria
- 478,106 in Cameroon
- 36,276 in Niger
- 706,553 in CAR

Informatics drivers:
- Female: 53%
- Male: 47%
- Child at risk: 12%
- Woman at risk: 47%
- Single parent: 12%
- Person with disability: 6%
- Older person at risk: 6%
- Legal & physical needs: 53%
- Women at risk: 80%
- Cameroon: 290
- Togo: 27,835
- Chad: 699,157
- Nigeria: 36,276
- Mali: 70,700
- Burkina Faso: 26,503
- CAR: 111,174
- 365,005

The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

These figures represent all refugees and IDPs in Central Sahel (Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger), Chad and Mauritania. Refugees from Central Sahel in neighboring coastal countries (Benin, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Mauritania). These figures represent Cameroonian refugees in Chad and forcibly displaced people following the attacks of violence in the Far North of Cameroon in December 2020.

These figures represent refugees and IDPs in Central Sahel in neighboring coastal countries (Benin, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Mauritania). These figures represent refugees and IDPs in Chad as a result of recent violence in the Far North of Cameroon.