UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

REGIONAL BUREAU FOR WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

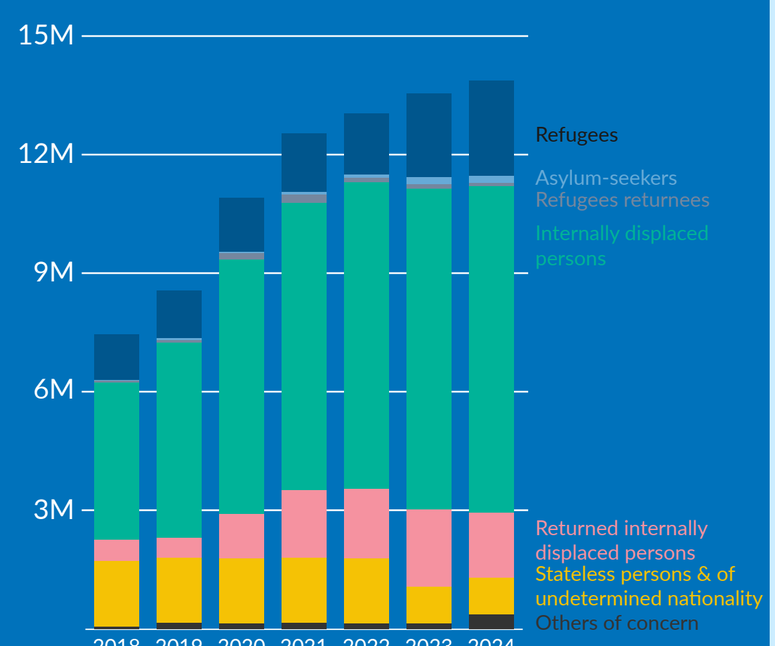
OVERVIEW - FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS PERSONS

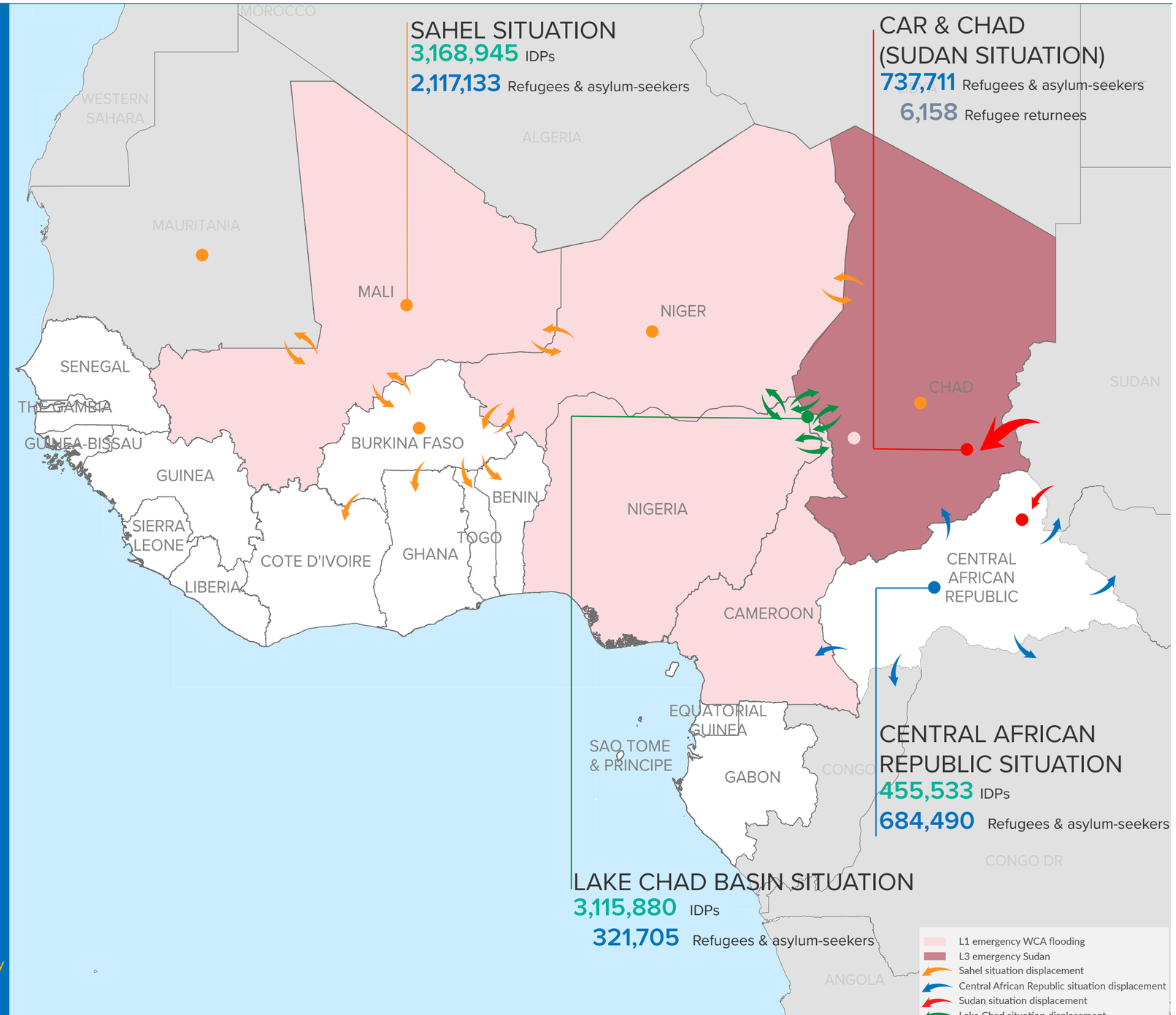
OCTOBER 2024

13.9 MILLION
FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS PERSONS

Refugees	2.4 M
Asylum-seekers	0.2 M
Refugees returnees*	0.07 M
Internally displaced persons	8.3 M
Returned IDPs	1.7 M
Stateless persons & of undetermined nationality	0.9 M
Others of concern	0.4 M

Populations trends 2018 - 2024





Source : Geographic data: UNCS. Population statistics: UNHCR Monthly Statistical Reports or latest available, IDP statistics from OCHA, IOM.
* The number of refugees returnees is cumulative from January 2024 to current month

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

For more information, please contact rbwcadima@unhcr.org

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OVERVIEW - FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS PERSONS

OCTOBER 2024

13.9 MILLION FORCIBLY DISPLACED & STATELESS PERSONS

UNHCR protects and assists forcibly displaced and stateless persons across the West and Central African region, including refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugee and IDP returnees, stateless and of undetermined nationality persons. Protection and assistance are extended to additional groups, based on humanitarian and other special grounds.

2.6 MILLION REFUGEES & ASYLUM-SEEKERS

0.07 MILLION REFUGEES RETURNEES in 2024

8.3 MILLION INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

1.7 MILLION RETURNED INTERNALLY DISPLACED

0.9 MILLION STATELESS & OF UNDETERMINED NATIONALITY

0.4 MILLION OTHERS OF CONCERN

The current number of 2.6 million refugees and asylum seekers represents a significant increase of 18% increase from the number reported at the same period in 2023, mainly as a result of the ongoing crisis in Sudan and the deteriorating security situation in the Sahel, which has led thousands of persons to leave their country in search for safety and protection.

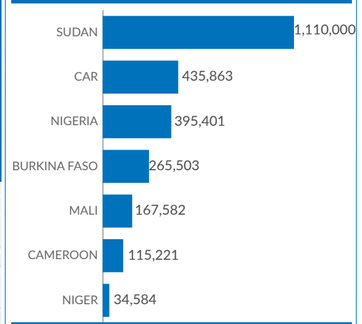
The largest hosting refugee country in the region is Chad with 48% of the total population, followed by Cameroon with 16%. Sudan, the Central African Republic (CAR), and Nigeria are the main countries of origin, together accounting for 74% of the region's refugee population.

The estimated population is 40,417 refugees and asylum-seekers (5% are asylum-seekers) in the region.

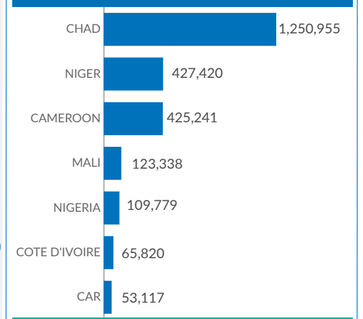
Internally displaced persons represent the vast majority of the forcibly displaced population in the West and Central Africa region. Nigeria, Burkina Faso and Cameroon respectively host 43%, 25% and 13% of the total IDP population.

West Africa hosts over 931,073 persons who are stateless or of undetermined nationality, reported mainly in Côte d'Ivoire and Cabo Verde. Millions of people are reported to be at risk of statelessness across the region.

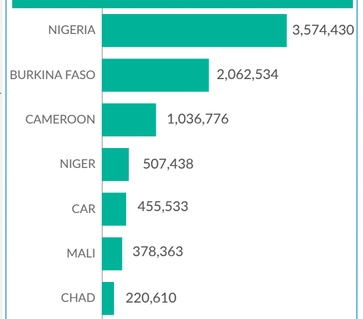
MAIN COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



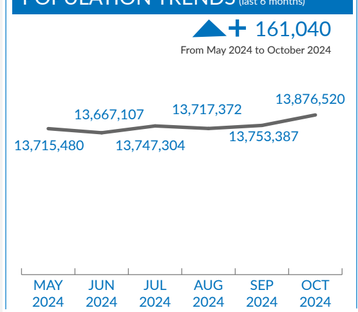
MAIN COUNTRIES OF ASYLUM

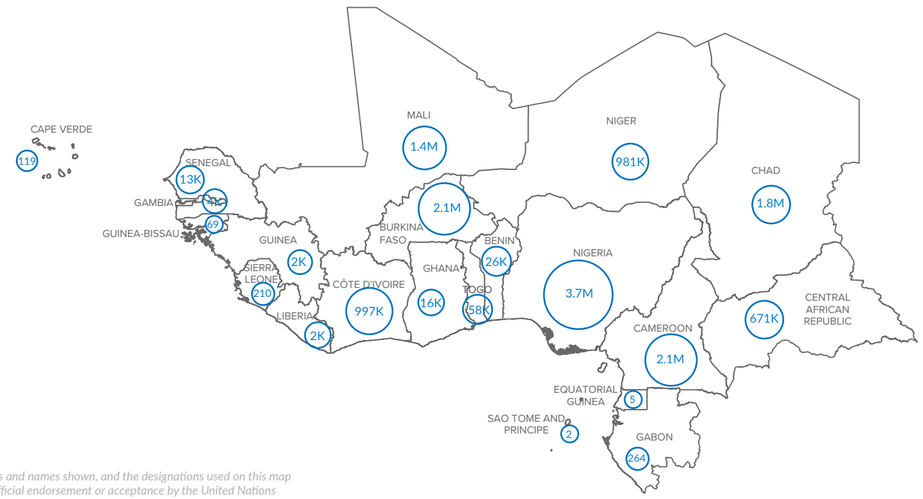


INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT



POPULATION TRENDS (last 6 months)





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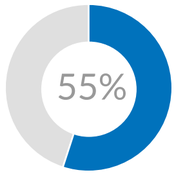
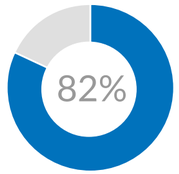
	REFUGEES	ASYLUM SEEKERS	REF. RETURNEES	IDPs	RETURNED IDP	STATELESS	OTHERS	TOTAL
BENIN	16,148	1,008		8,785				25,941
BURKINA FASO	38,892	2,009		2,062,534				2,103,435
CAMEROON	409,961	15,280	17,508	1,036,776	658,544		852	2,138,921
CAPE VERDE		4				115		118
CAR	44,860	8,257	15,228	455,533	147,219**			671,097
CHAD	1,243,424	7,531		220,610			317,279***	1,788,844
COTE D'IVOIRE	2,359	63,461				930,958	94	996,872
GABON	178	77					9	264
GAMBIA	3,920	462						4,382
GHANA	7,092	8,813						15,905
GUINEA	2,178	120						2,298
GUINEA BISSAU	32	37						69
GUINEA EQUATORIAL	4	1						5
LIBERIA	1,169	676						1,845
MALI	123,044	294	2,758	378,363	848,866			1,353,325
NIGER	375,161	52,259		507,438			46,578	981,436
NIGERIA	78,312	31,467	35,931	3,574,430				3,720,140
SAO TOME & PRINCIPE		2						2
SENEGAL	11,850	1,182						13,032
SIERRA LEONE							210	210
TOGO	47,009	1,689		9,680				58,378
GRAND TOTAL	2,405,593	194,629	71,425	8,254,149	1,654,629	931,073	365,022	13,876,520

REFUGEE & ASYLUM-SEEKERS POPULATION PROFILE

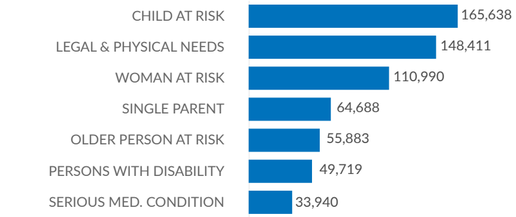
CHILDREN



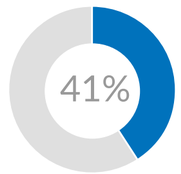
WOMEN & CHILDREN



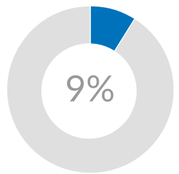
REFUGEES WITH SPECIFIC NEEDS



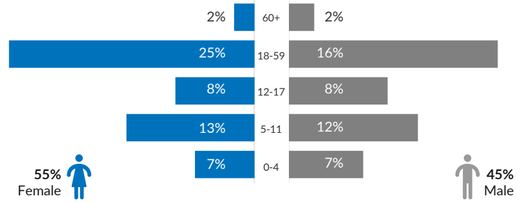
REFUGEES IN CAMPS



REFUGEES IN MAIN URBAN AREAS

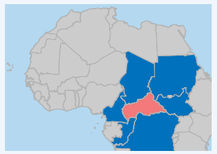


DEMOGRAPHICS



MAJOR AREAS OF DISPLACEMENT

CAR SITUATION

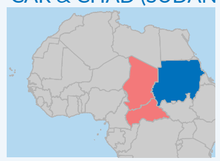


684,490 REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS

455,533 INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

The figures reported reflect the number of refugees from the Central African Republic in neighbouring countries (Cameroon, Chad, Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, and South Sudan) and of the IDPs within the Central African Republic.

CAR & CHAD (SUDAN SITUATION)

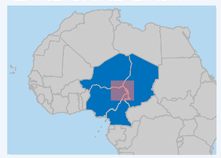


737,711 REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS

6,158 REFUGEE RETURNEES

The figures reported reflect the number of Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers that arrived in the CAR and in Chad since the beginning of the current crisis in Sudan, in April 2023.

LAKE CHAD BASIN

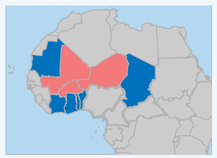


321,705 REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS

3,115,880 INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

The figures reported reflect the total number of IDPs and refugees in the Lake Chad Basin area, across Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria.

SAHEL SITUATION



2,117,133 REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS

3,168,945 INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

The figures reported reflect the number of IDPs in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali and Niger, as well as refugees dispersed throughout the Sahel region. They also include the number of refugees from the Central Sahel (Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger) and in the neighbouring coastal countries of Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo.

* The number of refugees returnees is cumulative from January 2024 to current month
** The number of returned IDP from CAR is cumulative from January 2024 to current month
*** The number of Others of concern in CHAD is the returned from abroad (Niger, CAR and Sudan), at risk of statelessness

Creation date: 15.11.2024, Sources: Geographic data: UNCS. Population statistics: UNHCR Monthly Statistical Reports or latest available, IDP statistics from OCHA, IOM. Statistics should be considered provisional and subject to change. For more information, please contact UNHCR RBWCA DIMA <rbwcadima@unhcr.org>