UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

REGIONAL BUREAU FOR WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

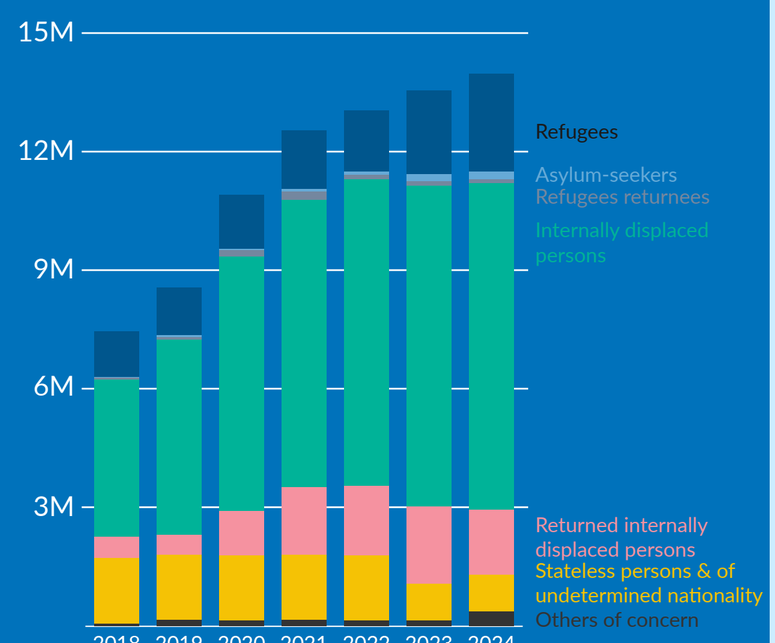
OVERVIEW - FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS PERSONS

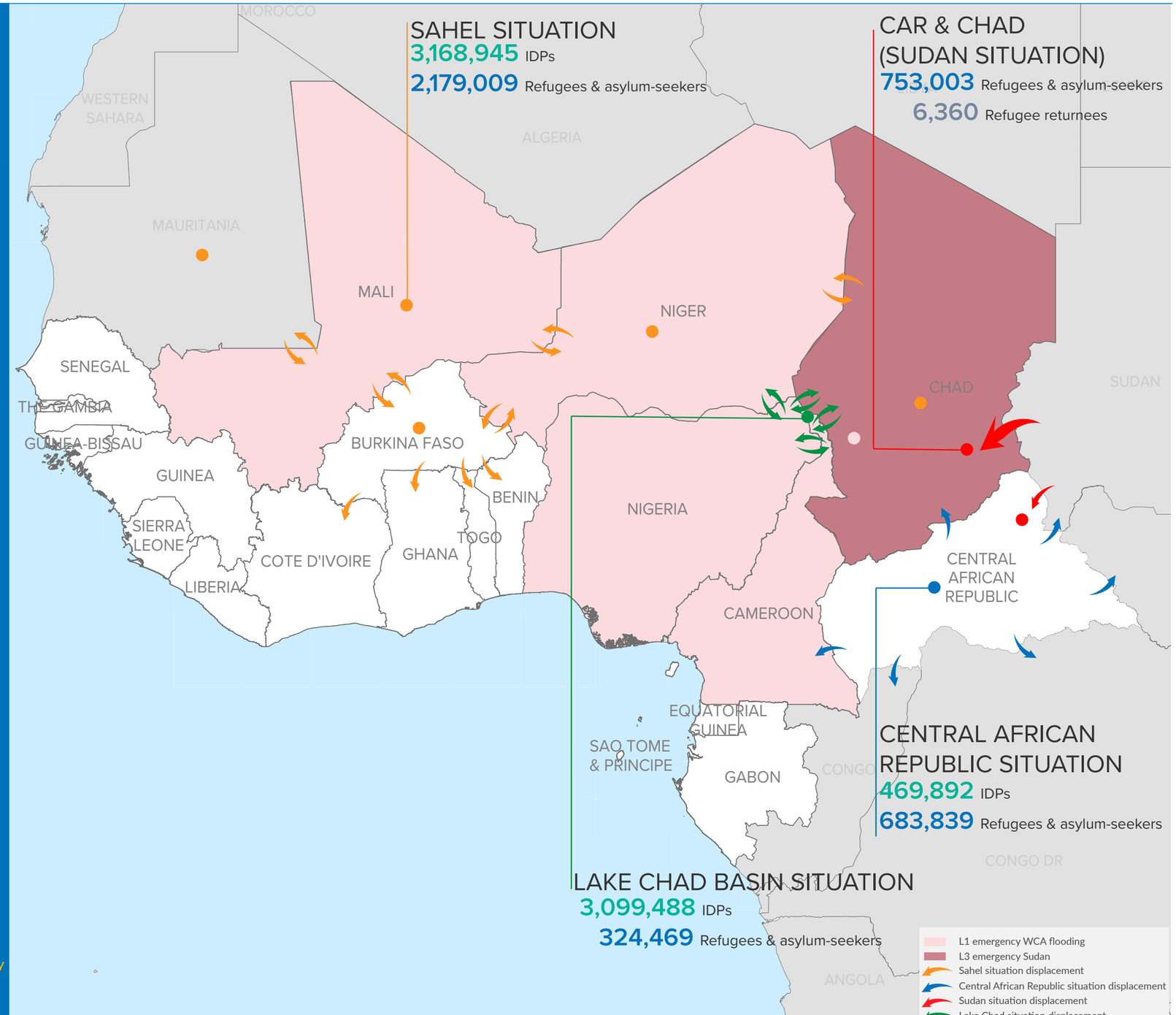
DECEMBER 2024

14.0 MILLION
FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS PERSONS

Refugees	2.5 M
Asylum-seekers	0.2 M
Refugees returnees*	0.09 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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REGIONAL BUREAU FOR WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

OVERVIEW - FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS PERSONS

DECEMBER 2024

14.0 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.

2.7 MILLION REFUGEES & ASYLUM-SEEKERS

0.09 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 2.7 million refugees and asylum seekers represents a significant increase of 16% 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.

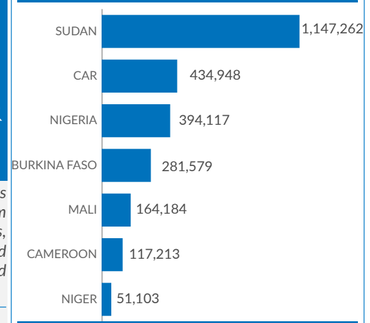
The largest hosting refugee country in the region is Chad with 48% of the total population, followed by Cameroon with 16%. Sudan, the Central African Republic (CAR), and Nigeria are the main countries of origin, together accounting for 73% of the region's refugee population.

The estimated population is around 35,951 refugees and asylum-seekers (57% are asylum-seekers) in the region.

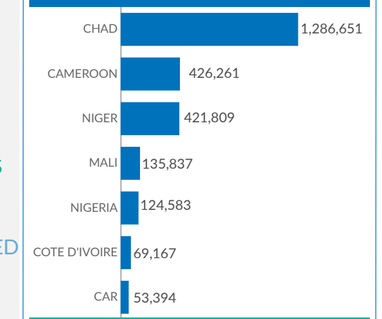
Internally displaced persons represent the vast majority of the forcibly displaced population in the West and Central Africa region. Nigeria, Burkina Faso and Cameroon respectively host 43%, 25% and 13% of the total IDP population.

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.

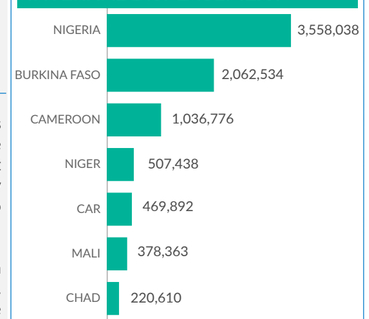
MAIN COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



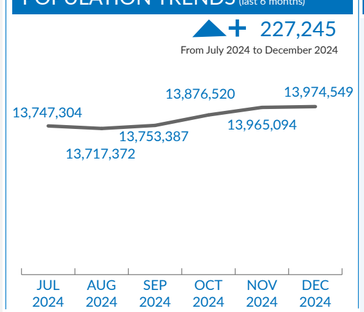
MAIN COUNTRIES OF ASYLUM

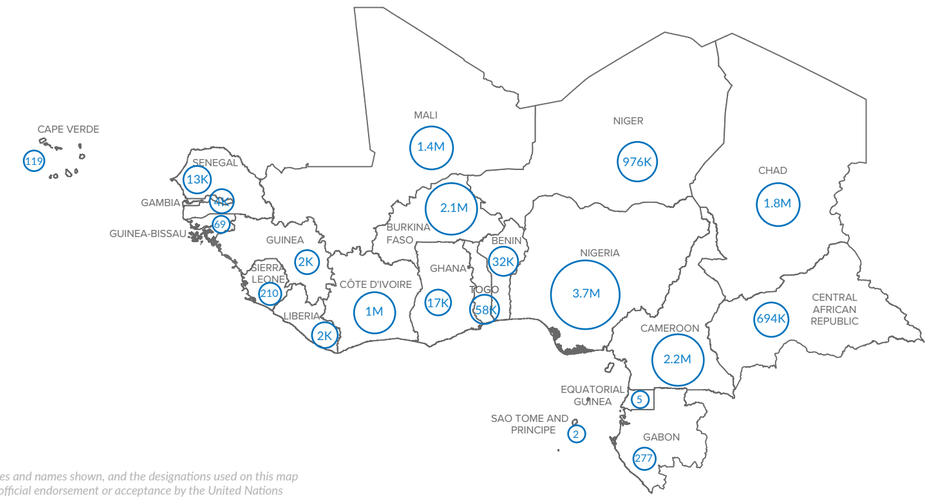


INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT



POPULATION TRENDS (last 6 months)





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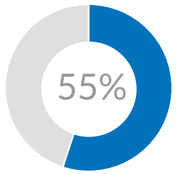
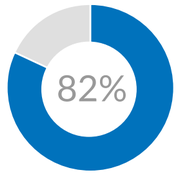
	REFUGEES	ASYLUM SEEKERS	REF. RETURNEES	IDPs	RETURNED IDP	STATELESS	OTHERS	TOTAL
BENIN	16,243	7,013		8,785				32,041
BURKINA FASO	39,916	1,495		2,062,534				2,103,945
CAMEROON	410,211	16,050	30,581	1,036,775	658,544		848	2,153,009
CAPE VERDE		4				115		119
CAR	45,114	8,280	19,751	469,892	151,185**			694,222
CHAD	1,278,871	7,780		220,610			317,279***	1,824,540
COTE D'IVOIRE	2,369	66,798				930,958	94	1,000,219
GABON	185	83					9	277
GAMBIA	3,963	454						4,417
GHANA	7,487	9,866						17,353
GUINEA	2,178	120						2,298
GUINEA BISSAU	32	37						69
GUINEA EQUATORIAL	4	1						5
LIBERIA	1,172	691						1,863
MALI	135,538	299	3,027	378,363	854,956			1,372,183
NIGER	369,838	51,971		507,438			46,590	975,837
NIGERIA	94,350	30,233	37,793	3,558,038				3,720,414
SAO TOME & PRINCIPE		2						2
SENEGAL	11,847	1,231						13,078
SIERRA LEONE							210	210
TOGO	47,500	1,268		9,680				58,448
GRAND TOTAL	2,466,818	203,676	91,152	8,252,115	1,664,685	931,073	365,030	13,974,549

REFUGEE & ASYLUM-SEEKERS POPULATION PROFILE

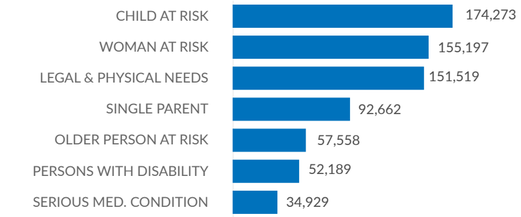
CHILDREN



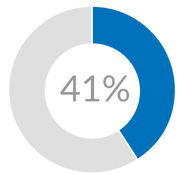
WOMEN & CHILDREN



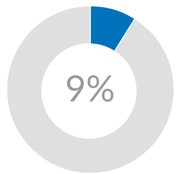
REFUGEES WITH SPECIFIC NEEDS



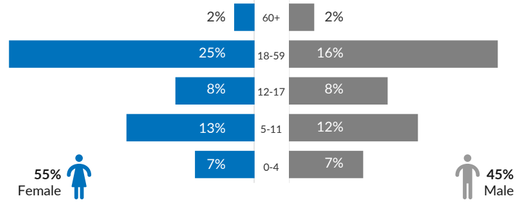
REFUGEES IN CAMPS



REFUGEES IN MAIN URBAN AREAS

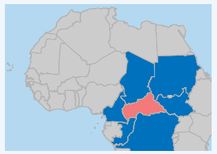


DEMOGRAPHICS



MAJOR AREAS OF DISPLACEMENT

CAR SITUATION

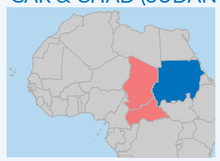


683,839 REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS

469,892 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)

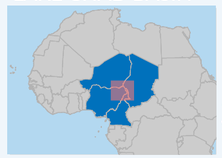


753,003 REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS

6,360 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

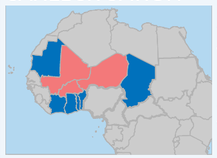


324,469 REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS

3,099,488 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



2,179,009 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: 15.01.2025, 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>