UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

REGIONAL BUREAU FOR WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

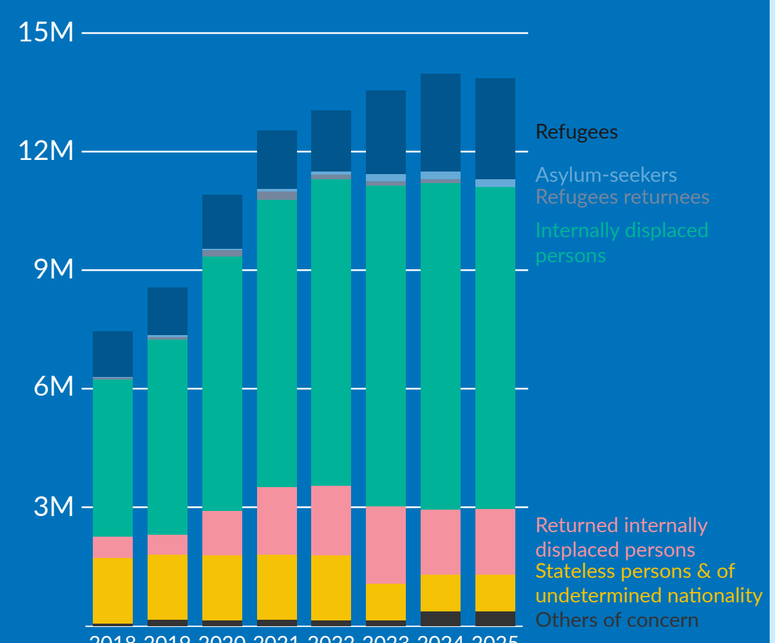
OVERVIEW - FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS PERSONS

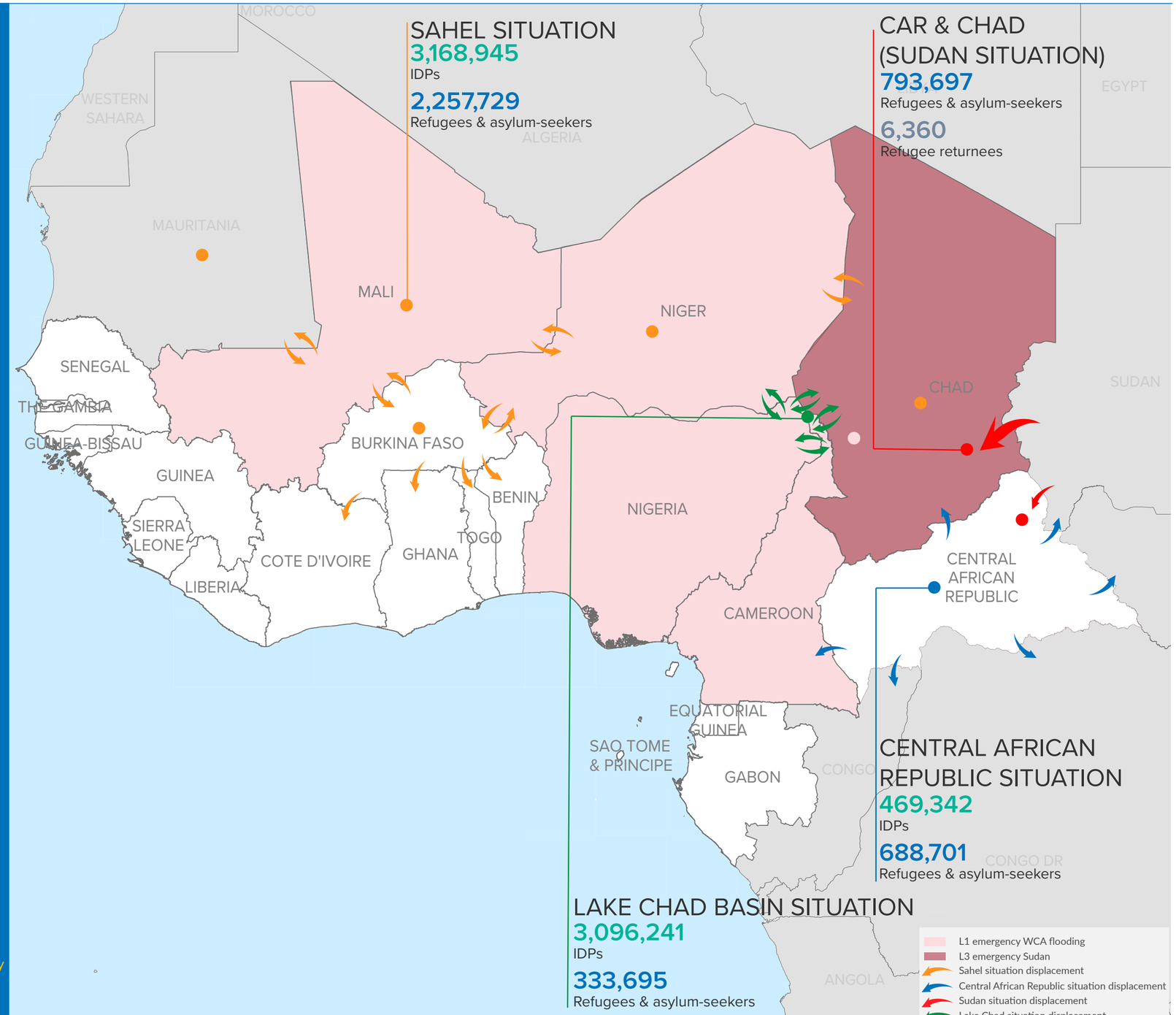
FEBRUARY 2025

13.9 MILLION
FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS PERSONS

Refugees	2.6 M
Asylum-seekers	0.2 M
Refugees returnees*	8,882
Internally displaced persons	8.1 M
Returned IDPs	1.7 M
Stateless persons & of undetermined nationality	0.9 M
Others of concern	0.4 M

Populations trends 2018 - 2025





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 2025 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

FEBRUARY 2025

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.

2.8 MILLION REFUGEES & ASYLUM-SEEKERS

9K REFUGEES RETURNEES in 2025

8.1 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 2.8 million refugees and asylum seekers represents a significant increase of 16% increase from the number reported at the same period in 2024, 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.

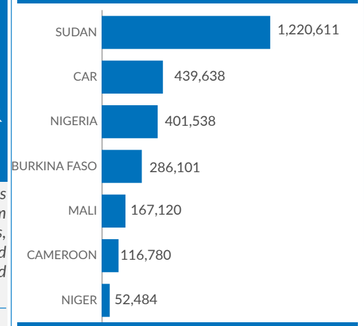
The largest hosting refugee country in the region is Chad with 49% of the total population, followed by Cameroon with 16%. Sudan, the Central African Republic (CAR), and Nigeria are the main countries of origin, together accounting for 74% of the region's refugee population.

The estimated population is around 44,156 refugees and asylum-seekers in the region.

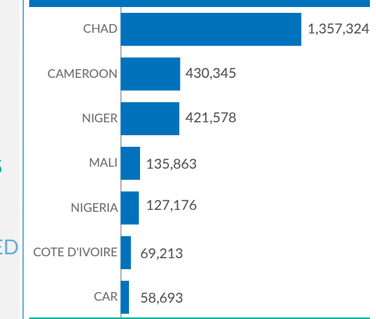
Internally displaced persons represent the vast majority of the forcibly displaced population in the West and Central Africa region. Nigeria, Burkina Faso and Cameroon respectively host 42%, 25% and 13% of the total IDP population.

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.

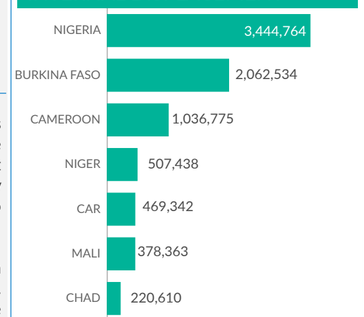
MAIN COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



MAIN COUNTRIES OF ASYLUM

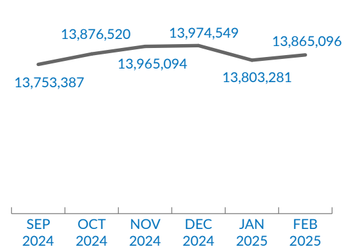


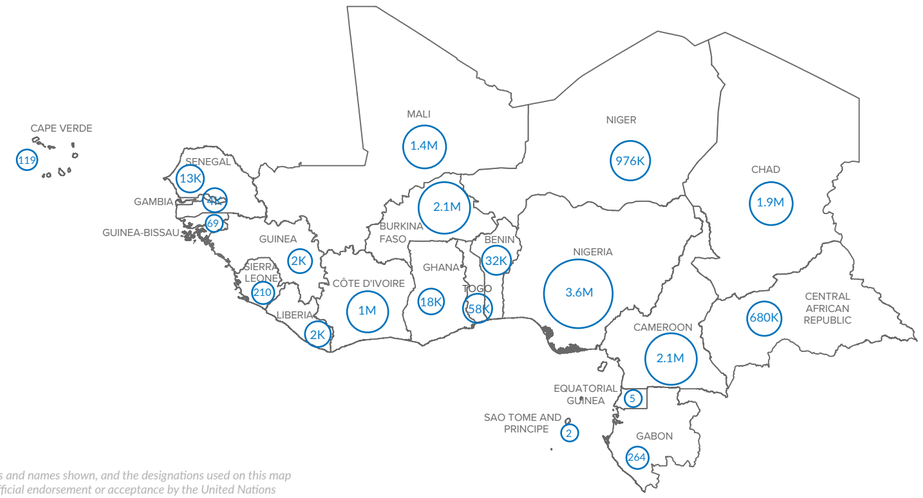
INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT



POPULATION TRENDS (last 6 months)

+ 111,709
From September 2024 to February 2025





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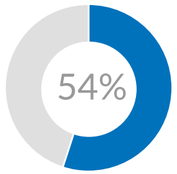
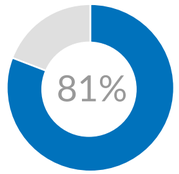
	REFUGEES	ASYLUM SEEKERS	REF. RETURNEES	IDPs	RETURNED IDP	STATELESS	OTHERS	TOTAL
BENIN	16,243	6,955		8,785				31,983
BURKINA FASO	40,064	1,467		2,062,534				2,104,065
CAMEROON	413,094	17,251		1,036,775	658,544		852	2,126,516
CAPE VERDE		4				115		119
CAR	50,402	8,291	278	469,342	151,765**			680,078
CHAD	1,349,492	7,832		220,610			317,279***	1,895,213
COTE D'IVOIRE	2,369	66,844				930,958	94	1,000,265
GABON	177	78					9	264
GAMBIA	3,975	473						4,448
GHANA	17,152	468						17,620
GUINEA	2,174	176						2,350
GUINEA BISSAU	32	37						69
GUINEA EQUATORIAL	4	1						5
LIBERIA	1,172	691						1,863
MALI	135,563	300	291	378,363	854,956			1,369,473
NIGER	378,782	42,796		507,438			46,678	975,694
NIGERIA	96,415	30,761	8,313	3,444,764				3,580,253
SAO TOME & PRINCIPE		2						2
SENEGAL	11,845	1,386						13,231
SIERRA LEONE							210	210
TOGO	47,571	3,633		10,171				61,375
GRAND TOTAL	2,566,526	189,446	8,882	8,138,782	1,665,265	931,073	365,122	13,865,096

REFUGEE & ASYLUM-SEEKERS POPULATION PROFILE

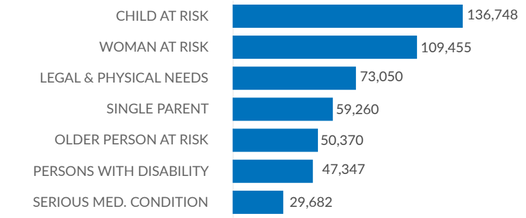
CHILDREN



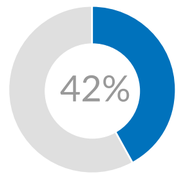
WOMEN & CHILDREN



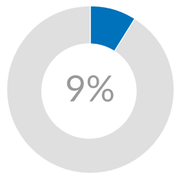
REFUGEES WITH SPECIFIC NEEDS



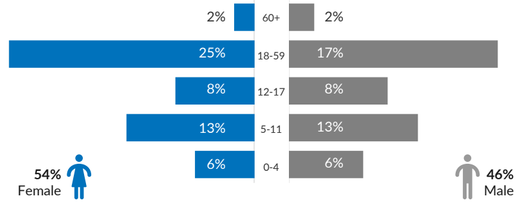
REFUGEES IN CAMPS



REFUGEES IN MAIN URBAN AREAS

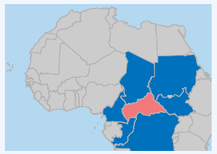


DEMOGRAPHICS



MAJOR AREAS OF DISPLACEMENT

CAR SITUATION

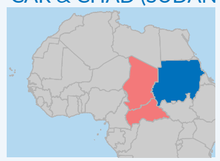


688,701 REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS

469,342 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)

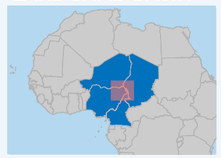


793,697 REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS

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

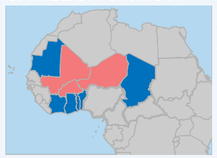


333,695 REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS

3,096,241 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



2,257,729 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 2025 to current month
** The number of returned IDP from CAR is cumulative from January 2025 to date
*** The number of Others of concern in CHAD is the returned from abroad (Niger, CAR and Sudan), at risk of statelessness

Creation date: 15.03.2025, 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>