UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

REGIONAL BUREAU FOR WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

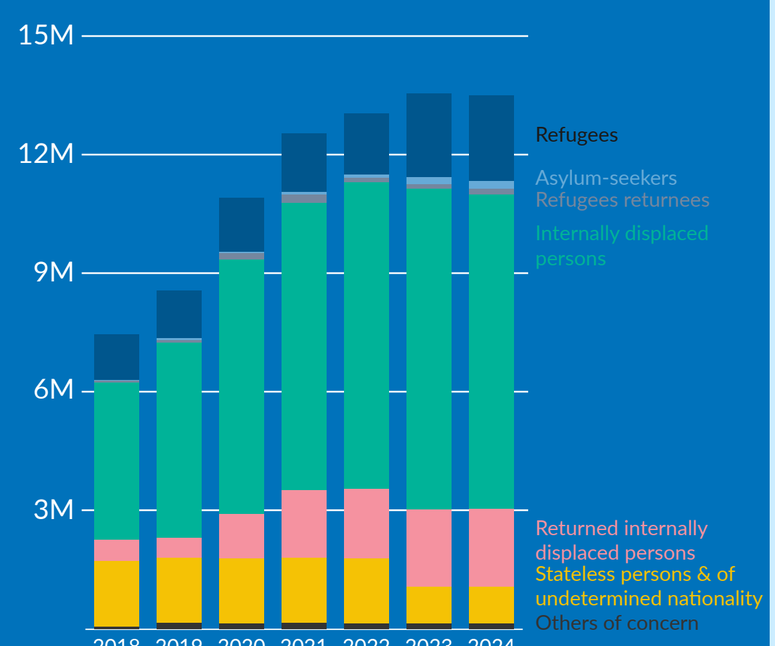
OVERVIEW - FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS PERSONS

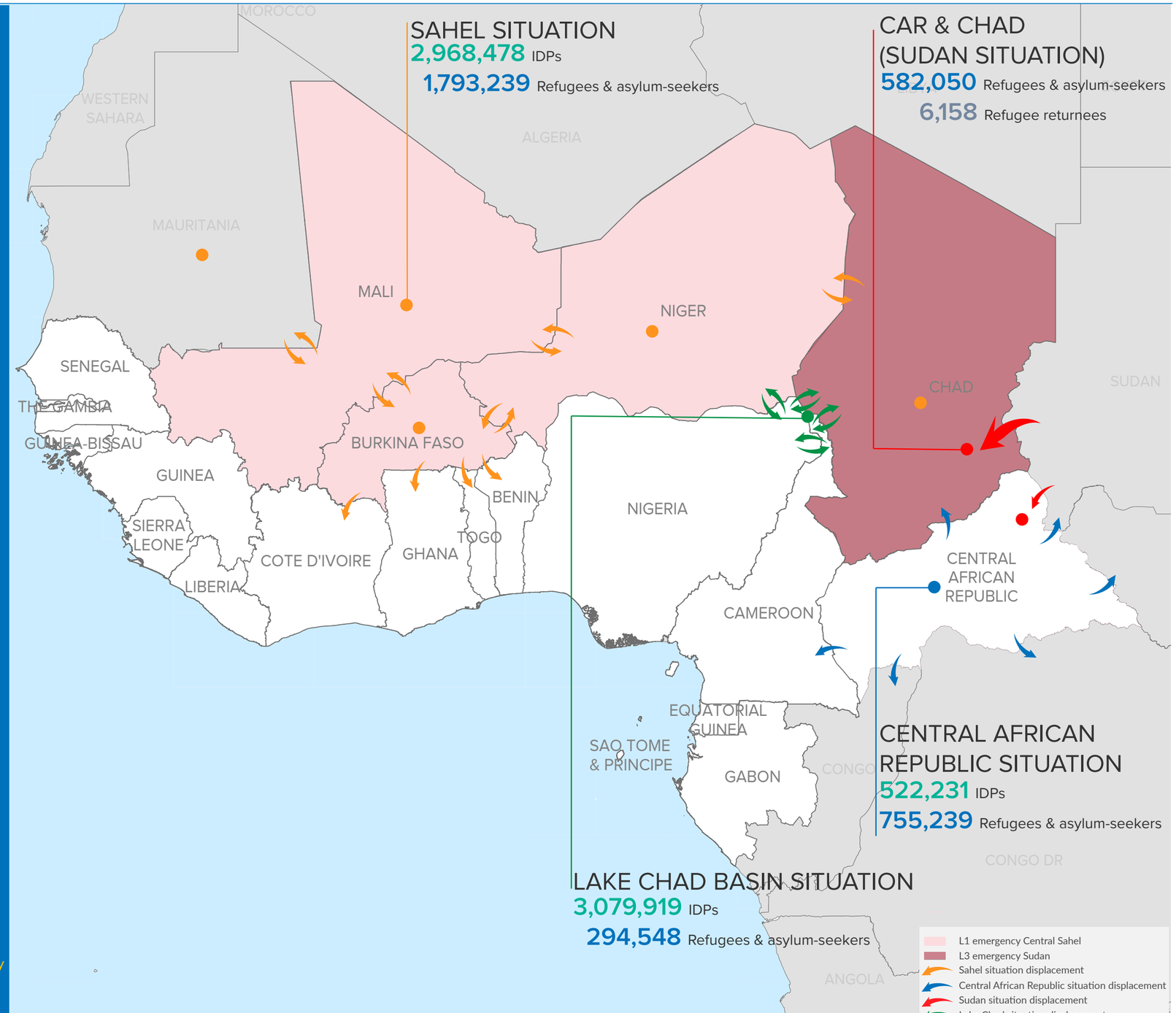
FEBRUARY 2024

13.5 MILLION
FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS PERSONS

Refugees	2.2 M
Asylum-seekers	0.2 M
Refugees returnees	0.1 M
Internally displaced persons	8.0 M
Returned IDPs	2.0 M
Stateless persons & of undetermined nationality	0.9 M
Others of concern	0.1 M

Populations trends 2018 - 2024





Source : Geographic data: UNCS. Population statistics: UNHCR Monthly Statistical Reports or latest available, IDP statistics from OCHA, IOM.

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

FEBRUARY 2024

13.5 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.

2.4 MILLION REFUGEES & ASYLUM-SEEKERS

0.1 MILLION REFUGEES RETURNEES

8.0 MILLION INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

2.0 MILLION RETURNED INTERNALLY DISPLACED

0.9 MILLION STATELESS & OF UNDETERMINED NATIONALITY

0.1 MILLION OTHERS OF CONCERN

The current number of 2.4 million refugees and asylum seekers represents a significant increase of 44% increase from the number reported at the beginning of 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.

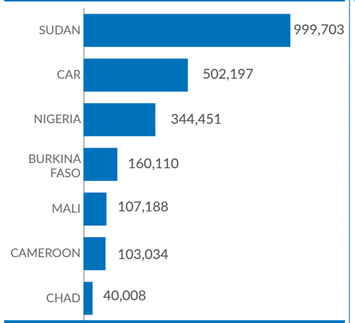
The largest hosting refugee country in the region is Chad with 49% of the total population, followed by Cameroon with 21%. Sudan, the Central African Republic (CAR), and Nigeria are the main countries of origin, together accounting for 78% of the region's refugee population.

As the registration process is ongoing, there are currently 61,556 asylum seekers pending registration.

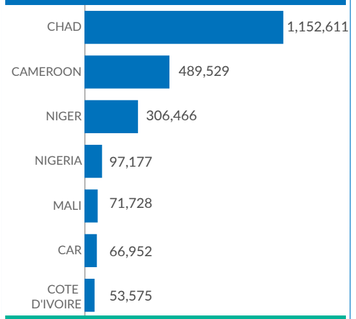
Internally displaced persons represent the vast majority of the forcibly displaced population in the West and Central Africa region. Nigeria, Burkina Faso and Cameroon respectively host 42%, 26% and 14% of the total IDP population.

West Africa hosts over 931,156 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.

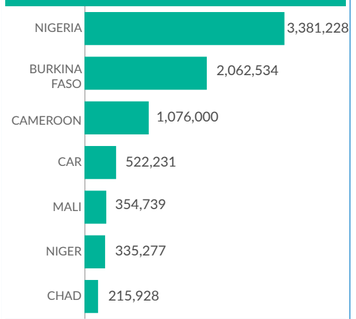
MAIN COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



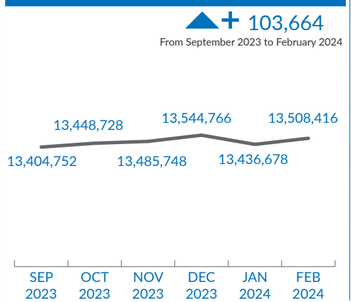
MAIN COUNTRIES OF ASYLUM



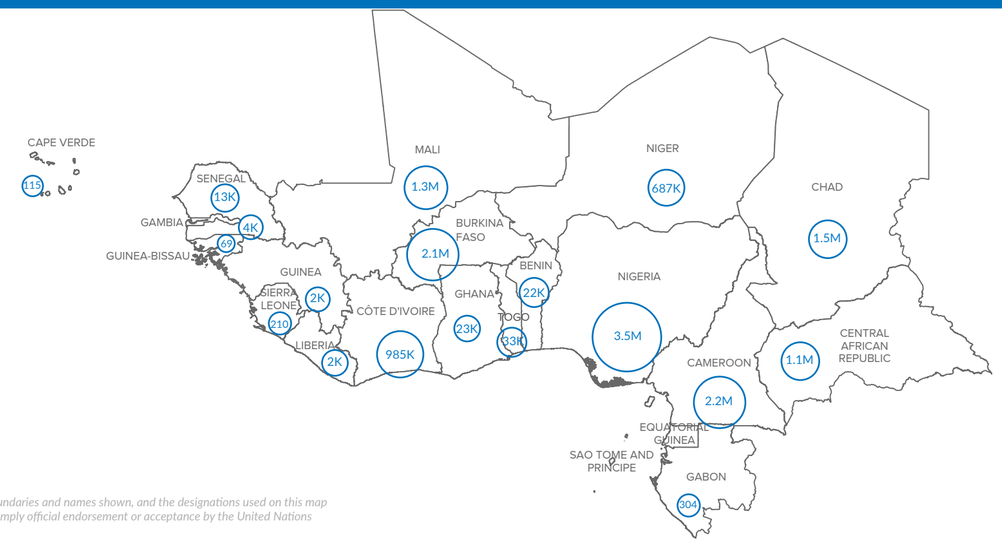
INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT



POPULATION TRENDS (last 6 months)



FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS PERSONS BY COUNTRY



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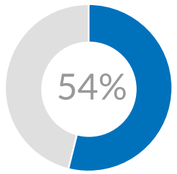
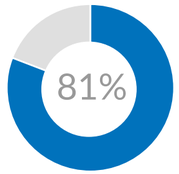
	REFUGEES	ASYLUM SEEKERS	REF. RETURNEES	IDPs	RETURNED IDP	STATELESS	OTHERS	TOTAL
BENIN	12,230	884		8,785				21,899
BURKINA FASO	38,027	1,147		2,062,534				2,101,708
CAMEROON	478,907	10,622		1,076,000	659,000			2,224,529
CAPE VERDE						115		115
CAR	34,441	32,511	31,662	522,231	499,430			1,120,275
CHAD	1,147,145	5,466		215,928			100,543	1,469,082
COTE D'IVOIRE	2,264	51,211				931,041	94	984,710
GABON	210	94						304
GAMBIA	3,845	418						4,263
GHANA	6,980	16,003						22,983
GUINEA	2,187	57						2,244
GUINEA BISSAU	32	37						69
LIBERIA	1,167	617						1,784
MALI	71,447	281	85,683	354,739	803,410			1,315,560
NIGER	269,944	36,522		335,277			45,699	687,442
NIGERIA	70,579	26,598	27,193	3,381,228				3,505,598
SENEGAL	11,881	843						12,724
SIERRA LEONE							210	210
TOGO	28,269	4,648						32,917
GRAND TOTAL	2,179,655	187,959	144,538	7,956,722	1,961,840	931,156	146,546	13,508,416

REFUGEE & ASYLUM-SEEKERS POPULATION PROFILE

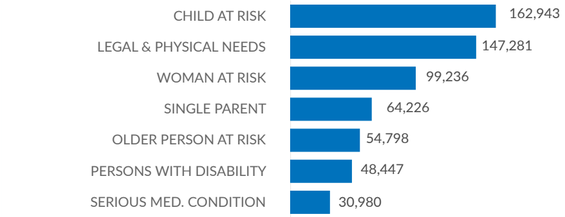
CHILDREN



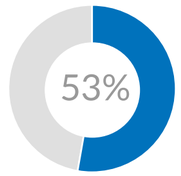
WOMEN & CHILDREN



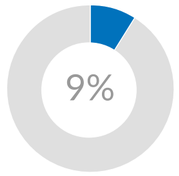
REFUGEES WITH SPECIFIC NEEDS



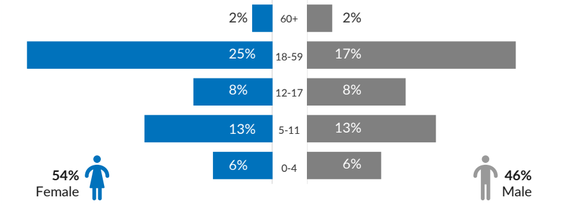
REFUGEES IN CAMPS



REFUGEES IN MAIN URBAN AREAS

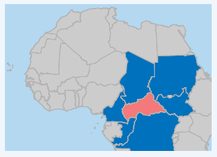


DEMOGRAPHICS



MAJOR AREAS OF DISPLACEMENT

CAR SITUATION

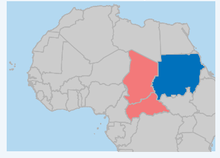


755,239 REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS

522,231 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)

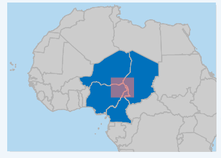


582,050 REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS

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

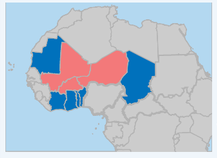


294,548 REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS

3,079,919 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



1,793,239 REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS

2,968,478 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.

Creation date: 15.03.2024, 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>