

## Key figures:

**6.5 million** people of concern

**1.3 million** refugees

**30,000** asylum seekers

**4.7 million** Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

**4 situations:** Cameroon, Central African Republic, Mali and Nigeria

### Mali situation:

**138,720 Malian refugees:** in Mauritania (56,184), Niger (56,815) and Burkina Faso (25,721).

**751,434 IDPs:** in Burkina Faso (486,360), Mali (187,139) and Niger (77,935)

### Nigeria situation:

**243,875 Nigerian refugees** in Niger (119,541), Cameroon (108,335) and Chad (15,999)  
**2,532,125 IDPs** in Nigeria (2,018,513), Cameroon (270,870), Chad (133,338) and Niger (109,404)

### Central African Republic situation:

**590,642 Central African refugees** in Cameroon (291,803) in Chad (103,562) in the DRC (173,079) and in the Republic of Congo (22,198)  
**600,136 IDPs**

### Cameroon situation:

**44,524 Cameroonian refugees** in Nigeria  
**536,107 IDPs**

### Voluntary repatriation – Côte d'Ivoire:

A total of **1,893** Ivorian refugees have repatriated since January 2019.

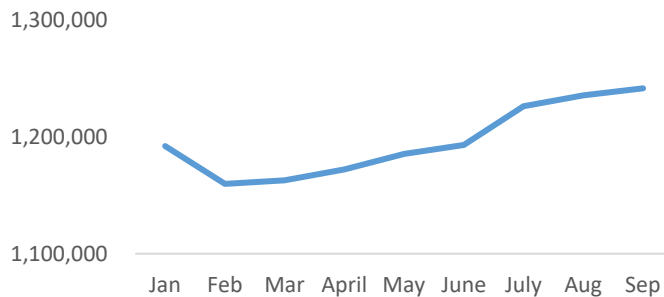
## MAIN HIGHLIGHTS

### Political and security developments

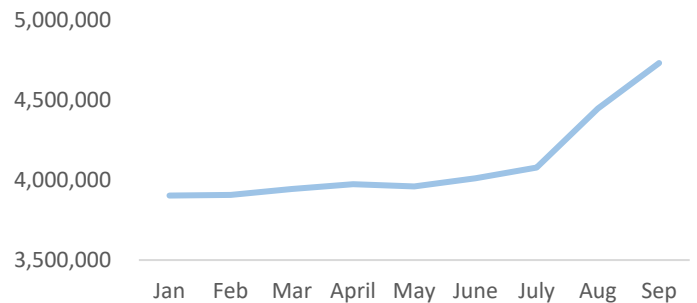
- In the **Sahel region**, since the beginning of the year, security incidents continue to be recorded on an almost daily basis, primarily against state institutions, security services, schools, religious places of worship and health centers. Insecurity continues to thrive and spread beyond the Sahel region, targeting more and more civilians while exploiting underlying social tensions. Displacement patterns in the sub-region remain complex. The UN Secretary General, at a special high-level meeting on the Sahel during the UN General Assembly, told world leaders that humanitarian and development responses for Mali and Africa's wider Sahel region "are falling short", and support must be scaled up to ensure a hopeful future for its people.
- In **Burkina Faso**, UNHCR and partners recently warned about the escalating humanitarian crisis currently unfolding in the central and northern regions due to increasing attacks. Most recently, the Governors of the regions of the Sahel, Centre and Centre-Nord have imposed curfews in order to restrict certain movements at certain hours, with a view to mitigating the incessant attacks. Following the most recent attack on a mosque in the commune of Salmossi on 11 October, the UN Secretary General expressed his condolences to the people of Burkina Faso and condemned the attack. This violence and social instability is plunging Burkina Faso into an unprecedented humanitarian crisis characterized by mass internal displacement.
- The **Malian** government reported that on 30 October, al-Qaida-affiliated groups attacked two military bases in the Centre-Nord region; with 40 reported killed and 60 missing. Hundreds of wives and children of Malian soldiers demonstrated in the capital Bamako, demanding information on the incident.
- A National Dialogue took place in **Cameroon** from 30 September-5 October, an event called upon by the President in an attempt to ease the ongoing crisis in the North West and South West regions. A series of recommendations were made including the equality of English and French speakers, giving greater autonomy to the provinces and offering amnesty to fighters who down arms. The ongoing crisis which began in 2016 has led to the displacement of more than 500,000 within Cameroon and some 45,000 refugees in Nigeria.
- The Regional Dialogue on Protection and Solutions in the context of forced-displacements in the Sahel region took place from 11-12 September in Bamako, **Mali**. The Dialogue, hosted by the Government of Mali and UNHCR, and including Government officials and partners from Burkina Faso, Chad, Mauritania and Niger, reconfirmed the need to search for durable solutions for persons forced to flee while ensuring that protection of civilians remains at the core of all interventions.
- Drawing from the Dialogue in Bamako, Ministers and Government representatives from Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger - **G5 Sahel** - reaffirmed their commitments to protect civilians in a context of counterterrorism operations in the Sahel at the margins of UNHCR's annual Executive Committee (ExCom) meeting in Geneva on 9 October. They also pledged to reduce intercommunity violence, ensure access to asylum and protection against forced returns. UNHCR's High Commissioner, offered support to the regional efforts to maintain the civilian and humanitarian nature of asylum and to facilitate humanitarian access.
- Escalating violence in the Nigerian states of Sokoto, Zamfara and Katsina in northwestern Nigeria (by groups other than Boko Haram) has led to a new humanitarian emergency in **Niger's** border regions (particularly Maradi with 45,000 refugees). They have arrived in more than 50 villages in the departments of Guidan Roumji, Guidan Sori and Tibiri.
- Violent demonstrations have taken place in **Guinea** during the week of 14 October leading to the deaths of 9 people. Guinea has been in political limbo for several weeks over uncertainty President Alpha Condé will attempt to change the constitution to allow him to run for a third term in the 2020 presidential elections.

## Population movements in West & Central Africa

### Evolution of refugee population in West & Central Africa (4% increase since January)



### Evolution of IDP population in West & Central Africa (21% increase since January)



- The increase in IDP figures since the beginning of the year is essentially due to the unfolding crisis in **Burkina Faso**. UNHCR reports that some 486,000 people have been forced to flee within the country, 267,000 of whom in the past 3 months alone. This compared to some 80,000 displaced as January 2019 – a staggering 525% increase. A further 16,000 are refugees in neighbouring countries. The Centre-Nord region hosts the largest number of displaced people - more than 196,000 in Sanmatenga province alone - followed by the Sahel region - 133,000 in Soum province. The prospects for their immediate return to where they come from are poor. Some 1.5 million people are now in urgent need of humanitarian assistance in the country.
- Voluntary repatriation of Central African refugees:** On 23 October, 410 Central African refugees were voluntarily repatriated from Cameroon. The Minister of Territorial Administration, Paul Atanga Nji officially launched the repatriation in Gado refugee site in the East region of Cameroon where 223 left for Bouar while another 187 left Lolo for Berberati. This follows a Tripartite Agreement signed on 29 June 2019 by the Governments of the Central African Republic, the Republic of Cameroon and UNHCR for the voluntary repatriation of Central African refugees in safety and dignity.
- Niger:** The operation in Niger continues to witness an unfolding emergency in Maradi region due to increasing insecurity in Nigeria's northwest region. Some 45,000 Nigerians have been forced to seek asylum in Niger since the beginning of the year. Nearly half of the refugee population has been displaced in the past three months. The current trends of new arrivals, approximately 6,000 per month, are likely to continue as the record increase in violence in the north-western states of Nigeria, mainly Sokoto, Zamfara and Katsina states, persists. UNHCR reported that on 11 September alone, more than 2,500 people fled when civilians were targeted by armed groups on the Nigerian side. As the security situation continues to deteriorate in Sokoto State, more refugees are expected to arrive in Niger as people seek safety from indiscriminate attacks unleashed by organized armed groups on men, women and children alike. There have been frequent reports of kidnappings, torture, extortion, murder, sexual violence and destruction of houses and property. An inter-agency refugee response plan was launched end of September seeking US\$ 35.5 million until the end of this year.
- Mixed movements:** Following an agreement between the Government of Rwanda, UNHCR and the African Union, 189 asylum seekers and refugees have been evacuated from Libya to Niger, through 2 flights (27 Sept and 10 October). UNHCR continues every effort to get vulnerable refugees in Libya out of harm's way and to safety. Faster and increased evacuations and initiatives such as the Emergency Transit Mechanism, are urgently needed.
- Voluntary repatriation of Ivorian refugees:** Today, there are 22,000 Ivorian refugees hosted in West Africa. Since 2011, UNHCR has facilitated the voluntary return in safety and dignity of over 70,000 Ivorian refugees. A total 1,893 Ivorian refugees had been repatriated with the support of UNHCR since the beginning of the year (as at 18 October). They are returning essentially from Liberia, Ghana, Guinea and Mali.



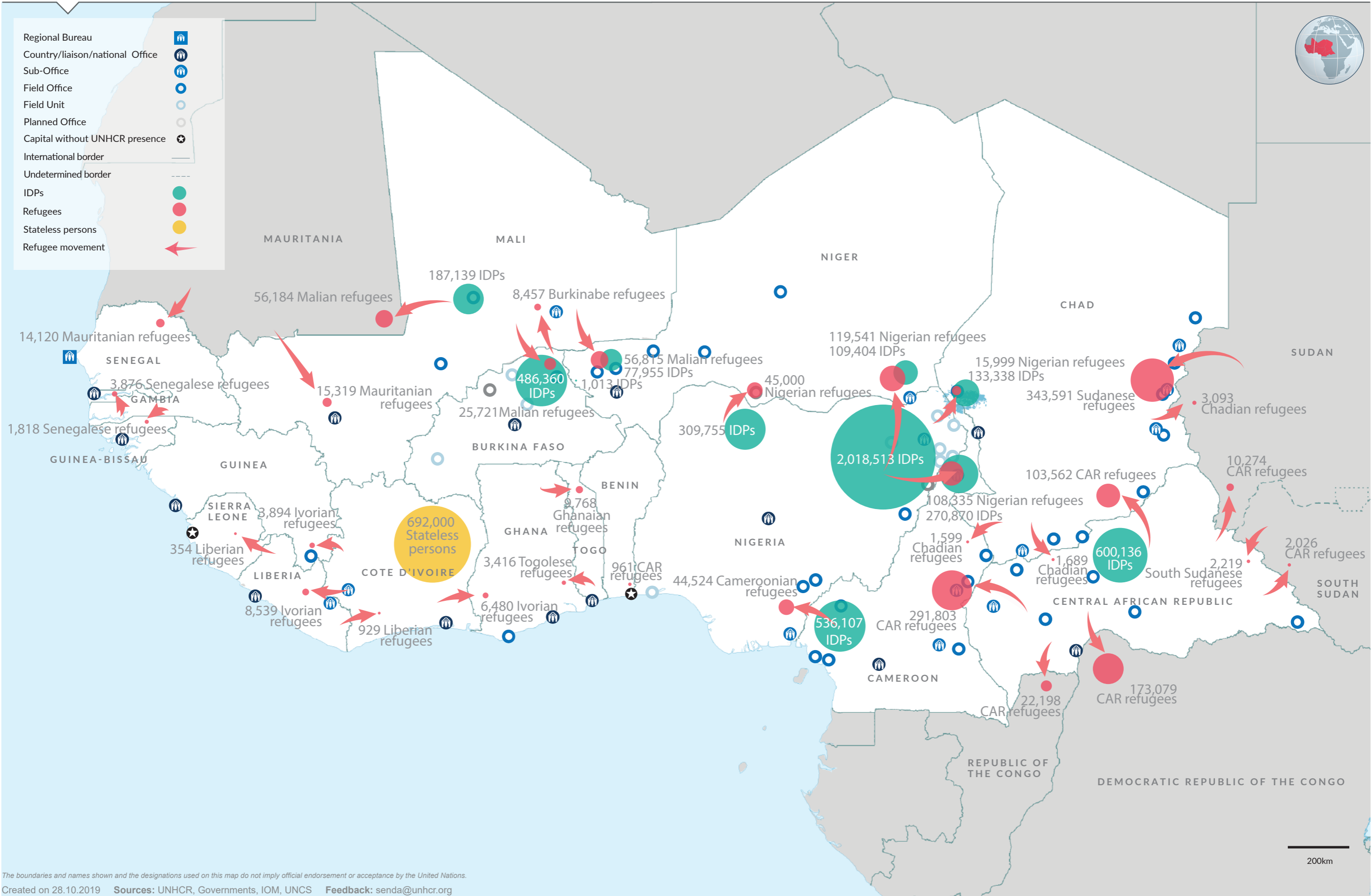
A young family evacuated from Libya arrives in Rwanda.  
UNHCR/A.Temple

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