

REGIONAL BUREAU FOR **WEST & CENTRAL AFRICA**

EDUCATION NEWSLETTER



More Children in Need of Education Around the Globe

Armed conflict, forced displacement, climate change and other emergencies continue to increase the number of **crisis-affected children and youth** around the world. The new [Global Estimates Study](#) published by Education Cannot Wait shows that **224 million** crisis-affected school-age children are in urgent need of educational support, including **72 million** who are out of school.

Some **54%** of crisis-affected children live in **sub-Saharan Africa**, where the number of crisis-affected children has increased by millions, mainly due to the increasing intensity of several conflicts and the negative effects of climate change.

About half of all out-of-school children in emergencies, some **36 million**, are concentrated

in just **eight countries**, three of which are in the WCA region (**DRC, Mali, Nigeria**).

Out-of-school rates among forcibly displaced populations in crisis-affected countries remain alarmingly high. In **West and Central Africa**, over [65% of school-aged refugees](#) do not go to school.

In addition, **gender disparities** in access and transition to education are more pronounced at the secondary level and are greatest in high-intensity crises, such as in Chad.

In June, we celebrated [World Refugee Day](#) and the [Day of the African Child](#) - two opportunities to reiterate that **funding quality education** for all children affected by crisis, including refugees, is the cornerstone of achieving all the Sustainable Development Goals.

UNHCR'S EDUCATION INTERVENTIONS



[REGION] Celebrating World Refugee Day through Educational Activities in West & Central Africa

To mark [World Refugee Day](#), many UNHCR offices in the region organised education-related activities to raise awareness among host communities about forced displacement and the right of refugee children to education.

In **Cameroon**, under the patronage of the First Lady, Madam Chantal Biya, young students and alumni of the [DAFI scholarship programme](#) have carried out several activities: **environmental campaigns** to clean up public spaces, a **sports walk** to promote peaceful coexistence and social integration of refugees in their host communities, a **health campaign** to prevent cardiovascular diseases, and a **musical performance** by the DAFI student choir. More than **150 DAFI students and alumni** actively participated in the various activities organised in the cities of Yaoundé, Douala and Ngaoundéré. These activities benefited young people by contributing to strengthening social cohesion and local integration.

DAFI choir performance at the WRD ceremony in Yaounde ©UNHCR Cameroon



Drawing Day at UNHCR Chad ©UNHCR/Elizabeth Coco

In **Chad**, a number of activities were organised using a community-led approach involving urban refugees and refugees from the new nearby camps of Kalambari and Guilmei. Two local refugee artists from N'Djamena, Tanga and Aristide, organised a **painting and drawing day** with children from the city and the two camps. In addition to individual paintings, the children created a collective mural on the theme of this year's World Refugee Day, *'Hope far from home'*. The Urban Refugee Student Committee (made up of DAFI scholars and other university students) organised a **blood donation**, in collaboration with the National Blood Transfusion Centre of Chad. Aware of the importance of the National Blood Bank, the student committee organises this blood donation campaign every year to show their solidarity with the Chadian people.

In **Niger**, DAFI students have also been involved in a number of **community awareness-raising** activities on refugee education in different regions (Zinder, Diffa, Niamey). Conferences were organised, as well as **cultural events** and **artistic performances**.

In **Nigeria**, educational activities such as **inter-school debating** and **spelling competitions**, awareness raising on the importance of education, **playlets**, **news broadcasts** and an **art competition** were carried out in three states (Benue, Cross, River and Taraba)



Graduation ceremony organised by UNHCR Nigeria ©UNHCR Nigeria

hosting refugees in Nigeria.



President of the DAFI Club ©ADES Niger

[MALI] Improving Learning Outcomes for Refugee Children Completing Primary Education



In Mali, the education of uprooted children remains a priority for UNHCR, which is working with the Malian authorities to provide forcibly displaced children with a safe and quality education within the national education system. This year, displaced pupils in Mali sat for the **national primary school leaving examination** (Diplôme d'Etudes Fondamentales - DEF) in Bamako, Koro, Gao, Ménaka, Gossi and Kayes.

Refugee children in a classroom built and equipped by UNHCR in Tombouctou. ©UNHCR/M. Alkalifa

Out of a total of **441 candidates** supported by UNHCR (152 refugees, 261 internally displaced, and 28 returnees), 197 were admitted to the exam, including 94 girls. This represents a **pass rate of 45%**, which is higher than the national average of 30%. To improve the pass rate, candidates were given a **two-month preparation course** by teachers from their respective schools.

With the financial support of



[NIGER] Building Hope and Transforming Lives through Education



Nigerian refugee and host community children at a UNHCR-supported school in Madaoua. ©UNHCR/Antonia Vadala

Since 2021, 36,000 Nigerian refugees have fled to the Bangui district of the Tahoua region due to **attacks by non-state armed groups**.

UNHCR, the Government of Niger and its partners are working to support refugees in the Tahoua region, ensuring that they are welcomed, protected and provided with the necessary resources to rebuild their lives. One of UNHCR's priorities is to ensure that every child has **access to education** by enrolling them in Niger's national education system and providing them with the infrastructure and equipment they need to thrive.

UNHCR has overseen the construction of **12 classrooms** in Bangui, accommodating some 600 pupils. An **accelerated education and literacy programme** is also being offered to young people with special needs between the ages of 7 and 12, currently including 193 pupils who have never attended school.

Read more on [UNHCR's website](#).

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EDUCATION IN EMERGENCIES



[CAAC REPORT] Annual Report on Children and Armed Conflict

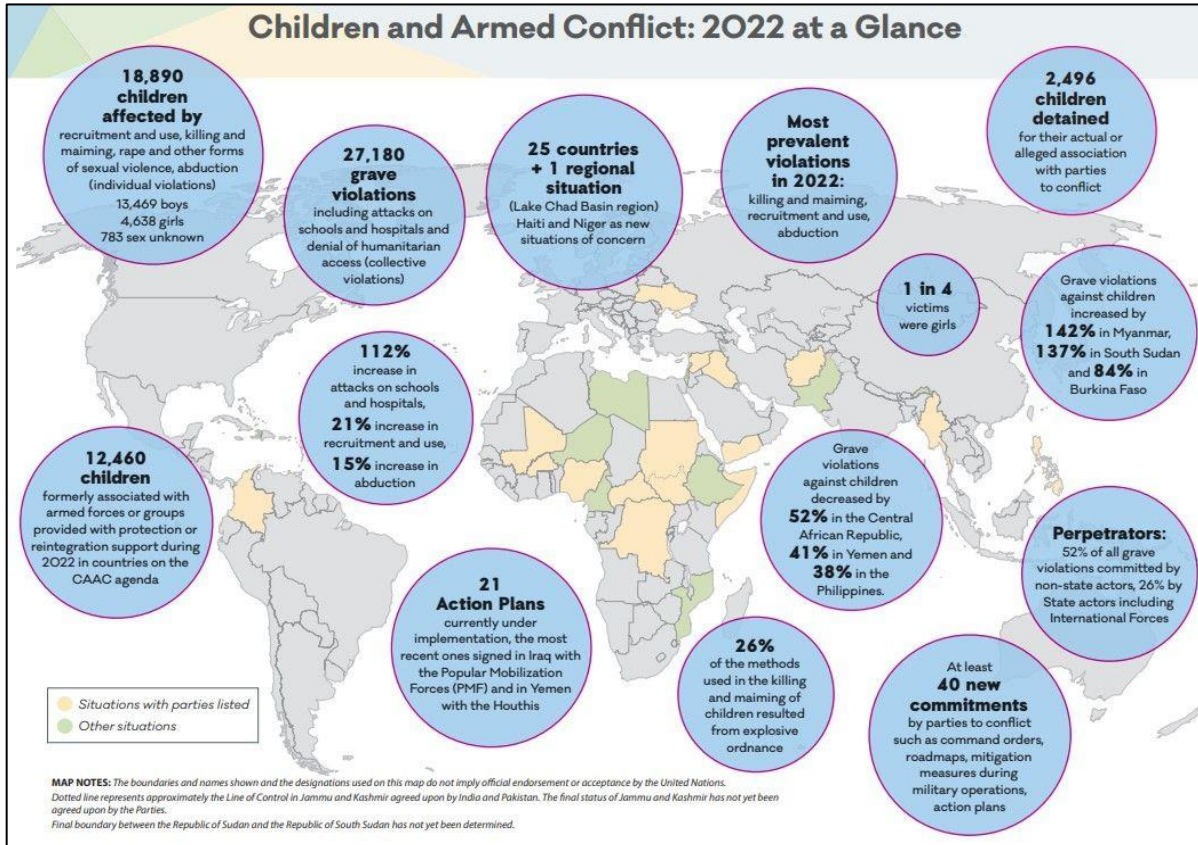
In June, the **UN Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict** (UN SG-CAAC) published its [Annual Report \(2022\) on Children And Armed Conflict](#) - informed by the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) on Grave Violations against Children in Situations of Armed Conflict, which is active in over 20 countries across the globe, including 7 countries in the West and Central Africa region: **Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, Niger, and Nigeria.**

The report highlights that upsurge in the activity of armed groups caused severe deterioration of the situation in the **central Sahel**, in particular in **Burkina Faso**, leading to an 85% increase in grave violations.

In the region, grave violations also increased in **Mali and Nigeria**, while **Niger** and the **Lake Chad Basin** region are mentioned as new situations of concern.

Among grave violations, the report highlights a **112% increase in attacks on schools** (1,163) and hospitals (647), particularly in Ukraine, **Burkina Faso**, Israel and the State of Palestine, Myanmar, **Mali** and Afghanistan.

Access the report [here](#).



EDUCATION RESOURCES



[ECW] New Global Estimates Study on Crisis-Impacted Children in Need of Education Support



Armed conflicts, forced displacement, climate change and other crises increased the number of **crisis-impacted children in need of urgent quality education to 224 million**, according to a new [Global Estimates Study](#) issued today by Education Cannot Wait (ECW), the United Nations global fund for education in emergencies and protracted crises.

The study was released at the [Education in Emergencies Data and Evidence Summit](#) in Geneva. The study offers a **refined methodology** in calculating the numbers of crisis-impacted children in need of educational support, while providing important trends analysis to inform future investments in education in emergencies and protracted crises.

Access the report [here](#).

[SAVE THE CHILDREN] The Price of Hope

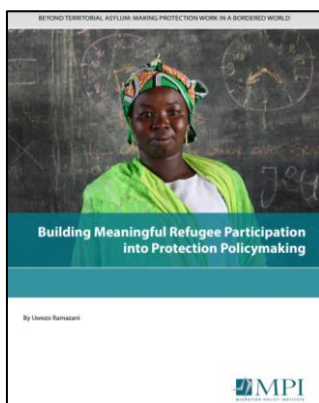
This report explores the **state of education for refugees** in 2023, examining the progress that has been made since the [2019 Global Refugee Forum](#), and the impact that events such as the COVID-19 pandemic have had. The report focuses in particular on the **financing needed to support the education needs of refugee children**, and new analysis details the impact that the rising debt crisis is having on low- and middle-income refugee hosting countries.

The report calls on the international community to come together at the [2023 Global Refugee Forum](#) to detail how they will work with refugee hosting governments to mobilise the funding needed to fill the financing gap to meet the annual **US\$4.85 billion cost of providing education to refugee children**.

Access the report [here](#).



[MPI] Building Meaningful Refugee Participation into Protection Policymaking



A new **Migration Policy Institute** (MPI) report, [Building Meaningful Refugee Participation into Protection Policymaking](#), examines the opportunities that states, UNHCR and refugee-led organizations and networks have to sharpen their understanding of the goals of **refugee participation**, how to best reach them and how to remove barriers.

The report highlights factors influencing **refugees' access to decision-making processes** and the effectiveness of their engagement, including the willingness of states to engage with them, the legitimacy of selected participants, funding and training availability, and the inclusion of diverse perspectives.

Read the report [here](#).

CAPACITY BUILDING & EVENTS



[EVENT] EiE Data & Evidence Summit

The [Education in Emergencies \(EiE\) Data & Evidence Summit](#) took place in Geneva, Switzerland on 6-8 June 2023 with the aim of collectively **strengthening the education data and evidence ecosystem for crisis-affected children and youth**.

Organized by INEE, Global Affairs Canada, the Geneva Global Hub for EiE, ECW, FCDO, IRC, NORRAG, UNESCO, UNHCR, and UNICEF, the Summit brought together **policy makers, ministries of education, data experts, researchers, practitioners, and donors**. The participants critically examined the existing data and evidence ecosystem, shared promising practices, and collaborated to improve education for refugee, internally displaced, and host community children and youth.

During the summit, three countries in the region made pledges concerning the **inclusion of refugees** in the tools and mechanisms for collecting and analysing national education data: **Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger**. Chad and Cameroon were also present at the summit.

The Summit reviewed the progress made since the 2019 EiE Data Summit and lay the groundwork for future data and evidence work through a **Summit Report** and an **Action Agenda**.

Check the event highlights [here](#).



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