REGIONAL BUREAU FOR WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

OVERVIEW - FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS PERSONS

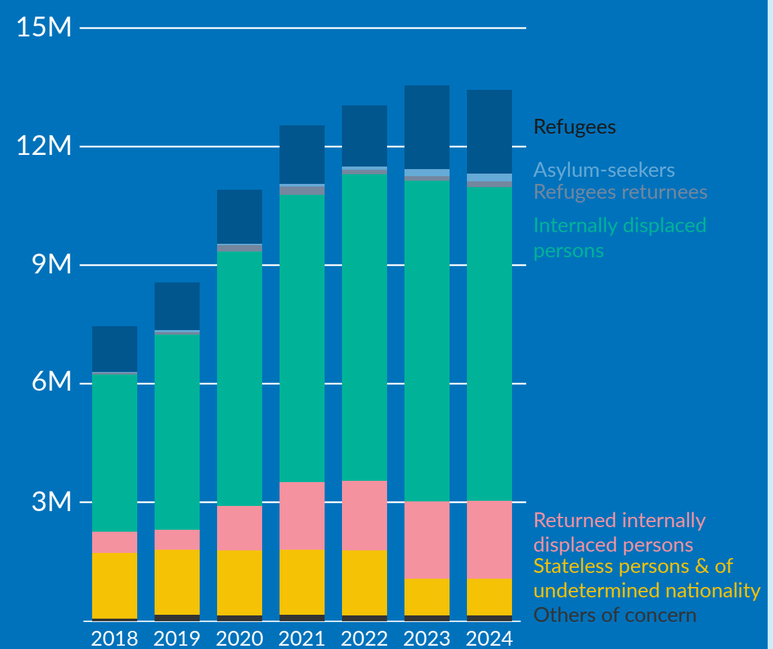
JANUARY 2024

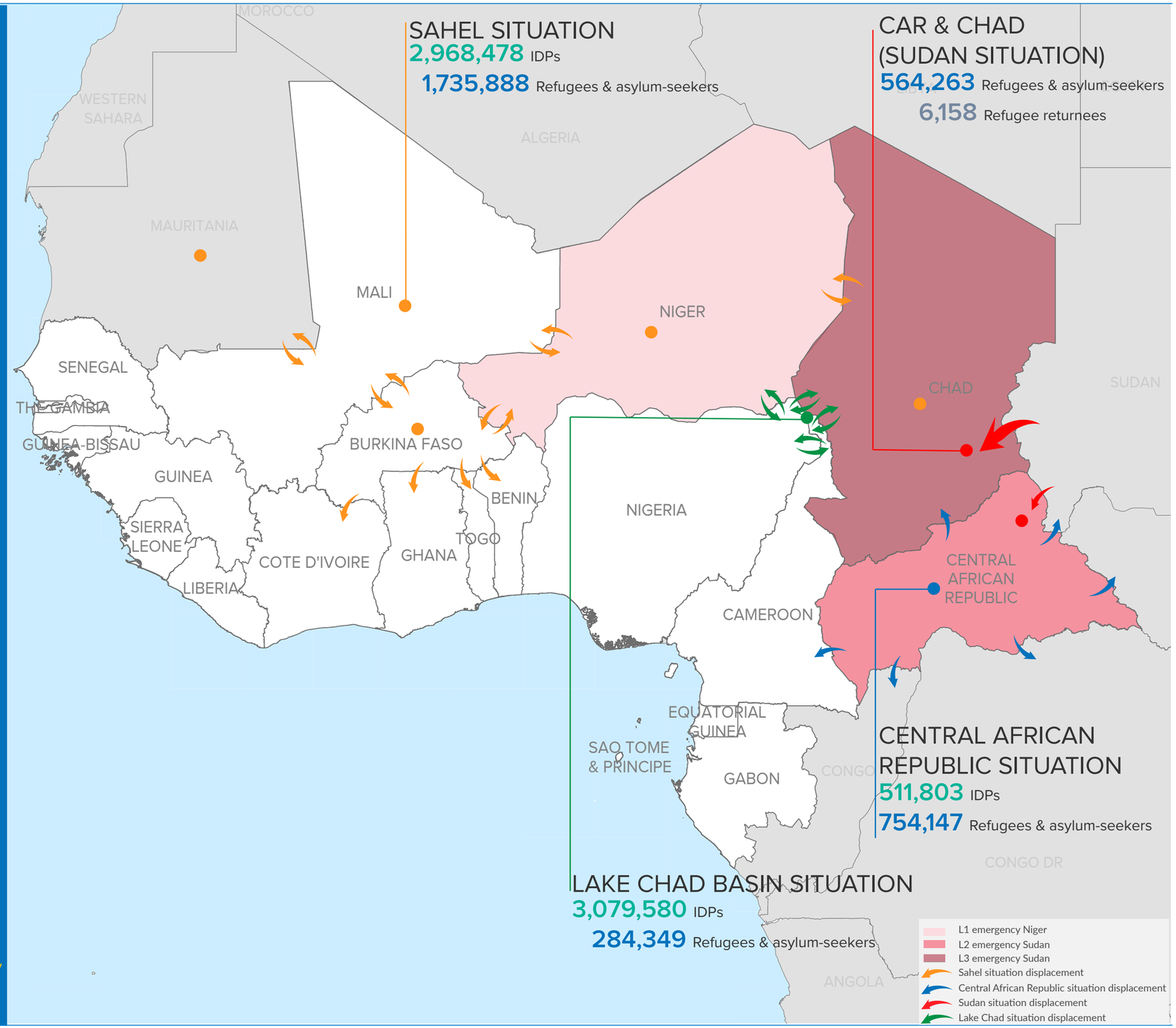
13.4 MILLION

FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS PERSONS

Refugees	2.1M
Asylum-seekers	0.2M
Refugees returnees	0.1M
Internally displaced persons	7.9M
Returned IDPs	2.0M
Stateless persons & of undetermined nationality	0.9M
Others of concern	0.1M

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

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

REGIONAL BUREAU FOR WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

OVERVIEW - FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS PERSONS

JANUARY 2024

13.4 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.

2.3 MILLION REFUGEES & ASYLUM-SEEKERS

0.1 MILLION REFUGEES RETURNEES

7.9 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 2.3 million refugees and asylum seekers represents a significant increase of 41% 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.

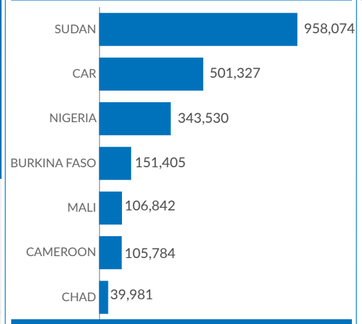
The largest hosting refugee country in the region is Chad with 48% of the total population, followed by Cameroon with 21%. Sudan, the Central African Republic (CAR), and Nigeria are the main countries of origin, together accounting for 78% of the region's refugee population.

As the registration process is ongoing, there are currently 61,821 asylum seekers pending registration.

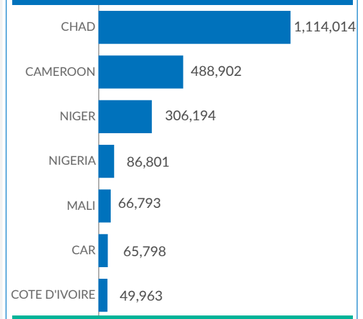
Internally displaced persons represent the vast majority of the forcibly displaced population in the West and Central Africa region. Nigeria, Burkina Faso and Cameroon respectively host 43%, 26% and 14% of the total IDP population.

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.

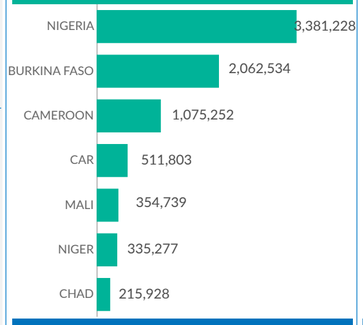
MAIN COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



MAIN COUNTRIES OF ASYLUM

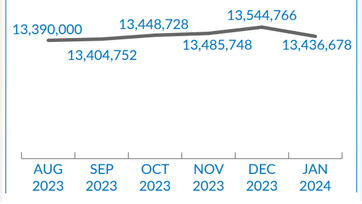


INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

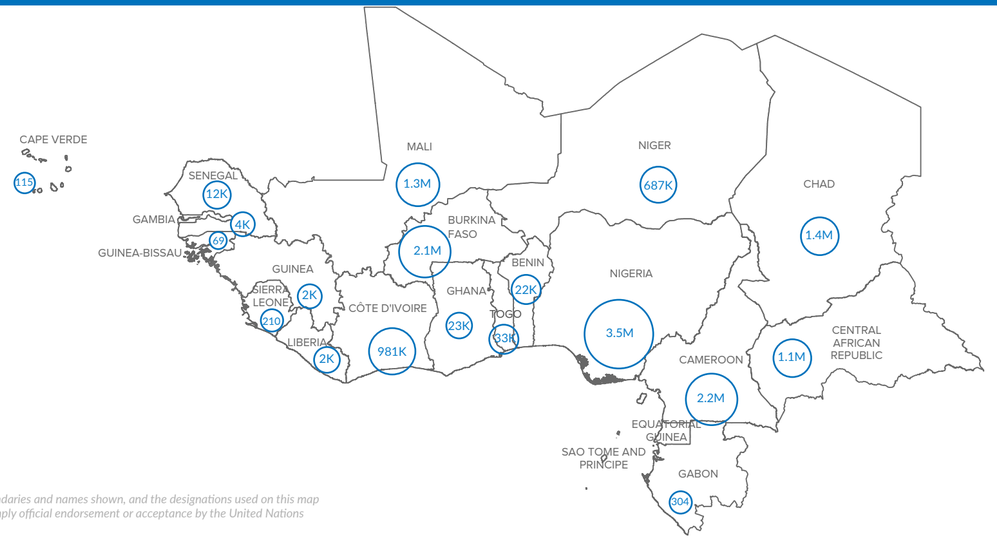


POPULATION TRENDS (last 6 months)

+46,678
From August 2023 to January 2024



FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS PERSONS BY COUNTRY



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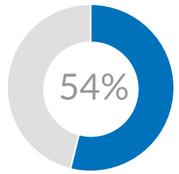
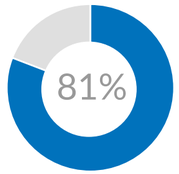
	REFUGEES	ASYLUM SEEKERS	REF. RETURNEES	IDPs	RETURNED IDP	STATELESS	OTHERS	TOTAL
BENIN	2,764	10,300		8,785				21,849
BURKINA FASO	37,810	1,146		2,062,534				2,101,490
CAMEROON	478,469	10,433		1,075,252	658,545			2,222,699
CAPE VERDE						115		115
CAR	33,285	32,513	31,662	511,803	499,430			1,108,693
CHAD	1,108,991	5,023		215,928			100,543	1,430,485
COTE D'IVOIRE	2,282	47,681				931,041	94	981,098
GABON	210	94						304
GAMBIA	3,856	415						4,271
GHANA	7,004	15,946						22,950
GUINEA	2,194	57						2,251
GUINEA BISSAU	32	37						69
LIBERIA	1,167	617						1,784
MALI	66,511	282	85,683	354,739	803,410			1,310,625
NIGER	269,922	36,272		335,277			45,699	687,170
NIGERIA	70,223	16,578	27,193	3,381,228				3,495,222
SENEGAL	11,862	813						12,675
SIERRA LEONE							210	210
TOGO	28,272	4,446						32,718
GRAND TOTAL	2,124,854	182,653	144,538	7,945,546	1,961,385	931,156	146,546	13,436,678

REFUGEE & ASYLUM-SEEKERS POPULATION PROFILE

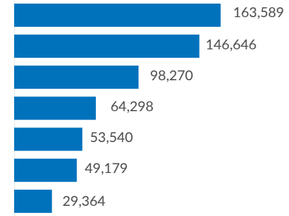
CHILDREN



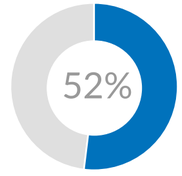
WOMEN & CHILDREN



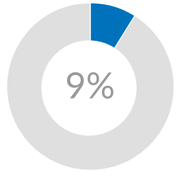
REFUGEES WITH SPECIFIC NEEDS



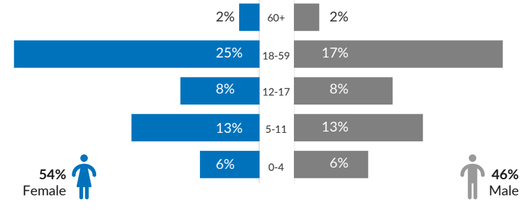
REFUGEES IN CAMPS



REFUGEES IN MAIN URBAN AREAS

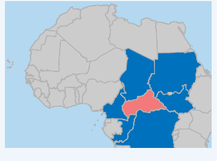


DEMOGRAPHICS



MAJOR AREAS OF DISPLACEMENT

CAR SITUATION

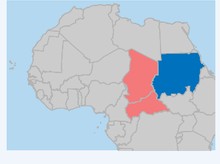


754,147 REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS

511,803 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)

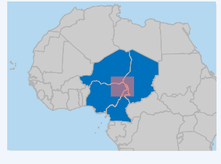


564,263 REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS

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

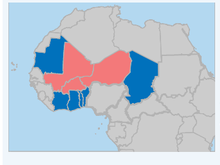


284,349 REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS

3,079,580 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



1,735,888 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: 15.02.2024, 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>