UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

REGIONAL BUREAU FOR WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

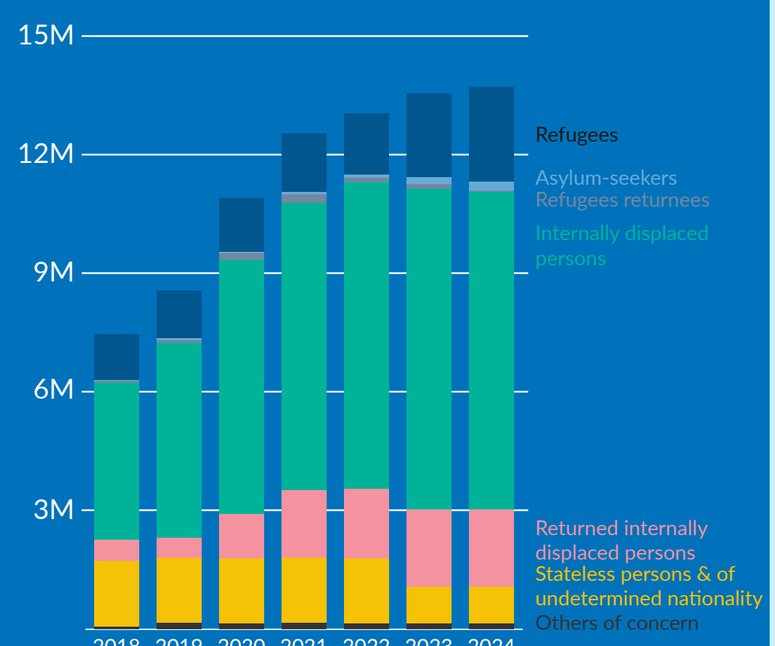
OVERVIEW - FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS PERSONS

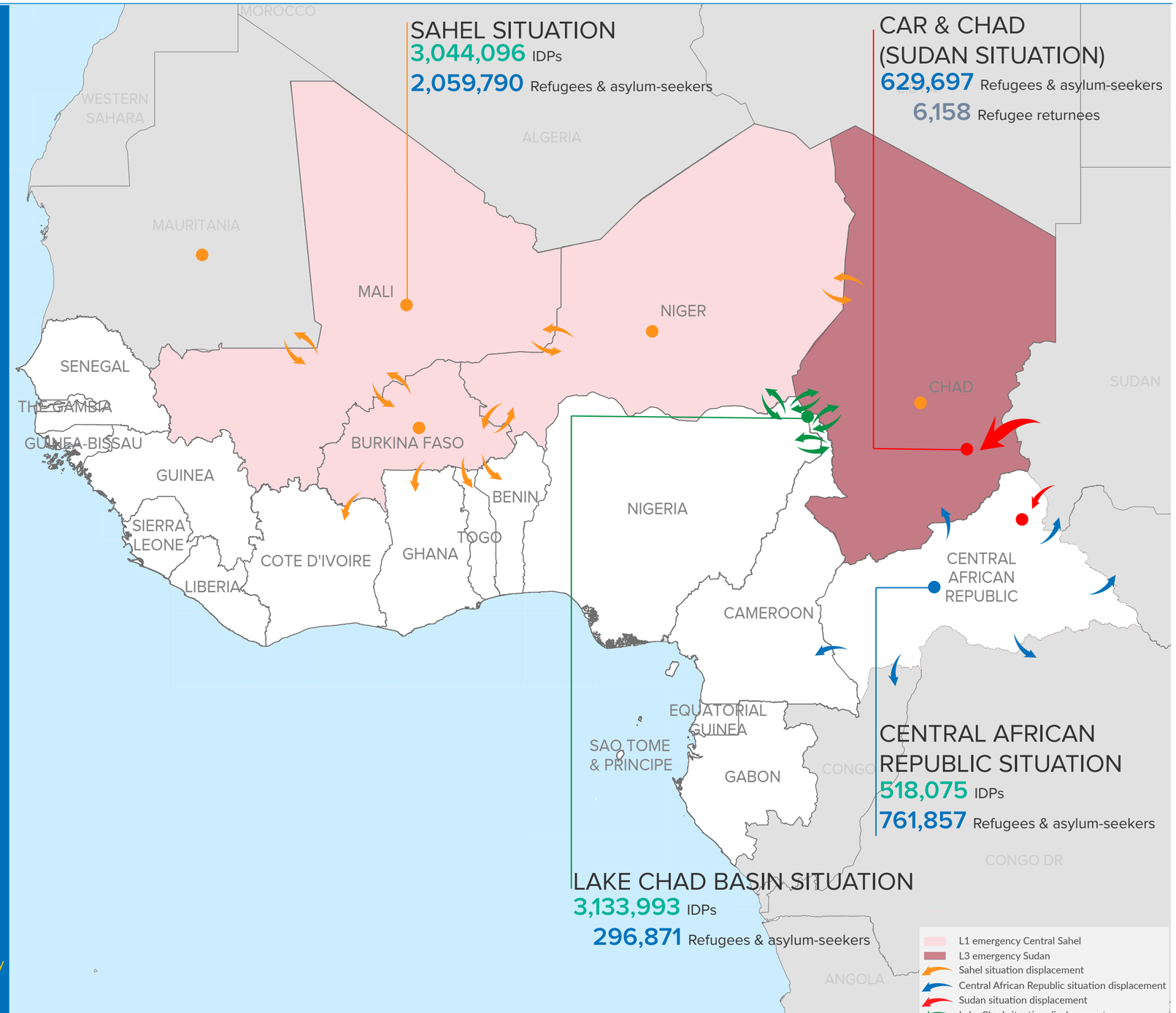
MAY 2024

13.7 MILLION
FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS PERSONS

Refugees	2.4 M
Asylum-seekers	0.2 M
Refugees returnees*	0.04 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 number of refugees returnees is cumulative from January 2024 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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REGIONAL BUREAU FOR WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

OVERVIEW - FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS PERSONS

MAY 2024

13.7 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.

2.6 MILLION REFUGEES & ASYLUM-SEEKERS

0.04 MILLION REFUGEES RETURNEES in 2024

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 2.6 million refugees and asylum seekers represents a significant increase of 48% increase from the number reported at the same period in 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.

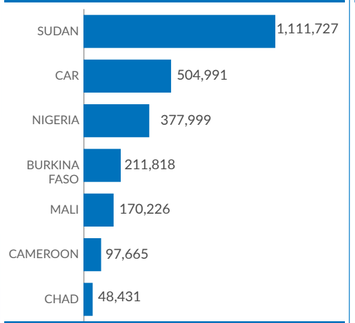
The largest hosting refugee country in the region is Chad with 48% of the total population, followed by Cameroon with 19%. Sudan, the Central African Republic (CAR), and Nigeria are the main countries of origin, together accounting for 76% of the region's refugee population.

As the registration process is ongoing, there are currently 62,633 asylum seekers pending registration.

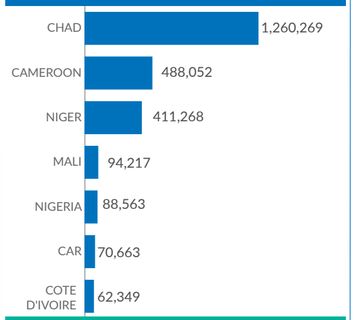
Internally displaced persons represent the vast majority of the forcibly displaced population in the West and Central Africa region. Nigeria, Burkina Faso and Cameroon respectively host 42%, 26% and 13% of the total IDP population.

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.

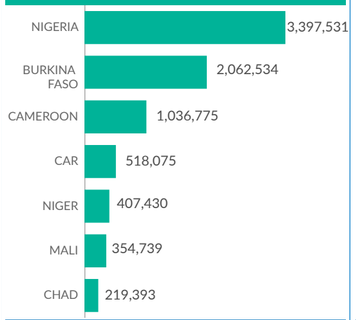
MAIN COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



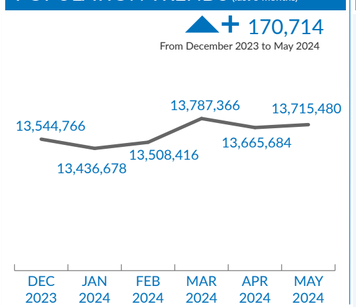
MAIN COUNTRIES OF ASYLUM



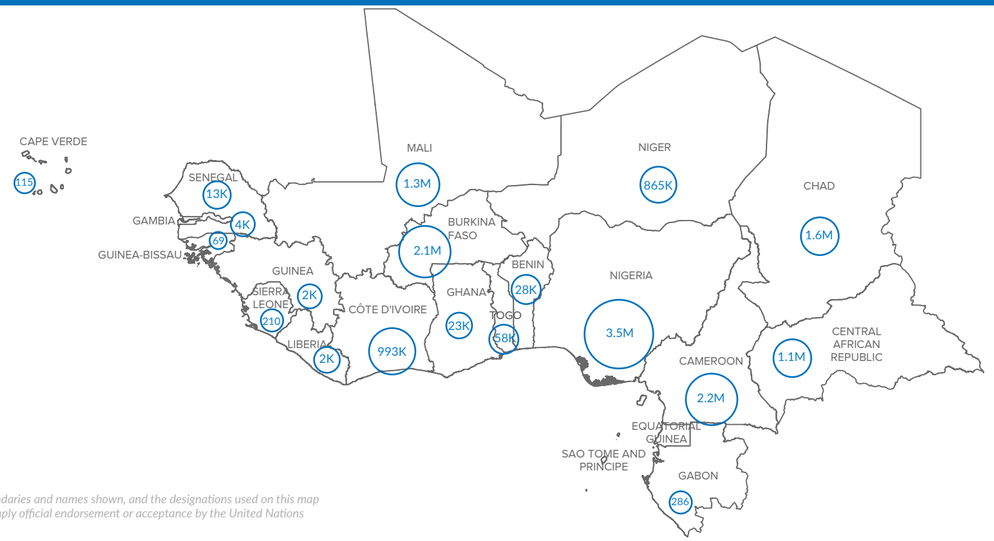
INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT



POPULATION TRENDS (last 6 months)



FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS PERSONS BY COUNTRY



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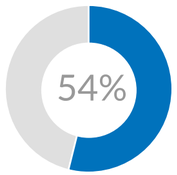
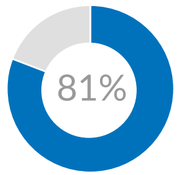
	REFUGEES	ASYLUM SEEKERS	REF. RETURNEES	IDPs	RETURNED IDP	STATELESS	OTHERS	TOTAL
BENIN	12,235	7,478		8,785				28,498
BURKINA FASO	38,458	1,880		2,062,534				2,102,872
CAMEROON	476,972	11,080		1,036,775	658,544		882	2,184,253
CAPE VERDE						115		115
CAR	37,716	32,947	9,665	518,075	499,430			1,097,833
CHAD	1,248,824	11,445		219,393			94,922	1,574,584
COTE D'IVOIRE	2,364	59,985				931,041	94	993,484
GABON	194	83					9	286
GAMBIA	3,890	413						4,303
GHANA	7,082	16,060						23,142
GUINEA	2,187	57						2,244
GUINEA BISSAU	32	37						69
LIBERIA	1,169	661						1,830
MALI	93,994	223	513	354,739	803,410			1,252,879
NIGER	364,817	46,451		407,430			45,871	864,569
NIGERIA	71,727	16,836	27,725	3,397,531				3,513,819
SENEGAL	11,830	965						12,795
SIERRA LEONE							210	210
TOGO	28,487	19,528		9,680				57,695
GRAND TOTAL	2,401,978	226,129	37,903	8,014,942	1,961,384	931,156	141,988	13,715,480

REFUGEE & ASYLUM-SEEKERS POPULATION PROFILE

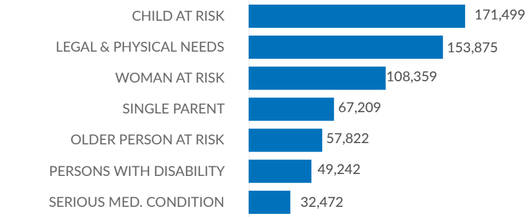
CHILDREN



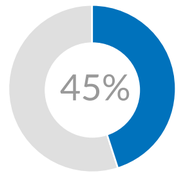
WOMEN & CHILDREN



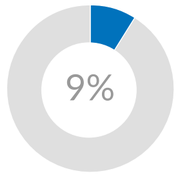
REFUGEES WITH SPECIFIC NEEDS



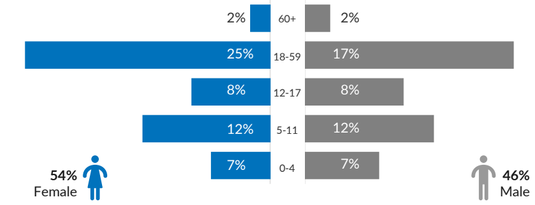
REFUGEES IN CAMPS



REFUGEES IN MAIN URBAN AREAS

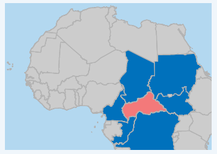


DEMOGRAPHICS



MAJOR AREAS OF DISPLACEMENT

CAR SITUATION

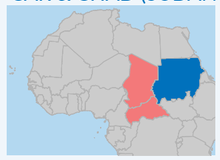


761,857 REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS

518,075 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)

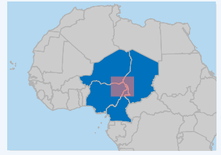


629,697 REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS

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

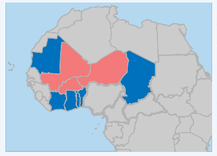


296,871 REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS

3,133,993 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



2,059,790 REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS

3,044,096 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 2024 to current month

Creation date: 12.06.2024, 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>