UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

REGIONAL BUREAU FOR WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

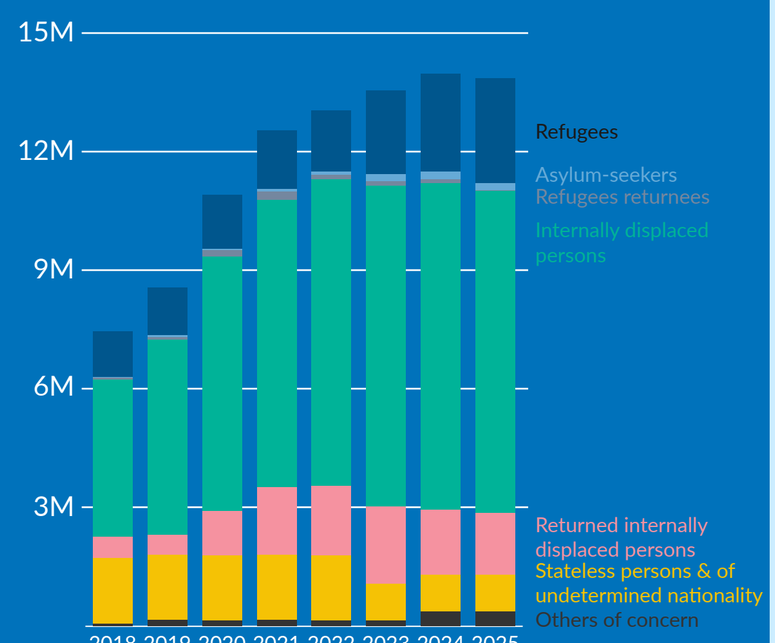
OVERVIEW - FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS PERSONS

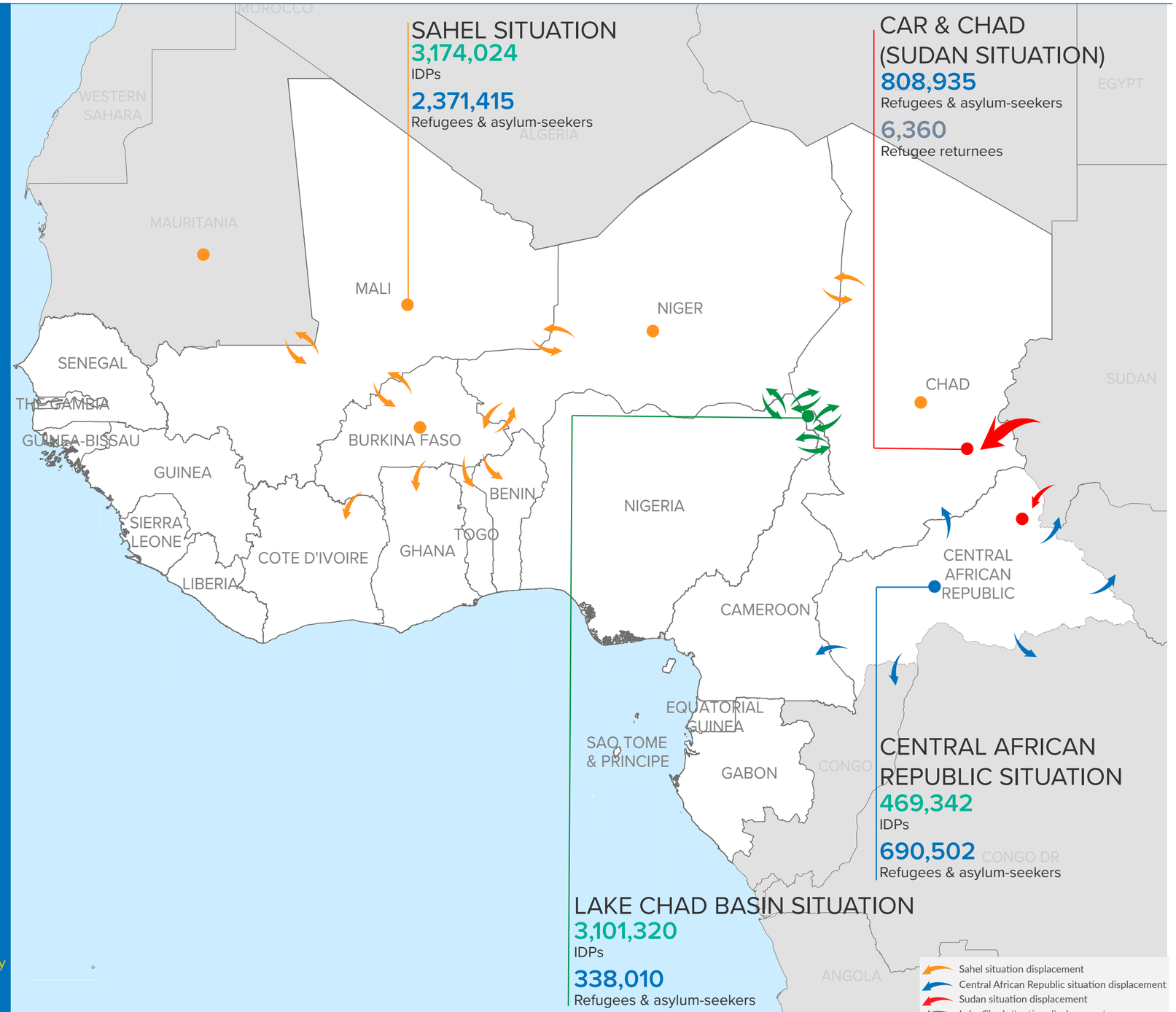
MARCH 2025

13.9 MILLION
FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS PERSONS

Refugees	2.6 M
Asylum-seekers	0.2 M
Refugees returnees*	10,028
Internally displaced persons	8.1 M
Returned IDPs	1.6 M
Stateless persons & of undetermined nationality	0.9 M
Others of concern	0.4 M

Populations trends 2018 - 2025





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 2025 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

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

REGIONAL BUREAU FOR WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

OVERVIEW - FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS PERSONS

MARCH 2025

13.9 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.

2.9 MILLION REFUGEES & ASYLUM-SEEKERS

10K REFUGEES RETURNEES in 2025

8.1 MILLION INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

1.6 MILLION RETURNED INTERNALLY DISPLACED

0.9 MILLION STATELESS & OF UNDETERMINED NATIONALITY

0.4 MILLION OTHERS OF CONCERN

The current number of 2.9 million refugees and asylum seekers represents a significant increase of 11% increase from the number reported at the same period in 2024, 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.

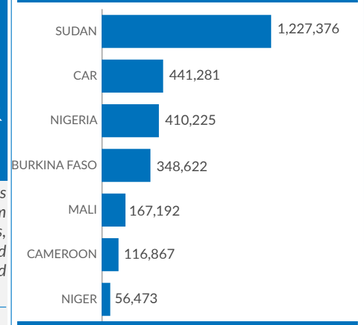
The largest hosting refugee country in the region is Chad with 48% of the total population, followed by Cameroon with 15%. The main countries of origin are Sudan, the Central African Republic (CAR), and Nigeria, together accounting for 73% of the region's refugee population.

The not-registered population is around 593,984 refugees and asylum-seekers in the region (60% of whom are in Chad)

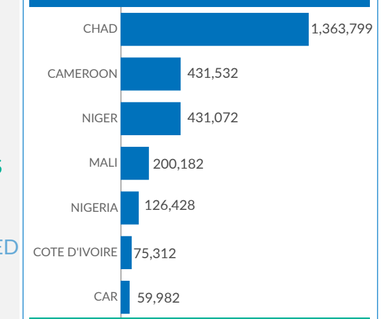
Internally displaced persons represent the vast majority of the forcibly displaced population in the West and Central Africa region. Nigeria, Burkina Faso and Cameroon respectively host 42%, 25% and 13% of the total IDP population.

West Africa hosts over 931,073 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.

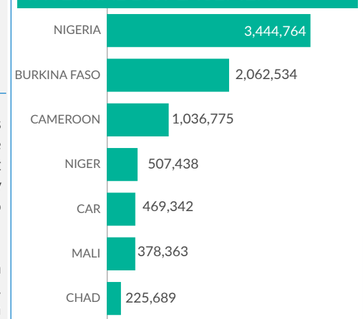
MAIN COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



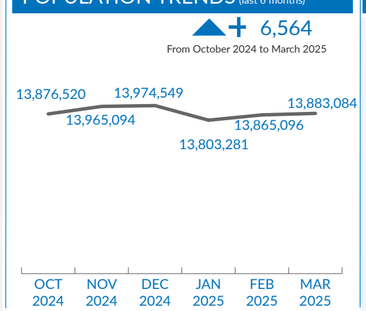
MAIN COUNTRIES OF ASYLUM

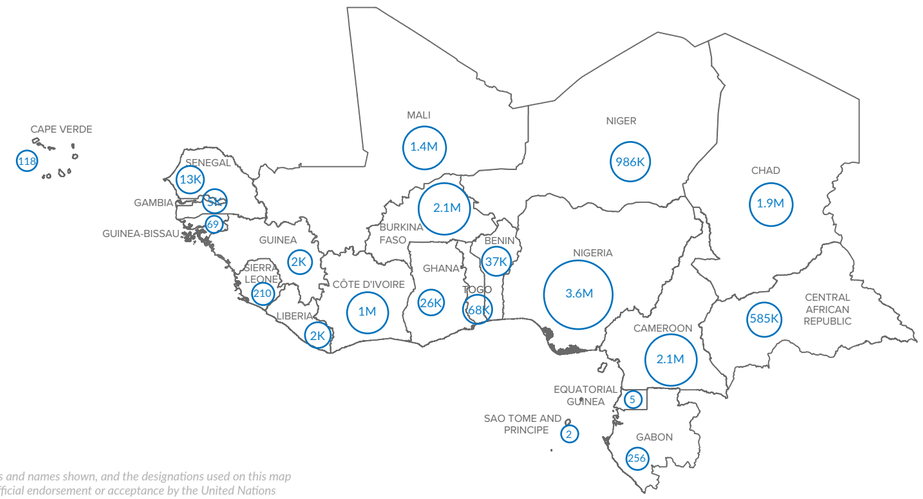


INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT



POPULATION TRENDS (last 6 months)



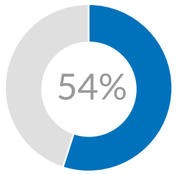


The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations

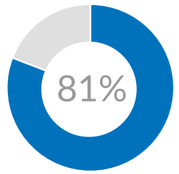
	REFUGEES	ASYLUM SEEKERS	REF. RETURNEES	IDPs	RETURNED IDP	STATELESS	OTHERS	TOTAL
BENIN	16,231	11,609		8,785				36,625
BURKINA FASO	40,086	1,467		2,062,534				2,104,087
CAMEROON	413,764	17,768		1,036,775	658,544		850	2,127,702
CAPE VERDE		3				115		118
CAR	51,679	8,303	1,264	469,342	54,162**			584,750
CHAD	1,355,992	7,807		225,689			317,510***	1,906,998
COTE D'IVOIRE	2,376	72,936				930,958	94	1,006,364
GABON	170	77					9	256
GAMBIA	4,051	478						4,529
GHANA	18,069	7,586						25,655
GUINEA	2,174	176						2,350
GUINEA BISSAU	32	37						69
GUINEA EQUATORIAL	4	1						5
LIBERIA	1,172	691						1,863
MALI	199,882	300	403	378,363	854,956			1,433,904
NIGER	387,938	43,134		507,438			47,274	985,784
NIGERIA	96,520	29,908	8,361	3,444,764				3,579,553
SAO TOME & PRINCIPE		2						2
SENEGAL	11,887	1,406						13,293
SIERRA LEONE							210	210
TOGO	47,620	11,176		10,171				68,967
GRAND TOTAL	2,649,647	214,865	10,028	8,143,862	1,567,662	931,073	365,947	13,883,084

REFUGEE & ASYLUM-SEEKERS POPULATION PROFILE

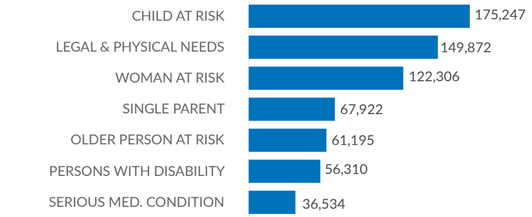
CHILDREN



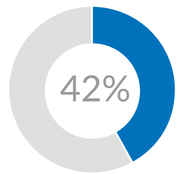
WOMEN & CHILDREN



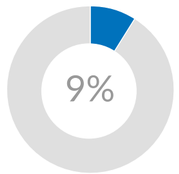
REFUGEES WITH SPECIFIC NEEDS



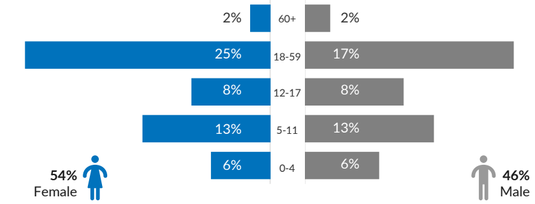
REFUGEES IN CAMPS



REFUGEES IN MAIN URBAN AREAS

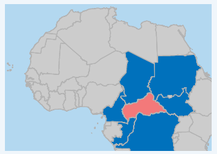


DEMOGRAPHICS



MAJOR AREAS OF DISPLACEMENT

CAR SITUATION

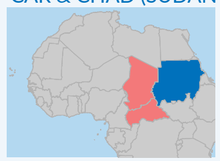


690,502 REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS

469,342 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)

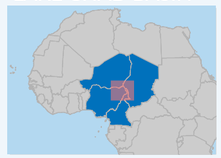


808,935 REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS

6,360 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

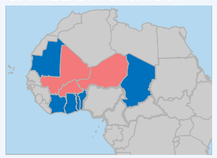


338,010 REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS

3,101,320 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



2,371,415 REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS

3,174,024 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 2025 to current month
** The number of returned IDP from CAR is cumulative from January 2025 to date
*** The number of Others of concern in CHAD is the returned from abroad (Niger, CAR and Sudan), at risk of statelessness

All the population (registered and not-registered) are considered in this report.
Creation date: 15.04.2025, 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>