13.4 MILLION
FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS PERSONS

Populations trends 2018 - 2023

- Refugees: 2.1M
- Asylum-seekers: 0.1M
- Refugees returnees: 0.1M
- Returned IDPs: 1.9M
- Stateless persons & of undetermined nationality: 0.9M
- Others of concern: 0.1M
- Internally displaced persons: 8.1M

Source: Geographic data: UNHCR; Population statistics: UNHCR Monthly Statistical Reports or latest available. IDP statistics from UNOCHA, OCHA.
UNHCR protects and assists forcibly displaced and stateless persons across the West and Central African region. UNHCR works with and for refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees and IDP returnees, stateless and of undetermined nationality persons. Protection and assistance is extended to additional groups, based on humanitarian and security needs.”

The West African countries are among the largest hosting states in the region, hosting over 931,000 stateless persons and people of undetermined nationality, collectively representing 80% of the region’s refugee population. Central African Republic (CAR) and Nigeria are the main countries of origin, with 48% of the total population, followed by Cameroon with 22%. Sudan, the Central Sahel. The largest hosting refugee country in the region is Chad, with a substantial 36% increase from the number reported in October 2022, mainly as a result of the ongoing crisis in Sudan and the deteriorating security situation in the Central Sahel. The largest hosting refugee country in the region is Chad, with 48% of the total population, followed by Cameroon with 22%.

The current number of 2.2 million refugees and asylum seekers marks a substantial 26% increase from the number reported in October 2022, mainly as a result of the onset of violence in Sudan and the deteriorating security situation in the Central Sahel. The largest hosting refugee country in the region is Chad, with 48% of the total population, followed by Cameroon with 22%.

Most refugees and IDPs in Central Sahel (Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger), Chad and Mauritania. Refugees from Central Sahel in neighboring coastal countries (Benin, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Togo) are also included.

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**Main Countries of Origin**

- **Burkina Faso**: 98,367
- **Côte d’Ivoire**: 115
- **Ghana**: 11,000
- **Guinea-Bissau**: 115
- **Nigeria**: 90,402
- **Mali**: 617
- **Senegal**: 2,656
- **Sierra Leone**: 2,290
- **Togo**: 2,413

**Persons of Concern by Country**

- **Burkina Faso**: 98,367
- **Côte d’Ivoire**: 115
- **Ghana**: 11,000
- **Guinea-Bissau**: 115
- **Nigeria**: 90,402
- **Mali**: 617
- **Senegal**: 2,656
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- **Togo**: 2,413

**Internal Displacements**

- **Burkina Faso**: 2,062,534
- **Côte d’Ivoire**: 2,022,544
- **Mali**: 375,539
- **Nigeria**: 315,277
- **Chad**: 215,929

**Refugee & Asylum-Seekers Population Profile**

- **Children**: 54%
- **Women & Children**: 81%

**Refugees with Specific Needs**

- **Legal & Physical Needs**: 168,588
- **Women at Risk**: 107,794
- **Single Parent**: 45,473
- **Older Person at Risk**: 10,033
- **Persons with Disability**: 27,815
- **Serious Medical Condition**: 210

**Refugees in Camp**

- **Burkina Faso**: 645,746
- **Côte d’Ivoire**: 115
- **Guinea-Bissau**: 115
- **Nigeria**: 90,402
- **Mali**: 617
- **Senegal**: 2,656
- **Sierra Leone**: 2,290
- **Togo**: 2,413

**Refugees in Urban Area**

- **Burkina Faso**: 645,746
- **Côte d’Ivoire**: 115
- **Guinea-Bissau**: 115
- **Nigeria**: 90,402
- **Mali**: 617
- **Senegal**: 2,656
- **Sierra Leone**: 2,290
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**Regional Bureau for West and Central Africa**

**Overview - Forcibly Displaced and Stateless Persons**

**October 2023**