



LIVE, LEARN & PARTICIPATE (LLP):

ENHANCING ACCESS TO PROTECTION, EDUCATIONAL & LIVELIHOODS OPPORTUNITIES, AND STRENGTHENING NATIONAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH ON THE MOVE IN WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA (2021–2023)



FRONT COVER: Refugee girls playing at in Djabal Camp, Eastern Chad.
@ UNHCR/Federic Noy

BACK COVER: Three young women wait by the roadside in Gao, Mali at dusk, just metres
from the site of a terrorist bombing a year before.
@ UNHCR/Mark Henley



The Spanish coastguards intercept a traditional fishing boat with Sub-Saharan Africans crossing to Spain off the island of Tenerife in the Canaries

© UNHCR/Arturo Rodríguez

KEY STATISTICS – MIXED MOVEMENT & CHILD PROTECTION IN WEST & CENTRAL AFRICA

At least
1,825
people believed to have died along land routes from East and West Africa to Libya and Egypt between 2018 and Oct 2020¹

25% increase in persons of concern to UNHCR in the West and Central Africa region in 2020

230
documented cases of child recruitment in Mali during the first half of 2020, more than the whole of whole of 2019 and double the number of cases detected in 2018.³

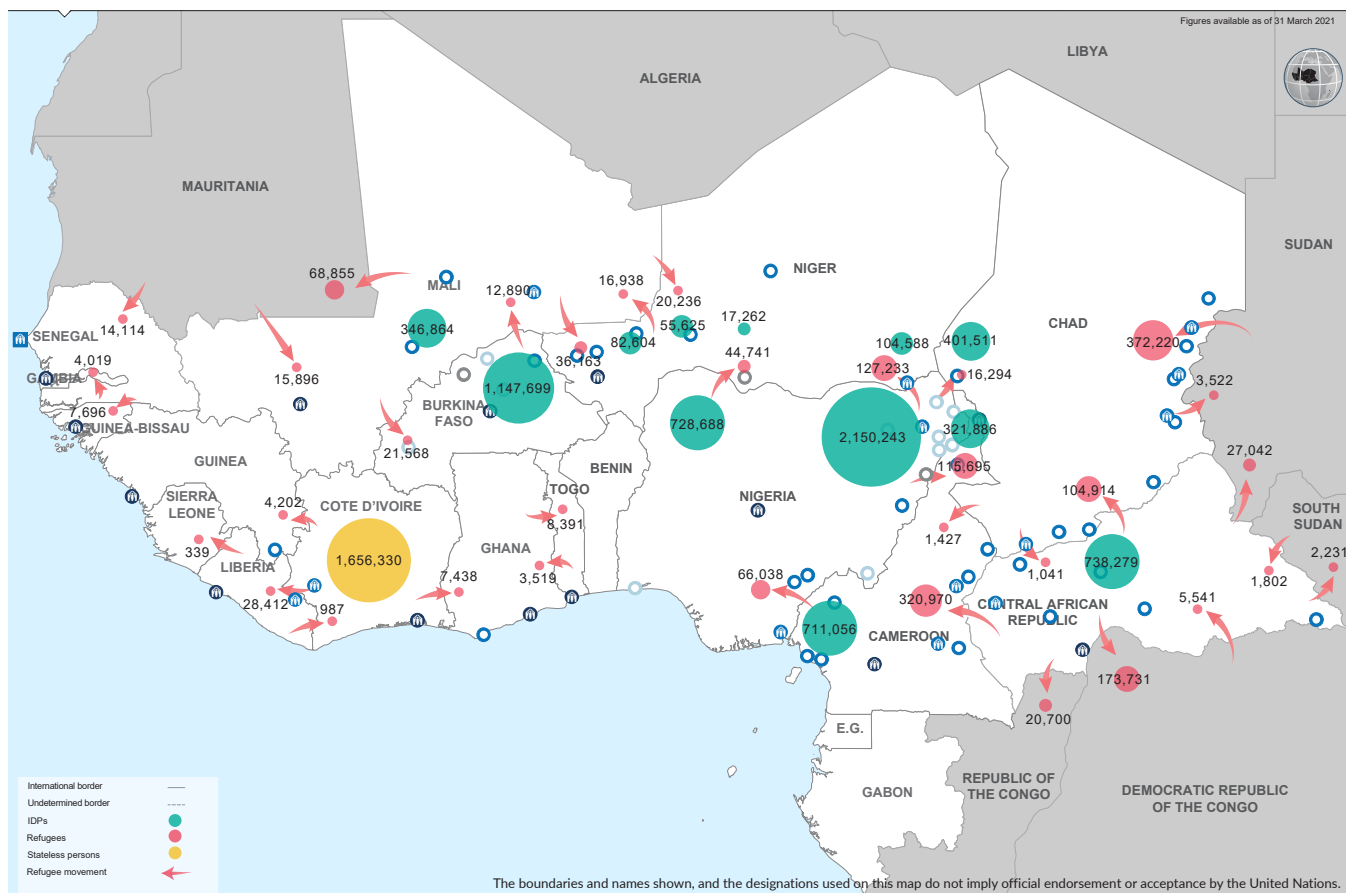
58%
of displaced families surveyed in the Sahel Protection Monitoring Project reported that their children did not regularly attend school²

23,023
arrivals in Canary Islands, Spain, in 2020, representing a **753%** increase as compared to 2019

54% of respondents in the Sahel Protection Monitoring Project reported either forced labor (32%) or child marriage (22%) as the most common protection risks in their community⁴

BACKGROUND

WEST & CENTRAL AFRICA: PRINCIPAL REFUGEES, IDPS AND STATELESS PERSONS as of 31 March 2021



Context

Thousands of refugees and migrants leave their homes or countries of origin and undertake dangerous journeys across the West and Central African region as they seek to reach other countries within the region, North Africa or Europe. In doing so, they risk their lives, physical safety and dignity at the hands of traffickers and smugglers, and are exposed to extrajudicial killings, sexual violence, torture, arbitrary and prolonged detention, starvation, extortion, being left to die in the desert, and forced and exploitative labour.

The West and Central Africa region currently hosts 11.3 million persons of concern to UNHCR. This is a 23% increase compared to the beginning of 2020, mainly due to the surge of displacement in the central Sahel region (Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger). Other major drivers of displacement in the region are the Lake Chad Basin crisis, the continued instability in Central African Republic, the North-West and South-West crisis in Cameroon, and conflict in Darfur, giving rise to an influx of Sudanese refugees into Chad. In



addition, the region is host to several smaller refugee populations, often in protracted situations, as well as a small number of individual cases needing international protection due to factors such as political affiliation or membership in a particular social group. The generalized instability in the region is also a basis

for fluid, volatile and interconnected movements. Uncertain political and security environments, armed conflicts, coupled with environmental problems/ challenges (droughts, desertification, deforestation, coastal erosion, and flooding) and lack of economic opportunities cause different forms of displacement which characterizes the region as one which is particularly high in human mobility.

Movements driven by socio-economic factors have long been in the focus of the public debate, while the presence of persons in need of international protection in mixed movements has been historically less visible due to a lack of reliable data. Since 2015, however, monitoring and research has considerably increased, leading to a wider recognition of the forced displacement component amongst mixed movements in the region⁵. Moreover, the worsening conflict in the Sahel has not only led to massive internal displacement and refugee flows, but also threatened overall asylum space within the region. Combined with the risk of spill-over conflict into coastal countries, this is likely to fuel further forced displacement within and beyond the region in the coming years. Data on conflict-related displacement shows that many of the top refugee-producing countries are also home to the highest numbers of IDPs (for example, in Mali). IDPs may become refugees or migrants, and refugees returning to their countries of origin risk becoming internally displaced again if their return is premature, unprepared or involuntary, or when they return to inadequate conditions (insecurity, shelter, livelihoods, dignity). In West Africa, the movement of migrants and displaced populations, including internally displaced persons, refugees and asylum-seekers, returnees (both refugees and IDPs), is interconnected, and their geographical trajectory is often determined by the fluidity of their legal status vis-à-vis international legislation and protection capacity.

Children and youth on the move

Countries in the region are at the same time countries of origin, transit and destination, particularly for children and youth on the move. Conflict and instability, combined with economic factors and climate change-induced natural disasters, and traditional practices – including child marriage and child labour – prompt girls, boys, young women and men to leave their countries of origin. Children on the move include those separated from their parents

or customary caregivers, and they often are at heightened risk of abuse, violence, exploitation and lack of appropriate care in their best interest. Girls and young women, as well as boys and young men, are exposed to torture and sexual violence, as well as other forms of violence and severe human rights abuses, both en route and within the destination countries. Those opting to halt their journey and return to their countries of origin often face stigma and further abuse, and usually do not have access to appropriate counselling and protection services to address distress arising from their experience. In addition, they often find it difficult to return due to lack of educational opportunities, qualification, vocational skills, and employment options.

The challenging political and economic context of the region⁶ also impacts the fulfilment of child rights. Mortality and birth rates are high, and extreme poverty is on the rise (six out of 10 of the countries ranked lowest on the Human Development Index are in the region⁷). West Africa has a very young population with limited access to formal employment and learning opportunities in areas with very low human development indicators. Children are perceived as both an unavoidable “asset” to the family and a potential source of income through domestic labour, agriculture and other activities. Child migration is often seen as a survival strategy for risk mitigation and often represents the last hope to enhance economic opportunities or to escape forced recruitment. Children recruited by armed groups are usually abducted, separated from their families and communities, and transported to other regions or countries. In West Africa, this problem principally affects Mali, due to active armed groups in the north, and Nigeria, due to the insurgency by Boko Haram.

Children are recruited by armed groups to prepare food, as messengers, to man checkpoints, and as spies. Girls are often victims of sexual violence.

Finally, as a crisis within the crisis, COVID-19 exacerbated the risks faced by children and the aspirations among many to pursue irregular movement to Europe through the Western Mediterranean Route. Loss of income, in particular through loss of employment, is more frequently reported to UNHCR among IDPs and refugees with children; and children are more frequently affected by lack of basic goods. Access to education has been deeply impacted by the COVID-19 crisis.⁸



Students at a morning assembly in North-East Nigeria (Lac Chad Basin).

While UNHCR and other organizations have increased collaboration and protection programming in key countries of transit, destination and return, many challenges and gaps remain. This includes lack of sufficient resources and adequate staffing to both provide direct services and to work toward strengthening national protection and social welfare systems to ensure sustainable services for those returning home, those remaining in transit/asylum countries, as well as those contemplating undertaking the perilous journeys across borders.

UNHCR response: Live, Learn & Participate Project

To address critical protection and assistance gaps, UNHCR is launching a three-year cross-regional appeal to extend and strengthen its protection for children and youth through the West and Central Africa **Live, Learn & Participate (LLP) project (2021-2023)**.

The LLP will specifically target at-risk children and youth on the move in Chad, Côte d'Ivoire and Mali, encompassing returnee children, those living as refugees or asylum-seekers in the three countries and those transiting through these countries. Additionally, there is a strong cross-regional coordination component included in this appeal to bolster overall mixed movement and child protection programming in the whole West and Central African region, while building capacities and developing strategies for child protection and youth-led initiatives.

OVERARCHING PROJECT OBJECTIVES

While interventions will vary at the country level, this three-year initiative is divided into five key protection objectives:

1. Protection of children & youth strengthened against the risks associated with onward movement;
2. Alternative care and support structures for children and youth strengthened;
3. Access of children and youth to education, professional training and livelihood opportunities improved;
4. Access to family tracing and reunification and other durable solutions strengthened;
5. Regional and country-level coordination strengthened leading to better outcomes for children and youth.

Investments in the above activities will positively contribute to both reducing the risk of movement and accompanying protection risks – especially for children and youth the most at-risk – while supporting the reintegration of children returning to their countries of origin or previous countries of asylum and building off of existing national support structures.

Community-based child protection and child participation will be an integral component of the project. Detailed project development during the second and third years will increasingly involve children, youth, their parents and extended community. Children, youth and their communities will also be involved in project monitoring and evaluation.

A ten-year old refugee follows the instruction of her teacher in Djabal Refugee Camp in Eastern Chad.



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ENSURING ENDURING CHANGE

This three-year appeal will not only work towards strengthening the national child protection systems for the duration of the project but will also aim to strengthen these systems so as to ensure continued support to children after the project is completed. Support will include contribution of key resources and infrastructure, including IT equipment to strengthen birth registration, rehabilitation of classrooms and child friendly spaces and training for national child protection personnel. UNHCR and partners will also strengthen its advocacy where access to national child protection systems is limited for children of concern to UNHCR (refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced, stateless children).

Similarly, training for civil society organisations and community-based child protection mechanisms will contribute to the continuation of prevention and response services for children, their families and youth. The project will be overseen, monitored and supported by the UNHCR Regional Bureau for West & Central Africa with key contribution and support from the UNHCR Special Envoy for the Central Mediterranean Situation. Children and youth benefitting from the project will provide continuous feedback and oversight to help both program design and implementation.

While Chad, Côte d'Ivoire and Mali will focus on prevention and response services for children on the move as part of this appeal, the Regional Bureau

will also support other countries in the region to address challenges and risk for children. Burkina Faso, Cameroon and Nigeria are experiencing significant protection issues for children and young people on the move and those at risk of moving, the situation being compounded by ongoing conflict and instability. At the same time, countries such as Senegal, Ghana, Liberia, Gambia and Niger are not able to adequately respond due to weak national systems, lack of child protection actors and limited resources.

Coordination mechanisms will also be strengthened across the region and across actors. The Regional Bureau will, in line with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Strategic Framework for Strengthening National Child Protection Systems to Prevent and Respond to Violence, Abuse and Exploitation against Children in West Africa, enhance coordination between UNHCR, UNICEF and IOM in this area. Knowledge and skills amongst UNHCR staff, partners and national government counterparts will be developed through joint training initiatives. Inter-agency efforts will be established and strengthened for the identification of children and young people at risk to improve the provision of protection responses, including comprehensive case management, timely referrals, and links to opportunities for durable solutions for children and youth transiting across borders.

TARGETED INTERVENTIONS FOR SUPPORT AND SCALE-UP: CHAD, COTE D'IVOIRE & MALI

SPOTLIGHT: CHAD

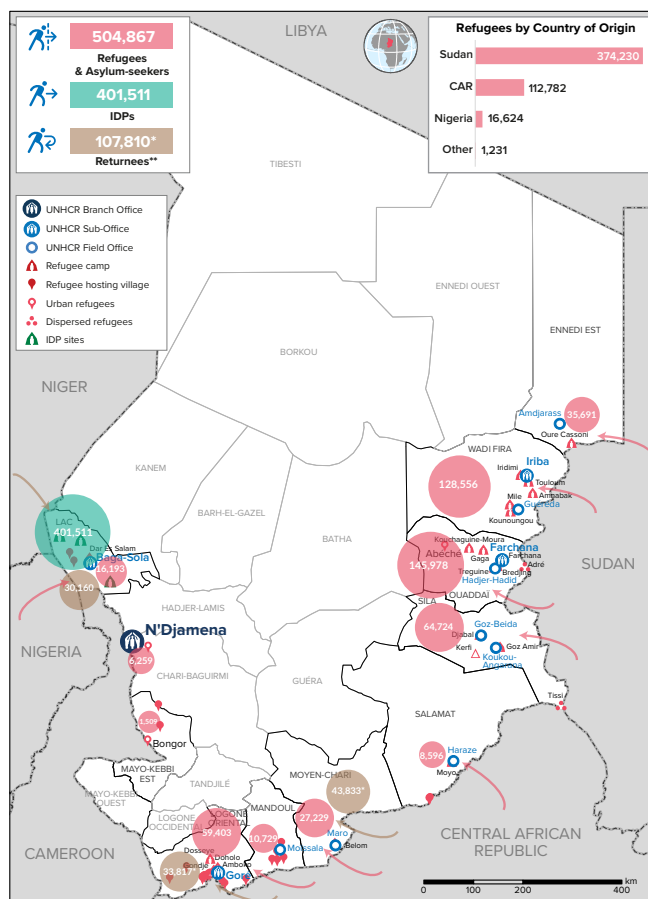
Located in the centre of the African continent, Chad is simultaneously a country of origin, a zone for transit, as well as a country of asylum and destination for thousands of children and young people from different backgrounds. The deteriorating socio-economic situation in recent years, conflicts and food insecurity in Chad and its neighbouring countries have led to repeated movements of people from and into Chad. This situation has been further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has affected access to protection, livelihood opportunities, and education for children and youth.

As of April 2021, UNHCR and the CNARR (National Commission for the Reception and Reintegration of Refugees and Returnees) have registered nearly 505,000 refugees and asylum seekers, mainly originating from Sudan, Central African Republic, and Nigeria. 52% of this population is made up of children of whom 73% are under 12 years. Child protection activities have led to the identification of 2,500 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC). Implementing Best Interests Procedures for case management and providing appropriate support to all these children remains a significant challenge. In addition, Chad also hosts over 401,000 IDPs linked to the conflict in the Lake Chad Basin.

According to a UNHCR report⁹ on Mixed Movements in Chad, the displacement of populations within Chad can

CHAD: Situation of Refugees, IDPs and Returnees

as of 30 April 2021



The Live, Learn and Participate project in Chad will benefit up to **25,000** children and youth over three years.

KEY ACTIVITIES BY OBJECTIVE:

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

<https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=517279>

