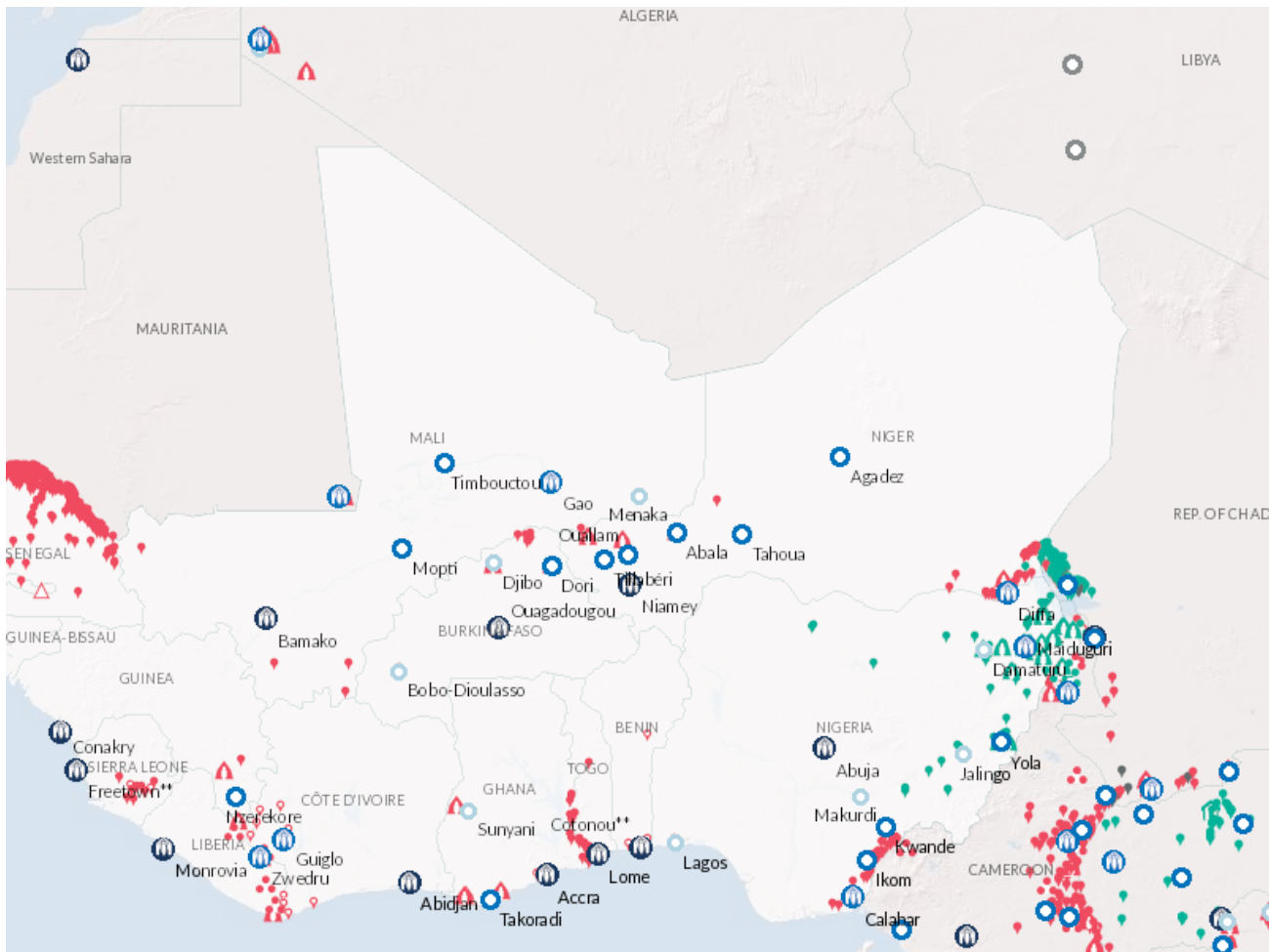
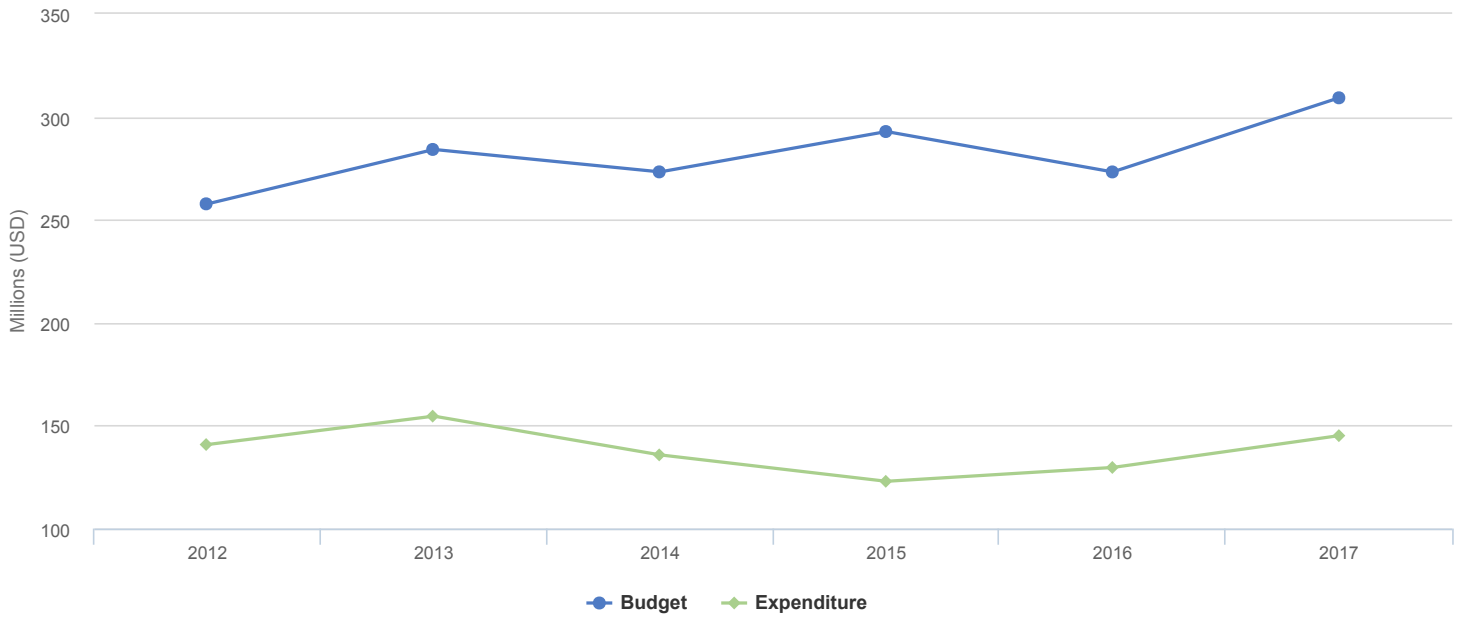


Subregion: West Africa

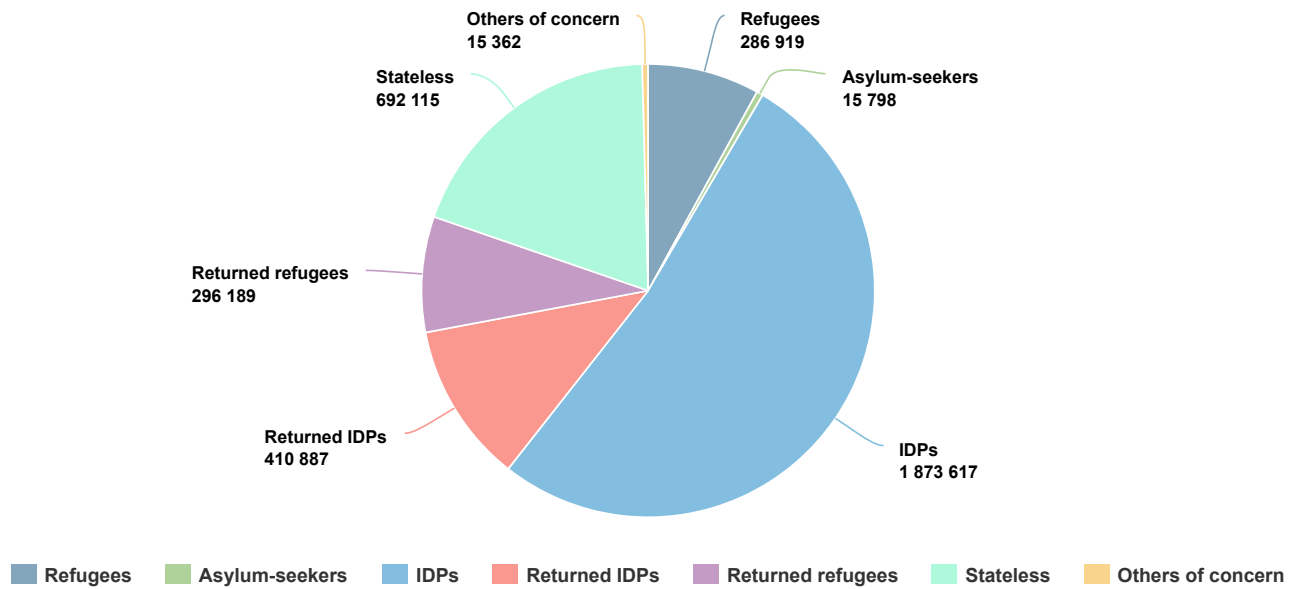
| Benin | Burkina Faso | Cabo Verde | Côte d'Ivoire | Gambia (the) | Ghana | Guinea | Guinea-Bissau | Liberia | Mali | Niger | Nigeria | Senegal | Sierra Leone | Togo |



Budgets and Expenditure in Subregion West Africa



People of Concern - 2017



Response in 2017

Multiple armed conflicts, violent extremism and unabated violations of human rights continued to trigger significant population movements within and across borders in large swathes of West Africa, with Mali and Nigeria being the main sources of displacement in the subregion in 2017. Displacement as a result of intercommunal clashes between pastoral and farmers and over land issues also affected primarily Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria and Togo.

At the end of 2017, there were an estimated 3.6 million people of concern to UNHCR in the subregion, including close to 290,000 refugees and 1.8 million internally displaced people (IDPs), representing a 13 per cent decrease, when compared with 2016 figures. The rest represented returnees and stateless people. Out of a total population of 380 million in West Africa, millions remained at risk of statelessness in the subregion, with an estimated 700,000 stateless persons in Côte d'Ivoire alone.

The scale of organized or spontaneous repatriation movements which took place mainly to Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria and Mali, did not meet the scale of new displacement across borders. Small number of returns of Malian and Nigerian refugees from asylum countries were observed. In Nigeria, where there were reports of significant self-organised returns in 2017, UNHCR in neighbouring countries of asylum has not to date facilitated voluntary repatriation given the prevailing conditions. While reports of forced returns persisted, access to areas of return remained limited. In Mali, small numbers of refugees and IDPs returned spontaneously and received cash and material assistance from UNHCR and partners, while a new displacement inside and to neighbouring countries was also reported.

Living conditions in the return areas in Mali and Nigeria did not improve significantly. As a result, some returnees to northern Mali and North-East Nigeria were unable to fully reintegrate. Drought and chronic food insecurity in some parts of these countries also contributed to further population movements within and outside the Sahel region. Such conditions hampered repatriation from taking place or made it unsustainable. Changes in policy by some of the key resettlement countries to reduce intakes posed a serious challenge for finding alternative durable solutions for refugees. Persistent insecurity also reduced humanitarian access to reach those most in need.

A proliferation of criminal networks involved in human trafficking continued to be reported along migratory routes in West Africa, with women and children being particularly vulnerable. Asylum seekers and migrants resorted increasingly to smugglers, exposing them to serious danger and heightened protection risks. Out of some 119,000 refugees and migrants who crossed the sea to Italy in 2017, some 66,500 were travelling from West Africa. This included almost 8,700 women and over 8,900 unaccompanied children. The primary route to Libya from West Africa runs via Mali to Niger (usually via Burkina Faso) to Libya but many others travel via Algeria, mostly from Mali and sometimes from Niger. The number of people moving from West Africa to Libya is estimated to have dropped from 115,500 in 2016 to 66,500 in 2017, but the crackdown on movement between Agadez and Libya by Nigerien authorities made it more difficult to record accurate figures. Protection risks along this route included regular bribery demands (in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger) and sexual violence (in Niger), abuse by smugglers and traffickers, deaths in the desert North of Agadez, and trafficking to the region and beyond.

Building on progress made since 2015 by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) on reducing statelessness, a landmark achievement was the adoption of the Banjul Plan of Action to End Statelessness in West Africa. This legally binding document was endorsed by 15 ECOWAS States during a conference jointly organized by ECOWAS and UNHCR in May 2017. The Plan of Action is based on the Abidjan Declaration (2015) and lists detailed activities that the States agreed to undertake by 2024, demonstrating the success of the partnership between ECOWAS and UNHCR and the determination of States in West Africa to eradicate statelessness.

The funding environment became more strained due to the protracted nature of many displacement situations in the region and shifting priorities in donor funding. This was reflected in the steady decline in the amount of resources UNHCR received for its programmes. In 2017, UNHCR's operations in West Africa were on average funded just above 30 per cent of the \$340 million financial requirements, compared to 35 per cent of the \$274 million required in 2016. With the diminished funding, the delivery of protection, education, health and water and sanitation services were also reduced, exposing the affected populations to a series of protection concerns and risked compromising the gains already made.

In an effort to bring decision-making closer to operations, five stand-alone country offices (Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Mali and Niger), previously reporting to UNHCR headquarters, were brought under the supervision and oversight of the UNHCR Regional Office for West Africa in Dakar.

Operations

UNHCR officially closed its country office in **Benin** in December 2017, handing over to a national Government partner, the National Commission for Refugees (CNAR), the protection of some 1,300 Togolese refugees remaining in the country. While the political situation in neighboring Togo deteriorated during the last quarter of 2017, some 33 Togolese asylum-seekers were registered during that period, with an additional 53 awaiting registration. A contingency plan for emergency response was put in place together with partners.

UNHCR continued to respond to the protection needs of some 7,940 refugees in **the Gambia**, the majority of whom were from the Casamance region of southern Senegal. UNHCR directly implemented most of the protection and assistance activities, including documentation and livelihood

support. The major challenge for refugees in the Gambia is finding durable solutions, namely local integration. Most of the refugees from Senegal are not willing to return.

By signing, in December 2017 the "*Declaration officielle de la clause d'intégration locale définitive des réfugiés de longue durée,*" the Government of **Guinea-Bissau** gave blanket naturalization to more than 7,000 refugees, ending one of the most protracted refugee situations in West Africa. The biggest challenge, however, was securing the financial requirements needed to process the documentation of all refugees who opt to integrate in Guinea-Bissau.

In **Senegal**, a verification exercise conducted in the Senegal River Valley revealed that there were some 12,800 Mauritanian refugees, approximately 50 per cent being women. At least 9,500 refugees opted for naturalization, some 3,100 requested residence permits and 183 chose to return to Mauritania, and 20 were undecided. The Senegalese authorities who took an active part in the verification exercise demonstrated support to implement UNHCR's regional durable solution strategy which will be further refined in 2018. Resettlement opportunities for Mauritanian refugees were limited.

UNHCR closed down its offices in **Sierra Leone** at the end of 2017. The decision was driven by the small number of Liberian refugees in the country; the remaining 681 Liberian refugees have been included in the national development programme. UNHCR carried out capacity-building activities to prepare the Government of Sierra Leone to assume and deliver protection services in 2018 and beyond. UNHCR also achieved a major breakthrough in overcoming statelessness with the reform of Sierra Leone's nationality legislation, which, in its previous form, differentiated between men and women regarding the transmission of nationality to children. Thanks to UNHCR's advocacy work, this segregation was removed with the reform.

As at the end of 2017, **Togo** hosted some 13,300 refugees, mainly from Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana. UNHCR further elaborated and concluded a local integration project focused on agro-pastoral activities for Ghanaian and urban refugees of all nationalities. As part of the exit strategy, UNHCR trained the only remaining NGO partner to build its capacity for an effective takeover of the critical protection services. As part of preparedness planning, UNHCR established contingency plans for the neighboring countries in the event of major large-scale displacement inside Togo and across borders.

2017 Voluntary Contributions to West Africa | USD

Earmarking / Donor	Pillar 1 Refugee programme	Pillar 2 Stateless programme	Pillar 3 Reintegration projects	Pillar 4 IDP projects	All pillars	Total
West Africa overall						
Denmark	0	0	0	0	1,000,000	1,000,000
Finland	0	0	0	0	1,742,160	1,742,160
France	0	0	0	0	2,171,553	2,171,553
Germany	0	0	0	0	14,141,310	14,141,310
Norway	0	0	0	0	1,415,308	1,415,308
Private donors in Canada	0	0	0	0	505	505
Private donors in Germany	0	0	0	0	571,759	571,759
Private donors in Italy	0	0	0	0	877	877
Private donors in Spain	0	0	0	0	1,097	1,097
Private donors in Sweden	0	0	0	0	18	18
Private donors in Switzerland	0	0	0	0	773	773
Republic of Korea	0	0	0	0	700,000	700,000
United States of America	0	0	0	0	10,200,000	10,200,000
West Africa overall subtotal	0	0	0	0	31,945,359	31,945,359
Burkina Faso						
Denmark	785,800	97,357	0	0	65,107	948,264
European Union	963,051	0	0	0	0	963,051
France	100,000	0	0	0	162,866	262,866
Private donors in Australia	505,768	0	0	0	0	505,768
Private donors in Japan	130,438	0	0	0	0	130,438
Private donors in the Netherlands	1,918,957	0	0	0	0	1,918,957
Private donors in the United States of America	116,150	0	0	0	0	116,150
Burkina Faso subtotal	4,520,164	97,357	0	0	227,973	4,845,494
Côte d'Ivoire						
Denmark	20,000	0	0	0	0	20,000
Italy	0	285,830	124,274	0	0	410,105
UN Peacebuilding Fund	0	81,288	0	0	0	81,288
United States of America	0	0	0	0	2,000,000	2,000,000
Côte d'Ivoire subtotal	20,000	367,118	124,274	0	2,000,000	2,511,392
Ghana						
Private donors in Ghana	2,105	0	0	0	0	2,105

Earmarking / Donor	Pillar 1 Refugee programme	Pillar 2 Stateless programme	Pillar 3 Reintegration projects	Pillar 4 IDP projects	All pillars	Total
UNAIDS	40,000	0	0	0	0	40,000
UNICEF	45,475	0	0	0	0	45,475
Ghana subtotal	87,580	0	0	0	0	87,580
Liberia						
Private donors in Italy	195	0	0	0	0	195
UNAIDS	50,000	0	0	0	0	50,000
Liberia subtotal	50,195	0	0	0	0	50,195
Mali						
Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)	0	0	429,022	0	0	429,022
France	0	0	0	300,000	162,866	462,866
Italy	510,278	0	0	0	0	510,278
Japan	235,400	0	1,056,600	0	0	1,292,000
Sweden	0	0	0	0	885,054	885,054
Switzerland	0	0	40,040	0	0	40,040
Mali subtotal	745,678	0	1,525,662	300,000	1,047,920	3,619,261
Niger						
Canada	0	0	0	0	743,494	743,494
Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)	241,064	0	0	231,610	0	472,674
Denmark	284,398	0	0	0	0	284,398
European Union	3,289,536	0	0	1,590,668	0	4,880,204
France	1,484,834	0	0	0	0	1,484,834
Germany	1,067,236	0	0	0	0	1,067,236
Italy	1,624,543	0	0	0	0	1,624,543
Japan	1,564,075	0	0	373,926	0	1,938,000
Norway	0	0	0	0	585,138	585,138
Private donors in Italy	0	0	0	0	3,555	3,555
Private donors in Japan	409,343	0	0	0	0	409,343
Spain	600,228	0	0	239,637	0	839,866
UN Peacebuilding Fund	326,390	0	0	0	0	326,390
United States of America	1,890	0	0	27,000	13,800,000	13,828,890
Niger subtotal	10,893,537	0	0	2,462,841	15,132,186	28,488,564

Earmarking / Donor	Pillar 1 Refugee programme	Pillar 2 Stateless programme	Pillar 3 Reintegration projects	Pillar 4 IDP projects	All pillars	Total
Nigeria						
Belgium	0	0	0	568,828	0	568,828
Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)	0	0	1,200,564	1,571,826	0	2,772,390
European Union	0	0	0	977,199	0	977,199
Japan	0	0	1,878,531	1,621,469	0	3,500,000
Nigeria	0	0	0	0	63,735	63,735
Private donors in Australia	0	0	0	0	2,257	2,257
Private donors in Sweden	0	0	0	0	307	307
United States of America	0	0	0	0	14,400,000	14,400,000
Nigeria subtotal	0	0	3,079,095	4,739,322	14,466,299	22,284,716
Senegal Regional Office						
Private donors in Italy	209	0	0	0	32	241
Senegal Regional Office subtotal	209	0	0	0	32	241
Total	16,317,363	464,475	4,729,031	7,502,163	64,819,770	93,832,801

Note: