



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency



© UNHCR/Federic Noy

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

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

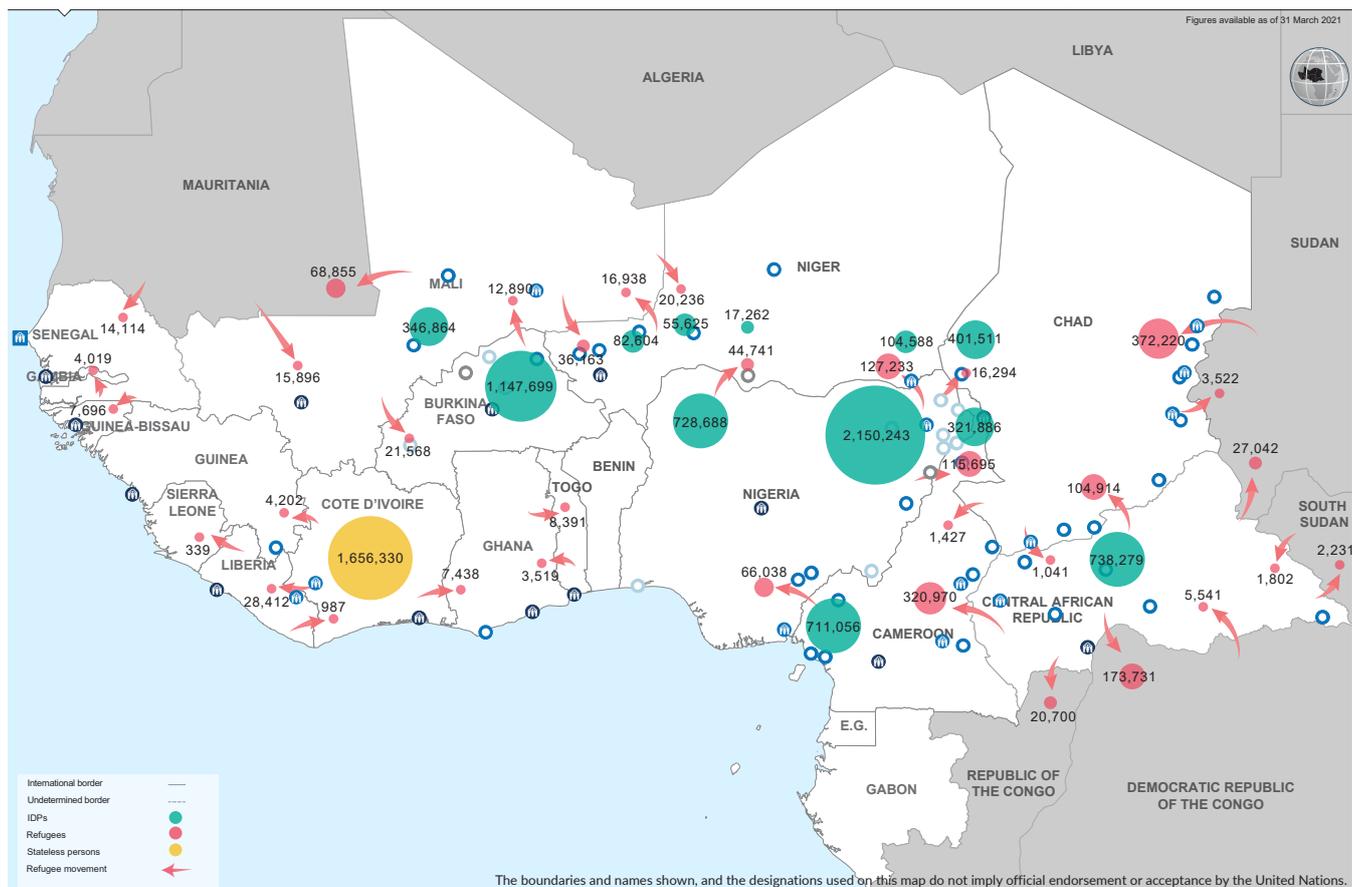
arrivals in Canary Islands, Spain, in 2020, representing a **753%** increase as compared to 2019

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).

© UNHCR/Rahima Gambo

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.



© UNHCR/Sylvain Cherkouli

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

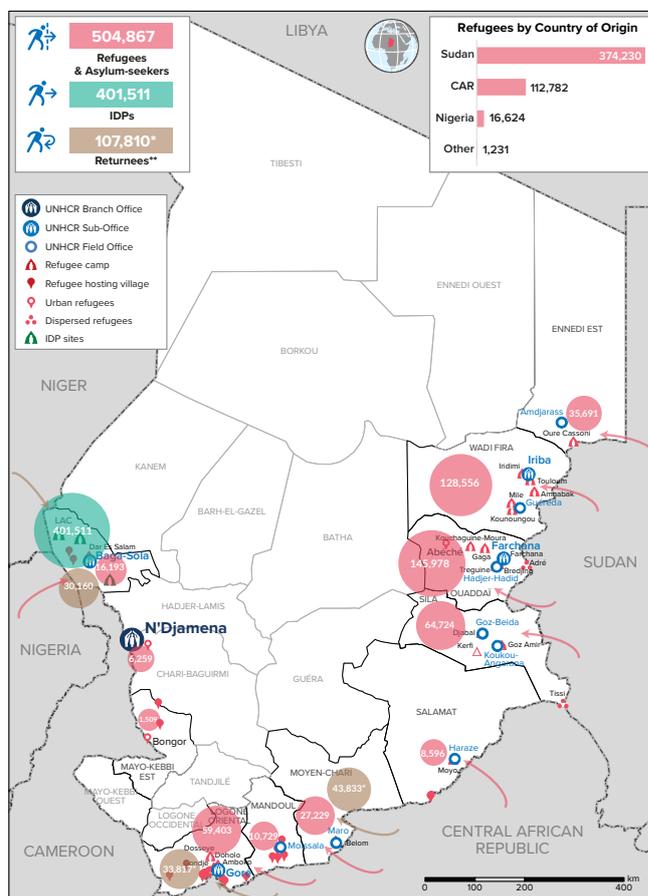
Located in the centre of the African continent, Chad is simultaneously a country of origin, a zone for transit, as well as a country of asylum and destination for thousands of children and young people from different backgrounds. The deteriorating socio-economic situation in recent years, conflicts and 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 be categorized as a mix of forced movements – linked either to armed conflicts – and voluntary movement linked to economic factors. Among the **24,125 individuals** on the move interviewed across Chad, children (up to 17 years old) and young people (15 to 24 years old) represented **4,091 people**, or 17% of the individuals. The economic context and local constraints make regular and systematic monitoring challenging. Both children of host communities as well as migrant and refugee children are at risk of being subjected to forced labor in the agricultural sector or to beg on streets in urban areas. Many are sexually exploited and at risk of child trafficking.

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:

Protection of children & youth strengthened against the risks associated with onward movement:

- Conduct large-scale sensitization activities through culturally tailored information, education and information campaigns for children and youth – as well as their families, caregivers and communities – to understand the risks of onward movement;
- Working with national authorities (Ministries for Social Action, Early Childhood department, Justice, etc) and partners, to scale-up identification and assessment of unaccompanied and at-risk children in key locations and 74 entry points to ensure early and comprehensive interventions occur.



Central African refugees and Chadian children from the host community play football against other young Central African refugees in the Dosseye refugee site, southern Chad.

© UNHCR/Olivier Laban-Mattel

Alternative care and support structures for children and youth strengthened:

- Scale up identification, training and monitoring of foster care families so that more unaccompanied children can benefit from high-quality family-based care;
- Increase overall cash support and availability of income generating opportunities for families fostering at-risk children to ensure the basic needs of the family and child are met.

Access of children and youth to education, professional training and livelihood opportunities improved:

- Construction and rehabilitation of child-friendly spaces to enhance Sports-for-Protection, educational and developmental activities;
- Support youth-led livelihood activities for young entrepreneurs and ensure that market-based vocational training is available for youth aged 18-24 years, a key group at risk of irregular movements and forced recruitment;
- Support remote education initiatives and provide

adequate materials to children in need (e.g. solar radios).

Access to family tracing and reunification and other durable solutions strengthened:

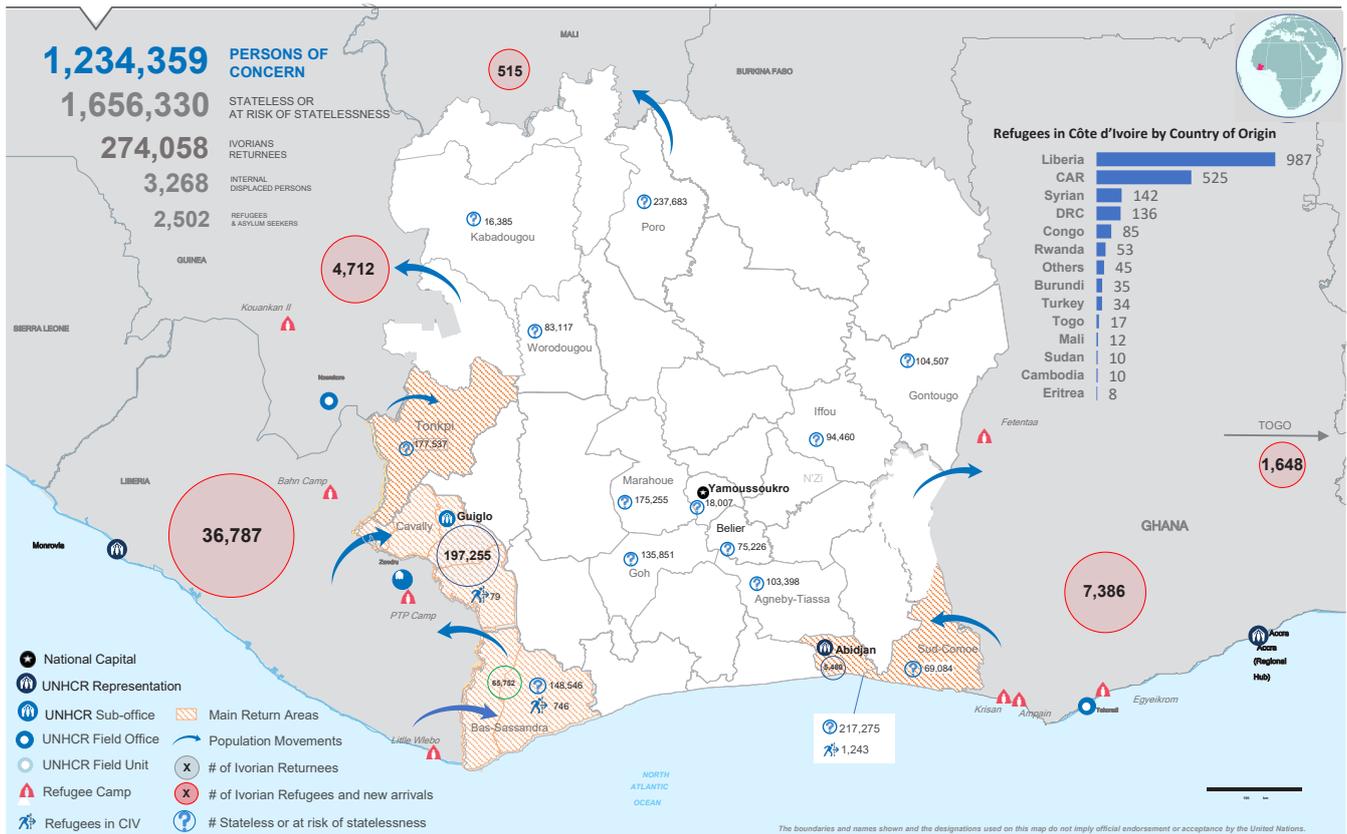
- Working closely with ICRC and the Chadian Red Cross to expand family tracing services by enhancing outreach and telephone and digital tracing services in both camp and reception sites;
- Increase access to rights-based third country family reunification as well as resettlement through enhanced profiling of the most vulnerable children and youth at-risk.

Regional and country-level coordination strengthened, leading to better outcomes for children and youth:

- Enhance identification screening and response through capacity-building for the government and Chadian Red Cross partners operating at the 74 border entry points of Chad;
- Operationalize inter-agency referral and case management mechanisms between agencies to ensure better outcomes for children at-risk.

Child & Youth Friendly Spaces in Chad

The continued displacements and funding gaps have resulted in a lack of adequate safe spaces for children and youth to meet, interact, and engage in recreational activities. As a result, many children and young people in eastern and southern Chad spend their time idling, significantly impacting on their development, protection and wellbeing. Construction of additional child friendly spaces to meet the needs of increasing child-population, and rehabilitating those that have fallen into disrepair will make a positive contribution not only to the development of children and young people, but will also serve as a hub for identification of children at risk and children on the move/at risk of movement, and ensure appropriate support is provided.



SPOTLIGHT: CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Located in the Western Coastal area of the African continent, Cote d'Ivoire is home to a population of refugees, returnees and asylum-seekers. Ivorians additionally are represented among the top five West and Central African nationalities seeking protection or well-being in the European Union, often after undertaking risky irregular journeys by sea. According to Eurostat, 6,480 Ivorians sought asylum in Europe in 2020.¹⁰ A number of measures were taken by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to modernize essential services and institutions, including new laws adopted to reform the civil status system, the criminal justice system and some areas of family law, which supported ongoing efforts to reduce statelessness.

As of 15 March 2021, Côte d'Ivoire hosted over 2,500 refugee and asylum-seekers. There were also nearly 1.66 million people at risk of statelessness, while voluntary return of refugees continues to take place. Throughout 2020, some 327 refugees repatriated. In Cote d'Ivoire, returnees, refugees and asylum seekers face integration challenges and additional protection risks. For returning

children, this includes gender-based violence, such as harmful traditional practices, lack of access to education, child labour, lack of psychosocial support and limited or absent case management services. Returnees, for instance, struggle to regain possession of their former assets and to access civil status documentation, leaving children particularly vulnerable to exploitation and young people without access to further development and work. Risks of detention or refoulement are present for asylum seekers at the border, including children and young people on the move. The inability to find their families/relatives, abuse and violence by family members who may have financed their journeys, lack of social protection, educational and skills-development opportunities, as well as livelihoods issues are the challenges that are frequently faced by returnees, refugees and asylum seekers alike.

At the same time, as a destination country within the West African region, Côte d'Ivoire has seen a shift in migration trends. According to estimations by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations (UN DESA)¹¹, the total number of international migrants aged 0-24 months in Côte

Ivorian youth pose for a photograph as they wait for their belongings to be tagged and loaded onto a truck on the eve of their voluntary repatriation to Côte d'Ivoire.



d'Ivoire reached 684,857 in 2019. It should also be noted that 7 out of 10 children, aged 5 to 17, are economically active in Côte d'Ivoire. The agricultural sector alone employs 71% of these children. Children employed in cocoa and coffee plantations, mineral mines and other fields, work long hours, also at night, carry heavy loads, handle agrochemicals or clear fields with sharp tools.¹² In cocoa fields alone, it is estimated that 300,000 to 1 million children that are working under conditions considered to be among the worst forms of child labour.¹³ In urban areas, girls are often employed in under-paid domestic arrangements and boys in carpentry or assisting taxi drivers. An additional concern for Côte d'Ivoire includes the prevalence of child prostitution due to poverty. The UN DESA survey showed that it is often survival prostitution that allows school-aged children to cover their school fees or to obtain good grades.

This three-year project will have a positive impact on the living and development conditions of at least 15,000 children and young people in Ivory Coast.

KEY ACTIVITIES BY OBJECTIVE:

Protection of children & youth strengthened against the risks associated with onward movement:

- Multi-sectoral assessments, consultations and mappings will lead to an increased understanding of the current magnitude, characteristics, and trends of child protection and risks for youth in refugee, asylum-seeking, returnees and stateless population, and in mixed movement flows through Cote d'Ivoire;
- Increased collaboration with authorities (particularly law enforcement and government social workers) to improve frontline child-friendly responses and identification mechanisms.

Alternative care and support structures for children and youth strengthened:

- Train clergy, cultural leaders, and para-social workers on good foster care practices, and enhance community support to identify foster care families;

Access to education, professional training and livelihood opportunities improved:

- Provide cash and material support as well as vocational opportunities to youth in Cote d'Ivoire transitioning to adulthood;
- Support youth-led projects such as radio programs which raise awareness on available programs and important topics like GBV, violence against children and onward movement;
- Facilitate access to education for returnees and support/create remote education initiatives where appropriate.

Access to family tracing and reunification and other durable solutions strengthened:

- Support identification, documentation and reintegration of returning Ivorian children into their families after they return from migration journeys;
- Strengthen services across agencies and government partners to better trace families and once located, integrate Ivorian children returning from migratory journeys in order to deter them from both secondary journeys and child labor.

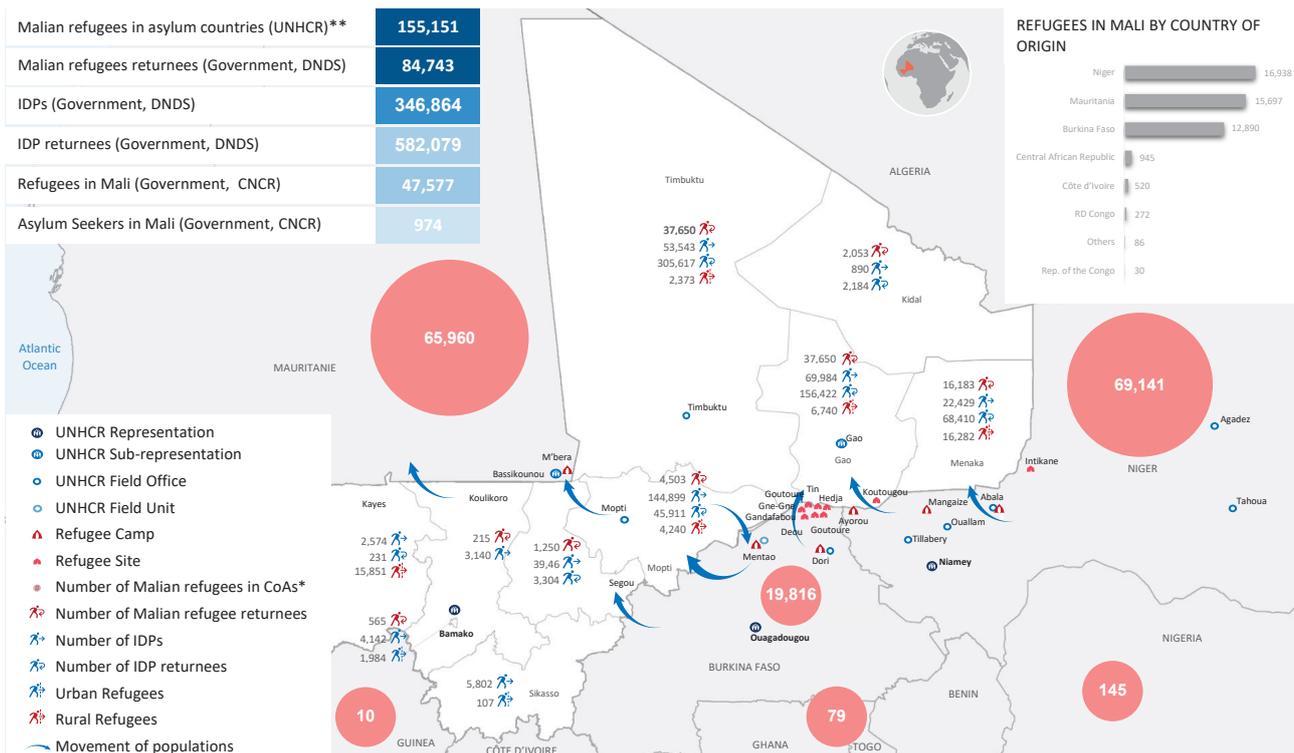
Regional and country-level coordination strengthened, leading to better outcomes for children and youth:

- Operationalize inter-agency referral, case management and follow up monitoring mechanisms between agencies to ensure better outcomes for all categories of children (refugee, asylum-seeker, returnee and migrant) in Cote d'Ivoire.

SPOTLIGHT: MALI

Located in the volatile Sahel region in West Africa, Mali's humanitarian situation worsened rapidly since 2019. Armed attacks spread from the north to the centre of the country, as well as at the borders of Burkina Faso and Niger, and caused population displacements on both sides. The situation in the centre of the country also triggered intercommunal conflicts, with the creation of self-defence militias by communities in conflict posing serious threats to both State authorities and civilians. As an area of mobility, intermixing and integration of populations of diverse origins (refugees and other persons under UNHCR mandate), Mali plays an important role as a country of origin, transit and reception of persons on the move to West Africa, North Africa and Europe.

As a country of asylum, as of February 2021 Mali had received over 48,000 refugees and asylum-seekers from Burkina Faso, Niger and Mauritania, of which children represent 60%. A significant increase in the refugee population has been noted in recent months, mainly in the border areas of northern and central Mali, following the deterioration of the security situation in neighbouring Burkina Faso and Niger. These refugee arrivals have been accompanied by cross-border return movements of former Malian refugees, raising the number of former Malian refugees having returned to their country of origin to close to 85,000.¹⁴ Of the returnee population, 63% are children of which 489 are unaccompanied and in need of specialized integration support to help them trace their parents or legal guardian, as well as ensure their wellbeing before, during and after reunification. Conflict in Mali's Centre and North also leads to internal displacement, with close to 350,000 persons displaced within the country. While children and youth in mixed movements receive assistance from the Government of Mali, many young people do not have access to these integration projects due to several factors (issues with identification of individual needs, remoteness of localities of return, emphasis on group assistance, etc.) and find themselves back on the migration routes in search of opportunities. Mali is also faced with the expulsion of its nationals and those of other West African nationalities, particularly from Algeria and Libya. According to the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism in place between UNHCR Algeria, Niger and Mali, there were in 2020, 22,631 reported expulsions from Algeria to Niger and Mali.



Persons of concern to UNHCR, on the move crossing through or starting their journey from Mali, risk their lives and physical integrity on mixed movement routes. In central and northern Mali, where humanitarian access is impeded and government presence is limited, persons on the move and expelled individuals are at significant risk of human rights violations by armed groups and forces (sexual violence, extortion, human trafficking and smuggling, loss and/or lack of civilian documentation). Central Mediterranean routes are also under the control of organized smuggling networks from the capital to the border regions in the north of the country. Unaccompanied or orphaned children are particularly vulnerable to trafficking and other exploitation, including sexual exploitation, forced begging, hawking goods on the streets, and other child labour, including the worst forms of child labour.

Armed groups are also trafficking children for labour in gold mines, using profits to enrich combatants, fuel the arms trade and finance the violence. Extortionate “taxes” are also imposed on adults operating in those gold mines.

As schools remain closed due to conflict, insecurity, COVID-19 or teachers’ strikes, children are also pushed towards informal gold mines, particularly in Gao and Kidal where many areas are controlled by armed groups.

Rapid child protection assessments found an estimated 6,000 children, disproportionately boys, working across eight mine sites in the country. They are exposed to the worst forms of child labour, economic exploitation, and physical, sexual and psychological abuse.¹⁵

The Live, Learn and Participate project in Mali will benefit at least **12,000** children and youth over three years.



An internally displaced Malian girl listens to classes on her solar-powered radio, donated by UNHCR to facilitate distance learning during COVID-19.

KEY ACTIVITIES BY OBJECTIVE:

Protection of children & youth strengthened against the risks associated with onward movement:

- Thoroughly map the top protection concerns for children throughout the different regions in the country in order to plan a comprehensive response;
- Through a newly created Child Protection Unit in UNHCR Mali, further engage the government and other agencies and develop a strategy on how to better respond to children in mixed flows in Mali.

Strengthening of alternative care and support structures for children and youth:

- Develop a community-led foster care system for refugee and Malian children in both urban and more remote locations;
- Enhance case management systems for children deemed to be high-risk i.e. children with disabilities, unaccompanied children, child victims of trafficking and survivors of GBV.

Children & Youth Leadership in Mali

Children and youth are not only recipients of services but have the right to be part of and lead processes that advance their rights. As such, the project will focus on identifying children and young people of concern from the community in both urban and northern Mali, providing training on leadership, engaging them in assessing child and youth specific connectivity and communication needs, developing and implementing youth led communications strategy, and establishing links with financial partners and integration project.

Access of children and youth to education, professional training and livelihood opportunities improved:

- Enhance formal and informal education opportunities for children and youth displaced throughout the country;
- Create youth leadership and communication opportunities through conducting connectivity and communication assessments involving children and youth, conducting capacity building for young people in leadership and empowerment, and designing and implementation of communication with communities strategy with youth people in the lead.

Access to family tracing and reunification and other durable solutions strengthened:

- Tracing and reintegration services for Malian children to be enhanced, both for returning Malian children from migratory routes to ensure their rapid reintegration, as well as Malian children internally displaced and refugee/asylum-seeker children.

Regional and country-level coordination is strengthened leading to better outcomes for children and youth:

- UNHCR Child Protection staff will ensure a more permanent and vocal presence in national structures and forums which pertain to child protection and child rights issues in order to ensure continued advocacy for all categories of children in Mali.

REGIONAL LLP BUDGET (2021–2023)



Country	Budget (USD)	Item No.	Item Description	Budget (USD)
Chad	6,970,949	1	Protection of children & youth strengthened against the risks associated with onward movement	6,198,145
Côte d'Ivoire	5,702,313			
Mali	6,299,285	2	Alternative care and support structures for children and youth strengthened	3,698,191
Regional Component – Regional Bureau in Dakar and Overall Coordination	1,235,400	3	Access of children and youth to education, professional training and livelihood opportunities improved	8,477,487
TOTAL	20,207,947	4	Access to family tracing and reunification and other durable solutions are strengthened	1,531,673
		5	Regional and country-level coordination is strengthened leading to better outcomes for children and youth	302,460
		TOTAL		20,207,947

ENDNOTES

1. Based on 4Mi survey data in 2018 and 2019, as well as additional open sources. See UNHCR and MMC, *On this journey, no one cares if you live or die*, July 2020, <https://www.unhcr.org/protection/operations/5f2129fb4/journey-cares-live-die-abuse-protection-justice-along-routes-east-west.html>.
2. UNHCR Project 21 Sahel Protection Monitoring Dashboard <https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrJoiNzc4Y2M0YjltZTA5Mi00MzI3LTJOTiItNDRmNzNkMTk3N2QyIiwidCl6ImU1YzYzM3OTgxLTY2NjQtNDEzNC04YTBlTY1NDNkMmFmODBiZSIsImMiOjIj9>.
3. Global Protection Cluster Report: AFTERSHOCK. Abuse, exploitation & human trafficking in the wake of COVID-19, pg 6, available at: https://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/wp-content/uploads/Global-Protection-Update_191120.pdf?utm_source=Test&utm_campaign=1206f25469-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_21_12_50_COPY_02&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_31b0ba1067-1206f25469-.
4. *Ibid.*
5. For example, see Save The Children's 2018 Report *Young and on the Move in West Africa*, available at https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/node/14327/pdf/055_young-and-on-the-move.pdf.pdf and the 2018 African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child entitled *Mapping Children on the Move within Africa*, available at https://www.acerwc.africa/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/ACERWC-Study-Mapping-Children-on-the-Move-within-Africa-Nov2018-_A4_Website-version.pdf.
6. Both unaccompanied and accompanied children from West Africa on the move towards North Africa and Europe are often invisible during their transit through Niger and Mali, on their way to Morocco, Mauritania, Algeria, and Libya. As such, the number of unaccompanied migrant children along these routes is unknown, with only fragmented data available.
7. These countries include Niger, Chad, Central African Republic, Mali, Burkina Faso and Sierra Leone. See United Nations Development Index (HDI) 2020 report available at: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/statistical-data-tables-7-15>.
8. According to an internal UNHCR report, 7.4 million are of school age. Their access to education is limited, with 4 million unable to attend school. Some 1,645,000 refugee (PoC) children and youth who were in school in 29 countries before the pandemic are currently not attending due to institutional closures. As noted in a recent UNHCR report on education during COVID-19, *"The post-lockdown forecast for refugee girls is particularly grim. By analysing UNHCR data on school enrolment, the Malala Fund has estimated that half of all refugee girls in school will not return when classrooms reopen [...] For countries where refugee girls' gross secondary enrolment was already less than 10 per cent, all girls are at risk of dropping out for good. That is a chilling prediction, which would have an impact for generations to come."* UNHCR, *Coming Together for Refugee Education Report*, September 2020, pgs. 5-6; <https://www.unhcr.org/5f4f9a2b4>.
9. Report on Mixed Migration in Chad, UNHCR and Altai Consulting, March 2018.
10. EuroStat data available at: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/main/data/database>.
11. UN DESA data available at: <https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/data/estimates2/estimates19.asp> and https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/data/estimates2/data/UN_MigrantStockByAgeAndSex_2019.xlsx.
12. Humanium, Children of Ivory Coast, <https://www.humanium.org/en/ivory-coast/>
13. Tulane Report Focuses Attention on Child Labor in Cocoa Industry – stopchildlabor. [FINAL REPORT 2013/14 \(dol.gov\)](https://www.stopchildlabor.org/2013/14/dol.gov), [Child labour rising in Ghana and Ivory Coast's cocoa farms: Study | Child Rights News | Al Jazeera](https://www.stopchildlabor.org/2013/14/dol.gov).
14. UNHCR Data Operational Portal, available at: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/country/mli>.
15. UNHCR Global Press Release on the rise in child trafficking in Mali, available at: <https://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2020/12/5fc62ead4/child-trafficking-mali-increasing-conflict-covid-19.html>.



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency