REGIONAL BUREAU FOR WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA
Regional Education Dashboard: 2022-2023 School Year

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

Proportion of displaced people (refugees + IDPs)

- Refugees
- IDPs

Total number of Refugees and IDPs

- Mali
- Nigeria
- Chad
- Niger
- Senegal
- Nigeria
- Togo
- Sierra Leone
- Guinea
- Ghana
- Guinea Bissau
- Liberia
- Nigeria
- Senegal
- Togo

KEY FIGURES

Age and Gender (Refugees)

- Females
- Males

People displaced between June 2022 and July 2023

+ 7%

Estimated displaced children in the region

- 1.1M
- 4.9M

Children among the refugees

- 54%

Children among the IDPs

- 60%

Sources:
Displaced population data: UNHCR RBWCA. Statistics of refugees as of July 2023 (end of the academic year), OIM DTM. Education data: UNHCR RBWCA data consolidation as of July 2023, UNHCR Annual Education Report 2023 (for global refugee enrolment rates); Assistance data: UNHCR and partners data consolidation.

Data consolidation is based on data available from the different UNHCR operations. Data may sometimes be partial and do not always consider the whole refugee population. Data reflects the best knowledge of UNHCR and its partners. Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on these maps do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Creation date: 25 September 2023
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REFUGEE EDUCATION OVERVIEW

Out of school children

- **486k**
- **67%**

Estimated proportion of refugee children out of school

Comparison of refugee enrolment rates by school level for West & Central Africa vs Globally

- **West & Central Africa**
  - **Primary**: 50%
  - **Secondary**: 28%
  - **Tertiary**: 4%

- **Global**
  - **Primary**: 65%
  - **Secondary**: 41%
  - **Tertiary**: 6%

Children/youth reached by status

- **Refugees**: 17%
- **IDPs**: 4%
- **Host Communities**: 79%

Children/youth reached by level

- **Pre-Primary**: 12.6k (9%)
- **Primary**: 97.4k (70%)
- **Secondary**: 25.5k (20%)
- **Tertiary**: 1.2k (0.4%)

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- **237** Classrooms built or rehabilitated
- **1,150** Refugees supported with Higher Education/TVET Scholarships (including through Connected Education and Complementary Education Pathways)
- **96,726** Children assisted with school kits
- **47,106** Children assisted with cash-based interventions (CBI)
- **3,407** Teachers trained

UNHCR'S EDUCATION RESPONSE AND ASSISTANCE

Children/youth reached by status

- **Female**: 48%
- **Male**: 52%

Children/youth reached by level

- **Female**: 31%
- **Male**: 69%

Source: Education data: UNHCR RBWCA data consolidation as of August 2023, UNHCR Annual Education Report 2023 (for global refugee enrolment rates); Assistance data: UNHCR and partners data consolidation. These indicators include data from 12 countries (Bamako Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Gabon, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal).
REGIONAL BUREAU FOR WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

Regional Education Dashboard: 2021 to 2023 Trends

September 2023

ENROLMENT RATES FROM 2021 TO 2023

Out of school children

Comparison of refugee enrolment rates in West & Central Africa by school level (2020/21; 2021/22; 2022/23)*

- **Primary**: 2020/21: 59%, 2021/22: 58%, 2022/23: 50%
- **Secondary**: 2020/21: 50%, 2021/22: 15%, 2022/23: 19%
- **Tertiary**: 2020/21: 28%, 2021/22: 1.2%, 2022/23: 1.6%

Children/youth reached by status

UNHCR’s Education Response and Assistance

Children/youth reached by level

- **Pre-Primary**: 2020/21: 10k, 2021/22: 9.3k, 2022/23: 12.6k
- **Primary**: 2020/21: 72k, 2021/22: 99.8k, 2022/23: 97.4k
- **Secondary**: 2020/21: 18k, 2021/22: 21k, 2022/23: 25.5k
- **Tertiary**: 2020/21: 1k, 2021/22: 1.2k, 2022/23: 1.5k

- Male
- Female

Children assisted with school kits

- 2020-2021: 138
- 2021-2022: 237
- 2022-2023: 471

Classrooms built or rehabilitated

- 2020/21: 2,510
- 2021/22: 263k
- 2022/23: 1,567

Children assisted with cash-based interventions (CBI)

- 2020-2021: 111,781
- 2021-2022: 96,726
- 2022-2023: 114,285

Teachers trained

- 2020-2021: 3,407
- 2021-2022: 2,510
- 2022-2023: 1,129

Refugees supported with Higher Education Scholarships

- 2020-2021: 1,129
- 2021-2022: 1,053
- 2022-2023: 1,510

Children assisted with cash-based interventions (CBI)

- 2020-2021: 10,500
- 2021-2022: 12,282
- 2022-2023: 47,106

UNHCR RBWCA data consolidation as of August 2023, UNHCR Annual Education Report 2023 (for global refugee enrolment rates), Assistance data: UNHCR and partners data consolidation.

* The estimated proportion of 18-24 youth enrolled in higher education or technical and vocational education and training (TVET).

** The estimated proportion of out of school children out of school by school year.

Source: Education data: UNHCR RBWCA data consolidation as of August 2023, UNHCR Annual Education Report 2023 (for global refugee enrolment rates), Assistance data: UNHCR and partners data consolidation.

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MAIN GAPS

- Attacks on education
- Systemic underfunding
- Under-resourced and overcrowded classrooms
- Lack of qualified teachers
- Gender and sociocultural norms
- Incomplete data on refugee education

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The West and Central Africa region continues to face severe issues of insecurity and lack of access to basic services, especially education (over 13,000 schools closed across the region at the end of the school year), exacerbating the vulnerability of host and refugee populations. The spillover of the Central Sahel conflict continues to affect the coastal countries (Benin, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Togo), with an increase in population movements and refugee flows, particularly from Burkina Faso.

- The increase in the number of forcibly displaced persons (refugees and IDPs) in the region (+7% between June 2022 and June 2023), coupled with the deteriorating security context, is reflected in a decrease in the regional primary school enrolment rate for refugees compared to the previous year (8 percentage points). The total number of out-of-school refugee children increased (483,953 compared with 381,259, with a slight increase in the proportion of school-age refugee children not attending school, which remains very moderate given the deterioration of the situation in many countries in the region (67% compared with 66%).

- More encouraging is the increase in secondary and tertiary enrolment rates for refugees, by 9 and 2.5 percentage points respectively, confirming the upward trend already observed between 2021 and 2022. This is due, among other things, to increased targeted support for secondary school students and the development of new partnerships, which made it possible to provide more scholarships than last year at post-secondary and tertiary levels for university studies (including through connected higher education opportunities and university corridors to third countries) and vocational training (thanks to new partnerships with SIMPLON and the BIOFORCE training institute). Partnerships with the private sector (ORANGE, PROFUTURO) have also helped to improve the quality of education in Burkina Faso and Nigeria through innovative connected education projects.

- Enrolment rates for refugees in West and Central Africa remain lower than for refugees worldwide (50% against 65% at primary level, 28% against 41% at secondary level, and 4% against 6% at tertiary level). These rates are also significantly lower than national enrolment rates in almost all the countries in the region, with a few exceptions (notably Chad and the Central African Republic, where refugee enrolment rates at secondary level exceed national enrolment rates).

- In terms of UNHCR assistance, there has been a steady increase in the number of refugee children and adolescents reached since 2021, with an increase in the proportion of refugees targeted (compared to IDPs and host communities). It is also worth noting the significant increase in the use of cash-based assistance (CBI), with four times as many children reached this way this year as last.

SUB-REGIONAL AND COUNTRY DASHBOARDS

DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS

UNHCR is grateful for the support of donors who contributed to its education response in the West and Central Africa region either directly or through flexible funding:

And private donors from France, Italy, Japan, Korea, Nigeria, Spain, and the United States.