

**Context:** The Central Sahel area, and in particular the Liptako Gourma region, which borders Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, is affected by a complex crisis involving growing competition over dwindling resources; climatic variability; demographic pressure; high levels of poverty; disaffection and a lack of livelihood opportunities; communal tensions; the absence of state institutions and basic services; and

violence related to organized crime and Non-State Armed Groups. The crisis has led to the death of an estimated 5,000 people in 2020 (as of 31 August) and triggered significant displacement of populations in the four affected countries. As of 21 May 2021, 1,870,587 individuals have been displaced, including 1,688,189 Internally Displaced Persons (90% of the displaced population) and 182,398

Refugees (10% of the displaced population). Sixty-six per cent of the displaced population (1,240,355 individuals) were located in Burkina Faso, while 19 per cent resided in Mali (361,034 individuals), 11 per cent in Niger (199,277 individuals) and 4 per cent in Mauritania (69,921 individuals).

*NB: Displacements may also be linked to the crisis affecting Northern Mali since 2012.*



Sources: ACLED (Sep 2020), DTM Mali, Commission de mouvements de populations (CMP) (Mar 2021), UNHCR Mali (30 Mar 2021), UNHCR Niger (30 Mar 2021), CONASUR Burkina Faso/OCHA (30 Apr 2021), UNHCR Burkina Faso (30 Apr 2021), UNHCR Mauritania (30 Apr 2021).

