

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 triggered significant displacement of populations in the concerned countries and is affecting neighbouring countries such as Mauritania and the coastal countries.

As of January 2024, **3,021,235 individuals** have been displaced, including **2,636,880 internally displaced persons** (87% of the displaced population) and **384,355 refugees** (13% of the displaced population). Seventy per cent of the displaced populations (**2,100,130 individuals**) were located in **Burkina Faso**, while 14 per cent resided in **Mali** (**419,468 individuals**), 10 per cent in **Niger** (**288,734 individuals**) and 4 per cent in **Mauritania** (**110,997 individuals**). The crisis' recent spill over to coastal countries, namely **Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo** and **Benin**, shows growing number of refugees coming from the Central Sahel and populations internally displaced. As of January, **101,906 individuals** were affected by displacement within the four countries (9,899 in Benin, 38,497 in Côte d'Ivoire, 7,205 in Ghana and 46,305 in Togo) of which **30,372 were internally displaced**.

