



ماعت للسلام والتنمية وحقوق الإنسان
Maat For Peace, Development, and Human Rights

Fact Sheet

Journeys of Pain...

On Displacement and Refugee as an
Inevitable African Journey

On the sideline of "World Refugee Day"



Journeys of Pain: Inevitable Choices of Displacement and Refugeehood in Africa!

Facts & Figures 2024 – 2025

The African continent is not immune to the crises affecting the global community. In recent years, Africa has faced a complex mix of challenges, including ongoing and long-term conflicts, political instability, security disruptions, natural disasters, and extreme climate changes. All these factors have created a complicated environment that compels citizens across the continent to either internally displace or seek refuge in neighbouring countries in search of safer and less threatening environments. In this context, Maat highlights, in a fact sheet published on the occasion of World Refugee Day titled **“Journeys of Pain: Inevitable Choices of Displacement and Refugeehood in Africa”** the reality of the significant displacement and refugee crisis in Africa. This crisis exposes Africans to various threats, analysed from a statistical and analytical digital perspective.

25 million

displacement movements were caused by conflicts within the continent

38.8 million

Africans were displaced from the greater Sub-Saharan region during 2024

1.5% of Africa's

population have been displaced as a result of climate crisis

113 million

Africans are at risk of displacement due to climate crisis



Doubling Rate Over Last Decade

Despite the global instability witnessed in recent years, the escalating crises within Africa have cast dangerous shadows over several countries, effectively doubling—according to statistics—the rates of displaced persons and refugees in Africa over the last decade. This has created risks stemming from the rising numbers of migration and refugee journeys in the past ten



ماعت للسلام والتنمية وحقوق الإنسان
Maat For Peace, Development, and Human Rights

years. While the total number of displaced persons and refugees globally due to crises from 2015 to early 2025 reached 264 million, Africa stands at the forefront of continents experiencing an increase in the number of displaced persons and refugees. The number of internally displaced and refugee individuals in Africa has reached 45 million, the highest recorded in decades.

113 Million Africans Threatened with Displacement by 2025

The impacts of the climate crisis, including storms, floods, fires, and landslides, are significantly affecting Africans. Between 2009 and 2023, the number of displaced persons due to the negative effects of climate disasters in Africa rose by 600%. The current reality suggests a future where a majority of the continent's population may face displacement or refugeehood. By 2050, it is expected that up to 5% of Africa's population—approximately 113 million people—will be compelled to make the choice to displace or seek refuge due to climate changes.



In 2024, Africa recorded 7.8 million cases of displacement and refugeehood due to climate disasters, reflecting an increase of 1.8 million cases compared to 2023. From January to June 2025, Africa experienced the displacement of 3,288,294 individuals, with 81% being internally displaced (approximately 2,670,331) and 19% being refugees (approximately 617,963). Among these refugees, 64% are from Burkina Faso, 16% from Mali, 11% from Niger, and 5% from Togo, Benin, and Mauritania. The climate crisis also impacts other coastal countries, including Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire.



98% of Total Displaced and Refugee Africans Remain Within Continent

Despite the rising number of displaced and refugee Africans, reaching nearly 45 million due to various factors, the pathways of displacement and refuge reveal that 75% of the displaced still reside within their home countries. Between 95% and 98% of displaced persons and refugees



ماعت للسلام والتنمية وحقوق الإنسان
Maat For Peace, Development, and Human Rights

in Africa continue to live within the continent's borders. The countries most welcoming to refugees and migrants include East African nations such as Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda, alongside others like Egypt, Mauritania, Rwanda, Algeria, and South Africa—each hosting over 100,000 African refugees and asylum seekers.

Demographic indicators show that women and children constitute the largest percentage of displaced persons and asylum seekers in the continent, as they are among the most vulnerable groups amid various crises affecting Africa.

4 Out of 5 African Children Are Unable to Read

The educational opportunities crisis stands out as a significant driver of displacement and refugeehood among African populations. Many Africans identify the weakness of educational systems, low teacher capacity, and inadequate infrastructure as factors negatively impacting children's learning abilities. Statistics reveal that 4



out of 5 African children struggle to read or comprehend simple texts by age 10, with many also facing challenges in basic arithmetic skills. The number of out-of-school children in Africa is projected to reach 11 million by 2025, prompting parents in less educationally advanced African countries to consider internal displacement or seeking refuge in neighbouring nations in search of better educational opportunities for their children.

The crisis of educational opportunity is exacerbated by dwindling global funding for education in Africa, with a financing gap of \$100 billion. Sub-Saharan Africa alone faces a gap of \$70 billion to meet the educational targets set for the 2030 agenda.



25 Million Displacements Have Been Caused by Conflicts within Continent

Despite the ongoing conflicts in Africa for years, recent years have seen a rise in intense conflicts across various regions. The reality indicates an upward trend in displacement driven by conflicts in several African countries. In North Africa and the Middle

East, conflicts have caused 5.7 million cases of internal displacement, affecting over 16.6 million individuals. Meanwhile, the region of Sub-Saharan Africa experiences the largest displacement crisis, with a total of 19.3 million movements affecting 38.8 million displaced persons.

In this context, the dangerous environments created by conflicts are not the only significant crisis element for civilians. The crisis also includes widespread violations of international humanitarian law occurring in these environments, affecting all groups, particularly the most vulnerable, such as women, children, persons with disabilities, and the elderly. Violations, especially violence against civilians, play a crucial role in increasing the number of displaced persons and refugees across the continent. Statistics indicate that the average number of displaced persons increases by 32,000 during periods of declining violence, while it rises to an average of 193,000 amid increased violence against civilians, according to displacement indicators for 2024.