Africa’s population displacement crisis has reached record levels, with over 20 million Africans now officially registered as refugees, internally displaced, or seeking asylum. Actual figures are likely higher. A snapshot of Africa’s displaced populations reveals that:

- Almost 75 percent of Africa’s 20 million displaced persons are from 5 countries: the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan. Each of these countries is experiencing serious conflict.
- While global attention has focused on refugees, almost two-thirds of Africa’s dislocated population are internally displaced.
- The number of internally displaced people—12.7 million—represents a 65 percent increase since 2013.
- More than 44 million Africans are estimated to be at a crisis or emergency level of food insecurity. Parts of Nigeria, Somalia, and South Sudan are at risk of famine.
- In the past year, 51 humanitarian workers have been killed in the Central African Republic, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Somalia, and South Sudan, impeding efforts to provide assistance.
- Eight of the top 10 countries of origin for Africa’s displaced populations have autocratic governments.
Population Displacement in Africa

Asylum Seekers 690,758 (3%)
Internally Displaced Persons 12,664,528 (63%)
Refugees 6,675,706 (33%)

Population Displacement in Africa: Top 10 Countries of Origin

Data from UNHCR and Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre