

DATA SNAPSHOT OF MIGRANT AND DISPLACED CHILDREN IN AFRICA

1 in 4
African migrants is a child

1 in 2
African refugees is a child

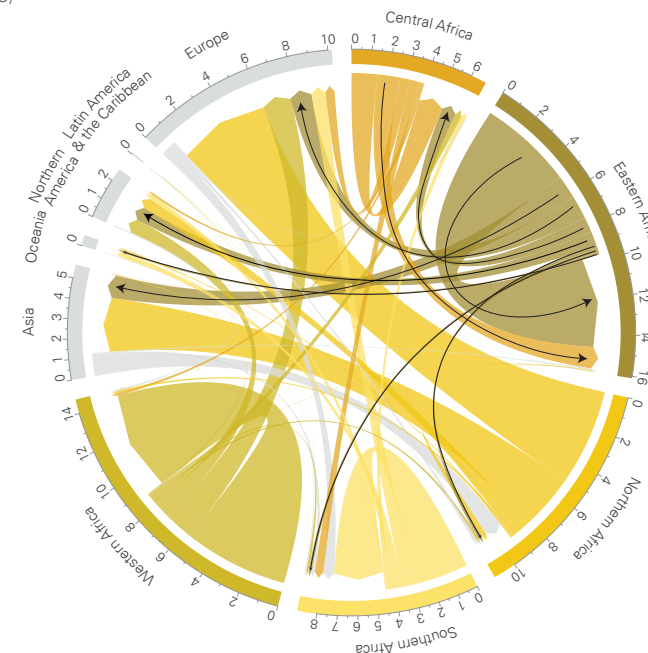
Fact 1: More international migrants move within Africa than beyond the continent

As of 2017, over 19 million Africans lived outside their country of birth but still within the continent. An additional 17 million Africans have migrated from the continent since birth. The bulk of these emigrants have gone to Europe (55 per cent) and to Asia (26 per cent), mostly the Gulf States. While this inter-continental emigration is driven mostly by countries in Northern Africa, in both Eastern Africa and Western Africa, migration is primarily contained within the region: Around 70 percent of migrants in each area stayed within the same region.

How to read this chart: The coloured arrows show the direction of migration from the place of origin (emigration) to the place of destination (immigration). At the example for Eastern Africa (see thin black arrows): In 2017, almost 10 million persons from Eastern Africa lived outside of their country of births. Half of those, 5 million, lived in a country within the same region. Another around 1 million lived in Europe and in Asia, respectively. The remaining migrants lived in one of the other regions in Africa or the other global regions. Besides Eastern African countries themselves, Central Africa is the only other region of origin providing a noteworthy number of immigrants living Eastern Africa (around 1 million).

Most migrants in Western Africa and Eastern Africa stay within their own region

International migrants by region of origin and destination in Africa, 2017 (migrant stock in millions)



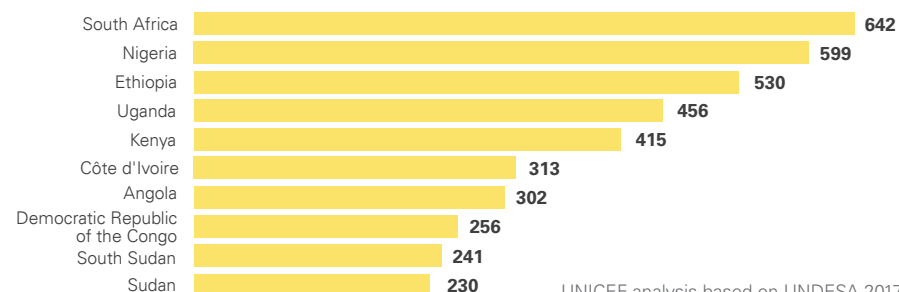
UNDESA 2017

Fact 2: 1 in 4 international migrants in Africa is a child – 6.5 million in total

Africa has the largest share of children among its migrant population – over one in four immigrants in Africa is a child, more than twice the global average. The share is particularly large in Western and Eastern Africa, where in countries like Nigeria, Ethiopia, and Kenya children account for more than 40 per cent of immigrant population. These countries also host some of the largest child migrant populations in Africa in absolute terms – the largest housed by South Africa with 642 thousand migrants under the age of 18 in 2017.

The largest numbers of child migrants live in South Africa and Nigeria

Top 10 countries hosting the largest numbers of international migrants under 18 years of age in Africa, 2017 (migrant stock in thousands)



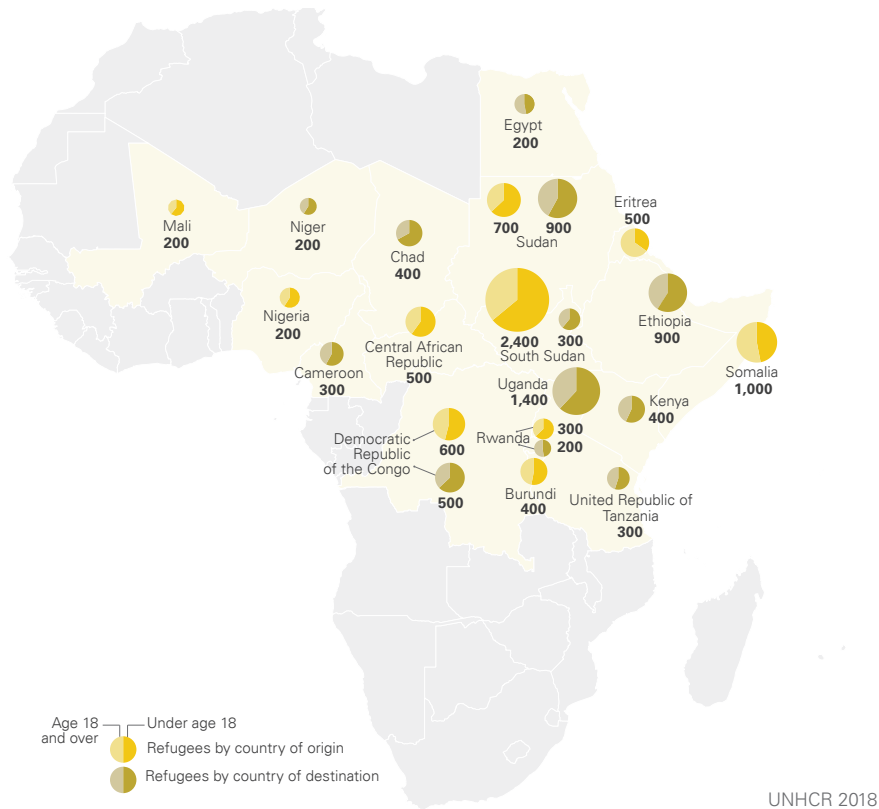
UNICEF analysis based on UNDESA 2017

Fact 3: More than half of all refugees in Africa are children, 4 million in total

At the end of 2017, 7.4 million refugees originated from African countries – 2 million more than the previous year, and children are disproportionately represented among them. Some 57 per cent of all African refugees are children – totaling more than 4 million (as of end of 2017). The largest numbers of African child refugees come from South Sudan, followed by Somalia, Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Central African Republic.

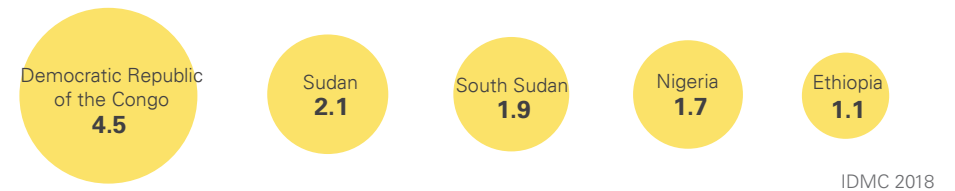
African countries take on much of the responsibility for hosting Africa’s refugees. Some 90 per cent of African refugees found asylum in other African countries. Uganda is hosting the largest number of refugees in Africa and is in the same moment an example of good practice in relation to receipt and integration of refugees.¹

Largest refugee populations (over 100,000) in Africa by country of origin and destination, 2017 (in thousands)



Fact 4: An estimated 7 million children in Africa are internally displaced

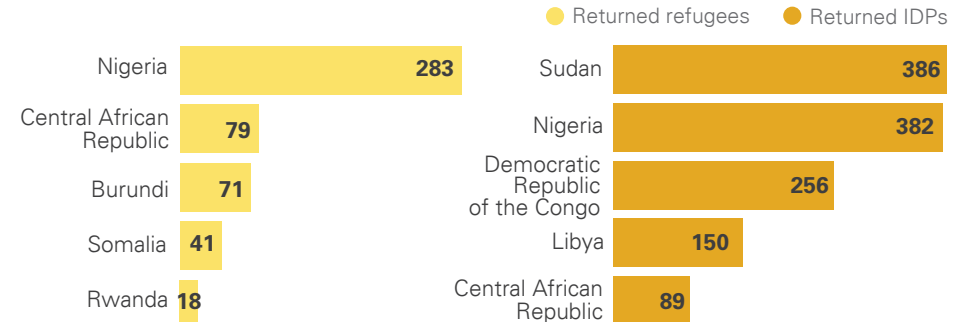
Top 5 African countries with largest number of conflict-related internally displaced persons, 2017 (in millions)



In total more than 14 million persons are internally displaced in Africa due to conflict and violence, half of them is estimated to be children.² The Democratic Republic of the Congo alone holds 4.5 million of the internally displaced persons at the end of 2017. In 2017 alone, 4.7 million persons got newly displaced within their own country representing 40 percent of the new replacement globally for that year.

Fact 5: Almost 2 million former refugees and internally displaced persons returned to their homes in 2017

Top 5 African countries with largest number of returned refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), 2017 (in thousands)



UNHCR counted over 500 thousand former refugees and 1.3 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) having returned to their homes during 2017 – though, the actual numbers may be significantly higher. Nigeria and Sudan alone accounted for 380 thousand returnees. For most countries the number of returning formerly displaced children is not available. But similar movements included 80,000 children returning from Angola to the Democratic Republic of the Congo during the last months of 2018 alone – all in need of humanitarian assistance.³

¹ UNHCR & UNICEF, Inclusion of Refugee Children in National Child Protection Systems: Guidance for Practitioners in East Africa, 2017.
² UNICEF analysis based on IDMC 2018 (number of children estimated by UNICEF based on the age structure of the national population)
³ <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/more-80000-children-returned-angola-dr-congo-urgent-need-humanitarian-assistance>

IDMC 2018: Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, Global Internal Displacement Database, 2018.
UNDESA 2017: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2017 Revision. United Nations, New York, 2017.
UNHCR 2018: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2017, UNHCR, Geneva, 2018