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 26 November 2021, 2,191,645 individuals have been displaced, including 2,007,061 Internally Displaced Persons (92% of the displaced population) and 184,584 Refugees (9% of the displaced population). Sixty-nine per cent of the displaced population (1,506,239 individuals) were located in Burkina Faso, while 19 per cent resided in Mali (414,922 individuals), 9 per cent in Niger (197,668 individuals) and 3 per cent in Mauritania (72,816 individuals).

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