

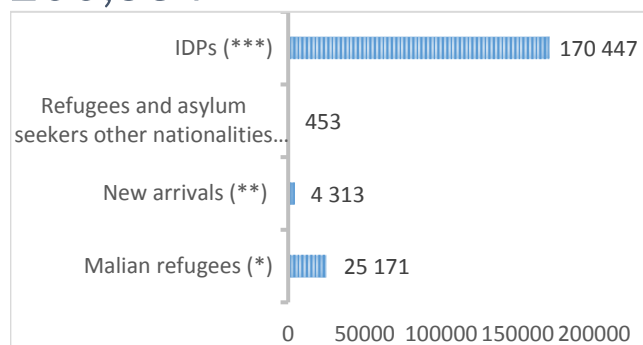
# Burkina Faso



Barsalogo IDP site © UNHCR / Romain Desclous

## POPULATION OF CONCERN

**200,384**



\* UNHCR figures (30 April 2019)

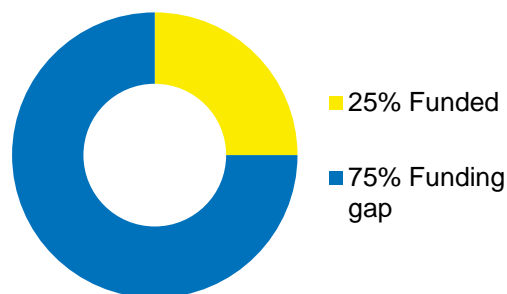
\*\* Government of Burkina Faso figures (April 2018)

\*\*\* OCHA figures (19 May 2019)

## FUNDING (AS OF MAY 2019)

**USD 30,3 Million**

needed for the Burkina Faso Country Operation



## KEY INDICATORS

**15,000**

Estimation of number of Burkinabe citizens who have looked for safety in neighboring countries

**22,000**

Number of birth certificates UNHCR helped to deliver to IDPs and host communities

**170,447**

people forced to flee their homes who have remained in Burkina Faso



© UNHCR/Romain Desclous

## Operational Context

The key situations include:

1. **The Mali Situation** began in 2012 with the outbreak of conflict in northern Mali. Today, almost **25,000 Malians have found refuge in Burkina Faso** and were biometrically registered by UNHCR. Since the beginning of the year, 731 new individuals have been added to UNHCR's database. The Sahel region, bordering Mali and Niger and hosting 98% of Malian refugees, has been increasingly affected by insecurity and violence, aggravating the vulnerability of people who need care and want to build a better future. This increases the risk of secondary movements.

Since over one year, **thousands of asylum seekers from Mali** have continued to enter into **Boucle du Mouhoun and Nord regions**, fleeing an intensification of violence in Central Mali. The majority of people live in spontaneous sites or with the local population. Due to rising insecurity in hosting areas, UNHCR has not been able to carry out its registration strategy jointly developed with the Government.

2. **Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs):** Over **170,000 people have been uprooted from their homes** and remained in their own country. **Almost 15,000 Burkinabe have looked for safety in neighboring countries**, including in Mali (11,500), Niger (over 1,500) and Ghana (1,911). The IDP crisis particularly affects the Sahel and Centre-Nord regions. UNHCR has over 40 staff deployed in Dori and Djibo (Sahel) and recently opened a field office in Kaya (Centre-Nord). Protection monitoring, capacity building and coordinated efforts on shelter and basic relief items with humanitarian actors and the Government of Burkina Faso are ongoing so as to ensure an adequate response to the situation.
3. **Mixed Movements:** Burkina Faso is a **transit country for migratory movements northwards**. These migratory flows are mixed and consist of economic migrants, as well as persons in need of international protection.
4. **Statelessness:** The operation has carried out important work offering **documents** to people without a nationality and to IDPs who have lost their documents while fleeing. Without documents, people are struggling to realize their fundamental human rights, are at risk of arbitrary detention and cannot access basic services. Since the beginning of the year, **2 000 IDPs in Foubé and Barsalogo, 10 000 citizens in Barsalogo and Dablo (Centre-Nord region) and 10 000 citizens in Gayeri, Foutouri and Bartiebougou (Est region)** have received a birth certificate. More actions on documentation are planned in the weeks to come.



## Security Situation

The Sahelian strip in Africa is experiencing growing insecurity. Burkina Faso has seen the growth of local non-state armed groups in tandem with or as part of Jama'at Nasr al-Islam wal Muslimin and Islamic State in the Greater Sahara, allying with pre-existing criminal networks and exploiting underlying social tensions.

Today, insecurity and criminality are rapidly spreading and are mainly, but not only, affecting areas in the Sahel, North, East and Southeast of the country, along border areas with conflict-affected Mali and Niger. The situation is aggravating the vulnerability of refugees, host and displaced populations. We have witnessed incursions in villages, attacks against state and religious institutions and killings of civil servants, religious leaders and security forces. In response to the deterioration of the security situation, the defense and security forces have increased their presence and began counterterrorism operations.

Increasing insecurity, including attacks taking place in both refugee camps, car hijacks and kidnappings of humanitarian staff, and a resulting lack of humanitarian access in out of camp areas and many IDP hosting areas, continues to pose huge challenges. However, the field offices in the Sahel region are still operational, a new office has been opened in Kaya and assistance continues.



Map Sources: UNCS and UNHCR

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Creation date: 07.03.2019.



**PROTECTION**

- Since over a year, UNHCR and its partners have sensitized **Malian refugees** living in border areas to move to safer locations where humanitarian actors will have access to them. Due to increased insecurity in refugee hosting areas, 161 refugees, formerly settled in out of camp areas in Oudalan Province, have decided to relocate to Goudoubo refugee camp since the beginning of the year. Since January, 405 Malian refugees have chosen to return to Mali with assistance, including a cash grant, offered by UNHCR.
- In addition to its regular refugee and statelessness focused program, the operation has developed an **IDP strategy** and responded to the Government's call to assist those who have been displaced. UNHCR has taken up an active role in IDP coordination and leads the Shelter/NFI and Protection sectors. All reports on IDP coordination can be found on [this website](#).
- Upon request of the Government, UNHCR has provided several trainings, amongst others on key protection principles, registration, emergency humanitarian coordination and camp coordination and camp management (CCCM). In total, over **250 humanitarian staff and Government officials** involved in the coordination and management of the emergency response **have been trained by UNHCR** since the start of the IDP operation.
- In order to strengthen the Government's capacities on **registration**, UNHCR has helped the *Conseil National de Secours d'Urgence et de Réhabilitation* (CONASUR), the Government entity in charge of IDP coordination, to design and code a registration form. UNHCR has donated a vehicle and 50 tablets equipped with a data collection tool to CONASUR and has trained CONASUR staff on registration. Registration activities with the new data collection tool have debuted on the 16<sup>th</sup> of May in Kaya (Centre-Nord).
- UNHCR has reinvigorated the existing **joint refugee-host community committees** and has trained the committee members on the peaceful management of conflicts **thanks to funds received from the UN Peacebuilding Fund**. Together with UNDP and local authorities, UNHCR has sensitized traditional and religious leaders and local government officials in the Sahel and Centre Nord regions on **social cohesion** while actively engaging refugees, IDPs, women and youth organizations in dialogue. Similar joint actions are scheduled to take place in other localities over the coming months.
- UNHCR and Danish Refugee Council have carried out activities of **protection monitoring** in Soum and Oudalan provinces (Sahel region) thanks to a network of community liaisons who have access to areas where the UN can no longer go. An extension of these activities to Centre Nord region has been planned.



**SHELTER AND NFIS**



The **Refugee Housing Unit (RHU)** is a self-standing, sustainable and durable shelter, designed through a collaboration between UNHCR, the social enterprise Better Shelter and the IKEA Foundation.

© UNHCR / Karim Sombie

- Shelter and basic relief needs** are extremely high. Host communities are no longer able to absorb the continuous and multiple displacements and feel overwhelmed. In line with the Government's strategy, and with support of the **Central Emergency Response Fund**, UNHCR is offering shelter and core relief items to the most vulnerable IDPs and families hosting them.



*Housseini, 67, has been living in Dori for 17 years and is hosting 28 relatives from his extended family after receiving a phone call one night, three months ago, from his cousin Lamine who had arrived at Dori's bus station needing a place to stay © UNHCR / Romain Desclous*

- IDPs, refugees and their host communities are struggling in the aftermath of storms that mark the rainy season and have drenched parts of the country. The storms have damaged hundreds of temporary shelters in the refugee camps and IDP sites. **The 139 refugee housing units (RHU) donated by UNHCR and installed in Foube (60), Barsalogo (26) in Centre-Nord region and Arbinda (53) in Sahel region have resisted the tempest.** An additional number of 2150 RHU have been ordered; 816 have reached Burkina Faso and are ready to be installed in various IDP hosting localities in Centre-Nord region during the month of June. UNHCR has trained government staff and humanitarian actors on the installation of these units in the field.



Coordinated by UNHCR, the sectoral group Shelter/NFI has developed a standard kit with **core relief items** (estimated at 214 USD/household).

In Djibo, UNHCR has targeted **1981 vulnerable households** and has given them each two buckets and two 20-liter jerry cans. In Dori, UNHCR has supported CONASUR with 300 mats, 300 jerry cans and two tents.

© UNHCR/ Thierry ZINTA THIANOUN - Female beneficiary of core relief items in Djibo.

- A main challenge is linked to the **high cost** of RHUs and **logistic and administrative costs** to transport these innovative shelter solutions to Burkina Faso. To speed up procedures and to reduce costs, the sectoral group working on shelter/NFI, coordinated by UNHCR, has turned to **cash based interventions (CBI)**. CBI can revitalize local trade and economic recovery in IDP hosting areas. With the cash for shelter approach, the beneficiaries will be able to **transform the temporary RHUs or build their own shelters using local materials**, adapted to the harsh Sahelian climate conditions. According to first estimations, locally constructed shelters are less expensive than RHU. Households will be assisted with cash grants up to 200 000 FCFA (357 USD).
- A regional expert has **trained staff on procedures for cash based interventions** and contacts were tightened with WFP, who is already implementing a similar strategy for food distributions, and the private sector, who will be a partner for implementation.
- With the support of the **European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF)** project, UNHCR and the Government of Burkina Faso aim to facilitate the socio-economic integration of Malian refugees and **gradually transform refugee camps into villages** adapted to the national context and the Sahelian climate conditions. UNHCR has built 35 constructions in clay for the most vulnerable households and is looking to get more development partners on board to continue and extend this pilot project.



### **COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE**

- With the support of the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF) and funds from the US Department of State (BPRM) given directly to UNHCR's partners on the ground, UNHCR is organizing livelihood activities, mainly on herding and artisanal production, and trainings to enable refugees to become gradually self-reliant.
- The World Bank has partnered up with UNHCR and will support the Government of Burkina Faso with a 14 million USD grant for refugee households and their host communities in the Nord, Boucle du Mouhoun and Sahel regions. The main focus will be on cash grants, a basic social safety net, livelihood opportunities, education and emergency preparedness.



**EDUCATION**



**WATER AND SANITATION**



**HEALTH**

- The arrival of IDPs to new locations has an important impact on access to education, water supply and health services. The **additional burden on already limited natural resources and basic social infrastructure** may cause tensions between newly displaced people and host communities.
- **Insecurity has an enormous impact on access of populations to education and health services in Mentao refugee camp.** The primary school in Mentao camp is closed since 17 December 2018; secondary schools in Djibo have suspended courses since 19 March 2019 following the killing of two teachers on the road between Djibo and Bourzanga. UNHCR has **relocated 18 refugee students** from Mentao refugee camp to Goudoubo refugee camp. This action will allow them to participate to their finals. Moreover, the health center in Mentao refugee camp has closed since 25 May 2019 following an attack targeting UNHCR's international health partner CSSI and the kidnapping of 3 local staff. Construction works for a new health center (CSPS) in Mentao camp have been halted since the May attack.

- In Goudoubo, a **secondary school is under construction** and almost finished. The new building will allow refugee girls to continue their education nearby their homes, because their parents are often reluctant to send girls to the town of Dori to attend classes. Youngsters from surrounding villages will also have access to the school.



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## VIP visits

The Chair of UNHCR's governing Executive Committee (EXCOM) has visited Burkina Faso. In Goudoubo's refugee camp, he has met with refugees, visited the primary school, the health center, the crafts center and the secondary school which is currently under construction. He has also met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Security, local authorities, UN representatives and NGOs.



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## Key Challenges

With insecurity on the rise in Burkina Faso and neighboring countries, UNHCR fears more displacement, both internally and into the neighboring countries, and increased humanitarian needs over the coming months.

- The high risk of **car hijacks and kidnappings** continues to pose the biggest challenge in several areas of Burkina Faso. The main consequence is the **lack of humanitarian access** in out of camp areas and many IDP hosting localities. This is particularly cumbersome in the Sahel region, where the majority of IDPs and 98% of Malian refugees are residing.
- Refugees and IDPs are subject to **protection risks and risks of conflict** with the local population over scarce natural resources such as wood or water. Gender-based violence is on the rise.
- With the **rainy season** coming up, sturdy **shelter for IDPs** able to withstand the lashing **rain** and high winds is urgently needed.

## UNHCR Presence in Burkina Faso

**Staff & Officer:** UNHCR counts a total of 85 national and international staff (*this includes consultants and affiliate workforce*) and has 1 Representation in Ouagadougou, 1 Field Office in Dori, 1 Field Unit in Djibo and Kaya and 1 Antenna Office in Bobo-Dioulasso. UNHCR has over 40 staff based in Dori and Djibo (Sahel region).

Since the month of May, [UNHCR has facilitated the establishment of a UN common office in Kaya](#) (Centre-Nord), and will soon open an office in Ouahigouya (Nord) to scale up its IDP response.

## Partners

Government of Burkina Faso (**CONAREF** – *Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés* and **CONASUR** – *Conseil National de Secours d'Urgence et de Réhabilitation*), Danish Refugee Council (**DRC**), Centre de Support en Santé Internationale (**CSSI**), Christian Relief and Development Organization (**CREDO**), Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgique (**VSF-B**), African Initiatives for Relief and Development (**AIRD**).

## Financial information

**Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to 7,588,910 M USD**  
Thanks to the **Central Emergency Response Fund**, the **European Union**, **Private Donors** and the **UN Peacebuilding Fund**.

### Special thanks to the major donor of softly earmarked contributions

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## CONTACTS

**Mrs. Marlies Cardoen**, Associate External Relations and Reporting Officer

[cardoen@unhcr.org](mailto:cardoen@unhcr.org), Tel: +226 25 36 10 28, Cell +226 65 50 47 86

**Mr. Moussa Bougma**, Senior PI Assistant

[bougma@unhcr.org](mailto:bougma@unhcr.org), Tel: +226 25 36 10 28, Cell +226 65 50 47 69

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