Burkina Faso

COUNTRY OPERATION UPDATE
OCTOBER 2019

POPULATION OF CONCERN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Internally Displaced Persons</td>
<td>486,360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refugees and asylum seekers</td>
<td>466</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New arrivals</td>
<td>8,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malian refugees</td>
<td>25,721</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* UNHCR figures (30 Sept. 2019)
** Government of Burkina Faso figures (July 2018)
*** Government of Burkina Faso figures (08 Oct. 2019)

FUNDING (AS OF 22 OCT. 2019)

USD 30.3 Million
needed for the Burkina Faso Country Operation

66% Funded
34% Unfunded

KEY INDICATORS

16,000
Estimation of number of Burkinabe citizens who have looked for safety in neighboring countries

56,000
Number of birth certificates UNHCR has helped to deliver to IDPs and host communities since January 2019.

486,360
people forced to flee their homes who have remained in Burkina Faso (situation of 8

IDP woman in Barsalogho © UNHCR /Marjanna Bergman

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Operational Context

The security situation in Burkina Faso, mainly in the Sahel, Centre-Nord and Nord regions remains volatile. Between September and October 2019, the number of internally displaced persons doubled, following violent attacks perpetrated in several villages in the Centre Nord, Sahel and Nord regions. Despite the increase of counter-terrorist operations by Defense and Security Forces in the affected regions, extremist forces continue to harm, kidnapping and killing more and more civilians.

Humanitarian access to refugees and internally displaced populations has become very risky and dangerous in some areas such as Djibo, Barsalogho, Kelbo, and out of camp areas in Oudalan province.

Yet, needs continue to grow as people move to find safety in areas with already limited natural and economic resources. Under its mandate, UNHCR remains operational and continues to deliver in the Sahel (Dori and Djibo) and the Centre-Nord regions while taking risk-mitigating measures to protect its personnel in the field.

**PROTECTION**

- Protection monitoring carried out on Wendu IDP site in Dori during the reporting period pointed out: a lack of latrines exposing IDP to water-borne diseases; child labour, exploitation of girls employed as housemaids, separated children exposed to exploitation; trauma caused by exposition to insecurity incidents;
- Core needs of IDP remain: food, shelter, identity documents, latrines, hygiene kits for girls, water supply, education for displaced children.
- 44 Malian refugees received cash grant for voluntary repatriation from Mentao camp. The reason for their departure is mainly insecurity in their area of refuge, which hampers their livelihood. They prefer going back to Mali, to their home country, although the security situation is similar to Burkina Faso.
- 53 migrants of various nationalities were profiled and sensitized on the risks of irregular migration; 05 vulnerable among them were referred to UNHCR’s transit center in Dori to be assisted before being referenced to IOM for voluntary repatriation.
- Protection monitoring mission in Centre-Nord region allowed the identification of a case of 18 unaccompanied children taken care of by a 12-year-old girl. They benefited from a distribution of food and core relief items and will soon receive shelter provision from UNHCR. Appropriate assistance is being provided to them.

**SHELTER AND NFI**

- 50 Refugee Housing Units (RHU) and 100 emergency shelters were respectively constructed in Pissila and Barsalogho in favor of IDP who occupied schools; while the construction of another 100 shelters is on-going in Barsalogho, a total of 520 IDP were moved from the schools in Pissila to live in the 50 constructed RHU.
- 587 internally displaced households received core relief items in Djibo;
- 57 IDP households of 623 individuals were successfully relocated from schools and hosted in villas made available by local authorities in Kaya;
COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE

- **20 refugee women** including 15 from Goudoubo camp and 5 from Mentao camp are being trained in leather craft. This training is aimed at building their income generating capacities to improve their resilience and self-reliance in such a protracted refugee situation.

- **36 refugees and 9 persons from the host community** managing income generating activities received cash grants of up to XOF 70,000 each, from CRS to improve their businesses in Goudoubo and Mentao;

- **200 sick animals** from the refugee community received veterinary treatment in Mentao;

- **1,120 refugee children and 44 host children** from Goudoubo primary school received school materials including hygiene kits distributed to girls by UNHCR and its education partner DRC;

- Constructed under co-funding from the European Union Trust Fund, the **secondary school near Goudoubo** is operational with four classrooms since October 1st, 2019. In total, **120 students are enrolled in the school**. All of the students are refugees, including 14 girls and 106 boys.
Key Challenges

- With the increase of insecurity in the Sahel, mainly in Djibo, access to Mentao camp has become very difficult and risky. This jeopardizes UNHCR and its partners’ efforts and actions in favor of Malian refugees in the camp, putting the latter in a more vulnerable situation.
- 291 refugee children cannot access to education in Djibo due to insecurity that forced schools to close since 2017. The primary school in Mentao that remained open for a few months was finally closed in December 2018 for the sake of insecurity.
- Humanitarian needs continue to grow as the number of displacements keeps augmenting dramatically;
- 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, especially due to the fact that some IDP women trying to go back to their villages of origin to fetch food or other household goods are often attacked, beaten or raped.

UNHCR Presence in Burkina Faso

Staff & Offices: UNHCR counts a total of 98 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).

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 International (CSSI), Christian Relief and Development Organization (CREDO), Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgique (VSF-B), African Initiatives for Relief and Development (AIRD), Mouvement Burkinabe des Droits de l’Homme et des Peuples (MBDHP), PLAN INTERNATIONAL, NRC, Initiative De Cooperation Et D’appui Aux Actions Humanitaires et de Developpement (ICAHD), InterSOS.

Financial information

The total recorded contributions for the operation amount to USD 20,206,846 Million as of October 22, 2019.

Thanks to the Central Emergency Response Fund, the European Union Trust Fund, Italy, France, USA, Denmark, Private Donors and the UN Peacebuilding Fund.

Special thanks to the major donor of softly earmarked contributions

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