

Burkina Faso

September 2017

Burkina Faso hosts 33 500 Malian refugees living in and around **two camps in the Sahel**. The country knows also some **urban refugees** and is a **transit country for mixed migratory flows**.

Given the prolonged crisis in Mali, UNHCR reoriented its programs towards **resilience and progressive empowerment** in order to make the refugee population less aid-dependent.

The **host population** is actively involved in all programs and projects of UNHCR, which strongly impacts **local development in the host community**.

KEY INDICATORS

34 207*

*Population of concern as of 31 May 2017,
Of which 33 051 Malian refugees

85%*

*Funding gap as of September 2017

21 300 000*

Dollar requested for the Burkina Faso situation

FUNDING AS OF SEPTEMBER 2017

USD 21,30 M

requested for the Burkina Faso situation

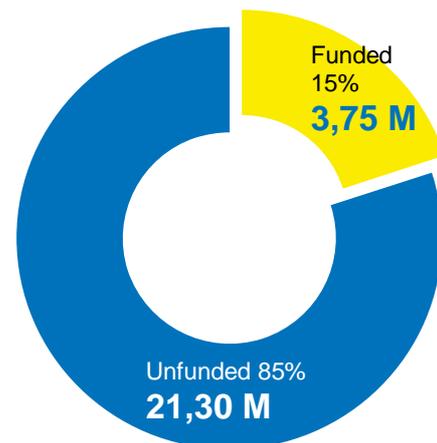


Figure 1 Tuareg men in Goudoubo Camp © UNHCR / Marlies Cardoen

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Host Countries



* The majority of refugees in Burkina Faso are Malian, residing in Goudebo Camp (10,536), Mentao Camp (12,782), outside the camps (8,800) and in urban areas such as Bobo-Dioulasso and Ouagadougou (1383).

Update on Achievements

Operational Context

In Northern Burkina Faso, where most of Malian refugees are settled, the security situation remains volatile. Next to military interventions and terrorist attacks, several cases of hijacking of vehicles, targeted assassinations and kidnappings have been witnessed in recent months. Refugees, especially those settled outside camps, are increasingly stigmatized and associated with the deteriorating security conditions, while the security incidents might have a psychological and collateral impact on aid workers and beneficiaries of aid programs.

The government has aligned a zone where military operations will be conducted and prohibits trans-border movements of the refugee population settled outside the camps within this perimeter, with the exception of a transhumance corridor to the borehole called "Forage Christine". UNHCR stands ready to relocate a part of those refugees settled outside the camps, as well as their cattle, to a safe zone.



Figure 2 Malian refugee child in Goudoubo Camp © UNHCR / Marlies Cardoen

Achievements



PROTECTION

Protection Cluster

- The Protection Cluster has carried out the registration and verification operation **BIMS (Biometric Identity Management System)** in Burkina Faso. Building on the use of biometrics, **BIMS** will support all standard registration activities and help to better register and protect people, verify their identity and target assistance.
- The Government of Burkina Faso has recently ratified the **1961 Convention on the reduction of statelessness**.

Achievements and Impact

- An international consultant has been recruited to make an in-depth analysis of the situation of **mixed migratory flows** in Burkina Faso, in order to better protect persons falling under the mandate of UNHCR.
- A workshop was held to inform and to raise awareness on the situation of **internally displaced persons in Burkina Faso**. Thanks to this workshop, the participants from government and associations active in Burkina now have a better knowledge of the legal framework for protection of internally displaced persons as well as the content of the Kampala Convention.
- The office advocated actively on the eradication of statelessness in Burkina Faso. This resulted in the eradication of the **1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness** by the government of Burkina Faso, which should lead to the prevention of statelessness in the country and reduce it over time.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- 12 000 persons are waiting for a new **refugee identity card**.
- Additional funds are urgently needed in order to carry out activities with regards to the **issuance of birth certificates and nationality certificates** due to high levels of statelessness in different border regions in Burkina Faso.
- Due to a lack of funding, UNHCR is unable to provide birth certificates to **stateless people** living in border areas nor to provide nationality certificates to people who find themselves in a legally difficult situation.

**EDUCATION****Achievements and Impact**

- UNHCR ensures optimal access to education for refugee children and children from the host population. UNHCR provides pre-school and primary education services in the camps while maintaining the infrastructures.
- The **proclamation of educational outcomes of the primary education tests** took place in both camps: 94% of the students in Mentao Camp have passed the test while 91% in Goudoubo Camp received a certificate.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Today, there are 48 classrooms in both consolidated camps in the Sahel. Due to a lack of space, the school canteens have temporarily been transformed in classrooms. With additional funding, UNHCR will construct up to 10 additional classrooms and foresee in school equipment and didactic material.
- Due to a lack of funding, UNHCR is unable to foresee professional trainings to its people of concern, and more particularly to youth, prone to negative coping mechanisms and radicalization.

**HEALTH****Achievements and Impact**

- Host populations living in villages nearby the camps have access to the health centers in the camps. This has a great impact on peaceful coexistence and the general well-being of the host population.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- UNHCR is looking into the integration of the health centers in the camps into the existing local health structures, in the framework of gradual transfer of competences to the Burkinabe authorities.



FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR contributes to improve the nutritional well-being of the refugee households by preventing and treating malnutrition.
- UNHCR supervises WFP's monthly food distribution in the refugee camps, which had a coverage rate of 99% last month.
- UNHCR foresees milk distributions in school canteens for each child between 6 months and 5 years old in the framework of its Seeds for Solutions programme.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- From September 2017 onwards, WFP will face shortfalls involving both in-kind food and cash which could lead to a complete interruption of food and nutritional assistance. Additional contributions are urgently required to pursue food assistance from September 2017.
- UNHCR currently foresees in milk distributions in school canteens for each child between 6 months and 5 years old. This program will come to an end in 2017.



WATER AND SANITATION

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR ensures access to safe and potable water by maintaining water supply and sanitation systems and by raising awareness on water preservation and hygiene.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Due to a lack of funding, hygiene kits to women refugees have not been distributed.

**SHELTER AND NFIS****Shelter and NFIs Cluster**

- **UNHCR ensures access to shelter that provides a secure and healthy environment with privacy, comfort and dignity.**

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR maintains traditional emergency shelters and constructs dome tents.
- UNHCR continues to give assistance through Cash Based Interventions in accordance with the level of economic empowerment.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Friday 29 July at dusk, **a strong wind and a heavy rainfall** caused enormous material damage at **Goudoubo Camp**. 117 shelters fell, 224 shelters were torn and 341 shelters are in bad condition.
- UNHCR assessed important gaps with regards to non-food items, notably blankets, buckets, jerry cans, kitchen sets, mosquito nets, soap and dignity kits.

**ACCESS TO ENERGY****Achievements and Impact**

- UNHCR promotes environment-friendly practices and ensures access to domestic energy by distributing gas and promoting the use of solar cookers and developing innovate solutions.
- UNHCR provides lamps for children so they can study at home after school.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Due to a lack of funding, many refugee households have not been able to benefit from the distribution of gaz.



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR invests in capacity building projects and activities with regard to vocational training in order to strengthen economic empowerment and self-reliance of people in a protracted refugee situation. The project Seeds for Solutions contributes to refugee's resilience through capacity building and asset strengthening in the field of craftwork business and milk production.
- UNHCR contributes to peaceful coexistence by letting the local population benefit from assistance contributing to the amelioration of their socio-economic situation and resilience. This has an impact on the local development of the host areas.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Additional vocational training and resilience projects are urgently needed in order to prevent negative coping mechanisms, including radicalization and joining armed groups.



DURABLE SOLUTIONS

Achievements and Impact

- As security conditions are not conducive for a return in safety and dignity, UNHCR contributes to local integration of refugees into the host communities by activities fostering peaceful coexistence.
- Only 217 refugees have benefitted from voluntary return during the first months of 2017.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Additional funds are needed to engage the host population into our activities.

Working in partnership

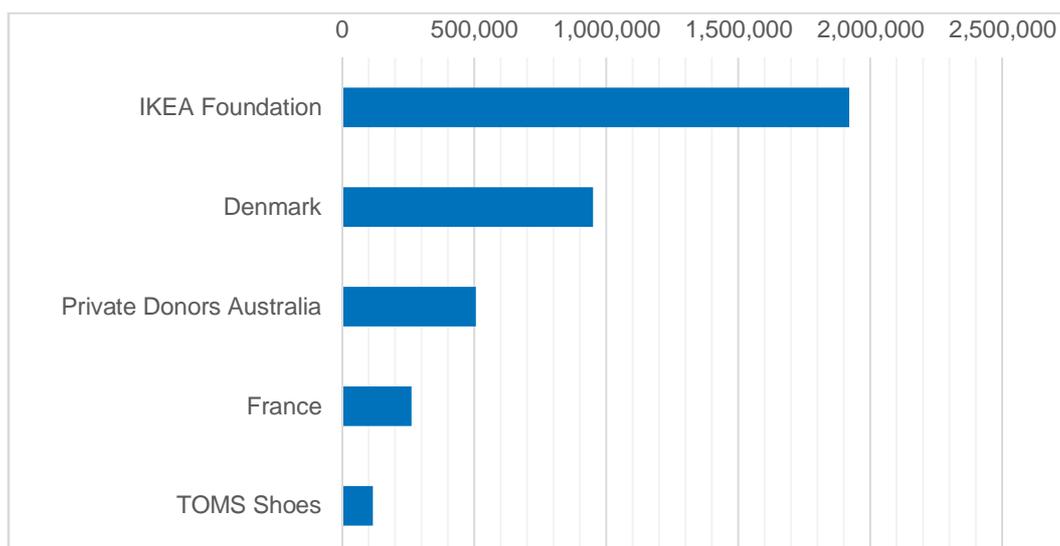
- UNHCR brings together and coordinates humanitarian and development actors as well as national/local counter-parts, each based on their comparative advantages.
- UNHCR works in close cooperation with its government counterpart, the **National Commission for Refugees (CONAREF)**, and with operational and implementing partner organizations. In general, UNHCR is actively reaching out to the government and development actors in the region in order to take into account the needs of the refugee population into development plans and projects.
- UNHCR collaborates on various fronts with **other UN agencies** in the spirit of delivering as one, soliciting support and cooperation in highlighting refugee issues. With the monitoring support of UNHCR, WFP provides food and cash assistance to Malian refugees in the Sahel region; UNFPA participates in the implementation of activities with regards to gender-based violence; WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA support health structures; with FAO, UNHCR improves the food security status and livestock management; with UNICEF, UNHCR collaborates in the field of child protection, nutrition and education and UNDP intervenes in the prevention of communitarian conflict.
- UNHCR is working towards achieving **synergies with national development planning and international development activities**, through processes such as Delivering as One (DaO), the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).
- UNHCR wants to integrate the refugee question into **national development programs** and projects of other development actors.

Financial Information

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 3,752,006 million**.

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programs with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds.

Funding received (in million USD)



External / Donors Relations

Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds

USA (95 M) | Sweden (76 M) | Netherlands (52 M) | Norway (41 M) | Private Donors Spain (24 M) | Denmark (23 M) | Australia (19 M) | Switzerland (15 M) | France (14 M) | Germany (12 M) |

Thanks to other donors of unrestricted and regional funds

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Annex

Overview of the UNHCR operation in Burkina Faso

