

Burkina Faso

December 2017 – February 2018

23 874 Malian refugees, mainly residing in Sahel Region, are today in a **protracted refugee situation**. UNHCR offers protection, basic assistance and works on **resilience and economic empowerment**.

Burkina Faso is increasingly becoming a **transit country for mixed migratory flows**. The priority of the office is to let people know that Burkina Faso can be a **country of asylum** for those who are in need of international protection.

The country also knows **stateless persons and population at risk of statelessness**. With the Government, UNHCR works on the implementation of a national action plan to eradicate statelessness by 2024.

KEY INDICATORS

24 310*

***Population of concern** as of 31 January 2018,
Of which 23 874 Malian refugees

92%*

***Funding gap** as of February 2018

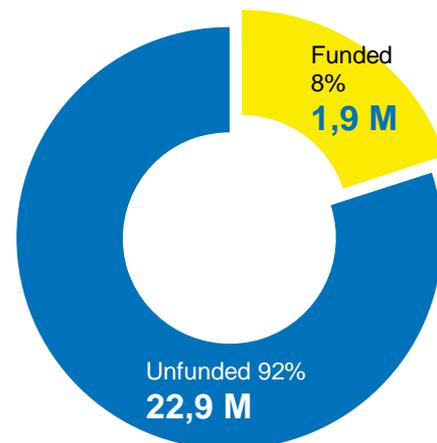
22 900 000*

Dollar **requested** for the Burkina Faso situation

FUNDING AS OF FEBRUARY 2018

USD 22,90 M

requested for the Burkina Faso situation

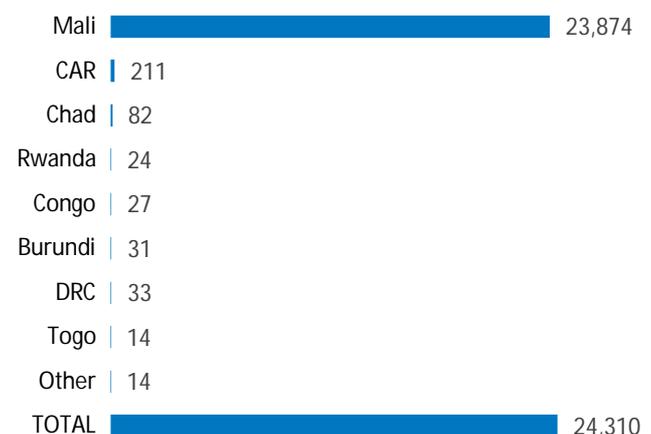


Tuareg refugee at Goudoubo Camp's weekly market

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POPULATION OF CONCERN

Countries of origin



Update on Achievements

Operational Context

The security situation in the refugee hosting region Sahel, and notably in certain out of camp areas along the Malian border in Soum and Oudalan Provinces, is rapidly deteriorating through recurrent acts of terrorism and banditry. National and international military presence in the area has been reinforced.

The population is put under pressure to leave the areas. According to ICRC, 15 000 Burkinabe citizens are internally displaced in Soum Province, while an estimated 2 to 3000 Burkinabe citizens fled over the border to look for safety in neighboring Mali. Some Malian refugees settled in the out of camp areas along the Malian border are also reported to have crossed the border. Registration in the Malian reception areas is ongoing by UNHCR Mali and the Malian government. At the same time, new Malian refugees continue to flee to Burkina Faso, as they arrive in the Sahel Region and in Loroum Province. The implementation of the G5 Sahel Force in Mali and Burkina Faso could potentially cause additional displacement on both sides of the border.

The escalation of violence in the Sahel continues to impact on the UNHCR operation for Malian refugees in Burkina Faso. The avalanche of security incidents has an impact on the well-being and safety of staff and people of concern. The protection space for refugees, especially those settled outside camps, becomes smaller every day. Access to refugees in the out-of-camp areas is almost impossible. The restriction of movements and the curfew diminish the impact of livelihood activities. Despite the generosity of Burkina Faso, most Malian refugee families – and many in their host communities – fall below the poverty line and struggle to meet basic needs. Some schools in the out of camp areas are closed while parents are fearful to send their children to school. In coordination with the Government, UNHCR is tasked to relocate refugees settled in spontaneous sites in Oudalan and Soum Province to Goudoubo and Mentao camp while safe hosting areas nearby will welcome nomadic refugee pastoralists and their cattle.



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Achievements



Achievements and Impact

- In cooperation with its government counterpart CONAREF, UNHCR contributes to a favorable protection environment for Malian refugees living in the volatile Sahel region. Legal documents such as refugee attestations, travel documents, identity cards and birth certificates for newborns were issued, people with specific needs identified and gender based violence addressed.
- In coordination with the Government, UNHCR is preparing **the relocation of approximately 9000 refugees living in the out of camp areas** to Goudoubo and Mentao Camps, zones which offer a favorable protection environment and access to basic social services. Neighboring communes Déou, Pobé and Bourzanga have been identified to host nomadic pastoralists and their cattle.
- Several missions took place to discuss with refugees about the relocation plans and inform them to get prepared for it. A protection team sensitized its people of concern about the importance to live peacefully with the local population.
- Due to the deterioration of the security situation, ICRC estimates that over 15 000 people are internally displaced in Soum Province. Some 2000 to 3000 Burkinabe citizens crossed the border to look for safety in neighboring Mali. They are currently being registered by UNHCR Mali and its national counterpart.
- In February 2018, UNHCR witnessed the arrival of an estimated 300 new Malian refugees belonging to the Dogon ethnicity into Burkina Faso's Loroum Province. The caseload of Malian refugees are settled in Soum, Oudalan and Seno Provinces, where registrations also continue to take place. In 2017, 917 new arrivals from Mali were registered.
- Sensitizations session on social cohesion and respect for the humanitarian and civilian character of asylum were undertaken in the refugee camps.
- Capacity building trainings on international protection and respect for the humanitarian and civilian character of asylum were carried out and reached the 40 additional security forces reassigned in both camps (Mentao and Goudoubo).
- As part of MOU on security in the camps, material and logistic support (vehicles and motorcycles) were provided to the security forces.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The protection space becomes smaller every day as Malian refugees are increasingly stigmatized and associated with the deteriorating security environment. Maintaining the humanitarian and civil character of asylum is challenging. Some schools in out of camp areas have been closed and parents are fearful to send their children to school.
- Among the identified needs and remaining gaps, the relocation of refugees to safe zones will entail enormous costs. Additional funds are needed to continue to ensure a favorable protection environment for its people of concern.



EDUCATION

Achievements and Impact

- Efforts for access and quality education at all levels (preschool primary, secondary, tertiary, vocational training) are being made by the government, UNHCR, other UN agencies and implementing partners. Following awareness campaigns, UNHCR was able to send 4308 children inside and outside the camps to school in 2017, of which 46% were girls.
- As part of the Education Strategy for Refugees, UNHCR includes refugee children of concern in national education systems and advocate for such opportunities to be available, accessible, affordable, acceptable and appropriate. At the same time, children from the host community are welcome in the schools in the camps.
- Thanks to the EU Trust Fund, UNHCR will foresee in school equipment and didactic material.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- With regard to secondary education, only 2% of youth in the camps go to school as schools are often far away from the areas where refugees are settled in. Residing in urban areas is a luxury most refugee households cannot afford.
- Some youngsters have received professional training but start-up kits and additional certified long-term trainings adapted to the needs of refugees and to the local job market are urgently needed.
- The relocation of refugees will create new needs with regard to education; funds are needed to support youngsters to get an education.
- Due to insecurity in the Sahel, many schools have closed and teachers are reluctant to continue educational activities out of fear for terrorist violence.

**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.
- Thanks to a contribution of the EU Trust Fund, UNHCR can integrate the health centers in the camps into the existing local health structures. This frames in the gradual transfer of competences to the authorities.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The relocation of refugees will create additional needs with regard to health; funds are needed to increase access to health services.

**FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION****Achievements and Impact**

- Following the request for food that the office submitted to the Burkinabe government to assist refugees in supplement to gaps initially announced by WFP, 100 tons of rice have been made available.
- Thanks to contributions from USA (PRM and USAID), ECHO, France and Japan, WFP will be able to cover the gap in the pipeline until July 2018, as far as the food is concerned, and until August with regards to cash.
- Whereas UNHCR and its partners used to give an assistance based on refugee status, the office proceeded to a targeted assistance based on vulnerability status.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- From August onwards, WFP will face shortfalls involving food and from September onwards, both in-kind food and cash. This could lead to a complete interruption of food and nutritional assistance. Additional contributions are required to pursue food assistance and cash.
- UNHCR was able to reach a 0% malnutrition rate in the camps thanks to weekly milk distributions to children aged 6 months and 5 years. Due to underfunding, the program was suspended as of January 2018.

**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.
- A hydraulic expert will assess possibilities with regard to water, hygiene and drainage on the sites where refugees will be relocated to as well as the level of groundwater.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Additional funds are needed for the rehabilitation of water infrastructure; additional boreholes will be needed following the relocation of refugees.

**SHELTER AND NFIS****Achievements and Impact**

- Thanks to the contribution of the EU Trust Fund, the office was able to maintain traditional emergency shelters adapted to the climate conditions in the Sahel.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- UNHCR anticipates to important gaps with regards to non-food items, notably blankets, buckets, jerry cans, kitchen sets, mosquito nets, soap and dignity kits after the relocation.

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

- UNHCR promotes environment-friendly practices and ensures access to domestic energy by distributing gas and developing innovate solutions.
- The camps and nearby villages have been equipped with lamps; a hybrid system is giving energy to 4 water pumps in the camps and solar energy provides the health centers in the camps.
- UNHCR provides lamps for children so they can study at home after school.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The arrival of new refugees and the relocation will only increase the need for additional funds to foresee in access to energy.
- With additional funds, more hybrid systems could be installed to provide energy to water pumps.
- Following the rehabilitation and construction of the health centers, the solar energy installation will have to be readapted.



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE

Achievements and Impact

- Thanks to funds made available by the IKEA Foundation, UNHCR and its partners were able to contribute to the self-reliance and socio-economic well-being of Malian refugees and host communities through the Seeds for Solutions project, which established sustainable dairy and artisan micro-enterprises. The project strengthened socio-economic ties between host communities and refugees.
- The camps remain open spaces where the host community can access basic social services such as access to water, health services and education. The local population can benefit from various resilience programs, which contributes to their local development.
- End of 2017, the weekly market of Goudoubo Camp was inaugurated and will contribute to enhanced exchange between both populations.
- UNHCR and its partners continue to give assistance to refugees through Cash Based Interventions in accordance with the level of economic empowerment.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Certified vocational long-term trainings are urgently needed for refugees, especially the youth, in order to prevent negative coping mechanisms, including radicalization, dangerous migration to Libya and joining armed groups.
- Micro-enterprises set up in the framework of the Seeds for Solutions project need to be strengthened and linked up to micro financial institutions to improve their self-reliance.

**DURABLE SOLUTIONS****Achievements and Impact**

- UNHCR and the Government of Burkina Faso consider that the situation in Northern Mali is not yet conducive for promoting voluntary repatriation. Facilitated return will continue as long as the conditions for formally encouraging repatriation are not met. Thanks to contributions of the EU Trust Fund, 1297 Malian refugees were able to return to their home countries between 1st July 2017 and 31st December 2017. They have all received a cash grant to support their return.
- The results of the BIMS operation show that 93% of Malian refugees prefers to stay in Burkina Faso as long as security conditions in their home towns and villages are not conducive for return; only 51% wish to return in the future. Today, local integration is the preferred option while camps are gradually being transformed into villages.
- All urban protracted refugee cases have been evaluated to assess their eligibility for resettlement while UNHCR continues to advocate for naturalization.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

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



Tuareg woman beneficiary of the Seeds for Solutions project for refugee women weavers

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Working in partnership

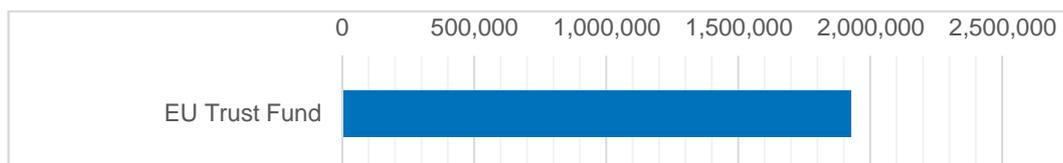
- UNHCR brings together and coordinates humanitarian and development actors as well as national and local counter-parts, each based on their comparative advantages.
- UNHCR works in close cooperation with its government counterpart, the **National Commission for Refugees (CONAREF)**, and with operational 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\$ 1,926,100 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

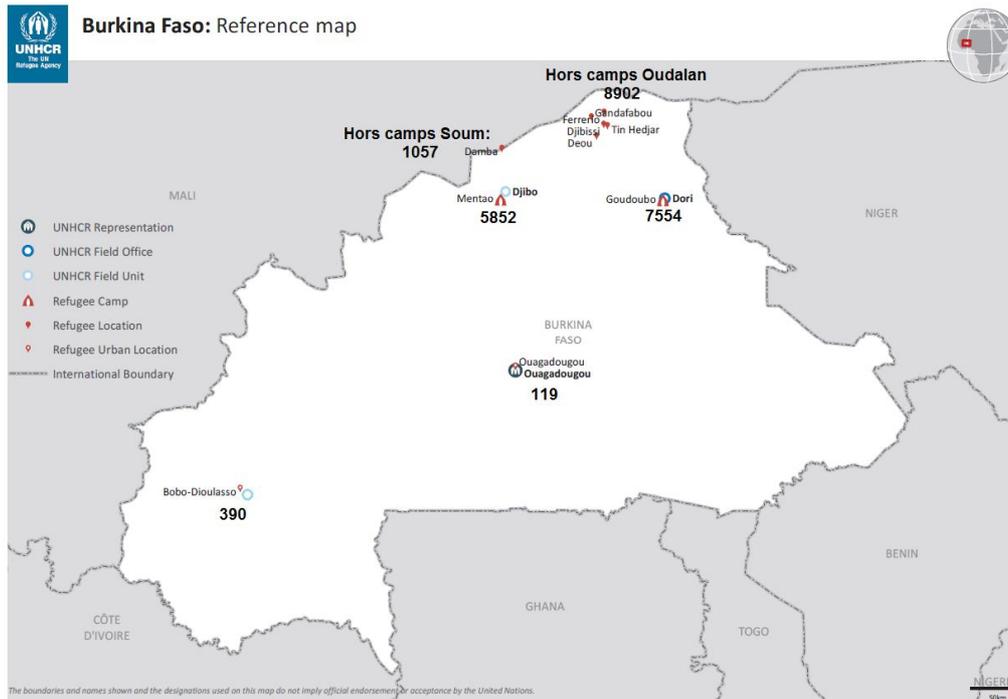
Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds

Sweden (98 M) | Norway (43 M) | Netherlands (39 M) | United Kingdom (32 M) | Denmark (25 M) | Australia (19 M) | Switzerland (15 M)

Thanks to other donors of unrestricted and regional funds

Algeria | Bosnia and Herzegovina | Canada | Chile | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Indonesia | Kuwait | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Serbia | Singapore | Sri Lanka | Thailand | Turkey | UN Peacebuilding Fund | United Arab Emirates | Uruguay | Private donors

Burkina Faso reference map



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