

# Annual Results Report

**2023**

**Burkina Faso**

## Acknowledgements

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# Table of Contents

## Section 1: Context and Overview

- 1.1 - Changes to the Operational Context
- 1.2 - Progress Against the Desired Impact
- 1.3 - Challenges to Achieving Impacts
- 1.4 - Collaboration and Partnerships

## Section 2: Results

- 2.1 - Outcomes and Achievements
- 2.2 - Age, Gender and Diversity

## Section 3: Resources

- 3.1 - Financial Data
- 3.2 - Resources Overview

## Section 4: Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

- 4.1 - Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

# Section 1: Context and Overview

## 1.1 Changes to the Operational Context

In 2023, Burkina Faso faced a turbulent sociopolitical climate, withdrawing from the G5 Sahel and forming an alliance with Mali and Niger. The French military also withdrew, and the government declared a "general mobilization," allowing the requisition of individuals aged 18 and over to fight NSAGs if necessary, restricting or limiting rights and freedoms in certain cases.

The year saw a surge in internal and cross-border displacement due to NSAG activities and violence. By March 31, 2023, over 2 million IDPs were reported, alongside nearly 39,000 refugees and registered asylum-seekers by year-end. Additionally, over 190,000 Burkinabè fled to neighboring countries. Escalating insecurity compromised civilian safety, freedom of movement, and access to essential services like housing, water, health, and education. The suspension of cash programs further hampered humanitarian operations.

Forced displacement exacerbated vulnerabilities, with women and children constituting over 80% of the displaced population, heavily reliant on limited humanitarian aid, including Cash-Based interventions. Climate change worsened the situation, with natural disasters affecting forcibly displaced people, those at risk of statelessness, and host communities. Resource strain made accessing livelihood resources difficult, especially for women and girls who faced risks like gender-based violence while searching for firewood. The unsustainable use of wood as the main household energy source further strained natural resources.

Host communities were unprepared for the influx of people, leading to protection risks, social tensions, and environmental degradation. UNHCR and the UN system needed to reassess their strategies and interventions in response to the evolving political and security situation in the central Sahel. Despite these challenges, UNHCR remained committed to supporting forcibly displaced populations, adapting its approaches to the changing conditions, focusing on long-term collaborative solutions.

## 1.2. Progress Against the Desired Impact

### 1. Impact Area: Attaining Favorable Protection Environments

**By 2025 forcibly displaced and stateless persons of UNHCR will benefit from a favourable legal framework for the protection of their rights**

**Forcibly displaced and stateless persons to UNHCR benefit from civil registration and identity documents by 2026**

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
1.1 Proportion of people seeking international protection who are able to access asylum procedures	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	92.10%
1.2 Proportion of people who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence	IDPs	100.00%	70.73%
1.2 Proportion of people who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	78.99%

During 2023, 92% of individuals seeking international protection accessed asylum procedures, which falls below the international standard mandating universal access to such procedures. Greater freedom of movement, essential for accessing rights and opportunities for self-reliance, remains challenging for refugees and asylum-seekers in Burkina Faso due to security concerns and documentation requirements. Only 79% of refugees and 71% of internally displaced persons (IDPs) reported being able to move freely. Despite these challenges, no cases of refoulement or penalization for illegal entry of refugees or asylum-seekers were reported.

Burkina Faso receives refugees primarily from Mali and Niger, with around 5,800 asylum-seekers of various nationalities identified by the National Commission for Refugees (CONAREF). These include 2,500 Nigeriens, 2,300 Malians, 700 Beninese, and smaller numbers from Nigeria, Ghana, and Ivory Coast. While Malian refugees have been recognized since 2012, others undergo individual Refugee Status Determination (RSD) procedures. To manage the influx of asylum-seekers, Burkina Faso introduced a "simplified RSD procedure" piloted in Bobo-Dioulasso in 2023, focusing on potential asylum-seekers from Niger.

Refugees are regularly educated on complying with security measures and possessing civil documentation to facilitate their freedom of movement. The local CONAREF monitors refugees' movements within Burkina Faso and issues laissez-passer for cross-border travel. Efforts by UNHCR and CONAREF include sensitizing administrative and security authorities on asylum rights, with 1,240 authorities and trainee students trained in 2023 on international protection principles, particularly the principles of non-refoulement and non-penalization for illegal entry.

### 2. Impact Area: Realizing Rights in Safe Environments

**By 2025 forcibly displaced and stateless persons are included in national services and programmes**

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
2.2 Proportion of people residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities	IDPs	3.77%	36.10%
2.2 Proportion of people residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.94%	18.41%
2.3 Proportion of people with access to health services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	69.95%	98.30%

In an effort to ensure rights in a secure environment, UNHCR initiatives prioritize the integration of forcibly displaced and stateless persons into national programmes and services. Recognizing the significance of essential services, such efforts are essential to improving living conditions and providing protection. Strengthening these services can lead to heightened well-being, productivity, livelihood opportunities, environmentally sustainable solutions, and improved health care.

In 2023, UNHCR advocated for the integration of forcibly displaced and stateless persons into local policies, aiming to improve their socio-economic inclusion. Efforts included supporting women in livelihood activities and meeting basic needs like food, health, and education expenses. As a result, the percentage of forcibly displaced persons living in safe settlements with access to basic facilities increased significantly. However, over half of them still lived below the poverty line, indicating the ongoing need for sustained support and long-term solutions.

UNHCR continued advocating for and facilitating the inclusion of forcibly displaced people in essential social services, such as education and health care. Efforts were made to ensure more effective access to healthcare for urban refugees by integrating them into the national mutual health insurance scheme, with targeted financial assistance provided for individuals with specific needs (Elderly individuals, Persons living with disabilities, Pregnant and breastfeeding women, chronically ill individuals). Additionally, access to psychosocial care services was facilitated through UNHCR's partners. Despite these efforts, access to health care, a fundamental human right, saw some improvement among refugees since 2021 (from 70% to 98%). In the education sector, refugee students continued to benefit from tuition fee waivers and provision of school kits in 2023.

### 3. Impact Area: Empowering Communities and Achieving Gender Equality

**Communities and local structures are independent and have the capacity to take the lead in emergency responses by 2026**

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
3.1 Proportion of people who have the right to decent work	IDPs	100.00%	100.00%
3.1 Proportion of people who have the right to decent work	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%
3.2a Proportion of children and young people enrolled in primary education	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	34.00%	48.00%
3.2b Proportion of children and young people enrolled in secondary education	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	13.00%	8.03%
3.3 Proportion of people feeling safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark	IDPs	8.00%	54.88%
3.3 Proportion of people feeling safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	4.70%	59.59%

As security worsens, more than half of forcibly displaced persons feel uneasy. Specifically, about 60% of refugees and 55% of IDPs feel safe walking alone in their neighborhoods. However, only 9% of refugees and 11% of IDPs engaged in decent economic activity in 2023, such as craftsmanship and retail trade. Despite improved access to primary and secondary education from 2022 to 2023, challenges persist due to negative cultural norms, economic barriers, and inadequate school infrastructure, resulting in primary enrollment at 48% and secondary enrollment at 8%, far below the targets of 80% and 90% respectively. While primary enrollment increased by ten points and secondary enrollment by seven points from 2022, the situation remains critical. Education sector actors and partners, including UNHCR, have prioritized school enrollment despite security challenges. Initiatives like the "Primary Impact" and "School Connectivity projects" aim to sustain progress in education access.

Community engagement is an important aspect of all programmes, which entails considering the needs and

perspectives of communities, providing regular updates on project progress, and maintaining accountability to them for project management, with a focus on promoting the inclusion of women and girls. Through consultation and active participation, communities are deeply involved in all aspects of programmes that impact them, playing a pivotal role in driving change.

In 2023, UNHCR focused on establishing community mechanisms for self-governance among forcibly displaced persons, emphasizing women's participation. Efforts extended to Management of Temporary Hosting Sites/Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM), in urban areas. Refugee Steering Committees were renewed in urban settings due to the increasing concentration of refugee populations. Training of community leaders and sensitization activities played a crucial role in promoting human rights and empowering communities. UNHCR collaborated with local partners and structures, including NGOs and civil society, especially in areas with limited humanitarian access.

## 4. Impact Area: Securing Solutions

**A comprehensive response to the needs of forcibly displaced and stateless persons to UNHCR and host communities is ensured through the promotion of durable solutions with the support of the Government by 2026**

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
4.1 Number of refugees who voluntarily return in safety and dignity to their country of origin	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	17	15
4.2a Number of people who departed on resettlement	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	6	0
4.2b Number of people who departed through complementary pathways	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0	0
4.3a Number of stateless people for whom nationality is granted or confirmed	Stateless Persons	0	0
4.3b Number of refugees for whom residency status is granted or confirmed	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0	0

In 2023, UNHCR played a key role in facilitating the voluntary repatriation of refugees from the Central African Republic and Cameroon. A total of nine households, comprising 15 persons, received UNHCR support. Prior to repatriation, UNHCR ensured that all refugees were well-informed about the situation prevailing in their countries of origin and obtained necessary clearances. CONAREF remains UNHCR's primary partner in implementing voluntary repatriation efforts, facilitating documentation issuance, and raising awareness among border and airport authorities.

As part of the implementation of the Burkina Faso UNHCR Country Office's Multi-Year Multi-Partners (MYMP) strategy (2022-2025), resettlement is used as a protection and durable solutions tool for refugees with limited local integration and repatriation prospects. UNHCR collaborates with partners and refugee leaders to raise awareness on resettlement and on the related procedures. Insecurity continues to hamper access to refugees and thus poses challenges to resettlement processing. Given the limited resettlement slots available advocacy with resettlement states for larger allocations continues as well as for enhanced support for complementary pathways, in line with the Global Compact on Refugees' objectives.

In 2023, Burkina Faso had no specific programme addressing complementary pathways for refugees. Recognizing the persistent and growing demand and need for lasting solutions for the approximately 39,000 refugees and asylum-seekers currently in the country. UNHCR has initiated exploring potential alternative avenues such as labor mobility schemes, educational opportunities, humanitarian visa arrangements, and family reunification measures.

## 1.3 Challenges to Achieving Impacts

In 2023, UNHCR Burkina Faso faced significant challenges in implementing its mandate. Despite efforts to comply with international standards for asylum procedures, only 92% of those seeking protection could access these procedures. Among the challenges are bureaucratic hurdles, lack of awareness of rights among asylum-seekers and resource limitations. The precarious security situation in Burkina Faso further restricted the freedom of movement for refugees and asylum-seekers, with only 79% able to move freely. This limitation infringed on their fundamental rights and hindered their access to essential services, employment, and social integration opportunities, increasing their vulnerability.

The pervasive insecurity also affected the displaced population's sense of safety and access to education. Despite legal provisions for education and economic activity, low enrollment rates and engagement in economic activities persisted due to security concerns, inadequate infrastructure, and economic barriers. These issues perpetuated poverty and exclusion among people with and for whom UNHCR works.

Resettlement emerged as a viable solution for refugees with limited local integration or repatriation prospects. However, UNHCR Burkina Faso faced challenges in effectively implementing resettlement, as there is a need to enhance awareness on resettlement, enhance identification mechanisms and increase available resettlement slots. Insecurity continues to hamper access to refugees.

Addressing these challenges requires a collaborative, multifaceted approach, including partnerships, targeted capacity-building, and robust advocacy to ensure the protection and well-being of forcibly displaced and stateless persons.

## 1.4 Collaboration and Partnerships

In line with its MYMP strategy 2022-2025, UNHCR collaborated with 21 partners, including the Government, UN agencies (IOM, FAO, WFP, UN-Habitat), development actors, NGOs, and CSOs. UNHCR continued its partnership with CONASUR, CONAREF, and the Ministry of Humanitarian Action, Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2023 to enumerate, register, and address the primary needs of IDPs, refugees, and asylum-seekers. Collaboration with DGMEC facilitated IDPs' access to documentation. Strategic partnerships with UN agencies and NGOs remained vital in addressing the crisis's impact.

The Emergency Response Team (ERT), a joint initiative of UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP and OCHA set up in 2022, continued to coordinate the provision of shelter, core relief items (CRIs), dignity kits, and WASH kits for new IDPs. Furthermore, as part of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) mechanisms, UNHCR, as the lead agency for the Protection, Shelter/CRIs and CCCM/GSAT Clusters, has established strategic partnerships with governmental, civil society, NGOs to enhance the lives of those affected by the humanitarian crisis.

UNHCR actively participated in the humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) nexus, collaborating with the UN system. A joint proposal on an HDP project in the Cascades region was developed, aiming to promote peace, sustainable development, and the protection of vulnerable people, including internally displaced persons (IDPs). UNHCR advocated for protection and durable solutions through participation in Troika sectorial consultation frameworks, facilitating coordination between technical, financial partners, and the government to optimize the implementation of the national development strategy. The HDP nexus approach recognizes the interconnectedness of peace, development, and humanitarian efforts, requiring integrated approaches to effectively address the needs of vulnerable populations in crisis situations. This involves close collaboration and coordination between humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding actors to maximize impact and sustainability.



## Section 2: Results

### 2.1. Outcomes and Achievements

#### 1. Outcome Area: Access to Territory, Reg. and Documentation

**Internally displaced persons are registered on an individual basis**

**Refugees and asylum-seekers are registered on an individual basis**

**The rate of unreported births and of forcibly displaced and stateless persons lacking identification documents is reduced**

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
1.1 Proportion of refugees and asylum seekers registered on an individual basis	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	63.20%	90.00%	92.10%
1.2 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority	IDPs	13.06%	60.00%	77.42%
1.2 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	51.27%	80.00%	58.54%
1.3 Proportion of people with legally recognized identity documents or credentials	IDPs	41.00%	50.00%	49.69%
1.3 Proportion of people with legally recognized identity documents or credentials	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	76.70%	100.00%	79.71%

#### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

During the second year of implementing MYMP 2022-2025, access to territory, registration, and documentation for forcibly displaced persons has shown positive trends. Individual registration rates of refugees and asylum-seekers exceeded the target, rising from 86% to 92% (34,930 in 2022 and 38,884 in 2023). The IDP population increased by 407,640 (+22%), though the last official figures from CONASUR (2,062,540) are from March 2023. For documentation, the proportion of children under 5 with registered births increased by 19% for IDPs and 6% for refugees and asylum-seekers in 2023.

The proportion of forced displaced persons with at least one recognized legal identity dropped from 91% to about 80% for refugees and asylum-seekers, while it increased from 41.5% to almost 50% (meeting the target) for IDPs. Challenges in humanitarian access areas explain the drop for refugees and asylum-seekers. Continuous registration efforts for refugees and asylum-seekers, including those who missed the 2022 general verification exercise, were key. A pilot registration for potential asylum-seekers from Niger was impactful, with 850 individuals registered in the western regions alone, constituting 73% of the target group. Despite security challenges, continuous profiling and registration for IDPs were maintained.

Initiatives like strengthening procedures for late birth registration and mobile courts contributed to these results. UNHCR supported the government in reducing the risk of statelessness by issuing 29,180 birth certificates, 11,190 identity cards, and 1,210 nationality certificates to IDPs and host communities. UNHCR also piloted the delivery of 667 birth certificates and 3,940 identity documents to refugees and asylum-seekers via CONAREF. To reinforce protection, UNHCR supported CONAREF in organizing a workshop to raise awareness among private sector actors about the legal value of these documents. Additionally, 21,200 birth certificates were issued to IDPs and host communities under the Pastoralism Support Project in the

Sahel, supported by donors other than UNHCR.

## 2. Outcome Area: Status Determination

**Access to efficient and quality asylum procedures is guaranteed to forcibly displaced and stateless persons to UNHCR throughout the country**

**Access to territory is guaranteed to Forcibly displaced and stateless persons to UNHCR in need of international protection**

**Documentation support**

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
2.1 Average processing time (in days) from registration to first instance asylum decision	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	120.00	90.00	120.00
2.2 Proportion of people undergoing asylum procedures who have access to legal representation	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
2.3 Proportion of people undergoing asylum procedures who have access to an effective appeal mechanism after first instance rejection of their claim	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Despite the challenging security context in Burkina Faso, ensuring refugees and asylum-seekers access to asylum procedures in line with international legal standards remains one of the objectives pursued by UNHCR and the Government of Burkina Faso.

In 2023, all refugees and asylum-seekers engaged in asylum procedures had access to legal advice or representation (100%). Similarly, all failed first instance asylum-seekers were granted the right to appeal within 60 days following the notification of the first-instance decision. This right is exercised within the National Appeals Committee (NAC). Asylum-seekers are informed of this right during first-instance sessions and during the notification counseling of the first-instance decision.

Maintaining these minimum standards throughout the year was made possible through various actions initiated by the Government of Burkina Faso with the support of UNHCR and its partners. Concerning the access of forcibly displaced persons to legal assistance or representation during the asylum procedure, thanks to the collaboration between UNHCR and the Burkinabe Movement for Human and Peoples Rights (MBDHP), which is responsible for the project on access to justice for forcibly displaced persons and those at risk of statelessness, all asylum-seekers who requested legal assistance received appropriate information on the current asylum procedures and were assisted on how to lodge their asylum requests. This helped preventing rejection of asylum claims due to poorly formulated requests. UNHCR and its partner also assisted forcibly displaced persons and those at risk of statelessness through legal aid clinics on all violations of rights.

Thus, 100% of individuals in need benefited from legal assistance (services of lawyers) through the Legal Aid Fund. 100% of the failed first-instance asylum-seekers were granted the right to appeal before the National Appeals Committee. Asylum-seekers are informed of this right during first-instance sessions and during the counseling for notification of the first-instance decision.

Moreover, all statutory sessions of the National Eligibility Committee – NAC (four sessions) were held in

2023 for individual-based asylum requests, examining requests that resulted in the acquisition of refugee status for 43 asylum-seekers.

Furthermore, UNHCR and CONAREF ensured continuous registration for recognized Malian refugees and conducted a residual verification and registration operation in the Center Region, which confirmed the presence of 223 refugees and registered 380 new arrivals. The Government of Burkina Faso, through CONAREF with UNHCR's technical support, conducted a registration operation for Nigerien asylum-seekers residing in the Hauts-Bassins, Cascades, and South-West regions identified within the mixed migration flows. The files of these asylum-seekers will be submitted in 2024 to the NAC.

### 3. Outcome Area: Protection Policy and Law

**The national legal frameworks include provisions on conventions to which the Government has committed to**

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
3.1 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1951 Convention and/or its 1967 Protocol	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Not yet aligned ≤69 points	Progressing towards alignment: 70-89 points	Progressing towards alignment: 70-89 points
3.2 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness	Stateless Persons	Not yet aligned ≤69 points	Broadly aligned: ≥ 90 points	Progressing towards alignment: 70-89 points

#### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

To implement the 1951 Geneva Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, 1967 Protocol and the 1969 Organization of African Unity (OAU) Convention governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, the country adopted Law No. 042-2008/AN of 23 October 2008 relating to refugee status in Burkina Faso, and the Government issued their two implementing decrees on 10 March 2011. This legal framework has strengthened the protection environment through the establishment of committees responsible for determining refugee status with two levels of examination (first instance and appeal).

In 2022 the Government, in collaboration with UNHCR, has initiated a reform of the asylum legal framework to bring it up to international standards. In 2023, the process resulted in the elaboration and adoption of a new draft law on the refugee status in Burkina Faso and its implementing decree. This was achieved through a national validation workshop attended by around fifty participants from the public administration, private sector, and partners dealing with asylum issues. This new legal framework is expected to strengthen the protection environment for refugees and asylum-seekers in Burkina Faso.

Regarding the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, UNHCR supported the reform of the Code of Persons and the Family in its provisions dealing with civil status and nationality to remove the provisions constituting sources of statelessness. During the year 2023, the draft law was examined and validated by the Technical Committee for the Verification of Draft Laws (COTEVAL) and submitted for adoption by the Council of Ministers under the auspices of the Ministry of justice. Additional consultations are ongoing on name transmission and marriage.

### 4. Outcome Area: Gender-based Violence

## Protection of at-risk groups including children and people with disabilities is achieved

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
4.1 Proportion of people who know where to access available GBV services	IDPs	20.86%	70.00%	85.39%
4.1 Proportion of people who know where to access available GBV services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	61.70%	100.00%	82.98%
4.2 Proportion of people who do not accept violence against women	IDPs	42.00%	65.00%	73.09%
4.2 Proportion of people who do not accept violence against women	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	57.30%	75.00%	93.30%
4.3 Proportion of survivors who are satisfied with GBV case management services	IDPs	Unknown	100.00%	88.04%
4.3 Proportion of survivors who are satisfied with GBV case management services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	61.70%	100.00%	90.07%

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Access to services for survivors of gender based violence (GBV) remained a strong commitment of UNHCR in 2023. In this regard, 82.6% of refugees and 85.4% of IDPs reported knowing where to access available GBV services, including the referral pathway and support services. This result was achieved through the notable presence of humanitarian actors regularly communicating about GBV, supported by community and religious leaders as well as various community structures. Indeed, 16 groups of role model men were established within refugee and IDP communities to promote positive masculinity as a strategy to combat GBV. Additionally, the existing 28 safe spaces, including four constructed and/or rehabilitated with the assistance of a partner, mobile teams, and one-stop centers, enabled UNHCR and its partners to ensure women and girls' secure access to information on GBV and referral to appropriate support services.

Multiple awareness sessions were conducted throughout the year, on topics such as GBV types, positive masculinity, prevention/mitigation mechanisms, and GBV support services, through educational discussions, mass sensitization, fora theaters, and radio programmes. The GBV Inter-agency Working Group compiled data received from all GBV actors in the country and was able to show that country-wide, the actors achieved a satisfactory score in terms of sensitized individuals, reaching 84% of the target set in the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2023. The intensification of various information and awareness sessions in 2023 led to increased awareness, resulting in a growing rejection of GBV among 93.3% of refugees and 73.1% of IDPs, compared to 2022 figures of 64% of IDPs and 80% of refugees. Data collected on perpetrators of violence in December 2023 indicated that 38% were intimate partners of survivors, showing a progressive reduction in household violence cases and thereby the impact of prevention activities, including the mobilization of role model men, as agents of positive change in male behaviors and attitudes.

UNHCR's partners managed 1,475 GBV incidents in 2023, with 90% of refugee survivors and 88% of IDPs satisfied with the services. Dignity kits were given to 1,400 women and girls at risk of GBV or survivors, while 125 received energy kits to reduce firewood-related risks. However, some survivors expressed dissatisfaction, citing limited access to services and inadequate material assistance. Mobilizing resources for survivor support remains challenging, with only 14% of targeted funds obtained. Additionally, 55 security audits were conducted to identify and address GBV risks.

## 5. Outcome Area: Child Protection

## Application of the country's child protection framework

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
5.1 Proportion of children at heightened risk who are supported by a Best Interests Procedure	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
5.2 Proportion of children who participate in community-based child protection programmes	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
5.3 Proportion of unaccompanied and separated children who are in an alternative care arrangement	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	70.00%	100.00%	100.00%

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR has intensified its efforts for the promotion and respect of the rights of children in situations of forced displacement and statelessness, in accordance with the 2012 Child Protection Framework, particularly regarding the protection of separated and unaccompanied children in Burkina Faso and community engagement.

These efforts have contributed to maintaining widespread care for all unaccompanied children among identified refugees (100%) through home visits, access to health care, education, and monetary support for acquiring clothing, food, and hygiene kits. Additionally, in 2023, Best Interest Assessments were also conducted for 188 other at-risk children to assess protection risks and provide an appropriate response. Ultimately, 585 cash supports were granted to these children and their families, including for the inclusion of children living with disabilities on an individual basis.

Furthermore, UNHCR has ensured that children are protected from abuse and their rights respected through psychosocial support and targeted programmes to address their specific needs. Sporting activities and children's clubs established served as platforms for promoting peace, child rights, social cohesion, freedom of expression, shared activities, and the full development of the child. Thus, 864 children, including 500 girls and 367 boys, were consulted during the participatory assessment and were able to give their input on the planning and programming of child protection activities implemented by UNHCR and its partners. This assistance was also extended to the host families of at-risk children through training on their roles as guardians, ensuring respect for children's rights.

At the national and regional levels, UNHCR worked closely with child protection authorities and the child protection domain to ensure the inclusion of refugee and internally displaced children in national bodies. This collaboration led to capacity building of partner staff and UNHCR. Through its inter-agency protection monitoring system – Project 21 (P21), in 2023 UNHCR continued strengthening the identification of protection cases and contributing to UNICEF's report on allegations of serious violations of children's rights, as well as the identification, referral, and assistance of unaccompanied and separated children, children at risk of protection, and those with specific needs. The protection monitoring mechanism identified 37 Unaccompanied Children (UACs), 596 children with specific needs, among whom 103 were referred. In collaboration with its partners, UNHCR was able to assist 204 children.

Furthermore, the organization deepened its collaboration with community structures, which facilitated the strengthening of community-based protection mechanisms among refugee populations, host communities, and IDP sites for the prevention, identification, and referral of children-at-risk to care services; this being necessary to make interventions in favor of children more effective and visible.

## 7. Outcome Area: Community Engagement and Women's

## Empowerment

**Community governance and participation mechanisms in displacement sites and areas are put in place to ensure good community representation and improve participation and accountability to beneficiaries**

**Community-based protection mechanisms are strengthened**

**Referral and complaint mechanisms are put in place in sites and areas hosting internally displaced people**

**Temporary reception sites (developed sites, spontaneous sites, collective centers, reception areas for displaced persons) have a manager or are manned by a mobile management team**

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
7.2 Proportion of people who have access to safe feedback and response mechanisms	Host Community	19.00%	100.00%	26.96%
7.2 Proportion of people who have access to safe feedback and response mechanisms	IDPs	31.00%	100.00%	40.99%
7.2 Proportion of people who have access to safe feedback and response mechanisms	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	73.00%	100.00%	36.57%
7.3 Proportion of women participating in leadership/management structures	IDPs	41.11%	50.00%	40.00%
7.3 Proportion of women participating in leadership/management structures	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	50.00%	50.00%	40.00%
7.1 Extent participation of displaced and stateless people across programme phases is supported.	IDPs	Unknown	Unknown	Extensive: ≥ 70 points
7.1 Extent participation of displaced and stateless people across programme phases is supported.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	Extensive: ≥ 70 points	Extensive: ≥ 70 points

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2023, UNHCR continued to work on community mechanisms aimed at strengthening the self-management of forcibly displaced persons in sites and reception areas, with a focus on the participation of women in refugee care and CCCM/GSAT for IDPs, as well as enhancing accountability mechanisms. For refugees, UNHCR continued to establish refugee steering committees, while for IDPs under CCCM/GSAT, interventions related to community self-governance reinforcement led to the establishment of approximately 100 mixed committees of nearly 1000 members.

The committees, comprising host community members and IDPs, actively participated in site management, enhancing cohabitation and social cohesion. Collaborative capacity-building initiatives on committee roles and responsibilities, with gender-inclusive involvement, promoted community engagement and accountability. These efforts reinforced strategies for site transitions through ongoing dialogues with the government, fostering a sense of ownership. Increased refugee and asylum-seekers participation in the Operational Management Cycle (OMC) by 79%, and IDPs by 75%, reflects a significant rise from 2022 levels (76% for refugees and 70% for IDPs), attributed to enhanced integration of participation and accountability across programming stages. Various communication channels, including social platforms, community leaders, mixed committees, complaints mechanisms, suggestion boxes, toll-free hotlines, local protection committees, and community radios, were established to reach diverse beneficiaries, including those with disabilities and low literacy levels. Trained committee members and community relays ensure consistent communication between management and the community.

UNHCR established various communication channels in sites for enhanced accountability, including community committees, complaint mechanisms, suggestion boxes, and toll-free numbers. These diverse channels cater to individuals with disabilities and specific needs. Around 90% of sites implemented operational feedback mechanisms, enabling the collection and response to beneficiary complaints. Mixed community committee members were trained on these mechanisms and maintained regular contact with the community to ensure effective communication. However, despite feedback mechanisms in all temporary sites, only 36% of refugees and 41% of IDPs reported access to effective feedback systems, a decline attributed to a recent evaluation study commissioned by UNHCR.

We observe a decline in women's involvement in refugee leadership and management, despite making up 59% of those in temporary displacement in Burkina Faso. Revisions in management and refugee committees shifted women from passive to active participation through mandatory quotas. Women hold 40% of leadership roles among both refugees and internally displaced persons. Standard procedures for forming community committees have been adjusted to ensure women's full engagement in these management structures.

## 8. Outcome Area: Well-Being and Basic Needs

**The promotion of alternative (sustainable) energy and access to sustainable alternative energy sources for Forcibly displaced and stateless persons to UNHCR are ensured**

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
8.1 Proportion of people that receive cash transfers and/or non-food items	IDPs	32.29%	45.00%	26.65%
8.1 Proportion of people that receive cash transfers and/or non-food items	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	68.00%	50.00%	33.84%
8.2 Proportion of people with primary reliance on clean (cooking) fuels and technology	IDPs	0.40%	20.00%	5.50%
8.2 Proportion of people with primary reliance on clean (cooking) fuels and technology	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	3.90%	20.00%	16.62%

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Access to basic needs assistance is crucial for the well-being of forced displaced and stateless individuals, especially those with limited access to employment or property ownership due to their status. They often rely on UNHCR for support, which may include cash transfers or in-kind support. UNHCR contributes to reforestation efforts by providing plants on National Tree Day, benefiting both IDPs and hosts. Additionally, women among IDPs and hosts are trained in producing improved stoves and eco-friendly charcoal to reduce GBV risks and maintain social cohesion. Improved stoves, gas kits, and cash aid are distributed to IDP households, while cooperative groups receive training and support for eco-friendly charcoal production. These interventions reduce wood usage, diminish GBV risks, and empower women economically, fostering dignity and social cohesion among IDPs and the host community. Environmental protection through improved stoves and eco-friendly charcoal enhances communal living and social harmony.

But, with 34% of refugees and 27% of IDPs receiving receive cash transfers and/or non-food items, we are observing a large decrease compared to 2022. This decline is the result of a mismatch between the continuously growing needs of forcibly displaced persons and the diminishing assistance. For example, in 2023, while the needs for shelter and basic needs increased by 40%, only 33% of the overall funding could be mobilized, leading to a decrease in assistance for these displaced individuals.

Furthermore, in relation to Cash-Based assistance, given its suspension in 2023, approximately 80% of the planned interventions were either redirected to substitute activities/goods by default or canceled, to the detriment of vulnerable individuals who would have benefited more from these interventions if they had

been maintained in cash. Those suspension of cash explain also why the proportion of people with a primary dependence on clean fuels and technologies (for cooking) has decreased to 17% for refugees and 6% for IDPs.

## 9. Outcome Area: Sustainable Housing and Settlements

**Forcibly displaced and stateless persons to UNHCR are supported to access housing**

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
9.1 Proportion of people living in habitable and affordable housing	IDPs	23.40%	45.00%	16.04%
9.1 Proportion of people living in habitable and affordable housing	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	14.43%	60.00%	10.33%
9.2 Proportion of people that have energy to ensure lighting	IDPs	30.40%	50.00%	71.21%
9.2 Proportion of people that have energy to ensure lighting	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	28.00%	50.00%	73.14%

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Access to shelter and Core Relief Items (CRIs) remains precarious in conflict-affected areas of Burkina Faso, with growing needs due to the ongoing humanitarian crisis. In 2023, the number of people requiring CRI assistance rose by 40%, reaching 87,750. UNHCR has been pivotal in providing emergency shelter and CRIs to IDPs, host communities, and refugees, including Refugee Housing Unit (RHUs), tarpaulins, blankets, and mosquito nets. Emergency shelters have been constructed, and CRIs distributed across nine out of thirteen regions. In 2023, UNHCR provided 7,450 emergency shelter assistance to 47,505 people and distributed 16,800 CRIs to 128,830 individuals.

Other actors, in collaboration with UNHCR or independently, have contributed to improving the living conditions of forcibly displaced persons. UNHCR has closely collaborated with UN agencies such as OCHA, UNICEF, and WFP to address diverse needs through the Emergency Response Team (ERT). The ERT provided 9,950 CRIs kits to 71,1120 vulnerable IDPs and host communities. The Shelter Cluster aimed to assist 460,575 individuals with shelter and 614,000 with CRIs, according to the 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan. In total, the shelter cluster response facilitated shelter access for 182,500 people, including 47,505 persons exclusively assisted by UNHCR, representing 26% of all interventions. In CRIs distribution, UNHCR contributed to 55% of all distributions, aiding 128,830 individuals. Despite achievements, only 38% of the shelter target and 25% of the CRI distribution target were reached in 2023, according to Shelter Cluster records.

Through its implementing partners, UNHCR has donated 16,800 solar lanterns to 128,850 IDPs, host family and refugees to bring up to 73% of refugees and 71% of IDPs having energy to ensure lighting. The beneficiaries are now at less risk of GBV, children can perform from home their after-school-homework, and small businesses can operate at night.

Additionally, the shelter/CRIs initiatives aim to reduce GBV risks for forcibly displaced persons by prioritizing their health, safety, privacy, and dignity. However, there's a notable decrease in the percentage of displaced persons living in adequate housing, dropping from 18% to 10% for refugees and 25% to 16% for IDPs between 2022 and 2023. This decline is attributed to three key factors: heightened needs, diminished resources, and the suspension of Cash-Based interventions. The suspension of cash aid in 2023 significantly impacted interventions, particularly in core sectors like Shelter/CRIs, where planned activities could not proceed due to restrictions imposed in various regions, thus affecting the overall assistance provided.

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## 10. Outcome Area: Healthy Lives

### Forcibly displaced and stateless persons to UNHCR have access to national health services and programmes

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
10.1 Proportion of children aged 9 months to five years who have received measles vaccination	IDPs	46.80%	100.00%	83.53%
10.1 Proportion of children aged 9 months to five years who have received measles vaccination	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	60.90%	100.00%	73.08%
10.2. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	90.04%	90.00%	91.76%

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

At the end of 2022, Burkina Faso faced measles outbreaks in a context of deteriorating security situation, putting immense strain on the national healthcare system and access to healthcare including vaccination services. Loss of follow-up and vaccine abandonment, with some children not receiving any vaccine doses, were the main causes of the resurgence of epidemics. To address these challenges, several strategies were implemented to contain the epidemic's spread, facilitate care for mothers and children, and improve general healthcare access.

In the battle against epidemic spread, UNHCR collaborated with the Ministry of Health and partners to ensure over 95% vaccination coverage, crucial for preventing outbreaks. They provided healthcare via mobile units and outreach programs, targeting mothers and advocating for refugee inclusion in national vaccination initiatives. The "zero-dose" strategy focused on vaccinating all newly arrived children against measles, resulting in a 95% vaccination rate among refugee children aged 6 to 59 months, surpassing the national average of 66%. The government's free healthcare policy for children under 5 and pregnant women significantly improved healthcare access. Mobile clinics, supported by local organizations, expanded healthcare services, leading to a notable increase in assisted births among refugees, with 92% assisted by trained personnel and obtaining birth certificates, up from 62% in 2022.

UNHCR's sustained collaboration with the Government of Burkina Faso to support the inclusion of forcibly displaced persons, including the provision of medical equipment and rehabilitation of healthcare infrastructure, bolstered free healthcare access. Over 40,000 curative consultations were funded for refugees and asylum-seekers, enhancing primary healthcare access. UNHCR also trained 100 health agents in collaboration with health districts to prevent sexually transmitted infections (STIs), human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), and pregnancy-related diseases, mitigating potential epidemics. Furthermore, mutual health insurance schemes have enabled 565 vulnerable refugees to access healthcare through health insurance cards paid for by UNHCR.

## 11. Outcome Area: Education

**Forcibly displaced and stateless persons to UNHCR are included in the national education system**

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
11.1 Proportion of young people enrolled in tertiary and higher education	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1.70%	15.00%	3.04%
11.2 Proportion of children and young people enrolled in the national education system	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	30.00%	50.00%	32.01%

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

The security crisis prevailing in Burkina Faso has repercussions on the education sector, affecting the lives of children and teachers. By the end of 2023, despite the reopening of 1,080 schools, more than 5,000 schools remain closed across the national territory, depriving 820,865 children of their right to education. Not to mention the 24,000 teachers who find themselves without schools, according to the December 2023 report from the Technical Secretariat for Education in Emergency Situations.

Despite these challenges, UNHCR in Burkina Faso has made progress in terms of access to education in 2023. Data reveals an increase in the enrollment rate, particularly in higher education, where the percentage rose from 2.6% in 2022/2023 to 3% in 2023/2024. This positive trend is also evident in the proportion of refugee children integrated into the national education system, with an 8-points increase, rising from 24% in 2022 to 32% in 2023. The enrollment of girls has also seen an improvement, rising from 47% in 2022-2023 to 49% in 2023-2024. These advancements are the result of various initiatives implemented by UNHCR. Inclusive education policies have been deployed in public schools, aiming to provide better access to education for refugee populations. The reinforced of this will be further fortified through the implementation of an education strategy elaborated specially for displaced children. Additionally, several projects and programmes have been launched or renewed, including Primary Impact, Digital Schools, the DAFI Program, Bioforce Scholarships, distance learning opportunities, UNHCR scholarships, and web and mobile development training. These initiatives have been accompanied by community awareness and training programmes for teachers, students, and community members, addressing various education-related issues.

Stakeholders played a pivotal role in this progress. The Ministry of National Education expanded access to public schools for refugees, offering quality education affordably. They provided teachers for bridge centers and multimedia rooms supported by UNHCR. The Francophone University Agency granted study grants for distance learning to refugee students and collaborated with Simplon.CO to train 15 students in web and mobile development, fostering inclusion in digital professions. Digital Schools provided educational tablets, and UNHCR, with partner CREDO, ensured regular monitoring and raised awareness about education's importance. Collaboration with private institutions like Lena Private Agricultural High School allowed seven refugee students to continue their vocational education, with the first cohort preparing for the Middle School Certificate Exam—a vital step for their socio-professional integration.

## 12. Outcome Area: Clean Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

**Forcibly displaced and stateless persons UNHCR have access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene**

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
12.1 Proportion of people using at least basic drinking water services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	21.14%	60.00%	59.96%
12.2 Proportion of people with access to a safe household toilet	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	20.00%	60.00%	69.95%

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Access to clean drinking water is essential to strengthen social cohesion and integration as well as an important tool to measure protection outcomes related to health, well-being, and economic development.

In 2023, 60% of the forcibly displaced population had access to basic drinking water services while 70% had access to safe household toilets. In 2023, more household latrines were constructed (40 latrines) compared to 30 latrines in 2022. This is an improvement from the baseline of 43% and falls in line with the target of 60% that the operation set at the planning phase in 2023.

To meet with the objectives of the Sustainable Development Goals 6 (SDGs), "ensure equitable access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation for all", UNHCR constructed four water points which provided access to drinking water for 2,000 refugees, IDP, and host community. This water infrastructure strengthens social cohesion and prevent inter-communal conflicts. In addition, 40 household latrines were constructed. This was a complementary action to the housing sector in the shelter response and enabled 40 household to stop open defecation and live-in decent housing. Thanks to the environmental hygiene awareness-raising sessions, UNHCR was able to reach 6,000 individuals. These activities highly contributed to improve the hygiene conditions and living environment of these households.

In 2023, UNHCR reached 7,800 individuals through its WASH interventions in Burkina Faso. Thanks to UNHCR advocacy in the WASH Cluster meetings, forcibly displaced population residing in temporary settlements received WASH infrastructure assistance from Cluster member partners.

## 13. Outcome Area: Self Reliance, Economic Inclusion and Livelihoods

**forcibly displaced and stateless persons to UNHCR and host communities enjoy economic rights**

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
13.1. Proportion of people with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider	IDPs	15.40%	90.00%	65.16%
13.1. Proportion of people with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	46.00%	90.00%	77.58%
13.2. Proportion of people who self-report positive changes in their income compared to previous year	IDPs	50.14%	60.00%	10.50%
13.2. Proportion of people who self-report positive changes in their income compared to previous year	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	28.57%	50.00%	13.92%
13.3 Proportion of people (working age) who are unemployed	IDPs	50.20%	40.00%	66.22%
13.3 Proportion of people (working age) who are unemployed	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	28.50%	25.00%	40.39%

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In Burkina Faso, 78% of refugees and 65% of IDPs have access to formal financial services, with an uptick in bank account and mobile money usage from 2021 to 2023. However, the need for legal identification hampers access. Financial access is crucial for Income Generating Activities (IGAs) and general livelihood management. In 2023, 14% of refugees and 11% of IDPs saw positive income changes, an improvement for refugees from 2022 (7%). Despite high unemployment rates (40% for refugees and 66% for IDPs), there was a notable decrease from 2022 (88% for refugees and 75% for IDPs), attributed to the volatile security situation.

In 2023, livelihood and economic inclusion initiatives benefited 2,612 forcibly displaced persons, with 59% being women (902 refugees and 1,710 IDPs), along with 509 vulnerable hosts, of whom 61% were women. Unlike in 2022, participation decreased due to the security situation in the Sahel, leading to market disruptions and suspensions in cash transfers. Support for production techniques involved agricultural, horticultural, compost, and livestock farming enhancement for 1,540 individuals, including 625 refugees, 668 IDPs, and 247 hosts, with 67% women. They received kits, inputs, training, and were empowered in various techniques.

Support for viable initiatives benefited 829 individuals (175 refugees, 489 IDPs, and 165 hosts), with 79% women. They received life skills, microenterprise management, financial education, and subsidies for small businesses, resulting in increased revenue, savings, and reduced indebtedness. Support for vocational training and market access assisted 301 youths (102 refugees, 171 IDPs, 28 hosts), with 37% women, in various trades. They underwent training through traditional, modular qualifying, and mentorship-based approaches, receiving kits and capital for socio-professional integration.

Access to credit and financial services was facilitated through supporting savings, credit, and protection groups, with 321 members, 71% women, accessing loans for remunerative activities.

Support for product marketing and transformation aimed at socioeconomic inclusion by integrating refugees and displaced persons into local dynamics. One hundred and fifty forcibly displaced women joined local organizations, while others formed cooperatives for agri-food product transformation. Support for craftsmanship involved collaboration with the Made 51 Project, with 50 Malian refugee artisans fulfilling orders worth approximately 20 million CFA francs, shipped globally.

These actions contribute to reducing the risks of GBV, recruitment into armed groups, and people for whom and with whom we work are gradually regaining their dignity.

However, with the support from international NGOs such as IRC and DRC, sustained livelihood activities were supported like microenterprise management, agriculture, capacity building and others.

## 14. Outcome Area: Voluntary Return and Sustainable Reintegration

**The voluntary return of people of concern to UNHCR is carried out in dignity and security to ensure conditions for sustainable return and reintegration**

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
14.1 Proportion of returnees with legally recognized identity documents or credentials	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Voluntary repatriation of refugees is an important part of the Protection and Solutions Strategy of UNHCR's in Burkina Faso. During 2023, UNHCR facilitated the voluntary repatriation of refugees from the Central African Republic and Cameroon. In total, nine households of 15 individuals (four Cameroonian and eleven Central African nationals) benefited from UNHCR support. UNHCR has informed 100% of repatriated refugees with countries of origin information and has always obtained security, health, and socio-political clearance from the operations of the countries of origin prior to repatriation. CONAREF remains UNHCR's main partner in implementing repatriation through the issuance of the necessary documentation and raising awareness among border and airport authorities.

Concerning Malian refugees who represent 97% of refugees and asylum-seekers registered within the operation, UNHCR along with CONAREF continued counseling Malian refugees seeking information related to voluntary repatriation to their country. Counseling to Malian refugees include security risks linked to the dangers of improvised explosive devices, attacks by non-identified armed groups and 'zones of military interest' (zones with ongoing active military operations as defined by the government of Burkina Faso) near the border areas between Burkina Faso and Mali. Also, UNHCR continued to collect return intentions through protection, registration, and verification activities, which showed that 79% of those registered and/or verified wish to return to Mali even if this is contingent upon conditions are conducive.

In 2023, significant strides were made with the Tripartite Accord involving Mali, Burkina Faso, and UNHCR. A preparatory meeting of the Tripartite working group convened in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, in July, followed by the 12th Tripartite Commission held in Bamako, Mali, in November. Both gatherings focused on addressing the mounting challenge of repatriating Burkinabe refugees residing in Mali, a situation exacerbated by escalating security concerns in Burkina Faso. During the 12th Commission, it was agreed that issues related to the return of Malians from Burkina Faso should be included the existing accord. Consequently, the working group revised the Accord's text accordingly. UNHCR plays a pivotal role in providing technical assistance to the governments and executing the Accord. These 2023 initiatives exemplify effective collaboration and concrete progress towards ensuring the safe and dignified return and reintegration of forcibly displaced individuals.

At the Global Refugee Forum held in Geneva in December 2023, Burkina Faso announced a pledge to establish and sign Tripartite Accords with all neighboring countries, namely Mali (effort ongoing in the existing framework as described above), Niger, Benin, Togo, Ghana, Ivory Coast and UNHCR on repatriation of refugees from Burkina Faso seeking refuge in these countries, by 2027.

## 15. Outcome Area: Resettlement and Complementary Pathways

**Resettlement preparations and management of the process for people of concern to UNHCR are ensured**

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
15.1 Number of refugees submitted by UNHCR for resettlement	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	6	100	41
15.3 Number of people admitted through complementary pathways from the host country	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0	30	0

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Throughout 2023, UNHCR remained committed to increasing access to resettlement as a durable solution for refugees in Burkina Faso. UNHCR continued its engagement with the refugee community to further

strengthen the resettlement operation in Burkina Faso and to ensure that the most vulnerable refugees were identified for resettlement opportunities.

During the period under review UNHCR submitted 9 cases consisting of 41 individuals to the United States of America, against 40 available resettlement slots individuals. From the 41 individuals submitted for resettlement in 2023, 34 individuals were of Malian origin and were women and girls at risk and survivors of violence. This is an indicator of the growing number of forcibly displaced Malian women and girls currently hosted in Burkina Faso, but also the specific protection needs, and potential additional psychosocial support required by this population. To achieve this, UNHCR continued to strengthen the resettlement operational capacity with staffing needs, and capacity-building of field office staff and UNHCR partners on the identification and referrals of individuals for resettlement. UNHCR Burkina Faso worked in close coordination and collaboration with UNHCR Regional Bureau for West and Central Africa (RBWCA) for technical guidance, operational support, and advocacy.

UNHCR Burkina Faso facilitated carried out interviews of individuals previously submitted for resettlement consideration to the United States of America.

In 2023, there were no specific programmes on complementary pathways for refugees in Burkina Faso. Acknowledging the ongoing and increasing need for durable solutions for the approximately 39,000 refugees and asylum-seekers currently hosted in Burkina Faso, for whom conditions for repatriation and reintegration are not yet conducive, nor opportunities to locally integrate in Burkina Faso are feasible, and with insufficient resettlement spaces to meet the needs, UNHCR Burkina Faso has started exploring possible alternative solutions such as labour mobility schemes, education pathways, humanitarian visas/corridors and family reunification.

## 16. Outcome Area: Integration and other Local Solutions

**The three dimensions of local integration (legal, economic and socio-cultural) in favour of the Forcibly displaced and stateless persons to UNHCR competence are ensured**

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
16.1 Proportion of people with secure tenure rights to housing and/or land	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	3.20%	7.00%	13.88%
16.2 Proportion of people covered by national social protection systems	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	26.40%	35.00%	51.27%

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Local integration remains a desirable long-term solution for refugees in Burkina Faso. While the country's family code permits naturalization for foreigners, the issuance of nationality decrees to foreigners did not occur in 2023. UNHCR continued its efforts in civil documentation, shelter, livelihoods, and education, bolstering refugee integration prospects. Discussions continue between UNHCR and the Permanent Secretariat for Social Protection regarding refugee inclusion in the single social register and data disaggregation for improved coverage visibility. In 2023, CONAREF initiated the development of a national integration strategy with UNHCR's technical backing. The strategy's formulation will begin with a field survey, the outcomes of which will inform its direction. Burkina Faso has pledged support for this project at the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) in December 2023, acknowledging the need for funding for the forthcoming field survey.

Regarding IDPs, local integration remains a viable solution in Burkina Faso. In 2023, UNHCR Burkina Faso continued to conduct activities related to shelter, civil documentation, protection, and others, as reported under other Outcome Areas, thereby reinforcing the integration prospects for IDPs. As for social protection, by 31 December 2023, a total of 143,909 vulnerable households had been identified, along with 900,291 persons, all benefiting from cash assistance and funding for income-generating activities. This first phase of implementing the single register coupled with social safety nets has covered two regions, Centre East, and Centre West, covering six provinces. In 2023, UNHCR, through partner, Observatoire National du Foncier

au Burkina Faso (ONF), has also made progress in housing, access to land and property for IDPs. Across the country, UNHCR has secured land tenure of 112 hectares for housing purposes, and 20 hectares for production purposes, benefiting a total of 563 IDPs in accessing lands. UNHCR and ONF have also conducted a few advocacies, sensitization and trainings targeting host community, landowners, and local authorities to raise awareness on the importance of land tenure and build capacity.

UNHCR co-leads with NRC the access to land and property group within the Protection Cluster. UNHCR's coordination and advocacy efforts helped the group to exercise its mandate and implement activities. In June 2023, the Government of Burkina Faso adopted the National Recovery Strategy for IDP and the host Communities 2023-2027. This Strategy is a key document laying out recovery efforts towards realization of durable solutions following the current humanitarian crisis. The document is comprehensive, covering all three dimensions of local integration, namely legal, economic, and sociopolitical. UNHCR has accompanied the government in its drafting by giving technical advice and advocating for inclusion of persons with and for whom UNHCR works for, including refugees.

## 2.2. Age, Gender and Diversity

In 2023, UNHCR strengthened its capacity to implement the 2018 Age, Gender, and Diversity (AGD) Policy. Indeed, UNHCR innovated its participatory assessment exercise by introducing data collection from communities affected by forced displacement and host communities. A total of 2,805 persons, including 876 women, 664 men, 497 girls, 367 boys, 309 elderly persons, and 74 persons with disabilities, were able to participate and express their concerns and opinions regarding the programming and planning of projects conducted by UNHCR and its partners. The various priorities identified during this exercise were analyzed and taken into consideration in the planning for 2024.

To enhance participation, inclusion, communication, and transparency, field focal points were tasked with monitoring activities and ensuring the participation and consideration of all social strata, age groups, and genders in assessments, to obtain disaggregated data and information that truly reflect the community's issues. In 2023, UNHCR and its partners consistently consulted affected communities before, during, and after the implementation of projects directly impacting them. The presence of community leaders at coordination meetings varies, especially for women who often face difficulties related to household and childcare responsibilities. To address this, numerous community meetings were held using an area-based approach to include more women and persons with reduced mobility. Other communication channels were developed and strengthened, such as the [help.unhcr.org](https://help.unhcr.org) website and the 3-2-1 VIAMO system, Interactive Voice Service, a phone number to facilitate access for displaced and stateless persons to humanitarian actors.

## Section 3: Resources

### 3.1 Financial Data

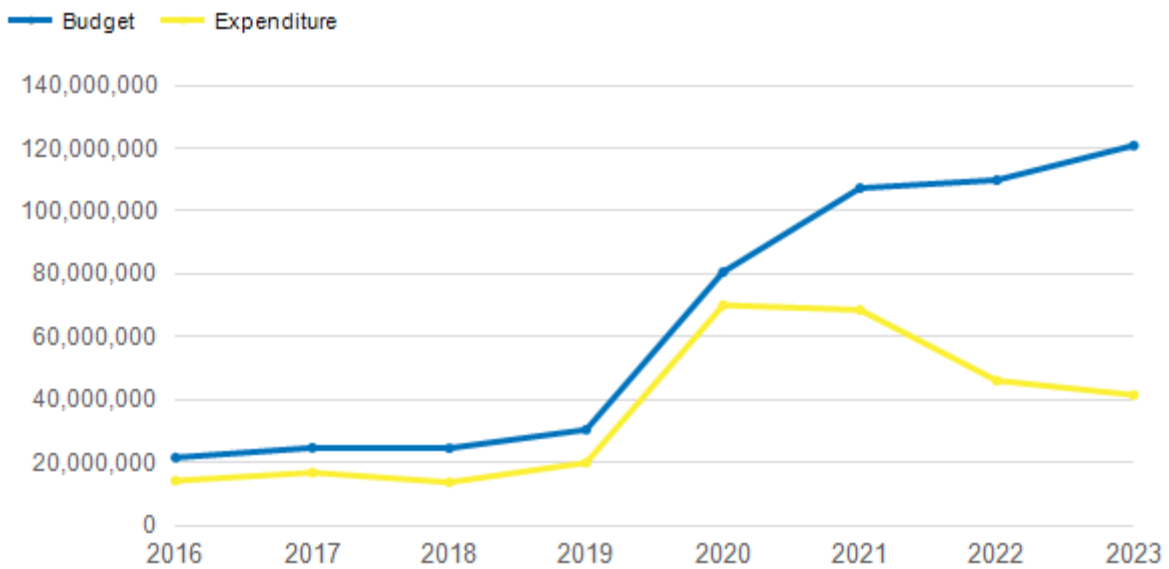
(Financial figures in USD)

Impact Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
IA1: Protect	32,782,350	12,777,705	38.98%	12,777,705	100.00%
IA2: Assist	53,705,736	10,613,041	19.76%	10,613,041	100.00%
IA3: Empower	23,931,637	11,605,721	48.50%	11,605,721	100.00%
IA4: Solve	10,451,090	6,567,223	62.84%	6,567,223	100.00%
All Impact Areas		150,414			
<b>Total</b>	<b>120,870,813</b>	<b>41,714,104</b>	<b>34.51%</b>	<b>41,563,690</b>	<b>99.64%</b>

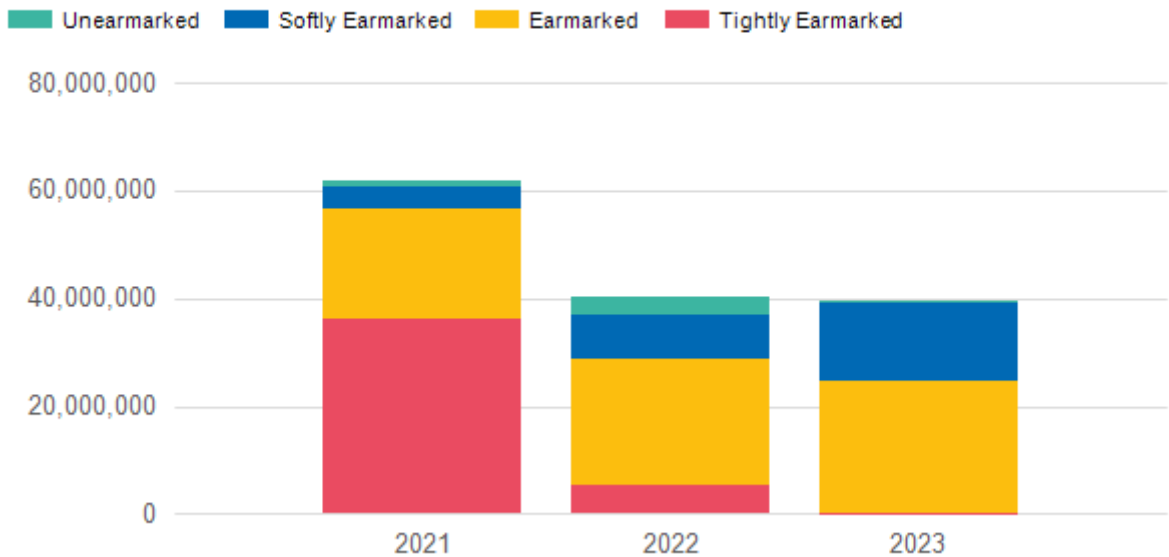
Outcome Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
OA1: Access/Doc	7,800,591	4,545,125	58.27%	4,545,125	100.00%
OA2: Status	17,408,641	6,586,056	37.83%	6,586,056	100.00%
OA3: Policy/Law	7,573,118	1,646,524	21.74%	1,646,524	100.00%
OA4: GBV	5,163,189	1,738,003	33.66%	1,738,003	100.00%
OA5: Children	2,760,391	515,299	18.67%	515,299	100.00%
OA7: Community	23,152,632	2,770,162	11.96%	2,770,162	100.00%
OA8: Well-being	1,267,157	681,111	53.75%	681,111	100.00%
OA9: Housing	20,850,545	9,794,478	46.97%	9,794,478	100.00%
OA10: Health	5,676,873	1,458,266	25.69%	1,458,266	100.00%
OA11: Education	6,265,598	3,055,729	48.77%	3,055,729	100.00%
OA12: WASH	3,271,984	388,045	11.86%	388,045	100.00%
OA13: Livelihood	9,229,004	1,817,670	19.70%	1,817,670	100.00%
OA14: Return	1,642,106	386,734	23.55%	386,734	100.00%
OA15: Resettle	2,058,040	1,091,800	53.05%	1,091,800	100.00%
OA16: Integrate	4,698,099	3,138,044	66.79%	3,138,044	100.00%
EA20: External	2,052,845	1,950,645	95.02%	1,950,645	100.00%
All Outcome Areas		150,414			
<b>Total</b>	<b>120,870,813</b>	<b>41,714,104</b>	<b>34.51%</b>	<b>41,563,690</b>	<b>99.64%</b>



### Budget and Expenditure Trend



### Contributions Trend by Type



## 3.2. Resources Overview

Despite significant efforts by authorities to secure various locations, the humanitarian situation in Burkina Faso remains precarious. The operation continued prioritizing assistance for forcibly displaced and stateless individuals, while supporting the overall response for internally displaced persons (IDPs).

In 2023, the operation required \$120.9 million, a 10% increase from 2022, reflecting the escalating crisis and a rise in IDPs from 1,882,593 to 2,101,418 individuals. Despite donor support, the operation was only 33% funded, with decreased allocations from global funds. Government donors provided 99% of funds, with only 1% from the private sector.

The operation focused on key intervention areas, such as protection of refugees and asylum seekers, coordination, assistance to IDPs, shelter, and CCCM/GSAT. Sixty percent of the budget went to partners (INGOs and NGOs), while 40% was implemented directly by UNHCR, including Cash-Based interventions. Protection and empowerment activities received 60% of the resources, critical for ensuring humanitarian protection.

Despite access challenges, the operation fully utilized available funding by the end of 2023. UNHCR maintained its presence through seven offices, including a Country Office in Ouagadougou and field offices in Kaya, Dori, Ouahigouya, Bobo Dioulasso, and Fada N'Gourma. However, the Djibo Field Unit was partially closed due to security issues in January 2023. Security concerns also affected staff travel, with road trips prohibited in high-risk areas, necessitating the use of air travel via UNHAS or commercial airlines for safer transport.

## Section 4: Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

### 4.1 Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

The review process of the MYMP 2022-2025 strategy at the end of 2022 has highlighted several key lessons. In general, the strategy is in line with the national strategy, facilitating its execution through cooperation with the government and its decentralized entities. Nevertheless, the efficacy and efficiency of aid differ according to the circumstances, necessitating swift interventions. This entails involving forced displaced persons, local communities, and authorities such as religious or traditional leaders and governmental structures to address their needs, mitigate project risks, and amplify intervention outcomes. Expediting access to land for shelter construction and agricultural endeavors can accelerate assistance, yet insecurity and blockades present challenges in certain regions. Consequently, reassessing aid from a logistical standpoint and coordinating stakeholders becomes imperative.

The six strategic priorities outlined in the MYMP 2022-2025 strategy, including: 1) Improving the protective environment by strengthening and applying international and national legal frameworks for protection; 2) Consolidating peace, security, and social cohesion; 3) Supporting registration, civil status and documentation; 4) Improving access to quality basic social services and the inclusion of forcibly displaced persons and those at risk of statelessness; 5) Empowering forcibly displaced persons, those at risk of statelessness and host communities and supporting local development and innovation; 6) Searching for integrated sustainable solutions for forcibly displaced persons and those at risk of statelessness, allowed for alignment with the operational context and facilitated more effective planning of UNHCR's response efforts in 2023. Additionally, particular emphasis was placed on five cross-cutting strategic priorities, including the Area-Based Approach (ABA) with localization and tri-cluster synergies, CCCM/GSAT, Prevention/protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), and climate change considerations. These adjustments helped strengthen understanding of these priorities, notably through the implementation of a detailed roadmap outlining the execution of key cross-cutting strategies. Furthermore, the CCCM/GSAT strategy, which underwent review in 2022, contributed to enhancing the continued role of CCCM/GSAT as a pathway to solutions for IDPs residing in spontaneous sites throughout 2023.

Targeting forcibly displaced and stateless persons has the potential to engender social tensions, a challenge which can be mitigated through increased financial resources, heightened awareness campaigns aimed at forcibly displaced persons and the host community, and the reinforcement of the humanitarian/development partnership. Strengthening information dissemination channels is imperative to ensure that forcibly displaced and stateless persons are well-informed about available services, with digitization offering considerable assistance in targeting, aid delivery, monitoring, data analysis, and interpretation. Compensation mechanisms are essential for mitigating protection risks, particularly among vulnerable groups such as children and women.

Furthermore, digitization can enhance processes related to registration, civil status documentation, and identity document issuance for both forcibly displaced and stateless persons and host communities, necessitating a tripartite agreement between CONASUR, DGMEC, and ONI. While Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) have played a pivotal role in addressing operational gaps, they require comprehensive support in technical expertise, financial backing, material resources, and logistical assistance. In areas where access to basic social services is constrained, overcrowding becomes a pressing concern, emphasizing the need for timely interventions to optimize resource utilization. Additionally, to avoid redundant coordination efforts and the establishment of parallel assistance systems, it is imperative to conduct coordination meetings at the municipal level involving provincial emergency relief committees and humanitarian actors, thereby ensuring effective collaboration and resource allocation.



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