

## Burkina Faso

1 January-31 August 2021

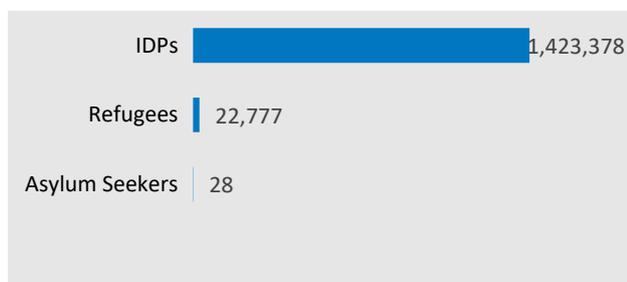
As of 31 August, **1,423,378 persons** have fled their homes in search of safety and have moved increasingly towards urban centres, adding to demographic pressure.

As of 31 August, Burkina Faso hosts **22,777 refugees** including **12,051** living in Goudoubo camp in the Sahel region, following the relocations from the towns of Djibo, Dori and Gorom-Gorom and other spontaneous arrivals.

On 11 and 12 August, the **Governments of Burkina Faso and Mali** and **UNHCR** held a **Tripartite meeting** which focused on the continuous pursuit of **durable solutions for refugees** in both countries.

### POPULATION OF CONCERN

## Burkina Faso



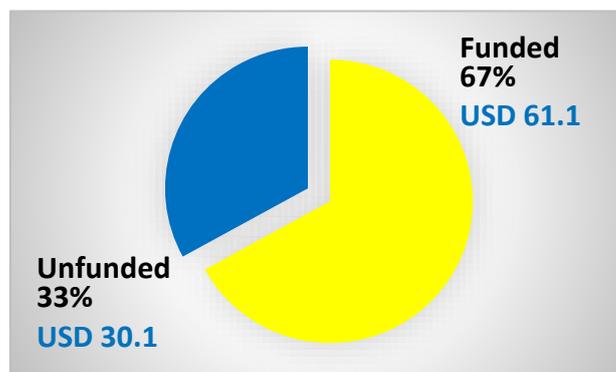
\* IDP figure refers to internally displaced persons across the country recorded on 31 August by the National Council for Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation (CONASUR).

\*\* Registered refugees and asylum seekers include 53% women 47% men. 20,280 live in the Sahel region (Goudoubo camp, Oudalan, Seno and Soum provinces) and 2,525 live in urban areas in Ouagadougou and Bobo Dioulasso.

### FUNDING (AS OF 31 AUGUST 2021)

## USD 91.2 M

requested for the Burkina Faso situation



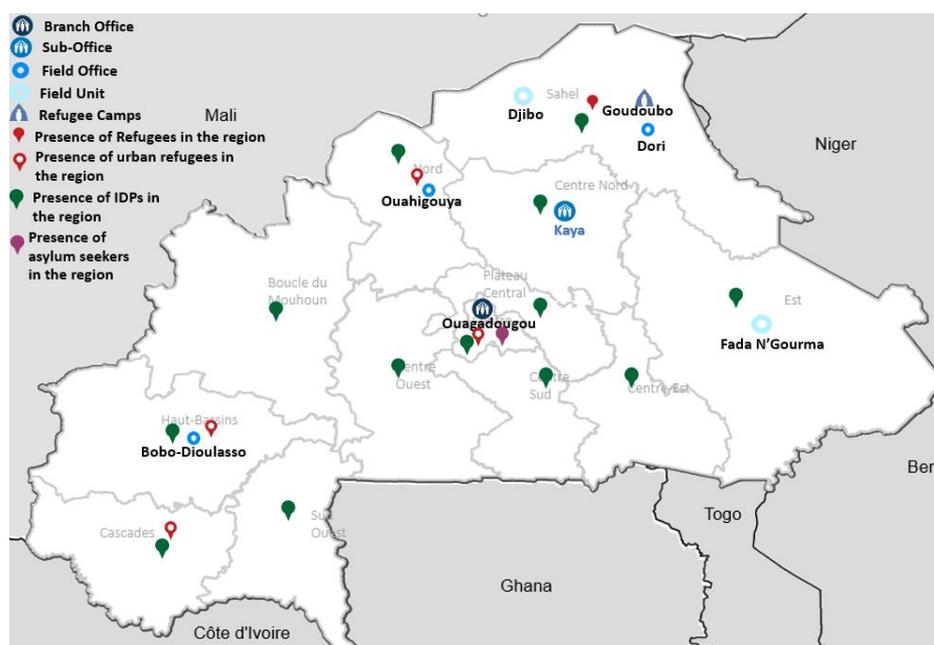
### UNHCR PRESENCE

#### Staff: 167

- 101 National Staff
- 50 International Staff
- 16 Affiliated Workforce

#### Offices: 7

- 1 Country Office in Ouagadougou
- 1 Sub-Office in Kaya
- 3 Field Offices in Dori, Ouahigouya and Bobo-Dioulasso
- 2 Units in Djibo and Fada N'Gourma.



## Working with Partners

- In Burkina Faso, UNHCR works with the Government, UN sister agencies, development actors and 20 implementing partners. The Multi Year Multi Partners (MYMP) strategy, developed by UNHCR and covering 2022-2025 period, will bring together a full range of national and international stakeholders, including authorities, the humanitarian country team, development actors, the private sector, displaced people, host communities and civil society, amongst others to plan for a comprehensive response to the needs of refugees, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), those at risk of statelessness and other persons of concern (PoCs) to UNHCR while reinforcing access to protection and the realisation of integrated solutions.
- UNHCR coordinates the response for all refugees in Burkina Faso with the National Commission for Refugees (CONAREF) and others governmental partners, UN agencies, and local and international partners. Regarding the response for IDPs, direct interventions are undertaken with local, regional, and national authorities, including the National Council for Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation (CONASUR).
- In line with the Humanitarian Reform and IASC mechanisms, UNHCR leads the Protection, Shelter/Core Relief Items (CRIs) and CCCM/GSAT (*Gestion des Sites d'Accueil Temporaires*) clusters. The Protection cluster ensures the central character of protection in all humanitarian action and beyond through coordination with national and regional humanitarian actors as well as with the other clusters. As part of its shelter response and coordination role, the Shelter cluster continues to strengthen the harmonization and coordination of the response, while also informing partners of gaps. Regarding the GSAT activities, the government's coordination and management capacities on sites and the camp-like settings are reinforced through various tools. Limited resources and growing displacement have impacted the response, the Protection Cluster' interventions reached only 46% of the targeted people at 5 months before the end of the year and is funded only at 17%, while the Shelter/CRI response only covers 15% of shelter needs and 15% of CRIs needs and funded at only 17% as of 30 June 2021. With continued displacement and the rainy season, this gap is expected to continue to grow.
- UNHCR continues to play a key role in interagency fora, particularly within the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) on issues such as the Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)/Sexual harassment (SH). UNHCR pursued its work with the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT)/ United Nations Country Team (UNCT) towards the strengthening of the joint PSEA coordination in Burkina Faso. This support allowed mainly on the one hand, to draft the 2021-2024 interagency PSEA-SH strategy and its action plan and on the other hand, to strengthen the capacities of HCT / UNCT members and the members of Clusters WASH, Health, Shelter, CCCM and Education, on the IASC learning module "Say NO to sexual misconduct" and the capacities on the integration of Accountability to Affected People (AAP) / PSEA. In addition, UNHCR staff and partners were trained on PSEA/SH, the Code of Conduct and AAP, and a network of 89 focal points within all UNHCR offices and partners was established. UNHCR is also engaged in the community Engagement and Accountability Working Group and supports the establishment of complaints and feedback and accountability mechanisms within the framework of the CCCM/GSAT.

# Main Activities

## Protection

- With growing insecurity and the complexification of the operational context, UNHCR supports the Government of Burkina Faso in its efforts to ensure that refugees and IDPs are protected, live in safety and dignity, and that they progressively attain lasting solutions to their plights. UNHCR's protection interventions are implemented along the following axis: **i) data collection and analysis; ii) documentation of IDPs; iii) Community-based protection with an emphasis on education and GBV prevention, risk mitigation and response; iv) peaceful coexistence between refugees, IDPs, returnees and host communities.** These pillars contribute to the Government's priorities on humanitarian response and multi-sectoral support and toward the triple nexus Humanitarian-Development-Peace and the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

- **Refugees-** Strategic priorities which take into account all refugees, including those living in a mixed environment are as follows: i) to ensure access to territory and asylum, as well as to maintain the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum in a context of deepening insecurity and the COVID-19 pandemic; ii) to pursue the inclusion of refugees in national plans and explore alternatives to camps; iii) to seek durable solutions and alternative pathways for refugees; iv) despite the complex humanitarian and security context, to strengthen livelihood opportunities, while also taking into consideration environmental challenges. Between late December 2020 and early March 2021, CONAREF, UNHCR and partners supported the relocation of 6,571 refugees to



*Relocation of refugees from Djibo town to Goudoubo camp. February 2021. ©UNHCR-BKF*

the reopened and rehabilitated camp of Goudoubo from Dori, Djibo and from Gorom Gorom. Since the reopening of Goudoubo camp, refugees living outside of the camp and newly arrived Malian asylum seekers have spontaneously joined the site. With growing insecurity in the region, the camp has facilitated their access to essential services (WASH, education, health etc.). With growing insecurity in Mali in recent months, the camp's total capacity of people has been reached with more than 12,000 refugees and it is adding pressure on available resources. UNHCR facilitates the access of refugee children to education by supporting programmes in preschools, primary and secondary schools, both in and outside Goudoubo camp. UNHCR in coordination with its partners, has activated the Refugee Coordination Model in the Sahel and subsequently, to establish the Coordination Forum for Refugees and reinforce synergies between all stakeholders working to protect and find solutions for refugees in the Sahel region. On 11 and 12 August, the Governments of Burkina Faso and Mali

and UNHCR held a Tripartite meeting which focused on the continuous pursuit of durable solutions for refugees in both countries. A [statement](#) was released by the three parties, with some key recommendations amongst others: (i) the sharing of information on the security and humanitarian situation in Mali, (ii) the identification and registration of asylum-seekers in Burkina Faso, (iii) continued efforts to facilitate refugees' access to documentation in Burkina Faso and returnees in Mali, (iv) the conduct of regular surveys on refugees' intention to returns.

- **IDPs-** UNHCR decisively contribute to the emergency and protection response, through a number of key activities such as registration, protection monitoring, and response to protection cases (incl. Gender Based Violence (GBV)). As of 31 August, the National Council for Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation (CONASUR) enrolment system totals 1,423,378 IDPs - 90% of whom are registered individually with a profiling at the household level, thanks to UNHCR support. The information collected during registration has helped inform the humanitarian and development actors with the planning and programming of their interventions.
- According to **protection monitoring** results, the months of June and July show an unprecedented escalation in human rights violations and violence, primarily targeting civilians, the overall figure of victims of violations has tripled, from 3,484 to 11,731. in the North, East, and Sahel regions. The most significant increase in violations is related to psychological integrity, which saw a steep rise from 414 in April-May to 8,311 in June-July; almost 20 times. and right to freedom and security of the person, which reached 2,676 from almost 1,500 in April-May. Right to propriety, right to life and GBV were also amongst the most common violations. Despite a smaller coverage of protection monitors due to inaccessibility to certain areas, the number of GBV cases has increased from 120 to 135 but still are underreported. Access to land remains major concern, with IDPs having difficulties in acquiring plots to build shelters and/or cultivate. In addition, land is the main source of conflict between farmers and herders. These tensions around land are one of the causes of pendular movements of IDPs towards their localities of origin, despite the protection risks they may face.
- UNHCR supports **the provision and recognition of civil status documentation** for IDPs, to mitigate the risk of statelessness and to provide a pathway towards solutions by facilitating people's access to rights, such as freedom of movement, as well as to social services, including education, health and economic opportunities. UNHCR and its Government counterparts Directorate-General for the Modernization of Civil Status (DGMEC) as well as CONASUR are working together to provide birth certificates and national identity cards to IDPs and host communities.
- The UN Refugee Agency also reinforced the prevention and response to GBV, including by expanding mobile team services, piloting a remote case management project in hard-to-reach areas of the Sahel region and establishing safe spaces for women and girls UNHCR also continued to strengthen GBV prevention by promoting communication for behaviour change and community protection mechanisms to reduce harmful traditional practices. In particular, several awareness raising activities about the criminalization and negative consequences of child marriage were carried out and an action plan to end child marriage with community leaders in Barsalogo (Center-North region) was developed. In the context of GBV risk mitigation programming, initiatives such as socio-economic empowerment of persons at risk of GBV and safe access to fuel and alternative energy to

women and girls were developed and GBV mainstreaming activities initiated in 2020 were reinforced. UNHCR also worked on building the capacity of its partners and services providers on the prevention and response to GBV and in the absence of a GBV regional Sub-cluster in the region Nord, established an informal GBV Working Group. UNHCR also supported the launch of the Government National GBV hotline in March 2021 in collaboration with UNFPA and IOM.

- Most refugees and IDPs live in environments where they have access to markets and services in the same way that local communities do. Providing them with cash enables them to fulfil their needs in a dignified manner and contributes to the local economy. In displacement areas, UNHCR provides cash for livelihood activities for refugees living in or out of camp setting, as financial support to the creation of micro enterprises, livestock and the most vulnerable artisan who have lost their livelihoods and are unable to recover from the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. 380 refugee household benefited from this support. As part of the cash-based intervention (CBI) for IDPs, UNHCR provides cash for protection intervention as part of protection monitoring activities to IDPs. This protection centered project aims at providing rapid, flexible and adapted response and solutions to individuals affected by protection incidents and prevent further risks. During the reporting period, 247 IDPs with specific needs and host community vulnerable members were assisted through a local financial service provider.

#### **Health and COVID-19 Response**

- As of 29 August, Burkina Faso has recorded 13,768 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 70 active cases, 171 deaths and 13,527 recoveries. UNHCR and its partners continued to support the Government of Burkina Faso in addressing the outbreak and focused their efforts on sensitization, prevention, and response to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on persons of concern in nine regions of the country. Following the Government decision to authorize the import of 1.38 million doses of Astra Zeneca vaccines through the COVAX initiative for the first phase of COVID-19 vaccination, the first 115,000 doses arrived on 30 May 2021. Additional 57,000 Astra Zeneca vaccine doses were received during the reporting period. The Minister of Health launched the vaccination campaign for the additional doses of Astra Zeneca, and, as of 11 September. Burkina Faso also received 302,400 doses of Johnson & Johnson vaccines (that require only one shot) from the U.S. government on 21 July 2021. Vaccination started on 15 August 2021 and is underway in Ouagadougou and the other regions.

#### **Shelter and CRIs**

- In order to improve the living conditions and the dignity of IDPs and refugees, while also reducing protection risks, UNHCR and its partners provide shelter and CRIs assistance.
- During the reporting period, UNHCR distributed 4,493 emergency and durable shelters. In addition, 1,614 CRI kits, composed of blankets, mattresses, kitchen sets, sanitary kits and solar lamps have been distributed. UNHCR pursued its efforts to establish, improve and maintain shelter and infrastructure and whenever possible, make a transition from emergency shelters to more durable shelter solutions.

#### **Durable Solutions and Development**

- UNHCR actively pursued strategic collaboration with key development partners to promote and advocate for a public policy and investment agenda for the socio-economic inclusion of IDPs in the

most affected secondary cities and municipal capitals. UNHCR has been working closely with the German technical cooperation agency (GIZ) in the process of identifying and preparing a new project to support and strengthen the capacities of the municipalities in the Center-North region. It is also worth noting that UNHCR has begun implementing technical assistance to a national support project to municipalities (*Projet d'Appui aux Collectivités Territoriales, PACT*), funded by the World Bank, to support the towns most affected by displacement, through the provision of CRIs and the capacity building for mayors in the management of IDP sites. In addition, discussions with the World Bank and other key development partners continue to i) strengthen policy dialogue around the challenges of IDP socioeconomic inclusion in the context of accelerated urbanization of secondary cities, and ii) support the inclusion of IDPs in within the frame of the WB portfolio of operations/projects.

### **Environment and Energy**

- Environmental changes act as threat multiplier for conflict and instability as competition for scarce natural resources can lead to inter-communal tensions. Considering the correlation between climate change and forced displacement, UNHCR is committed to promoting and supporting the use of renewable energies in its response. In fact, to reduce impact on the environment and mitigate the protection risks linked to the collection of firewood, UNHCR and its partners trained women from the IDP and host communities in the Center-North on the fabrication of clean cooking-stoves.

### **Special thanks to donors who have contributed directly to the Burkina Faso operation in 2021 (as of 31 August 2021)**

United States of America | GAP Inc. | Industria de Diseño Texti S.A. (Inditex) | Japan | African Development Bank Group | France | CERF | Austria | UN Peacebuilding Fund | Burkina Faso | Canada | European Union | World Food Program | Luxembourg | Education Cannot Wait | AIDS | Private donors |

### **UNHCR thanks also its donors for their flexible and unearmarked contributions**

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### **LINKS**

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