

Burkina Faso

1 January-28 February 2021

According to the National Council for Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation (CONASUR), **1,121,960 individuals**, including a majority of children and women have fled their homes seeking safety.

UNHCR and CONAREF facilitated the **relocation of 1,211 refugees and asylum-seekers** from the town of Djibo to Goudoubo refugee camp. These returns come in addition to the **5,250 refugees** relocated last December from Dori.

On 10 February, a **new government** was formed and a **new Ministry for national reconciliation**, attached to the Presidency, was created.

KEY INDICATORS

6,461

Refugees and asylum-seekers relocated to Goudoubo refugee camp from the towns of Djibo or Dori

3,031

Emergency shelters provided to refugee, displaced and host communities

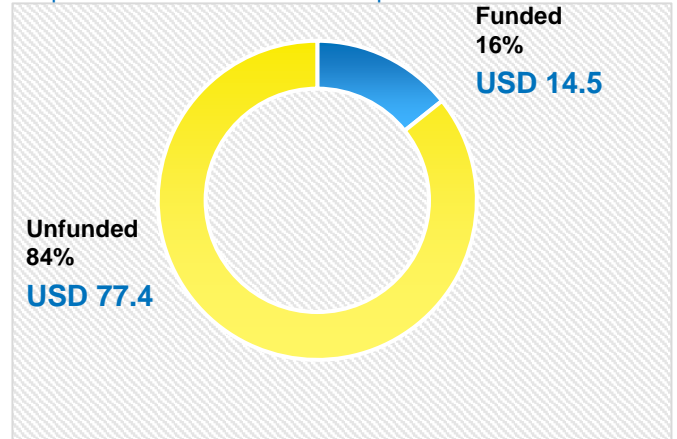
USD 3,600

Worth of pharmaceutical products and health consumables donated to the North region Governorate.

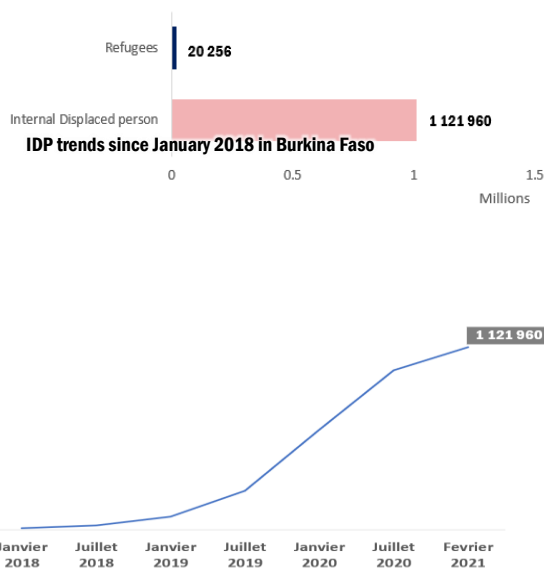
FUNDING (AS OF 23 FEBRUARY 2021)

USD 92M

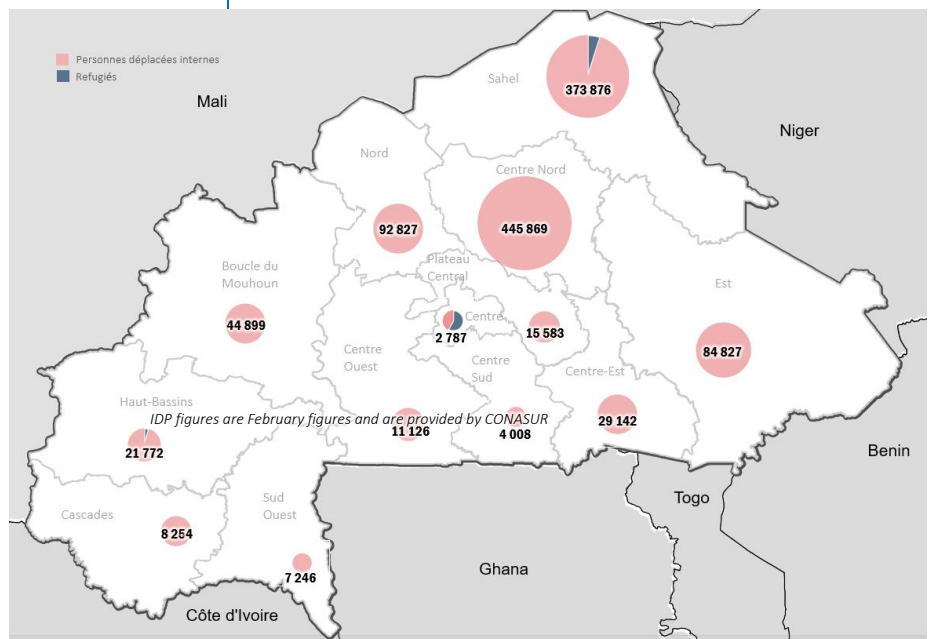
Requested for the Burkina Faso Operation



IDP vs Refugees in Burkina Faso



Refugees and IDP per Region in Burkina Faso



OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

During the reporting period, the security situation remained volatile across the country. Attacks by armed groups against security forces and the kidnappings and killings of civilians and religious representatives continued. However, in February, the situation remained generally calm in the Boucle du Mouhoun and the East regions, despite the presence of armed groups. Crime continued to rise in Ouagadougou and other urban centres.

In this context, internal displacements continue, with the number of people fleeing their homes in search of safety reaching 1,121,960 by the end of February, including a majority of women (47%) and children (54%), according to the National Council for Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation (CONASUR). In early January, following several attacks by armed groups in and around the town of Koumbri in the North region, 11,400 individuals (both from Mossi and Fulanis communities) fled to Ouahigouya, where most were hosted by local communities. Following a rapid protection evaluation by government and humanitarian actors were provided with sensitization and awareness raising sessions on social cohesion and urgent assistance was provided for shelter, core relief items by UNHCR. In February, with the progressive improvement of the security situation, 6,000 individuals mostly Mossi, are estimated to have returned to their villages according to information gathered through the protection monitoring. The Government of Burkina Faso continues to generously host some **20,256** refugees and asylum seekers, mainly from Mali, as of 31 January 2021. The reporting period was marked by the second phase of returns to Goudoubo camp from the town of Djibo – some 200 kms away.

The start of the year was marked by the forming of a **new government**. The former Prime Minister was reappointed and a Ministry in charge of national reconciliation was created. This new Ministry, which comes in addition to the High Council for Reconciliation and National Unity, will strengthen efforts towards lasting peace through the promotion of social cohesion in Burkina Faso.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS



PROTECTION

- As part of its efforts to strengthening capacities for protection monitoring, UNHCR reinforced the capacities and deployed 50 community support technicians (CSTs) from the Center-North and 46 sensitization sessions were conducted by the protection committees.
- As part of the protection monitoring, a total of 116 protection incidents were recorded during the month of February in the region of Center-North and Sahel. There has been a slight decrease in the number of incidents in the Sahel region. Due to the overall improvement of the security situation across the country, almost 7,000 IDP returns were observed. Nevertheless, persisting

UNHCR and CONAREF facilitated the relocation of **1,211** refugees and asylum-seekers from the town of Djibo to Goudoubo refugee camp, while respecting all COVID-19 preventative measures. These returns come in addition to the **5,250** refugees relocated to the site from the city of Dori since last December. UNHCR and its partners supported them with 490 emergency shelters (to cross check – I thought it was 1,500 shelters were rehabilitated?). As part of efforts to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, UNHCR's health partners distributed 115 hand-washing devices and 100 cartons of soap. In addition, 500 families, including 440 from the refugee and 60 from the host communities, were supported each with 10 goats to rebuild their livestock and foster livelihood opportunities.

insecurity in some parts of the Sahel region has resulted in IDPs crossing into Cote d'Ivoire and Mali. In the Sahel, while the number of security incidents in February (38) decreased compared to those of January (44), the number of recorded casualties increased (from 31 to 74). The main human rights violations identified were those related to liberty and security of the person (811), integrity (527) followed by Gender Based Violence (GBV) (78) and property rights (76). The current heat wave and related increased water scarcity has generated conflicts around water points between IDPs and host populations near some sites in the North region. In addition, the competition for accessing plots of land has resulted in an increase of cost, mostly fuelling conflicts between herders and farmers (80%).

- As part of documentation activities, UNHCR worked with its partner, the Directorate General for the Modernization of Civil Status (DGMEC), to assess the birth certificate needs of IDPs and host communities in the regions of Boucle du Mouhoun, the East, the Hauts-Bassins, the North and the South-West. Following the evaluation, a partnership agreement was finalized with the DGMEC for the issuance of 47,000 birth certificates from January to June 2021 to the populations of these regions in order to reduce the risk of statelessness.
- UNHCR continued to support the Government in the process of identifying and registering IDPs. In order to improve the registration process and the quality and reliability of data, UNHCR has initiated discussions with CONASUR for the establishment of a team dedicated to IDPs registration and data processing and the signing of a partnership agreement for the year 2021. It is also in this context that UNHCR officials met the Minister of Women, National Solidarity, Family, and Humanitarian Action in order to advocate for the deployment of more staff.



GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

- As part of GBV prevention activities, in Center-North region, over 270 people were sensitized on the consequences of domestic violence and informed on the types of assistance available to survivors and how to access them. In addition, 13 awareness sessions were carried out by the protection committees of three provinces.
- In the context of the ongoing GBV Safety Audit in Burkina Faso, UNHCR continued to engage in advocacy with national and regional authorities to ensure their full support during the data collection phase and afterwards. UNHCR organized training sessions for the partners' supervisors and enumerators including on key issues and concepts related to UNHCR's Age, Gender, and Diversity (AGD) Policy and on the basics of Psychological First Aid (PFA), to equip them to safely handle sensitive topics and possible disclosure of GBV incidents during interviews. During the field data collection phase, around 1,020 refugee, IDP and host community representatives have been interviewed through the individual questionnaire. The GBV Safety Audit will allow the compilation of an updated mapping of GBV prevention, mitigation and services in three priority regions of the Center-North, the North and the Sahel, which will be of utmost importance in light of the elaboration of UNHCR' 2021 GBV Strategy.



Training of 20 investigators and supervisors responsible for collecting data in the regions of North, Center-North and Sahel within the framework of the GBV Safety Audit. ©UNHCR-BKF

- During the reporting period, GBV was the most common protection incident with 70.51% of cases, followed by physical and psychological harm with 20.15%. In the Center-North, North and Sahel, several human rights violations were identified, including the right to physical and mental integrity, the right to life, the right to liberty and security, and the right to property. In the Center-North, it appears that women (82.61%) and IDPs (91.30%) were the most affected by such violations, in comparison to men and host communities.
- To ensure appropriate care and support of survivors, the reception of five community centers in three communes of the North region has been finalized during the reporting period. These centers will allow, among other things, to provide psychological support through listening groups, to survivors of SGBV.



COVID-19 RESPONSE

- As of 28 February, Burkina Faso has recorded 12,030 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 299 active cases, 143 deaths and 11,588 recoveries.
- Two refugees in Goudoubo camp were also tested positive. The couple and the three contact cases were placed in isolation and thanks to the monitoring and support of UNHCR's health partner, International Health Support Center (CSSI) and the district health authorities, they fully recovered.
- UNHCR and its partners continue to support the Government in addressing the crisis and focusing its efforts on sensitization, prevention and response to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on persons of concern in nine regions of the country. UNHCR's partner CSSI continues to sensitize refugee communities about the preventative measures, including the wearing of masks, hand-washing and physical distancing. UNHCR, through its partner AIRD, distributed soap to 5,250 refugees in Goudoubo camp, 30 hand-washing devices and soap have been distributed in the camp school to mitigate the spread of the virus. In addition, in the North region, on 24 February, UNHCR handed over pharmaceutical products and health consumables worth near to USD 3,600 (2,000,000 XOF) to the North region Governorate. In addition, awareness-raising activities on peaceful coexistence and COVID-19 in the Sahel region reached 791 people during the reported period.



SHELTER AND CRIS

- With the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan, the Shelter/CRI Cluster targeted around 93,000 families out of 203,198 in need. Despite the lack of funds to respond adequately to these needs, UNHCR continues to strengthen the shelter response and the distribution of core relief items (CRIs) throughout the country to improve the living conditions, the physical safety and the dignity of displaced populations. So far, only 4% and 2% have been respectively reached by shelter and CRI interventions. Since the start of the year, a total of 3,031 emergency shelters were built in the Center-North, the North and the Sahel regions. Following the movements of 11,400 new IDPs in the North region, regional authorities estimate that the most pressing needs include 600 shelters and 600 CRIs kits, UNHCR provided 108 refugees housing unit (RHU) to cover the urgent shelter needs. In addition, following the massive arrival of 2,652 new IDPs fleeing violence in the town of Sebba in the Sahel region, different humanitarian actors including UNHCR, mobilized assistance to support local authorities with the provision of 337 CRIs kits composed of 500 mats, 500 blankets, 500 jerrycans, 500 blankets, and 500 solar lamps to 337 families.

**EDUCATION**

- Following the relocation of refugees in Goudoubo camp, UNHCR through its partner Danish Refugee Council (DRC) has resumed education activities for children enrolled in the primary school. As part of the support to the secondary level in Dori, 48 refugee students were the payment of their school fees as well as the necessary school materials and their accommodation in Dori is assured. Discussions are underway between UNHCR and the Ministry of National Education and the Promotion of National Languages, for the reopening of the secondary school in Goudoubo camp before the start of the 2021-2022 school year, which will start next October. This would allow refugee secondary school students, who are still in Dori for their classes, to join the camp with their families.

DURABLE SOLUTIONS

- During the reporting period, UNHCR actively pursued strategic interactions with key development partners to promote and advocate for a public policy and public 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 GIZ in the process of identifying and preparing a new project to support and strengthen the capacities of the communes in the Centre Nord region most affected by the displacement crisis. The project will aim to support the resilience of the most affected communes, through two areas of intervention, namely: i) an axis based on strengthening access to basic public services, through capacity building of communal actors, and ii) an axis based on support to social cohesion. This project will be start in the fall of 2021 and will be implemented for a two-and-a-half-year period. Its budget totals 3.5 million Euros.

**WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP**

- In Burkina Faso, the UN Refugee Agency works with a network of 11 partners, including the Government of Burkina Faso, UN sister agencies, International and National Non-Governmental Organizations, and development actors.
- UNHCR continues to fully play its role of coordinator of the protection and shelter / CRI response as the lead of these two Clusters and in addition to the Temporary Reception Sites Management Working Group (GSAT), in collaboration with DRC, CONASUR. During the reporting period, the protection response activities reached 82,335 people out of the 1,002,197 targeted by the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan (8% of the response). The Shelter/CRI cluster carried out the annual Cluster Coordination Performance Monitoring and partners agreed on a work plan to address the shortfall.
- Within the framework of Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) and Sexual Harassment (SH), UNHCR supported the first draft of 2021-2024 Interagency PSEA-SH Strategy. In addition, UNHCR continued working as part of the GBV Information Management System (GBVIMS) Steering Committee in Burkina Faso (composed of UNHCR, IRC, UNFPA, UNICEF et ICAHD International), with the full engagement of the Government as the “chef de file” of the GBV Area of Responsibility (AoR). February marked the end of the three-months project of “Support to the deployment of the GBVIMS in Burkina Faso”, led by IRC in collaboration with the Steering Committee members.
- In the framework of a financing agreement between the World Bank and the Government of Burkina Faso, the Government has signed a contract -in February 17- with UNHCR Representation in Burkina Faso for the provision of a technical assistance to the “Projet d’Appui aux Collectivités Territoriales (PACT)” of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization. The Project aims at strengthening the capacities of municipalities and key local stakeholders on international standards, best

practices and internal principles related to the management of displacement to enhance the emergency response to the internal displacement crisis in the most affected regions of the country. In parallel, UNHCR will provide a technical assistance to the PACT in the acquisition and provision of NFIs to more than 400,000 beneficiaries among the most vulnerable IDPs and host communities in the regions targeted by the HRP 2021 regions.

- As part of the joint WFP / UNHCR project implemented funded by the Austrian Development Cooperation Agency (ADA), a mission by the Head of Cooperation, H.E.M Hauser Hannes, took place in Kaya on 26 February to review the results achieved. The project contributes to the humanitarian-development nexus through emergency food assistance provided by WFP to nearly 30,000 IDPs and members of the host community, including 600 vulnerable women whose livelihoods have been strengthened by UNHCR. Indeed, through its partner, UNHCR provided cash transfer to enable the beneficiaries to support an income generating activity, the technical and livelihood trainings enhanced their entrepreneurial skills and by facilitating their access to decentralized financial systems, UNHCR ensures their resilience and the sustainability of the project.



Meeting of the head of ADA with Jonabo, weaver and vulnerable woman from the host community benefiting from the project. ©UNHCR-BKF



PUBLIC INFORMATION

Regional portal - UNHCR operation page

- [Grim milestone as Sahel violence displaces 2 million inside their countries](#) (Briefing note, 22 January 2021)
- [Product Philanthropy Nonprofit Good360 Announces Partnership with USA for UNHCR](#) (Press release, 11 February 2021)

Twitter - Facebook

Our best [tweet](#) of January



UNHCR Burkina Faso @UNHCR_BF

Rasmata, déplacée interne, a reçu du cash qu'elle a utilisé pour constituer un cheptel dont elle est très contente.

Elle dit Barka 🙏 à [@AustrianDev](#) de contribuer à renforcer ses moyens d'existence et à la protéger des risques de violences basées sur le genre.

[@UNHCRWestAfrica](#)
pic.twitter.com/pdhchUpbRK

Our best [tweet](#) of February



UNHCR Burkina Faso @UNHCR_BF

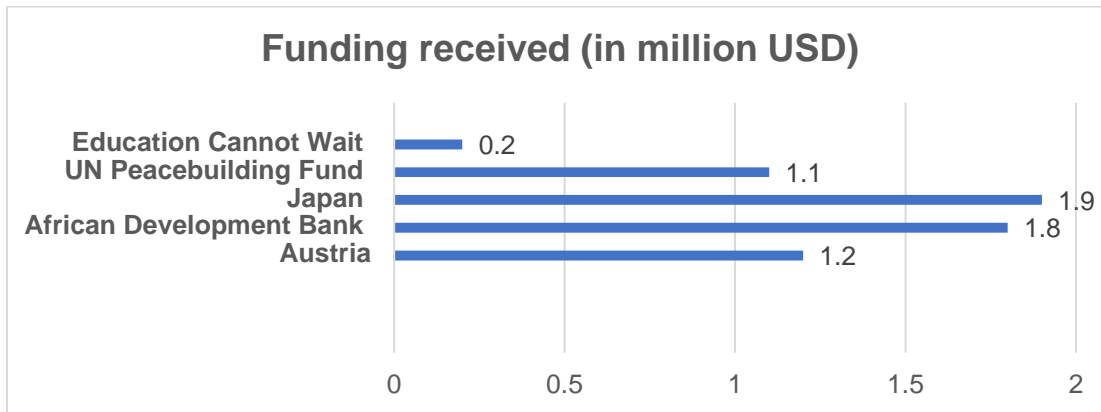
🙏 [#EUTF](#) EU dont le financement a permis au [#UNHCRBF](#) de redonner l'espoir aux 440 ménages réfugiés relocalisés au camp de Goudoubo et 60 ménages hôtes, en les aidant à reconstituer leurs cheptels de petits ruminants.

[@europeaid](#)
[#AfricaTrustFund](#)
[@UE_BURKINA](#)
[@UNHCRWestAfrica](#)
pic.twitter.com/slh684VLnC



FINANCIAL INFORMATION

As of 28 February 2021, total recorded contributions for the operation amount to USD **14.5 M**. UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked or broadly earmarked funds.



Special thanks to the major donors of regional funds

Germany (8 M)

Thanks to other donors of unrestricted funds

Norway (80 M) | Sweden (66.9 M) | Netherlands (36.1 M) | Denmark (34.6 M) | Germany (22.1 M) | Switzerland (16.4M) | Ireland (12.5 M) | Belgium (11.9 M)

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