

Burkina Faso

1 January-31 October 2021

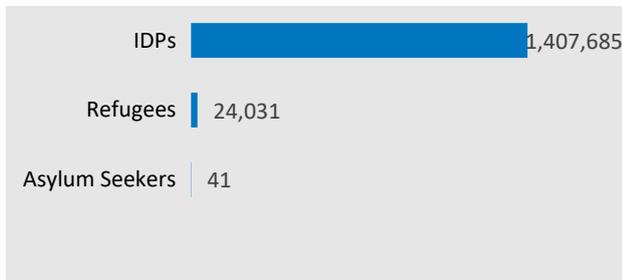
As of 30 September, **1,407,685 persons** have fled their homes in search of safety and have moved increasingly towards urban centres, adding to demographic pressure.

As of 31 October, Burkina Faso hosts **24,072 refugees** and **asylum seekers**, 98% of whom are from Mali.

From 27 September to 11 October, UNHCR presented its **2022-2025 multi-year and multi-partner strategy (MYMP)** to governmental and non-governmental actors as well as donors present in Burkina Faso.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Burkina Faso



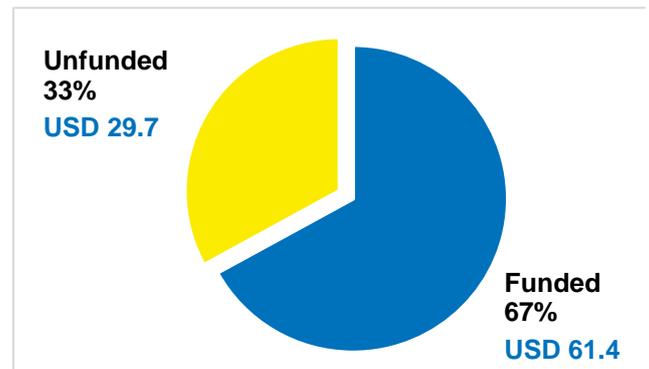
* IDP figure refers to internally displaced persons across the country recorded on 30 September by the National Council for Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation (CONASUR).

** Registered refugees and asylum seekers include 54% women 46% men. 21,147 live in the Sahel region and 2,925 live in urban areas in Ouagadougou and Bobo Dioulasso.

FUNDING (AS OF 26 OCTOBER 2021)

USD 91.2 M

requested for the Burkina Faso situation



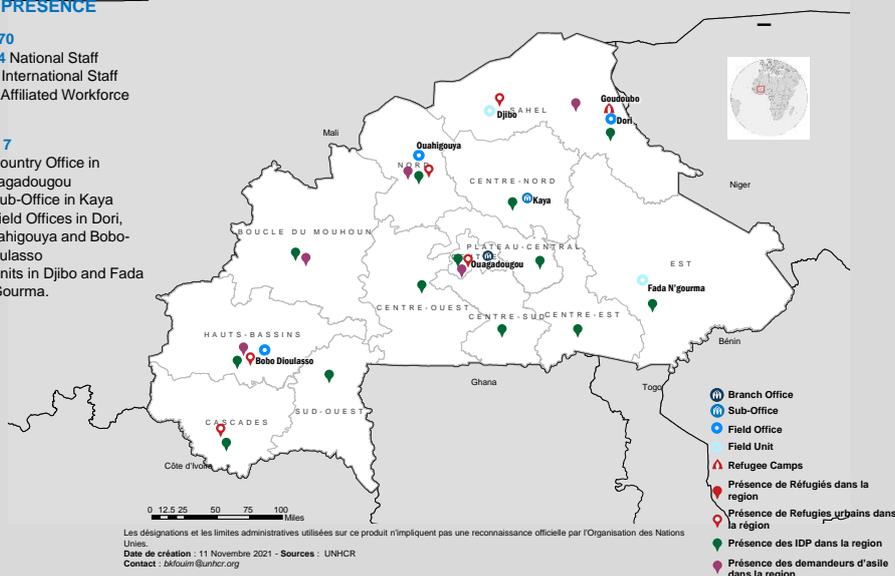
UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff: 170

- 104 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 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 65% of the targeted people at 3 months before the end of the year and is funded only at 21% only, while the Shelter/CRIs response only covers 19% of shelter needs with UNHCR covering 44 % of these interventions as of 31 October 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.

- UNHCR has launched the assessment of its current Partners' organizational capacities to prevent and mitigate the risks of SEA, in accordance with the special provisions of the Secretary-General's Circular as well as the minimum standards of the Protocol of United Nations Implementing Partners Relating to Allegations of Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse Involving Implementing Partners (the United Nations Protocol).

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) registration and documentation of IDPs; iii) Community-based protection with an emphasis on education and Gender Based Violence (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 search integrated durable solutions (voluntary repatriation, profiling for resettlement and complementary pathways, local integration's prospects.; 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 the reopened and rehabilitated camp of Goudoubo from Dori, Djibo and from Gorom Gorom. Since the reopening of Goudoubo camp, located at 18 kms of the city of Dori in the Sahel region, it was until recently the home to almost 13,000 Malian refugees and asylum-seekers. The camp has facilitated their access to essential services (WASH, education, health etc.). However, since May 2021, there has been a rapid deterioration of the security situation and of targeted attacks in and around the camp. After the last attacks early November 2021, refugees have progressively left the camp and approx. 2,600 refugees' family are now in the town of Dori and its surroundings welcomed by the authorities and local inhabitants, a [statement](#) was release by UNHCR. UNHCR in coordination with the Government and other 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 30 September, thanks to UNHCR support, the verification operation led by the National Council for Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation (CONASUR) to verify the actual presence of internally displaced persons (IDPs), identified **1,407,685** IDPs as of 30 September 2021, a 1.10% decrease compared to August 2021. 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** of August and September, a total of 2,315 rights violations were recorded, of which 48.73% were violations of freedom and security, 20.86% were violations of property rights, and 10.45% were violations of the right to life. The main cities that received the most IDPs were Fada N'Gourma in the East region, Toéni and Bourasso in the Boucle du Mouhoun region and Titao in the North region. 121 cases of Gender Based Violence (GBV) (compared to 135 in June and July) were reported during the reporting period, mainly affecting women (85%) and children (15%). The main causes of tension between communities are House Land and Property (HLP) issues and the lack of socio-economic opportunities. Thus, approximately 41% of the conflicts were between farmers and herders.
- 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. So far, 32,597 birth certificates have been distributed to members from the IDP and host communities from January to October 2021.
- 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, UNHCR continues to work 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. The national GBV Area of Responsibility (AoR)' Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) to which UNHCR is a permanent member is now officially in place: its terms of references were validated, and non-permanent members- One international NGO and one national NGOs elected. This body will provide policy and strategic direction, technical and

coordination support to the GBV AoR in Burkina Faso. As part of gender mainstreaming in the current planification for 2022, UNHCR organized in October, a 4-day internal workshop on “Mainstreaming gender-based violence (GBV) risk mitigation” was held in Ouagadougou, aiming at further developing the capacity of 25 participants including clusters coordinators. It allowed to establish a common understanding of responsibilities and develop skills on mainstreaming GBV risk mitigation across all areas of work as well as sharing relevant tools and best practices; to identify opportunities to mainstream GBV risk-mitigation into coordination activities, considering also other complementary inter-agency processes; and to identify and prioritize key GBV risks, gaps and possible actions across key sectors. Regional action plans were developed and fed the Operation’s detailed discussions for its 2022 planification.

- 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. 325 refugee and 150 IDPs 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 received cash for basic needs assistance through implementation partners.

Health and COVID-19 Response

- As of 31 October, Burkina Faso has recorded 14,793 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 292 active cases, 214 deaths and 14,287 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. Burkina Faso also received 302,400 doses of Johnson & Johnson vaccines from the U.S. government on 21 July 2021 and 400,000 doses of Sinopharm vaccines, donated by the Government of China. Since the start of the vaccination campaign launched by the Minister of Health on 2 June 2021 and up 31 October 2021, 393,427 people – including health agents and 70 refugees from Djibo, have been vaccinated.

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 a total of 6,924 shelter including emergency shelters and semi durable shelters, to the benefit of 48 468 individuals. The shelters were accompanied by the distribution of 2,476 CRIs for 17,332 individuals. 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. UNHCR provided technical assistance to a national support project to municipalities (*Programme d'Appui aux Collectivités Territoriales, PACT*), funded by the World Bank and ended on 30 September. The implementation of the PACT project targeted 108 communes of the six prioritized regions in the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and allowed to deliver CRIs kits to almost 400,000 IDPs and providing capacity building sessions to nearly 500 stakeholders from municipalities and local authorities in IDP sites management.
- 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 26 October 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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