

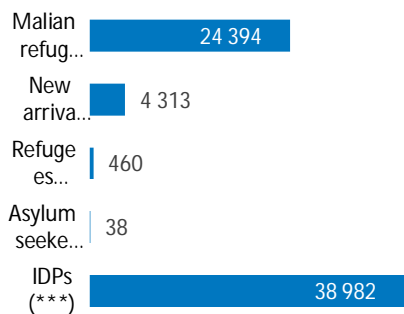
# Burkina Faso



Goudoubo refugee camp © UNHCR / Marlies Cardoen

## POPULATION OF CONCERN

68,187



\* UNHCR figures (31<sup>st</sup> August 2018)

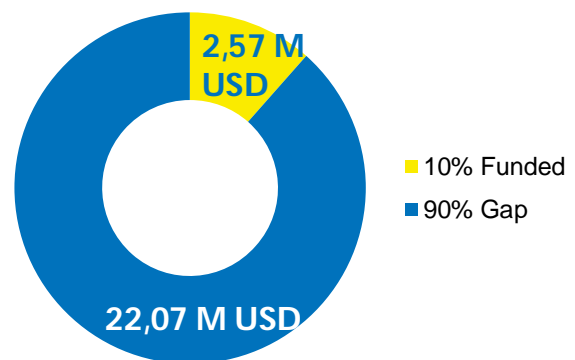
\*\* Government of Burkina Faso figures

\*\*\* OCHA figures

## FUNDING (AS OF SEPTEMBER 2018)

USD 22,07 Million

requested for the Burkina Faso Country Operation



## KEY INDICATORS

24,394

Malian refugees in a protracted refugee situation  
in Burkina Faso's arid Sahel Region

90%

\*Funding gap as of September 2018

38,982

Persons internally displaced in Burkina Faso



Malian refugee at the market in Goudoubo refugee camp  
© UNHCR / Marlies Cardoen

## Operational Context

The key situations include:

1. **The Mali Situation:** began in 2011 with the outbreak of conflict in northern Mali. Today, **over 24,000 Malians have found refuge in Burkina Faso. 98% are based in the Sahel Region**, in one of the two consolidated camps or in spontaneous sites in Soum and Oudalan provinces. In 2017, **a regional EU Trust Fund three-year project** was launched and aimed at strengthening resilience and improve peaceful coexistence of refugees and host communities in the Sahel. With the support of major donors such as USA and France, UNHCR aims to facilitate the socio-economic integration of Malian refugees and gradually transform refugee camps into villages adapted to the national context.

For the first time, new arrivals from Mali entered in **Boucle du Mouhoun and North Regions, fleeing intercommunal violence** in Cercle de Mopti and Cercle de Koro, areas bordering Burkina Faso. UNHCR has no presence in those regions, hence local authorities have been registering new arrivals and monitoring the situation with UNHCR's support. According to Government statistics, there are about **4,500 new arrivals. 1,500 are believed to be from Burkinabe origin** but were living in Mali for many years, some of them only have the Malian nationality. The continued violence in Central Mali might lead to additional displacement into these border regions.

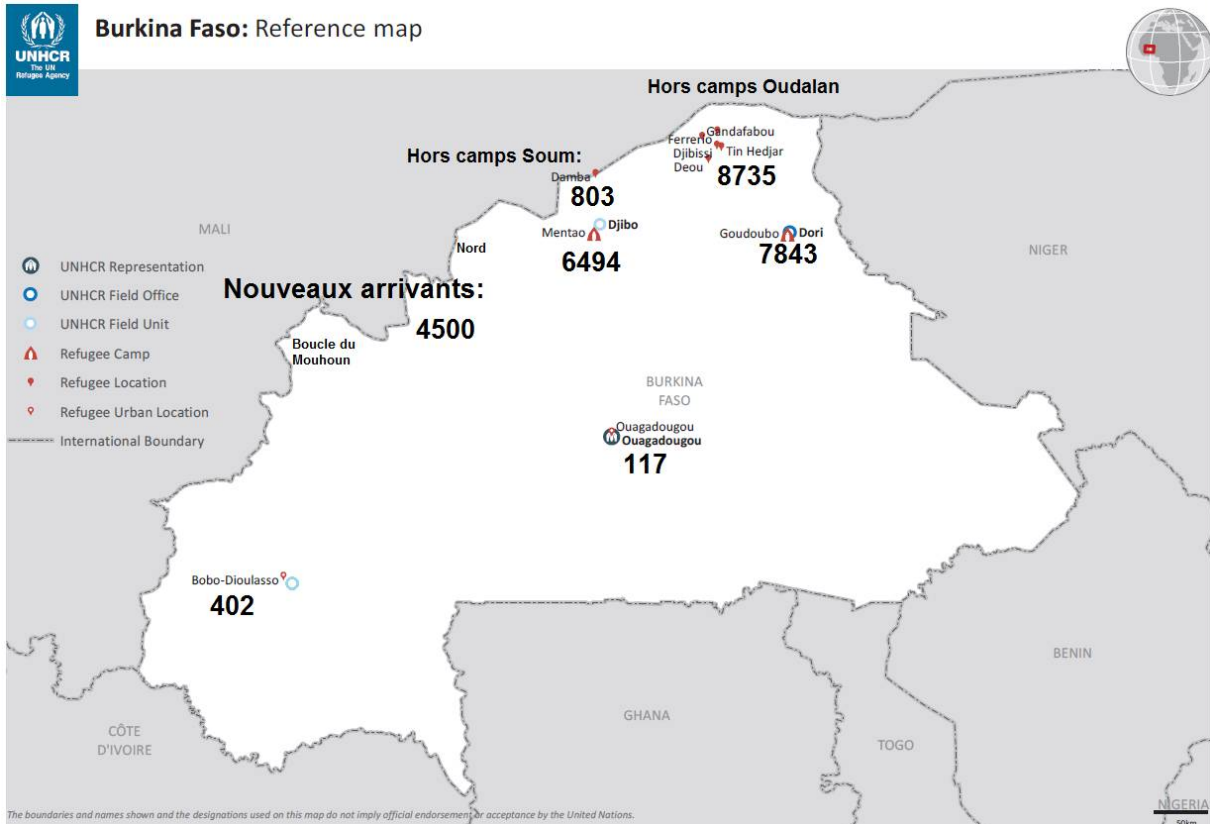
2. **Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs):** Due to insecurity in northern Burkina Faso, **almost 39 000 Burkinabe** have left their homes, fleeing southwards or to the East, and are now displaced within Burkina Faso. IDPs face similar protection risks as refugees. **Inter-agency efforts are underway to register all displaced persons and provide assistance**, with UNHCR taking the lead on protection and camp management and coordination. In addition, and as a result of this displacement, **over 7,000 Burkinabe citizens crossed the border to look for safety in neighboring Mali**. They are being registered by UNHCR Mali and its national counterpart.
3. **Mixed Movements:** Burkina Faso is a **transit country of migratory movements northwards towards Libya, Algeria and the Mediterranean Sea**. These migratory flows are mixed and consist of economic migrants, as well as persons in need of international protection. In Burkina Faso, in close cooperation with IOM, UNICEF, the Government and other partners, UNHCR tries to identify those in need of protection and provide them with information regarding asylum in Burkina Faso and basic assistance. Similarly, UNHCR is assessing the feasibility with the Government of setting up an Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM) to provide life-saving protection, assistance and long-term solutions to extremely vulnerable refugees trapped in detention in Libya, through temporary evacuation to Burkina Faso and onwards resettlement to third countries.
4. **Statelessness:** Burkina Faso counts a **large number of stateless people or people at risk of statelessness**. UNHCR works with the Government to implement a national Action Plan.

## Security Situation

The Sahel Region, where the caseload of Malian refugees are settled, continues to be affected by armed groups. Movements of suspected extremists have been reported, as well as incursions in villages and targeted killings of Government officials, community leaders and teachers by armed extremists threatening the population. National and international military operations are ongoing and will be reinforced over the coming months. The police posts at Mentao refugee camp were attacked three times and several refugee hosting communities have been directly affected by attacks and criminality over the last months.

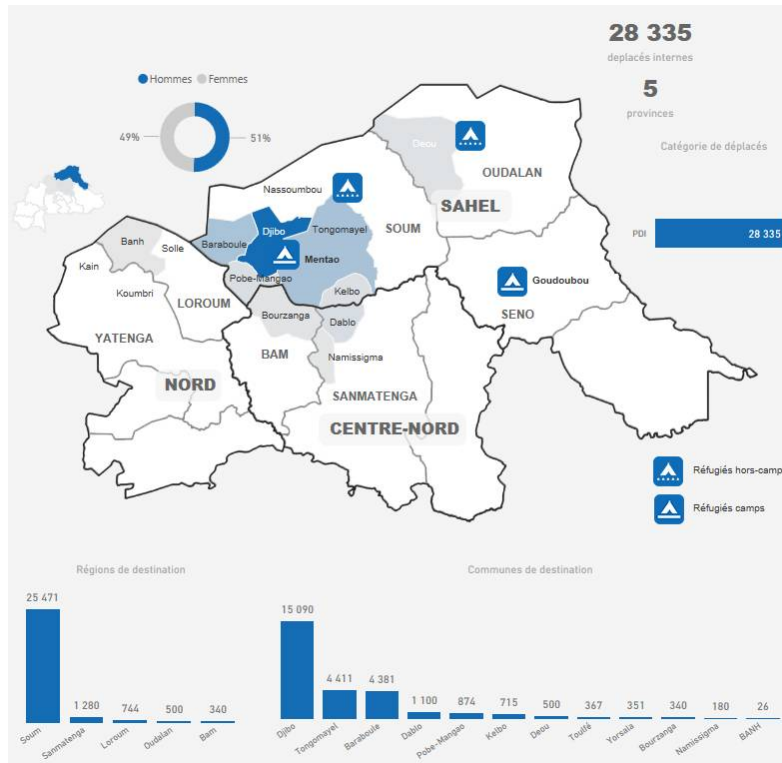
Furthermore, the security situation is also worrying in the East of the country, where attacks against military sites and civilian population started mid-2018. If this situation continues, additional IDP flows in the East are not excluded. The situation in Boucle du Mouhoun and North remain volatile, which might cause secondary movements.

## Key Developments & Achievements



- With regard to the **Mali situation**, on September, 14, 2018, Burkina Faso hosted the 8th meeting of the Tripartite Commission UNHCR/Burkina Faso/Mali. UNHCR considers that the situation in Northern Mali is not yet conducive for promoting voluntary repatriation. Facilitated voluntary return will continue as long as the conditions for promoting repatriation are not met. Since the beginning of the year, and with the support of EU, **190 Malian refugees were assisted to return to Mali**.
- In coordination with the Government, UNHCR raised awareness and prepared for **the relocation into the camps of approximately 9500 refugees** living in border areas where G5 Sahel has been deployed. In addition to the two camps, which offer a favorable protection environment and access to basic social services for refugees, neighboring communes (Déou, Pobé-Mengao, Toulfe and Bourzanga) were identified to host nomadic pastoralists and their cattle. However, there has been a lot of resistance by the refugees to relocate. So far only **262 refugees from Soum Province were relocated to Mentao refugee camp and 96 persons from Oudalan Province to Goudoubo refugee camp**. UNHCR and partners continue to raise awareness.

- Concerning the new arrivals, UNHCR and its partners continue sensitizing those living in border areas in Boucle du Mouhoun and North Regions to move to Mentao refugee camp, where they have access to international protection and assistance. 117 refugee households of 350 individuals were registered in UNHCR's database as of 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018. UNHCR has taken the lead in setting up an **emergency plan to manage new influxes into Burkina Faso**.



- Under the leadership of OCHA, UNHCR contributes to the development of an **inter-agency coordinated response strategy to assist over 38,000 IDPs in the Sahel Region** and will take the lead in protection, camp coordination and camp management. Distribution of core relief items is also planned.
- UNHCR works with OIM and other partners on a joint national action plan on **asylum and migration**. Standard Operating Procedures on referral of cases in mixed movements have been signed with IOM and CONAREF. UNHCR and IOM organized 4 joint trainings for authorities and NGOs where UNHCR instructed the beneficiaries on its mandate and role in mixed migratory movements. A national coordination mechanism was set up, involving all stakeholders working in migration in Burkina Faso. Finally, UNHCR rehabilitated two transit centres in Bobo-Dioulasso and Niangoloko which are ready to be used.
- With regard to **statelessness**, **13,120 birth certificates in Haut-Bassins and North Regions and 3,000 nationality certificates in North Region** have been distributed to people at risk of statelessness in 2018. Moreover, UNHCR carried out a preliminary study on statelessness and risks of statelessness in 5 regions of Burkina Faso. According to the results of the study, over **10% of surveyed persons are at risk of statelessness**. The highest risk is to be found in the Sahel Region, with a peak of 30% amongst surveyed persons. The study gives clear recommendations to authorities, UN agencies, civil society and the wider population to reduce the risk of statelessness in Burkina Faso.


**EDUCATION**

- Due to insecurity and targeted killings of teachers, the schools in Mentao refugee camp and in many out of camp areas in the Sahel region were closed as from mid-May and 490 refugee boys and 237 girls were denied the possibility to complete their school year. **UNHCR, UNICEF, DRC and the Government organised special remedial lessons and all students preparing for official examinations were able to take their tests in centres in Deou, Gorom-Gorom and Djibo** between July and September. UNHCR and partners supported the teachers financially and provided kitchen sets and hygiene kits to the students.
- Thanks to the **EU Trust Fund**, UNHCR and AIRD have maintained the schools in both camps and constructed a fence around the primary school in Goudoubo camp.


**SHELTER AND NFIS**

- In the context of the **EU Trust Fund project**, **100% of refugees had access to a shelter** in the camps. Moreover, during the first year of the project, UNHCR distributed 1471 shelter kits to households whose shelter was damaged due to the harsh storms during the rainy season.
- The operations' strategy looks into a **gradual transformation of emergency shelters into clay constructions similar to those of the locals** and more adapted to the Sahelian climate conditions.


**COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE**

- With the support of the **EU Trust Fund and major donors**, the agro-pastoral activities continue with the aim of enhancing the self-reliance of refugees continue in and around Mentao and Goudoubo camp. 2296 persons have received animal feedings, seeds for agricultural projects or access to small-scale agricultural projects.
- 2,631 persons received support to become self-reliant through their participation in micro-enterprises in the dairy or artisan value chains, through professional trainings or through starter kit donations. Social enterprises such as **AAKS** and **AfrikaTiss** helped talented artisans to improve their income by selling their quality products on the international markets. Malian refugee women were offered the chance to expose their beautifully designed lamps at "**Salon Maison et Objet**" in Paris from 7 to 11 September 2018.



*Artisan Value Chain - Malian refugee women working on design lamps to be sold internationally through the social enterprise AAKS  
 © UNHCR / Pierre Tilmant*

## Key Challenges

With extremism and inter-communal violence on the rise in Burkina Faso and in Mali, UNHCR fears more displacement and increased humanitarian needs over the coming months.

### Mali situation

- The increasing insecurity, due mostly to extremism, armed attacks and ethnic tensions, continues to pose the biggest challenge in several areas of Burkina bordering Mali and Niger. The main consequence is the increasing number of the displaced population, the associated protection risks and risks of conflict with the local population over scarce natural resources.

### IDP situation

- The increase of displacements in the Sahel and the North is creating huge protection challenges. If insecurity continues in the East of the country, additional IDP flows are not excluded.

### Mixed Movements

- In Burkina Faso, UNHCR and other partners coordinate to identify refugees in mixed migratory flows and provide them with protection and assistance.

### Statelessness

- Additional funding is needed to carry out the Government's action plan on statelessness, in order to offer the opportunity to those people to contribute to the country's development.



*Malian Tuareg refugee family in front of their emergency shelter at Goudoubo refugee camp  
© UNHCR / Pierre Tilmant*

## UNHCR Presence in Burkina Faso

**Staff:** a total of 81 national and international staff (*this includes consultants and affiliate workforce*)

**Offices:** 1 Head Office in Ouagadougou, 1 Field Office in Dori, 1 Field Unit in Djibo and 1 Antenna Office in Bobo-Dioulasso

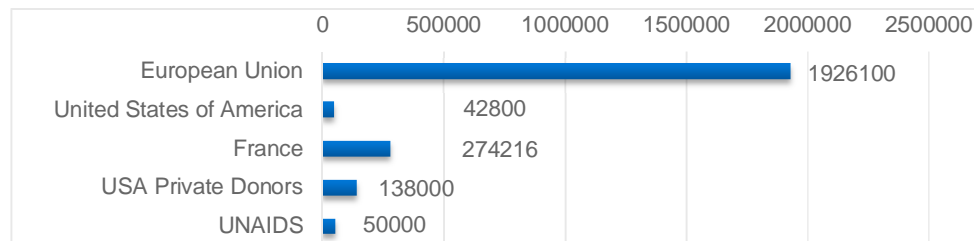
## Partners

Government of Burkina Faso (CONAREF – *Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés*), Save the Children, Danish Refugee Council, Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe (HELP), Centre de Support en Santé International (CSSI), Christian Relief and Development Organization (CREDO), Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgique (VSF-B), African Initiatives for Relief and Development (AIRD), International Emergency Development Agency (IEDA).

# Financial Information

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some **2,57 M USD**

### Funding received (in million USD)



### Special thanks to the major donor of earmarked contributions

United States of America (62 M) | Priv Donors Australia (8.6 M) | Germany (7.6 M) | Canada (3.3 M) | Italy | Norway | Sweden | Private Donors

### Thanks to other donors of unearmarked contributions

Sweden (98.2 M) | Priv Donors Spain (45.2 M) | Norway (42.5 M) | Netherlands (39.1 M) | United Kingdom (31.7 M) | Denmark (25.5 M) | Priv Donors Rep of Korea (22.2 M) | Switzerland (15.2 M) | France (14 M) | Germany (13.7M) | Priv Donors Japan (13M) | Priv Donors Italy (11.9M) | Italy (11.2 M) | Priv Donors Sweden (10.2M)

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