

## Burkina Faso

1 January-30 June 2021

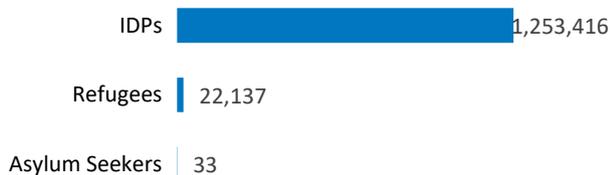
As of 31 May, **1,253,416 persons** have fled their homes in search of safety and have moved increasingly towards urban centres, adding to demographic pressure.

As of 31 May, Burkina Faso hosts **22,137 refugees** including **11,314** living in Goudoubo camp in the Sahel region, following the relocations from the towns of Djibo, Dori and Gorom-Gorom and other spontaneous arrivals.

UNHCR has launched the construction of **1,000 durable and ecological shelters**, thanks to the **Euros 3 million** contribution by the Government of Belgium.

### POPULATION OF CONCERN

## Burkina Faso



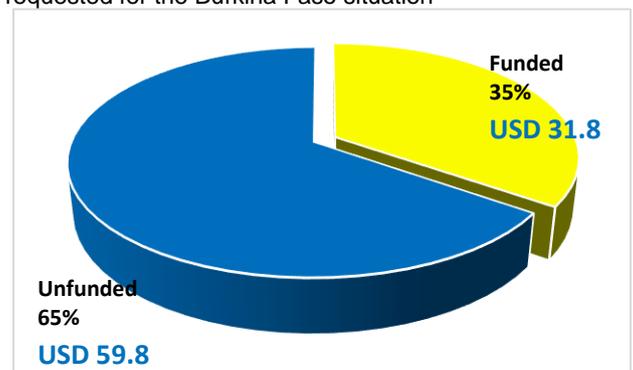
\* IDP figure refers to internally displaced persons across the country recorded on April 30 by the National Council for Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation (CONASUR).

\*\* Registered refugees and asylum seekers include 19,772 live in the Sahel region, in the Goudoubo camp and in the villages of the province of Oudalan and 2,273 live in urban areas in Ouagadougou and Bobo Dioulasso.

### FUNDING (AS OF 22 JUNE 2021)

## USD 91.6 M

requested for the Burkina Faso situation



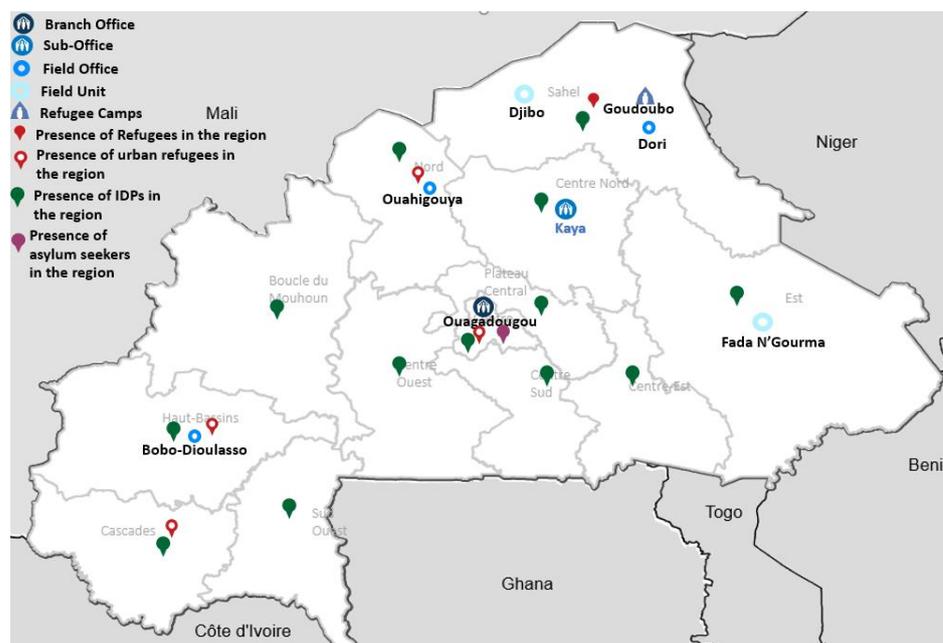
### UNHCR PRESENCE

#### Staff: 165

- 99 National Staff
- 51 International Staff
- 15 Affiliated Workforce

#### Offices: 7

- 1 Branch 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, the UN Refugee Agency, works with a network of 20 partners, including the Government of Burkina Faso, UN sister agencies, International and National Non-Governmental Organizations, and development actors.
- 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 internally displaced persons (IDPs), direct interventions are undertaken with local, regional, and national authorities including National Council for Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation (CONASUR).
- In line with IASC arrangements, UNHCR leads the Protection, Shelter/Core Relief Items (CRIs) Clusters along with the recently activated CCCM Cluster, otherwise known locally as GSAT (Gestion des Sites d'Accueil Temporaires or Management of Temporary Reception Sites). The Protection Cluster coordination continues to ensure

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. The Shelter Cluster continues to strengthen the harmonization and coordination of the response, while also informing partners of gaps. As part of the GSAT activities, UNHCR continued to reinforce the government's coordination and management capacity of sites and the



*Training of trainers on IDP site management held in Bobo-Dioulasso. ©UNHCR-BKF*

camp-like settings through various tools. Limited resources and growing displacement have impacted the response, in fact, we are already in the middle of the year, however, the Protection Cluster' interventions reached only 16.99% of the targeted people and is funded only at 14.5%, while the Shelter/CRI response only covers 12% of shelter needs. With continued displacement and the rainy season, this gap is expected to continue to grow.

- UNHCR continues to play a key role in interagency efforts on 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. During the reporting period, UNHCR contributed to facilitate the training of HCT/UNCT Directors on the new IASC Learning Package on "Say NO to Sexual Misconduct". In addition, UNHCR worked with the Inter Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG), the CCCM Cluster and the Community Engagement and Accountability Working Group (CEAWG) to foster collaboration on interagency community-based feedback and complaint mechanisms, including for SEA.

# 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 and 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 priority on humanitarian response and multi-sectoral resilience support and to 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) 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) pursue the inclusion of refugees in national plans and explore alternatives to camps; iii) seek durable solutions and alternative pathways for refugees; iv) despite the complex humanitarian and security context, 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 (1,377 families) to the reopened



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

and rehabilitated camp of Goudoubo, including 5,250 from Dori, 1,211 from Djibo and 110 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 11,000 refugees and it is adding pressure on available resources. More land was provided by local authorities to host the new arrivals. UNHCR facilitates the access of refugee children to education by supporting programmes in preschools, primary and secondary schools, in Goudoubo camp and outside the camp. As part of the implementation of durable solutions, six refugees have been subjected to resettlement on an urgent basis.

- **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 May, the National Council for Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation (CONASUR) enrolment system totals 1,253,416 IDPs - 90% of whom are registered and profiled electronically 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.
- The results<sup>1</sup> of the protection monitoring for the months of April and May indicate an overall escalation of violence against civilians in the regions of the North, Center-North, East, and Sahel regions in May. The towns receiving the highest number of IDPs, include Ouahigouya (over 7,500), Titao (1,155) and Barga (1,000) in the Center-North and Foutouri (2,400) and Maticoli (1,180) in the East as well as a Markoye (728) in the Sahel. In addition, preliminaries' result from the protection monitoring following the deadly attack in Solhan in the Sahel region, showed that three towns host most of the IDPs, Sebba (over 10,000), Sampelga (almost 900), Dori (1,175) and Bani (78). The most common violations include those related to the right to liberty and security of the person (almost 1,500), to property (1,180), to psychological integrity (414), to life (246) and GBV (120). Almost 3,200 violations were committed by armed groups. Food, medical care, housing, drinkable water, documentation, and psychosocial support are amongst the main needs of displaced populations. Land disputes, evictions and the increase in housing prices in towns which saw the arrival of IDPs are the largest issues in all regions. The response provided in the framework of protection monitoring includes psychosocial support (36%), cash assistance (17%) and referral (47%) to appropriate care and services.
- 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 in hard to reach areas and strengthening referral mechanisms as well as sensitization campaigns and legal assistance. In fact, UNHCR continued to strengthen GBV prevention



*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

<sup>1</sup> Project 21 data covering the same period are being reviewed and may be considered as the final protection monitoring data

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) was developed. In the framework of GBV risk mitigation programming, initiatives to ensure safe access to fuel and alternative energy to women and girls were developed, and GBV mainstreaming activities initiated in 2020 were reinforced. The ongoing GBV Safety Audit in Burkina Faso will allow the compilation of an updated mapping of GBV prevention, mitigation and services and informed the Multi-Year Multi-Partner (MYMP) strategy for protection and solutions. The MYMP will bring together a full range of national and international stakeholders, including authorities, humanitarian country team, development actors, the private sector, host communities and civil society, amongst others to plan for a comprehensive response to the needs of refugees, IDPs, those at risk of statelessness and other groups of concern to UNHCR while reinforcing access to protection and the realisation of solutions.

### Health and COVID-19 Response

- As of 30 June, Burkina Faso has recorded 13,479 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 10 active cases, 168 deaths and 13,301 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. It is worth noting that, following the Government's decision to authorize the import of 1.38 million doses of the Astra Zeneca vaccine through the COVAX initiative for the first phase of COVID-19 vaccination, the first 115,000 doses arrived on 30 May and the vaccination campaign started. All persons living on the territory, included refugees and displaced populations, are included in the vaccination plan.

### 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 assistance and CRIs. During the reporting period, they distributed 4,151 emergency and durable shelters and 1,198 CRI kits, composed of blankets, mattresses, kitchen sets, sanitary kits and solar lamps. 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. In this respect, on 12 March, UNHCR launched the project on the provision of 1,000 durable and ecological shelters in the Center-North and the Sahel, financed by the Government of Belgium through a Euro 3 million contribution.



*The Principal Advisor laying the first stone of one of the ecological shelters.*

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### 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. These women are organized in 11 cooperatives where they started selling these stoves and using the money to increase their production, while also covering their urgent needs. UNHCR and its partners have also distributed 1,525 solar lamps to IDP and host communities in the regions of Sahel, Center-North, the Cascades and the Hauts-Bassins. In addition, UNHCR supported efforts to facilitate access to water in Goudoubo refugee camp where each inhabitant benefited from an average of 13 litres of water per day in April 2021. In partnership with the Association des Voûtes Nubiennes, the UN Refugee Agency has also progressively developed an eco-friendly shelter model. On 12 March, UNHCR launched its project on the provision of 1,000 durable and ecological shelters in the Center-North and the Sahel, financed by the Government of Belgium through a USD 3 million contribution.

### **Special thanks to major donors of un-earmarked and broadly earmarked funds as well as to donors who have contributed directly to the Burkina Faso operation in 2021 (as of 22 June 2021)**

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### **LINKS**

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