Burkina Faso
1 – 30 November 2021

According to the National Council for Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation (CONASUR), 1,481,701 individuals have fled their homes seeking safety as of 31 October 2021, a 5% increase compared to September 2021.

On 3 November, the Protection Cluster organized an inter-regional forum on civil documentation, in collaboration with the regional authorities of Center-North region, UNICEF, NRC and the Directorate General for the Modernization of Civil Status (DGMEC).

As part of the 7th anniversary of #IBelong Campaign to End Statelessness by 2024, UNHCR organized a round table event to inform and sensitize the media, including editors-in-chief and publishers, on UNHCR’s efforts to mitigate the risks of statelessness in Burkina Faso.

KEY INDICATORS

11,969
Civil documentation has been distributed to members from the IDP and host communities during the reporting period.

1,305
Shelters have been distributed to IDPs and host communities during the reporting period.

122,000
Worth of equipment donated by UNHCR to support Ministry of health.

FUNDING (AS OF 29 NOVEMBER 2021)

USD 91.2M
Requested for the Burkina Faso Operation

Funded
67%
USD 60.7 M

Unfunded
33%
USD 30.5 M

IDP Trends since January 2018 in Burkina Faso:
OPERATIONAL CONTEXT
The security situation in Burkina Faso continues to be worrisome, the overall security situation still deteriorates across Burkina Faso. The intensification of hostilities between non-state armed groups (GANE) and the Defense and Security Forces (FDS) and their auxiliaries, as well as targeted attacks, continue to seriously affect the protection of the civilian population.

During the reporting period, armed groups activities extended insecurity to previously unaffected areas, the South-West, Boucle du Mouhoun and Center-East regions have been added to the list of insecure areas. On 14 November, the attack against the gendarmerie detachment at the gold mine of Inata, in the Sahel, reportedly killed 49 gendarmes and three civilians. No population movements were reported following the incident. Following the attack in Foubè on 21 November, more than 38,000 people have been reported newly displaced. In the South-West, from 21 to 28 November intense clashes occurred between the FDS and armed groups, causing large displacements of more than 2,800 persons. People on the move have also been identified towards Côte d’Ivoire, a count is underway. UNHCR and its partners are doing their best to cover multisectoral needs resulting from these displacements and reduce the impact on civilians. This insecurity increases the risks faced by UNHCR and further reduce humanitarian access. In the Center-North region, on 16 November, two trucks chartered by UNHCR and its partners and carrying shelter kits were ambushed by armed groups on the Barsalogho-Pensa road. No death or injuries reported. Finally, the socio-political context has become more tensed as population’s demand for stronger security has taken the form of demonstrations throughout the country. As a consequence of these demonstrations travels out of Ouagadougou had been restricted for few days for UN staffs. Closed since 21 March 2020, Burkina Faso decided to re-open its land borders under strict security and sanitary conditions, in the context of the stepping up of the regional military response.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

PROTECTION
Protection monitoring activities by UNHCR and its partners during the months of October and November covered 143 communes in the nine regions of intervention, 55% of which were difficult to access areas where data collection and analysis was done remotely. The population movements were mainly inter-communal movements, representing 88% of the movements and concerned the first displacements. On
the issue of rights violations, 11,004 people were identified, including attacks on freedom and security, forced restriction of movement, attacks on physical or psychological integrity, property rights, attacks on the right to life, psychological violence, attacks on children’s rights and gender-based violence (GBV). In fact, 773 people were victims of GBV, 77% of whom were women and 12% of whom were children. The main perpetrators of rights violations (96%) remained are by far the GANE. 2,196 persons benefited from assistance including psychological assistance (48%), direct assistance (12%), Cash based Intervention (CBI) (24%), and referrals (16%).

- As part of its efforts to reduce the risk of statelessness in the country, UNHCR supported the government in issuing 11,969 national identity cards to IDPs, 52% of whom are women, in the Boucle du Mouhoun, North and Center-North regions.

- In the context of the 7th Anniversary of the #iBelong campaign aiming at eradicating statelessness by 2024, UNHCR organized a workshop to inform and sensitize the media on UNHCR’s mandate and its efforts to mitigate the risks of statelessness in Burkina Faso.

- On 12 November, the eleventh meeting of the Tripartite Burkina Faso-Mali-UNHCR Commission started by videoconference. The virtual opening went well, and Members of the Technical Working Group are continuing their work. The meeting has not been closed as scheduled and has been postponed to a later date.

- From 15 to 21 November, in order to grant international protection to asylum seekers in the North region, the National Commission for Refugees (CONAREF), with the technical support of UNHCR, organized a registration operation in the localities of Oula, Ouahigouya and Yako. This exercise will allow 850 people to benefit from documents proving their refugee status and allowing them to move freely without arbitrary arrest or abusive detention.

- From 10 to 11 November, in the Sahel region, UNHCR and its partner the National Land Observatory (ONF) facilitated a two-day training on preventing housing, land and property (HLP) conflicts to the benefit of humanitarian actors and local authorities. Key advocacy message regarding persons of concern’s access to land and peaceful land-related conflict resolution were also delivered. Further, this training enabled UNHCR and its partner to meet with the Mayor of Dori and decentralized governmental authorities, in order to discuss the forthcoming launch of land tenure security activities.

- From 3 to 4 November 2021, as part of its community-engagement strategy in the Center-North region, UNHCR organized a training session for local civil, military and paramilitary, religious and traditional authorities; on the theme of “human rights and fundamental freedoms of people in situations of forced displacement in the community”. 40 leaders participated in the training and committed themselves to further disseminating their knowledge to their respective communities.

- As part of social cohesion and peaceful coexistence activities, on 7 November 2021, UNHCR in collaboration with Ministry of Culture, Arts and Tourism organized the Communities Day of Center-North. More than 1,000 participants committed to promote peace and social cohesion and six "Cultural Ambassadors for Peace" were appointed with the objective to continue to promote peace and social cohesion in their communities.
Coordinated response in Center-North following massive displacement from Foubè and Dablo

The government and host communities are at the forefront of the emergency response. The government through humanitarian action local representation deployed registration teams who identified as of 30 November 38,146 newly IDPs. UNHCR supported government registration efforts with 20 tablets. Coordination meetings of the protection actors have allowed to identify the most urgent needs as food, WASH, health, shelter as well as Core Relief Items (CRIs). Through to the protection monitoring, UNHCR continuously collects information on population movements and protection issues. Shelters needs are estimated at 5,044 and CRI needs at 6,098 kits, exceeding the current capacities of UNHCR and its partners, respectively estimated at 2,598 shelters and 4,948 CRIs. As co-lead of the CCCM/GSAT Cluster, and in partnership with the humanitarian Action, UNHCR identified three temporary hosting sites for the IDPs, generously granted by the host community. The development plan of one site has been drawn up and made available to humanitarian actors for the construction of 258 shelters.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

- In the framework of mitigating the risks of GBV, UNHCR offered a training session to 24 CCCM/GSAT coordinators in the North region. This training aimed at establishing a common understanding of roles and responsibilities and develop skills for integrating gender-based violence (GBV) risk mitigation into the CCCM/GSAT sector. Participants successfully shared relevant tools and good practices, identified GBV risks and gaps, possible actions to further reduce risks in the CCCM/GSAT sector, as well as to securely manage GBV incidents reporting and referral.

- With regards to the reinforcement of GBV prevention and response, in the North region, 32 social workers in the North region were trained on the UNHCR code of conduct, accountability, and sexual misconduct. In addition, in the Center-North, UNHCR and its partners contributed to build the capacity of 17 male community leaders (customary, religious, village development council, IDPs) and 20 association members (9 women and 11 men) on the basic notions of GBV, prevention and referral to care providers.

- In the framework of the ‘16 Days of Activism campaign against GBV, a series of activities are being conducted across the country under the global theme set by the UN Secretary-General’s UNiTE campaign: “Orange the World: End Violence against Women Now!”

HEALTH AND COVID-19 RESPONSE

- As of 30 November, Burkina Faso has recorded 16,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 369 active cases, 286 deaths and 15,345 recoveries. In the context of the outbreak of new variants, UNHCR and its partners continues to support the Government of Burkina Faso in addressing the outbreak and focused their efforts on the sensitization, the prevention, and the response to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on persons of concern (PoC) in nine regions of the country. On 19 November, UNHCR donated equipment worth of near to 71 million XOF (122,000 USD) to the Ministry of health of Burkina Faso. The donation is composed mainly of resuscitation equipment including 55 oxygen concentrators of five liters, 27 reanimation kits, 23 pulse oximeters, 58 infrared thermometers, 23,720 surgical gowns and 89,400 surgical masks.
As part of vaccination against COVID-19, so far 297,231 people – including health agents and 70 refugees from Djibo, have been vaccinated.

Regarding refugees newly settled in Dori from Goudoubo camp, new efforts are still needed, to better protect them against COVID-19 such as sensitization, access to water, soap, and hand-washing devices. The community health workers of International Health Support Center (CSSI), a medical partner of UNHCR, are sensitizing the community on the need to respect the barrier measures and adhere to the vaccination available at three vaccination sites set up for this purpose by the health authorities.

SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRI)

UNHCR continues to strengthen its shelter response and the distribution of CRIs throughout the country to improve the living conditions, the physical safety and the dignity of IDPs. During the reporting period, UNHCR provided a total of 1,305 shelters and 1,185 CRIs to IDPs and vulnerable host families. This response includes 121 emergency shelters and 76 CRIs provided, following the massive displacement from Foubè and Dablo. The 76 CRIs kits include 304 soap balls, 152 mats, 76 solar lamps, 152 mosquito nets (142 of which are provided by UNICEF), 76 blankets, 2,684 pieces of clothing, 50 improved stoves.

The Shelter Cluster continues to coordinate the shelter and CRIs response. Over 15,435 shelters have been built by partners against a target of 74,497 planned shelters. With increasing new displacements, the needs in shelter are growing and additional resources are urgently needed. As of 30 September, due to resource constraints, needs were only covered at 21%, with UNHCR covering 41% of these interventions.

EDUCATION

In Burkina Faso, armed groups daily aim at weakening the primary functions of the State including education. Schools have suffered from various incursions, specifically in the Boucle du Mouhoun, East and North regions, where armed groups burnt school manuals and brought the total number of schools closed to approximatively 2,700 schools in Burkina Faso.

Following the settlement of nearly 11,000 in the town of Dori fleeing from Goudoubo camp with a majority of women and children, UNHCR pursues its engagement efforts to ensure that essential infrastructure, such as water points and schools, are timely reinforced to maintain peaceful coexistence between the different communities. As per the reporting period, 517 primary school students and 54 secondary school students have been identified to be integrated in the nearest public governmental schools. Discussions have been held amongst the offices of regional primary and secondary schools Directors, regarding the children integration process.

DURABLE SOLUTIONS AND DEVELOPMENT

As part of the on-going efforts to facilitate IDPs’ access to employment opportunities, in the Hauts-Bassins region, within the framework of the joint UNHCR-UNDP citizen participation and social cohesion “PaCos” project, 30 young IDPs from the three communes of Houndé, Karangasso-Vigué and Tiéfora started their studies at the Bobo-Dioulasso Professional and Industrial Training Centre (CFPI-B). Their curriculum focuses on installation and maintenance of solar energy devices, as well as on the manufacture of wire mesh and semi-modern incubators. It is expected that after two months of theoretical
learning and practical training, they will receive a certificate of professional aptitude that will further facilitate their effective integration within the labor market.

UNHCR and its partners pursued their efforts to empower women. On 10 November, 16 women entrepreneurs from refugee and IDP communities participated in the online “She Means Business” training, which provided support to female business owners on the way to better use digital marketing tools for their businesses. This training will further provide female business owners with a strong network and a genuine community of practice for women-owned businesses, allowing them to share best practices and capitalize on their respective experiences.

**WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP**

- In Burkina Faso, UNHCR works with 20 partners including the Government, UN sister agencies, development actors and implementing partners.

- UNHCR continues to fully play its leading and coordination role of the protection, shelter / CRI and GSAT/CCCM Clusters. UNHCR, along with the Global Protection Cluster and UN Habitat, held the first mission of the IDP Protection Expert Group in Burkina Faso. On 3 November, in the Center-North region, the Protection Cluster organized an inter-regional forum on civil documentation, in collaboration with UNICEF, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and the Directorate General for the Modernization of Civil Status (DGMEC). The forum brought together 117 participants, including six High Commissioners, nine judges, seventeen prefects and one IDP representative. Alternative solutions to the difficulties of access to civil status documents for IDPs in the Center-North, Sahel and East regions of Burkina Faso were identified such as: (i) hold mobile court hearings outside territorial jurisdictions to facilitate the establishment of civil status documents for IDPs; (ii) facilitate the movement of authorities to applicants; (iii) legislate by ordinance in the field of civil status to remove the territorial jurisdictional lock. Following the nomination of 70 site managers, throughout 3 of the 6 regions of the 2021 HRP, UNHCR organized a series of trainings for those site managers, namely in the Sahel (25), Center-North (35) and North (10), covering 32 communes in total, through this project ‘support to the coordination and management of displacement sites in Burkina Faso’, a project that seeks to reinforce the capacities of CONASUR in the protection of the IDPs and the coordination of the humanitarian assistance in and out of the displacement sites as well within the host communities. The shelter cluster was able to finalize the needs assessment in inaccessible areas carried out by the partner DEDI. This assessment will help guide the shelter response. In addition, the definition of the housing profile in priority regions by the partner Ordre des Architectes will better inform the definition of shelter typologies for the humanitarian response and stimulate innovation that adapts to the realities of IDPs.

- In the context of the ongoing efforts to mainstream Protection from Sexual Misconduct, UNHCR has also launched the assessment of its current Partners’ organizational capacities to prevent and mitigate the risks of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA).
PUBLIC INFORMATION

Regional portal - UNHCR operation page

UNHCR urges governments to accelerate progress and resolve plight of world’s stateless (Press release, 4 November)

Urgent Steps Needed Now to Mitigate Climate Impact on Displaced People (Press release, 7 November)

Twitter - Facebook

Our best tweet of November

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

As of 26 October 2021, the total recorded contributions for the operation amount to USD 60.7M. 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 (40.1 M) | United States of America (33 M) | Private donors Australia (9.8 M) | Canada (5.6 M) | Private donors Germany (5 M) | Japan (2.9 M) | France (2.8 M) | Private donors Republic of Korea (2.3 M)

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