

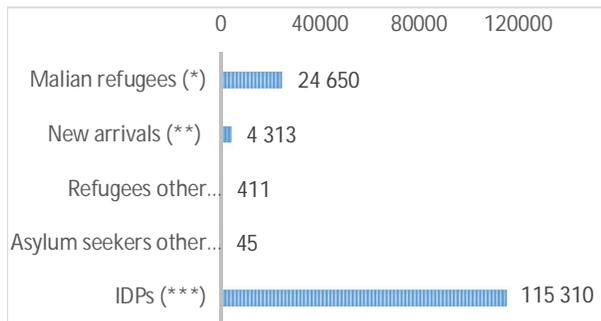
Burkina Faso



IDP girl carrying water in Barsalogo © OCHA

POPULATION OF CONCERN

144 792



* UNHCR figures (31 January 2019))

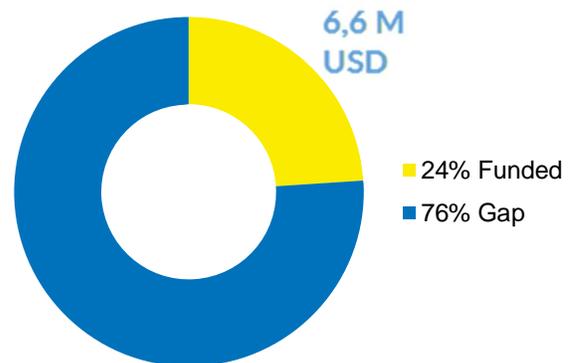
** Government of Burkina Faso figures (April 2018)

*** OCHA figures (15 March 2019)

FUNDING (AS OF FEBRUARY 2019)

USD 20,7 Million

requested for the Burkina Faso Country Operation



KEY INDICATORS

24,650

Malian refugees in a protracted refugee situation of which 98% are residing in the conflict-affected Sahel region

20,7 million USD

Needed as of February 2019

115 310

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 2012 with the outbreak of conflict in northern Mali. Today, almost **25 000 Malians have found refuge in Burkina Faso**. The Sahel region bordering Mali and Niger and hosting 98% of Malian refugees is increasingly affected by insecurity and violence, aggravating the vulnerability of populations who are in need of international protection and multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance.
2. Since over one year, **thousands of asylum seekers from Mali** entered into **Boucle du Mouhoun and Nord regions**, fleeing an intensification of violence in Central Mali. The majority of people live in spontaneous sites or with the local population. Additional displacement into these regions is not excluded.
3. **Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs): At least 115 000 Burkinabe** have left their homes due to rising insecurity, incidents of violence and the presence of armed groups and are now displaced within Burkina Faso. This number is likely to increase as more IDPs are being identified and registered by the Government and incidents of violence continue. The most affected regions are the Sahel, Centre-Nord, Nord, and Est regions. Some 30% of IDPs are residing in Djibo (Sahel Region) where UNHCR already has a Field Unit with 15 staff. However, there are numerous access constraints due to the presence of armed groups. More than 90% of the IDPs live in host communities, whereas two sites have been established by the Government since January.
4. **Mixed Movements:** Burkina Faso is a **transit country of migratory movements northwards**. These migratory flows are mixed and consist of economic migrants, as well as persons in need of international protection. 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.
5. **Statelessness:** Burkina Faso counts a **large number of stateless people or people at risk of statelessness**, especially in the Sahel, where over 30% would be at risk of statelessness according to a 2018 UNHCR study. **UNHCR is facilitating and financing the issuance of birth certificates and citizenship certificates for the most vulnerable.**

Security Situation

Since 2015, Burkina Faso has experienced growing insecurity, marked by several high-profile attacks in the capital city of Ouagadougou and an encroaching insurgency in the country's north. No longer limited to attacks perpetrated by Mali-based armed groups, the country has seen the growth of local non-state armed groups in tandem with or as part of JNIM and ISGS, allying with pre-existing criminal networks and exploiting underlying social tensions.

Security incidents have been recorded on an almost daily basis, primarily against state institutions, security services, schools and health centers. Today, insecurity has spread beyond the Sahel region and is affecting areas in the West, North, East and Southeast of the country, along border areas with conflict-affected Mali and Niger. Recently, insecurity has started to rise in the country's southwestern regions bordering Ivory Coast, Ghana and Southern parts of Mali. National and international military responses have to date failed to reduce violence.

Targeted incursions and killings in villages, mainly in the Sahel and Centre Nord Regions, continue to take place and might drive and increase conflict, as well as displacement, if not addressed properly.

The negative effects of insecurity and violence are aggravating the vulnerability of refugees, host and displaced populations. To save lives and reduce suffering, multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance is urgently needed. While humanitarian indicators have not yet reached emergency levels, the situation of IDPs could rapidly deteriorate in case the response remains at the current level, especially in view of the forthcoming lean season.

The security situation in Burkina Faso may further deteriorate and, consequently, the IDP situation may worsen over the coming months. It is worth noting that cross border displacements to Mali and Ghana are also occurring. At least [8 543 people from Burkina Faso sought refuge in conflict-affected Mali in 2018](#), as a result of the rise in violence in the Sahel region and the arrival of [275 persons from Burkina Faso's East Region to Ghana](#) (Tilli, Widnaba and Teshie) has been confirmed by authorities in Ghana.

Key Developments & Achievements



Map Sources: UNCS and UNHCR

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Creation date: 07.03.2019.

 **PROTECTION**

- In addition to its regular refugee and statelessness focused program, the country office has developed an [IDP response strategy](#) (January 2019), conducted a profiling exercise (covering over 44 000 IDPs in the Soum, the epicenter of the IDP crisis) and partnered with Danish Refugee Council to carry out protection monitoring activities. UNHCR has taken up an active role in sectoral coordination and leads the Shelter/NFI and Protection sectors with the support of an emergency mission from headquarters in Geneva. Upon request of the Government, UNHCR will provide training on camp coordination and camp management as well as on IDP protection to officials involved in the coordination and management of the emergency response during the month of March.
- [Malian refugees](#) – especially those living in the out of camp areas bordering Mali - start to feel the effects of the deteriorating security situation. UNHCR and its partners have sensitized refugees living in border areas, where the G5 Sahel is being deployed, to move to safer locations where humanitarian actors will have access to them since over a year. Since beginning 2019, 147 refugees formerly settled in out of camp zones in Oudalan Provinces have decided to move to Goudebou refugee camps. 340 individuals are currently seeking [facilitated return](#) from Burkina Faso's camps to their zones of origin in Mali.
- UNHCR continues to sensitize local authorities and populations to avoid all forms of [stigmatization](#) against its people of concern - both in the camps and in the out of camps areas. Special attention is also given to [documentation](#) of refugees who are advised to always carry their identity papers on them to minimize the risk of arbitrary detentions in a tense security context.
- In close cooperation with UNDP, UNHCR is carrying out peacebuilding projects, in order to [manage conflicts peacefully](#) and [to train government officials on refugee protection](#) and human rights in the Sahel and Nord Regions.
- With regard to the situation in [Boucle du Mouhoun and Nord Regions](#), discussions are ongoing for the identification of suitable sites where newly arrived Malians can be regrouped and registered into UNHCR's database. UNHCR and its partners have continued 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.
- With regard to [statelessness](#), 37,250 birth certificates and 15,000 nationality certificates have been issued 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. Delivery of birth certificates will also be targeting IDPs in 2019.

 **SHELTER AND NFIS**

- UNHCR has offered so far [93 refugee housing units \(RHUs\)](#) to displaced people in IDP hosting areas such as Arbinda (Sahel) and Foube (Centre Nord). In addition, [1,000 plastic jerrycans](#), [218 hygiene kits for women](#), [2,000 plastic mats](#) and [2,000 blankets](#) have been distributed to the most vulnerable

households in these areas. UNHCR is training government staff and humanitarian actors on the installation of RHUs in the field.

- In line with the Government's strategy, reinforcing the infrastructure of hosting families is the privileged shelter response for the IDP situation in Burkina Faso. UNHCR will deliver almost 2000 additional RHUs to 10 localities in Sahel, Centre-Nord, Nord and Est regions and studies the possibility to offer [cash-based assistance and/or support to purchase of local materials](#) to strengthen the shelter response for IDPs and their host communities. The shelter needs in IDP hosting areas are enormous and additional funding for shelter and NFI supply is urgently needed.
- With the support of the [European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa \(EUTF\)](#) project, Malian refugees in the camps received a continuous support in shelter kits to repair damaged shelters. UNHCR and the Government of Burkina aim to facilitate the socio-economic integration of Malian refugees and [gradually transform refugee camps into villages](#) adapted to the national context and the Sahelian climate conditions. A pilot project with 80 clay constructions is currently being carried out. The operation is looking for development partners to continue its housing strategy.



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE

- With the support of the [European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa \(EUTF\)](#) 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.
- Refugees and people from the host communities are supported 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. Artisan products produced by Malian refugees in Burkina Faso have been showcased during an international trade show in Frankfurt, Germany, from 8 to 12 February, in the framework of MADE51. One of the items, notably the lampshades, have been selected as a "trend" for 2019.



Artisan Value Chain - Malian refugee women working on design lamps to be sold internationally through the social enterprise AAKS

© UNHCR
 Pierre Tilmant



- The arrival of IDPs has an important impact on access to education, water supply and health services. As health services are free of charge in the health center of Mentao refugee camp (nearby Djibo, where 30% of the IDP population is based), the small health center is currently being overwhelmed.
- The schools in Mentao refugee camp are some of the few who are still functioning in the area. Thanks to the [European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa \(EUTF\)](#), UNHCR and AIRD have maintained the schools in both camps and constructed a fence around the primary school in Goudoubo camp.

Key Challenges

With insecurity on the rise in Burkina Faso and in the broader region, UNHCR fears more displacement and increased humanitarian needs over the coming months.

Mali situation

- The increasing insecurity continues to pose the biggest challenge in several areas of Burkina bordering Mali and Niger. The main consequence is the lack of humanitarian access in certain zones, the associated protection risks and risks of conflict with the local population over scarce natural resources.

IDP situation

- The rapid increase of displacement beyond the Sahel Region is creating protection challenges and requires more interagency response in support of the Government. Additional displacement, both internally and into the neighbouring countries, is not excluded over the coming weeks and months.

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 80 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.

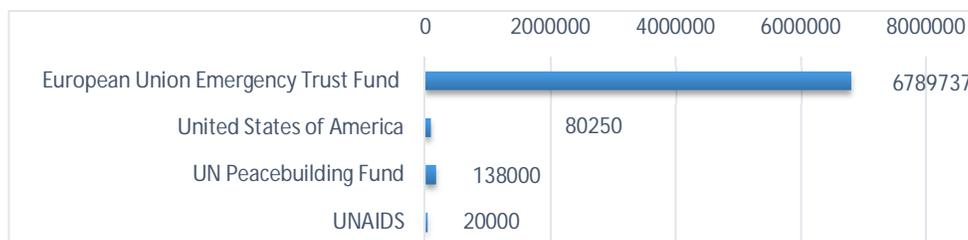
Partners

Government of Burkina Faso (CONAREF – *Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés*), Danish Refugee Council, 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).

Financial Information

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some
7,050,487 M USD

Funding received (in million USD)



Special thanks to the major donor of softly earmarked contributions

Germany 3.3 million

Thanks to other donors of unearmarked contributions

Sweden 90.4 million | Denmark 54.9 million | Norway 44.5 million | Netherlands 37.5 million | United Kingdom 31.7 million | Germany 27.3 million | Switzerland 15.1 million

Algeria | Austria | Belgium | Canada | Estonia | Indonesia | Monaco | Montenegro | Peru | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Slovakia | Sri Lanka | Thailand | United Arab Emirates | Uruguay | Private donors

CONTACTS

Mrs. Marlies Cardoen, Associate External Relations and Reporting Officer
cardoen@unhcr.org, Tel: +226 25 36 10 28, Cell +226 65 50 47 86

Mr. Moussa Bougma, Senior PI Assistant
bougma@unhcr.org, Tel: +226 25 36 10 28, Cell +226 65 50 47 69

LINKS: Regional portal - Twitter - Facebook – Humanitarian Response