

# Burkina Faso

1 – 31 December 2021

According to the National Council for Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation (CONASUR), **1,579,976 individuals have fled their homes seeking safety as of 31 December 2021**, a 5,21% increase compared to October 2021. **As 31 December 2021, Burkina Faso also continued to generously host 25,008 refugees** whose majority is located in the Sahel region.

On 23 December, UNHCR facilitated the **performance of a theater adaptation of Mohamed Mbougar Sarr's 'Terre Ceinte' novel in the Centre-North region**. As part of a pilot project funded by the French Embassy, the performance **involved renowned national actors who contributed to the peaceful coexistence of internally displaced and host communities in Kaya**, the chef-lieu of the Centre-North region.

On 9 and 21 December, UNHCR together with its governmental partner, the Directorate General on the Modernisation of the Civil Status (DGMEC) organized a **televised debate and a conference to advocate for the reducing of the risks of statelessness**. The two events successfully brought together the academia, civil society and members of national and international NGOs.

## KEY INDICATORS

# 1,772

**Civil documentation** has been distributed to members of the IDP and host communities during the reporting period.

# 1,232

**Shelters** have been distributed to IDPs and host communities during the reporting period.

# XOF 31,860,000

(USD 54,229.00)

**Worth of equipment** donated by UNHCR to support the Ministry of Education.

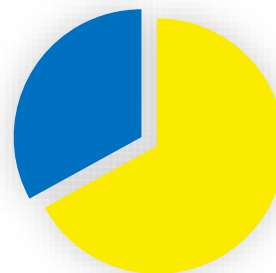
## FUNDING (AS OF 29 DECEMBER 2021)

# USD 91.2M

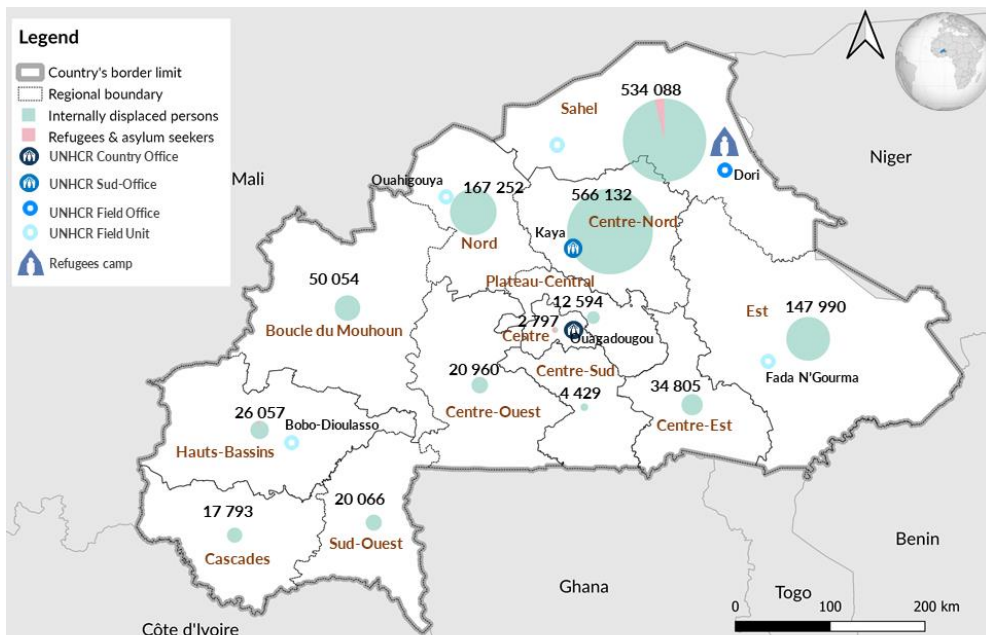
Requested for the Burkina Faso Operation

**Unfunded**  
33%  
USD 30.5 M

**Funded**  
67%  
USD 61.4 M



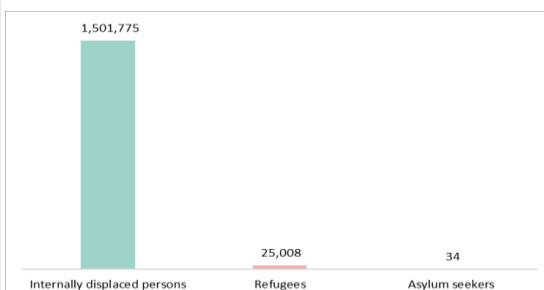
## Persons of concern (PoCs) per region in Burkina Faso



## Number of IDPs registered since January 2018



## PoC in Burkina Faso in December 2021



## OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

The security situation in Burkina Faso continues to be worrisome. The intensification of hostilities between armed groups, the National Defense and Security Forces (FDS) and their auxiliaries seriously affects civilians, the movement of UN personnel and its operations. Humanitarian access continues to be hindered, particularly in the East where the Forces of Defense and Security (FDS) had to resort to an airlift to provide food to the people of the Tankoulou village, on 31 December. In addition, irregular road checks are becoming more frequent especially in the East, Sahel and Centre-North regions. On 23 December, a convoy of civilians escorted by the Volunteers for the Defense of the Fatherland (VDP) was ambushed by armed groups on the road from Ouahigouya to Titao, in the North region. This attack resulted in the death of 41 persons, including the North region's VDP leader. On 26 December, a two-day national mourning was declared. On 28 December, increasing combats took place between armed groups and the FDS, who reportedly neutralized 80 armed assailants, collected weapons, vehicles and communication equipment in the Boucle du Mouhoun, Cascades and Sahel regions.

On 8 December, the President of Burkina Faso, Roch Marc Christian Kaboré terminated the duties of Prime Minister Christophe Marie Dabiré and appointed his replacement, Dr. Lassina Zerbo, who previously was the Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO). On 13 December, the names of the 26 new Ministers were published. The change included the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Burkinabè abroad, in charge of the refugee response, and the Minister for Gender, National Solidarity, Family and Humanitarian Action. Further, on 20 December, the Parliament decided to adjust the electoral code to facilitate the participation of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the upcoming municipal and regional elections planned in May 2022, namely the possibility of IDPs to vote in their locality of displacement, the establishment of special delegations in case elections cannot take place in certain communes, and the election of Mayors through universal suffrage.

### Latest developments on UNHCR out-of camp refugee interventions

As of 31 December 2021, Burkina Faso continued to generously host 25,008 refugees. Amongst those, approx. 13,000 have fled to the town of Dori and its surroundings, following the security incidents that occurred in Goudoubo camp in November. As part of the efforts to mitigate the pressure on national services and infrastructures and to foster peaceful coexistence between communities, **UNHCR handed over an advanced health post in Nyarala and launched the construction of two others in the locality of Wendou.** The Regional Director appreciated UNHCR support and confirmed that these will be used equitably for the benefit of displaced, refugee and host communities alike in the Sahel region. In the domain of education, given the large number of students arriving from the camp of Goudoubo and the need to integrate them into Dori's education system, the building of 13 classrooms has started over the reporting period to reinforce the schooling capacities in Dori. Finally, as part of the 'Education Cannot Wait' initiative, **UNHCR donated 2,000 dignity kits to the Provincial Director of Post-Primary and Education.** These kits, worth a total of XOF 31,860,000.00 (USD 54,229.00) and composed of sanitary towels, underwear, kettles, khaki fabric for school uniforms and soaps, will further benefit to displaced, refugees and hosts children of Dori, all affected by the closure of schools due to the COVID-19 pandemic and insecurity.

## MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS



### Protection

- Protection monitoring activities by UNHCR and its partners during the month of December covered 143 communes in the nine regions of intervention, 50% of which were in hard-to-reach areas where data collection and analysis was done remotely. 14,326 people were identified as having survived human rights violations, 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). Of these, 910

people were survivors of GBV, 80% of whom were women and 11% of whom were children. The main perpetrators of rights violations (93%) remained by far members of armed groups. Following the identification of protection needs, 1,118 persons were assisted and received psychological support (45%), in kind assistance (8%), cash assistance (35%), or were referred to the appropriate care and services (12%).

- UNHCR continues to strengthen efforts to support authorities for the registration of IDPs and asylum-seekers. From 15 to 17 December, UNHCR hosted data analysts National Council for Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation (CONASUR) and provided them with a two-day training, on data collection, analysis to improve IDPs identification and registration processes.
- In the context global #ibelong campaign to eradicate statelessness by 2024, UNHCR supports authorities in the provision of documentation to IDPs and members of the host communities to mitigate the risks of statelessness in Burkina Faso. In the region of the Boucle du Mouhoun, some 2,350 birth certificates were produced in the municipality of Kassoum. So far, four out of the eight communes, which participate in this initiative in the regions of the Boucle du Mouhoun and the Hauts Bassins, have completed the production of civil documents. Further, UNHCR supported the government in issuing 1,772 national identity cards to IDPs and hosts, 52% of whom are women, in the Boucle du Mouhoun, North and Centre-North regions. In 2021, a total of 60,741 civil and identity documents were provided.
- In addition, two events were organized in Ouagadougou to bring visibility and raise the awareness of the population on statelessness, namely a TV debate with the academia and members of NGOs, as well as a conference on statelessness at the University Joseph KI-ZERBO in Ouagadougou for the benefit of the teaching and student bodies.
- From 20 to 28 December 2021, UNHCR and its partners reached the entire population of the Centre-North region with the sharing of radio spots on four local radios on '*tolerance, acceptance of others, and the culture of peace*' in an effort to foster social cohesion and peaceful coexistence.

### Rapid and joint emergency response following massive displacements from Foubè and Dablo in the Centre-North region

In the wake of the latest displacements UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP reinforced their collaboration, through the establishment of an Emergency Response Team at the national level. With the aim of providing a more coordinated and rapid emergency assistance, this Emergency Response Team will intervene after any future large-scale displacement, notably through the provision of CRI kits and food assistance. **As a first realization of this enhanced collaboration, on 29 December, UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP began to respond to the needs identified in the four most displacement-affected communes of the Centre-North region, namely Kaya, Rollo, Kongoussi and Barsalogho .** UNHCR has provided at least 3,205 families (out of the 2,341 planned) with CRI kits composed of mats, blankets, tarpaulins, solar lamps, mosquito nets, bars of soap, and bundles of clothing. On their side, WFP has planned to provide 15 days of food assistance and UNICEF to provide complementary items to the CRI kits.



## Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

- As part of its efforts to reinforce the Protection against Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (PSEA), awareness-raising sessions were held and 50 signboards positioned in the towns of Kongoussi and Bourzanga in the Centre-North region.
- In the context of the '16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence Campaign', a special event was simultaneously organized in all UNHCR offices on 8 December to present to all staff the nine Core Actions of UNHCR's Policy on the Prevention of, Risk Mitigation, and Response to Gender-based Violence. Moreover, during this campaign, UNHCR organized a forum on 2 December to engage traditional and religious leaders in the fight against harmful traditional practices such as forced marriage, including child marriage. Finally, this forum further led to the nomination women leaders, in the persons of the Regional Director for Humanitarian Action, Kaya's Deputy Mayor as

well as four association leaders. Women leaders agreed to voluntarily coach displaced women on leadership, further share their own experiences and strengthen the capacities of women and girls at risk to reduce their dependence on external aid.

- So that IDP and refugee women and girls at risk are not inclined to engage in extreme coping mechanisms, including the exchange of sex for money or goods, UNHCR facilitated the distribution of 1862 dignity kits across the country. In-kind kits are notably composed of underwear, sanitary napkins, loincloth, soap, and kettle.



## **Health and COVID-19 Response**

- As of 31 December, Burkina Faso has recorded 17,632 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 695 active cases, 318 deaths and 16,937 recoveries. As part of vaccination against COVID-19, 1,133,497 people – including health agents and 84 refugees, have been vaccinated.
- In December 2021, no cases of COVID-19 were identified amongst refugees. Awareness campaigns continued for the observance of barrier measures and adherence to vaccination especially with the settlement of refugees in Dori, which could be seen as an opportunity to bring refugees closer to vaccination centres. In the same time, UNHCR has been working with other actors to improve access to water and has been providing soap, as well as hand-washing devices.
- In December 2021, no disease with epidemic potential was identified in the Sahel region and in urban areas. UNHCR carried out 3,301 consultations for refugees, whose pathologies were mainly identified as respiratory infections (1,491 cases) and malaria (646 cases); and assisted 15 deliveries, which were attended by medical personnel. In terms of nutrition, 32 cases of moderate acute malnutrition and 21 cases of severe acute malnutrition were identified and treated. Moreover, UNHCR handed the Gnarala advanced health post to the Dori health district manager. UNHCR progressed on the building two other advanced health posts with equipment in the areas of Wendou and Petit-Paris, in order to decongest health and social promotion centres with the influx of refugees that fled Goudoubo Camp in the city of Dori. UNHCR also continued to convene working sessions with the Dori health district for the inclusion of refugees in national programs.



## **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 1,252 shelters including 1,026 emergency shelters and 226 semi durable shelters. In addition, 6,921 CRI kits have been distributed including 2,229 kits distributed through cash transfer and 4,692 as in-kind assistance to IDPs and vulnerable host families.
- The Shelter Cluster continues to coordinate the shelter and CRIs response. Over 1,493 shelters have been built by partners against a target of 4,656 planned shelters. With increasing new displacements, the needs in shelter are growing and additional resources are urgently needed. As of 31 December, due to resource constraints, needs were only covered at 53%.



## **Education**

- According to the Minister of National Education, Literacy and the Promotion of National Language, as of 31 December 2021, over 3,280 schools have closed due to insecurity, representing 13,09% of Burkina Faso's overall schooling infrastructure. This situation left 511,221 children out of school.
- UNHCR and the Task Force members of the One UN joint development programme held a meeting on 8 December with the Mayor of Dori in the Sahel region to discuss the new education-related challenges brought about by the spontaneous arrival of close to 13,000 refugees from Goudoubo camp in the town earlier last November. It was agreed that additional classrooms will be built as a priority in the areas with most urgent needs.



## DURABLE SOLUTIONS AND DEVELOPMENT

- In the North region, on 2 December, UNHCR and its partners launched the project entitled 'Supporting the collection and sale of solid waste by displaced and host communities in the city of Ouahigouya', in the presence of IDPs as well as regional and communal authorities. This project will provide an income-generating activity to IDP women who will collect and sell solid waste to the local association 'Bayiri Malguéré Zamaana'. In addition to contribute to the livelihoods of those who fled violence and have to start from scratch in a new locality, this project will also contribute to the protection of the environment and to the development of a local association. At the occasion of this launch, UNHCR donated motorcycles and protective equipment to IDPs. Seven groups of women will further receive such donations to effectively implement the planned activities.
- As part of the joint UNHCR and UNDP 'Citizen Participation and Social Cohesion' project (PaCos), UNHCR supported the installation of three local product processing units in the Hauts-Bassins region; to the benefit of local associations, into which nearly 90 IDPs are now integrated. Moreover, 30 IDP women were trained in shea butter processing techniques, the production of solid and liquid soaps and the collection and drying of shea nuts in the Hauts-Bassins region in an effort to support income generation.
- On 28 December, through the 'Livelihoods support project for internally displaced persons and hosts in the Centre-North region' that aims at building UNHCR persons of concern capacities and network by the mobilization of local business angels that tutor IDP and host youth, UNHCR and its partners facilitated the exchange of best practices and contacts between three local entrepreneurs (the Business Angels) and their IDP/hosts godchildren. Under the sponsorship of the Ministry of Sports, Youth Empowerment and Employment, UNHCR organized a workshop which gathered 155 IDP and hosts learners. At this occasion, UNHCR and its partners also provided 140 learners who have been recruited by local companies with installation kits containing essential tools and equipment in the areas of activity in which they were trained, including but not limited to: leatherwork, masonry, hairdressing, electricity and solar energy, wood carpentry, driving of mining machines, repairing cell phones, etc.. In addition, one of the three Business Angel, namely the President of the Federation of Artisans of the Centre-North region promised to hire as daily workers the 15 IDP learners who had been trained in his masonry.



## 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.
- From 6 to 7 December 2021 and in collaboration with ICRC, OCHA, OHCHR, UNMAS and the Protection Cluster in Burkina Faso, **UNHCR organized a workshop on the protection of civilians that**

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