

Burkina Faso

1 July – 31 August 2021

According to the National Council for Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation (CONASUR), **1,423,378 individuals** have fled their homes seeking safety as of 31 August 2021, a 4% increase compared to July 2021.

On 11 and 12 August, the **Governments of Burkina Faso and Mali** and **UNHCR** held a **Tripartite meeting** which focused on the continuous pursuit of **durable solutions for refugees** in both countries.

UNHCR has activated a **Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF)** in Dori aiming to strengthen the protection and realization of solutions for refugees, including their integration into national programs and services, resettlement, and voluntary repatriation.

KEY INDICATORS

17,664

Birth certificates have been distributed to members from the IDP and host communities during the reporting period

325

Shelters provided to IDPs, refugees and vulnerable families of the host community during the reporting period

342,088 USD

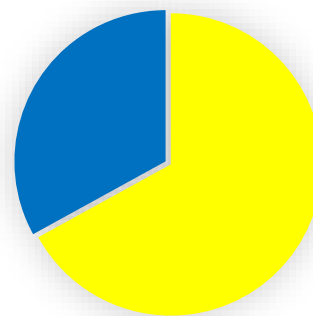
Invested by UNHCR to support the building of a **blood bank** in the city of Dori

FUNDING (AS OF 31 AUGUST 2021)

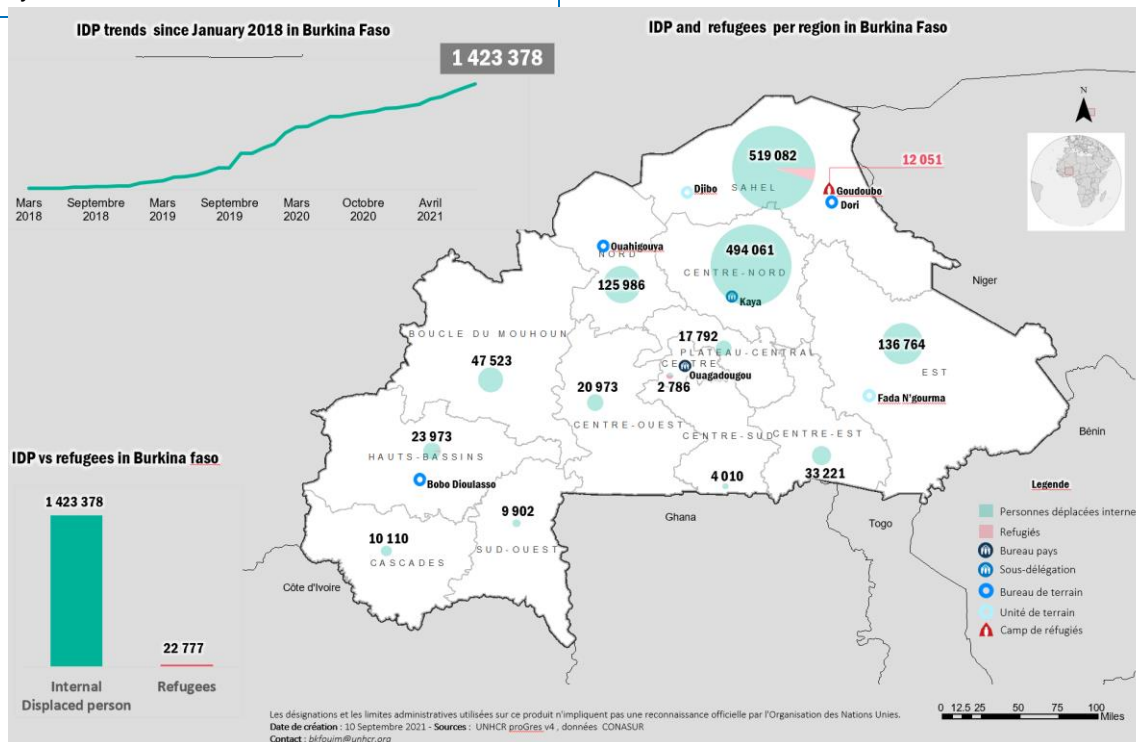
USD 91.2M

Requested for the Burkina Faso Operation

Unfunded
33%
USD 30.1



Funded
67%
USD 61,1



OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

Overall, the security situation across the country continued to deteriorate, marked by threats and intimidation, looting of property including livestock, the use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and targeted kidnappings followed by killings of civilians. Since early August, there has been an intensification of attack by armed groups on the Government Forces of Defense and Security (FDS). The most salient example is an attack on the road to Arbinda, Sahel region, on 18 August, by armed groups on a convoy of FDS and civilians leading to death of more than 30 civilians and 19 injured and over 14 FDS killed. To date, UNHCR continues its operations despite hindered access in certain areas of the country, notably the regions of East, Sahel, Center-North, North and Boucle du Mouhoun.

Instability in the country has also led to cross border movements. UNHCR is **alarmed** by an acceleration in the numbers of people from Burkina Faso forced to flee abroad in search of safety. Since January 2021, more than 17,500 people crossing into neighbouring countries, nearly doubling the total number of refugees from the country in just six months. There are now an estimated 38,000 Burkinabè refugees and asylum seekers across the region.

At the political level, demonstrations led by some opposition leaders and civils society continued in some parts of the country to denounce major security incidents. Following the reshuffle of the Government on 30 June, it is worth noting that, two important ministers, namely the Minister of Security and the Minister of Defense, have been removed from their positions. The President himself takes the portfolio of Defense and Veterans Affairs. In addition, Ms. Clarisse Merindol Ouoba was appointed as the new Minister Delegate to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation, African Integration and Burkinabe Abroad, in charge of African Integration and Burkinabe Abroad. UNHCR will strengthen the work with her department on mixed migration, facilitation of access to the territory, strengthening the asylum system.



MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

PROTECTION

- According to protection monitoring results, the months of June and July show an unprecedented escalation in human rights violations and violence, primarily targeting civilians, The overall figure of victims of violations has tripled, from 3,484 to 11,731. in the North, East, and Sahel regions. The most significant increase in violations is related to psychological integrity, which saw a steep rise from 414 in April-May to 8,311 in June-July; almost 20 times. and right to freedom and security of the person, which reached 2,676 from almost 1,500 in April-May. Right to propriety, right to life and GBV were also amongst the most common violations. Despite a smaller coverage of protection monitors due to inaccessibility to certain areas, the number of GBV cases has increased from 120 to 135 but still are underreported. Access to land remains major concern, with IDPs having difficulties in acquiring plots to build shelters and/or cultivate. In addition, land is the main source of conflict between farmers and herders. These tensions around land are one of the causes of pendular movements of IDPs towards their localities of origin, despite the protection risks they may face.
- As part of its efforts to reduce the risk of statelessness in the country, UNHCR distributed through its partner, 17,664 birth certificates in the North, the East, the South-West, the Hauts-Bassins and the

Boucle du Mouhoun regions. During the reporting period, UNHCR has started a new approach, one stop shop, aiming at accelerating the process and providing a certificate immediately. The pilot started in the North region.

- As part of improving the protection environment and seeking durable solutions for refugees and asylum seekers living in Burkina Faso, the National Commission for Refugees (CONAREF) and UNHCR jointly organized a national workshop on the identification and registration process for refugees. This workshop provided an opportunity to review and revise the standard operating procedures for the registration of refugees and asylum seekers; to develop an action plan for the registration and physical verification of refugees and asylum seekers; and to discuss the framework for collaboration between UNHCR and CONAREF on the issue of registration.
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- Municipal and prefecture agents supported by UNHCR for One stop shop, (instant establishment and distribution of birth certificates). Ouahigouya, Northern Region. ©UNHCR/BKF*
- In the area of social coexistence and social cohesion and as part of the prevention and management of land conflicts, a training session was organized by the National Land Observatory (ONF) and UNHCR for 35 members of the Village Land Conciliation Commissions (CCFV). The objective of this training is to improve the participants understanding of Law 034-2009 on rural land tenure and the notion of land conciliation and to sensitize them so that they become agents of peaceful coexistence.

Refugee situation in the Sahel region

With the deterioration of the situation in Mali, over 2,200 newly arrived refugees and asylum seekers were registered since the start of 2021. Registration and data updating will continue in the next weeks, with over 1,300 individuals in Goudoubo and 3,600 in Djibo. Some of these individuals (approx. 30%) were refugees in Burkina Faso before deciding to go home and were forced to return following attacks and violence in their villages. In this context, Malian refugees' intention to go home have dramatically decreased from over 3,500 people in 2020 to 5 in July 2021. During the reporting period, UNHCR in coordination with the Government and other partners, have activated the Refugee Coordination Model in the Sahel, and subsequently established the Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF). The RCF aims to reinforce synergies between all stakeholders working to protect and find solutions for refugees in the region. In addition, on 11 and 12 August, the Governments of Burkina Faso and Mali and UNHCR held a Tripartite meeting which focused on the continuous pursuit of durable solutions for refugees in both countries. A [Statement](#) has been released by the three parties and includes some key recommendations on information sharing, registration, access to documentation and intention surveys on returns.



GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

- With regards to the reinforcement of GBV prevention and response. The sub-national protection cluster in the North organized a workshop on 14 July in Ouahigouya to adopt a regional referral system built on existing GBV services and community-based structures, that safely and quickly links GBV survivors to

multi-sector services such as medical care, mental health and psychosocial services and judicial assistance. The referral pathway will then be disseminated and regularly updated.

- In order to improve the quality of the GBV response in the Center-North, UNHCR organized a meeting with local associations involved in the fight against GBV on 2 August 2021. The meeting allowed to assess the situation of each association, to set up a strategy to improve the identification of incidents, the referral system as well as the management of cases. Furthermore, a total of four group discussions were organized on the consequences of rape and sexual assault with the participation of 45 women and 15 girls. Discussions helped to raise awareness on support services and referral pathways.



HEALTH AND COVID-19 RESPONSE

- As of 29 August, Burkina Faso has recorded 13,768 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 70 active cases, 171 deaths and 13,527 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.
- Through the COVAX initiative, in addition to the AstraZeneca vaccines, Burkina Faso also received 302,400 doses of Johnson & Johnson vaccine on 21 July. All persons living on the territory, included refugees and displaced populations, are included in the national vaccination plan.
- As part of its development interventions, UNHCR has supported the building of a blood bank in the city of Dori for a total amount of 342,088 USD (192,154,491XOF). Too often, the unavailability of blood in the region was one of the causes of maternal mortality.



SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRIS)

- UNHCR continues to strengthen the shelter response and the distribution of CRIs throughout the country to improve the living conditions, the physical safety and the dignity of IDPs. As part of its shelter response, UNHCR faced challenges in accessing some areas to assist IDP families due to increased insecurity and the rainy season. In addition, there are difficulties in obtaining secure land or spaces for the construction of durable shelters. UNHCR and shelter partners continue to help families affected by floods through distribution of shelter and CRIs. UNHCR provided 325 emergency shelters and 215 CRIs to IDPs, refugees and vulnerable families from the host community.

The Shelter Cluster continues to coordinate the shelter and CRIs response. Over 10,000 shelters have been built by partners at mid-year against a target of 74,497 planned shelters and the needs in shelter are growing and additional resources are urgently needed. In 2021, due to resource constraints, needs are covered at 13% as of 31 July - with UNHCR covering 69% of these interventions.



ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

- In the Sahel, UNHCR's partner ABMZ, organized a 12-days training on the transformation of plastic waste for the benefit of 15 Malian refugees in Goudoubo camp. The trainees produced 16 table and benches for schools UNHCR is working with the Provincial Directorate of Environment, Green Economy and Climate Change (State structure) to formalize the group as a cooperative in order to enable them to legally operate and sell their products on a large scale.
- In order to reduce impact on the environment and mitigate the protection risks linked to the collection of firewood, UNHCR and its partners supplied 556 refugee families with refilled gas bottles for cooking.



Malian refugees during their training on the transformation of plastic waste. Goudoubo Camp, Dori. ©UNHCR/BKF

DURABLE SOLUTIONS AND DEVELOPMENT

- Following UNHCR's advocacy and as part of the Agency's efforts to empower refugees, the Matourkou Multipurpose Agricultural Center (CAP-M) in Bobo Dioulasso region, made available a plot of land of about 5 hectares for agricultural production. 30 refugees, including 11 women, are thus able to better support their families.
- Similarly, 100 individuals, including 65 IDPs, were selected for the Qualifying Modular Training (QMT) on innovative trades in Kaya, following a competitive process. They were enrolled in three vocational training centers and started their three months apprenticeship on 6 August 2021. The trainees were split into seven areas of work, comprising of leatherwork, wood carpentry, solar energy, hairdressing and aesthetics, maintenance and repair of cell phones, mining and quarrying as well as mechanics.



WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

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

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