

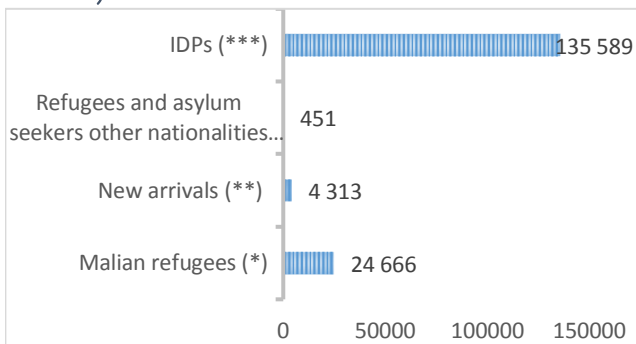
Burkina Faso



Girls collecting wood at Goudoubo refugee camp (Sahel region, Burkina Faso) © UNHCR / Marlies Cardoen

POPULATION OF CONCERN

165,019



* UNHCR figures (30 March 2019)

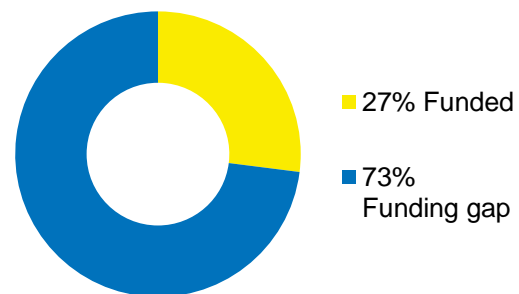
** Government of Burkina Faso figures (April 2018)

*** OCHA figures (02 April 2019)

FUNDING (AS OF APRIL 2019)

USD 22,1 Million

requested for the Burkina Faso Country Operation



KEY INDICATORS

24,666

Malian citizens forced to flee conflict and persecution

22,1 million USD

Needed as of April 2019

135,589

people forced to flee their homes who have remained in Burkina Faso



Malian refugee women showing her vegetable garden, Mentao refugee camp, Sahel Region © UNHCR / Ilyas AG MALICK

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** and were biometrically registered by UNHCR. Since the beginning of the year, 397 new individuals have been added to our database. The Sahel region bordering Mali and Niger and hosting 98% of Malian refugees is increasingly affected by insecurity and violence, aggravating the vulnerability of people who need care and want to build a better future.
2. Since over one year, **thousands of asylum seekers from Mali** continue to enter 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. It is likely that more people will be displaced in the coming weeks and months.
3. **Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs):** Armed attacks and insecurity in Burkina Faso's Est, Centre-Nord, Nord and Sahel regions have triggered an unprecedented humanitarian emergency. **Nearly 136,000 people have been uprooted from their homes** and remained in their own country. **Over 12,000 Burkinabe looked for safety in neighboring countries**, including in Mali, Niger and Ghana. The IDP crisis particularly affects the Sahel region, where UNHCR already has two offices and over 40 staff deployed. More than 90% of the IDPs live in host communities, which are increasingly affected by this burden. UNHCR Burkina Faso estimates the funding needs to USD 7.4 million to respond to the new IDP situation in the country. So far, the Central Emergency Response Fund has made available up to USD 1 million for shelter assistance and protection, but more funds are needed.
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.
5. **Statelessness:** Burkina Faso counts a **large number of stateless people or people at risk of statelessness**, especially in the Sahel. According to a recent UNHCR study, 30% of people living in the Sahel do not dispose over adequate documentation, which leaves them struggling to realize their fundamental human rights and access to basic services most people take for granted.

Security Situation

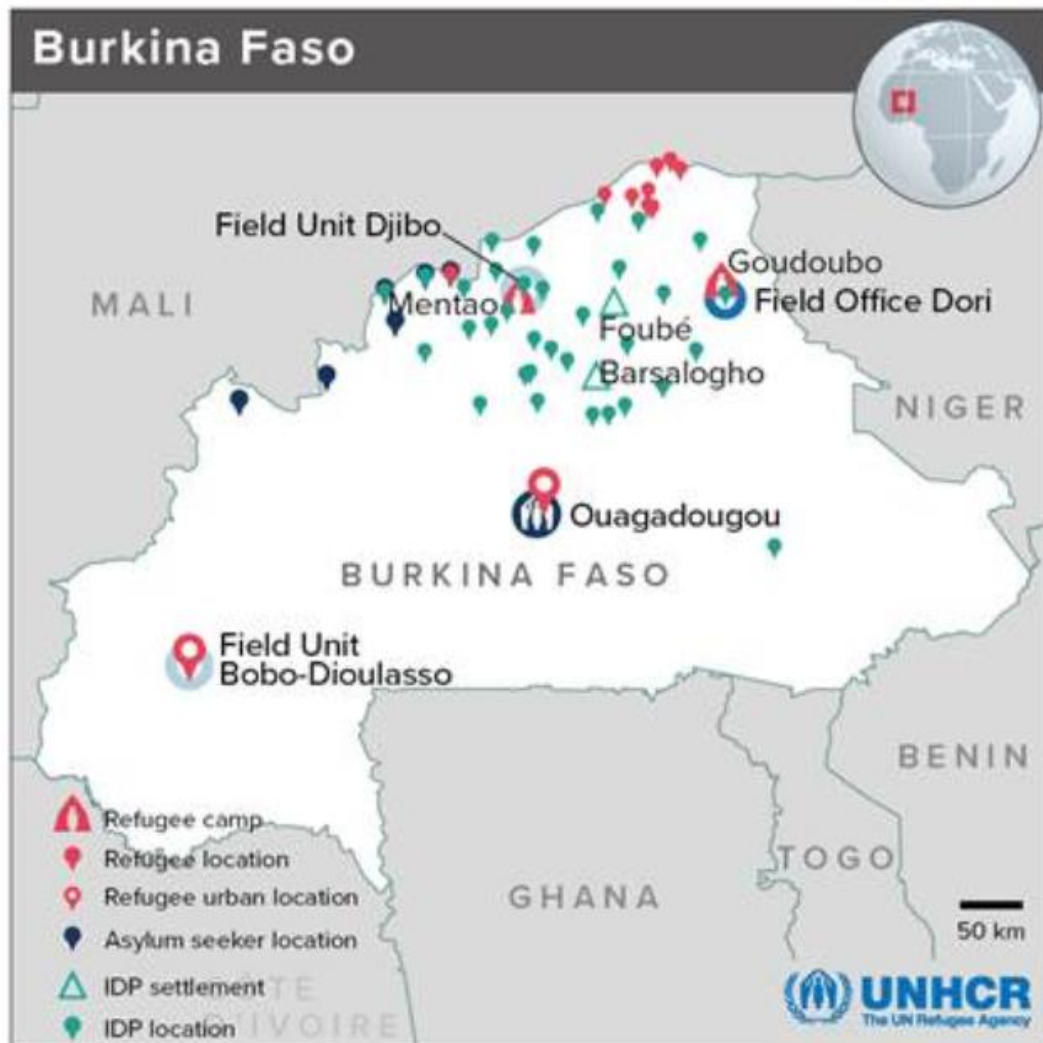
Since 2015, Burkina Faso experienced growing insecurity. No longer limited to attacks perpetrated by Mali-based armed groups, the country has seen the growth of local non-state armed groups in tandem with or as part of JNIM and ISGS, allying with pre-existing criminal networks and exploiting underlying social tensions. Today, insecurity has spread beyond the Sahel region and is mainly affecting areas in the West, North, East and Southeast of the country, along border areas with conflict-affected Mali and Niger.

UNHCR is strongly concerned about the further deterioration of the already fragile security situation in areas hosting refugees and IDPs. The negative effects of insecurity and violence are aggravating the vulnerability of refugees, host and displaced populations.

Car hijacking and kidnapping are on the rise on the main road often used by UNHCR and its partners between Djibo, where UNHCR has a field unit, and Ouagadougou. Nonetheless, the organization remains present on the field and is ready to provide protection and assistance to affected populations.

Although some 357 schools have been reopened in March, 954 schools, including the primary school of Mentao refugee camp, remain closed, leaving over 119,000 children without an education. About 250,000 people do not have access to medical care as health centers have been forced to shut down or have cut back services.

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.



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.

Key Developments & Achievements

The [World Bank](http://www.worldbank.org) has partnered up with UNHCR and will support the Government of Burkina Faso with a 14 million USD grant for refugee households and their host communities in the Nord, Boucle du Mouhoun and Sahel. The main focus will be on cash grants, a basic social safety net, livelihood opportunities, education and emergency preparedness. The extended project will also benefit IDP households.

UNHCR continues to advocate for the integration of refugees and displaced populations in all [peacebuilding initiatives](#) the country undertakes. UNHCR takes up an active role in a flagship project on the peaceful resolution of conflicts in the Sahel and Nord Regions.

 **PROTECTION**

- Since over a year, UNHCR and its partners have sensitized [Malian refugees](#) living in border areas to move to safer locations where humanitarian actors will have access to them. Due to increased insecurity in refugee hosting areas in Burkina, 153 refugees formerly settled in out of camp zones in Oudalan Provinces have decided to relocate to Goudoubo refugee camp. UNHCR has registered 352 voluntary returns to Mali in both camps.
- In addition to its regular refugee and statelessness focused program, the country office has developed an [IDP strategy](#) and responded to the Government's call to assist those who have been displaced. 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 its headquarters in Geneva. All reports on IDP coordination can be found on [this website](#).
- UNHCR Burkina is particularly paying attention to [documentation for refugees, internally displaced people and their host communities](#). During the first week of April, UNHCR facilitated the delivery of birth certificates to 10 000 citizens in Barsalogo and Dablo. More actions benefitting IDPs and their host communities are planned in the weeks to come.
- Upon request of the Government, UNHCR has provided [several trainings](#), amongst others on camp coordination and camp management as well as on key protection principles. In total, over 200 humanitarian staff and Government officials involved in the coordination and management of the emergency response have been trained during the months of March and April.



UNHCR facilitates a training for staff and Government officials on key protection principles
© UNHCR / Ismael Bagui

- The operation has furthered its support to the Ministry of Women, National Solidarity, Family and Humanitarian Action, providing **50 tablets** to increase the Ministry's IDP registration capacity.



Mrs. Ioli KIMYACI, Representative of UNHCR to Burkina Faso, handing over a tablet to Mrs. Hélène Ilboudo/Marshal, Minister of Women, National Solidarity, Family and Humanitarian Action
 © UNHCR / Ismael Bagui

- In a tense security environment, UNHCR is strengthening the **joint refugee-host community committees**. Together with UNDP and local authorities, UNHCR has sensitized traditional and religious leaders and local government officials in Seno Province (Sahel region) on **social cohesion** with the active implication of refugees, women and youth organizations. Similar joint actions are scheduled to take place in the Sahel, Nord and Centre-Nord regions over the coming months.
- UNHCR negotiates with local authorities to identify suitable sites in **Boucle du Mouhoun and Nord regions** where asylum seekers can regrouped and biometrically registered into UNHCR's database. UNHCR and its partners have continued sensitizing those living in border areas in Boucle du Mouhoun and Nord Regions to move to safer zones away from the border, where they have access to international protection and assistance.

SHELTER AND NFIS

- Shelter needs in IDP hosting areas are enormous. Additional funding for shelter and core relief items is urgently needed. UNHCR has offered **up to 140 refugee housing units (RHUs)** to displaced people in IDP hosting areas such as Foubé and Barsalogo (Centre Nord) and Arbinda (Sahel). UNHCR has trained government staff and humanitarian actors on the installation of these units in the field. 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.
- In line with the Government's shelter strategy, UNHCR is reinforcing infrastructure of hosting families. UNHCR will deliver up to 2000 additional RHUs to 10 localities in Sahel, Centre-Nord, Nord

and Est regions. The office studies offering [cash-based assistance and/or support to purchase local materials](#) to provide adequate dwellings to IDPs and their host communities.

- With the support of the [European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa \(EUTF\)](#) project, 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. UNHCR has built 80 constructions in clay for the most vulnerable households and looks forward to get more development partners on board to continue this project.



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE

- With the support of the [European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa \(EUTF\)](#) and funds from the [US Department of State](#) given directly to UNHCR's partners on the ground, UNHCR is organizing livelihood activities to enable refugees to become gradually self-reliant.



*Malian refugee woman working on handmade lamps which are sold internationally
 on this website © UNHCR / Pierre TILMANT*



EDUCATION



WATER AND SANITATION



HEALTH

- 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, a large share of the IDP population is based), the small health center is currently being overwhelmed.

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 a well-coordinated interagency response to support 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 people with a nationality 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 85 national and international staff (*this includes consultants and affiliate workforce*) of which over 40 staff are based in the Sahel and 4 UN refugee volunteers deployed in the Sahel.

Offices: 1 Head Office in Ouagadougou, 1 Field Office in Dori, 1 Field Unit in Djibo and 1 Antenna Office in Bobo-Dioulasso. As part of an integrated UN presence, UNHCR is examining the possibility of deploying staff to other strategic locations in the country.

Partners

Government of Burkina Faso (**CONAREF** – *Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés* and **CONASUR** – Burkinabe Council for Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation), Danish Refugee Council (**DRC**), Centre de Support en Santé Internationale (**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 7,588,910 M USD

Thanks to the **Central Emergency Response Fund**, the **European Union**, **Private Donors Spain**, the **UN Peacebuilding Fund**, the **UN Programme on HIV/AIDS** and the **United States of America**.

Special thanks to the major donor of softly earmarked contributions

United States of America 10 million

Germany | Private donors

Thanks to other donors of unearmarked contributions

Sweden 90.4 million | Norway 44.5 million | Netherlands 37.5 million | United Kingdom 31.7 million | Germany 26.7 million | Denmark 24.4 million | Private donors Spain 19.5 million | Switzerland 15.1 million

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LINKS: [Regional portal](#) - [Twitter](#) - [Facebook](#) - [Humanitarian Response](#)