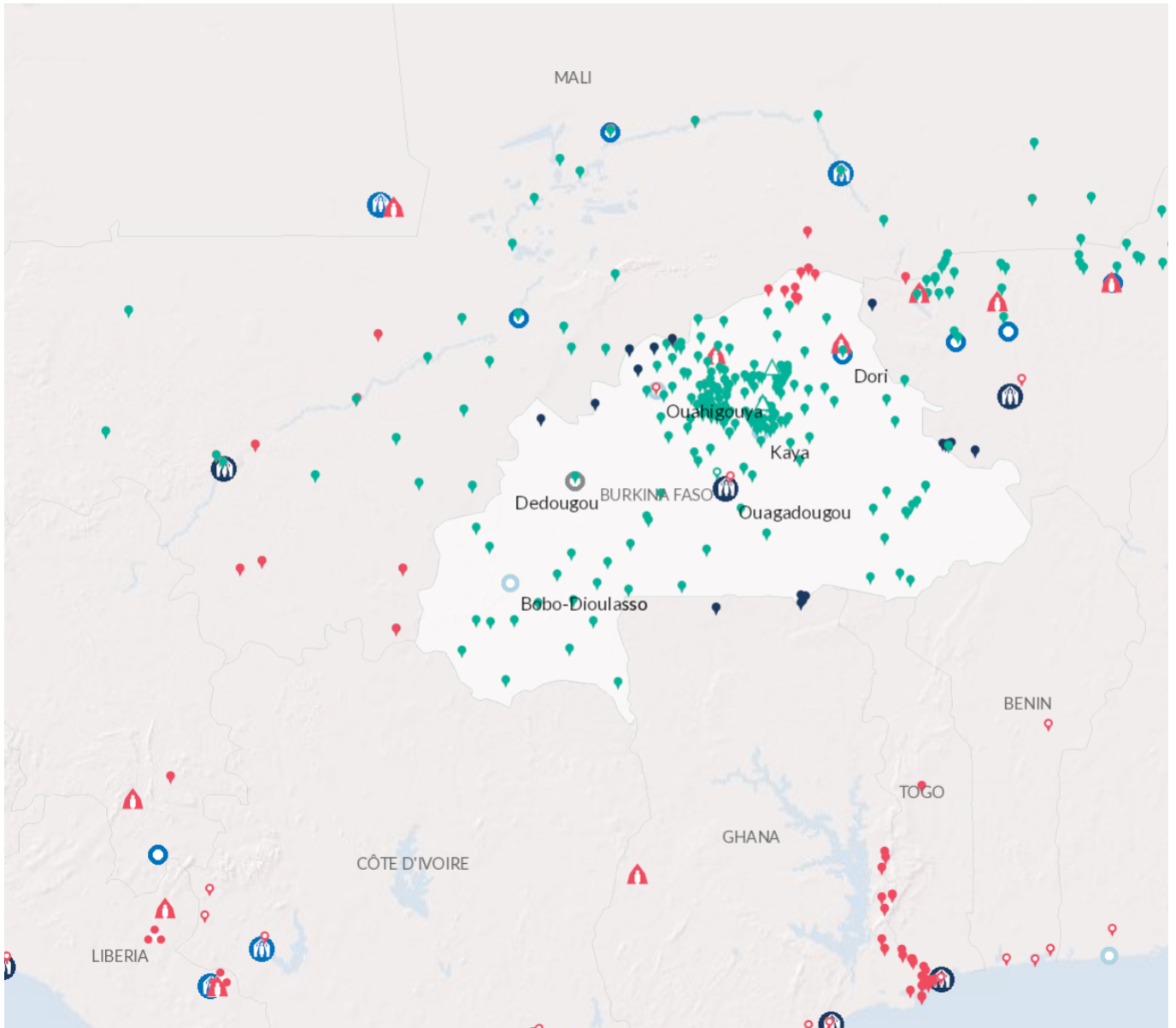




## Operation: Burkina Faso



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

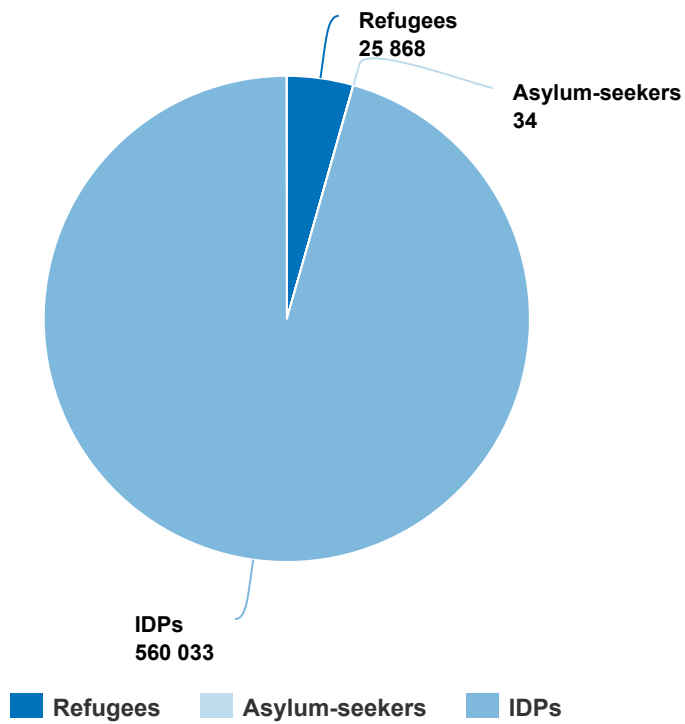
# People of Concern

INCREASE IN  
**712% 2019**

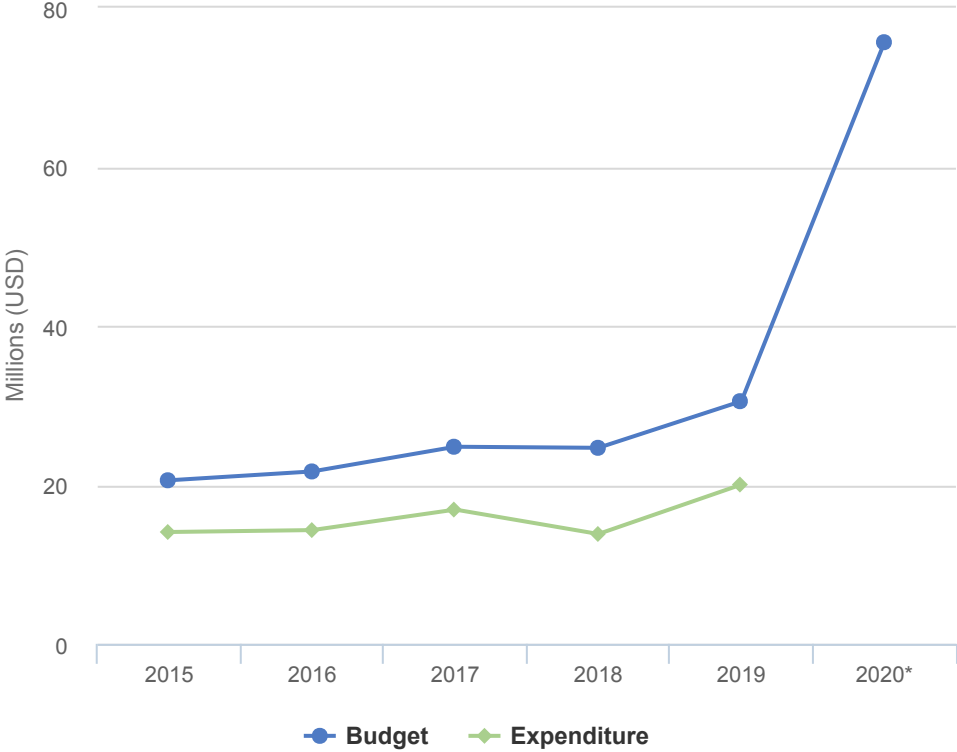
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<b>2019</b>	<b>585,935</b>
<b>2018</b>	<b>72,195</b>
<b>2017</b>	<b>26,552</b>

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# Budgets and Expenditure for Burkina Faso



## Operational context

The humanitarian situation in Burkina Faso rapidly deteriorated in 2019, with attacks by unidentified armed groups intensifying and increasingly affecting civilian populations. As a result, the number of IDPs increased from 60,000 in January to a total of 560,000 as of early December.

Limited humanitarian access as well as lack of funds for the humanitarian response presented major obstacles in implementing protection and assistance activities. The closure and/or overcrowding of social services in the country also exacerbated the vulnerabilities of people of concern.

Throughout 2019, UNHCR worked with the Government of Burkina Faso and other partners to continue to deliver protection and assistance, as well as to find solutions, for people of concern in the country. During the year protection monitoring and referral systems were strengthened, while regular registration and provision of documentation and identification to people of concern continued. Livelihood opportunities and durable solutions were also pursued. In June 2020, the Office declared an internal level 2 emergency to scale up its capacity to respond to the growing needs.

The Office also ensured that people of concern were included in development plans. As a result, refugees were explicitly mentioned as beneficiaries in the expanded Sahel emergency programme, the official reference document for the response to the emergency in the Sahel.

Despite growing insecurity and the deepening of the humanitarian crisis, the country continued to generously host Malian refugees. Some 730 new arrivals were registered in 2019, in addition to the over 24,700 Malian refugees already registered in the country.

## Population trends

As of 31 December 2019, the population of concern in Burkina Faso was approximately 585,900, including 560,000 IDPs, 25,900 refugees (mainly Malian nationals) and 30 asylum-seekers. In addition, there were over 2 million people at risk of statelessness.

In 2019, some 900 Malian refugees returned to Mali with assistance from UNHCR.

## Achievements

- UNHCR met 26% of the shelter and core relief item needs for IDPs with specific needs.
- 90% of people at risk of stateless were identified in the census.
- 98,000 people at risk of stateless received civil status and identity documents.

## Unmet needs

With the deepening of the crisis and multiple population movements, humanitarian needs continue to grow while operational challenges, such as the shrinking of humanitarian access due to insecurity, impacted the delivery of UNHCR's programmes. In addition, with the operation funded at only 69% by the end of 2019, some needs remained unmet.

- The extent of sexual and gender-based violence was greater than initially estimated. UNHCR worked with partners to ensure prevention and response activities, especially for IDPs. Nevertheless, underreporting and insufficient funds for income-generating activities for survivors constituted challenges to respond to these growing needs.
- Cases of trauma increased as a result of the crisis, requiring an expansion of psychosocial services.
- As the security situation disrupted schooling, more refugee teachers needed to be trained to make up for the unavailability of national teachers.
- In light of increased distrust between communities, additional activities to strengthen social cohesion were needed.

- As a result of the closure of markets, several refugees, especially women, lost their livelihoods. In a context of growing insecurity and limited opportunities, the adoption of negative coping mechanisms was a significant risk.
  - Following several attacks, the security forces present in and around the Mentao refugee camps left the site in October 2019. Growing insecurity required UNHCR to relocate its staff out of the camp in November 2019, leading to sporadic access to refugees. Some services provided in the camps were closed, such as education (since December 2018) and health (since May 2019).
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