



## Sahel Crisis

Responding to the urgent needs of refugees, internally displaced, returnees and others of concern



**1.5 million**  
IDPs

**820,825**  
REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS

**684,038**  
RETURNEES  
(REFUGEES AND IDPs)

**106,555**  
OTHERS OF CONCERN

**\$185.7 million**  
NEEDED IN REVISED  
FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

To respond to the deepening crisis, UNHCR requires \$185.7 million to provide lifesaving protection and assistance to refugees, IDPs, returnees and host communities the Sahel region.

This includes the \$96.7 million in initial requirements for 2020, \$29.3 million to implement COVID-19 prevention and response measures in displacement areas, and an additional \$59.7 million to scale up its emergency response, focusing on shelter and core relief items, prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence, education and the environment.

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## Overview

The central Sahel region—Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger—is facing a severe humanitarian and protection crisis. Massive displacement, most of it driven by intense and largely indiscriminate violence perpetrated by a range of armed actors against civilian populations, is taking place across the region. While internal displacement is on the rise substantial numbers of refugees have fled to neighboring countries, and the situation risks spilling over into the coastal countries of Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Togo.

Local communities have demonstrated remarkable generosity but are at a breaking point. National capacities are overwhelmed, and international support has been disproportionately dedicated to security assistance, with limited resources being made available for urgently needed humanitarian and development activities.

This context is exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which is already affecting areas hosting refugees and IDPs. Despite a low number of tests and cases detected so far, the steady increase of infection rates indicates a forthcoming emergency that far exceeds the capacity of national health sectors. The immediate socio-economic impact will have longer-term consequences for food security and access to services and livelihoods throughout the Sahel region, disproportionately impacting displaced populations and jeopardizing durable solutions.

Coupled with the just starting lean season, which is predicted to be one of the most serious in decades, this situation will likely generate further large-scale displacement of populations within the region and beyond: possibly southward to coastal countries, as well as northward to North Africa and Europe.

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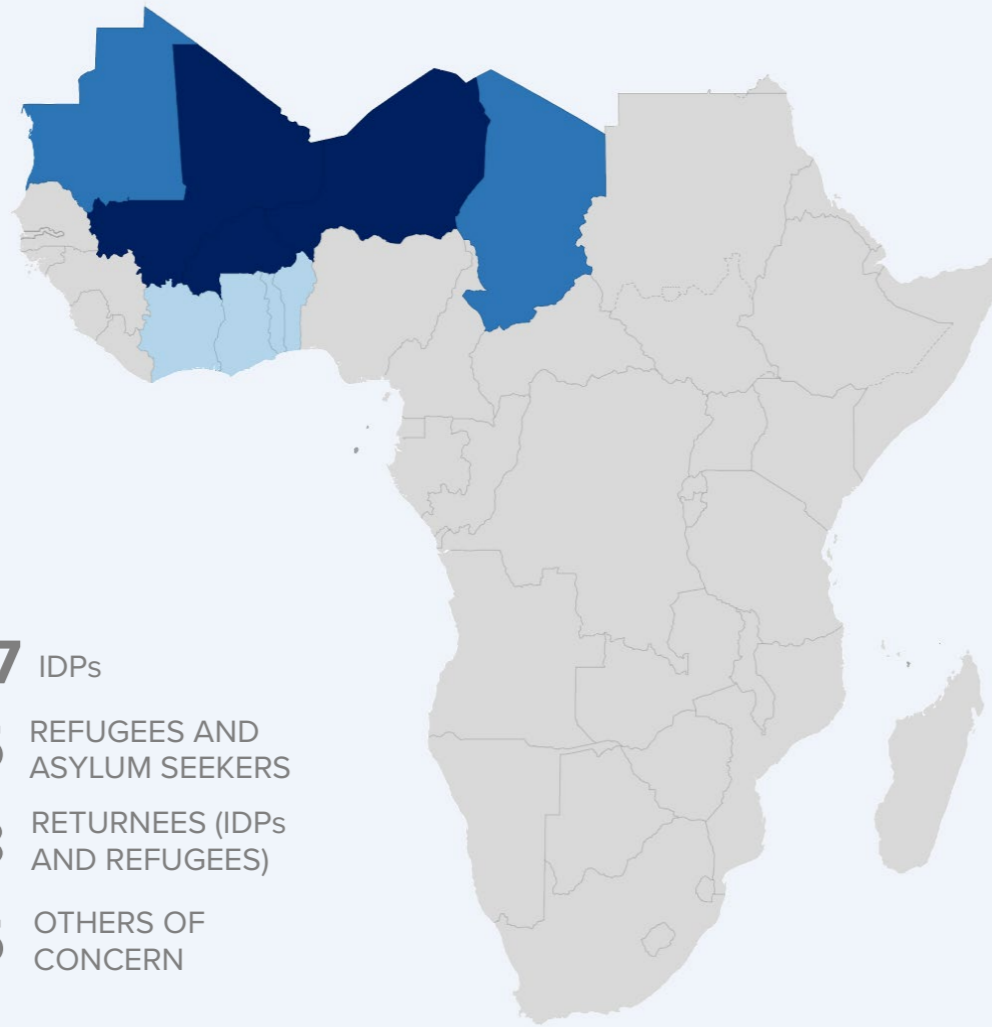
The emergency in the Sahel is a humanitarian and protection crisis of major proportions, where horrifying violence against vulnerable populations is becoming endemic. We must act swiftly with a comprehensive and inclusive response, with the rights and well-being of millions of displaced people at the heart of what we do.”

**Filippo Grandi**

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

**3,142,995**  
PEOPLE OF CONCERN

- COUNTRIES WITH MAJOR IMPACT
- COUNTRIES WITH MEDIUM IMPACT
- COUNTRIES WITH LOW IMPACT



**1,531,577** IDPs  
**820,825** REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS  
**684,038** RETURNEES (IDPs AND REFUGEES)  
**106,555** OTHERS OF CONCERN

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

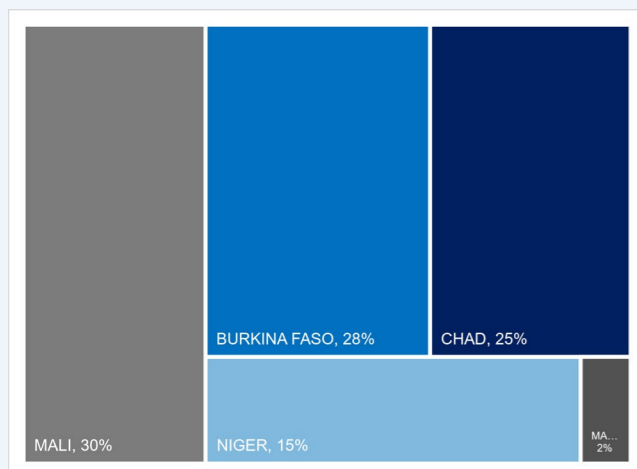
### EVOLUTION OF IDP POPULATION (LAST 12 MONTHS)



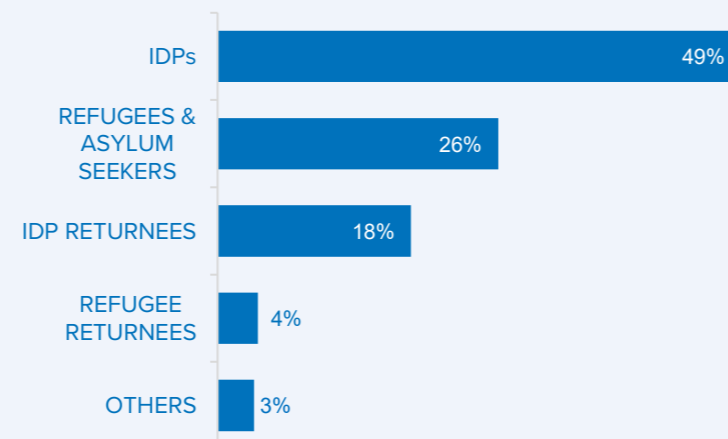
### EVOLUTION OF REFUGEE POPULATION (LAST 12 MONTHS)



### PEOPLE OF CONCERN BY COUNTRY



### PEOPLE OF CONCERN BY STATUS



### PEOPLE OF CONCERN AFFECTED

	BURKINA FASO	CHAD**	MALI	NIGER	MAURITANIA	TOTAL
REFUGEES	21,371	475,470	28,706	223,094	63,222	811,863
REFUGEE RETURNEEES			83,833	34,300		118,133
ASYLUM-SEEKERS	33	3,838		3,551	1,540	8,962
IDPs	848,329	208,382	250,998	223,868		1,531,577
IDP RETURNEEES			565,905			565,905
OTHERS		102,945		3,610		106,555
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>869,733</b>	<b>790,635</b>	<b>929,442</b>	<b>488,423</b>	<b>64,762</b>	<b>3,142,995</b>

*\*\*The majority of refugees in Chad are from Sudan and CAR*

## Working environment

Insecurity, geography, climate and a global pandemic: all conspire to present UNHCR and its partners with one of the most difficult operating environments in the world.

Since an initial outbreak in northern Mali in 2011, armed conflict has spread to central Mali, to Niger, to Burkina Faso, and is likely to impact coastal countries such as Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo.

As one of the fastest growing displacement crises in the world, millions continue to flee indiscriminate attacks by armed groups against civilians such as summary executions, the widespread use of rape against women, as well as attacks against state institutions, including schools and health facilities.

Refugees finding themselves in the Liptako-Gourma, the border triangle where Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger converge, are seeking safety in areas that are also plagued by violence and poverty. Many have been displaced several times.

The situation is interlinked with the situations in Cameroon, Libya and Nigeria due to the shared ideology between armed groups, similar operating modes, their geographic proximity, and their illicit financing methods.

The security situation is complicated further by the broad range of regular and irregular armed actors, including national armies, international forces and a UN peacekeeping mission, as well as insurgent groups, community-based armed groups, traffickers and criminal gangs.

Ongoing insecurity and hostilities between parties to the conflicts, the presence of improvised explosive devices and landmines, as well as other physical constraints such as lack of road infrastructure, flooding, and rough terrain make humanitarian access extremely difficult and, at times, risky.

Attacks on civilians are only the latest drivers of displacement in a region already struggling with extreme poverty, scarce basic services, and climate change, and now the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

While security expenditures by governments are on the rise, this has not been matched by investment in public or social services, meaning that humanitarian assistance is a lifeline for more than three million people whose needs continue to outpace available resources. During 2020-2021, elections will take place in eight of the nine countries covered by this strategy. If these are not carefully managed, they could add to the existing instability.

The region is vast and is one of the most at risk from adverse effects of climate change. Those effects are already being felt. Competition for land and the impact of climate change have generated divisions between communities based on ethnic affiliation. These tensions are exploited by insurgent groups, leading to more inter-ethnic fighting.

In addition, governments in the Sahel are taking general measures to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and protect populations. Although these measures are not specific to refugees, IDPs, stateless persons or returnees, limits on mobility within and across borders disproportionately impact these populations in their search for protection and solutions.

## UNHCR's response to date

UNHCR's protection-centered response has focused on the urgent needs faced by people of concern—refugees, IDPs, returnees, persons at risk of statelessness and host communities. Throughout its interventions, UNHCR has ensured the inclusion and meaningful participation of, and accountability to, affected people.

### Shelter and core relief items

UNHCR has provided emergency structures, construction materials, CRIs and cash grants. Since the beginning of the year, UNHCR has provided shelter assistance to over 25,000 families and aims to conclude the distribution of CRIs to 16,500 families by the end June 2020.

### Prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence

UNHCR has been implementing a comprehensive prevention and response strategy ensuring that survivors' psychosocial, medical, legal and subsistence needs are met in a holistic manner. For example, in Burkina Faso and Niger, UNHCR and its partners began running mobile clinics in conflict-affected areas to provide medical and psychosocial support to SGBV survivors, complementing existing programs.

Furthermore, in the Tillabery and Tahoua regions of Niger, UNHCR is upgrading 11 safe spaces dedicated to the care of SGBV survivors and adding 50 more case workers, social workers, psychologists, and legal counsellors to ensure timely services and social distancing.

### Education

UNHCR is working with governments to enable emergency education for displaced children and youth via access to safe distance learning alternatives. This support includes health training for teachers and community awareness-raising activities on COVID-19 and basic prevention measures as well as upgrades to water and sanitation facilities in schools. For instance, UNHCR has assisted 21,000 primary school-aged children in Mali and Niger.

### COVID-19

Since the beginning of COVID-19, UNHCR operations are helping to reinforce national healthcare systems, WASH structures, and services in areas hosting displaced populations and surrounding communities to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic on people of concern and host communities. In western Niger for example, UNHCR is supporting the authorities of Tahoua and Tillabery to rehabilitate and extend existing health structures to allow for the isolation and treatment of potential COVID patients.

Moreover, UNHCR Niger is supporting the salary payment of 130 national medical staff for an initial period of three months in addition to training 600 healthcare workers in all refugee hosting areas. In Burkina Faso UNHCR has installed 1,728 communal and individual water stations in several refugee and IDP hosting areas, as well as a 5,000- liters water reservoir in Dori where we are trucking water. Furthermore, UNHCR has been supporting refugees to make tens of thousands of reusable masks being distributed to refugees, IDPs and host communities across the Sahel.

## Strategic priorities

UNHCR's response is structured around a three-pronged geographical approach:

- Countries already facing a severe humanitarian crisis (Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger)
- Countries already impacted (Chad, Mauritania)
- Countries which might be impacted by a spill-over of the current situation (Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo)

Drawing from its mandate, protection leadership, Inter-Agency Standing Committee responsibilities and comparative advantage such as wide field presence, and underscored

by solid data collection and analysis, UNHCR's response prioritizes the following:

- Scale-up of emergency preparedness and response, focusing on shelter and CRIs.
- Protection and physical safety, transforming the commitments made during the Bamako Dialogue into a result-oriented process. This pillar also prioritizes SGBV response and education.
- Partnerships for solutions with a strong development orientation to strengthen the resilience of displaced and host communities, as well as service provision by local authorities to promote social cohesion and limit the impact of displacement on the environment.

## Critical needs by sector

### Shelter and core relief



- Close to 500,000 vulnerable people immediately need in-kind shelter and core relief items
- Another 42,200 households urgently require cash grants for shelter materials and 53,100 families for core relief items
- At least 65% women of reproductive age need to receive sanitary materials

### Protection, including prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence



- Over 310 community groups need support to ensure protection and assistance (including prevention and response to SGBV)
- Activities need to be intensified in order to identify at least 1,000 SGBV incidents and provide medical and psychosocial assistance to the survivors
- 13 joint assessments and 377 monitoring missions need to be conducted and recorded to support data collection and analysis

### Education



- Some 638 teachers need additional training, including for distance education
- Over 150 educational facilities need to be constructed or improved
- Almost 270 WASH educational facilities need to be constructed or rehabilitated

### Environment and energy



- Over 47% of households need access to sustainable energy
- Almost 40% of households need alternative and/or renewable energy (such as solar, biogas, ethanol, environmentally friendly briquets, or wind)

## Planned activities and implementation

UNHCR's Sahel strategy is a scaled-up response to the unprecedented violence and displacement crisis in the Sahel initially covering 2020-2021. Activities planned pre-COVID 19 will be implemented in line with public health measures imposed as a result of the pandemic. This includes addressing shelter needs in overcrowded settlements, supporting distance education, providing effective response to SGBV incidents aggravated by confinement measures, and continuing other protection activities such as registration, documentation and facilitating access to asylum.

### Shelter and core relief items

Refugees and IDPs are often residing in overcrowded camps and sites or among host communities, living in already precarious conditions in traditionally underserved areas. Due to poverty, many resort to building flimsy shelters using tree branches or cardboard, exposing themselves to theft and violence. In these dire living conditions, with limited access to WASH facilities, forcibly displaced people are often unable to apply the most

basic preventive measures such as social distancing and handwashing, exposing themselves to heightened risk of contracting COVID-19 as the virus spreads towards major hosting areas. To address these issues, UNHCR operations are implementing targeted shelter interventions and distributing CRIs as well as exploring ways to decongest the most affected hosting areas in coordination with the national and local authorities.

Shelter needs are acute, especially for IDPs in the areas of Mopti in Mali, and Burkina Faso's North and Central Sahel regions. Therefore, UNHCR's scale-up focuses primarily on meeting at least 25% of IDP shelter and CRIs needs as part of wider inter-agency efforts. In addition, shelter interventions aim to offer sustainable, eco-friendly housing being developed to integrate refugees and IDPs into host-communities and promote peaceful coexistence.

Planned shelter activities include delivery and distribution of tents, prefabricated housing units, shelter kits and cash for shelter, as well as reception centers for both newly displaced IDPs and refugees.

## Prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence

Incidents of rape and other forms of sexual violence, abuse and exploitation, trafficking, forced and early marriage, and unwanted pregnancy have become widespread in conflict areas of the Sahel.

As a result, there is further displacement and breakdown of family and community structures. This situation is exacerbated by the spread of COVID-19, which is expected to disproportionately impact women and girls, who are traditionally those who care for sick family members and who are being exposed to negative family coping mechanisms like child marriage in times of crisis.

Focusing on prevention and response through awareness-raising and provision of comprehensive support to SGBV survivors,

UNHCR will work with its partners and the military to ensure prevention actions, put in place strong referral mechanisms for survivors of SGBV, reinforce existing health structures, and create new mobile health services in remote areas.

Priority activities will include:

- Launching mobile clinics to provide medical and psychosocial support to survivors at home and in remote areas.
- Strengthening community protection structures involving community and religious leaders to prevent SGBV and end stigmatization of survivors.
- Advocating for coordinated and expanded referral mechanisms among partners.



## Education

The impact of armed conflict on education in the Central Sahel region is devastating. As of February 2020, 3,641 schools had been closed or had been destroyed in attacks, affecting 700,000 students and 20,000 teachers. The combined impact of insecurity and the spread of COVID-19 in the Sahel is particularly devastating for the education sector as school closures are no longer restricted to conflict areas but affect entire countries.

Prolonged school closures are likely to disproportionately impact displaced children. They not only have their education interrupted but also lose the safety offered by a school and face increased risk of abuse, neglect, violence, and exploitation. The situation is especially precarious for girls, who are more at risk of permanently dropping out and forced marriage. Ensuring continuity of education for displaced children and youth is challenging, especially in rural areas where

the digital divide will continue to exacerbate the education divide.

In support of ministries of education, and in collaboration with UNICEF and other key education partners, UNHCR's education activities will prioritize the rehabilitation of school facilities, construction of classrooms, and support distance learning where insecurity or mandatory school closures due to the pandemic affect enrolment. These actions are expected to:

- Prevent the radicalization and recruitment of children and youth by creating a protective learning environment.
- Allow refugees to make up for missed schooling and accommodate language differences in learning.
- Result in the recognition of refugee teachers' credentials and their integration into the national workforce.

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## Emergency preparedness

UNHCR will ensure that its stockpiles of shelter kits and CRIs in Accra, Ghana and Douala, Cameroon can cover the needs of at least 20,000 people at any given time. The resumption of humanitarian flights, initially grounded due to the closure of airspace because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the opening of humanitarian corridors as governments gradually ease restrictions, will allow for replenishment and continued pre-positioning of supplies closer to delivery points.

Additional resources will also facilitate the disbursement of cash for shelter and relocation of refugees to safer sites granted by the Governments with space for agropastoral activities. Preparedness for potential COVID-19 outbreaks also requires installing and equipping isolation and treatment facilities as well as water stations and medical supplies in all refugee and IDP-hosting areas.

Furthermore, UNHCR and partners will regularly update a regional contingency plan that will factor in potential further influxes of Malian refugee into Mauritania as well as displacement to coastal countries, namely Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo should conflict spill over from eastern Burkina Faso.

## Bamako Process

Promoting and supporting government cooperation is critical to addressing the crisis. Therefore, UNHCR aims to support the establishment of the Bamako Process—an inter-governmental platform bringing together all stakeholders to operationalize the conclusions of the Bamako Declaration signed by the Governments of Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger. The Bamako Process will be structured around technical committees with participation and support from other UN agencies, NGOs and key partners on:

- Humanitarian access and civil-military coordination.
- Protection in the context of the UN framework for the prevention of violent extremism.
- Access to asylum in the context of mass influx and mixed movements.
- Solutions for refugees, IDPs and other civilian populations.
- Access to civil registration, identity document and nationality
- Protection in the context of the UN framework for the prevention of violent extremism.

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## An environmentally conscious response

The Sahel is at high risk of being one of the most impacted regions in the world by climate change, with a projected 3 degrees Celsius temperature increase, double the projected global average of 1.5 degrees Celsius increase by 2050.

Approximately 80% of the Sahel's farmland has already been degraded due to global warming. This results in increasing local competition for natural resources, particularly food and water, which is one of the direct root causes of the conflict.

Environmental degradation acts as threat multiplier for conflict and instability. While the competition for scarce resources is increasing and social cohesion and leadership structures are being damaged, traditional mediation coping mechanisms are becoming strained or collapsing.

Considering the correlation between climate change and forced displacement, UNHCR will:

- Adopt a do-no-harm approach by progressively developing a model eco-friendly response for shelter and non-food items.
- Develop community-based preparedness including through mass information campaigns to prevent climate-related forced displacement.
- Promote and support the use of clean energy by displaced and host communities.
- Engage youth in plastic and waste collection to build youth community centers with eco-friendly bricks.

## Burkina Faso

In Burkina Faso, the deterioration of the security situation and gross human right violations have led to mass displacements and restricted humanitarian access. As of the end of April 2020, some 848,000 people have been displaced internally, representing a more than sixteen-fold increase in the number of IDPs in the country from January 2019. Currently over six out of ten IDPs in the three central Sahel countries are in Burkina Faso.

Insecurity has also impacted some 25,000 Malian refugees in Burkina Faso and recently prompted them to flee from Goudoubou and Mentao camps to Djibo and other locations within Burkina Faso or return to unsafe areas in Mali. Intensified armed conflict in a context where the country has been one of the first in Africa impacted by COVID-19 also provides an uncertain political environment for the upcoming presidential election in November 2020.

With no end in sight to the Sahel conflict, further displacement is expected in both rural and urban areas.

UNHCR is planning to reinforce its response and, through its strategic partnerships, support the Government Emergency Response Plan, while simultaneously promoting an “alternative-to-camps” policy. In close coordination with other members of the United Nations Country Team and the Humanitarian Country Team, UNHCR will contribute to the comprehensive UN approach to the humanitarian, development, peacebuilding nexus.

In addition to scaling up its IDP operational footprint, UNHCR aims to enhance the protection of Malian refugees formerly residing in and around the Gougoubou and Mentao camps. It will work with the Government of Burkina Faso to relocate these refugees to safer sites, while facilitating the voluntary repatriation of those wishing to return home despite the insecure circumstances. UNHCR will support border authorities to put in place health measures for prevention and control of COVID-19 transmission during return movements, including the establishment of isolation areas.

### A survivor's story

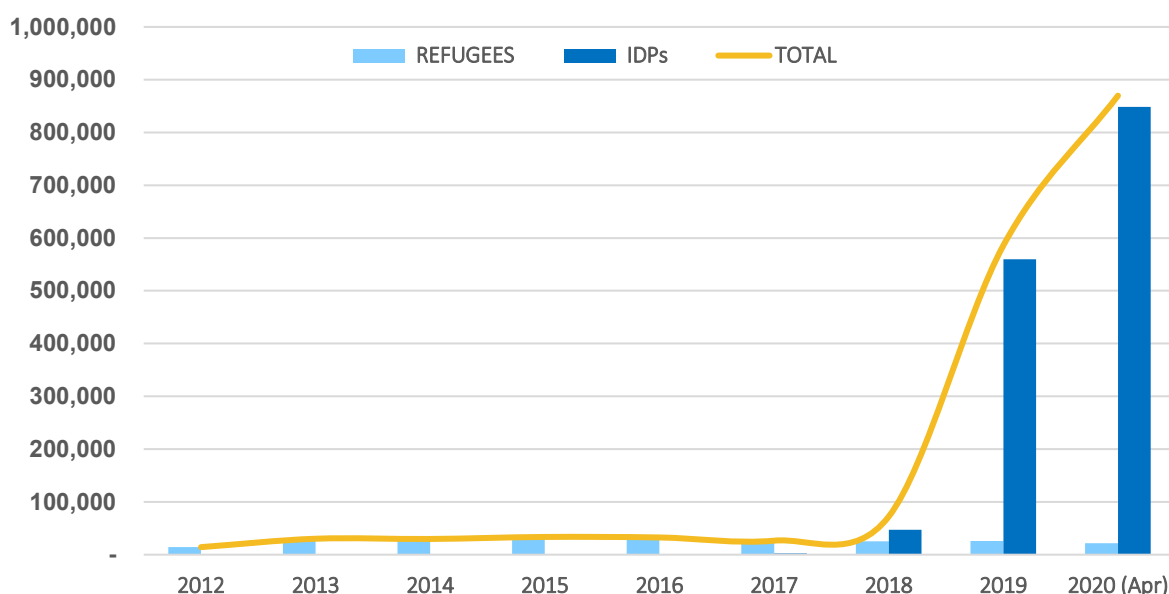


Hawa Sawadoga was at home in Boukouma, Burkina Faso when her nephew alerted the family that armed men were approaching. Within seconds, two dozen men on motorcycles roared up and opened fire as she and other women hid inside.

“They killed my husband and his brother when they had their hands in the air,” she said from Kaya, where she is now displaced.

Hawa buried the dead the next day, then fled with 32 members of her family. Now she has found relative safety at her son's home in Kaya, 150 kilometers to the south. But she has nightmares, waking up each night screaming, phantom gunshots ringing in her ears. “I am a widow of this conflict,” she said.

### BURKINA FASO | EVOLUTION OF REFUGEE AND IDP POPULATION | 2012 –2020



### FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS | USD

Burkina Faso	Operational plan 2020 (ExCom approved)	Sahel Crisis additional needs (Scale up)	COVID-19 activities	Total
Camp management and coordination	1,207,394	1,276,262	1,684,454	4,168,110
Education	710,813	2,376,609	2,034,660	5,122,082
Environment and energy	437,048	749,910	-	1,186,958
Health	1,119,865	-	2,150,115	3,269,980
Livelihoods	1,275,019	-	508,455	1,783,474
Partnerships and coordination	902,386	1,218,703	-	2,121,089
Protection	6,738,115	4,449,381	591,260	11,778,756
Registration, data and protection monitoring	2,348,240	1,060,909	591,260	4,000,408
SGBV	1,627,079	1,602,829	1,020,881	4,250,789
Shelter and core relief items	15,286,742	12,693,790	2,854,189	30,834,720
WASH	474,291	-	1,276,102	1,750,393
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>32,126,993</b>	<b>25,428,392</b>	<b>12,711,375</b>	<b>70,266,760</b>

## Mali

In Mali, increased fighting and security incidents, especially along the border with Burkina Faso and Niger, are likely to result in further displacement into the country from both neighboring countries, with severe consequences for access to social services, protection and natural resources. These military operations are also expected to trigger further internal displacements. With the increasingly volatile security situation within camps in Burkina Faso, further returns of Malian refugees are also projected.

UNHCR's scaled-up response in Mali will address the needs of the steadily growing number of IDPs, with shelter as a priority intervention. As of 1 May 2020, almost 251,000 IDPs were registered in the country. UNHCR will continue to address the reintegration needs of the growing number of Malian refugees returning from Niger and

Burkina Faso to escape indiscriminate attacks affecting their security in the country of asylum. Comprising a majority of women and children, these returnees urgently need shelter, CRIs and cash assistance to reestablish their lives, as well as further educational and protection support.

UNHCR will establish a new office in Menaka as part of the implementation of its Sahel strategy, which will enable expanded outreach and assistance to IDPs and returnees in the area, as well as regular and proactive cross-border monitoring and analysis with neighboring Niger. Furthermore, UNHCR's response will provide protection and assistance for over 10,000 refugees from Burkina Faso living in Mopti, Timbuktu and Gao, in addition to 17,000 refugees from Niger in Menaka and Gao.

## Refugee volunteers help their hosts fight environmental degradation in Mauritania



In the south-east of Mauritania, in the Sahel belt of the country, a group of Malian refugees is waging the “green fight”.

They are the *Volontaires Réfugiés pour la Propriété du Camp (VRPC)*, a group of refugee men and women originally established to help Mbera refugee camp stay clean by collecting waste.

However, VRPC works outside the camp as well.

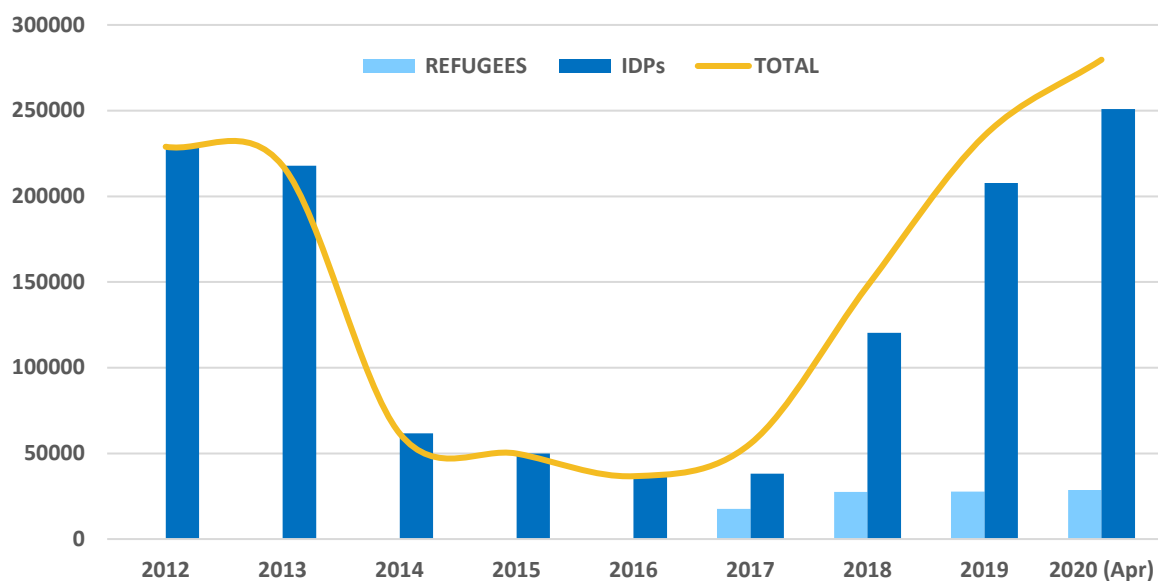
Last December, on International Volunteer Day, the VRPC cleaned up the streets, schools, the town hall and the main square of Bassikounou.

“We volunteer for our people in the camp, but we want to help the host community too,” said Safiyatou, a Malian refugee woman participating in the VRPC.

The VRPC volunteer services are not limited to waste collection. They have also helped combat desertification and climate change by planting 60,000 trees distributed by a local NGO, SOS Desert. Their support has been crucial in combating wildfires, a major recurring cause of environmental degradation in the area.

In one of the most fragile and climate-change affected regions of the world, Malian refugees who have found safety and stability in Mauritania, are helping to bust the myth that refugees are amongst the greatest polluters and degraders of the environment by proving exactly the opposite.

### MALI | EVOLUTION OF REFUGEE AND IDP POPULATION | 2012 –2020



### FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS | USD

Mali	Operational Plan 2020 (ExCom approved)	Sahel Crisis Additional Needs (Scale Up)	COVID-19 Activities	Total
Camp management and coordination	-	-	300,001	300,001
Education	776,538	1,791,695	700,000	3,268,233
Environment and energy	-	2,042,851	-	2,042,851
Health	159,584	-	1,815,000	1,974,584
Livelihoods	1,046,727	313,352	320,720	1,680,800
Partnerships and coordination	305,803	733,166	-	1,038,968
Protection	7,570,508	3,459,390	350,000	11,379,898
Registration, data and protection monitoring	179,302	994,134	200,774	1,374,209
SGBV	62,315	1,224,162	400,000	1,686,477
Shelter and core relief items	5,640,079	10,283,480	2,538,000	18,461,559
WASH	862,933	-	1,393,505	2,256,438
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>16,603,790</b>	<b>20,842,229</b>	<b>8,018,000</b>	<b>45,464,019</b>

# Niger

In Niger, the persistent insecurity, increase in forced recruitment, abductions and killings by armed actors in Tillabery and Tahoua have triggered mass population displacements both internally in Niger and into neighboring Mali. In these regions, UNHCR and partners have documented 191 protection incidents— attacks, killings, kidnapping, theft and extortion as well as SGBV—including 549 victims in the first three months of 2020 in localities within 50 km of the borders.

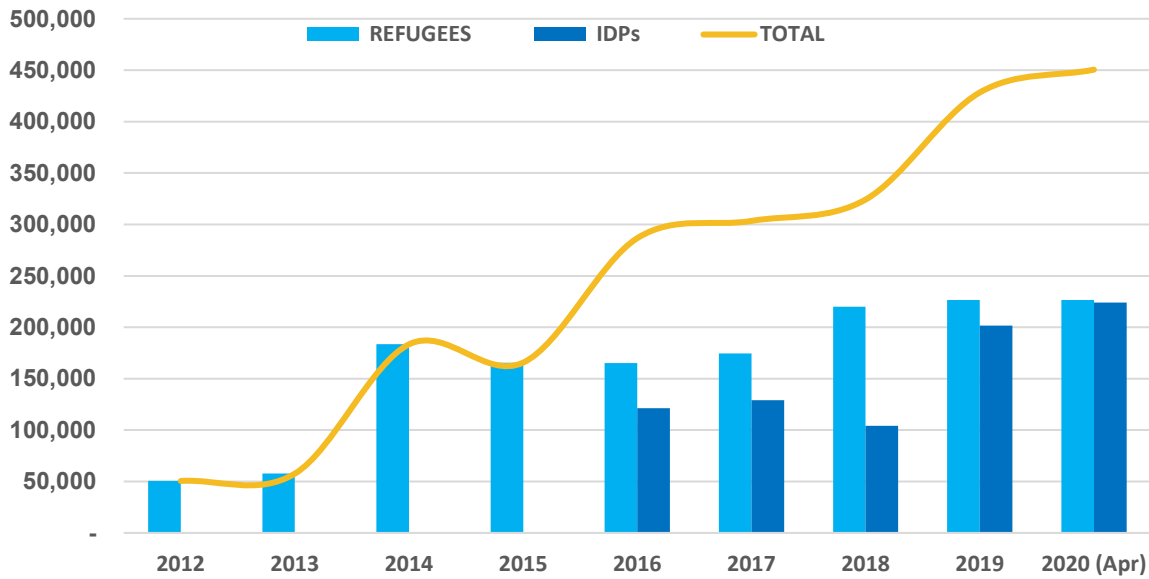
As a result, a sharp increase in displacement has been recorded since January 2020, with 26,000 new IDPs and movement of 5,000 Malian refugees to either other parts of the

region or back to Mali. The regions of Tillabery and Tahoua were already hosting over 95,000 IDPs and 58,000 refugees from Mali, as well as 3,170 Burkinabe refugees.

UNHCR will primarily focus on the IDP response in these two regions, prioritizing shelter and CRIs, as well as SGBV response and education, while strengthening the eco-friendly character of its interventions.

In addition, UNHCR will continue investing in the socio-economic inclusion of refugees, to enhance peaceful coexistence between the displaced populations and their host communities. UNHCR will also support the government’s COVID-19 response.

**NIGER | EVOLUTION OF REFUGEE AND IDP POPULATION | 2012 –2020**



## FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS | USD

Niger	Operational plan 2020 (ExCom approved)	Sahel Crisis additional needs (Scale up)	COVID-19 activities	Total
Camp management and coordination	1,182,136	122,878	-	1,305,014
Education	1,971,347	1,737,850	684,980	4,394,178
Environment and energy	1,076,785	1,997,030	-	3,073,815
Health	1,494,456	-	1,732,158	3,226,615
Livelihoods	3,226,660	763,570	297,809	4,288,039
Partnerships and coordination	1,155,118	103,740	450,122	1,708,981
Protection	8,978,477	2,316,484	2,192,822	13,487,783
Registration, data and protection monitoring	1,630,395	352,417	252,916	2,235,728
SGBV	3,966,066	1,603,457	-	5,569,523
Shelter and core relief items	7,752,697	3,230,557	632,289	11,615,543
WASH	1,376,280	-	1,202,117	2,578,397
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>33,810,417</b>	<b>12,227,985</b>	<b>7,445,213</b>	<b>53,483,615</b>

## Coordination and working in partnership

UNHCR will work with national, regional and international humanitarian, development and peace actors to create synergies in addressing forced displacement and supporting solutions. In coordination and partnership with others, UNHCR will:

- Create a linkage between the Bamako Process and the UN Integrated Strategy for the Sahel and seek the participation and support of other UN agencies, NGOs and other key partners to the various technical committees.
- Continue, as one of the agencies with the most extensive field presence in the region, to open its offices to other UN agencies to enhance operational coordination.
- Ensure continued alignment with other existing coordination mechanisms such as the Humanitarian Response Plans and the UN Sustainable Development Framework.
- Work closely with UN and NGO partners to carry out and strengthen data collection and analysis through Project 21 and the World Bank Group-UNHCR Joint Data Center.
- In its role as global cluster lead or co-lead for the Protection, Shelter and CCCM Clusters, ensure dissemination of the analyzed data to guide evidence-based decision-making among partners.
- Engage in the Sahel Inter-agency Cross-Pillar Predictive Analytics Pilot to identify the likelihood of future outcomes based on historical data.
- Work with governments and other partners to operationalize the pledges they made during the Global Refugee Forum, covering protection, livelihoods, education and employment opportunities for refugees and IDPs.
- Raise awareness of the ever-increasing humanitarian needs



## Funding the response

UNHCR is appealing for **\$185.7 million to deliver critical protection and assistance to displaced populations within and across the volatile boundaries of Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania and Niger.** This figure represents the total needs of a comprehensive response, including UNHCR Executive Committee-approved program budgets for 2020, COVID-19 response activities included in UNHCR's revised Coronavirus emergency appeal, and \$59.7 million in additional needs for the scaled-up response to the Sahel Crisis. Given the growing magnitude of challenges, these requirements may be revised as the humanitarian needs, including COVID-19 response, evolve.

The most valuable financial support that donors could provide to this prioritised response would be with flexible funding, that is, funding which is unearmarked or softly earmarked. This support allows UNHCR to place it anywhere within a given situation, in line with the Office's priorities, from where people in need are forced to flee, to where they find refuge. Importantly, flexible funding needs to be timely for UNHCR to plan in the most efficient manner, allocating to priorities first. Flexible funding is truly a lifeline, both for urgent situations and for under-funded operations such as those in this crisis in the Sahel.

Operations	Operational plan 2020 (ExCom approved)	Sahel Crisis additional needs (Scale up)	COVID-19 activities	Total
Burkina Faso	32,126,993	25,428,392	12,711,375	70,266,760
Mali	16,603,790	20,842,229	8,018,000	45,464,019
Mauritania	14,203,297	-	1,079,298	15,282,594
Niger	33,810,417	12,227,985	7,445,213	53,483,615
Regional activities	-	1,201,394	-	1,201,394
<b>Total</b>	<b>96,744,497</b>	<b>59,700,000</b>	<b>29,253,886</b>	<b>185,698,382</b>

Sector	Operational plan 2020 (ExCom approved)	Sahel Crisis additional needs (Scale up)	COVID-19 activities	Total
Camp management and coordination	3,192,581	1,399,140	1,984,455	6,576,176
Education	4,260,686	5,906,154	3,419,640	13,586,480
Environment and energy	1,608,181	4,789,791	-	6,397,972
Health	4,343,101	-	6,776,571	11,119,672
Livelihoods	8,288,431	1,076,922	1,126,984	10,492,337
Partnerships and coordination	2,405,318	3,257,003	450,122	6,112,444
Protection	26,331,525	10,225,254	3,134,082	39,690,862
Registration, data and protection monitoring	4,824,320	2,407,459	1,044,949	8,276,728
SGBV	5,807,908	4,430,449	1,420,881	11,659,238
Shelter and core relief items	31,781,152	26,207,827	6,024,478	64,013,457
WASH	3,901,294	-	3,871,723	7,773,017
<b>Total</b>	<b>96,744,497</b>	<b>59,700,000</b>	<b>29,253,886</b>	<b>185,698,382</b>

# SAHEL CRISIS

## 2020

RESPONDING TO THE URGENT NEEDS OF REFUGEES,  
INTERNALLY DISPLACED, RETURNEES AND OTHERS OF  
CONCERN

JUNE 2020



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