

# BURKINA FASO

## UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

June 2015

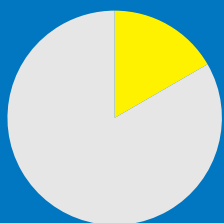
### PRIORITIES

- Strengthen protection to refugees through better access to domestic energy and self-reliance opportunities; while continuing to maintain basic needs assistance in the camps.
- Strengthen support to refugees' self-reliance and reinforce peaceful coexistence between the refugee and host communities.
- Maintain the Civil and Humanitarian Character of the camps.

### FUNDING

**USD 20,567,209**

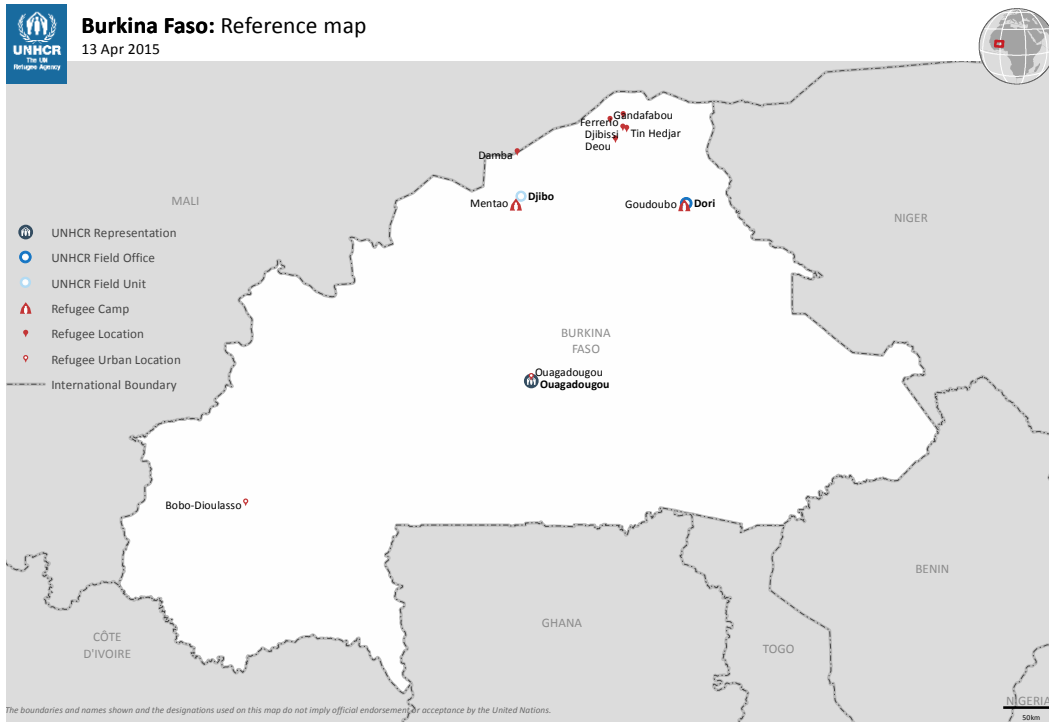
Requested for the operation



Funded  
17%

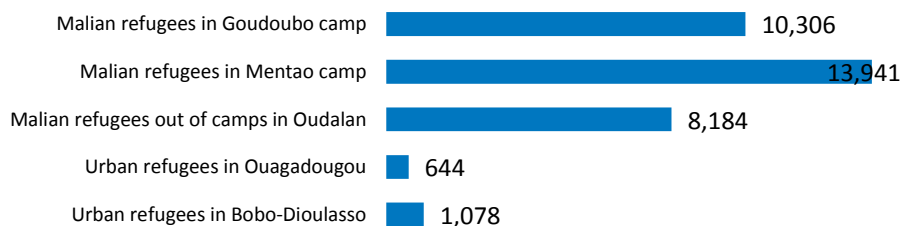
Gap  
83%

### HIGHLIGHTS



- As the security situation is still volatile in northern Mali, during the period of June 2015 74 new refugees' arrivals were registered by UNHCR and the government of Burkina Faso. The families mainly arrive from the regions of Gao and Timbuktu. UNHCR has welcomed them with shelters, food and NFI assistance and has provided them with legal documentation.
- The official ceremony of the World Refugee Day was organised together with the government of Burkina Faso in Mentao camp, under the chairmanship of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional and under the sponsorship of the embassy of Japan in Burkina Faso.

Population of concern: A total of **33,703** Malian refugees (as of 30 June 2015)



## UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

---

### Operational Context

The recent national situation was characterised by political tensions and social unrest, after the Presidential Security Regiment called for the resignation of the Prime Minister. A mediation process is currently ongoing, involving the main stakeholders. It is led by a former Burkina Faso's President Jean-Baptiste Ouédraogo and the current one, Michel Kafando. The latter released a statement calling for calm and claiming he is committed to free and transparent elections, refuting claims that his government wants to prolong the current transition.

With regard to the Mali situation, as the concessions from the government called by the CMA have been granted, the latter signed the peace agreement that will give partial autonomy to the north of the country. New security plans as well as a development programme for the Azawad region will now be agreed. On Thursday 18, the government dropped arrest warrants against rebel leaders. During the period of June 2015 74 new refugees' arrivals were registered by UNHCR and the government of Burkina Faso. The families mainly arrive from the regions of Gao and Timbuktu.

The main extended-reach drilling hole providing water to the Sahel region of Burkina Faso stopped functioning from end of April to end of May due to technical problems. Reportedly, this caused the death of one shepherd and more than 2,000 cattle, increasing the vulnerability of their owners and their families, including UNHCR's people of concern. The hole has now been repaired and actions are being taken by the government and UN agencies to increase and diversify water supply sources in the region.

An informal mining site close to Goudoubo camp (Dori) is entailing an increase in water consumption in the area as well as a possible contamination of the drainage water. Mining workers also use the health centre of the camp, which increases the workload of its staff. UNHCR is exploring ways to collaborate with the government and other UN agencies in order to mitigate the negative drawbacks that the site may have on both host communities and refugees.

### Achievements



#### Protection

---

**Contributing to a favorable protection environment by ensuring fair protection processes and documentation, targeting assistance to people with specific needs, and promoting peaceful coexistence between refugees and local communities.**

- 74 arriving refugees were registered and assisted with shelter and food assistance.
- 3,204 refugee attestations were renewed in Goudoubo camp and Tin Edja rural location.
- Biometric registration continued as well as the ongoing distribution of ID cards. During the month of June, 176 persons were registered, and as of 30 June UNHCR has assisted the Burkina Faso government to hand out ID cards to 4,985 refugees.
- 18 birth certificates were handed out to refugee parents whose children were born in Burkina Faso and 21 new applications were introduced at the local public services.
- A joint mission involving the UN Children Fund, the National Commission for Refugees as well as the Danish Refugee Council has been carried out in early June in refugee locations outside camps in order to evaluate the extent to which vulnerable refugees benefit from basic assistance (protection, health, nutrition,

shelters and food). The great majority of the vulnerabilities are due to the age, the family situation or the physical disability status of the people of concern.

- 16 June's International Day of the African Child was celebrated in Goudoubo and Mentao camps' early childhood learning centres.
- 285 persons with specific needs benefitted from a facilitated access to the monthly food distribution.
- 20 June's official ceremony of the World Refugee Day was organised together with the government of Burkina Faso in Mentao camp, under the chairmanship of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation (represented by its Head of Office) and under the sponsorship of the embassy of Japan in Burkina Faso.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- So far a total of 6,608 ID cards have been produced for refugees above 15 years. Funds are being sought to continue issuance of additional ID cards.
- In Mentao camp, due to budgetary constraints the activities related to childhood protection did not resume so far.

## Education

### Ensuring optimal access to education by providing pre-school and primary education services, maintaining school infrastructures, and supporting catch-up classes and vocational training.

- With regard to pre-school education, early childhood learning centres welcomed 853 children in Goudoubo, and 624 in Mentao.
- With regard to primary education, classrooms held 858 pupils in Goudoubo and 994 in Mentao.
- With regard to secondary education, high schools in Dori and Djibo continued to hold 68 students.
- In Bobo-Dioulasso, 19 Malian refugee pupils and 17 non-Malian refugee were closely followed in public schools.

## Health

### Optimizing the health status of the population by ensuring optimal access to primary healthcare, and facilitating access to secondary/tertiary healthcare services.

- 4,285 curative consultations have been conducted for refugees and members of the host communities, most of which cases were respiratory infections, skin and intestinal parasitic diseases.
- 117 pregnant women visited the health centers for prenatal consultation.
- 50 births occurred during the month, 90% of which took place in health centers. 09 deaths have been reported.

## Food Security and Nutrition

### Improving the nutritional well-being by preventing and treating malnutrition.

- Among children, 59 new cases of moderate acute malnutrition were identified. In total 236 children were treated during the month and 37 of them recovered. 78 children were suffering from severe acute malnutrition, including 6 new cases, and 06 of them recovered.
- Among breastfeeding mothers and pregnant women, 14 new cases of moderate acute malnutrition were identified and submitted to treatment; 8 of them recovered while the others are still under treatment.
- In the Sahel region 95% of the planned beneficiaries received their monthly food ration. In Bobo Dioulasso, the coverage rate is about 96%. Every basket included 6 kg of rice, 1.5 kg of yellow pea, 0.5 kg of CSB, 0.75 kg of oil, 0.15 kg of salt, as well as a piece of soap. 3 500 FCFA per person per month was also distributed as a complement to the food ration.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Ensure permanent availability of cash to avoid breaks during the food distribution.

- Due to budgetary constraints, the nutritional survey initially planned in March-April 2015 could not be conducted.



## Water and Sanitation

**Ensuring access to safe and potable water by maintaining water supply and sanitation systems, raising awareness on water preservation and hygiene, and providing soaps and hygiene kits.**

- Qualitative and potable water was made available in camps thanks to functioning water supply systems despite the dry season. In Mentao camp, 18.15 liters/person/day were available while in Goudoubo camp, 15.39 liters/person/day were available.
- 60 latrines were rehabilitated in Mentao camp, and 02 manual water pumps were repaired as well as 01 borehole with immersion pump was maintained.
- Awareness-raising sessions were conducted to decrease the risk of water-borne and epidemic diseases.



## Shelter and NFIs

**Ensuring access to habitable covered living spaces that provide a secure and healthy environment with privacy, comfort and dignity, by maintaining traditional emergency shelters and constructing dome tents; providing non-food items to refugees in need.**

- Shelter committees in the camps were trained on shelter maintenance.
- 91 refugee families received transitional shelter kits in both camps.
- 194 newly arrived refugee families received emergency shelter kits
- The rehabilitation of one health center is ongoing in Goudoubo camp.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- 5,610 refugee households remain in need of transitional shelter to live in a sustainable and secure space.



## Camp Coordination and Camp Management

**Optimizing the effectiveness of the camps' activities and strengthening community mobilization.**

- Meetings were held in the camps with refugee leaders during the month in order to go over all activities and propose strategies to face challenges related to the fields of shelter and protection.



## Environment and Access to Energy

**Promoting environment-friendly practices and ensuring access to domestic energy.**

- The 43<sup>rd</sup> World Environment Day was celebrated in Goudoubo camp on 5 June, under the chairmanship of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (represented by its regional director), with the theme "Seven Billion Dreams. One Planet. Consume with Care". Celebration activities included awareness-raising session on environment protection, use of improved stoves and renewable energy practices.
- Access to energy: 3,538 households benefitted from 42 tons worth of firewood distribution.
- Use of renewable energy: 80 solar cookers were distributed to vulnerable households since early 2015.
- The Moving Energy Initiative, funded by the UK's Department of International Development, has been launched in Burkina Faso. This initiative seeks to identify how innovation in policy and practice within the humanitarian sector can improve access to sustainable energy, by developing solutions for heating, cooking, lighting, water and sanitation. The results from the research are expected to inform and influence the sustainable energy policies, priorities and operations of donors, host governments, national and international organizations in the humanitarian sector.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- A workshop on 2015-2018 Strategy on Access to Household Energy has been held on a participatory approach, involving UN agencies, UNHCR’s partners and other stakeholders, and its 2015 Action Plan now needs financial support to be implemented namely USD 2,546,344.

## Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

### **Contributing to the economic self-reliance of persons of concern and their access to self-employment opportunities, through capacity building and asset strengthening.**

- Craftwork development progress: sites were identified to set up the workshop in Goudoubo and Mentao camps, and craftsmen’s needs in raw material and tools were validated.
- Seeds For Solutions, Sahel Milk project progress: 275 cattle owners were trained on herd management and milk production and processing; 03 local dairy industries rehabilitated; 50 ha of land scarified; 3 boreholes rehabilitated; 28 literacy centers opened for 794 learners.
- 25 Malian refugees from Goudoubo camp benefitted from 0.5 to 1 ha of land loans from local landowners in order to cultivate.

### **Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps**

- Craftsmen’s capacities to be strengthened in order to have access to international markets.
- Technical and financial partners are to be found to support the development of the value chain of artisanal products.
- In the framework of Sahel Milk project, milk kitchens in Goudoubo camp are to be constructed.

## Durable Solutions

### **Ensuring potential for voluntary return, integration or resettlement is realized.**

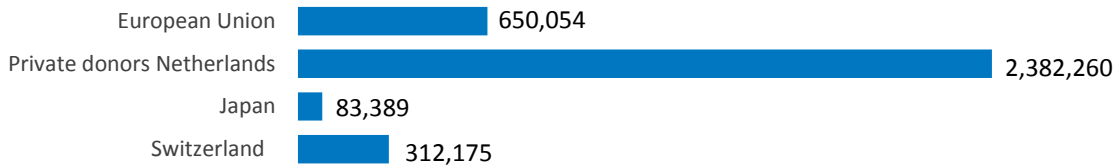
- In Bobo-Dioulasso, 6 refugees from various nationalities on medical criteria were identified to be part of a resettlement program.

## **Working in partnership and donors relations**

- UNHCR ensures the international protection of refugees and coordinates the response of assistance jointly with its government counterpart, the National Commission for Refugees, and with other humanitarian partners. UNHCR also collaborates on various fronts with other UN agencies soliciting support and cooperation in highlighting refugee issues. Our implementing partners are detailed in Annex.
- UNHCR welcomed the Africa Unit of Germany’s Federal Foreign Office Division for Humanitarian Assistance, who notably visited the camp of Mentao on 2 June. Both the field visit and the discussions with the Representative were shaped so as to raise Germany’s awareness about the critical needs of the operation related to health, nutrition, wash and resilience activities.
- On 23 June UNHCR welcome a delegation of the representation of UN Women who visited the camp of Goudoubo.
- UNHCR representation office in Ouagadougou hosted its regular monthly coordination meeting involving partners (including UN agencies, national authorities and NGOs) to carry out discussions on the latest developments regarding security issues and UNHCR activities.

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

### Funding received (in million USD)



Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to **US\$ 3,427,878**.

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR’s programs with un-earmarked and broadly earmarked funds.

## OUR MAIN PARTNERS

<b>CONAREF</b>	Commission Nationale Pour Les Refugies	<b>Registration - Protection</b>
<b>NRC</b>	Norwegian Refugee Council	<b>Shelters and Infrastructures</b>
<b>VSF</b>	Veterinaires Sans Frontieres	<b>Livelihoods - Self-Reliance</b>
<b>IEDA</b>	International Emergency And Development Aid	<b>Camp Management - Food Distribution - IGA</b>
<b>CSSI</b>	Centre De Support En Sante International	<b>Health - Nutrition</b>
<b>HELP</b>	Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe e.V.	<b>Environment - Livelihoods</b>
<b>DRC</b>	Danish Refugee Council	<b>Border monitoring</b>
<b>AIRD</b>	African Initiative For Relief And Development	<b>Logistics (Food and NFIs)</b>
<b>PLAN</b>	Plan International	<b>Education - Wash</b>
<b>CREDO</b>	Christian Relief And Development Organization	<b>Community Services - SGBV</b>
<b>TH</b>	Tin Hinane	<b>Sanitation</b>

**Contact:** Paul Absalon | External Relations and Public Information Officer | [absalon@unhcr.org](mailto:absalon@unhcr.org) | +226 65 50 47 86

**Follow UNHCR in Burkina Faso on:**

[UNHCR Sahel portal](#) | [Kora](#) and [Graines de Palabre](#), UNHCR West Africa and Burkina Faso’s weblogs | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)