

BURKINA FASO

1 November – 31 December 2023

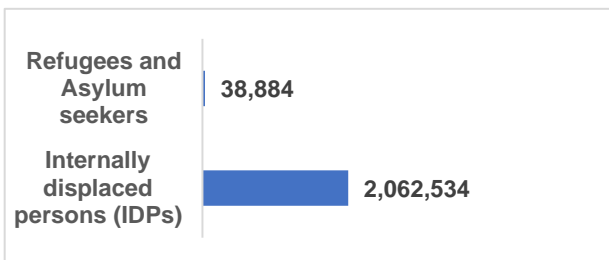
Burkina Faso continues to experience multifaceted crisis and accelerated displacement. During 2023, according to CONASUR statistics, the number of IDPs officially increased by 6%, exceeding 2 million in March 2023. At the same time, Burkina Faso generously welcomed almost 39,000 refugees. The number of refugees and asylum seekers rose by 11.31% in 2023.

From 15 to 17 November, the [12th meeting of the Mali-Burkina Faso-UNHCR Tripartite Commission](#) held in Bamako, focusing on the situation of Malian refugees in Burkina Faso as well as Burkinabe refugees in Mali, highlighted the importance of ongoing [collaboration](#) between Mali and Burkina Faso affected by displacement crises. Furthermore, it reflects their [shared commitment](#) to adapting strategies and [improve conditions and protection mechanisms](#) for [refugees](#), ensuring that their needs are met effectively in the current context.

[The Global Refugee Forum 2023](#) took place from 13 to 15 December in Geneva. Burkina Faso delegation, headed by its Minister of Foreign Affairs, took an active part in the GRF and sides events. She called for solidarity among all partners and urged moving beyond controversies surrounding the Central Sahel crisis. The Forum recorded over [1,600 pledges](#) to support refugees and their host communities.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Burkina Faso



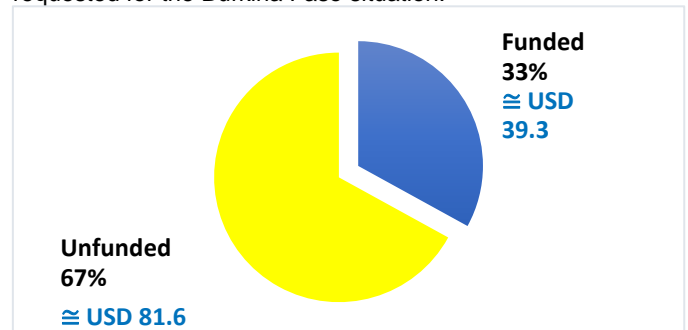
* Registered refugees and asylum seekers include 56% women 44% men, and they live in the North & Boucle du Mouhoun, Sahel, Centre & Plateau Central, Hauts-Bassins & Centre-West regions.

** IDP figures refer to IDPs across the country recorded as of 31 March 2023 by CONASUR.

FUNDING (AS 15 DECEMBER 2023)

USD 120.9 million

requested for the Burkina Faso situation.



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff: 163

108 National Staff

55 International Staff

Offices: 7

- 1 Country Office in Ouagadougou
- 2 Sub Offices in Kaya & Dori
- 3 Field Offices in Bobo Dioulasso, Ouahigouya & Fada
- 1 Field unit in Djibo

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From left to right, M. Raouf MAZOU, UNHCR AHC-Ops, M. Tony Tumagu, Head Ouahigouya UNHCR sub-office, and the Permanent Secretary of CONAREF, M. Oumarou Kologo, visiting Touzague temporary reception site for IDPs. ©UNHCRBKF





Working with Partners

- As part of its protection and solutions mandate, UNHCR advocates for the inclusion of forcibly displaced and stateless persons into national systems and programs, and collaborates with stakeholders such as the government, UN agencies, development actors, NGOs, and civil society organizations, in line with its 2022-2025 multi-year multi-partner strategy (MYMP) and localization agenda. Furthermore, as part of the [IASC mechanisms](#), UNHCR leads the (i) Protection, (ii) Shelter/Core Relief Items (CRIs) and (iii) CCCM/GSAT (Gestion des Sites d'Accueil Temporaires) Clusters. UNHCR has also continued advocating for protection and durable solutions through its participation in sectorial consultation frameworks of the Troika of technical and financial partners.
- The visit to Burkina Faso of UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Operations and the Director of UNHCR Regional Bureau for West and Central Africa, from 19 to 23 November highlighted the importance of continuous emergency humanitarian assistance and the development of inclusive, effective solutions to the crisis. It also underlined UNHCR's steadfast dedication to supporting Burkina Faso.
- The Protection Cluster in Burkina Faso is actively working to tackle critical challenges relating to the protection of civilians. UNHCR continues its effort for the domestication of the Kampala Convention in Burkina Faso. On 9 and 10 November, a workshop was held in Burkina Faso on the internalization of the Kampala Convention, representing a crucial phase in the legislative process. This workshop brought together representatives from 11 key ministerial departments including the Prime Minister, National Human Rights (CNDH) and National Refugee (CONAREF) Commissions, the National Council for Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation (CONASUR), the technical committee for the review of draft bills (COTEVAL) and various humanitarian actors. The workshop's amendments were integrated into the adopted draft decree. These initiatives underscore Burkina Faso's dedication to addressing the challenges faced by IDPs and enhancing humanitarian response mechanisms in the country.
- Project 21 (P21) participated in the Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) network review workshop coordinated by OCHA and at the third meeting of the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) Technical Working Group on the six grave violations against children led by UNICEF. These sessions enabled P21 to take stock of the joint training for local protection committees under the P21 mechanism, which have now developed the capacity to function as complaints committees for reporting incidents relating to SEA. From August to November 2023, 509 members of 64 local protection committees were jointly trained (P21 and the PSEA network) in seven regions. This training emphasized the P21's ability to cover, collect, verify, and triangulate data across 11 of Burkina Faso's 13 regions; showcased the volume of data collected by P21 and demonstrated the joint capacity to train civil society organizations (CSOs), fostering a shared commitment and effectiveness.
- By 31 December 2023, Burkina Faso registered 502 IDPs temporary hosting sites (SAT) and reception zones (ZAD), including 138 SATs, 15 collective centers and 98 ZADs. There are still enormous needs in terms of access to basic services, especially in the WASH and shelter sectors. The assessment of GSAT/CCCM in the Hauts-Bassins and South-West

regions revealed the need to support the authorities in implementing GSAT/CCCM activities using the off-site approach (UDOC). These activities will highlight the pressing needs of IDPs, encourage their participation in self-management and strengthen communication on key issues arising from GSAT; to improve their living conditions during displacement while waiting for access to sustainable solutions. Sector-specific recommendations were formulated on protection, HLP, WASH, Shelter/CRI clusters. Discussions were held with CONASUR to ensure that the national authorities focus on the South-West region.

Main Activities



Protection

- UNHCR plays a pivotal role in emergency and protection response, through key activities such as registration, documentation, protection monitoring (Project 21), delivery of protection services, individual case management, community engagement and durable solutions.
- The **Project 21 (P21)** data and analysis have consistently informed coordination, planning and response efforts, while also bolstering evidence-based advocacy. During the period under review, the P21 enabled the completion of 1,988 P21 forms (879 key informant forms and 1,109 household forms), 167 flash reports, and to document 475 protection incidents resulting in 543 human rights violations. These violations include attacks on the right to life (25.2%) and physical and/or psychological integrity (28.5%), personal freedom and security (17%), property (16.2%), gender-based violence (GBV) (7%) and serious violations of the rights of MRM children (6.1%). The evidence shows that attacks on physical and/or psychological integrity and attacks on the right to life account for almost 54% of human rights violence.
- UNHCR continues to support Burkina Faso authorities in reducing the risk of statelessness. In accordance with Action 7 of the Global Action Plan, UNHCR provided technical and financial support to the Government, facilitating the issuance of almost 16,000 birth certificates (29% for the host population), about 9,000 national identity cards (29% to the host communities), 546 nationality certificates (30% to the host population), in the Boucle du Mouhoun, Centre-East, East, Sud-West, Centre-North and North regions. In collaboration with the Directorate General for the Modernization of Civil Status (DGMEC), UNHCR has supported establishing and operating 20 secondary civil status centres in the Centre-East and South-West regions. These centres aim to enhance birth registration and the issuance of birth certificates in the respective municipalities. Furthermore, as part of the #IBelong campaign, UNHCR financially supported a DGMEC-organized television debate on the registration of civil status facts, particularly birth registration, broadcasted on Burkina Faso's national television to emphasize birth registration's importance.
- Between November and December, more than 2,990 individuals (nearly 49.77% women and girls) were identified in mixed movements, including nearly 1,791 IDPs in cross-border movements and about 821 asylum seekers mainly from Niger, Togo, Mali, and Benin. Moreover, IDPs identified in cross-border movements to countries like Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Benin, Senegal, and Niger were driven by worsening security situation in their localities and the lack of economic opportunities in host areas.



Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

- UNHCR has marked the commencement of the #16 Days of Activism against GBV campaign with a series of events across the country. This year's campaign, which started on 25 November, was themed

"Investing to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls," highlighting the critical need to promote the full participation and rights of women and girls. In this spirit, UNHCR field and sub-offices, in collaboration with various partners, have launched multiple initiatives to reinforce their dedication to fighting GBV. One of the campaign's notable events was its official launch on 29 November, aimed at educating women



Women's football match in Bobo Dioulasso as part of the 16 days of activism against GBV campaign. ©UNHCRBKF

and young girls about sexual and reproductive health in Bobo-Dioulasso. This educational session, led by a midwife, successfully attracted 50 participants, indicating a keen interest in the subject. Furthermore, the campaign has extended its support to 50 refugee women by distributing dignity kits, an effort that has been met with gratitude and satisfaction from the recipients. In Ouagadougou, as part of the implementation of community activities proposed by the women's and youth committees, 70 refugees benefited from two days' training in entrepreneurship and three days' training in saponification. This year campaign's activities included a diverse range of initiatives such as a women's football match, a forum theatre addressing menstrual hygiene management in schools, a conference on the role of justice in GBV case management, informative talks on GBV, and the continued provision of dignity kits to IDPs. These concerted efforts showcase a comprehensive and multifaceted strategy to tackle GBV in Burkina.



Education

- As of 31 December, the technical secretariat for education in emergencies reported that 1,080 schools have successfully reopened, marking a step forward in the revival of educational infrastructure. Despite this progress, a significant challenge remains as 5,330 schools, representing 20% of the entire countrywide educational infrastructure, are still shuttered. This closure adversely affects the education sector, impacting over 800,000 students, including 396,716 female students, and disrupting the work of 23,955 dedicated teachers. Urgent attention and concerted efforts are needed to address the challenges associated with the closure of these educational institutions and ensure equitable access to quality education for all including refugees.



Health, Nutrition

- Burkina Faso is grappling with outbreaks of epidemics, endemic measles and dengue fever amid a deteriorating security situation, putting a strain on the national health system and access to care and vaccination for children aged 0-5 years. Lost follow-up and drop-outs from vaccination, children with zero doses of vaccines are the main causes of the resurgence of epidemics. As of 31 December, Burkina Faso has recorded more than 70,000 probable cases of dengue fever including over 700 deaths, though no case have been recorded within the refugee community. For measles, there have been more than 2,190 cases, including five deaths. Several strategies have been used to contain the spread of the epidemic, namely fixed and advanced strategies, and awareness-raising activities among the population, especially mothers. Thanks to the continued advocacy of the health working group, of which UNHCR is a member, the zero-dose strategy targets forcibly displaced persons to ensure that all children receive the doses. So far, 91% of refugee children from 9-59 month have been vaccinated against measles, which is significantly higher than the national level of 66% but still below the 95% target. No measles cases have been reported among refugees during this period, thanks to ongoing awareness-raising activities.
- UNHCR's healthcare insurance strategy has enabled access to healthcare for all refugees, particularly the most vulnerable, resulting in 2,800 new curative consultations for conditions like malaria, acute respiratory infections, and diarrheal diseases. In reproductive health, 10 births were attended by qualified personnel, and 15 pregnant women received antenatal consultations and HIV/AIDS screenings. In addition, 160 children aged between 6 and 59 months underwent nutritional screening, identifying five cases of moderate malnutrition (MAM) and two cases of severe acute malnutrition (SAM).



Shelter and CRIs

- To improve the living conditions and the dignity of forcibly displaced persons and host communities, while also mitigating protection risks, UNHCR and its partners continue to provide shelter and CRIs assistance. In a concerted effort to establish, improve and maintain shelter and infrastructure, UNHCR, along with its partners such as NRC, CRBF and AIRD, have constructed 935 emergency shelters and distributed 6,097 CRI kits, benefiting a total of 42,724 IDPs and members of the host community across the Sahel, Centre-North, Cascades and Hauts-Bassins regions.



GSAT/CCCM

- As lead of the CCCM/GSAT cluster, UNHCR continue to ensure that complaints and feedback mechanisms, as well as various sectorial referral pathways are set up and efficient. UNHCR supported Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) to organize a workshop aiming at evaluating the performance and effectiveness of the mechanisms implemented in the SAT and ZAD and identifying gaps as well as propose appropriate approaches in coordination with displaced communities.

- In addition, as part of its efforts to improve the environment and infrastructure of IDPs temporary reception sites (SAT) and reception areas (ZAD), 25 people have benefited from coaching sessions, including eight already qualified, on need assessments to guide visual maintenance assessments. The assessments then led to recommendations, including renovation of community meeting spaces, the rehabilitation of emergency shelters and water points. As lead of the CCCM/GSAT, UNHCR continues to mobilize other sectors for multisectoral responses and to mobilize additional funds. To this end, the CERF 2023 will make it possible to reinforce certain achievements and assist areas hosting displaced people in the North and Centre-North.



Cash based intervention (CBI)

- UNHCR distributed a total of almost USD 22,000 (XOF 13,500,000) to 30 students as part of DAFI scholarships. In addition, almost USD 2,600 (XOF 1,600,000) was distributed to 16 refugee women to enable them to continue their Income Generating Activities (IGAs).
- To enhance CBIs, UNHCR, through its partner DEDI, has launched a feasibility study on cash vouchers in Dédougou, Ouahigouya, Yako, Bobo-Dioulasso, Banfora and Niangoloko. This study involved consultations with local authorities and partners, focus groups with forcibly displaced persons, and the collection of market price data. The aim is to incorporate vouchers into UNHCR's CBIs, traditionally focused on cash distributions.



Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- In Fada N'Gourma, a collaboration with the VIVAVI Association enabled one hundred internally displaced women to utilize 2.3 hectares for market gardening. In addition, in Bobo-Dioulasso, an agricultural project with ENAFA yielded 47 tons of produce, including 32 tons of corn. Artisan refugees also participated in Christmas markets, earning over 1 million of revenue, enhancing their economic self-reliance.



Durable Solutions

- The **Global Refugee Forum (GRF) 2023**, held from 13 to 15 December in Geneva, aimed to support the practical implementation of the objectives set out in the **Global Compact on Refugees**, namely ease pressure on host countries, enhance refugee self-reliance, increase access to third-country solutions and improve conditions in countries of origin. The Burkina Faso delegation, led by the Minister of Foreign Affairs (MoFa*)¹, participated actively in the GRF and sides events, including Education Campus, Refugee Labor Mobility, and Peacebuilding events. During the panel on "Mobility as a Solution: Expanding Pathways in Tertiary Education for Third-Country Nationals," the Burkinabe MoFa

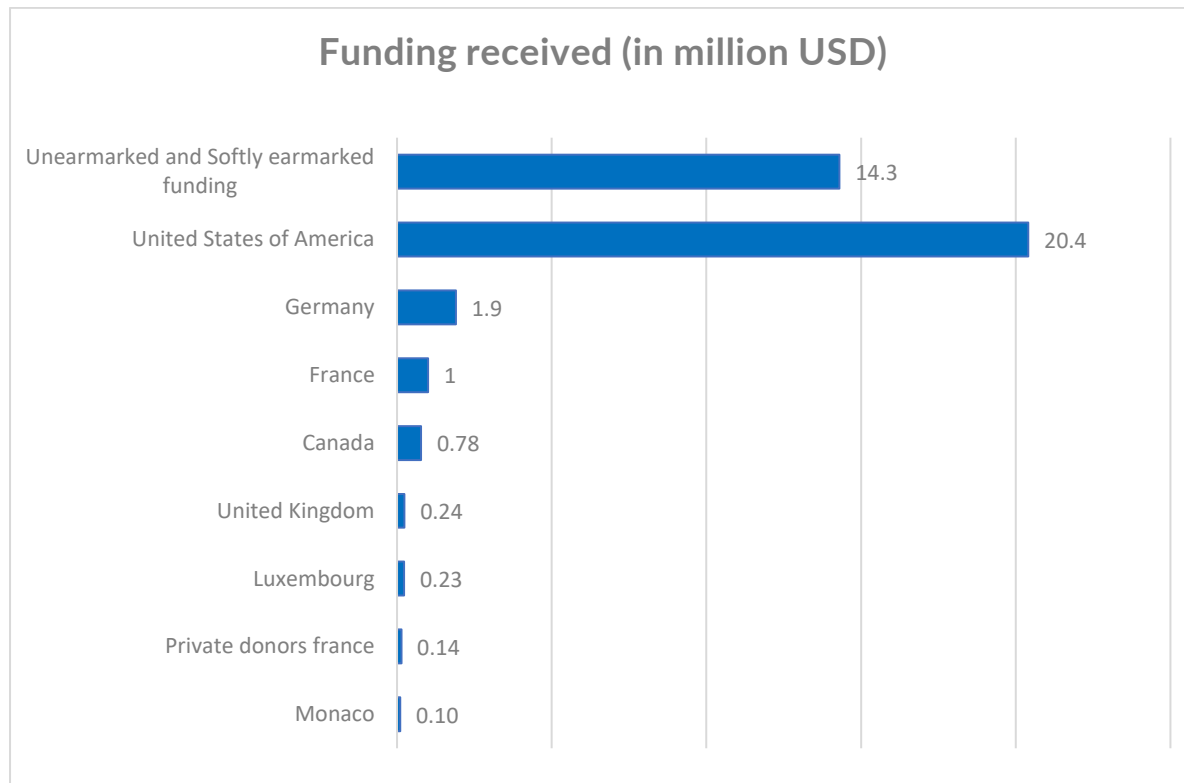
¹ Following the ministerial reshuffle of 17 December 2023, the Minister who took part in the GRF, Ms Olivia Ragnagnhèwendé ROUAMBA, was replaced by Mr Karamoko Jean Marie Traoré, the new Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Cooperation and Burkinabè Abroad, with responsibility for Regional Cooperation.

emphasized Burkina Faso's issuance of Convention Travel Documents (CTDs) or Refugee Passports to facilitate refugees' studies abroad. A decree to be adopted by December 2024 will extend CTDs' validity to five years, enhancing refugees' access to educational and training opportunities abroad. Burkina Faso also addressed Peacebuilding challenges through strengthening prevention mechanisms on community and land issues, and the necessity of local social and economic inclusion of Refugees and IDPs as response to protracted forced displacement. The MoFa highlighted the challenges in the Central Sahel region, including the rising number of forcibly displaced people, and called for a coalition to tackle the complex Sahel crisis. She stressed sustainable development and lasting displacement solutions, achievable only through peace, and emphasized the need for a unified approach among humanitarian, development, and peace actors. Furthermore, the MoFa called for solidarity among all partners and urged moving beyond controversies surrounding the Central Sahel crisis. She invited stakeholders to contribute to the recovery of societies affected by the multidimensional crisis. The Forum saw over **1,600 pledges** to support refugees and their host communities, including four from Burkina Faso.

- From 15 to 17 November, UNHCR participated in the 12th meeting of the **Mali-Burkina Faso-UNHCR Tripartite Commission** held in Bamako, Mali, focusing on the voluntary repatriation of Malian refugees residing in Burkina Faso. The meeting served as an important forum to exchange updates on the current security and administrative situations in both Mali and Burkina Faso, protection of Malian refugees in Burkina Faso and Burkinabe refugees in Mali, as well as repatriation and reintegration of former Malian refugees from Burkina Faso. The Minister of Health and Social Development, who oversees issues of repatriation and reintegration of Malian returnees, officially opened the 12th tripartite meeting. A key issue of the 12th meeting was that of Burkinabe refugees residing in Mali. With the escalation of insecurity in Burkina Faso, especially areas along the Burkina-Mali border, there have been an increasing number of Burkinabe nationals who seek refuge and asylum in Mali. The discussion of whether to establish a new and separate Tripartite Accord on the issue of the eventual repatriation of Burkinabe refugees to Burkina Faso, or to include the issue in the existing Tripartite Accord, had already begun in the preparatory meeting that took place in July in Ouagadougou. A key outcome therefore of this meeting was the mutual decision between the three parties to include the issue in the existing Accord, and by consequence a revision of the existing Tripartite Accord. With this decision, the technical group has taken up the review exercise of the text primarily to include the issue of repatriation of Burkinabe refugees residing in Mali, and to make other updates and modifications upon discussion and agreement between all parties. The thorough revision exercise, underscoring the commitment of all parties involved to ensure a safe and dignified repatriation process for all refugees, produced a draft revised text, which will be finalized in due course. A finalized report and a press communique were also produced at the end of the meeting. The meeting, and particularly the revision of the text, highlights the importance of ongoing collaboration between countries affected by displacement crises and a shared commitment to adapting strategies for all refugees' eventual repatriation to their countries of origin, a durable solution for refugees. The 13th tripartite meeting is scheduled to be held in March 2024 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

Financial Information

As of 31 December 2023, UNHCR Operation in Burkina Faso has received a total of USD 39.3 million, representing only 33% of the necessary funding, leaving the remaining 67% unfunded in a context of rapidly increasing needs. UNHCR expresses gratitude towards the donors who have supported its Burkina Faso operations with unearmarked or broadly earmarked funds.



Special thanks to the major donors of softly earmarked funds

Australia for UNHCR 9.7 million | United States of America 9.3 million | France 6.6 million | UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe 3.7 million | USA for UNHCR 3.2 million | Finland 3.1 million | UK for UNHCR 2.3 million | Italy 2.2 million | Private donors in China 2.1 million.

Thanks to other donors of unearmarked or broadly earmarked funds.

Sweden 69 million | España con ACNUR 68.1 million | Norway 63.1 million | Japan for UNHCR 44.3 million | United Kingdom 41 million | Netherlands 36.3 million | Denmark 35.6 million | France 27.4 million | Private donors in the Republic of Korea 24.7 million | Germany 23.3 million | Switzerland 18.9 million | Japan 16.3 million | Private donors in Italy 15.4 million | Sweden for UNHCR 12.9 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Ireland 11.9 million | USA for UNHCR 10.8 million.

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