

BURKINA FASO

1 January – 29 February 2023

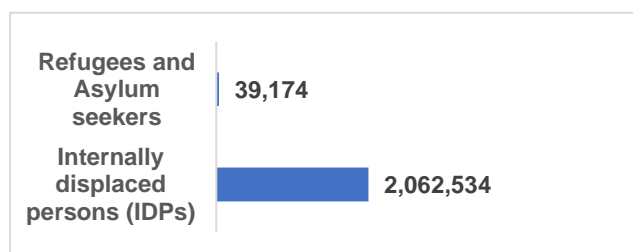
Burkina Faso continues to grapple with a multifaceted crisis that has led to accelerated displacements. As of 29 February 2024, the country has generously welcomed over **39,000** and asylum seekers in search of international protection in the country, according to UNHCR reports. Amidst growing challenge, UNHCR and its partners have provided steadfast support to those who have been forcibly displaced, including refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs).

Committed to improving the lives of these populations, UNHCR has focused on enhancing **access to education and professional training for refugees and vulnerable IDPs**. In an effort to support education for forcibly displaced people in the Sahel, UNHCR through the Primary Impact project, has made substantial improvements to the **infrastructures** in Wendou school in Dori town (Sahel region). These enhancements include the addition of **classrooms, latrines, and boreholes, which were handed over** to the administrative and educational authorities of the region.

Moreover, UNHCR has been actively supporting forcibly displaced people by empowering them with **advanced agricultural techniques**. These include soil-less farming, poultry farming, cattle fattening and fish farming. These initiatives play a **crucial role** in helping these communities cope with the challenges they face. By fostering a sense of **empowerment** and resilience, UNHCR's efforts enable displaced people to navigate their challenging circumstances more effectively.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Burkina Faso



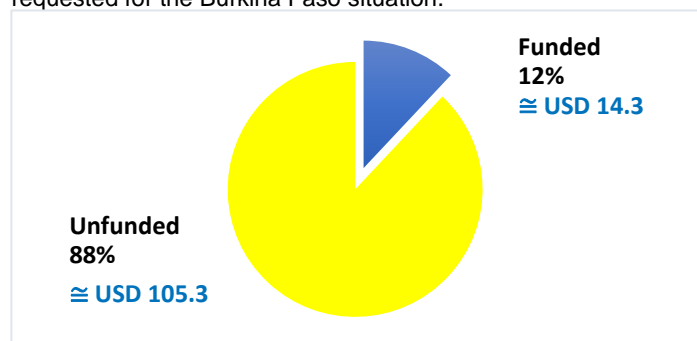
* Registered refugees and asylum seekers include 56% women 44% men, and they live in the North & Boucle du Mouhoun, Sahel, Centre & Plateau Central, Hauts-Bassins & Centre-West regions.

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

FUNDING (AS 31 JANUARY 2024)

USD 119.6 million

requested for the Burkina Faso situation.



UNHCR PRESENCE

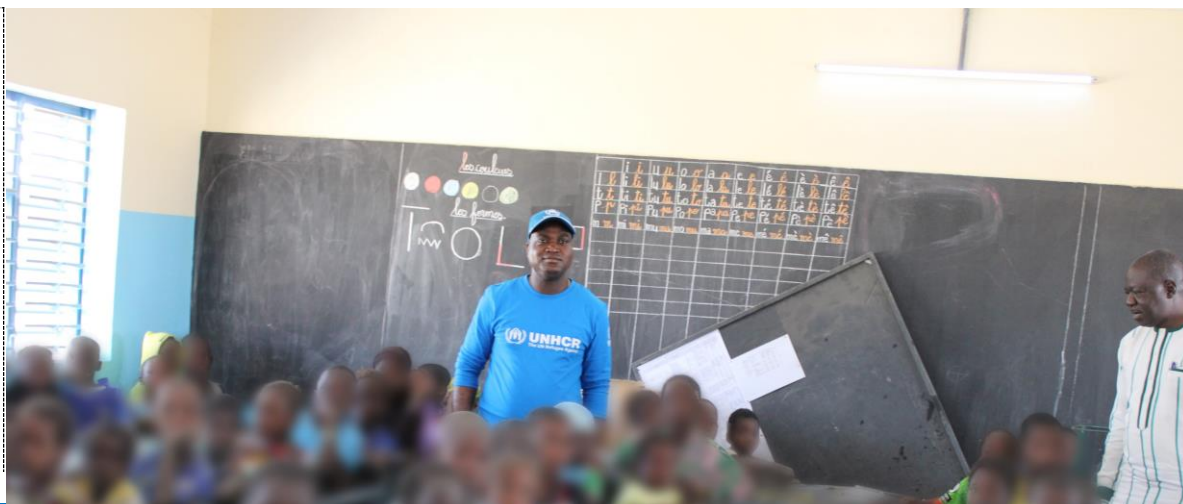
Staff: 159

106 National Staff

53 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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Mr Maurice Azonnankpo, UNHCR Burkina Faso Representative, with refugee, IDPs, and host community children, in a classroom funded by UNHCR in the Wendou school, Sahel region. ©Ilyas.A.M/UNCHRBKF



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 18 partners such as the government, UN agencies, development actors, NGOs, and more than 15 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), 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.
- In an effort to enhance the coordination and effectiveness of the protection responses in Burkina Faso, the Protection Cluster annual retreat was held from 13 to 14 February. Gathering 53 participants, the retreat underscored the importance of collaborative approaches to addressing the complex challenges faced by vulnerable populations in Burkina Faso. Participants engaged in various working groups to notably including efforts to revise the Burkina Faso Protection Cluster Strategy. The inclusion of a module on "Localization for protection actors", facilitated by the protection monitoring Project 21 (P21) team, highlighted the retreat's focus on tailoring protection efforts to the specific context and needs of local communities. Another significant highlight of the retreat was the presentation on durable solutions, which focused on the National Recovery Strategy for IDPs and host communities (2023-2027), and the role of the Protection Cluster in its implementation.
- In a collaborative effort to enhance its response capabilities, the Protection Cluster, in conjunction with the P21, has developed an innovative approach to tracking and analyzing protection incidents. This new system involves the automated analysis of flash alerts, a significant step forward in real-time monitoring and response planning. The [first publication of this initiative](#), covering the period from 1 January to 16 February 2024, provides an analysis of the most frequent protection incidents and their impact on population as well as reflecting the localities most affected in terms of service provision and protection response. This protection monitoring tool is designed to provide information on a protection incident and their impacts within 48 hours of their occurrence.
- On 20 and 21 February 2024, the GSAT/CCCM cluster organized a workshop to review its national strategy initiated in 2021. Officially activated as a cluster in June 2021, the GSAT/CCCM cluster serves as a crucial humanitarian working group that support the government of Burkina Faso in the administration and coordination of temporary hosting IDP sites (SATs) and zones (ZADs). A key focus of the workshop was the promotion of a more collaborative environment dynamic employing a tri-cluster approach, which integrates GSAT, protection monitoring, and shelter assistance. The workshop highlighted the progress made in integrating protection monitoring into the humanitarian response, marking both progress and acknowledged the challenges that lie ahead in enhancing cooperation among these critical sectors. This tri-cluster strategy is dedicated to harmonizing efforts to meet the multifaceted needs of impacted populations.



Family Photo of the GSAT/CCCM cluster workshop. ©MoussaB/UNHCRBKF

Main Activities



Protection

- UNHCR plays a pivotal role in emergency and protection response, through key activities such as registration, documentation, protection monitoring (Project 21), the delivery of protection services, individual case management, community engagement and durable solutions.
- Throughout the period under review, the inter-agency protection monitoring Project 21 (P21) continued its collaboration with the same partners as in 2023, including CSOs. It focused on (re)deploying protection monitors, volunteer monitors and the community support network (protection and complaints committees and community focal points) in 12 of Burkina Faso's 13 regions. Furthermore, as part of its collaboration with the [Joint Data Centre on Forced Displacement \(JDC\)](#), a pivotal step was taken by the P21 towards the realization of a socio-economic support module for IDPs and host communities in Burkina Faso. Spearheaded by UNHCR, this initiative involved a collaborative meeting with the National Institute of Statistics and Demography (INSD), highlighting a strategic effort to incorporate socio-economic support measures for IDPs and host communities. This partnership aims to facilitate a more inclusive and sustainable integration of these populations into the broader socio-economic fabric, demonstrating a holistic approach to support and integration that extends beyond immediate humanitarian needs.
- As part of UNHCR effort to fight against statelessness, a high-level meeting was held on 13 February between UNHCR, the National Commission for Refugees (CONAREF), and the Embassy of the Republic of Mali in Ouagadougou to address the lack of birth certificates facing Malian refugee children in Burkina Faso. This issue, particularly pressing for children born in Mali but not registered at birth, has significant implications for their ability to access education and participate in various academic examinations. The meeting focused on the feasibility of organizing Malian consular missions in Burkina Faso to issue these vital documents. This initiative is a testament to the ongoing efforts by key actors, to ensure that refugee populations have access to essential documentation, which is a fundamental step towards securing their rights and accessing vital services. The outcome of these discussions and the potential organization of consular missions could significantly impact the lives of many Malian refugee children in Burkina Faso, providing them with the documentation necessary to navigate the challenges of displacement and acquiring an income-generating activity.
- Furthermore, 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 Directorate General of Civil Status Modernization (DGMEC), facilitating the issuance of 1,616 birth certificates, 6, 842 national identity cards, 1,929 nationality certificates, to IDPs and host communities in the Boucle du Mouhoun, Cascades, Centre-East, Centre-North, East, Hauts-Bassins, North, Sahel and South-West regions.
- UNHCR, , recognizing the importance of data, emphasizes close collaboration with key national entities to leverage their expertise in data management and protection. One such critical partner is the Commission de l'Informatique et des Libertés (CIL), which plays a significant role in overseeing data protection laws and regulations. It is this spirit of collaboration and knowledge sharing, UNHCR and CIL co-organized a workshop was organized on 23 January 2024 to raise awareness among UNHCR's partners on its data protection policy and to shed light on Burkina Faso's law N°001-2021/AN of 30 March 2021,

which focuses on the protection of individuals with regards to the processing of personal data. UNHCR Data Protection Policy accordingly seeks to protect the rights of individuals whose information it holds, and to ensure that the processing of personal data conforms to key data protection principles.



Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

- As part of the fight against GBV, UNHCR and its partners continue to tackle the root causes of violence in the various communities, and to build positive masculinity. During the period under review, 112 awareness-raising activities and educational talks, focusing on the different types of GBV and their consequences on the lives of women and girls were carried out and benefited to 1,028 refugees and 1,725 IDPs and hosts, focusing on the different types of GBV and their consequences on the lives of women and girls.
- UNHCR and its partners continued their efforts to provide a holistic response to support survivors of GBV. The availability of 25 safe spaces, and trained psychosocial facilitators are helping to provide a quality response. Information and awareness-raising activities have resulted in the disclosure of 116 cases, including 11 among refugees and 105 among IDPs and host communities. Survivors received psychosocial support and were referred to specialised services for medical, psychological, legal, and in-kind assistance as well as the provision of means of subsistence. UNHCR will continue to support survivors in the various localities by stepping up its prevention, risk mitigation and response activities in cases of GBV.
- Recreational and socio-economic reintegration activities have been launched in Ouagadougou for a group of 35 refugee women on the manufacturing and processing of local products (soap, groundnut powder, soumbala, etc.). In the Centre North region, 188 IDP women engaged were involved in stress management activities (games, singing and dancing). These activities reinforce solidarity between women, help to prevent community conflict between displaced women and their hosts, and contribute to a psychosocial response in the community, which is why UNHCR will be stepping up these initiatives to reach more women.



Education

- On 15 February, in a move to bolster education in the Sahel region, UNHCR handed over two blocks comprising three classrooms each to the administrative and educational authorities of the region. These facilities, complete with latrines and one borehole, were funded by UNHCR under the Primary Impact project. Located in the Wendou neighbourhood of Dori, these classrooms are set to benefit 1,025 refugee, IDPs, and host community children, to access quality education in a safer environment.
- On 11 January, a pivotal advocacy workshop was held in Ouahigouya, North region, focusing on the integration of refugees and other forcibly displaced persons into the national educational system. This workshop gathering 28 participants, served as an essential platform for sharing insights about UNHCR's initiatives in providing education to refugees



UNHCR Representative handing over the classroom of administrative and educational authorities of the region of Sahel. ©Jacques.DG/UNHCRBKF

children. The workshop's primary objective was to identify challenges and discuss potential solutions for better integrating these children into the national education system. It provided a valuable opportunity for stakeholders to engage in productive discussions, gaining a deeper understanding of the existing barriers that impede the education of these vulnerable groups. Together, participants worked on developing collaborative strategies to address and solve these challenges. The focus on creating actionable plans underscored a strong commitment to ensuring that all children, irrespective of their status as displaced persons, receive access to quality education. This initiative represents a significant advancement towards making the national educational framework more inclusive and adaptable to meet the unique needs of displaced populations.

- UNHCR and its partners continue to provide unwavering support to refugees, thanks to the Primary Impact education program, which allowed to support to 62 vulnerable refugee students since the beginning of the year 2024. Within this program, there have been specific efforts to cater to the individual needs of these students. For instance, children were provided with bicycles and/or food supplies to facilitate easier access to education, addressing their unique circumstances. Additionally, vulnerable refugee students identified for dry ration assistance each received a 25 kg bag of rice. This kind of support is vital in ensuring that these students have the necessary sustenance to continue their education without the burden of food insecurity.
- For the third edition of the [University Program for Refugees \(UNVI'R\) in 2024](#), extensive awareness-raising activities were conducted to the benefit of refugees, accompanied by an information session that sparked significant interest among refugee students. This programme enables refugees residing in a first country of asylum to receive scholarships to follow a two-year master programme at a higher education institution in France. This initiative is part of a broader effort to enhance educational opportunities and support for young people displaced by conflict and crises.



Health, Nutrition

- On 2 February, UNHCR in Burkina Faso demonstrated its steadfast commitment to assisting the Government of Burkina Faso in catering to the needs of the country's most vulnerable groups. In a significant act of support, UNHCR donated an ambulance along with a batch of hand sanitizer to the Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene. This donation, with a total value of almost USD 30,000 (over XOF 18 million), marked a notable contribution towards bolstering the government's capacity to address health emergencies and disease prevention efforts. This donation underscores UNHCR's ongoing dedication to fostering a supportive environment for the most vulnerable including forcibly displaced persons in Burkina Faso, highlighting the critical role of international cooperation in enhancing national health systems and emergency response capabilities.
- On 5 February, Burkina Faso initiated a significant public health campaign targeting malaria, the foremost cause of child mortality in the country. With over ten million cases reported annually, the Ministry of Health, alongside technical and financial partners, started



UNHCR Representative handing over the ambulance key to Secretary-General of the Ministry of Health. ©MoussaB/UNHCRBKF

the deployment of the RTS, S vaccine, which is administered across four doses at 5, 6, 7, and 15 months of age. However, the demand for the RTS, S vaccine exceeds the current supply. While measures are taken by the government to bridge this gap, UNHCR continues to advocate to ensure that vulnerable populations, particularly forcibly displaced people, and those at risk of statelessness, are not left behind in these vital health initiatives. UNHCR's efforts to ensure vaccine equity are part of a broader commitment to protect and support displaced populations, emphasizing the importance of integrating them into national health care systems. This includes facilitating access to vaccination campaigns, raising awareness about the importance of immunization, and overcoming barriers that may prevent displaced populations from receiving vaccines.



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. During the reported period, UNHCR and its partner CRBF, have distributed 780 CRIs Kits to the benefit of 8,690 people, in the regions of East, North and Hauts-Bassins regions.



GSAT/CCCM

- With a view to facilitating the integration of six new SATs and ZADs into the GSAT mechanism, UNHCR, through its partner ACTED, has carried out pre-intervention assessments in SATs and ZADs located in the communes of Ouahigouya and Gourcy, which will soon benefit from management support. As of 29 February, Burkina Faso has 53 SATs and 48 ZADs under government and UNHCR's partners management.
- In addition, to improve the management of SATs and ZADs in the Centre-North region, second region hosting the most IDPs, UNHCR has continued to strengthen its partnership with the regional authorities and state decentralized services. Through its partner ACTED, UNHCR presented its 2024 GSAT work plan to the regional authorities and the humanitarian action directorates of the Centre-North region.
- Furthermore, as part of its efforts to improve community management of the ZADs, through its partner Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), UNHCR has started the construction of a community space in the commune of Gorom Gorom (Sahel region), to support the activities of the joint community committees managing the commune's two ZADs. This initiative will make it easier to share information with all the IDPs living in the ZADs.



Cash based intervention (CBI)

- UNHCR's CBI unit prepared and distributed cash for education amounting to approximately USD 30,000, to 45 students including 15 former DAFI scholarship holders, 15 new scholarship holders and 15 WEB development scholarship holders, to cover their necessary needs and help them to be in better learning conditions.



Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- On 1 January 2024, a government delegation led by the Prime Minister visited a UNHCR funded project in Ouahigouya, North region. The delegation comprising the Minister of Civil Service, the Minister of Economy and Finance, the Minister of Humanitarian Action, and the Chief of the Armed Forces General Staff visited a UNHCR-funded bio-composting site where over a hundred forcibly displaced and host women are working together in a cooperative, producing compost with local and recycled materials to fertilize land for agriculture. The Prime Minister expressed his satisfaction of seeing such a project carried out by refugee and IDP women working together with women from the host community. While urging his colleagues to follow-up the project and provide necessary support to the women, he offered a total of XOF 6,200,000 (about USD 10,355) to the cooperative and encouraged UNHCR to multiply such initiatives in favor of displaced populations in all regions of the country. The delegation also visited and shared a meal with displaced persons in an IDP site in Ouahigouya. At the end of the visit, they offered 200 tons of food to the displaced community. This action by the government authorities shows that beyond the complexity of the situation coupled with the scarcity of means, they stand with IDPs and measure the depth of their needs.
- In the Hauts-Bassins region, a transformative initiative has been launched to empower 25 refugees and IDP through advanced agricultural techniques including soil-less farming, poultry farming, cattle fattening, fish farming, and social cohesion awareness. This initiative from the Regional Organization of Agripreneurs (ORA), in partnership with UNHCR, comes as Burkina Faso faces a decade of security challenges that have forced many, especially those in rural areas, to abandon their homes, contributing to a declining agricultural output and exacerbating the country's growing food needs. This effort aims not only to enhance food security and economic self-reliance for them but also to bolster their resilience and integration of vulnerable communities, thereby improving their production capacities and employability.
- Following a 21-day comprehensive training in various skills such as soap making, weaving, photovoltaic energy, dyeing, and more, 115 persons, including 30 refugees from Bobo Dioulasso and Ouahigouya, successfully completed their training on 31 January. Thanks to a good collaboration between UNHCR and the vocational training centre in Bobo Dioulasso, all have participants completed their trainings. While awaiting the complete provision of installation kits and the organization of an official closing ceremony, the learners expressed positive feedback about their experience and extended their gratitude to UNHCR for providing such a valuable opportunity.

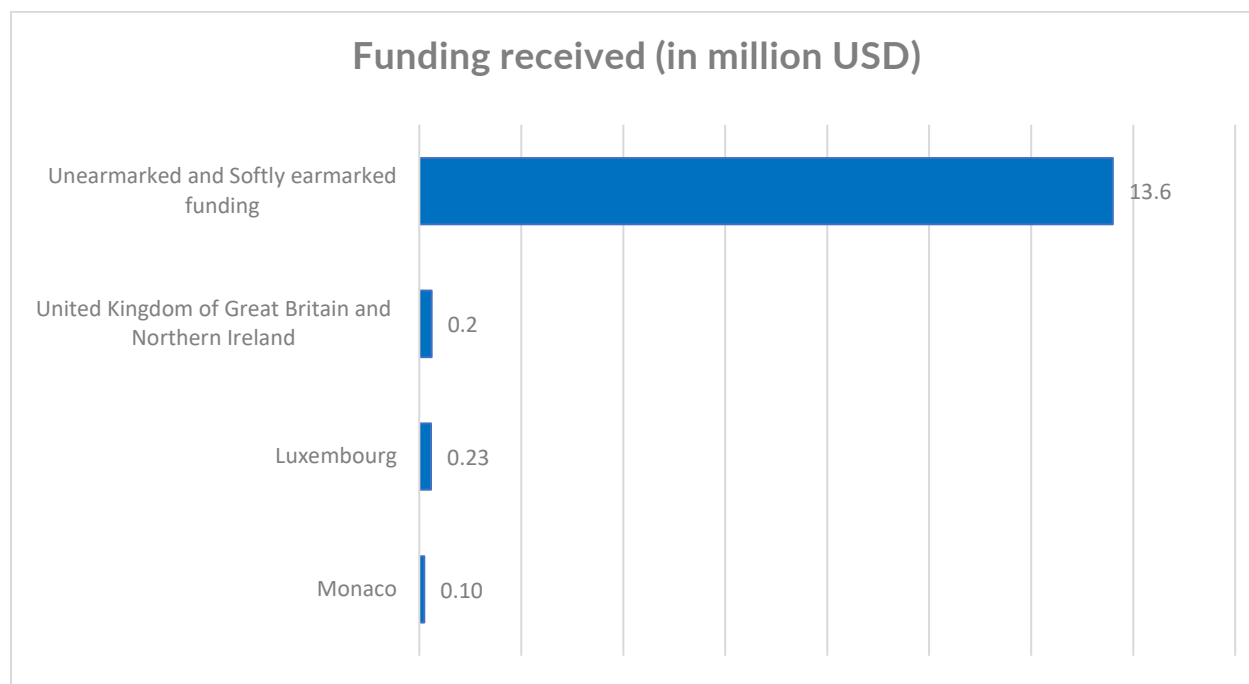


The Prime Minister and its delegation during the site visit. Ouahigouya, Burkina Faso. ©Bouboukari.T/DP.Agr.Yatenga



Financial Information

As of 29 February 2024, UNHCR Operation in Burkina Faso has received a total of USD 14.3 million, representing only 12% of the necessary funding, leaving the remaining 88% 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

Norway 2.8 million.

Thanks to other donors of unearmarked or broadly earmarked funds.

Sweden 90.6 million | Norway 58.9 million | Netherlands 36.3 million | Denmark 35.6 million | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland 28.5 million | Switzerland 19.2 million | Ireland 13.6 million | Belgium 11 million | Australia 10.7 million.

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