

BURKINA FASO

1 March – 30 April 2024

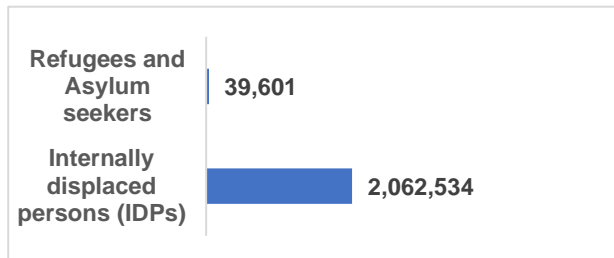
Burkina Faso continues to grapple with a multifaceted crisis that has led to accelerated displacements. As of 31 March 2024, there were over 2.1 million forcibly displaced people in the country, comprising nearly 40,000 refugees and over 2 million of IDPs. Notably, there has been no official update on IDP data since 31 March 2023. In a significant move towards improving crisis management, the government of Burkina Faso adopted an innovative approach in December 2023 by integrating "light" biometrics into the IDP registration process.

UNHCR continues to strengthen its support to the National Relief and Emergency Council (CONASUR), for the continuous registration of IDPs. From 11 to 15 March 2024, the effective implementation of this biometric system by CONASUR began in the Centre-North region, with the financial support from the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the technical support of UNHCR in the region.

As part of the refugee response, the 13th Tripartite Commission meeting, co-chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Health and Social Development of Mali, along with UNHCR representatives from both countries, took place on 26 and 27 March 2024. This meeting facilitated the revision of a nearly decade-old legal framework to better accommodate the evolving needs and challenges faced by refugees, in light of recent regional developments.

POPULATION OF CONCERN AS OF 30 APRIL 2024

Burkina Faso



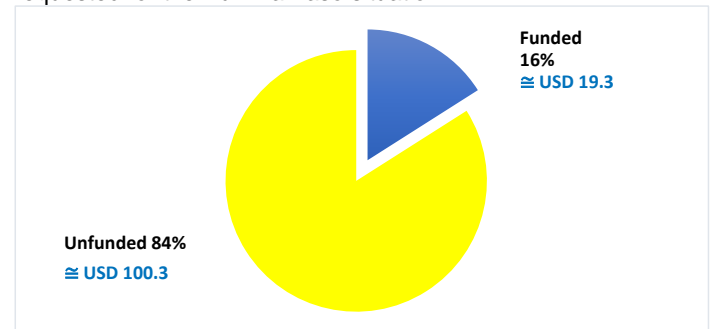
* Registered refugees and asylum seekers include 56% women 44% men, and they live in the Sahel, North & Boucle du Mouhoun, Centre & Plateau Central, Grand-West regions.

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

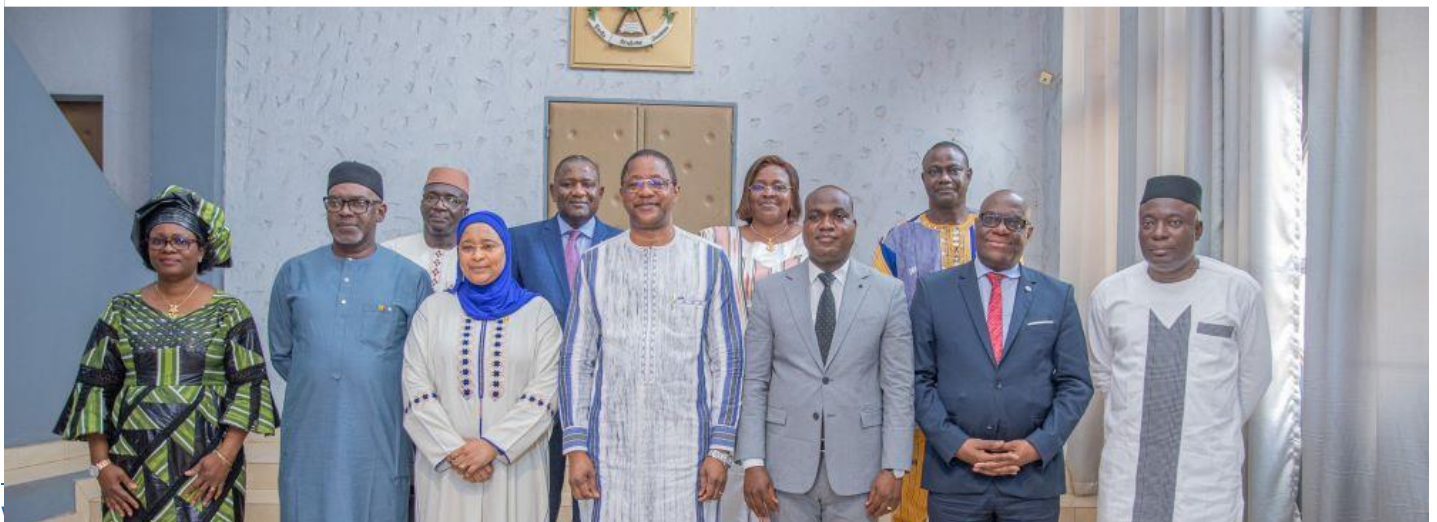
FUNDING (AS 30 APRIL 2024)

USD 119.6 million

requested for the Burkina Faso situation.



Family picture of the 13th Tripartite Commission meeting, held in Ouagadougou, with the officials from Mali and Burkina Faso, along UNCHR Representatives from Burkina Faso and Mali. ©MAE





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. Furthermore, in line with its 2022-2025 multi-year multi-partner strategy (MYMP) and its localization agenda, over the past three years, UNHCR has notably increased its local partnerships, growing from none to over 30 civil society organizations (CSOs) in 2024. As part of the [IASC mechanisms](#), UNHCR leads the (i) Protection, (ii) Shelter/Core Reliefs Items (CRIs) and (iii) CCCM/GSAT (Gestion des Sites d'Accueil Temporaires) clusters.
- During the period under review, the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2024, which is the result of a collective inter-agency exercise, was published. Contributing to the implementation of the Burkina Faso Government's National Humanitarian Response Plan (PNRH) and targeting 3.8 million most vulnerable people over the 6.3 million persons considered in need in Burkina Faso, the HRP has an estimated financial requirement of USD 935 million, only funded at 8% as 30 April 2024. The clusters under UNHCR's leadership are all below 10% funding, including only 9% for the CCCM/GSAT cluster, 8% for the Protection cluster and 4% for the Shelter/CRIs.
- The protection cluster continues to intensify its efforts to ensure the coordination of protection interventions in emergency situations and to meet the protection needs of people affected by conflicts and disasters in Burkina Faso. To rationalize resources in the increasingly demanding environment, with the emphasis on immediate humanitarian needs and the integrated front-line response, the Protection Cluster Advisory Committee validated the minimum rapid protection response package. Moreover, to improve the quality of the humanitarian response, the Protection sub-national cluster in Kaya organized a workshop on integrating cross-cutting protection into humanitarian responses in the Centre-North region for members of the inter-cluster coordination group (ICCG), who were strengthened, and discussed the risks to the security and dignity of beneficiaries in the context of humanitarian interventions in the Centre-North region.
- The CCCM/GSAT cluster continues its efforts to ensure equitable access to assistance, protection, and services for IDPs living in Temporary Reception Sites (SAT) and Displaced Persons' Reception Areas (ZAD), to improve their quality of life and dignity during displacement, while seeking and advocating for durable solutions. With this in mind, during the period under review, the CCCM/GSAT cluster set up a quarterly online training programme aiming at strengthening GSAT, on thematic around population displacement management approach. The first training course, on the Area Based Approach, enabled 54 participants, including 12 women, from several organizations, including the United Nations system, the government, national and international NGOs, to strengthen their capacities.
- The shelter/CRIs cluster is continuing its efforts to ensure that IDPs have the means to live in safe, dignified, and appropriate shelters. During the period under review, to ensure that those in need of shelter assistance get help more quickly and receive the right kind of support, particularly with the onset of the rainy season, the cluster assessed partners' response capacity of the upcoming rainy season. In summary, 700 shelter rehabilitation kits, 6,379 shelter construction kits and 22,951 CRIs kits are available as contingency stock. Moreover, as part of the shelter response in Burkina Faso, the rapid response mechanism of shelter cluster partners reached 37,541 newly displaced people with 2,993 light emergency shelter kits and 5,363 CRIs kits in Boucle du Mouhoun, Centre-North, East, North, et Sahel.

- The "**Integration of Socio-Economic Data for IDPs and Host Communities in Project 21 in Burkina Faso**" has recently achieved notable progress. As part of its 2020-2025 data transformation strategy, UNHCR is a reliable leader in data and information relating to forcibly displaced people and other vulnerable communities. On 26 February, under the auspices of the Project 21 Protection Monitoring and in partnership with the [Joint Data Center \(JDC\)](#), a decisive step was taken towards the implementation of a socio-economic support module for forcibly displaced persons and host communities in Burkina Faso and its integration into Project 21. Discussion between UNHCR and Burkina Faso's Institut National de la Statistique et de la Démographie (INSD), a pivotal partner, have enabled to set up technical teams, and refine the data collection methodology and the associated budget. This collaboration with INSD lay the foundations for a broader initiative focused on inclusion. It represents a strategic effort to address the socio-economic challenges faced by forcibly displaced people and their host communities in Burkina Faso, with a view to fostering a more inclusive and sustainable approach to their support and integration into the broader socio-economic landscape of the country. The collection of socio-economic data is scheduled to begin in June/July 2024.

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.
- By providing data for various protection reports and analyses, and by its territorial coverage and network with a strong local anchoring, Project 21 is a harmonised protection monitoring tool that feeds advocacy, informs programming and humanitarian planning with a view to improving the orientation of assessments and multisectoral responses in Burkina Faso. During the period under review, Project 21 published a [Flash Alert Analysis Report](#) covering April 2024, showing a significant increase (47%) in the number of Flash Alerts processed compared with the situation in March during which 96 alerts were reported. The top three categories of violation recorded in 12 of the 13 regions covered by P21 were violations of the right to life (30%), violations of physical and/or psychological integrity (23%) and violations of the right to property (23%). However, the analysis shows a 173% increase in the number of victims (5,960) compared with the period from mid-February to March (2,180).
- Over the period under review 3,020 people including 50% of minors were identified in cross-border movements. Of those identified, 585 were asylum seekers, with 50% and 38% respectively Malians and Nigeriens. The other nationalities identified are Beninese, Togolese, and Nigerians. In view of the still volatile security context, significant movements of IDPs to neighboring countries have been noted. Indeed, about 1,588 IDPs in cross-border movements were identified, with Côte d'Ivoire as the main destination. The other destination countries were Ghana, Mali, Niger, Togo, Benin, Senegal. Moreover, 575 people were Burkinabè returning from Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Ghana, and Mali, 266 migrants have also been identified in transit or on their way to Burkina Faso. On the specific issue of people returning from neighboring countries, mainly from Côte d'Ivoire, these people settle in areas that are difficult to access for the most part and thus escape the collection of data by the monitors. However, as part of the feedback from the protection committees and other

community mechanisms, about 2,182 people are said to have returned from Côte d'Ivoire and settled in some communes in Cascades and South-West regions.

- During the high-level regional dialogue with the coastal countries (Togo, Ghana, Benin and Côte d'Ivoire), organized in Lomé on 22 March in Lomé, UNHCR Burkina Faso played a pivotal role, enlightening participants on the situation in Burkina Faso and the need to protect populations. UNHCR Burkina Faso Representative seized the opportunity to present a comprehensive analysis of the crisis in Burkina Faso, highlighting the socio-political context, insecurity and violence, food insecurity, climatic impacts and violent extremism that have seriously affected the State and public services as well civilians. Moreover, the Representative emphasized the importance of a coordinated regional response to manage refugee flows and ensure their protection. The participating countries expressed their desire to strengthen cooperation with Burkina Faso, in particular through tripartite commissions to share information on refugee protection and areas of return. This commitment to improving cooperation and information exchange highlights the collective regional effort to tackle the refugee crisis more effectively.
- UNHCR continues to make significant strides to enhance access to civil documentation and combat statelessness in Burkina Faso, as part of the implementation of the Global Plan of Action to End Statelessness. During the period under review, in partnership with the Direction Générale de la Modernisation de l'Etat Civil (DGMEC), 4,103 declaratory judgements were issued, pending transcription of these judgements into the civil registry and the issue of birth certificates in the Boucle du Mouhoun, Centre, Centre-North, Hauts-Bassins and South-West regions. In addition, 7,426 people were enrolled by the National Identification Office for the issue of national identity cards, in the Boucle du Mouhoun, Centre-North, Hauts-Bassins and South-West regions. Once enrolment is complete, the National Identification Office will produce and issue the cards.



People waiting to be enrolled by the National Identification Office for the issue of national identity cards, in Bobo-Dioulasso. ©UNHCRBKF
- UNHCR continue to support the Government toward an innovative approach to managing internal displacement in Burkina Faso, by reinforcing the integration of "light" biometrics into the IDP registration process. This initiative is driven by the goal of securing high-quality data and reliable statistics on populations impacted by the crisis, aiming to improve the management of duplicate registrations. To implement this biometric system, effectively on the ground, CONASUR, with the technical backing from UNHCR, conducted two training sessions for 51 social workers from the Centre-North region where the pilot phase was launched in December 2023. The initiative received both technical and financial support from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Indeed, on 2 April, the JICA made a pivotal contribution to Burkina Faso's efforts to enhance the biometric registration and profiling of IDPs by donating essential equipment to the Ministry of Humanitarian Action valued at approximately USD 150,000, marking a significant step in Burkina Faso's journey towards utilizing digital technology.



Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

- In collaboration with its partners, during the period under review, UNHCR implemented quality programmes to prevent, respond to and mitigate the risks of GBV. As part of the prevention activities, more than 9,000 people displaced by force were made aware of and informed about GBV, its causes and consequences, and the care services available at temporary reception sites and in communities in the Centre-North, North and Sahel regions. In addition, UNHCR and its partners assisted 243 survivors of GBV in Bobo Dioulasso, Kaya Ouahigouya and Dori through the mechanisms put in place. The survivors received psychosocial assistance before being referred to specialist services for medical, food, psychological, legal and livelihood assistance. In Ouahigouya, 52 adolescent refugee students, IDPs and members of the host community benefited from dignity kits, to protect their health and dignity and encourage them in their schooling. To reduce the risk of GBV linked to the collection of wood, UNHCR has distributed energy kits to 50 households in some of the worst-affected localities in the Centre-North region.
- GBV disproportionately affects women and girls, and in situations of displacement, their risk of exposure to GBV increases. UNHCR remains committed to continuously strengthening coordination and programming to protect women and girls from GBV. UNHCR, in collaboration with stakeholders involved in the fight against GBV, organised workshops in Kaya and Fada to update and popularise the mapping of GBV services and the referral circuit for cases of GBV. Following these workshops, to strengthen community support and referral mechanisms and to combat gender inequalities, 55 GBV community focal points were trained on GBV and the referral circuit.



Education

- As the world increasingly turns to technology-enhanced learning, refugee learners and their host communities are digitally separated from their peers and the global community. UNHCR is continuing its efforts to provide schools hosting refugee children with the digital resources, skills, and knowledge to enable learners to thrive in an increasingly digital world. On 9 April, UNHCR inaugurated the multimedia room at the Diaradougou School in Bobo Dioulasso, set up with the support of the Orange Foundation. The event, which brought together UNHCR, the Orange Foundation, CREDO, the president of the special delegation, decentralized education services and parents of pupils, marked the start of the innovative activities planned for this space. The education authorities expressed their wish to see this initiative extended to other schools in the region.
- On 28 March 2024, a ceremony marked the end of phase 2 of the web and mobile development project at the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF), with the participation of the 15 graduates and various partners such as the Orange Foundation, CREDO, Simplon, AUF and UNHCR. The achievements of the project, the overcome challenges, and the technical aspects were presented, demonstrating the collective effort and commitment of the stakeholders. Learners received certificates in recognition of their achievements. In keeping with its commitment, UNHCR unveiled its plans for the next phase, including the acquisition of 15 laptops, a 12-month internet subscription and study



Fully equipped multimedia room for refugee and host community student in Bobo Dioulasso. ©UNHCRBKF

grants to improve the learning conditions of the 15 new learners in the Digital Referent cursus.

- To remove barriers to education, UNHCR is continuing its efforts to improve children's access to and retention in primary school. On 12 April 2024, a visit was made to the vegetable garden of the school in Dori sector n°2 hosting several refugee children. This garden, set up as part of the Primary Impact Program to supply the school canteen, provides fresh vegetables used to prepare the pupils' meals, having an impact on their nutrition, and encouraging them to continue attending school.



Vegetables from canteen garden. © CREDOBK



Health, Nutrition

- Burkina Faso is facing an unprecedented measles epidemic. As of 30 April 2024, a total of 8,830 cases had been recorded, with 41 deaths. To counter this measles outbreak, the Ministry of Health has initiated several vaccination campaigns for children aged 9-59 months in all regions. During these campaigns, 6,790 children received measles vaccinations, including 650 refugee children, thanks to the various stakeholders and the support of community health workers trained in awareness-raising and social mobilization activities. UNHCR continues to advocate with the Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene for refugee children to be included in this vaccination coverage. Awareness-raising activities are also under way to make mothers and parents understand the need to have their children vaccinated, given the mortality and morbidity rates due to vaccine-preventable diseases. Regarding access to health care, 450 refugees have been enrolled in mutual health insurance schemes and have access to primary healthcare and essential generic medicines in public health facilities, thanks to UNHCR's partner CSSI and the two mutual health insurance schemes, Lafi Beolgo and Kenya Sera.
- The residents of Djibo, a town located in the challenging area of the Sahel region significantly affected by supply shortages, experienced a moment of relief as a convoy carrying essential supplies including food arrived on 11 April. Thanks to this, more than 3,000 refugees from Djibo benefited from this food. The supplies came as a relief to the population, who were already suffering from a high level of malnutrition, with many deaths and serious complications, especially among vulnerable groups such as children and pregnant and breast-feeding women. However, the local population continues to advocate for a more sustainable solution, calling for the establishment of monthly convoys until the situation in the region normalizes. This persistent demand underscores the ongoing challenges faced by Djibo and similar locales, highlighting the critical need for continued support and logistical solutions to ensure regular access to necessary supplies. Furthermore, thanks to the collaboration between UNHCR and WFP, in Dori 2,920 refugee households made up of 16,336 people benefited from food distribution.



Shelter and CRIs

- During this reporting period UNHCR with its partners supported a total number of 33,041 participants through distribution of 4,801 CRIs Kits in Sahel, East, North and Boucle du

Mouhoun regions. Furthermore, in anticipation of the rainy season, UNHCR and its partners are preparing to rehabilitate 650 emergency shelters for 150 displaced households in the Center-North and North regions.

 **GSAT/CCCM**

- In order to strengthen community participation on SAT/ZAD management activities and take better account of their needs, 21 joint community committees have been set up in the Sahel. Training on their roles and responsibilities will follow to help them carry out GSAT activities in the SAT/ZAD.

**Cash based intervention (CBI)**

- During the period under review, CBI unit work with its partner CORIS BANK INTERNATIONAL to organize and pay the scholarship of DAFI students. In total, 30 students, including 7 in Bobo-Dioulasso, received their allocation amounting to USD 660 covering the second quarter of 2024 to allow them to be in the best condition to learn and practice.

**Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance**

- Through decent work, forcibly displaced people can provide for their families. UNHCR, through its partners, pursues its efforts to enable them to maintain their dignity, become more resilient and give themselves the means to shape their future. Thanks to a partnership between UNHCR, via its partner VSF, and the Aube Verte Association, a four-hectare plot of land in the Manegsombo district has been set aside to enable urban refugees in the city of Ouagadougou to undertake agricultural activities. Being able to work and use their skills and talents also enables the refugees to contribute to the life of their host community.
- In collaboration with the FAO, UNHCR continued to explore innovative partnerships to promote the integration of forcibly displaced people into agricultural value chains and improve their incomes while guaranteeing healthy and nutritious food for all. In this context, a partnership between FAO, the Institut de l'Environnement et de Recherches Agricoles (INERA) and UNHCR was set up, to enable IDPs and members of the host community in East region, to be trained and professionalized in the production of market garden seeds that can be sold on the local market.
- As part of the implementation of the Made51 project in Burkina Faso, UNHCR continues to support Malian refugee artisans to help them create sustainable livelihoods using their craft and cultural heritage. During the period under review, one of the craftsmen received an order for USD 4,500, money that will enable him to continue to keep his business afloat and perhaps even expand it, in a rather difficult context for craftsmen in Burkina Faso.

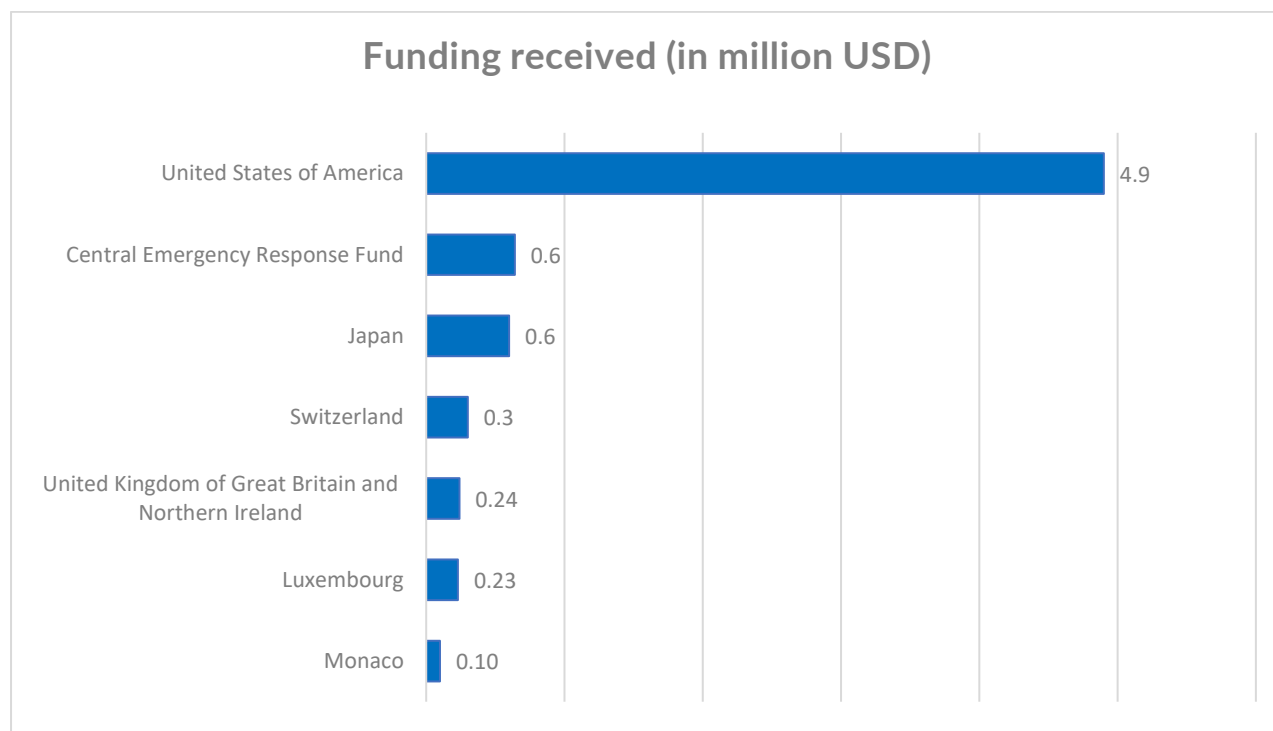
 **Durable Solutions**

- Faced with the increased urbanization of internal displacement and as part of its efforts to promote the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, UNHCR is continuing its collaborative efforts with key actors such as UN-HABITAT. During the period under review, in partnership with UN-HABITAT, UNHCR continued its consultations to create a more



Financial Information

As of 30 April 2024, UNHCR Operation in Burkina Faso has received a total of USD 19.3 million, representing only 16% of the necessary funding, leaving the remaining 84% 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 | España con ACNUR 19 million | Republic of Korea 17.9 million | Ireland 13.6 million | Belgium 11 million | Australia 10.7 million | Japan for UNHCR 10 million.

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