

BURKINA FASO

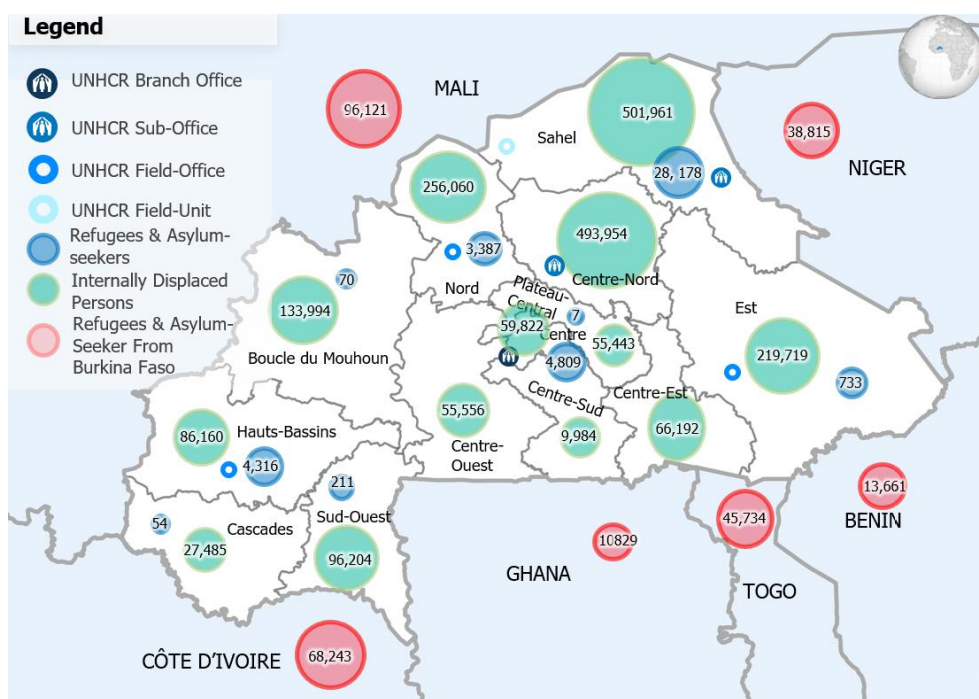
OPERATIONAL UPDATE

Quarterly | April - June 2025



STATISTICS / MAP

	2,104,299 Forcibly displaced people
	2,062,534 Internally displaced people (IDPs)
	41,765 Refugees and asylum-seekers incl. 95% from Mali



Les noms et les limites utilisés sur cette carte n'impliquent aucune acceptation ou reconnaissance officielle du HCR.

Burkina Faso continues to face one of the most severe displacement crises in the region. As of 31 March 2023, government data reported over 2 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), reflecting the ongoing impact of insecurity and violence on civilian populations. In addition, as of 30 June 2025, the country generously hosts 41,765 refugees, mainly from Mali, nearly 70 per cent of whom live within host communities in the Sahel region. In total, more than 2.1 million people remain forcibly displaced across the country. UNHCR, in coordination with national authorities and partners, continues to respond to urgent protection needs while supporting longer-term efforts to strengthen resilience and inclusion.

	29,000 IDPs received shelter kits		11,000 forcibly displaced persons received civil and identity documents		850 forcibly displaced persons and hosts strengthened their self-reliance and resilience
	329 Protection incidents documented		220 survivors of violence against women and girls (VAWG) received psychosocial support and referrals, strengthening response to VAWG		3,300 forcibly displaced persons received curative consultations



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From Displacement to Leadership and Resilience. At 47, Salmata Ganamé fled deadly violence in her village and rebuilt her life in Ouahigouya, Burkina Faso, with support from UNHCR and its partners, through access to equipped farmlands, technical skills and financial support. She now leads the association in charge of the project producing compost and cultivating vegetables, empowering 110 displaced and host community women. Through this initiative, she has regained stability, income, and purpose. Salmata's journey is a powerful example of resilience, leadership, and the transformative impact of inclusive, community-based livelihood solutions.

Operational Context

The operational environment in Burkina Faso remains highly volatile and complex, marked by persistent internal and cross-border displacement in a context of limited humanitarian access. Civilians remain affected by insecurity, including incidents involving improvised explosive devices (IEDs), resulting in repeated and prolonged displacement. In the Sahel region, where nearly 70 per cent of the refugee population is hosted, the humanitarian situation remains critical. Despite regular airlift operations, access to basic services is severely limited, and living conditions are deteriorating.

Amid escalating needs, humanitarian actors including UNHCR, face mounting challenges due to significant funding shortfalls. The scale and complexity of the crisis far exceed current response capacities, placing essential protection services, community-based mechanisms, and support for persons with specific needs under considerable strain. In response, UNHCR is stepping up advocacy with donors, reinforcing engagement with displaced and host communities, and leveraging partnerships, including with development and private actors, to sustain critical assistance and build long-term resilience.

While promoting inclusion and access to national systems, including through advocacy moments such as World Refugee Day, celebrated on 20 June, UNHCR continues to adapt its response to prioritize life-saving support, strengthen protection, and advance durable solutions that foster social cohesion and stability in affected areas.

- **329 incidents documented** – a 42 per cent decrease compared to the first quarter.
- **520 individuals** directly affected, reflecting a slightly reduced civilian impact this second quarter of the year.
- **One-third of heads of household** reported movement restrictions, primarily linked to terrorist activity and IEDs, significantly limiting access to services and livelihoods.
- **Top three priority needs** of the key informants surveyed remain food (78%), shelter and safe drinking water (32%), underscoring the urgent need to maintain protection as a cross-cutting priority across all sectors.

Main Achievements in Sectors

Statelessness – In support of the Government's efforts to prevent statelessness, UNHCR and its partners scaled up civil documentation activities during the second quarter of 2025. More than 9,400 birth certificates were issued to returnees, IDPs, and vulnerable host community members, bringing the yearly total to nearly 10,000. In partnership with national authorities, 5,870 individuals were registered for identity cards (CNIB), with 4,241 cards produced and over 1,180 distributed in the East and Centre-East regions. These efforts contribute directly to strengthening legal protection, reducing the risk of statelessness, and enabling access to services and freedom of movement. To improve coordination, UNHCR supported the establishment of a Civil Documentation Working Group, led by the national civil registry and co-facilitated by the Protection

Cluster, to help implement the government's directive on civil registration in areas affected by displacement.

Education – Refugee students have shown promising results at the Primary School Certificate (CEP) level, achieving a 90 per cent overall pass rate, above the national average of 89.6 per cent, with refugee girls excelling at 91 per cent, reflecting significant progress in equitable access to basic education. These outcomes are the result of sustained support and close collaboration between UNHCR and the Burkinabe government to ensure refugees' successful integration into the national education system. However, at the Junior High School Certificate (BEPC) level, the overall pass rate among refugee students dropped to 46 per cent, though refugee girls continue to outperform at 50 per cent, surpassing the national average of 48.5 per cent. This gap highlights both the resilience of refugee youth and the urgent need for enhanced support at the secondary education level, a key focus of UNHCR's ongoing advocacy to improve retention and educational outcomes for adolescent refugees.

Emergency, Protection and Life-Saving Assistance

Shelter/Non-Food Items (NFI) – During the reporting period, UNHCR maintained a dual emergency response approach—through direct implementation and coordinated deployments with the inter-agency Emergency Response Team (ERT), a critical mechanism for rapid, collective action when needs surpass the capacity of individual actors, particularly in hard-to-reach or high-risk areas. Nearly 29,000 IDPs received life-saving shelter and NFI support. UNHCR provided 955 emergency shelters and 588 NFI kits to benefit nearly 12,000 people in the Sahel, Centre-North, East, and North regions, while the ERT delivered an additional 1,874 emergency shelters and 2,274 NFI kits, reaching over 17,100 individuals. These interventions are vital to protect families, especially women and children, during the rainy season, helping to preserve dignity and reduce exposure to protection risks. However, with displacement

levels rising and needs intensifying, available response capacity remains overstretched. Due to funding shortfalls, UNHCR has already reprioritized its shelter response, limiting its activities to life-saving interventions and significantly reducing field monitoring, leaving critical gaps in technical oversight and compromising the quality and sustainability of shelter assistance.

Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) – Between April and June, UNHCR and its partners reinforced their response to VAWG, ensuring access to protection and care for those most at risk, including displaced populations. About 218 VAWG survivors received psychosocial support in safe spaces and were referred to specialized services, while 400 dignity kits and 200 hygiene kits were distributed to women and school-aged girls to promote dignity and facilitate access to care. To reduce exposure to protection risks during firewood collection, 100 displaced households in Centre-North received energy kits including gas cylinders. Community engagement activities reached nearly 5,000 people, with a strong focus on forcibly displaced women and girls, while 700 men and boys were sensitized on positive masculinity to help prevent VAWG. Psychosocial empowerment was also prioritized, with 419 women and girls participating in support sessions focused on experience-sharing, well-being, and leadership to foster resilience and autonomy. To address urgent needs, 16 refugee women received targeted cash assistance, and 20 others were supported with dignity kits in the Sahel region. Despite these efforts, significant challenges remain, including limited access to safe energy, insufficient psychosocial care capacity, and underfunding for livelihoods support, which continue to hinder survivors' long-term recovery.

Safeguarding Refugee Health Amidst System Collapse – Despite major funding shortfalls, UNHCR and partners maintained access to essential health and nutrition services for refugees, notably in Djibo and Dori, which host nearly 70 per cent of the refugee population. Nearly 3,300 individuals received curative consultations, but field assessments revealed rising home births and worsening health conditions—linked to

inaccessible health facilities, critical shortages of staff and supplies, and the collapse of basic services in remote areas. Malnutrition remains a public health concern, particularly during the lean season from June to September, with 55 cases of severe acute malnutrition identified through community or facility-based screening. WFP provided food aid to over 40 per cent of the refugee population, mitigating nutritional risks. UNHCR continues to sustain life-saving services, strengthen coordination, and scale up advocacy, but without urgent funding, the health and dignity of affected populations remain at serious risk.

Solutions

Refugee Inclusion in Social Protection and Nationality Pathways – As part of efforts to advance durable solutions and promote refugee inclusion in national systems, the first tripartite technical meeting between the National Commission for Refugees (CONAREF), the Unique Social Registry (RSU) Technical Secretariat, and UNHCR, held on 28 May, confirmed that inclusion in the RSU will not be conditioned on nationality or legal status, paving the way for refugees to benefit from national social protection mechanisms. In parallel, naturalization continues to represent a viable path to local integration in Burkina Faso. A review of publicly available national decrees between 2018 and 2024 indicates that 85 refugees and asylum seekers have acquired Burkinabe nationality over the past seven years—an encouraging signal of the Government's openness to inclusive policies. Further reinforcing this momentum, a GRF Pledge Monitoring Workshop was organized by CONAREF, with support from relevant line ministries and UNHCR, on 12–13 May, fostering joint reflection on progress and opportunities for strengthened implementation.

Self-Reliance and Resilience through partnerships – Through close collaboration with partners, including the Regional Directorates of Agriculture, Regional Chambers of Agriculture, and the Directorate-General for Development, UNHCR supported over 850 forcibly displaced

persons and host to strengthen self-reliance and resilience, despite persistent funding constraints. More than 400 people across the Sahel, Centre-North, East, and Hauts-Bassins regions received seed kits, compost, or ploughing assistance, enabling timely planting during the rainy season, improved food security, and income generation. In Kaya (Centre-North), a 250m² greenhouse was installed and 20 participants were trained in soilless, climate-smart agriculture, promoting sustainable vegetable production. In parallel, 430 individuals received training in financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and business planning, with referrals to microfinance institutions and follow-up support to launch income-generating activities. In addition, 25 youth began vocational training to improve their employment prospects. However, a planned digital skills program worth over USD 70,000 (XOF 40 million) for 15 newly graduated refugee students was cancelled due to lack of funding, illustrating how resource gaps are undermining long-term solutions. Strengthened donor investment is urgently needed to scale up these impactful initiatives, foster local integration, and help displaced populations move from aid dependency to durable, dignified solutions.

Route-based Approach

Route-based Approach – Over the period under review, UNHCR strengthened its route-based approach to address complex mixed movements in the region. Over 3,048 people were identified, including 727 asylum-seekers (mainly from Mali and Niger), 1,615 IDPs moving across borders, 556 returnees, 134 migrants, and 16 refugees in secondary movement. These mixed movements highlight the critical need for coordinated protection and reception mechanisms along known migration routes. UNHCR, national authorities, IOM, and partners, enhanced monitoring, border assistance, and protection interventions to promote safe, dignified movements and provide alternatives to forced returns. Continued donor support is essential to sustain and expand these efforts across borders.

Efficiency in Resource Mobilization

In response to the reduction in U.S. funding and broader financial constraints, UNHCR has implemented a wide-ranging reprioritization of its operations, leading to reductions in geographic coverage, service continuity, and reach. These adjustments have affected not only UNHCR-led interventions but also those delivered by partners, including NGOs and national partners.

To maximize impact with available resources, UNHCR is pursuing targeted cost-saving measures such as co-location in five UN common premises, with projected savings of USD 242,000 in 2025. Additional efforts to rationalize the fleet and optimize rental and utility costs are expected to save nearly USD 129,000 this year. Building on the 2024 experience, where confirmed savings of over USD 634,000 were reinvested into critical programming, UNHCR is confident in its ability to further optimize resources through these efficiency measures.

Building on these gains, UNHCR has reinforced its engagement under the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus by shifting towards integrated and cost-effective programming. Strategic partnerships with development and financial actors have further expanded opportunities for sustainable solutions. In parallel, joint risk analyses have been conducted, dialogue with local authorities continues to preserve humanitarian corridors, and donor engagement is being reinforced to address the widening funding gap.

Work in Partnerships

UNHCR continues to foster strong and strategic partnerships across all levels, governmental, inter-agency, development, and private sector, to deliver a coordinated, inclusive, and solution-oriented response to forced displacement in Burkina Faso. These partnerships are instrumental in linking humanitarian action with long-term development and peace efforts under the HDP Nexus, and in promoting the inclusion, resilience,

and protection of displaced populations and their host communities.

Promoting National Ownership and Durable Solutions – UNHCR works closely with national authorities to align the response to forced displacement with government priorities and strengthen national systems. A key milestone in this collaboration was the official validation of the HDP Flagship Programme by key Ministries. The programme promotes resilience and stabilization in crisis-affected areas through investment in essential services like education, health, and livelihoods, reinforcing national ownership and interministerial coordination and anchoring the response within broader development frameworks. In parallel, UNHCR actively supports efforts to strengthen the legal and institutional framework for protection and asylum. A recent review of the new law on the entry and residence of foreigners identified both progress and implementation risks. UNHCR provides ongoing technical support to ensure refugee rights are upheld and access to durable solutions, particularly local integration, is enabled.

Strengthening Inter-Agency Coordination and Joint Response – As a key actor in the inter-agency humanitarian coordination system, UNHCR contributes to joint planning, assessments, and strategic resource mobilization. Through the After-Action Review of CERF-funded interventions led by OCHA, UNHCR highlighted the critical role of pooled humanitarian funding in enabling rapid, life-saving responses in hard-to-reach areas. This joint evaluation confirmed the added value of coordinated planning, reinforced trust among actors, and enhanced the effectiveness of the collective response to displacement.

Aligning Humanitarian Action with Long-Term Investment – UNHCR has stepped up its collaboration with development actors to integrate displacement into national development strategies and secure longer-term financing for solutions. In June, a joint technical session with the African Development Bank (AfDB) identified opportunities for co-financing through the Transition Support Facility. Furthermore, UNHCR engaged alongside the UN Country Team (UNCT)

with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to align humanitarian programming with the USD 160 million Resilience and Sustainability Facility. Technical discussions with the World Bank have also progressed, focusing on leveraging protection data to inform national statistics, recovery efforts, and development planning, ensuring the inclusion of forcibly displaced persons in national systems.

Catalyzing Inclusive Livelihoods and Economic Opportunities with the Private Sector – UNHCR is cultivating innovative partnerships with the private sector to promote the socio-economic inclusion of displaced people. In May, UNHCR participated in the Private Sector Forum in Ouagadougou, co-organized by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and Burkina Faso's private sector federation (COGEF). During this event, UNHCR advocated for greater private sector engagement in creating inclusive livelihood solutions for forcibly displaced people. Additionally, UNHCR has initiated dialogue with national enterprises such as CLA Industrie, exploring partnerships to employ displaced persons and source cereals from UNHCR-supported agricultural cooperatives. These collaborative efforts illustrate the potential of national businesses to contribute to durable solutions while supporting local economies and social cohesion.

Across all these partnerships, UNHCR's engagement is guided by a shared commitment to collective impact, sustainability, and national ownership. By leveraging the comparative advantages of each partner and aligning efforts under the HDP Nexus, UNHCR is helping to build a more coherent, effective, and forward-looking response to forced displacement in Burkina Faso.

Funding Situation

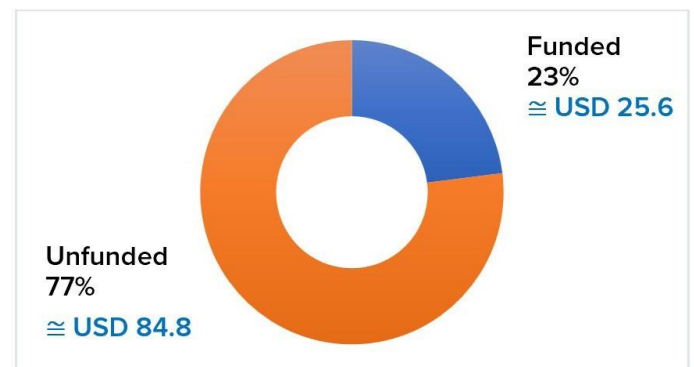
At mid-year, only 23 per cent of UNHCR's 2025 funding needs in Burkina Faso have been met, leaving critical gaps at a time when needs continue to grow.

This underfunding has already led to sharp reductions in protection monitoring, access to civil documentation, emergency shelter, health care, and support for persons with specific needs. For instance, assistance to persons with specific needs has dropped by 93 per cent. The onset of the rainy season is further compounding vulnerabilities, particularly in hard-to-reach areas.

With half the year already behind us, urgent donor support is essential to avoid further deterioration, sustain life-saving activities, and safeguard protection systems that are at risk of collapse. UNHCR is focusing its limited resources on the most urgent priorities, while reinforcing community engagement and pursuing durable solutions.

FUNDING AS OF 30 JUNE 2025

USD 110,4 M Required
by UNHCR Burkina Faso in 2025



UNHCR is grateful for the generous contributions from its donors who have contributed earmarked and flexible funding to support operations in Burkina Faso in 2025:

