

Burkina Faso

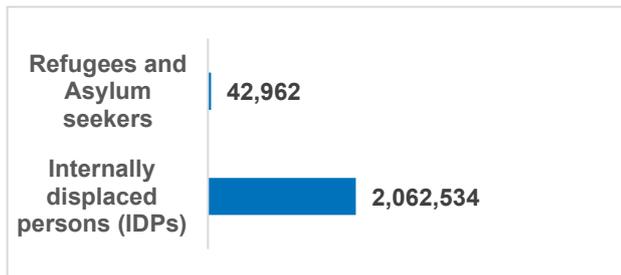
July- December 2025

As of 31 December, Burkina Faso hosted 42,962 refugees, mainly from Mali and over 2 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) reported by authorities as of 31 March 2023. Despite relative stability in some areas, regions such as Soum and Liptako faced acute shortages of food, water, fuel and medicines, sharply worsening living conditions, pointing to limited humanitarian access.

Cross-border movements intensified in late 2025, with around 7,000 new Malian refugees arriving over the reporting period. Hosted across seven villages, they have overwhelmed already scarce resources. Joint UNHCR–CONAREF assessments revealed heightened protection risks, underscoring urgent needs for registration and strengthened multisectoral coordination.

Food insecurity remained the most urgent concern for 22,000 refugees in Liptako and Soum, where limited access and funding cuts restricted assistance. UNHCR advocated with WFP to sustain food support while promoting livelihood investments essential for a gradual transition toward self-reliance.

DISPLACED POPULATION IN BURKINA FASO AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2025



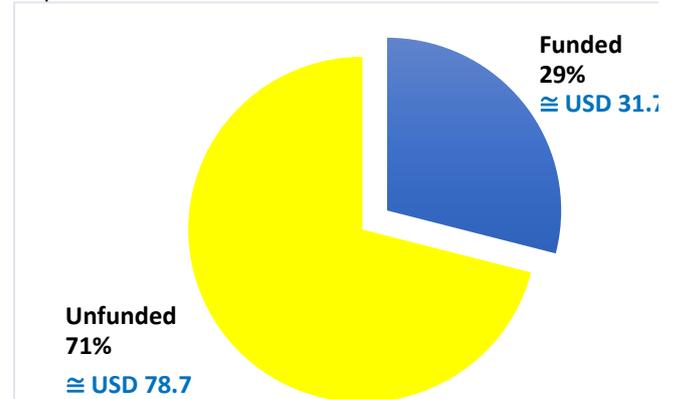
* Registered refugees and asylum seekers include 56 percent women 44 percent men, and they live in the Sahel, North & Boucle du Mouhoun, Centre & Plateau Central, Grand-West and East regions.

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

FUNDING (AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2025)

USD 110.4 million

requested for the Burkina Faso situation



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff: 139

99 National Staff

40 International Staff

Offices:

1 Branch 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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Working with Partners

- As a key actor in humanitarian coordination, UNHCR works with 18 partners, government institutions, UN agencies, NGOs, development actors, and over 30 local Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to deliver protection and advance durable solutions for forcibly displaced people and those at risk of statelessness in Burkina Faso. As leader of the Protection, Shelter/NFI and CCCM/GSAT Clusters, UNHCR ensures coordinated, inclusive and protection-centred responses while reinforcing national systems. Engagement with regional actors, including through the Humanitarian Forum of the Alliance of Sahel States (AES), has further strengthened solidarity, localized financing, and people-centred humanitarian action.
- Throughout the second half of the year, partnerships remained central to advancing protection, resilience and the Humanitarian–Development–Peace (HDP) Nexus. Collaboration with National Commission for Refugees (CONAREF), National Council for Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation (CONASUR), the Ministries of Agriculture, Education and Youth, and the National Institute of Statistics and Demography strengthened national protection capacities, improved data systems, and aligned livelihood and education programmes with national priorities. A tripartite framework with WFP and CONAREF enabled the principled management of food-assistance reductions, including through rapid vulnerability assessments to prioritize the most at-risk refugees in Dori and Djibo. Complementary partnerships with UNICEF, ENABEL, the ILO, and financial institutions such as the World Bank, IMF and the Joint Data Center reinforced evidence-based planning and multisectoral coordination.
- Strategic development and private-sector collaborations, including with NAFASO, Groupe Hajjar and Mastercard Foundation supported progress toward long-term economic inclusion, youth employability, anticipatory action and integrated farming models. Together, these partnerships illustrate UNHCR’s catalytic role in bridging humanitarian response with development investments, promoting national ownership, and sustaining pathways to durable solutions in a rapidly evolving operational and fiscal environment.

Main Activities

Protection

- **Protection monitoring and evidence-based action:** through the inter-agency protection monitoring mechanism Project 21 (P21), UNHCR expanded protection monitoring across 14 regions, producing critical evidence to guide operational and inter-agency decisions. A total of 5,358 surveys were conducted during the second half of the year (2,767 household surveys and 2,591 key-informant interviews), revealing a reduction in recorded protection incidents from 897 in the first half of the year to 577. However, mobility constraints linked to insecurity remained persistent, with one in three households facing movement restrictions and 20% reporting feeling unsafe. UNHCR and partners provided targeted protection assistance to over 6,300 individuals through direct support, referrals, and case management. Community integration remains high (93%), while growing demand for livelihoods highlights the need to link protection with resilience and early recovery within the HDP Nexus.
- **Strengthening protection for women and girls:** UNHCR and partners reinforced prevention and response to violence against women and girls, supporting around 120 survivors with psychosocial care and referrals. Targeted distributions (dignity kits, gas cylinders) reduced exposure to risky coping mechanisms, complemented by community awareness initiatives reaching 2,770 people. Activities during the 16 Days of Activism further mobilized refugees, IDPs and host communities around the global theme on digital violence, strengthening collective responsibility and safer community practices.

Registration and documentation

- As of 31 December 2025, a total of 42,962 refugees and asylum-seekers had been individually registered, an increase of nearly 1,000 persons compared to the previous quarter. However, this progress contrasted with the significant influx of an estimated 7,000 Malian asylum-seekers who arrived in the Tannounya region and remained unregistered by the end of the year, due to access constraints and limited registration capacity. This situation underscores the urgent need to reinforce registration mechanisms and multisectoral coordination to ensure timely protection responses.
- Furthermore, UNHCR strengthened access to civil documentation for displaced populations and those at risk of statelessness, by supporting national authorities in issuing 37,984 documents, including 26,698 birth certificates and 9,453 identity cards to IDPs and host communities. A total

of 1,503 birth certificates and 330 identity cards were also established for refugees, through mobile court sessions, community outreach and reinforced collaboration with the National Identification Office (ONI) and General Directorate for the Modernization of Civil Registration (DGMEC), contributing to reduced risks of statelessness and improved access to services.

Education

- UNHCR expanded access to education for refugee and vulnerable host-community children and youth, strengthening both learning continuity and long-term opportunities despite limited resources. At the tertiary level, scholarship pathways were strengthened through partnerships with Oxford's Graduate Horizons, the Mastercard Foundation, Sciences Po, and the École Polytechnique de Ouagadougou, leading to the selection of nine forcibly displaced students, including four young women, for Sciences Po's online academic programme. In parallel, ahead of the 2025–2026 school year, joint committees composed of UNHCR, CONAREF, CREDO and community leaders identified more than 9,000 school-age learners eligible for educational support. UNHCR then prioritized assistance based on funding constraints, ensuring that the most vulnerable cases were addressed first. To sustain access and reduce drop-out, UNHCR covered school fees for 4,700 children, distributed 4,000 school kits and 231 dignity kits, expanded digital learning for 1,100 students, and trained over 100 teachers on inclusive education and child protection. These efforts reinforced protection through education and expanded future opportunities for displaced youth within a constrained operational environment.

Health

- UNHCR and partners preserved access to essential health and nutrition services for refugees and vulnerable host-community members despite severe funding constraints. Nearly 12,000 medical consultations were provided, including 40 emergency referrals, with children under five representing 34% of patients, underscoring acute pediatric needs. In urban areas, 234 refugees enrolled in community-based health insurance schemes, improving access to public care, while malaria and respiratory infections remained the most common illnesses.
- Food insecurity continued to heighten health risks, particularly in Liptako and Soum. WFP distributions reached 17,000 refugees in Dori and 4,700 in Djibo, though needs were far from met. Nutrition screening revealed 182 children with acute malnutrition and 82 pregnant and lactating women requiring treatment. To strengthen resilience, UNHCR supported

community awareness sessions on infant feeding and nutrition for mothers and caregivers. Persistent funding gaps, however, continue to limit the scale and regularity of life-saving health and nutrition interventions.

Shelter and NFIs

- During the second half of 2025, UNHCR provided vital emergency shelter and essential items assistance to nearly 79,000 displaced persons across the regions of Liptako, Soum, Koulse, Yaadga, Gulmu, Bankui, Sourou, Guiriko, Tannounyan and Djoro. This response helped improve the protection and living conditions of the most vulnerable households, particularly women and children, by reducing their exposure to risks and reinforcing their dignity. However, ongoing large-scale displacement and budget constraints limited the ability to meet all needs, compelling UNHCR to focus on strictly lifesaving interventions.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- UNHCR strengthened self-reliance and resilience for refugees, IDPs and host-community members through integrated, partnership-based livelihood interventions. Over the reporting period, more than 800 people benefited from agricultural, livestock and aquaculture activities, complemented by vocational and entrepreneurship training for over 300 women and youth. Investments in key infrastructure, including greenhouses, fish-farming systems, and multi-hectare vegetable sites in Fada, Bobo-Dioulasso and Ouahigouya, enhanced local food production and economic opportunities in underserved areas, attracting growing interest from national authorities and development partners.
- Private-sector engagement further expanded economic inclusion pathways. A Letter of Understanding with Groupe Hajjar created internship and employment opportunities for displaced youth; meanwhile, two [MADE51](#) social enterprises secured \$20,000 in orders for artisanal products, highlighting the sector's potential. UNHCR also supported the graduation of 180 trainees through a nationally led programme with National Centre for Support to the Artisanal Processing of Cotton (CNATAC), reinforcing sustainable skills development. Together, these initiatives demonstrate UNHCR's role in bridging humanitarian assistance with longer-term development investments, advancing self-reliance, social cohesion, and resilience despite persistent resource constraints.

Solutions

- UNHCR advanced durable solutions by strengthening refugee inclusion in national systems and deepening regional cooperation. Together with CONAREF, sustained advocacy ensured the reaffirmation of refugee

inclusion in the Single Social Registry (RSU) during its July 2025 Steering Committee, supporting access to national social protection mechanisms. Regionally, the Lomé Declaration, adopted by Burkina Faso and four coastal States in July, marked a shift toward a collaborative and human approach to refugee protection. Building on this momentum, UNHCR supported these countries in drafting the sub-regional Protection and Solutions Strategy (2026–2030), structured around strengthening protection environments, advancing local development and inclusion, and supporting voluntary repatriation when conditions allow, work showcased during the Global Refugee Forum Progress Review in Geneva.

- At national level, progress toward local integration advanced with the validation of CONAREF’s field diagnostic study, paving the way for a forthcoming National Strategy on Local Integration of Refugees. Complementing these longer-term efforts, UNHCR continued to use resettlement as a protection tool for the most vulnerable: three cases were considered under the Global Unallocated Quota, and one refugee was admitted for resettlement to Finland, with departure planned for early 2026.

Impact of Funding Cuts on the Operation

- Severe funding cuts continued to limit UNHCR’s ability to meet growing protection and assistance needs in Burkina Faso. While the operation maintained essential services across protection, health, education, documentation and livelihoods, reduced resources forced stricter prioritization and a scale-down of support in several areas. In this context, UNHCR and WFP were able to conduct food distributions reaching nearly 21,000 refugees in Dori and Djibo, helping mitigate immediate needs; however, coverage remained partial and insufficient to fully address nutritional gaps, deepening vulnerabilities in high-insecurity areas. Education and livelihoods were similarly affected. Although over 9,000 learners were identified as eligible for support, funding constraints allowed assistance only for the most vulnerable, increasing risks of school drop-out and limiting girls’ access to education. Livelihood and resilience initiatives, while strengthened through partnerships and private-sector engagement, remained far below the level required to support meaningful self-reliance. Across sectors, funding shortages also slowed progress on durable solutions, including economic inclusion, social protection access, and local integration. Despite robust efficiency measures, the widening gap between needs and available resources continues to undermine the

operation's capacity to safeguard protection outcomes and build pathways to resilience.

Efficiency Measures Adopted by the Operation

- UNHCR strengthened operational efficiency in Burkina Faso to sustain life-saving assistance amid severe resource constraints and growing operational pressures. A consolidated efficiency framework guided organization-wide actions, prioritizing proximity to displaced populations, service mutualization, disciplined resource management and shared accountability. Measures included the expansion of shared workspaces, rationalized field missions, optimized vehicle and office rental arrangements, and the installation of solar-powered and intelligent lighting systems to reduce energy consumption. Further gains were achieved through adjusted internet bandwidth, tighter telecommunications controls, reduced servicing cycles, and the cancellation of non-essential subscriptions. Voluntary staff efforts, such as the temporary renunciation of selected entitlements during critical missions, also reinforced collective responsibility. Together, these measures demonstrate UNHCR's commitment to maximizing limited resources and ensuring operational continuity in support of core protection and assistance activities.

Recognition of Donors

UNHCR expresses its gratitude for the generous support of donors to UNHCR's response in Burkina Faso, as well as to those who have contributed to UNHCR's operations globally and regionally through unearmarked and softly earmarked funding, including:

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UNHCR also acknowledges the support of private sector donors in:

Canada | China | Italy | Netherlands | Republic of Korea |

External / Donor Relations/Inter-Agency

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