




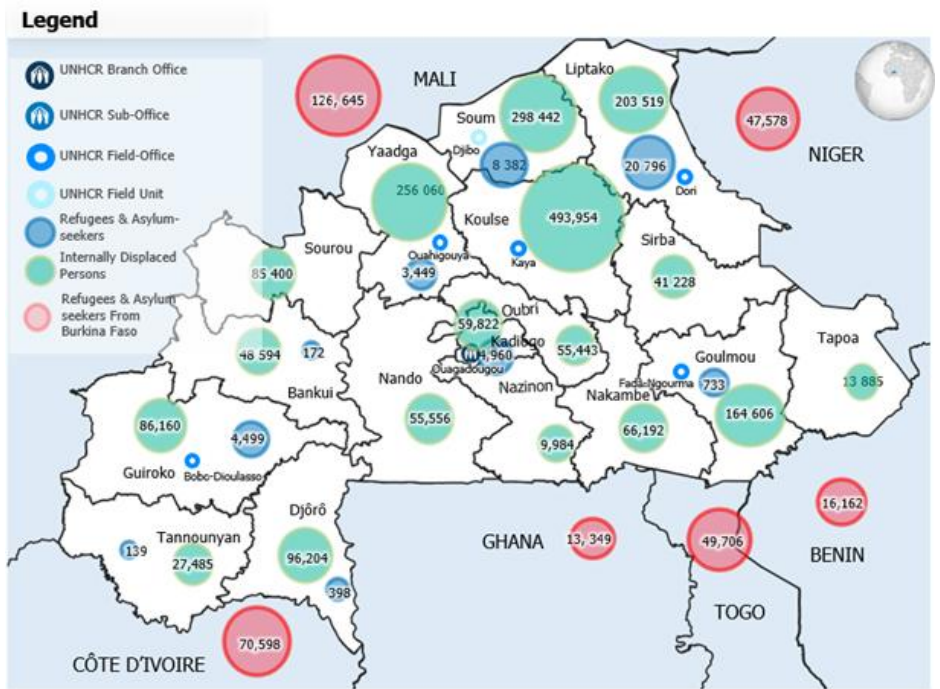
OPERATIONAL UPDATE
January-March 2026

Burkina Faso









STATISTICS / MAP

	2,106,062, Forcibly displaced people
	2,062, 534 Internally displaced people (IDPs)
	43,528 Refugees and asylum-seekers



The names and boundaries used on this map do not imply any official acceptance or recognition by UNHCR.

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 31 March 2026, the country generously hosts 43,528 refugees, mainly from Mali, representing a 0.5 per cent increase compared to the first quarter of 2025, nearly 70 per cent of whom live within host communities in the Liptako and Soum regions. Government authorities also report that over one million IDPs have returned to their areas of origin. Overall, more than 2.1 million people remain forcibly displaced across the country, highlighting persistent humanitarian and protection challenges. In coordination with national authorities and partners, UNHCR continues to respond to urgent protection needs while supporting longer-term efforts to strengthen resilience and inclusion.

	26,700 forcibly displaced people received civil and identity documents		15,000 Refugees and host community members benefited from food assistance		~3,300 IDPs received shelter kits
	90 Protection incidents documented		1,014 medical consultations were provided to refugees		XOF 3 million generated in Livelihood Income



Refugee woman harvesting tomatoes in Ouahigouya.
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Operational Context

During the first quarter of 2026, UNHCR operations in Burkina Faso continued in a constrained yet gradually evolving environment, shaped by persistent insecurity, protracted displacement, and emerging recovery dynamics. While overall humanitarian needs declined by 24 per cent compared to 2025, vulnerabilities linked to displacement remain widespread and complex. According to the 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP), an estimated 4.5 million people, including internally displaced persons, returnees, refugees, and vulnerable host community members, still require humanitarian assistance across all regions. Uneven access to livelihoods, markets, and basic services, combined with constrained market functionality in several areas, continues to drive high levels of food insecurity.

Evidence collected during the quarter confirms that displacement-related vulnerabilities are increasingly structural rather than purely emergency-driven, with over 3.3 million people requiring specific protection support, underscoring the central role of protection within the response. At the same time, the Government's adoption of the Plan Relance 2026–2030 signals a growing focus on stabilization, recovery, and government led development, creating opportunities for stronger alignment across the humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) nexus. In this context, UNHCR maintained life-saving protection interventions while

progressively expanding approaches that promote self-reliance, resilience, and durable solutions, as the organization concludes its Multi-Year Multi-Partner Strategy (2022–2026) and initiates consultations for the next cycle. (2027–2030).

These efforts are unfolding amid a persistently constrained funding environment, with the operation funded at 20 per cent in the first quarter. While this level of funding has enabled the continuation of core protection and assistance activities, the significant gap continues to affect the scale, coverage, and predictability of interventions. UNHCR therefore continued to prioritize the most urgent needs through targeted programming, efficiency measures, and close coordination with government counterparts and partners. Sustained and more flexible funding remains essential to ensure continuity of services and to support inclusive recovery pathways for displaced populations and host communities in 2026.

Main Achievements in Sectors

• Protection

Protection Monitoring Highlights –

- 90 protection incidents were reported through flash alerts, affecting 384 individuals, with men disproportionately impacted (85 per cent), followed by women (11 per cent), boys (2 per cent) and girls (2 per cent).
- Restrictions of movement remain a major protection concern, reported by 56 per cent of key informants, increasing exposure to protection risks and limiting access to essential services.
- Critical unmet basic needs notably food security, health care and livelihoods, continue to exacerbate vulnerabilities and heighten the risk of protection incidents among affected households.

Furthermore, on 22 January, the results of the Socio-Economic and [Protection Survey of](#)

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[Internally Displaced Persons \(IDPs\) and Host Communities \(ESEP-IDP\)](#) were presented. Led by the National Institute of Statistics and Demography (INSD) with the support of UNHCR and the Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement (JDC), a World Bank–UNHCR initiative dedicated to improving data and evidence on forced displacement, the survey covered 2,156 households across six border regions and provides a strong evidence base to inform protection monitoring.

The findings reveal extreme and persistent vulnerabilities among displaced households, with nine out of ten IDP households living in multidimensional poverty, while also exposing structural gaps that limit recovery, particularly in livelihoods, education, food security, and access to services. By generating shared, government-owned evidence, the survey is directly informing risk analysis, area-based targeting, and engagement with humanitarian and development partners, helping bridge emergency protection responses with recovery, resilience, and development planning. The results offer a strong entry point for partners interested in data-driven, HDP nexus-focused interventions and sustainable solutions.

Registration & documentation–

During the reporting period, 630 refugees and asylum-seekers were registered in Ouéléni, Outilla, Tiongo and Djibo, contributing to improved access to legal identity and protection services. UNHCR focused on strengthening national capacities, working closely with the National Commission for Refugees (CONAREF) to enhance registration practices, data reliability and service delivery at the local level. Engagement with local authorities and communities further supported safe, predictable and inclusive access to registration and documentation, reinforcing protection and supporting longer-term inclusion.

In parallel, UNHCR continued to support the Directorate General for the Modernization of Civil Status (DGMEC) to strengthen civil registration systems in displacement-affected areas, a key pillar for preventing statelessness and advancing durable solutions. Preparatory

consultations conducted in priority regions laid the groundwork for planned operations to issue 17,600 birth certificates and 9,100 national identity cards to populations at risk of statelessness across Bankui, Djôrô, Guiriko, Goulmou, Liptako, Koulsé, Nakambé and Yaadga, improving access to rights, services and long-term opportunities.

[Emergency, Protection and Life-Saving Assistance](#)

Health and Food Security Under Strain: Sustaining Lives in a Highly Fragile Context–

During the first quarter of 2026, health and nutrition interventions were delivered in a context of severe food insecurity, particularly in the Liptako and Soum regions. In Arbinda, most households continued to face crisis-level food insecurity, with food assistance covering around 75 per cent of minimum needs, helping to stabilize consumption. In Djibo, depleted harvests and irregular supplies continued to drive negative coping strategies, including reduced meal frequency and adults limiting themselves to one meal per day.

Within this fragile context, access to basic health and nutrition services remained critical. During the quarter, 1,014 medical consultations were provided to refugees (69 per cent children), while 1,103 children aged 6–59 months were screened for malnutrition, identifying 27 cases of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) and 14 cases of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), all referred for care. In parallel, four health awareness sessions were conducted, and food assistance reached nearly 15,000 refugees and host community members, supporting food consumption and indirectly contributing to improved health and nutrition outcomes.

Providing Life-Saving Shelter and Essential Items to Displaced Families – During the first quarter of 2026, in response to displacement alerts issued by the Rapid Response Operational Coordination Group (GCORR), UNHCR provided lightweight emergency shelter and non-food items (NFI) assistance in

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the Goulmou and Yaadga regions, in coordination with the National Council for Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation (CONASUR). The response reached 457 households (3,300 people), including 427 internally displaced and 30 host community households, through the distribution of 300 lightweight shelter kits and 457 NFI kits containing essential items such as tarpaulins, blankets, sleeping mats, jerrycans, cooking utensils, and hygiene materials. This assistance helped meet immediate survival needs and reduced protection risks for the most vulnerable individuals, particularly women, children, older persons, and persons with disabilities.

As Shelter/NFI Cluster lead, UNHCR continues to strengthen coordination with humanitarian partners and national authorities, prioritizing assistance to the most vulnerable populations identified in the 2026 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). However, a significant funding gap continues to constrain the scale of the response, leaving many vulnerable households without access to safe and adequate shelter and underscoring the urgent need for sustained resources to meet growing emergency needs.

Solutions

Regional Approach to Protection and Durable Solutions - Building on the Lomé Declaration adopted in July 2025, the sub-regional strategy for protection and solutions 2026-2030 was finalized. The strategy reflects the shared vision of the five states to strengthen refugee protection and social cohesion, to promote local development within host communities, to advance on solutions, and to improve sub-regional coordination within a coherent approach linking humanitarian aid, peace and development. As presented at the Global Refugee Forum's progress meeting in December 2025, this key document is grounded in the principle of shared responsibility promoted by the Global Compact on Refugees and serves as a common framework to guide technical, financial and operational support.

Resettlement - Following Finland's admission of a refugee under the Global Unallocated Quota (GUQ) in December 2025, the individual

successfully departed from Burkina Faso in February 2026, through close coordination between UNHCR, IOM and the Finnish authorities. In addition, two cases with acute protection needs are currently under consideration for potential GUQ resettlement, with further case identification planned later in the year, as part of continued efforts to provide solutions for the most vulnerable refugees.

Advancing Durable Solutions Through Legal Identity and National Systems- UNHCR contributed to the World Bank's Refugee Protection Assessment, highlighting evidence-based progress in preventing and reducing statelessness, including through the adoption of the new Persons and Family Code, which strengthens safeguards on nationality and civil status.

Strengthening Livelihoods and Social Cohesion through Integrated Farming- Since 2025, UNHCR has supported the establishment of integrated farms in Kaya, Bobo-Dioulasso and Fada N'Gourma as part of a broader livelihoods programme linking agricultural production, income generation and social cohesion for forcibly displaced persons and host communities. These integrated farms constitute the structural backbone of the intervention, promoting cooperative models that bring together displaced and host populations to foster economic inclusion, shared resource management and peaceful coexistence.

In parallel, complementary production sites in Dori and Ouahigouya, supported under the same livelihoods framework, brought together 290 beneficiaries, including 65 per cent women, from both forcibly displaced and host communities. During the first quarter of 2026, these sites generated tangible results, with the harvest of several high-value and nutritionally important crops, including potatoes, onions, tomatoes, cabbage and eggplant. Part of the production was used for household consumption, directly strengthening food security, while surplus sales generated over XOF 3 million, representing an estimated 15 per cent increase compared to the first quarter of 2025. These results confirm that the

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investments initiated in 2025 are translating into concrete livelihood outcomes, contributing to income generation, reduced dependency on humanitarian assistance and increased local economic activity within a more inclusive development framework.

Route-based Approach

During the reporting period, UNHCR in Burkina Faso updated the mapping of protection services in the context of the Route-based Approach. This is part of a regional exercise of the West Africa Atlantic Route, comprising 11 countries spanning from West and Central Africa, Morocco and Spain. UNHCR will be launching a live dashboard of mapping of protection services of countries along this Route.

In order to operationalize the Route-based Approach in Burkina Faso, UNHCR continued to prepare a project proposal structured around four thematic strategic areas and implemented under six interconnected pillars. The project is planned for two years and will be implemented jointly with IOM.

Efficiency in Resource Mobilization

Efficiency Gains through Collaboration and Operational Synergies - During the first quarter of 2026, UNHCR continued to prioritize efficient use of resources to sustain operations in a constrained funding environment, while reinforcing inter-agency cooperation under the One UN approach. Key efficiency gains were achieved through the co-location and sharing of operational infrastructure in the field. In Dori and Kaya, UNHCR field offices are now shared with World Food Programme (WFP) and UN-Habitat, enabling the pooling of administrative services and infrastructure. This mutualization is expected to generate administrative cost savings of at least 10 per cent, while optimizing the use of common services such as premises, utilities and support staff, without compromising operational presence or service delivery.

Further efficiencies were realized through joint fleet management arrangements. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between UNHCR, WFP and UNICEF to allow the sharing of vehicles on a cost-recovery basis, facilitating coordinated movements, reduced duplication of journeys and improved fleet utilization. This initiative is expected, over time, to enable participating agencies to rationalize fleet sizes, leading to significant cost savings and a reduction in carbon emissions, in line with the UN's environmental commitments.

Complementing these collective efforts, UNHCR continued to implement internal cost-containment measures, including reduced non-essential travel, expanded use of solar energy solutions in offices, and the promotion of everyday cost-saving practices among staff. Together, these measures demonstrate UNHCR's commitment to maximizing the impact of available resources, maintaining operational continuity, and ensuring accountability.

Work in Partnerships

Advancing Localization through Community-Based Action- During the reporting period, UNHCR advanced localization and community-based approaches by strengthening partnerships with national and grassroots actors, placing local organizations at the center of protection delivery. A coordination meeting held on 21 January with the Directorate General of Territorial Administration (DGAT) highlighted opportunities to leverage existing national training and oversight mechanisms to strengthen the governance, compliance and operational capacity of refugee- and IDP-led associations, ensuring greater alignment with national systems and public accountability frameworks. In parallel, UNHCR initiated a structured engagement with community-based and refugee-led organizations, reaching 17 local associations in Bobo-Dioulasso and Ouahigouya. Support focused on clarifying legal status, mapping capacities and identifying priority needs, laying the foundation for more balanced, effective and sustainable partnerships. These efforts contribute to cost-effective delivery, stronger ownership at

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community level and enhanced social cohesion, while reinforcing a localized response aligned with national priorities.

Funding Situation

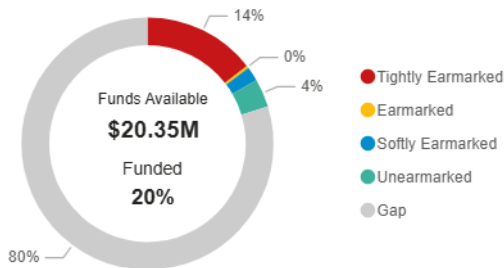
During the first quarter of 2026, the operation was funded at 20 per cent of overall requirements, for total available resources of USD 20.35 million. UNHCR remains grateful to donors for their continued support in an increasingly constrained global funding environment. However, 71 per cent of available funds are tightly earmarked, limiting flexibility to respond to rapidly evolving needs and to prioritize lifesaving activities across sectors and locations. Despite this increasingly challenging financial landscape, UNHCR continued to sustain operations and adapt its response, operating under persistent uncertainty while striving to meet urgent protection and assistance needs.

UNHCR expresses its gratitude for the generous support of donors to UNHCR’s response in Burkina Faso in 2026. As well as those who have contributed to UNHCR’s operations globally and regionally through unearmarked and softly earmarked funding, including:



FUNDING AS OF 31 Mars 2026

USD 100,4M Required by UNHCR Burkina Faso in 2026



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