

BURKINA FASO

1 July – 31 August 2023

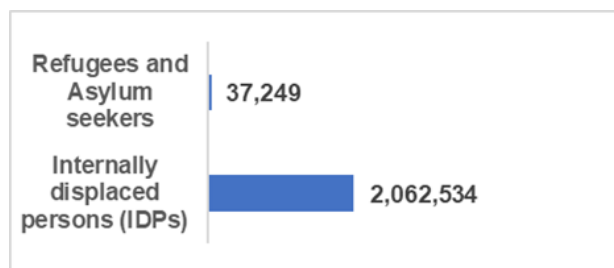
Cross-border forced displacement continue to expand significantly due to insecurity in Burkina Faso, as well as in the Sahel region. As of 31 August 2023, Burkina Faso continues to generously host more than **37,000 refugees and asylum seekers**, a 25% increase compared to August 2022, including 98% from Mali.

In addition, since November 2022, arrivals from Burkina Faso to neighbouring countries have further increased, bringing the total number of **refugees and asylum seekers to around 90,000**. In response to this humanitarian crisis, UNHCR supports the government of Burkina Faso, to deliver steadfastly crucial protection and assistance to forcibly displaced and stateless persons.

The upcoming **12th Tripartite Commission in preparation**, will provide an opportunity to discuss the current situation of Malian refugees in Burkina Faso, Malian returnees in Mali and Burkina Faso refugees in Mali. In addition, the **Global Refugee Forum** scheduled for December 2023 will provide a space for the various stakeholders across the globe to discuss ways of reducing the pressure on host countries and finding solutions.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Burkina Faso



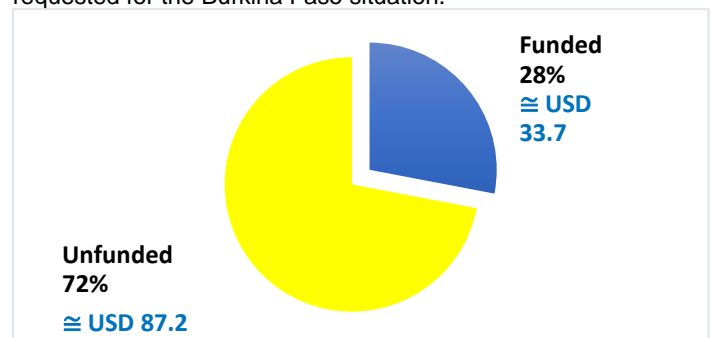
* Registered refugees and asylum seekers include 54% women 46% men, and they live in the North & Boucle du Mouhoun, Sahel, Centre & Plateau Central, Hauts-Bassins & Centre-West regions.

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

FUNDING (AS 31 AUGUST 2023)

USD 120.9 million

requested for the Burkina Faso situation.



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff: 161

110 National Staff

54 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



Beneficiaries of the off-ground cultivation project, collecting and sorting tomatoes before selling. Somiaga North region. © UNHCRBKF



Working with Partners

- To enhance the protection of forcibly displaced and stateless persons and promote their inclusion in national programs and as part of its Multi-Year Multi-Partners (MYMP) strategy 2022-2025, UNHCR works with 19 partners, including the Government, UN agencies, development actors, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and civil society organizations (CSOs). Indeed, in line with its localization agenda, UNHCR works with some twenty local CSOs. 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.
- As part of the cluster protection activities, the sub-national protection cluster for the South-West region was activated and held its first coordination meeting on 17 August, with the support of the Humanitarian Action Department and the involvement of the Areas of Responsibility (AoRs)¹. Given the extent of the crisis, this is a significant step forward to promoting and ensuring the protection and respect of all human rights of vulnerable people affected by the crisis in the South-West region, as the protection and coordination mechanisms in this region were not fully operational or fully effective in responding to the urgency of the current crisis. Indeed, for a long time, the South-West region was not considered a priority area for humanitarian aid compared to the northern regions of the country. In addition, as lead of the protection cluster, UNHCR continues to support and work with UNICEF on child protection in Burkina Faso. In fact, on 27 July, UNHCR took part in the inaugural session of the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism Technical Working Group (MRM-TWG). The objective of the MRM is to enable the systematic collection of accurate, timely, objective, and reliable information on six grave violations committed against children in situations of armed conflict. During this session, UNHCR's protection monitoring (Project 21) team was able to present (i) the geographical scope and diversity of the data they collect daily, in the area of child protection and education, (ii) as well as how this data and its analysis would continually inform the MRM-TWG. Thanks to UNICEF's feedback, the P21 team has also been able to confirm the grave violations committed against children's trends identified during the first semester of 2023.
- As part of the Shelter Cluster activities, in order to allow smooth school opening in October, as schools have been used to house many IDPs, the Shelter Cluster has advocated to donors for enhancing sectoral funding and national Government for availing land. This will contribute to allow the provision of 3,800 emergency shelters and CRIs kits to facilitate the relocation of the huge number IDP currently hosted in 182 schools within the country. As part of its coordination role, in partnership with Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the Shelter Cluster conducted the first two sessions of "Home and Community" initiative workshop involving humanitarian partners, Government counterparts and donors with the aim of assessing challenges related to shelter response in Burkina Faso and developing sustainable solutions. In addition, The Shelter Cluster highly contributed to the process of

¹ Child Protection, Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Housing, Land and Property (HLP) and Mine Action

2023 first standard allocation of country-based pooled funds. The process was concluded on granting nine shelter partners out of the twelve that submitted projects proposals with funds that will help to assist more less 2,500 newly IDPs households with emergency shelters and CRIs kits.

- By August 2023, the CCCM/GSAT cluster had identified 122 temporary reception sites (SAT), 98 IDPs hosting areas (ZAD) and 15 collective centers through its ZAD/SAT monitoring tools. Regions assessed are Centre-North, North, Sahel, East and Boucle du Mouhoun. In July, data have been collected from Cascades and Hauts-Bassins regions, demonstrating presence of IDPs and the existence of hosting areas in these regions. For the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2024, the Hauts-Bassins and Cascades regions will be considered as priority intervention zones. To improve the empowerment of IDPs in ZAD and SAT, all CCCM/GSAT projects are developing the community/intercommunity initiative activities. In addition, CCCM/GSAT actors are increasingly involving and working with local organizations.
- As we approach the third quarter of the year, it is important to note that the HRP 2023 is significantly underfunded, with only 30% of its financial needs covered as of 31 August 2023. Regarding more specifically the clusters under UNHCR lead: Protection only 14% funded, Shelter/CRIs only 18% and CCCM/GSAT only 12%.
- The National Commission for Refugees (CONAREF), with UNHCR's support, continues its preparation towards the [Global Refugee Forum \(GRF\) 2023](#). The GRF, taking place from 13 to 15 December in Geneva, will be an opportunity to build on the significant progress made by governments, including Burkina Faso, and other stakeholders in implementing the pledges and initiatives announced since 2019. As the situation in Burkina Faso continues to be tense, UNHCR's commitment to amplifying the voices of refugees has never been more crucial. As part of Burkina Faso's preparations towards GRF 2023, a national workshop in Ouagadougou is planned for September, to develop pledges for 2023 around four priority areas: 1- Reinforcement of National refugee and IDP legal framework, 2- Access to civil status and identity documents for refugees and IDPs, 3- Promotion of peaceful coexistence and social cohesion mechanisms, and 4- Inclusion of refugees and IDPs and access to local solutions. A variety of partners and donors are invited to the event, including countries that are co-convenors and co-hosts of the 2023 GRF, such as Japan. Refugee and IDP representatives are also invited to ensure their direct participation in the pledge preparation process. By instilling a sense of ownership and agency within the forcibly displaced communities, UNHCR is not just fostering empowerment but is also reinforcing its own role as a pivotal bridge between them and the global community. UNHCR remains dedicated to supporting an all-encompassing GRF 2023 preparation process, a mission integral to addressing and ameliorating the conditions of all forcibly displaced populations in Burkina Faso.

Main Activities



Protection

- UNHCR decisively contributes to the emergency and protection response, through key activities such as registration, documentation, protection monitoring (Project 21), deliverance of protection services, individual case management, community engagement and durable solutions.
- The [Project 21 \(P21\)](#) data and analysis have consistently informed coordination, planning and response efforts, while also bolstering evidence-based advocacy. During the period under review, P21 has successfully: (i) partnered with the PSEA Network to jointly conduct local protection committee trainings and successfully launched a series of trainings across the country; (ii) presented an overview of P21 available tools and data to Humanity and Inclusion (HI) to foster inclusive humanitarian action; (iii) contributed to the production of [P21 regional Note #3](#), which focuses on Burkina Faso's protection environment from 1st May to 30 June 2023. Throughout these engagements, P21 has consistently demonstrated its added value by supporting the Protection Cluster, thanks to an essential contribution to country-based and regional protection inter-agency mechanisms.
- Given the socio-political situation in Niger since 26 July, and in line with the emergency preparedness and response policy, a level 1² emergency has been officially declared for Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Niger, and Nigeria for a period of six months. Although the situation appears stable for the time being, UNHCR Burkina Faso is engaged in enhanced proactive preparedness and the provision of vital protection and humanitarian assistance. These efforts, carried out in close collaboration with national and local authorities and partners, are aligned with the changing dynamics on the ground. Rapid action is being taken to develop well-defined response strategies and urgently implement appropriate security measures.
- UNHCR continues to support Burkina Faso authorities in reducing the risk of statelessness. During the period under review, through its partner, the Direction Générale de la modernisation de l'Etat Civil (DGMEC), UNHCR continues to prevent statelessness and improve the protection environment. The strategy consists of building the capacities of operational local actors and issuing civil documentation (birth certificates, national identity cards, Burkinabe nationality certificates) for the benefit of forcibly displaced populations and host communities. During the period under review, in Boucle du Mouhoun, Cascades, Centre-East, Centre-North, East, Hauts-Bassins, North, Sahel and South-West regions, 8,461 birth certificates were established and 3,567 distributed to IDPs and host community members, 29,685 IDPs and host community members were enrolled for the National Identity cards and 11,900 IDPs and host community members were enrolled for the Burkinabe nationality certificate.

² Level 1 emergency means that a country operation must enhance preparedness and take anticipatory or early action due to a high risk of a humanitarian emergency, and/or to commence an initial response, while the current capacity of the country operation(s) is insufficient.



Education

- UNHCR continues to ensure that refugee children and young people in Burkina Faso can access quality education. During the period under review, a collaborative workshop, aimed at finalizing and validating the refugee education strategy has seen active involvement and valuable contributions from approximately 30 participants representing the ministries of education, UNICEF, Simplon, Institut Supérieur de Sécurité Humaine and both national and international organizations. The collective effort has facilitated the thorough review and enrichment of the strategy document resulted in its unanimous adoption, pending further consideration of additional comments. In addition, as part of Orange project's initiatives, the multimedia room in Dori has been generously opened to public, allowing 20 children from forcibly displaced and host communities, to access and explore the digital content available on the Orange tablets.
- Announcement: the call for applications for the [Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative \(DAFI\) Scholarship 2023-2024](#) is now open.



Health, Nutrition

- Good health is an essential requirement for refugees to be able to rebuild their lives. UNHCR continues to support the government and partners, to provide emergency health care, improve local health services and include refugees in national health systems and plans. During the period under review, UNHCR donated medical equipment and consumables at an estimated cost of nearly USD 25,000 (XOF 15,250,000) to the Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene to strengthen the capacity of the Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Régional and health facilities in Ouahigouya' health district, North region.
- Forcibly displaced people are at an increased risk of undernutrition and malnutrition. UNHCR continues to work, to ensure that refugee children in Burkina Faso, have access to adequate nutrient-rich food and basic services which are essential for protecting their survival, safety, health, and well-being. During the period under review, 2,033 refugee and host community children between 6 and 59 months benefited from malnutrition screening to identify moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and severe acute malnutrition (SAM) cases, in North, Boucle du Mouhoun, Sahel, Centre, Plateau Central, Hauts-Bassins and Centre-West regions. Following the exercise, 80 of them, suffering from SAM were referred to health facilities for care. In addition, with the support of WFP, 100 of them, suffering from MAM received nutritional supplement.
- In line with UNHCR's inclusion strategy, urban refugees in Dori and Djibo are now accessing healthcare services within the public health facilities. They are entitled to the same range of medical services as the local host communities and IDPs. This provision of healthcare services is positively impacting the individual, family, and community well-being of the refugee population. However, given the current context, a challenging concern arises for all stakeholders – the management of patients requiring medical evacuation due to inadequate technical resources at the regional hospital (CHR). This issue underscores the complex healthcare landscape these refugees are navigating and poses a significant challenge for effective medical assistance. For UNHCR, this latest development demonstrates a

commendable commitment to the principle of inclusivity, ensuring that refugees receive equitable healthcare services. The positive impact on the well-being of the refugee population contributes to their overall integration and stability. However, the challenge of addressing medical evacuations due to technical limitations at the CHR highlights the need for strategic partnerships and resource mobilization. UNHCR will strengthen its collaboration with local health authorities and international organizations to find sustainable solutions, potentially including the provision of specialized medical equipment, capacity-building programs, or improved referral systems.



Shelter and CRIs

- To improve the living conditions and the dignity of forcibly displaced persons and host, while also reducing protection risks, UNHCR and its partners continue to provide shelter and CRIs assistance. UNHCR pursued its efforts to establish, improve and maintain shelter and infrastructure. During the period under review, UNHCR, through its partners AIRD, NRC and CRBF constructed 296 emergency shelters for 2,412 people in North and Sahel regions and have rehabilitated 85 houses in Hauts-Bassins region. In addition, 12,830 vulnerable people including IDPs and host communities in need of CRIs, have benefited from 1,138 CRIs in the North and Centre-North regions. Moreover, humanitarian needs are increasing during this rainy season, due to the risk of seasonal flooding, windstorm, destruction of houses and shelters. In Centre-North, following heavy rain that hit the region in July and destroyed hundreds IDP's houses, UNHCR in partnership with CRBF have supported affected population with rehabilitation of 94 emergency shelters for 1,110 individuals.



Cash based intervention (CBI)

- On 25 August, UNHCR, along the other actors involved in CBI, took part in a workshop to validate the project protocol for cash transfers, initiated by the government of Burkina Faso. The workshop, which was the culmination of consultations with various stakeholders including UNHCR, to assess the challenges and shortcomings in the implementation of CBI, was organized to harmonize the results of these efforts. The main objective of the meeting was to ratify the intervention protocol for cash transfers to vulnerable populations, thereby ensuring secure and effective mechanisms for the delivery of social safety net initiatives in Burkina Faso. The government's effort to establish a standardized protocol aims to ensure the effective delivery of cash transfer initiatives, ultimately benefiting the most marginalized and at-risk people in society. This trajectory is in line with UNHCR's objectives to support and collaborate with national authorities to refine social protection systems for forcibly displaced people and host communities. The adoption of a cash transfer protocol underlines Burkina Faso's commitment to strengthening its social protection programs and poverty reduction strategies. UNHCR's involvement in these initiatives could potentially include the sharing of expertise and best practices.
- During the period under review, UNHCR, through its partner, continued its CBI. Providing cash to forcibly displaced people and vulnerable host communities enables them to set priorities and meet their needs in dignity, while contributing to the local economy. As part of

protection activities in the North region, thanks to the distribution of more than USD 11,000 (XOF 6,755,000), 35 people with specific needs received multipurpose cash to cover their needs, and 163 women of childbearing age will be able to get dignity kits. As part of livelihood activities, 56 forcibly displaced households in the Haut-Bassins, South-West and Cascades regions benefited from the first tranche of grants ranging from USD 250 to USD 300 (XOF 150,000 to XOF 300,000).



Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- UNHCR continues to promote livelihoods and economic inclusion for forcibly displaced persons and vulnerable host community members. During the period under review, UNHCR, together with the FAO and in partnership with the Direction Régionale de l'Agriculture, des Ressources Animales et Halieutiques (DRARAH) of the North Region, enabled 100 beneficiaries (IDPs, refugees, host) of the soilless cultivation project in Somiaga, in the North region, to benefit from their first tomato harvest. This harvest follows a training course they received three months ago, with the support of UNHCR, FAO and DRARAH. A total of 319 kg of tomatoes were harvested, 234 kg sold and 85 kg for consumption by the beneficiaries and their families. This initiative contributes to improve the nutritional situation of the beneficiaries and their families, as at each harvest, a portion is reserved for their own consumption. In addition, as well as strengthening their livelihoods, this activity also contributes to reinforce social cohesion between the different communities who work together daily on the site.
- With a view to strengthening social cohesion, CONAREF organized an awareness-raising workshop in Ouagadougou from 1st to 3rd August 2023 on living together between forcibly displaced persons and host populations. This meeting, which aims to promote peaceful cohabitation between host populations and refugees living in the city of Ouagadougou, follows a series of similar activities organized by CONAREF in Bobo-Dioulasso and Ouahigouya.



Durable Solutions

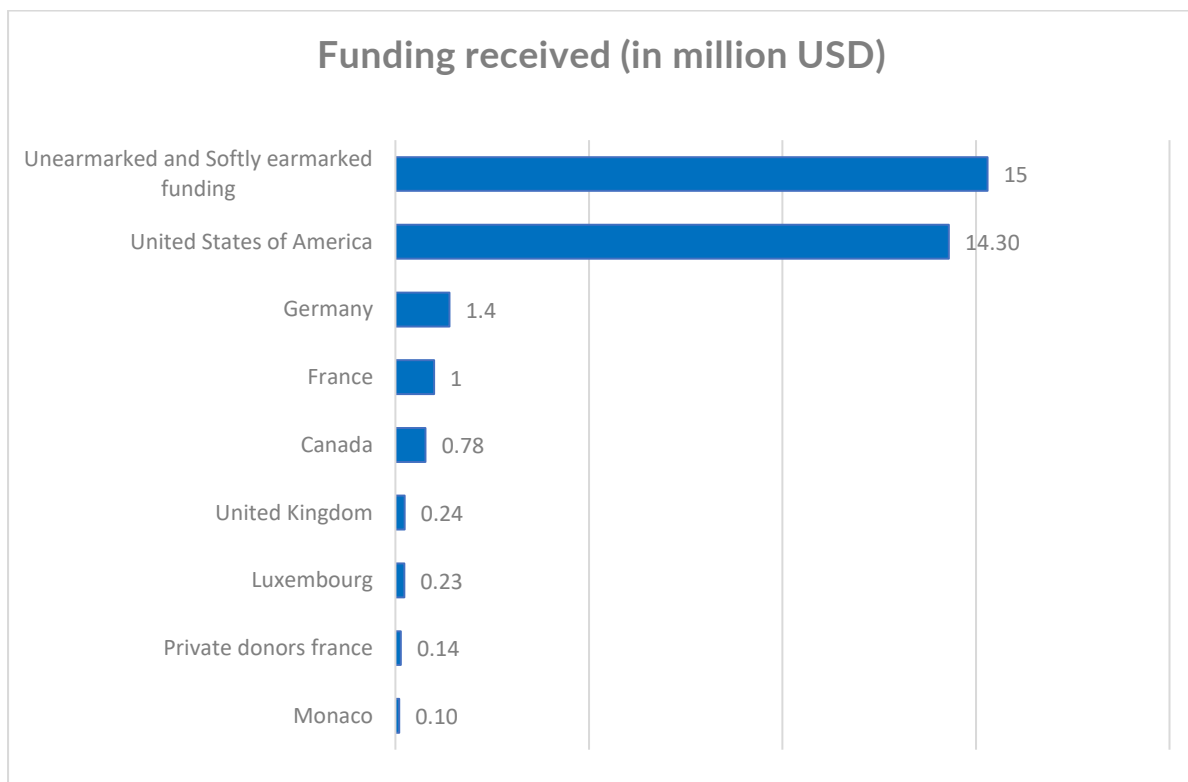
- On 6th and 7th July, the technical preparatory meeting for the 12th Tripartite Commission Meeting took place in the premises of Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. Delegation of the Government of Mali, was headed by the Technical Counsellor of the Ministry of Health and Social Development, and comprised of inter-ministerial members representing Ministries of Health and Social Development, of Defense and Veterans, of Justice and Human Rights, of Security and Civil Protection, of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, of Territorial Administration and Decentralization, of Reconciliation, Peace and National Cohesion, and a national coordinator of repatriation. Delegation of the Government of Burkina Faso, headed by the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and comprised of inter-ministerial members representing Justice and Human Rights, Humanitarian Action, CONASUR and CONAREF. Members of UNHCR representations from Mali and Burkina Faso were also present. At the end of the meeting, a report was drafted including three recommendations. It was agreed on both

sides to discuss this internally across ministries and decide in the next Tripartite Commission Meeting.

- The search for durable solutions for refugees living in Burkina Faso remains a key challenge in the current regional security and socio-political context, and third-country resettlement remains an important international protection tool for the most vulnerable refugees. During the period, previously identified and profiled refugee households based in Dori and Djibo were interviewed by resettlement caseworkers based in the regional bureau in Dakar. The quota for year 2023 to the United States is 40 individuals.
- A training on resettlement was held on 19 and 20 July in Bobo-Dioulasso targeting UNHCR’s partners, such as CONAREF, CREDO, VSF, MBDHP, CSSI and DEDI. The training covered a range of topics spanning international protection, durable solutions, vulnerability, resettlement, and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse. Focus was made on identification and referral of potential resettlement cases, involving group work by participants.

Financial Information

As of 31 August 2023, UNHCR Operation in Burkina Faso’s has received only USD 33.7 million. This amount represents 28% of the required funds, leaving the remaining 72% unfunded, even as the needs are rapidly increasing. UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to its operation in Burkina Faso, along with those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked or broadly earmarked funds.



Special thanks to the major donors of softly earmarked funds

United States of America 35.6 M | Italy 8.8 M | Private donors Australia 6.9 M | France 6.6 M | Finland 6.2 M | Australia 3.9 M | Canada 3.9 M | Private donors USA 3.2 M | Private donors Germany 3.1 M | Private donors United Kingdom 2.4 M.

Thanks to other donors of unearmarked or broadly earmarked funds.

Sweden 69 M | Norway 63.1 M | Private donors Spain 43.2 M | Netherlands 36.3 M | Denmark 35.6 M | Private donors Japan 30 M | United Kingdom 28.9 M | France 26.7M | Private donors Republic of Korea 23.5 M | Germany 23.1 M | Switzerland 18.9 M | Private donors Italy 13.7 M | Belgium 11.9 M | Ireland 11.9 M.

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