

BURKINA FASO

1 January – 28 February 2023

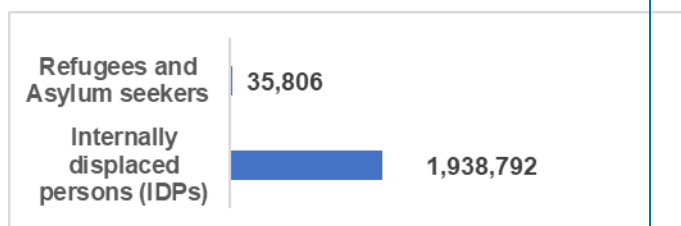
As of 31 January 2023, according to the National Council for Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation (CONASUR), **1,938,792 persons** are internally displaced, 3% increase compared to 31 December 2022, while **35,806 refugees** and asylum seekers have sought international protection in the country, according to UNHCR.

Civilians are facing serious **human rights and humanitarian law violations**, for instance, in Arbinda, Sahel region, over **60 women and children** were **abducted** early January and released a week later by national defence forces. There is a looming possibility of **food shortages** and **basic social needs**, in many localities.

The **protection space for civilians** is **shrinking**. Humanitarians are facing greater **access challenges**, resulting in increased **protection incidents**, especially risk of **Gender-Based Violence** (GBV). UNHCR, continues to **stay and deliver** by adapting its strategy, in close **collaboration** with its partners.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Burkina Faso



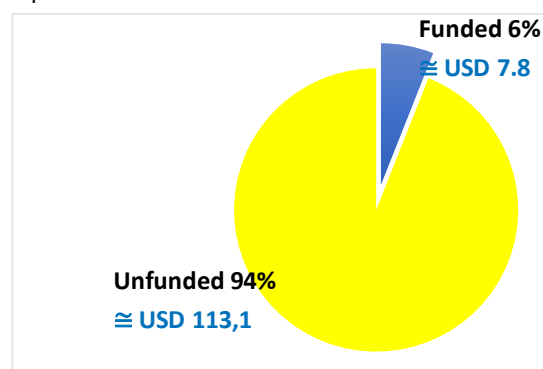
*IDPs figure refers to IDPs across the country recorded as of 31 January 2023 by the CONASUR. Increase of over 20% compared to 31 December 2021

** Registered refugees and asylum seekers as of 28 February 2023, include 55% women 45% men, and they live in the North, Sahel, Bobo Dioulasso and Ouagadougou

FUNDING (AS 28 FEBRUARY 2023)

USD 120.9 million

requested for the Burkina Faso situation



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff: 172

113 National Staff

59 International Staff

Offices: 7

1 Branch Office in
Ouagadougou

2 Sub Office in Kaya & Dori

3 Field Offices in Bobo
Dioulasso, Ouahigouya
& Fada

1 Field unit in Djibo



Refugee artisans' booth at the 16th edition of Ouagadougou international craft fair (SIAO). © UNHCRBKF



Working with Partners

- To enhance the protection of forcibly displaced persons and those at risk of statelessness and promote their inclusion in national programs, UNHCR, through its Multi-Year Multi-Partners (MYMP) strategy 2022-2025, works with 19 partners, including Government, UN agencies, development actors, non-governmental organizations, and civil society organizations (CSOs).
- In line with 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. Through these clusters, UNHCR fully participated to the technical workshop validating the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP 2023) and its alignment with the key priorities of the transitional government.
- The protection cluster coordination continues to ensure the centrality and transversality of protection in all humanitarian action and beyond with an appropriated coordination. From 27 February to 3 March, the Protection Cluster hosted a mission from the Global Protection Cluster (GPC) and UNHCR Regional Bureau for West and Central Africa, to make an independent and transparent assessment of its performance according to its [six main functions](#) and its [areas of responsibility](#) (AoR). To this effect, UNHCR' protection monitoring Project 21 (P21) team has successfully showcased the way it supports Protection Cluster's work, notably through its Protection Analysis Coordination group (GCAP). The mission also assessed the national ownership process of the [Kampala Convention](#) for which a workshop was held on 8 February by the government, supported by UNHCR.
- As part of its protection monitoring P21, from 13 to 17 February, UNHCR organized in collaboration with UNICEF, UNFPA, OHCHR and the Humanitarian Coordinator Office, a Training of Trainers (ToT), on protection monitoring for all its partners, including DRC, NRC, ASA, CIAUD-Canada, INTERSOS, MBDHP. This training was also an opportunity to deepen discussions with Protection Cluster, OCHA, Directorate General of Civil Status Modernization (DGMEC), on how to improve referrals and mapping of care services in all regions covered by the P21.
- From 20 to 22 February, in collaboration with the National Refugee Commission (CONAREF), UNODC, and IOM, UNHCR strengthened the capacities of 27 monitors from CIAUD and CONAREF, on the links between mixed migration and Protection monitoring. This capacity building initiative for data collection related to asylum and mixed movements is important in identifying and caring for vulnerable people who are at risk and need protection. This is particularly important for the "Asylum and Mixed Movements" project, implemented by CIAUD in partnership with UNHCR, as it facilitates access to territory and asylum, improves reception conditions, establishes effective coordination mechanisms and partnerships, develops livelihoods as an alternative solution to irregular migration, and strengthens efforts to combat child trafficking in mixed movements.
- UNHCR continues to coordinate the shelter and CRIs response through its leadership role in the Shelter Cluster. On 27 February, the Shelter Cluster held a workshop with ShelterBox UK, an international disaster relief charity, to discuss the types of shelters used in Burkina Faso and advocate for funding and support to help local organizations better respond to shelter needs.

- The CCCM/GSAT cluster has started an assessment of 87 IDP temporary hosting sites (SAT¹) and zones (ZAD²), covered by its partners ACTED, NRC and Tearfund, including 55 SAT and 43 ZAD in the Centre-North, Sahel, North, East and Boucle du Mouhoun regions. In addition, the CCCM/GSAT cluster, in its objective to strengthen the multisectoral response in SAT and ZAD, has shared with the other clusters the gaps identified following its site profiling exercise and advocacy actions are underway with the relevant clusters to provide adequate response.

Main Activities



Protection

- UNHCR decisively contributes to the emergency and protection response, through key activities such as registration, documentation, protection monitoring, response to protection cases and durable solutions.
- In partnership with DRC and its Protection Monitoring partners, UNHCR continues the implementation of its protection monitoring P21 project through identifying the protection needs and informing the planification of humanitarian multi-sectoral responses in Burkina Faso. According to data collected in January 2023, 156 Protection incidents resulting from the precarious security and protection environment have been documented, affecting 668 victims and survivors within both displaced and host communities. These Protection incidents have entailed 23% of violations of physical and or psychological integrity, 21% of violations of liberty and security of the person, 18% of violations of the right to property, 15% of GBV, 12% of violations of the right to life, 9% denial or forced restriction of movement, 8% of violations of the right to housing, as well as 4% of grave violations against children. P21's partners have provided support to 221 persons, including cash-based interventions (CBI), referrals, direct assistance, and psychosocial support.
- During the period under review, more than 2,700 people, 49% of whom were women, were identified in mixed movements, including nearly 2,000 IDPs in cross-border movements and nearly 700 asylum seekers mainly from Niger, Togo, Mali and Benin. More than 300 of them are at risk of trafficking. Moreover, IDPs identified in forced cross-border movements to mainly, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Niger, are related to the continuous deterioration of the security situation in their localities of origin as well as the lack of viable economic prospects in the host areas.
- During the period under review, UNHCR and the DGMEC, strengthened the capacities of 120 actors in charge of civil status and identity documentation to facilitate the delivery process. Furthermore, with the support of UNHCR, 25 individuals from the CONAREF have benefited from capacity building on the concept of statelessness and Burkina Faso's commitments in this area.



Gender based violence

- GBV and Child protection represent the main risks amongst affected population. In collaboration with partners, UNHCR continues to implement prevention, risk mitigation and response activities.

¹ **SAT**: Planned or spontaneous sites, that can be in urban or rural areas. Planned site are locations where IDPs are accommodated in purpose-built sites, having a dedicated management team. Spontaneous sites are generally independent from assistance for a period of time, where IDPs can stay for a while without receiving formal humanitarian support.

² **ZAD**: Area approach applies to defined geographical areas and can take place in urban, peri-urban or rural settings.

GBV mobile teams are operational and a total of 28 community-led safe spaces in place to offer women and girls information about available services and on issues relating to women's rights, health in safety and confidentiality. In addition, 392 women and girls South-West, Cascades, Hauts-Bassins, East and Centre-North regions, received CBI for a total of more than USD 22,000 to cover dignity kits needs. Furthermore, so that they are not inclined to engage in harmful coping mechanisms, including the exchange or sell of sex and to strengthen their capacity to meet their basic needs and reduce their dependence on external aid, 289 women and girls at risk were trained on soap fabrication as well as weaving and knitting.

- UNHCR continues to strengthen GBV prevention, through the promotion of communication for behavioural change and community protection mechanisms and to build the capacities of its partners on GBV core concepts, prevention, risk mitigation and response. In particular, 12 case managers benefited from a 6-day training on case management and protection monitors on safe disclosure and referral of survivors. In addition, to support the fight against GBV in schools, 30 education counsellors from high schools in Kaya were trained on guiding principles for providing support, active listening, referral pathways, and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA).



Education

- During the period under review, UNHCR celebrated the 30th anniversary of the [Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative \(DAFI\)](#), under the chairmanship of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mrs Ragnagnèwendé Olivia ROUAMBA accompanied by representatives of the Minister of Higher Education and the Minister of National Education. This ceremony also attended by heads of UN agencies, families, and friends of the fellows, as well as two of the main DAFI's donors, the Ambassador of Germany, and a Representative of the Danish embassy, was an opportunity to celebrate the scholarship recipients, including 15 for the 2022-2023 academic year, and to continue the advocacy for better access to quality education for all, including refugees. As a reminder, since 2016, DAFI has enabled 41 refugee students in Burkina Faso to pursue higher education.



Health, Nutrition

- As of 28 February 2023, Burkina Faso has recorded 22,056 confirmed cases of COVID-19, 396 deaths and 21,644 recoveries. All persons living on the national territory, including IDPs and refugees, are included in the national COVID-19 vaccination plan. UNHCR and its partners continue to support the Government to address the outbreak and focus their efforts on sensitization, prevention, and vaccination.
- During the period under review, more than 200 people including refugees and host communities, benefited from 15 sensitizations on household sanitation and medical home visits. UNHCR has renewed more than 200 health mutuals cards for urban refugees from Ouagadougou and Bobo-Dioulasso, allowing them to have access to primary and secondary health care.
- With the support of regional humanitarian action, in Djibo, at least 1,300 households benefited from the distribution of food during the period under review. During the food distribution activity, the moderate acute malnutrition screening carried out on 924 refugees' children, allowed to detect, and refer 13 new cases to local health facilities. Furthermore, culinary demonstrations, and sensitizations on breast-feeding advantage, were organized to the benefit of 243 pregnant and breastfeeding women.



Shelter and CRIs

- To improve the living conditions and the dignity of IDPs and refugees, 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 and whenever possible, make a transition from emergency shelters to more durable shelter solutions. During the period under review, in the South-West, Cascades, Hauts-Bassins, East and Sahel regions, 13,455 IDPs and host community members, benefitted from the construction of 2,016 emergency and semi durable shelters. In addition, as part of CBI for semi durable shelters, 535 IDPs households were assisted for a total amount of almost USD 182,000 in the South-West, Cascades, Hauts-Bassins and Centre-North regions.
- On 10 January, in the presence of the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium, UNHCR organized on a temporary IDPs hosting site, in Kaya, Centre-North region, the closing ceremony of the emergency and durable housing project for displaced people and host communities in the Centre-North and North regions. This project, implemented from November 2020 to May 2022 with a generous contribution of euros 3,000,000 from the Government of the Kingdom of Belgium, has provided 3,250 emergency and sustainable housing units and distribution of 3,000 CRI kits to IDPs and host communities in the two regions. The closing ceremony not only provided an opportunity to officially hand over the keys to the shelters to more than 100 beneficiary households, but also for the delegation to meet with all the actors, including local authorities, customary authorities, humanitarians and UNHCR partners, who have contributed to the project.



Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- In the Sahel region, UNHCR is supporting refugees to produce vegetables in three sites in Dori. A variety of vegetables such as tomatoes, onions, aubergines, and potatoes are currently maturing, with marketing already underway. In addition, 11 poultry producers have completed their first cycle and have acquired 229 one-month-old chicks to start a new cycle.
- In addition, the 16th edition of Ouagadougou international craft fair (SIAO) was held from 27 January to 5 February. As part of its efforts to support refugees in Burkina Faso and promote their integration into the local community, UNHCR supported Malian refugee artisans to have a booth in the fair. The booth received over 800 visitors, as evidenced by the number of business cards and flyers distributed. Thanks to this opportunity, the refugee artisans were not only able to increase their income but also expand their customer base and network among the craft community.
- On 19 January, 95 students participated in an introductory session on the basics of 3D printing at the Polytechnic University Centre in Kaya. The session provided a valuable opportunity for students to learn about the latest technological advances and gain first-hand experience in 3D printing. As reminder, as part of UNHCR's effort to Digital Engagement and Community-led Connectivity Solutions, a connectivity center was installed in Kaya, Centre-North region to the benefit of IDPs and host community members. The center not only helps to build community's resilience through new digital skills that they can use later, but also improves peaceful coexistence as communities are organised around the management of the centre to exploit its full potential.



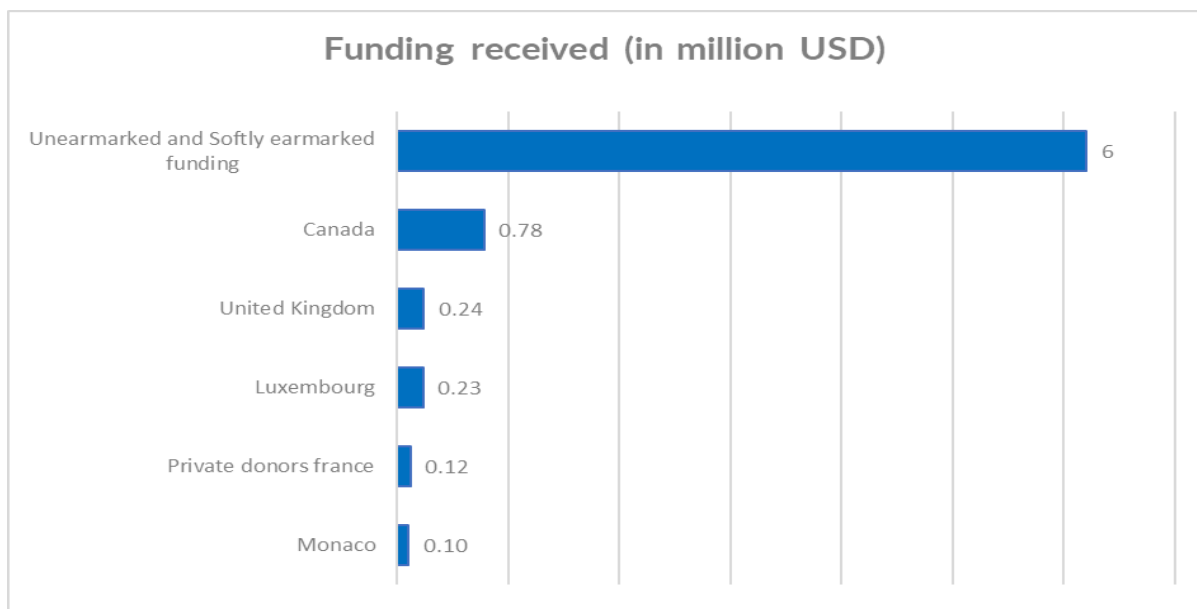
Durable Solutions

- From 30 January to 3 February, UNHCR, along with some thirty other key actors, took part in a workshop organised by CONASUR to finalize the National Recovery Strategy for IDPs and start the drafting process of its Operational Action Plan (PAO). In March, a national workshop to validate the Strategy as well as the PAO is planned, and implementation is expected to start in April.
- As part of the resettlement process of four refugee households (17 individuals), from 21 to 28 February, UNHCR facilitated the implementation of **Resettlement Support Center (RSC)** Circuit ride, which is a series of interviews for refugee families whose dossiers had been submitted to the USA for resettlement consideration.
- From 23 to 24 February, UNHCR, alongside other UN agencies, representatives of **Liptako Gourma** country governments, CSOs, ECOWAS, as well as, financial institutions such as World Bank and African Development Bank, participated in the regional workshop organized by the Liptako Gourma Authority to validate a study on conflict analysis. It was an opportunity for UNHCR to make contributions to improve refugee representation and protection principles in a stabilization strategy for Liptako Gourma, which will be developed following the study.



Financial Information

As of 28 February 2023, UNHCR Burkina Faso's Operation has received almost **USD 7.78 million**, representing **6%** of the requirements funded, while the **94%** remains unfunded and needs are rapidly increasing. UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to its operation in Burkina Faso as well as to those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked or broadly earmarked funds.



Special thanks to the major donors of softly earmarked funds

Canada 3.9 million.

Thanks to other donors of unearmarked or broadly earmarked funds

Sweden 77.6 million | Norway 63.1 million | Denmark 35.6 million | Netherlands 34.1 million | Germany 23.1 million | Switzerland 18.9 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Ireland 11.9 million

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